

# **Workshop on the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)**

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National Center for Health Statistics**

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Epidemiology Conference, Atlanta, GA  
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## Outline of NSFG Workshop

1. Overview of NSFG design, history, & content (focusing on Cycles 6 & 7)
2. Examples of women's, men's & infants' health topics that can be studied with the NSFG (and some that are uniquely feasible with NSFG)
3. How to access available NSFG data files & documentation, including some nuts & bolts for users of Cycle 6

# Role of the NSFG

## **CORE:**

- Responds to Sec 306 of the PHS Act:
  - ✦ “NCHS...shall collect statistics on family formation, growth, and dissolution.”
- Extends the birth registration system by providing data on behaviors that explain birth and pregnancy rates---  
e.g. sexual activity, contraception, infertility, & breastfeeding.

## **EVOLVING:**

- Serves the needs of other DHHS programs
  - ✦ NICHD, OPA, OASPE, Children’s Bureau
  - ✦ CDC’s DRH, Div of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP), Div of STD Prevention, & OWH

## Social factors

- Race/ethnicity
- Religion
- Labor force participation
- Education
- Income
- Access to health care
- Family background
- Community environment (economic, social, etc)

## Intermediate variables

### Intercourse variables:

- Timing of first intercourse
- Percent of women who ever had intercourse
- Time spent in marriage (separation, divorce)
- Frequency of intercourse

### Conception variables:

- Contraceptive use
- Sterilization
- Infertility

### Pregnancy outcome (gestational) variables:

- Miscarriage and stillbirth
- Induced abortion

## Fertility

**Live births**

## NSFG Overview, Cycles 1-7

Cycle	Year	Scope	# of Interviews	Over-Samples	Average Length	Incentive
1	1973	Ever-Married Women 15-44	9,797	Black Women	60 Minutes	No
2	1976	Ever-Married Women 15-44	8,611	Black Women	60 Minutes	No
3	1982	All Women 15-44	7,969	Black Women Teens	60 Minutes	No
4	1988	Women 15-44	8,450	Black Women	70 Minutes	No
5	1995	Women 15-44	10,847	Black Women Hispanic Women	100 Minutes	\$20
6	2002	Women 15-44 Men 15-44	12,571 W = 7,643 M = 4,928	Blacks Hispanics Ages 15-24	W=85 min M=60 min	\$40
7	2006+ (continuous)	Women 15-44 Men 15-44	Goal: 4,400 per year	Blacks Hispanics Ages 15-24	W=80 min M=60 min	\$40

## Cycle 6 NSFG: Key survey features

- Contractor: Univ Michigan's Institute for Social Research (ISR)
- Multi-stage probability sample in 121 areas
- Blacks, Hispanics, 15-24 year olds over-sampled
- Independent samples of males & females 15-44 in U.S. household population (not couple-based)
  - ✦ 12,571 total (7,643 female and 4,928 male)
- In-person interviews using laptop computers
  - ✦ Average length of 60 minutes for males & 80 minutes for females
  - ✦ CAPI (interviewer-administered) for majority of questions
  - ✦ ACASI (self-administered) averaged 20 minutes
- 1,794 (about 14% of total) interviews were conducted in Spanish
- Informed consent procedures
  - ✦ Signed consent for adults (18-44)
  - ✦ Signed assent & signed parental consent for minors (15-17)

## From periodic to continuous interviewing

### Cycle 6

Instrument: roughly comparable

Interviewing period: **Mar 02 – Mar 03**

Design: multistage probability sample

Staff size: **250 temporary/part-time** interviewers working nationally in 121 PSUs over the fieldwork period

Sample size: **12,571**

Oversample: no change

Data release: **20 months** after the last interviews in March 2003

### Cycle 7

Instrument: roughly comparable

Interviewing period: **June 06-**

Design: multistage probability sample

Staff size: **40 full-time** interviewers working nationally in 33 PSUs in any given quarter

Sample size: **4400 a year**

Oversample: no change

Data release (goal):

- **9 months** after the last interviews in Dec 2008
- files released every **2-3 years** thereafter

## Cycle 7 – start of continuous interviewing for NSFG

- Interviewing began June 2006
- Why did we move from periodic to continuous interviewing?
  - More timely and cost effective ability to supply data on:
    - Populations at risk for HIV/STD and unintended pregnancy
    - Emerging public health and fertility concerns:
      - HPV vaccine
      - New contraceptive methods on the market
      - Emergency contraception (ever, last 12 months, provider)
  - Ability to quickly make corrections to the instrument (if needed).
  - Year 2 revisions were incorporated into field instrument starting June 2007.
  - Cost efficiencies derive from stability of instrument over time and smaller staff/management requirements.

