



Contraception and Sexual Health, 1998

A report by Social Survey Division on research using the
ONS Omnibus Survey produced on behalf of the Department
of Health

Laura Rainford and Howard Meltzer

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Summary of main findings

This report presents the results of a survey on contraception and sexual health carried out in 1998. An earlier survey was conducted in 1997 and this report includes an examination of any significant changes in the data between 1997 and 1998.

Use of contraception

In 1998, the most commonly used methods of contraception for women aged under 50 were:

- the contraceptive pill (used by 26% of women)
- the male condom (used by 21% of women)
- sterilisation (12% of women had been sterilised and the same proportion had a partner who had been sterilised).

A quarter of women were not using any form of contraception: the main reason was that they were not currently in a sexual relationship (13% of all women under 50).

The method of contraception women used varied by age:

- About half of women aged under 20 used at least one method of non-surgical contraception. This proportion increased to around four-fifths of those aged 20–24, and then fell with age to around a fifth of those aged 44–49.
- Younger women were less likely than older women to have been sterilised: the proportions rose from 2–3% of those aged 20–29 to over a fifth of those aged 40–49.
- Women aged under 35 were most likely to use the contraceptive pill.
- Use of the male condom also fell with age, with women aged under 30 being more likely to use it than older women.

Women 'at risk' of pregnancy

In 1998, as in 1997, around three-fifths of women aged under 50 were 'at risk' of pregnancy, i.e. they were in a sexual relationship, but were neither pregnant nor protected by their own or their partners' sterilisation.

Women 'at risk' of pregnancy were most likely to be:

- aged 25 to 39 (56%)
- married or cohabiting (68%).

Women 'at risk' used the following methods of contraception:

- the contraceptive pill (46% of all women who were 'at risk')
- the male condom (38%)
- the IUD (8%).

Emergency contraception

Women who were not sterilised (or who had been sterilised within the previous two years) were asked about their knowledge and use of emergency contraception. Of these women:

- 93% had heard of hormonal emergency contraception (the "morning after pill")
- In 1998, 51% had heard of the emergency IUD (compared with 47% in 1997).
- 10% had used hormonal emergency contraception, and 1% had used the emergency IUD, in the two years prior to the interview.

Compared with 1997, a greater proportion of women who had heard of hormonal emergency contraception were able to correctly say that it could be taken over 24 and within 72 hours of intercourse (45% in 1998, compared with 39% in 1997).

Younger women were more likely to have used hormonal emergency contraception than older women. Women who had used it were also more likely to be single (22%).

Family planning services

Around four-fifths of women aged 20–29 had visited a family planning service in the past five years compared to a fifth of women aged 45–49.

Sterilisation and vasectomies

Among women aged 45–49, 28% had been sterilised and an additional 15% had undergone another operation which had caused sterility; 38% of men in the same age group had had a vasectomy.

Sexual behaviour

13% of men and 9% of women reported multiple partners in the past year. Men aged 20–24 (45%) and women aged 16–19 (31%), and single people (35%) were the groups most likely to report more than one partner.

Use of the condom in relation to sexual health

37% of men aged under 70 and 31% of women aged under 50, had used a condom in the previous year. Younger people were more likely than older people to have used a condom, as were those who had had more than one partner in the past year.

Among those who had used a condom in the previous 12 months:

- 45% of men and 54% of women had used condoms only to prevent pregnancy
- 46% of men and 34% of women used condoms to prevent both pregnancy and disease
- about half said that they always used a condom whenever they had sex
- around four in ten said that HIV and AIDS information had encouraged them to use a condom.

Knowledge of sexually transmitted infections

The most commonly mentioned sources of information about AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections for men aged under 70 and women under 50 were:

- TV programmes (39%)
- TV advertisements (23%)
- newspapers, magazines and books (22%).

In 1998, the majority of people (87%) had not heard of chlamydia or did not know what it was. Women and younger people (men aged 25–39 and women aged 20–39) were the groups most likely to have heard of the disease and to know about its symptoms, treatment and effect.

Between 1997 and 1998, there was an increase in the knowledge of the symptoms, treatment and effects of chlamydia, especially amongst women.

Notes to tables

1. Very small bases have been avoided wherever possible because of the relatively high sampling errors that attach to small numbers. In general, percentage distribution are shown if the base is 30 or more. Where the base is smaller than this, actual numbers are shown within square brackets.
2. A percentage may be quoted in the text for a single category that is identifiable in the tables only by summing two or more component percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single category and therefore may differ by one percentage point from the sum of the percentages derived from the tables.
3. The row or column percentages may add to 99% or 101% because of rounding.
4. Unless otherwise stated, changes and differences mentioned in the text have been found to be statistically significant.

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1 Introduction

This report presents the results of the module on contraception and sexual health carried out on behalf of the Department of Health, as part of the Office for National Statistics Omnibus Survey.

The two main sources of information on contraceptive use and sexual health are the General Household Survey (GHS)¹ and the Omnibus Survey. In 1997, the Omnibus Survey ran questions on contraceptive use for six months, in order to fill the gap left by the suspension of the 1997 GHS.² The 1997 and 1998 Omnibus contraception modules also included questions on sexual health and condom use, which were not covered by the GHS. In addition to presenting the results of the 1998 Survey, this report will also examine any changes in the Omnibus data between 1997 and 1998.

The Omnibus Survey is a multipurpose survey based on a representative sample of adults in Great Britain. The Omnibus Survey interviewed 7,378 adults over four months between June

1998 and February 1999. Questions on contraceptive use and sexual health were asked only of women aged under 50 and men aged under 70, so the results of this report are based on 3,684 adults who met this age criterion. The majority of respondents used the self-completion method of answering this module of questions. Self-completion was used to avoid potential embarrassment on the part of respondents and to encourage honest answers. Details about the Omnibus Survey are given in Appendix A and the questionnaire is shown in Appendix B.

Notes

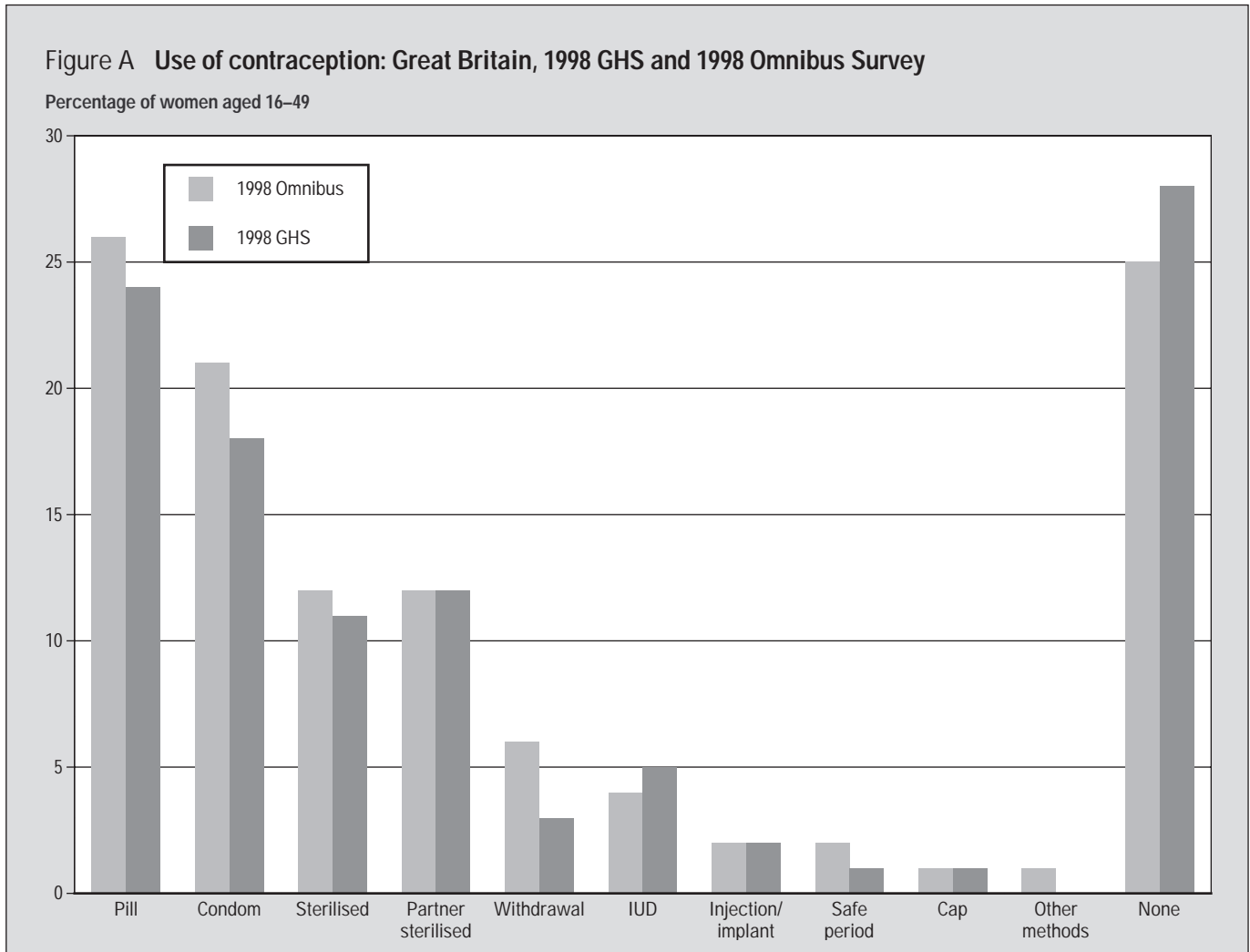
1. The latest GHS figures on contraceptive use are: Bridgwood, A et al. *Living in Britain: Results from the 1998 General Household Survey*. TSO (London: 2000).
2. Dodd, T. and Freeth, S. *Contraception and Sexual Health*, 1997. Office for National Statistics (London: 1998).

