

UNDERSTANDING PREGNANCY DECISION-MAKING: THE ROLE OF PARTNERS AND PROVIDERS

September 18, 2012

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Prevent. Promote. Protect.

IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO!!



But in reality, it's more than two:

- Family
- Peer groups
- Provider
- Partner or Partners
- Pharmacists
- Faith Groups
- Work/Education Environment
- Community
- Social norms



Two of the biggest influences

- Provider:
 - May be only source of information
 - May be only source of support
 - Opportunity to plant a concept
- Partner:
 - Consider both positive, negative and neutral influences
 - Address connection with partner



Where were these women getting their birth control?

- Private doctor's office (13.7%)
- Public Health Department Clinic (19.6%)
- Community Health Center (5.9%)
- Planned Parenthood Clinic (5.9%)
- Hospital Clinic (5.9%)
- Urgent Care Center (3.9%)

- Drug Store/Pharmacy (43.1%)



Providers

- Those surveyed were asked if a provider had **ever** talked to them about ways to prepare for a healthy pregnancy
 - 63% said yes
 - 32% said no
 - <1% unsure
- 14.9% of those that did something to improve their pre-pregnancy health, sought medical/health advice



Providers

“Patients have a hard time connecting the dots between sex, pregnancy, child birth, having a baby, raising a child.”

-Louisville Metro Health Department Provider



Partners

- Of the women reporting a birth control method at last sex, 20.3% reported 'withdrawal' as their means of contraception...
- Another 65.2% of women reported 'condom (male or female)' as a method



Partner Congruence Questions

- Before the time that I thought I might be pregnant, my partner and I...
 - Never discussed the topic of having children together (17.9%)
 - Discussed having children together but hadn't agreed for me to get pregnant (51.6%)
 - Agreed that we would like me to be pregnant (30.5%)



Partner Congruence Questions

- How does your husband/partner feel about the possibility that you are pregnant?
 - I don't have a regular partner (1.8%)
 - He has wanted me to get pregnant for a while (14.6%)
 - He wants me to be pregnant, but later (28.3%)
 - He wants me to be pregnant now (27.4%)
 - He doesn't want me to be pregnant now, or at any time in the future (6.6%)
 - I don't know what they feel about it (21.2%)



Partner Congruence Key Findings

- Of women not trying to be pregnant, 25% never discussed having a child with their partner
- A large group (68%) had discussed with partner, but did not agree
- Only 7% agreed that they wanted her to be pregnant



Partner Congruence Key Findings

- Most partners (37%) wanted the pregnancy later
- 9% never wanted a pregnancy
- Approximately 30% of women not trying to be pregnant, had no regular partner or did not know what their partner thought
- Half of the respondents talked with their partner but did not agree about becoming pregnant. This was true whether women reported intimate partner violence (IPV) or not



Intimate Partner Violence

- Verbal Abuse – shouted at, yelled at, insulted, sworn at
- Stalking/Controlling – checked up on you, tried to keep you from doing something you wanted to do
- Physical Abuse – hit, slapped, kicked or otherwise physically hurt
- Sexual Abuse – had sex when you didn't want to because an intimate partner threatened or used some degree of physical force (twisting your arm, holding you down, etc) to make you



Intimate Partner Violence

- 17.2% of respondents reported at least one type of partner violence

Of those 17.2%

76.9% reported one type

12.8% reported two types

7.7% reported three types

2.6% reported four types



Intimate Partner Violence

- 11.5% had been shouted at, yelled at, insulted or sworn at
- 8% had an intimate partner check up on them, tried to keep them from doing something they wanted to do
- 3.6% had been hit, slapped, kicked or otherwise physically hurt
- 0.4% had sex when they didn't want to because they were threatened or their IP used a degree of physical force



Rethinking Partners

“The partner at the time of her visit may or may not be the partner being discussed for the possible pregnancy. We have patients where the father-to-be may be a partner or two removed.”

-Louisville Metro Health Department Provider