## Selected Cycle 6 (2002) NSFG content for women: Data collected by the interviewer (CAPI)

- Age, Hispanic origin and race, family background
- Pregnancy history
- Children placed for adoption; non-biological children in household
- Marriage & cohabitation history
- Contraceptive use history; surgical sterilization
- Wanted & unwanted pregnancies
- Births expected in future
- First sexual partner; partners in the last 12 months
- Infertility & impaired fecundity; other reproductive health indicators
- Attitudes towards marriage, parenthood, children
- Religion, work, health insurance, income

## Pregnancy history for women: Cycle 6 NSFG (2002)

- Outcome and gestational length\*
- Selected pregnancy complications\*#
- Timing of first prenatal care visit\*#
- Smoking during pregnancy\*#
- Intendedness at time of conception\*
- For live births:
  - ✦ Birth weight\*
  - ✦ Payment for delivery\*
  - ✦ Breastfeeding\*
    - Initiation
    - Duration of any breastfeeding
    - Duration of exclusive breastfeeding
  - ✦ Maternity leave\*

\* = Available in (some) past Cycles as well

# = Not asked for abortions

Study women's pregnancy experience in the context of other fertility-related behaviors, such as:

- **Contraceptive use** (including a month-by-month recent contraceptive history and partner-specific use)
- **Marriage and cohabitation histories**
- **Sexual partner histories** (for a recent recall period)
- **Infertility and use of medical help for infertility**
- **Use of family planning services and other medical services**
- **Child care arrangements**
- **Height and weight at interview**
- **HIV testing**
- **Risk behaviors for HIV and STD**
- **Other health conditions** (including pelvic inflammatory disease, sexually transmitted infections, and diabetes)

## Examples of women's & infants' health topics that can be studied with the NSFG

Some are uniquely feasible with the NSFG, such as:

- Wantedness of pregnancy (not just live births) at time of conception
  - (and other measures of women's attitudes towards the pregnancy)
  - as an outcome or as a correlate of other pregnancy related behaviors and outcomes
- Marital or cohabiting status at pregnancy conception and outcome
- Contraceptive use before and after pregnancy
- Birth spacing
- Duration of breastfeeding (not truncated)
- Reproductive health related conditions & behaviors

## Selected Cycle 6 (2002) NSFG content for men: Data collected by the interviewer (CAPI)

- Age, Hispanic origin and race, family background
- Marriage & cohabitation history\*
- Contraceptive use; surgical sterilization\*
- Wanted & unwanted pregnancies\*
- Births expected in future
- **Activities with children** (coresidential and noncoresidential) (only for men)
- First sexual partner; partners in the last 12 months
- Attitudes towards marriage, parenthood, children
- Religion, work, health insurance, income

\* Less detailed information collected for men

[What's New](#)

[Information for Survey Participants](#)

[Description of NSFG](#)

[Cycle 6 \(2002\): Reports](#)

[Cycle 6 \(2002\): Public Use Data Files, Codebooks, and Documentation](#)

[Cycle 6 \(2002\): Other Data Files](#)

[Cycles 1-5 \(1973 - 1995\): Codebooks and Documentation](#)

[Questionnaires: 1973 - 2002](#)

[NSFG Bibliography: Cycles 1-6](#)

**Related Links**

- [Vital Statistics: Birth Data](#)