2 Contraceptive use among women aged under 50

2.1 Use of contraception

In 1998, the most commonly used method of contraception for women aged 16-49 was the contraceptive pill, used by 26% of women. The next most commonly used method was the male condom (21%). One in eight women (12%) had been sterilised and the same proportion had a partner who had been sterilised. A quarter of women were not using any form of contraception and about half of these women (13% of all women aged 16-49) were not in a sexual relationship.

The pattern of use of contraception from the 1998 Omnibus Survey is similar to the pattern shown in the 1997 Omnibus and the 1998 GHS: around three-quarters of women aged under 50 used at least one method of contraception. A half of women aged under 50 used at least one non-surgical method. As in 1997, there was a difference between the GHS and the Omnibus Survey in the percentage of women who reported using the male condom (21% in the 1998 Omnibus Survey and 18% in the GHS). In addition, the percentage of women who used the withdrawal method was higher in the 1998 Omnibus Survey than in the GHS (6% compared with 3%). (Figure A)



2.2 Use of contraception by age and marital status

As in 1997, there was a great difference by age in the methods of contraception used by women. The percentage of women with no sexual relationship was two-fifths of those aged under 20 but only one in ten for each age-group over 20. Not surprisingly, the proportions using at least one method of non-surgical contraception, rose from about half of those aged under 20 to around four-fifths of those aged 20-24, and then fell with age to around a fifth of those aged 44-49. Women aged under 20 were also less likely to have been sterilised: none of those aged 16-19 had been sterilised, and the proportions rose from 2-3% of those aged 20-29 to over a fifth of those aged 40-49.

Women aged under 35 were more likely than older women to use the contraceptive pill. For example, around three-fifths of those aged 20-24 and a third of those aged under 20 used the pill, compared with around one in twenty five (4%) of those aged 45-49. Use of the male condom also fell with age, with women aged under 30 being more likely to use it than older women. (Table 1)

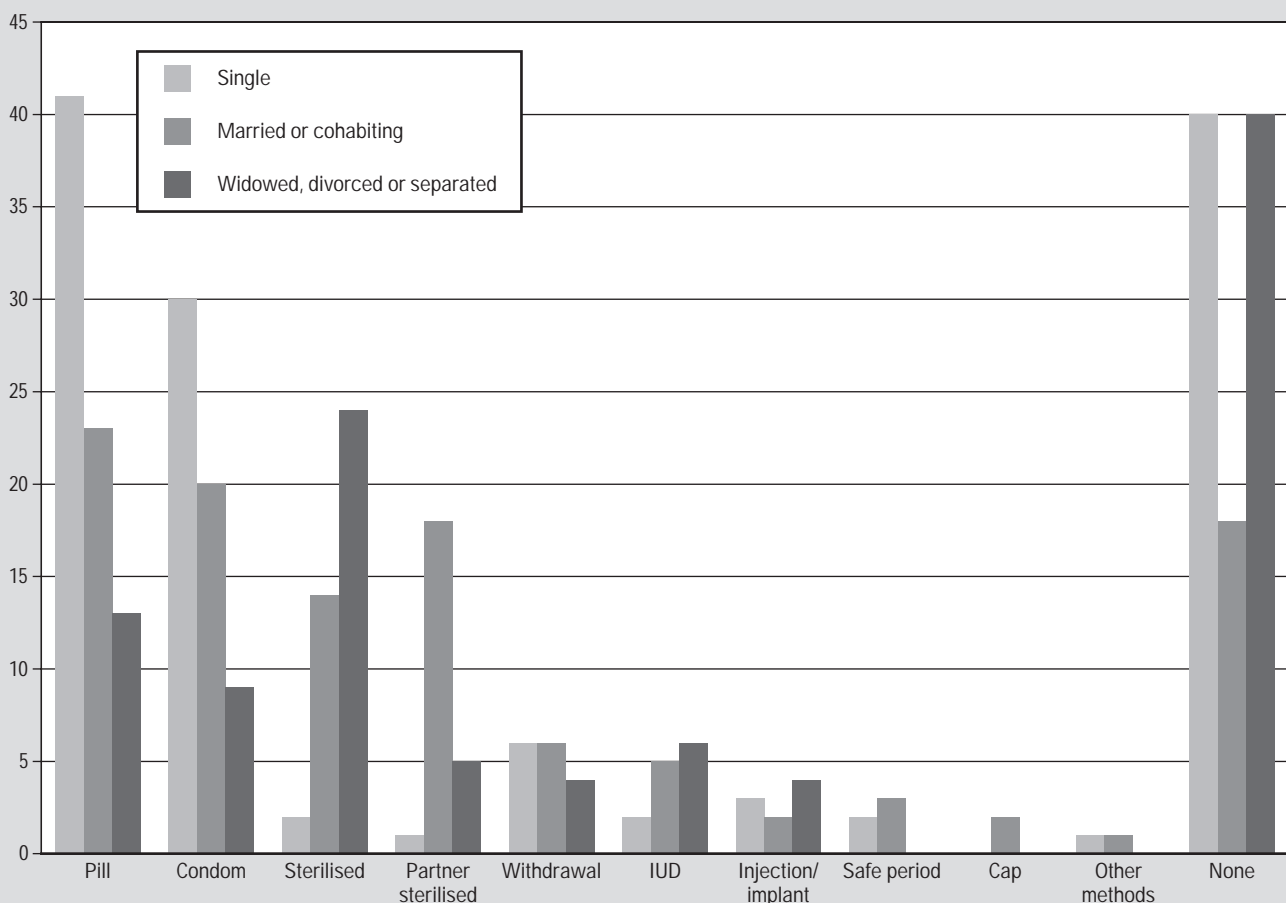
In 1998, as in 1997, around a fifth (18%) of married or cohabiting women and two-fifths (40%) of single, widowed, divorced or separated women, reported not using a method of contraception (however, 34% of single women and 31% of widowed, divorced or separated women were not in a sexual relationship). Married or cohabiting women who used a method of contraception were most likely to use the contraceptive pill or the male condom (around a fifth of married women used each of these methods). Among single women, the contraceptive pill was the most commonly used method (41%) and the next most commonly used method was the male condom (30%). (Figure B and Table 2)

2.3 Reasons for not using a method

Women who were not using a method of contraception and had not been sterilised, but who were in a sexual relationship, were asked their reasons for not using a method. As in 1997, the most common reason mentioned by women for not using a method was that their partner had been sterilised. However, the

Figure B Current use of contraception by marital status: Great Britain, 1998

Percentage of women aged 16-49



proportions giving this reason rose from 58% in 1997 to 67% in 1998. The percentage giving this as a reason increased with age, from a third of women aged 16-29 to almost three-quarters of those aged 40-49.

Of those women who were in a sexual relationship but who did not use a method of contraception, 10% said that they were currently pregnant and a further 6% were hoping to become pregnant. Over half of those aged 16-29 gave current or future pregnancy as their reason, compared with around a quarter of those aged 30-39. (Table 3)

2.4 Women 'at risk' of pregnancy

Women who are in a sexual relationship, who are neither pregnant nor sterilised, and whose partners are not sterilised, are deemed to be 'at risk' of pregnancy. In 1998, as in 1997, around three-fifths of women aged under 50 were 'at risk' of pregnancy. Women in this category were most likely to be aged 25 to 39 (56%). As in 1997, over two-thirds (68%) of the women 'at risk' of pregnancy were married or cohabiting and around a quarter (26%) were single.

Among women 'at risk', the most commonly used method of contraception was the pill (used by 46% of all women who were 'at risk'). Almost two-fifths of women 'at risk' used the male condom, and a further one in ten women who were 'at risk' used the IUD. Seven per cent were not using a method of contraception because of possible infertility, the menopause or because they were trying to become pregnant. A further 4% were not using contraception for other reasons. (Table 4)

As in 1997, the majority (61%) of women who used the contraceptive pill and who were 'at risk' were aged under 30. However, unlike 1997, there was no difference between the proportions of women aged under 30 and those aged 30 and over in their use of condoms. Women who used the pill were most likely to be single (39%) or married (35%), while almost half of women (47%) who used the condom were married. (Table 5)

2.5 Emergency contraception

There are two kinds of emergency contraception available to women after intercourse: hormonal emergency contraception (the "morning after pill"), which must be first administered within 72 hours of intercourse, and the emergency IUD, which must be inserted within five days of intercourse.

Women who were not sterilised (or who had been sterilised within the previous two years) were asked if they had heard of these methods of emergency contraception. As in 1997, nine in ten of these women (93%) said that they had heard of hormonal emergency contraception. However, knowledge of the emergency IUD, although lower than for hormonal emergency contraception, had risen slightly since 1997. In 1998, about half (51%) of the women reported having heard of the emergency IUD, compared with 47% in 1997. (Table 6)

Women who had heard of emergency contraception were asked how long after intercourse it could be used and still be successful. Compared with 1997, a greater proportion of women who had heard of hormonal emergency contraception were able to correctly say that it could be taken over 24 and up to 72 hours after intercourse (45% compared with 39% in 1997). In 1998, around one in six women (16%) thought that hormonal emergency contraception had to be taken within 12 hours, compared with one in five women (19%) in 1997. In addition, in 1998, 6% thought that hormonal emergency contraception could be taken more than 72 hours after intercourse and a similar percentage did not know how long after it could be taken.