**Contact Information:**

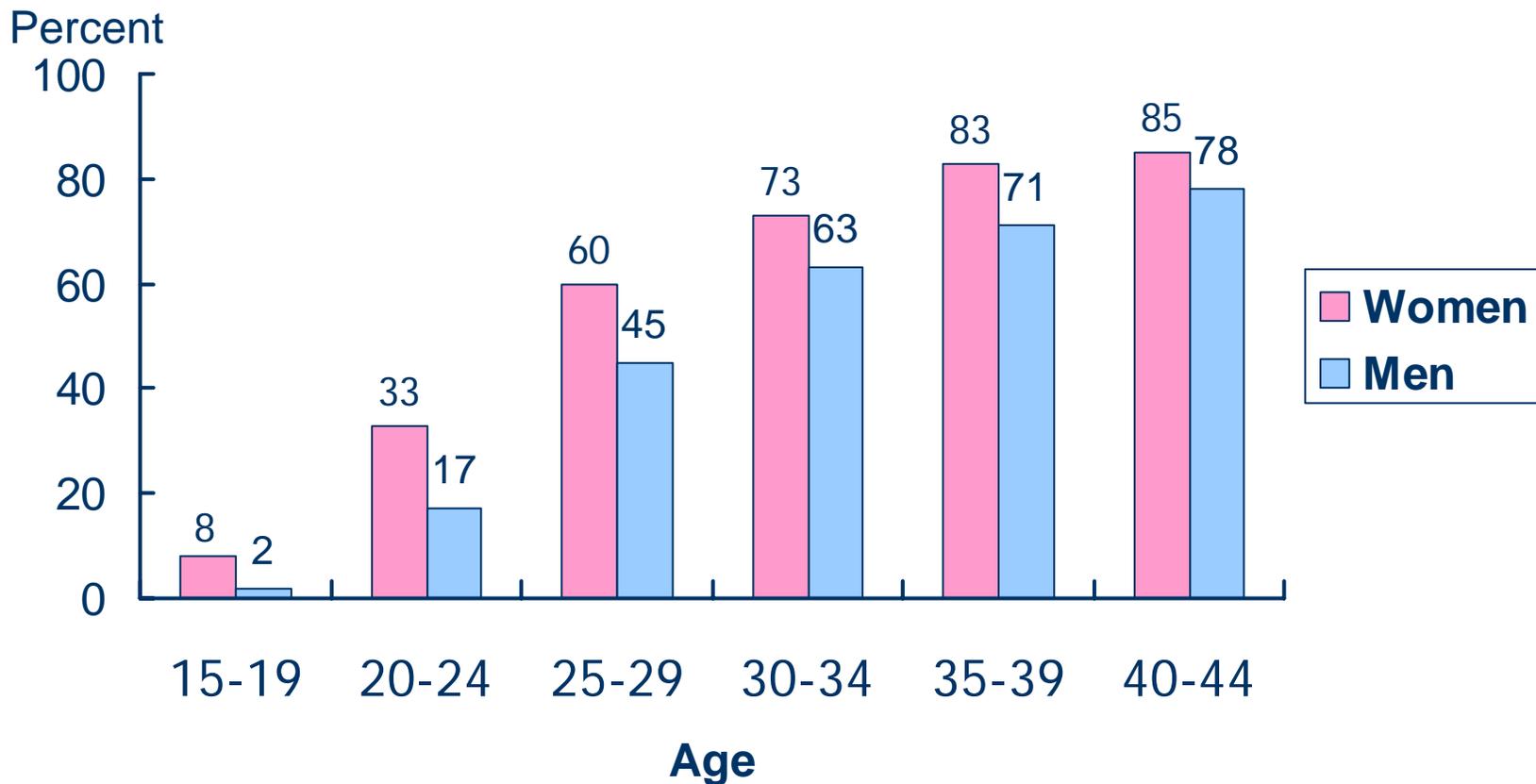
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Results shown on next group of slides are based on NCHS reports available directly from the NSFG website:

**[www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm)**

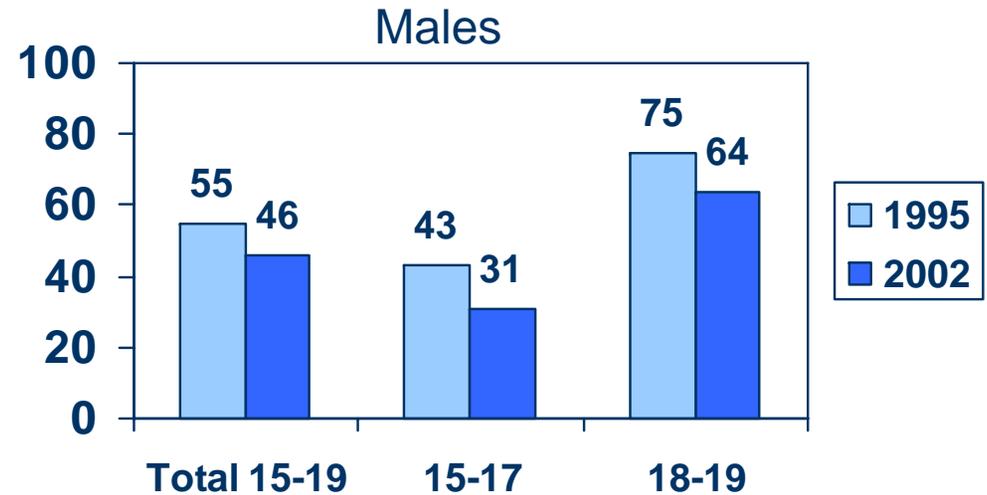
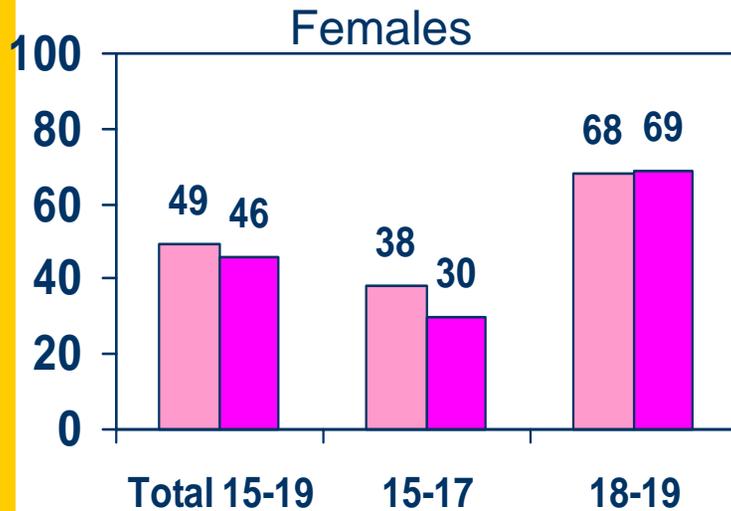
## Percentage of men and women 15-44 who ever had a biological child, by age: US, 2002.



SOURCES: Martinez GM, Chandra A, Abma JC, Jones, J, Mosher, WD. Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 26. May 2006. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

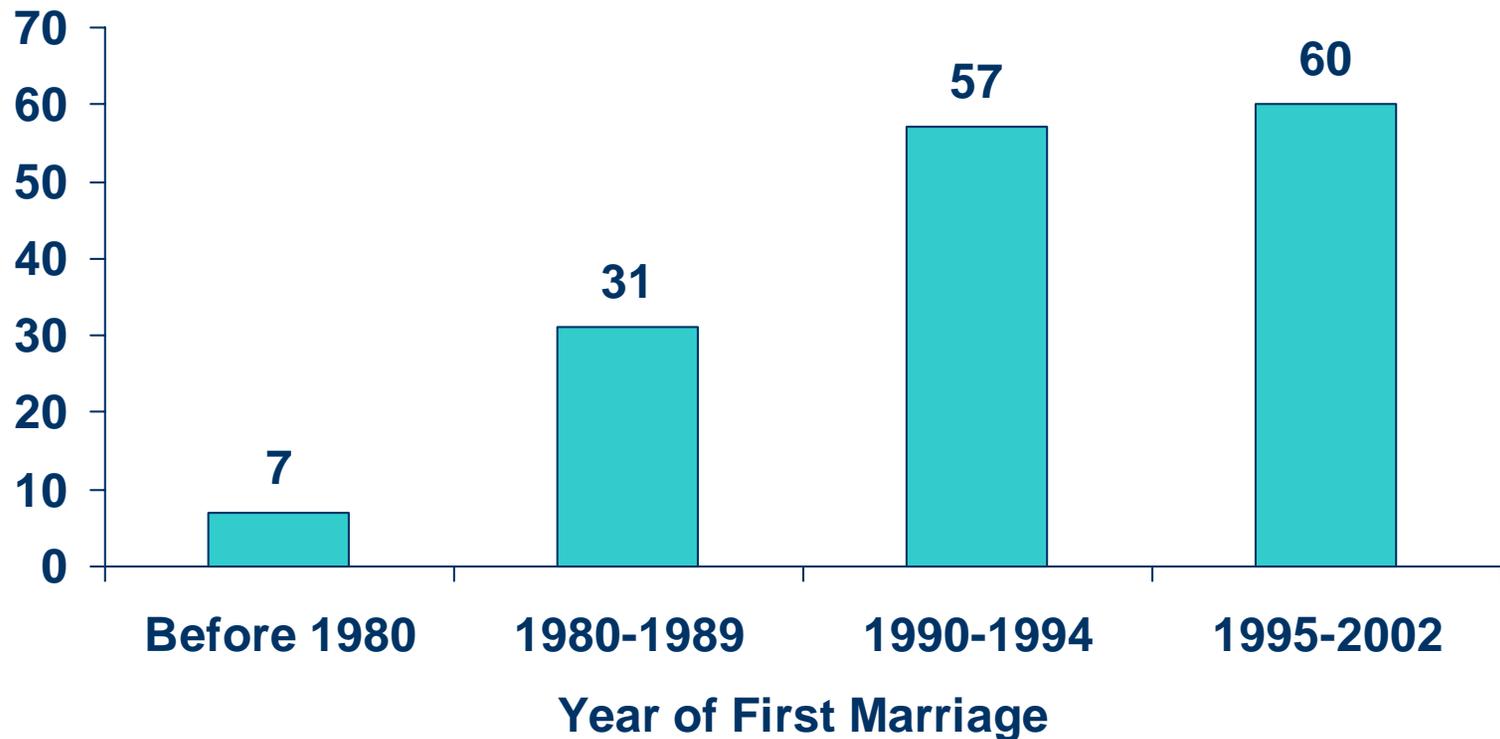
Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of never married 15-19 year olds who were sexually experienced, by age: US, 1995 and 2002