As in 1997, knowledge of the interval between intercourse and use of the emergency IUD was much lower than for hormonal emergency contraception. Approximately half of women who had heard of the emergency IUD thought that it had to be fitted within 72 hours (whereas it can be fitted up to five days after intercourse), and around two-fifths (38%) did not know how long after intercourse it could be fitted. (Table 7)

Women who had not been sterilised, or who had been sterilised less than two years previously, and who had heard of emergency contraception, were asked whether they had used either method within the past two years. Of these women, 10% had used hormonal emergency contraception, and only 1% had used the emergency IUD, in the previous two years. Younger women were more likely to have used hormonal emergency contraception than older women. For example, whereas only 3% of women aged 45-49 had used hormonal emergency contraception in the previous two years, the proportion for those aged 16-17 was 28%. As in 1997, single women were most likely (22%), and married women least likely (4%), to have used this method of emergency contraception. (Table 8)

In 1998, as in 1997, women who had used hormonal emergency contraception were most likely to have obtained it from their GP (71%). A further 20% had obtained it from a family planning clinic and 8% from a GP other than their own GP. (Table 9)

2.6 Family planning services

Women aged 16-49 were asked whether they had visited a range of services, in connection with family planning, in the previous five years. As in 1997, a large proportion (45%) had not visited anyone. In 1998, around four-fifths of women aged 20 to 29 had visited a family planning service in the previous five years. In contrast, around a fifth of women aged 45 to 49 had used such services.

Of those who had used a service in the past five years, the largest proportion had visited their own GP (82% of women who had used a service). A third had used a Family Planning Clinic. Those aged under 20 were more likely to have used a Family Planning Clinic rather than their own GP (around three-fifths of those aged 16-19 had used a Family Planning Clinic compared with fewer than two-fifths of older women). (Figure C and Table 10)

Figure C Use of family planning services by age: Great Britain, 1998

Percentage of women who had used a family planning service in last 5 years

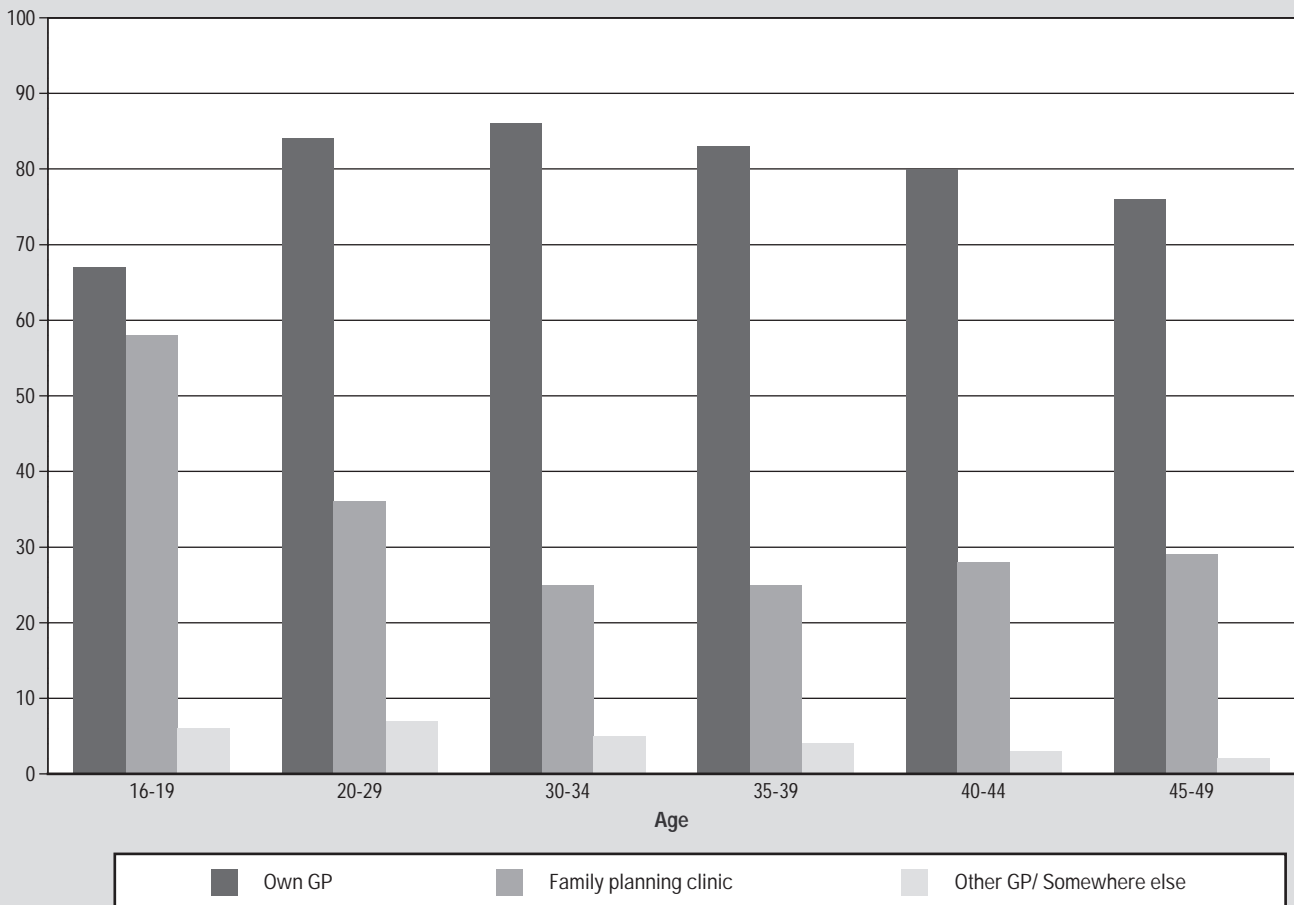


Table 1 Current use of contraception by age

<i>Women aged 16-49</i>										<i>Great Britain: 1998</i>
Current use of contraception	Age 16-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	All	1997 Omnibus
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Non-surgical										
Pill*	32	32	61	48	31	18	13	4	26	26
<i>Minipill</i>	4	6	9	9	4	3	4	2	5	5
<i>Combined pill</i>	17	22	48	34	25	14	8	1	19	19
Male condom	34	28	34	29	20	22	13	10	21	21
Withdrawal	9	7	3	5	6	8	5	2	6	4
IUD	-	2	2	3	5	6	6	2	4	4
Injection/ implant	2	7	4	2	2	2	1	-	2	2
Safe period/ rhythm method/ Persona	-	-	2	2	3	4	2	2	2	2
Cap/ diaphragm	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2
Foams/ gels	3	-	0	1	-	0	1	0	1	0
Hormonal IUD	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	1	0	0
Female condom	-	1	2	-	1	0	-	-	0	0
Total at least one method non-surgical										
	51	54	81	69	58	51	36	22	50	52
Surgical										
Sterilised	-	-	2	3	10	11	20	27	12	11
Partner sterilised	-	-	0	4	9	18	19	23	12	10
Total at least one method										
	51	54	84	77	77	80	75	72	75	74
Not using a method										
No sexual relationship	44	41	11	12	9	10	11	8	13	14
Sterile after another operation	-	-	1	1	3	2	6	11	4	4
Wants to get pregnant	-	-	1	4	4	2	1	0	2	2
Pregnant now	1	1	1	2	2	2	-	-	1	2
Just doesn't use contraception	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	1	1	2
Going without sex to avoid pregnancy	2	-	-	1	2	1	1	0	1	1
Unlikely to conceive because										
of menopause	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	6	1	1
Possibly infertile	-	-	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	1
Doesn't like contraception	-	-	0	-	0	-	1	-	0	0
Other reason	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	0	0
Total not using a method										
	49	46	16	23	23	20	25	28	25	26
<i>Base**</i>	72	79	141	236	265	287	249	272	1601	3357

* Includes women who did not know the type of pill used.

** Percentages sum to more than 100 as respondents could give more than one answer.

Table 2 Current use of contraception by marital status

	<i>Women aged 16-49</i>			<i>Great Britain: 1998</i>
	Single	Married or cohabiting	Widowed, divorced or separated	All*
	%	%	%	%
Non-surgical				
Pill	41	23	13	26
Male condom	30	20	9	21
Withdrawal	6	6	4	6
IUD	2	5	6	4
Injection/ implant	3	2	4	2
Safe period/ rhythm method/ Persona	2	3	0	2
Cap/diaphragm	0	2	0	1
Foams/gels	1	1	-	1
Hormonal IUD	0	0	-	0
Female condom	0	0	-	0
Surgical				
Sterilised	2	14	24	12
Partner sterilised	1	18	5	12
Total at least one method	60	82	60	75
Not using a method				
No sexual relationship	34	3	31	13
Sterile after another operation	0	5	4	4
Wants to get pregnant	0	3	1	2
Pregnant now	0	1	1	1
Just doesn't use contraception	0	1	1	1
Going without sex to avoid pregnancy	1	1	1	1
Unlikely to conceive because of menopause	-	2	0	1
Possibly infertile	0	1	0	1
Doesn't like contraception	0	0	1	0
Other reason	-	0	0	0
Total not using a method	40	18	40	25
<i>Base**</i>	<i>384</i>	<i>1049</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>1598</i>

* Total column includes women whose marital status is not known.

** Percentages sum to more than 100 as respondents could give more than one answer.

Table 3 Main reason for not using contraception by age

Women aged 16-49 in a sexual relationship and not sterilised

Great Britain: 1998

Main reason for not using contraception	Age 16-29	30-39	40-49	All	1997 Omnibus
	%	%	%	%	%
Partner sterilised	34	68	74	67	58
Wants to become pregnant	28	16	2	10	10
Pregnant now	25	8	-	6	9
Menopause	-	-	11	6	4
Possibly infertile	6	2	6	4	5
Don't like contraception	3	2	1	2	2
Other reason	3	5	5	4	11
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Base	32	111	148	291	576

Table 4 Selected characteristics of women 'at risk' and 'not at risk' of pregnancy

Women aged 16-49	Great Britain: 1998	
	At risk*	Not at risk
	%	%
Age		
16-19	9	10
20-24	13	3
25-29	19	8
30-34	19	13
35-39	18	18
40-44	12	21
45-49	9	28
Marital Status		
Single	26	21
Married	51	55
Cohabiting	17	8
Widowed divorced or separated	6	16
Current use of contraception**		
Pill	46	-
IUD	8	-
Condom	38	-
Other methods	20	-
Not using contraception because of infertility, menopause or wants to become pregnant	7	-
Not using contraception because of other reasons	4	-
Base	923	683

* Women aged 16-49 who were not pregnant, had a sexual relationship and were not protected by their own or their partner's sterilisation.