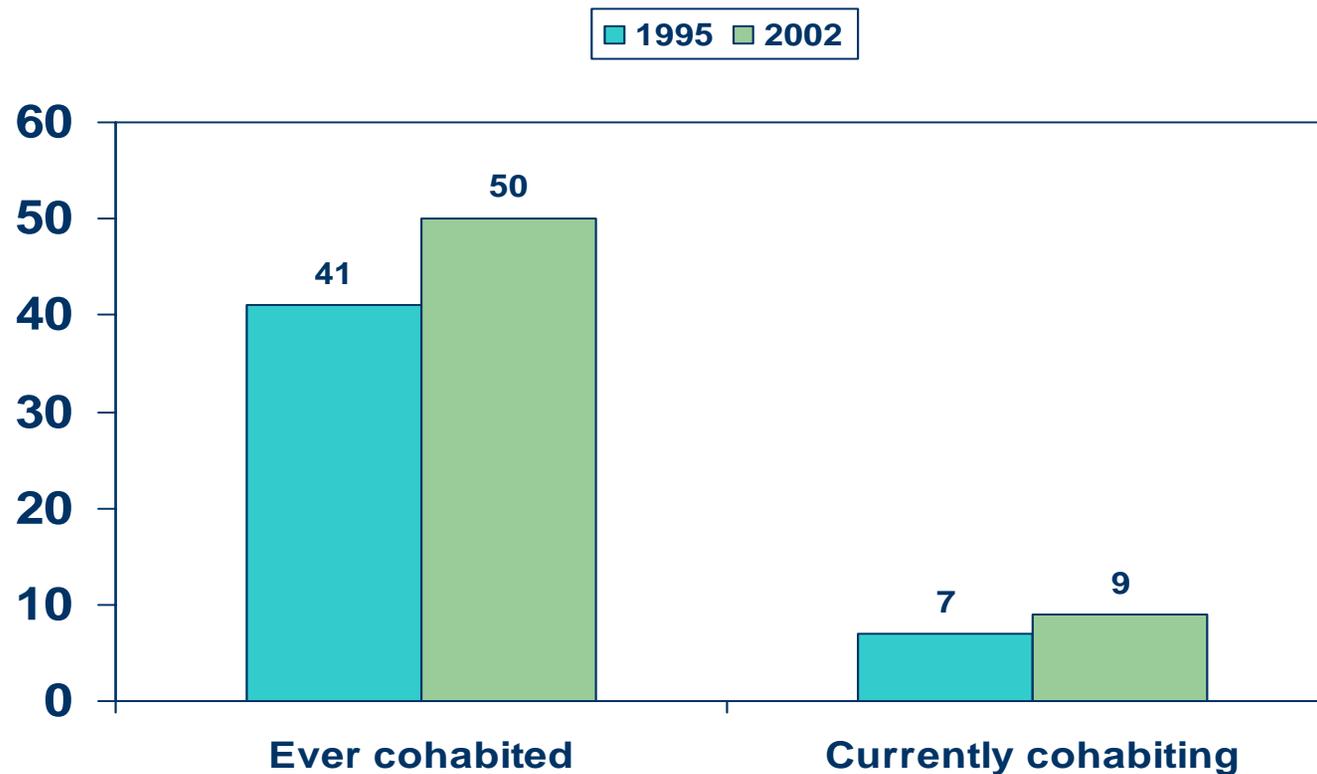
SOURCE: Abma, JC, Martinez, GM, Mosher, WD, and Dawson, BS. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual Activity, Contraceptive Use, and Childbearing, 2002. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23, Number 24*. Dec 2004. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of ever married women who had their first intercourse 5 or more years before marriage, by year of first marriage: US, 2002