** Percentages sum to more than 100 as respondents could give more than one answer

Table 5 Women 'at risk' of pregnancy: age, marital status and type of contraception

Women aged 16-49 (excluded if , pregnant, self or partner* sterilised or no sexual relationship)	Great Britain: 1998		
	Pill user**	Partner of condom user**	Neither
Age and marital status	%	%	%
16-29			
Single	35	30	6
Married	12	9	9
Cohabiting	12	9	6
Widowed, separated or divorced	2	1	1
All 16-29	61	49	22
30-49			
Single	4	3	5
Married	23	38	54
Cohabiting	8	6	10
Widowed, separated or divorced	4	3	9
All 30-49	39	51	78
16-49			
Single	39	34	11
Married	35	47	63
Cohabiting	20	16	16
Widowed, separated or divorced	6	4	10
All 16-49	100	100	100
Base	605	477	265

* Refers to the woman's partner whether in the household or not.

** Women who used the pill and whose partner used the condom are included in both columns.

Table 6 Knowledge of emergency contraception by age

Women aged 16-49 (exclude if sterilised at least two years ago)

Great Britain: 1998

Emergency contraception	Age									1997 Omnibus
	16-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	All	
<i>Percentage heard of emergency contraception</i>										
Hormonal emergency contraception	90	90	96	93	93	93	95	90	93	91
Emergency IUD	51	41	49	52	50	49	57	55	51	47
<i>Base</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>228</i>	<i>243</i>	<i>257</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>1396</i>	<i>2929</i>

Table 7 Knowledge of how long after intercourse emergency contraception is effective

*Women who had heard of emergency
contraception*

Great Britain: 1998

How long after intercourse respondent thought it is effective	Hormonal emergency contraception ("morning after pill")	Emergency IUD
	%	%
Up to 12 hours	16	14
Over 12, up to 24 hours	26	20
Over 24, up to 72 hours	45	13
Over 72 hours, up to 5 days	6	10
Over 5 days	0	4
Don't know	6	38
Total	100	100
<i>Base</i>	<i>1297</i>	<i>718</i>

Table 8 Use of emergency contraception during the two years prior to interview, by (a) age, (b) marital status and (c) whether currently using a method of contraception

Women aged 16-49 (exclude if sterilised at least two years ago)

Great Britain: 1998

Emergency	Age								Marital status				Use of contraception		All*
	16-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	Single	Married	Co-habiting	Widowed	Currently	Currently	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Hormonal emergency contraception															
("Morning after pill")															
used once	11	14	15	11	7	3	2	2	14	3	9	7	8	3	7
used twice	10	4	5	1	1	1	-	1	5	1	1	2	2	1	2
used more than twice	7	3	4	1	1	1	1	-	4	0	1	2	1	1	1
not used	72	80	76	86	91	95	98	97	78	96	90	88	88	94	90
Emergency IUD															
used	3	5	-	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	-	2	1	1	1
not used	97	95	100	99	100	100	99	99	97	100	100	98	99	99	99
<i>Base</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>229</i>	<i>243</i>	<i>258</i>	<i>197</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>377</i>	<i>704</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>1039</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>1401</i>

* Total column includes women whose marital status is not known.

Table 9 Where hormonal emergency contraception (“morning after pill”) obtained by (a) age and (b) marital status

Women aged 16-49 who had used the “morning after pill” in the two years prior to the interview

Great Britain: 1998

Where obtained	Age		Marital status			All
	16-29	30-49	Single	Married or Cohabiting	Widowed, divorced or separated	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Own GP	68	79	64	82	[12]	71
Family planning clinic	20	18	23	15	[3]	20
Other GP	12	-	13	[2]	[1]	8
Hospital Accident and Emergency	4	-	4	-	-	3
Other	2	2	1	5	-	2
<i>Base*</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>143</i>

* Percentages sum to more than 100 as respondents could give more than one answer.

Table 10 Use of family planning services during the five years prior to interview, by age

Women aged 16-49 who had used a family planning service in last 5 years

Great Britain: 1998

Use of family planning services	Age						All
	16-19	20-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Own GP	67	84	86	83	80	76	82
Family planning clinic	58	36	25	25	28	29	33
Other GP	4	5	4	4	1	-	4
Somewhere else	2	2	2	-	2	2	2
<i>Base*</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>297</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>878</i>

* Percentages sum to more than 100 as respondents could give more than one answer.

3 Sterilisation and vasectomies

Table 1 showed that the proportions of women who had been sterilised or who became sterilised after another operation increased with age. Among women aged 45–49 (the oldest women interviewed by the survey), around a quarter (28%) had been sterilised and an additional 15% had had another type of operation which had caused sterility. The majority of the sterilisations had been carried out on the NHS. This increase in sterilisation rates by age is very similar to that shown by the 1997 Survey. (Tables 1 and 11).

In 1998, as in 1997, the proportion of men who had had a vasectomy was highest for those in the middle age-groups. For example, 38% of men aged 45–49 had had a vasectomy compared with 1% of men aged 16–29 and 13% of men aged 65–69. As suggested in the 1997 report,¹ this pattern is likely to reflect a cohort effect. When the oldest men interviewed were completing their families, vasectomy was a less popular method of

contraception than it subsequently became, and this is reflected in the lower proportions in the older age-groups.

As in 1997, younger men were more likely to have had their operation carried out by the NHS. However, because it is not known when the operations were carried out, it is hard to say whether this is due to the NHS being currently used more by younger men. The explanation could be that older men are less likely to have used the NHS for their operations in the past (another cohort effect).

Note

1. Dodd, T. and Freeth, S. *Contraception and Sexual Health, 1997*. Office for National Statistics (London: 1998)

Table 11 Female sterilisation by age

<i>Women aged 16–49</i>							<i>Great Britain: 1998</i>
	Age						
	16–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	All	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Whether been sterilised	2	10	11	20	28	12	
on NHS	2	10	11	19	25	11	
not on NHS	0	0	0	2	3	1	
Had another operation causing sterility	1	3	2	8	15	4	
<i>Base</i>	<i>528</i>	<i>265</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>273</i>	<i>1605</i>	

Table 12 Male vasectomy by age

<i>Men aged 16–69</i>										<i>Great Britain: 1998</i>
	Age									
	16–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50–54	55–64	65–69	All	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Whether had vasectomy	1	8	19	26	38	25	24	13	16	
on NHS	0	7	16	19	24	13	8	5	10	
not on NHS	1	1	3	7	14	12	16	8	7	
Had another operation causing sterility	0	-	1	1	2	1	4	5	1	
<i>Base</i>	<i>553</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>197</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>329</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>2079</i>	

4 Sexual health and condom use

4.1 Sexual behaviour

As with the 1997 module, the 1998 Omnibus Survey included questions about sexual health in relation to AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. The questions were not designed to elicit detailed information about sexual behaviour as it was not felt to be appropriate to this type of a survey. Two questions were included to get an estimate of two groups: male homosexuals or bisexuals and people with multiple sexual partners, to help with the interpretation of the data on condom use.

All men aged under 70, were asked whether they had had sex only or mainly with women, or only with other men. As with the 1997 Survey, 3% of men reported having had sex at least once with another man. (Table 13)

Both men and women were asked about the number of sexual partners they had had in the past year. The proportions reporting more than one sexual partner were similar to the 1997 Survey: one in eight men and fewer than one in ten women. Younger people were more likely than older people to have had multiple partners. Men aged 20-24 and women aged 16-19 were the groups most likely to report more than one partner (45% and 31%, respectively). Single people were more likely than others to have multiple partners (35% of single men and 26% of single women). This is different to the pattern shown in the 1990-91 National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (NATSSAL).¹ This survey showed that widowed, divorced or separated people were more likely than others to have more than one partner in the previous year.² (Table 14)

4.2 Condom use

Use of condoms reduces the risk of contracting a range of sexually transmitted infections including HIV. This section explores condom use by both men and women in the 12 months prior to interview.

As in 1997, almost two-fifths of men aged under 70 and almost a third of women aged under 50, had used a condom in the previous year. Younger people were more likely than older people to have used a condom, as were those who had had more

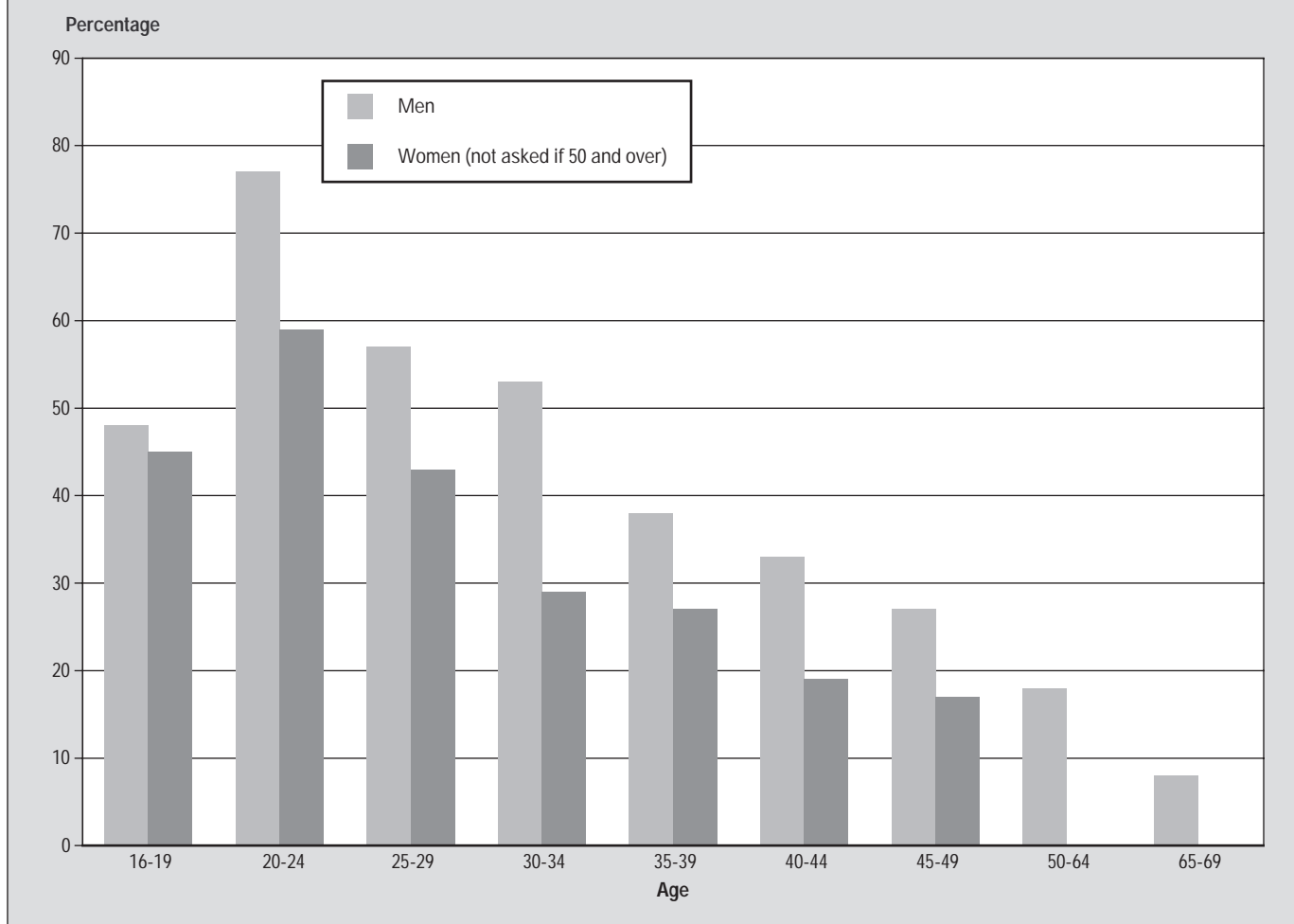
than one partner in the past year. For example, over three-quarters of men (77%) and almost two-fifths of women (59%) aged 20-24 had used a condom, more than three times the proportion of men (27%) and women (17%) aged 45-49. (Figure D and Table 15)

Adults who had used a condom in the previous 12 months were asked why they used them. Almost equal percentages of men said that they used condoms only to prevent pregnancy (45%) and to prevent pregnancy as well as to prevent the transmission of disease (46%). Over half of women (54%) said that they used condoms only to prevent pregnancy, and a further 34% said that they used them to prevent both pregnancy and disease. A further six per cent of both men and women reported using condoms solely for the prevention of disease. As in 1997, there was a difference by age in the reasons for using condoms; younger people were least likely to say that they used condoms only to prevent pregnancy and were most likely to say that they used them to prevent both pregnancy and disease. For example, of those who had used a condom in the previous 12 months, 75% of men and 68% of women aged 16-19 said that they used condoms to prevent both pregnancy and disease. (Table 16)

Over half of men and just under a half of women who had used a condom in the past year said that they always used a condom when they had sex. As in 1997, women were more likely than men to say that they used a condom only sometimes (35%, compared with 28%). For example, among those aged 16-19, more than twice as many women as men said they used a condom only sometimes. Among men aged under 25, there was a difference in regularity of condom use between those aged 16 to 19 and those aged 20 to 24; 79% of men in their teens said that they always used a condom, compared with 59% of men aged 20 to 24.³ (Table 17)

Respondents were asked whether the information they had heard about HIV and AIDS had influenced their condom use. As in 1997, around four in ten of men aged under 70 and women aged under 50, said that it had encouraged them to use a condom. Younger people and those with more than one sexual partner in the past year, were most likely to say that they had been encouraged to use a condom by the information they had heard. For example, 87% of men and 65% of women aged 16-24 said that HIV information had encouraged them to use a condom, compared with 44% or fewer of older men and 37% or fewer of

Figure D Use of condoms in past 12 months by age: Great Britain, 1998



older women. Of those who had had multiple partners in the past year, three-quarters of men and women said that they had been encouraged by the information about HIV and AIDS to use a condom. (Table 18)

3. Unlike 1997, where there was a clear pattern for women under 25 as well as men, the differences between women in their teens and those in their twenties were not significant (although the pattern for women in this age-group was similar to that of men).

Notes

1. Wellings, K., Field, J., Johnson, A. and Wadworth, J. *Sexual behaviour in Britain*. Penguin (London: 1994).
2. This difference is likely to be contextual. Since NATSSAL was wholly devoted to sexual health, this may have encouraged greater willingness to admit to multiple partners, which was not the case with the few questions included in the Omnibus Survey.

Table 13 Sexual partners of men by age

<i>Men aged 16-69</i>										<i>Great Britain: 1998</i>
Which of the following best describes your situation?	Age 16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-69	All	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Sex only with women	54	89	94	91	95	94	94	96	91	
Sex only with men	-	2	0	3	1	3	1	1	1	
Usually with women but at least once with a man	-	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	
Usually with men but at least once with a woman	1	-	0	1	-	1	1	1	1	
No sexual relationship yet	45	8	4	3	2	2	1	2	6	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<i>Base</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>215</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>197</i>	<i>201</i>	<i>693</i>	<i>2074</i>	

Table 14 Number of sexual partners in previous year by (a) age and sex and (b) marital status and sex

<i>Men aged 16-69 and women aged 16-49</i>														<i>Great Britain: 1998</i>
Number of sexual partners	Age										Marital status			All
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-64	65-69	Single	Married co-habiting	Widowed, divorced or separated		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Men														
None	50	13	11	6	7	6	10	14	29	34	5	36	15	
One	25	42	70	76	87	87	83	82	69	32	91	43	73	
Two or three	19	32	11	13	5	5	5	4	1	24	3	15	9	
Four or more	6	13	7	5	2	2	3	1	1	11	1	6	4	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Women														
None	32	9	6	6	9	16	11	nc	27	27	3	35	12	
One	38	72	83	89	85	82	87	nc	48	48	96	55	80	
Two or three	23	16	6	5	5	2	2	nc	20	20	1	9	7	
Four or more	8	2	4	0	1	-	0	nc	6	6	0	1	2	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	nc	100	100	100	100	100	
<i>Bases</i>														
<i>Men</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>227</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>199</i>	<i>554</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>1401</i>	<i>528</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>2077</i>	
<i>Women</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>233</i>	<i>263</i>	<i>288</i>	<i>251</i>	<i>273</i>	<i>nc</i>	<i>1048</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>1601</i>	

nc = not collected

Table 15 Use of condoms in the previous year by (a) age and sex and (b) number of partners and sex

Men aged 16-69 and women aged 16-49 *Great Britain: 1998*

	Age									Number of partners		All
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-64	65-69	One	Two or more	
<i>Percentage using a condom in the previous year</i>												
Men	48	77	57	53	38	33	27	18	8	32	77	37
Women	45	59	43	29	27	19	17		nc	28	65	31
<i>Bases</i>												
Men	170	158	227	216	217	197	200	556	140	1685	266	2081
Women	152	141	236	265	289	251	273		nc	1465	135	1607

nc = not collected.

Table 16 Reasons for using a condom by age and sex

Men aged 16-69 and women aged 16-49 *Great Britain: 1998*

Why do you use a condom?	Age									All
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-69		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men										
Prevent pregnancy	21	26	43	53	61	58	65	48		45
Prevent disease	4	4	4	4	2	6	7	17		6
Both reasons	75	70	52	41	29	32	24	30		46
Other reason	-	-	1	2	7	5	4	5		3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100
Women										
Prevent pregnancy	26	39	53	60	72	75	65	nc		54
Prevent disease	6	8	4	4	5	8	7	nc		6
Both reasons	68	47	36	28	15	10	24	nc		34
Other reason	-	6	7	8	8	6	4	nc		6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100			100
<i>Bases</i>										
Men	81	122	130	115	83	66	55	113		765
Women	66	83	98	78	79	48	46	nc		498

nc = not collected.

Table 17 **Regularity of condom use by age and sex**

Men aged 16-69 and women aged 16-49 Great Britain: 1998

How regularly do you use a condom?	Age 16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-69	All
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men									
Always	79	59	48	46	40	61	69	57	56
Usually	6	17	18	20	18	11	9	24	17
Sometimes	15	24	34	34	42	28	22	19	28
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Women									
Always	50	37	46	37	53	61	62	nc	48
Usually	18	19	13	17	17	13	24	nc	17
Sometimes	32	43	40	46	30	26	13	nc	35
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100
<i>Bases</i>									
Men	81	122	130	115	83	64	55	109	759
Women	66	83	97	78	77	46	45	nc	492

nc = not collected.