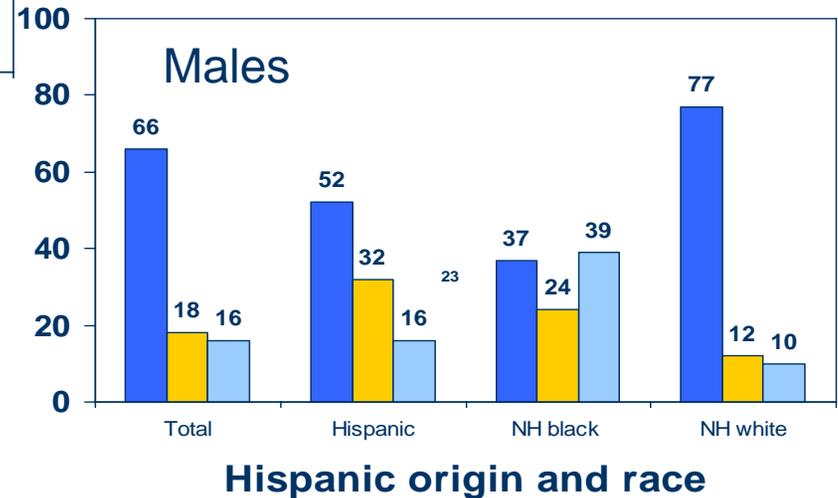
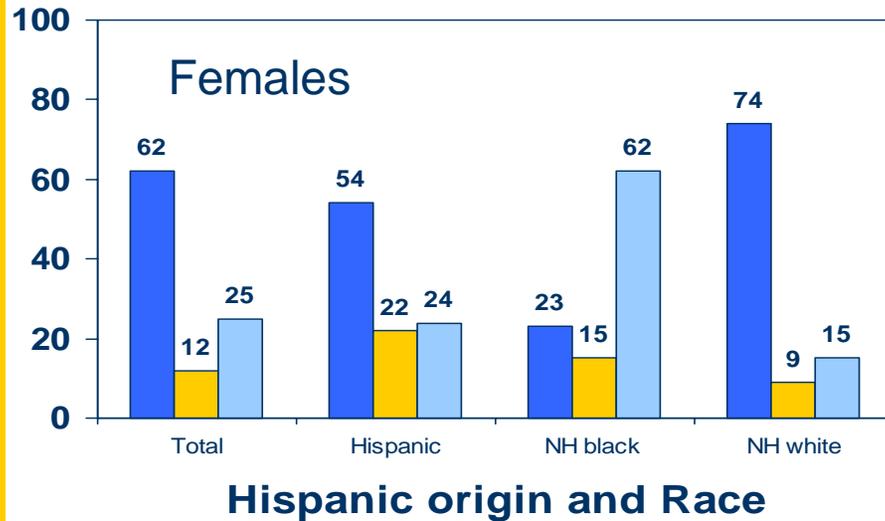
SOURCE: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of women 15-44 years of age who have ever cohabited, and percentage who are currently cohabiting: US, 1995 and 2002



SOURCE: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of parents 15-44 years of age who were married, living in a cohabiting relationship, or neither at the time their first child was born, by Hispanic origin and race: US, 2002



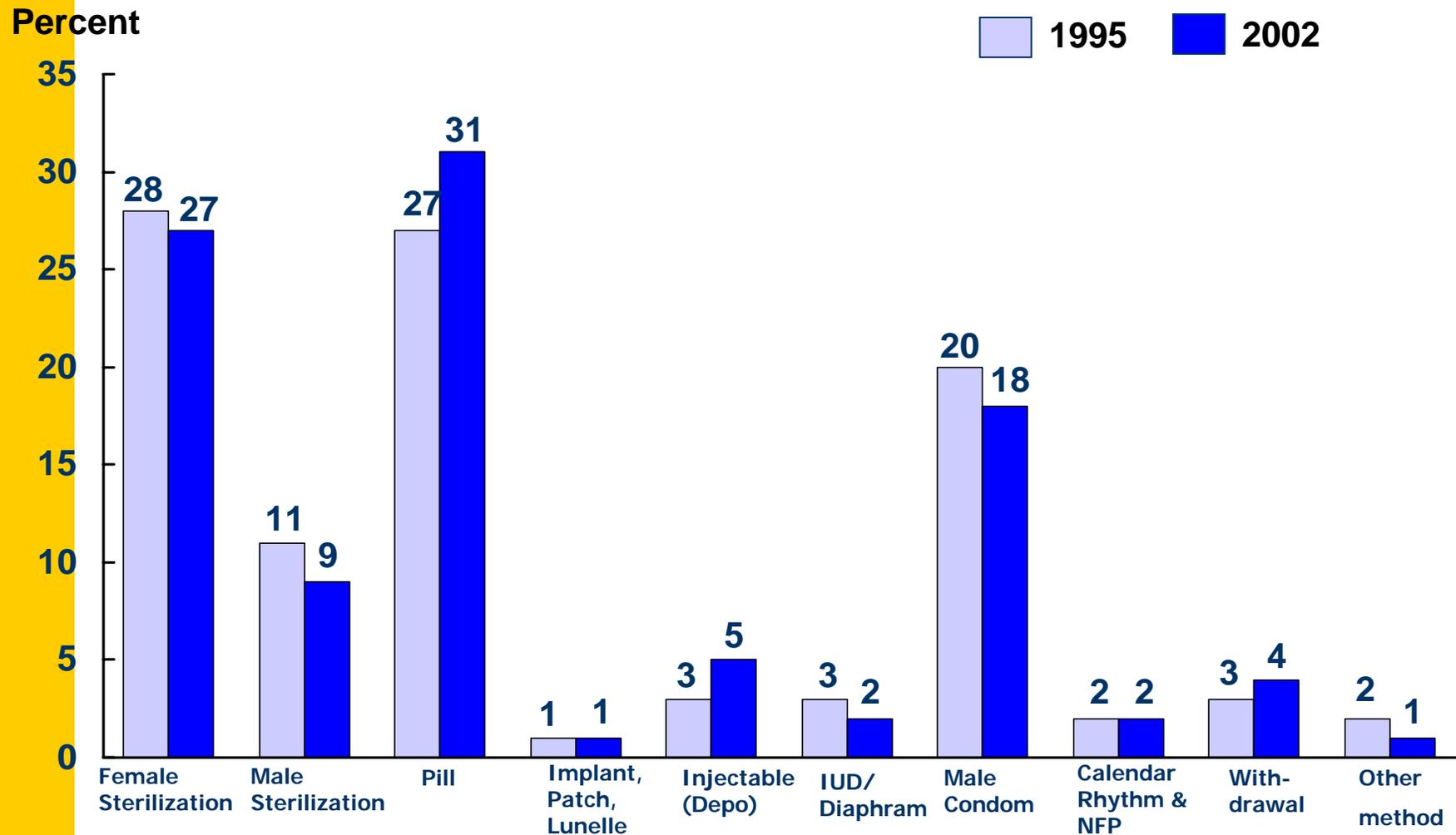
SOURCES: Martinez GM, Chandra A, Abma JC, Jones, J, Mosher, WD. Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 26. May 2006. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