Table 18 **Whether information about HIV and AIDS had been an encouragement to use condoms by age and sex**

Men aged 16-69 and women aged 16-49 saying that the information had encouraged them to use condoms

Great Britain: 1998

	Age 16-24	25-44	45-54	55 and over	All
<i>Percentages</i>					
Men					
with 1 sexual partner	90	39	27	18	35
with 2 or more partners	84	77	67	[9]	76
All men	87	44	30	18	40
Women					
with 1 sexual partner	59	36	23	nc	36
with 2 or more partners	78	71	[4]	nc	75
All women	65	37	24	nc	39
<i>Bases</i>					
Men with 1 sexual partner	84	690	342	430	1546
Men with 2 or more partners	73	131	39	23	266
All men	163	825	382	457	182
Women with 1 sexual partner	114	828	189	nc	1131
Women with 2 or more partners	44	62	5	nc	111
All women	158	896	194	nc	1248

nc = not collected.

5 Knowledge of sexually transmitted infections

Men aged under 70 and women under 50 were asked from which source they had learnt most about AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STD's). As in 1997, about four in ten men and women said that they had learnt the most from television programmes. The next most commonly mentioned sources of information were TV advertisements (23%), and newspapers, magazines and books (22%).

A third of those aged 16 to 24 said that television programmes were their main source of information about AIDS and STDs, compared with two-fifths of older people. This youngest age-group were also most likely to say that their source of information was friends and relations (8% compared with 2% or fewer of those aged 25 and over). (Figure E and Table 19)

Respondents were asked whether they had heard of chlamydia and whether they knew that it was an STD.¹ People were also asked to say whether each of a series of statements about the disease was true or not. In 1998, as in 1997, the majority of people had not heard of chlamydia or did not know what it was. Again, twice as many women as men (35%, compared with 13%) had heard of chlamydia. Women were also more likely than men to know that chlamydia can cause infertility and ectopic pregnancies (31% compared with 10%), does not always cause symptoms (25% compared with 9%), and can be easily treated with antibiotics (26% compared with 8%).

Although, there was no difference between 1997 and 1998 in the proportions who had heard of chlamydia, the proportions correctly answering the first three statements did increase. This was especially the case for women. For example, in 1997, around a fifth of women agreed that chlamydia did not always cause symptoms and that it could be treated by antibiotics, but in 1998, this had risen to a quarter.

Men aged 25–39 and women aged 20–39 were most likely to have heard of chlamydia. This age-group was also most likely to know about the effect of the disease. For example, among

women, only around a fifth of those aged 16–19 agreed that chlamydia could cause infertility and ectopic pregnancy, compared with around a third of those aged 20–39 and a quarter of those aged over 40. (Figure F and Table 20).

Note

1. The questions on chlamydia were asked of all respondents, irrespective of age. However, to maintain consistency with the other questions, the results shown in Table 20 are based only on men aged under 70 and women aged under 50.

Figure E Source of information about AIDS and other STDs: Great Britain, 1998

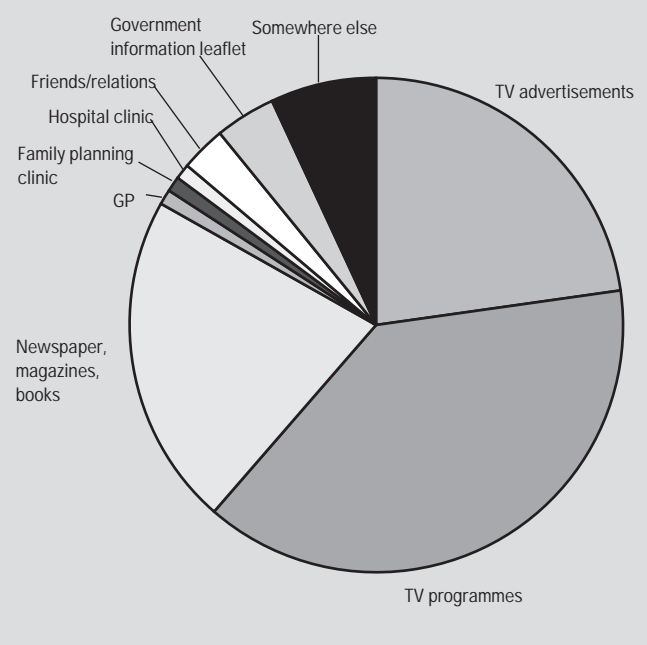


Figure F Knowledge of symptoms, effect and treatment of chlamydia by sex: Great Britain, 1997 and 1998 Omnibus Survey

Percentage agreeing with statements

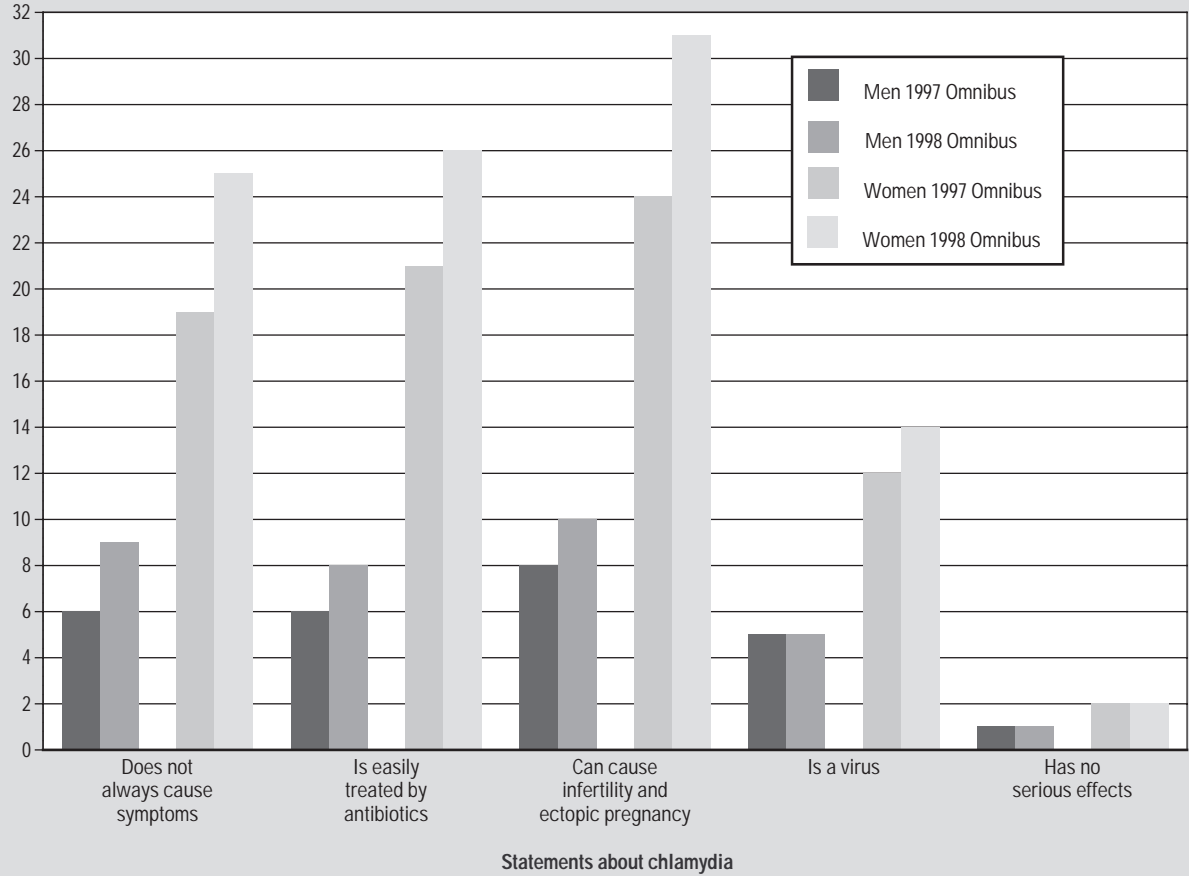


Table 19 Source of information about AIDS and other STDs by (a) sex and (b) age

Men aged 16-69 and women aged 16-49

Great Britain: 1998

Main source of information about AIDS and other STDs	Sex		Age			All
	Men	Women	16-24	25-49	50 and over	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
TV programmes	39	38	33	40	40	39
TV advertisements	24	23	18	24	25	23
Newspaper, magazines, books	22	21	19	21	27	22
Government information leaflet	4	5	5	5	2	4
Friends/relations	3	2	8	2	1	3
GP	1	1	2	1	0	1
Family planning clinic	1	1	3	1	0	1
Hospital clinic	1	0	0	1	0	0
Somewhere else	6	7	12	6	4	7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base	1605	3683	618	2370	696	3684

Table 20 Knowledge of chlamydia by age and sex

Men aged 16-69 and women aged 16-49 Great Britain: 1998

Knowledge of chlamydia	Age									1997 Omnibus
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-69	All	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men										
Not heard of or does not know what it is	90	87	76	77	84	87	84	93	87	87
Proportions agreeing that Chlamydia:										
Does not always cause symptoms	5	10	16	13	8	8	11	5	9	6
Is easily treated by antibiotics	5	7	16	17	12	7	12	4	8	6
Can cause infertility and ectopic pregnancy	8	12	18	16	10	9	13	6	10	8
Is a virus	3	4	8	13	8	6	4	2	5	5
Has no serious effects	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1
Only affects men	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Women										
Not heard of or does not know what it is	80	60	56	62	59	71	69	nc	65	66
Proportions agreeing that Chlamydia:										
Does not always cause symptoms	12	30	32	25	29	20	24	nc	25	19
Is easily treated by antibiotics	14	25	34	26	31	20	24	nc	26	21
Can cause infertility and ectopic pregnancy	18	32	37	34	37	26	25	nc	31	24
Is a virus	12	20	20	15	12	10	12	nc	14	12
Has no serious effects	0	3	1	1	4	1	1	nc	2	2
Only affects men	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	nc	0	2
Bases										
Men	165	157	213	209	210	193	196	685	2027	4209
Women	143	138	224	259	282	235	261	nc	1542	3357

nc = not collected.