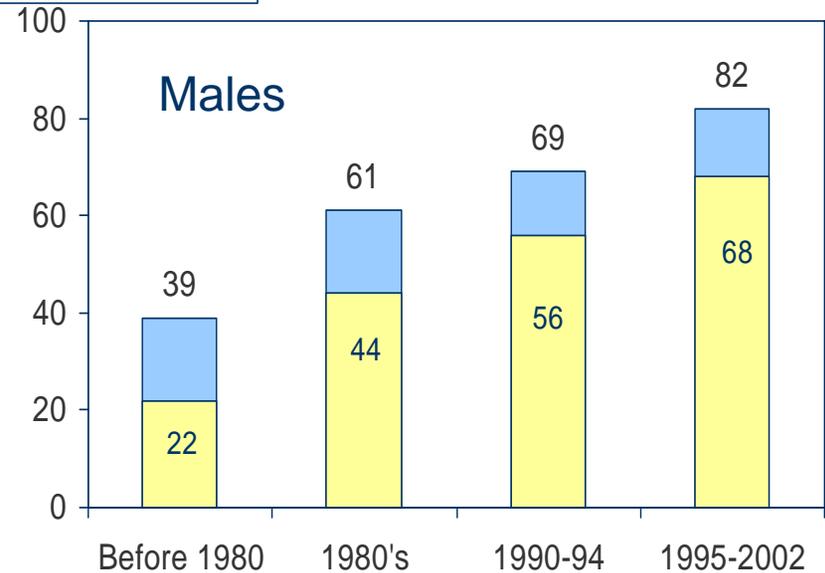
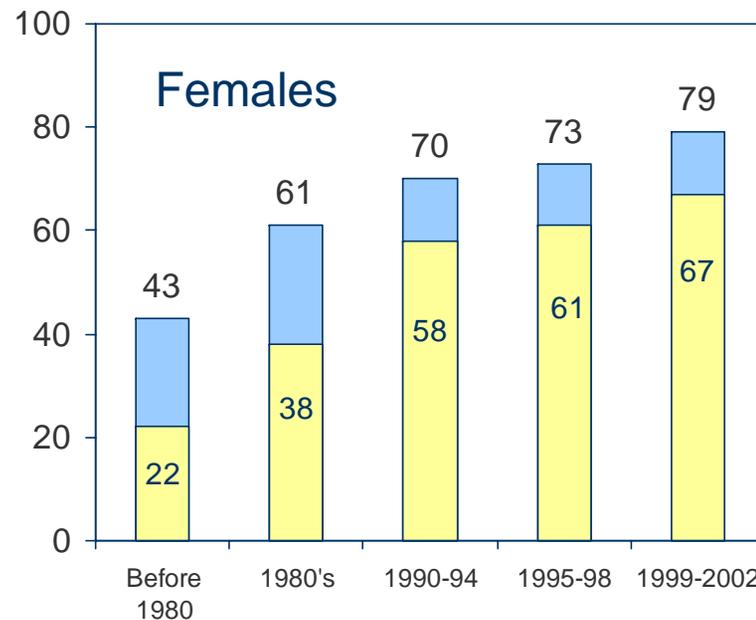
## Measures of contraceptive use