Appendix A: The ONS Omnibus Survey

The Omnibus Survey is a multi-purpose survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics for use by Government departments and other public or non-profit making bodies. Interviewing is carried out every month and each month's questionnaire covers a variety of topics, reflecting different user's requirements.

The sample

A random probability sample of 3,000 private households in Great Britain is selected each month using the Postcode Address File as a sampling frame. One hundred new postal sectors are selected and are stratified by region, the proportion of households renting from the local authorities and the proportion in which the head of household is in Socio-Economic Groups 1-5 or 13 (that is a professional employer or manager). The postal sectors are selected with probability proportional to size and within each sector 30 addresses are selected randomly.

Within households with more than one adult, one person aged 16 or over is randomly selected for interview. No proxy interviews are taken.

Weighting

Because only one household member is interviewed at each address, people in households containing few adults have a higher probability of selection than those in households with

many. Where the unit of analysis is individual adults, as it is for this module, a weighting factor is applied to correct for this unequal probability of selection.

Fieldwork

Interviews are carried out face-to-face by interviewers trained to carry out a range of ONS surveys. The Omnibus Survey uses computer assisted interviewing which has well documented effects on the quality of the data.

Response Rates

The small users' Postal Address File includes some business addresses and other address, such as new and empty properties, at which no private households are living. The expected proportion of such addresses, which are classified as ineligible is about 11-12%. This figure is removed before the response rate is calculated.

The response rate for the Omnibus Survey for the four months in which the contraception and sexual health questions were asked was 68%, as shown in Table A.1.

Questions on contraception and sexual health were only asked of women aged under 50 and men aged under 70. Table A.2 shows that 96% of eligible respondents answered these questions.

Table A.1 Household level response of the Omnibus Survey for the months in which the contraception and sexual health questions were asked

Set sample	12,000	100%
Ineligible addresses	1,182	10%
Eligible addresses	10,818	100%
Refusals	2,556	24%
Non-contacts	884	8%
Respondents	7,378	64%

Table A.2 Response to the contraception and sexual health questions

	All		Men		Women	
Respondents who met the age criteria	3,587	100%	2,016	100%	1,571	100%
Respondents who refused the section	157	4%	108	5%	49	3%
Respondents to the section	3,430	96%	1,908	95%	1,522	97%
Respondents to the section after weighting	3,684		2,079		1,605	

Appendix B:

The questions

ASK IF: Male and under 70 OR Female and under 50

Intro

The following set of questions are being asked on behalf of the Department of Health and begins with ways of preventing pregnancy.

Would you prefer to answer these questions yourself using the computer or would you like me to continue to read the questions out to you?

- (1) Self-completion accepted and completed
- (2) Completed by interviewer
- (3) Section refused

ASK IF: Male and under 70 OR Female and under 50

M170_1

Have you had a vasectomy?

Have you ever been sterilised - I mean ever had an operation intended to prevent you getting pregnant?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Male and under 70 OR Female and under 50

AND: has had an operation to prevent pregnancy

M170_2

Was that operation carried out under the NHS or not?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Male and under 70 OR Female and under 50

AND: has had an operation to prevent pregnancy

M170_3

Was the operation more or less than two years ago, that is before or after (month 2 years ago)?

- (1) More than 2 years ago
- (2) Less than 2 years ago

ASK IF: Male and under 70 OR Female and under 50

AND: NOT (has had an operation to prevent pregnancy)

M170_4

Have you had any other operation which prevents you getting someone pregnant/ becoming pregnant?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Male and under 70 OR Female and under 50

AND: NOT (has had an operation to prevent pregnancy)

AND: Had other operation preventing pregnancy

M170_5

Was the operation more or less than two years ago, that is before or after (month 2 years ago)?

- (1) More than 2 years ago
- (2) Less than 2 years ago

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation

M170_6M

Here is a list of possible ways of preventing pregnancy. Which, if any, do you (and your partner) usually use at present?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY

SHOWCARD C170.6

MULTICODE OF 3

- (1) No method used - no sexual relationship
- (2) No method used at all/partner sterilised
- (3) Withdrawal
- (4) Male sheath/condom
- (5) Safe period/rhythm method/Persona
- (6) Cap/Diaphragm
- (7) Pill
- (8) IUD/coil/intra-uterine device
- (9) Hormonal IUD - MIRENA
- (10) Foams/gels/sprays/pessaries (spermicides)
- (11) Going without sexual intercourse to avoid pregnancy
- (12) Female condom
- (13) Injections/implants
- (14) Another method

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation

AND: Use another method

SPEC6

What other method is used?

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation

AND: Uses the pill

M170_7

Is the pill you take one of the brands listed? These are pro-gestogen only pills (sometimes known as the mini-pill) as opposed to combined pills.

SHOWCARD C170.7

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) Not sure

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation

AND: More than one method used

M170_8

You have mentioned that you usually use more than one method.

Do you use them in combination or do you sometimes use one and sometimes the other?

- (1) In combination
- (2) Sometimes one, sometimes other

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation

AND: More than one method used

AND: Sometimes one, sometimes other

M170_9

Which one do you use most often?

SHOWCARD C170.9

- (3) Withdrawal
- (4) Male sheath/condom
- (5) Safe period/rhythm method/Persona
- (6) Cap/Diaphragm
- (7) Pill
- (8) IUD/coil/intra-uterine device
- (9) Hormonal IUD - MIRENA
- (10) Foams/gels/sprays/pessaries (spermicides)
- (11) Going without sexual intercourse to avoid pregnancy
- (12) Female condom
- (13) Injections/implants
- (14) Another method

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation

AND: Have a sexual relationship

M170_10

How long have you not been using a method/has this method been your usual one/ have these methods been your usual ones?

- (1) Less than 3 months
- (2) At least 3 months, less than 6 months
- (3) At least 6 months, less than 1 year
- (4) At least 1 year, less than 2 years
- (5) At least 2 years, less than 5 years
- (6) 5 years or more

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation

AND: Have a sexual relationship

AND: No method used

M170_11

Here is a list of reasons why people do not use any method for preventing pregnancy. Which of these reasons applies to you?

CODE MAIN REASON ONLY

SHOWCARD C170.11

- (1) I am pregnant
- (2) I want to become pregnant
- (3) Unlikely to conceive because of menopause
- (4) Unlikely to conceive because possibly infertile
- (5) Don't like contraception/Find methods unsatisfactory
- (6) My Partner is sterilised (e.g. has had a vasectomy)
- (7) Some other reason

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation

AND: No method used, no sex

M170_12

Have you used any of these method in the last 2 years?

SHOWCARD C170.9

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation

AND: No method used, no sex

AND: Has used methods in last 2 years

M170_13M

Which method(s) did you usually use?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY

MULTICODE OF 3

- (3) Withdrawal
- (4) Male sheath/condom
- (5) Safe period/rhythm method/Persona
- (6) Cap/Diaphragm
- (7) Pill
- (8) IUD/coil/intra-uterine device
- (9) Hormonal IUD - MIRENA
- (10) Foams/gels/sprays/pessaries (spermicides)
- (11) Going without sexual intercourse to avoid pregnancy
- (12) Female condom
- (13) Injections/implants
- (14) Another method

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: Usual method less than 5 years or operation less than 2 years ago and uses a method now

M170_14M

Which method(s) of contraception, if any, did you use immediately before that?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY SHOWCARD C170.6

MULTICODE OF 3

- (1) No method used - no sexual relationship
- (2) No method used at all/partner sterilised
- (3) Withdrawal
- (4) Male sheath/condom
- (5) Safe period/rhythm method/Persona
- (6) Cap/Diaphragm
- (7) Pill
- (8) IUD/coil/intra-uterine device
- (9) Hormonal IUD - MIRENA
- (10) Foams/gels/sprays/pessaries (spermicides)
- (11) Going without sexual intercourse to avoid pregnancy
- (12) Female condom
- (13) Injections/implants
- (14) Another method

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: Usual method less than 5 years or operation less than 2 years ago and uses a method now

AND: Used the pill

M170_15

Is the pill you took one of the brands listed? These are progestogen only pills (sometimes known as the mini- pill) as opposed to combined pills.

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) Not sure

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation and method used

AND: Method at 6 not the same as method at 14

M170_16

Did the change in method happen because you began a relationship with a different partner?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation and method used

AND: Method at 6 not the same as method at 14

M170_17

[*]

Compared with the method(s) you used before, do you think the method(s) you are using now is/are: more reliable in preventing pregnancy?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation and method used

AND: Method at 6 not the same as method at 14

M170_18

[*]

(Compared with the method(s) you used before, do you think the method(s) you are using now is/are:...)

...more convenient to use?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation and method used

AND: Method at 6 not the same as method at 14

M170_19

[*]

(Compared with the method(s) you used before, do you think the method(s) you are using now is/are:...) better for your long-term health?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation and method used

AND: Method at 6 not the same as method at 14

M170_20

[*]

(Compared with the method(s) you used before, do you think the method(s) you are using now is/are:...)

better for protecting against sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV)?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation and method used

AND: Method at 6 not the same as method at 14

M170_21

Which was the main reason for changing your method of contraception?

SHOWCARD C170.21

- (1) Different partner
- (2) More reliable in preventing pregnancy

- (3) More convenient to use
- (4) Better for long-term health
- (5) Better for protecting against diseases
- (6) Some other reason

ASK IF: Female aged 16 to 49

AND: No operation and method used

AND: Method at 6 not the same as method at 14

M170_22

Were you at all influenced to make the change by advice from a GP or Family Planning Clinic?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Women aged 16 to 49 who have not had operation or had operation less than 2 years ago

M170_23

There are two other kinds of contraception, which are referred to as emergency contraception. One is a pill based method, sometimes known as the 'morning after' pill. The other is an IUD (intra-uterine device) method. Before reading/mentioned it, had you heard of the pill method of emergency contraception after intercourse?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) Don't know

ASK IF: Women aged 16 to 49 who have not had operation or had operation less than 2 years ago

AND: Has heard of emergency pill

M170_24

[*]

If no other method of contraception has been used, how long after sexual intercourse has taken place do you think that the pill method of emergency contraception can be used successfully?

SHOWCARD C170.24

- (1) Up to 12 hours
- (2) Over 12 hours, up to 24 hours
- (3) Over 24 hours, up to 72 hours
- (4) Over 72 hours, up to 5 days
- (5) Over 5 days
- (6) Don't know

ASK IF: Women aged 16 to 49 who have not had operation or had operation less than 2 years ago

AND: Has heard of emergency pill

M170_25

Have you used the emergency contraception pill in the last 2 years?

QUESTION ON SHOWCARD C170.25

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Women aged 16 to 49 who have not had operation or had operation less than 2 years ago

AND: Has heard of emergency pill

AND: has used emergency pill

M170_26

On how many occasions in the last 2 years have you used the emergency contraception pill?

QUESTION ON SHOWCARD C170.25

1..50

ASK IF: Women aged 16 to 49 who have not had operation or had operation less than 2 years ago

AND: Has heard of emergency pill

AND: has used emergency pill

M170_27M

Where did you go for this?

QUESTION ON SHOWCARD C170.25

MULTICODE OF 5

- (1) Your own GP
- (2) Another GP
- (3) Family Planning Clinic, (including Brook Clinics and Margaret Pyke centres)
- (4) Hospital Accident & Emergency Department
- (5) Other

ASK IF: Women aged 16 to 49 who have not had operation or had operation less than 2 years ago

AND: Has heard of emergency pill

AND: Has not used emergency pill

M170_28M

If you were to need the emergency contraception pill where do you think you would be able to obtain it?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY SHOWCARD C170.28

MULTICODE OF 5

- (1) Your own GP
- (2) Another GP
- (3) Family Planning Clinic, (including Brook Clinics and Margaret Pyke centres)
- (4) Hospital Accident & Emergency Department
- (5) Other
- (6) Would not use

ASK IF: Women aged 16 to 49 who have not had operation or had operation less than 2 years ago

M170_29

Before (I mentioned it/reading about it here), had you heard of the IUD method of emergency contraception after intercourse?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Women aged 16 to 49 who have not had operation or had operation less than 2 years ago

AND: Has heard of emergency IUD

M170_30

[*]

If no other method of contraception has been used, how long after sexual intercourse has taken place do you think that an IUD can be successfully fitted as an emergency method of contraception?

SHOWCARD C170.24

- (1) Up to 12 hours
- (2) Over 12 hours, up to 24 hours
- (3) Over 24 hours, up to 72 hours
- (4) Over 72 hours, up to 5 days
- (5) Over 5 days
- (6) Don't know

ASK IF: Women aged 16 to 49 who have not had operation or had operation less than 2 years ago

AND: Has heard of emergency IUD

M170_31

Have you had an IUD fitted for emergency contraception in the last 2 years?

QUESTION ON SHOWCARD C170.31

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Women aged 16 to 49 who have not had operation or had operation less than 2 years ago

AND: Has heard of emergency IUD

AND: Has used emergency IUD

AND: More than once

AND: Q340th IN M170_34M

SPEC34

RECORD OTHER ANSWER

ASK IF: Women aged 16 to 49 who have not had operation or had operation less than 2 years ago

AND: Has heard of emergency IUD

M170_35M

If you were to need to have an IUD fitted for emergency contraception, where do you think you would be able to go? (Where did you go for this)

CODE ALL THAT APPLY

MULTICODE OF 6

- (1) Your own GP
- (2) Another GP
- (3) Family Planning Clinic, (including Brook Clinics and Margaret Pyke centres)
- (4) Hospital Accident & Emergency Department
- (5) Other
- (6) Would not use

ASK IF: Men aged 16 to 69

AND: Not had operation which prevents pregnancy

M170_36M

Here is a list of possible ways of preventing pregnancy, which, if any, do you (and your partner) use at present?

SHOWCARD C170.36

MULTICODE OF 4

- (1) The contraceptive pill
- (2) Male condom
- (3) The Female condom
- (4) Another method of protection
- (5) No method
- (6) No sexual relations with a woman currently

ASK IF: Men aged 16 to 69

M170_37

Which of the following best describes your situation?

QUESTION ON SHOWCARD C170.36

- (1) I have had sex only with women
- (2) I have had sex only with men
- (3) I have usually had sex only with women but have had sex at least once with a man
- (4) I have usually had sex only with men but have had sex at least once with a woman
- (5) I have not (yet) had a sexual relationship

ASK IF: Male under 70 OR Female under 50

M170_38M

Have you been to any of the following for Family Planning purposes within the last 5 years?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY SHOWCARD C170.38

MULTICODE OF 4

- (1) Family planning clinic (including Brook Clinics and Margaret Pyke centres)
- (2) Your own GP
- (3) Another local GP
- (4) Somewhere else
- (5) None of these

ASK IF: Male under 70 OR Female under 50

AND: Has been somewhere for family planning last 5 years

AND: NOT (Only one place visited)

M170_39

Which did you visit most recently for family planning purposes?

- (1) Family planning clinic (including Brook Clinics and Margaret Pyke centres)
- (2) Your own GP
- (3) Another local GP
- (4) Somewhere else

ASK IF: Male under 70 OR Female under 50

AND: Has been somewhere for family planning last 5 years

M170_40

When did you last go there for family planning purposes?

- (1) Less than 3 months ago
- (2) at least 3 months but less than 6 months ago
- (3) at least 6 months but less than 1 year ago
- (4) or at least 1 year but less than 5 years ago

ASK IF: Male under 70 OR Female under 50

M170_41

There has been a lot of information in recent years about AIDS and about other sexually transmitted diseases. From which source would you say you have learnt most about these?

SHOWCARD C170.41

- (1) TV advertisements
- (2) TV programmes
- (3) Newspapers, magazines or books
- (4) Your GP
- (5) Family Planning Clinic (including Brook clinics and Margaret Pyke centres)
- (6) Clinic in a hospital
- (7) Friends or relations
- (8) Government information leaflet
- (9) Somewhere else

ASK IF: Male under 70 OR Female under 50

AND: Sexual relationship

AND: Has not said uses condoms

M170_42

May I just check, have you (and your partner) used a condom in the last 12 months?

Please include either male or female condoms

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Male under 70 OR Female under 50

AND: Sexual relationship

AND: Uses a condom

M170_43

Why do you use a condom?

SHOWCARD C170.43

- (1) To prevent pregnancy
- (2) To prevent disease
- (3) Both to prevent pregnancy and disease
- (4) Some other reason

ASK IF: Male under 70 OR Female under 50

AND: Sexual relationship

AND: Uses a condom

M170_45

How regularly do you use a condom?

SHOWCARD C170.45

- (1) Whenever I have sexual intercourse
- (2) Usually when I have sexual intercourse
- (3) Sometimes when I have sexual intercourse

ASK IF: Male under 70 OR Female under 50

AND: Sexual relationship

M170_44

Has what you have heard about HIV and AIDS encouraged you to use a condom or hasn't it influenced you?

- (1) It has encouraged me
- (2) It has not influenced me

ASK IF: Male under 70 and no sexual relationships yet

OR Female under 50

M170_46

And may I just check, how many sexual partners have you had in the last year?

QUESTION ON SHOWCARD C170.46

- (0) No partners/No sexual relationships in the last 12 months
- (1) 1
- (2) 2 or 3
- (4) 4 or more

ASK IF: Male under 70 OR Female under 50

AND: More than one partner

M170_47

And may I just check, do you use different methods of contraception with different partners, or do you currently only have one partner?

QUESTION ON SHOWCARD C170.46

- (1) Use different methods with different partners
- (2) Does not use different methods with different partners
- (3) Only one partner
- (4) Only use one method of contraception

ASK ALWAYS:

M170_48

Have you ever heard of Chlamydia?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

ASK IF: Heard of Chlamydia

M170_48A

What is Chlamydia?

- (1) Sexually transmitted disease
- (2) Other

ASK IF: Heard of Chlamydia

AND: Know Chlamydia is a STD

M17049M

Which of the following statements about Chlamydia do you think are true?

CODE ALL THAT APPLY

SHOWCARD C170_49

MULTICODE OF 6

- (1) Chlamydia does not always cause symptoms
- (2) Chlamydia is easily treated with antibiotics
- (3) Chlamydia is a virus
- (4) Chlamydia has no serious effects
- (5) Chlamydia can cause infertility and ectopic pregnancy if untreated
- (6) Chlamydia only affects men

Appendix C:

Reports in the Omnibus Series

The prevalence of back pain in Great Britain. Val Mason. HMSO (1994)

Cooking attitudes and behaviour. Gerry Nicolaas. HMSO. (1995)

Food Safety in the Home. Alison Walker. HMSO (1996)

Residual Medicines. Myra Woolf. HMSO (1996)

Smoking-related behaviour and attitudes. Fiona Dawe and Eileen Goddard. TSO (1997)

Drinking: adults' behaviour and knowledge. Eileen Goddard. TSO (1997)

The prevalence of back pain in Great Britain, 1996. Tricia Dodd. TSO (1997)

Smoking-related behaviour and attitudes, 1997. Stephanie Freeth. ONS (1998)

Drinking: adults' behaviour and knowledge in 1998. Eileen Goddard. ONS (1998)

Contraception and Sexual Health, 1997. Tricia Dodd and Stephanie Freeth. TSO (1999)

Food safety in the home, 1998. Deborah Lader. TSO (1999)