- Females
  - ✦ “Have you ever used...?” (19 methods).
  - ✦ Whether she or her partner used any method the first time she had intercourse with a male. If so, what method(s).
  - ✦ What methods she/they are using in each month during the past 3 years (including current use in month of interview)
- Males
  - ✦ Contraceptive use within relationships and marriages
  - ✦ Method use at first & last intercourse with each of up to 3 “most recent partners”
  - ✦ Consistency of condom use last 3 months & last 12 months

## Current contraceptive status of women 15-44: US, 1995 & 2002



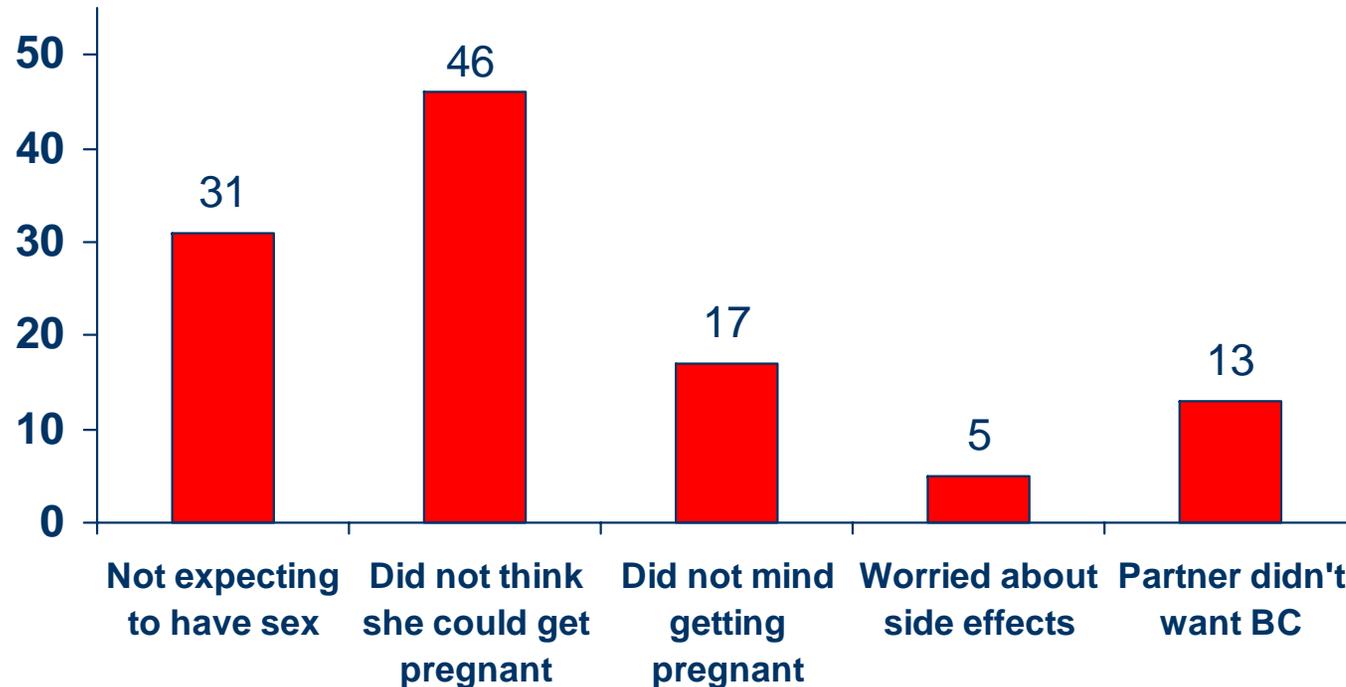
Percentage of men and women who used any method of contraception at their 1<sup>st</sup> premarital intercourse, and percentage who used the condom, by year of 1st intercourse: US, 2002



SOURCES: Martinez GM, Chandra A, Abma JC, Jones, J, Mosher, WD. Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23, Number 26*. May 2006. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23, Number 25*. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Women who were not using a birth control method the last time they had an unintended pregnancy: percent giving specified reasons for non-use: US, 2002.

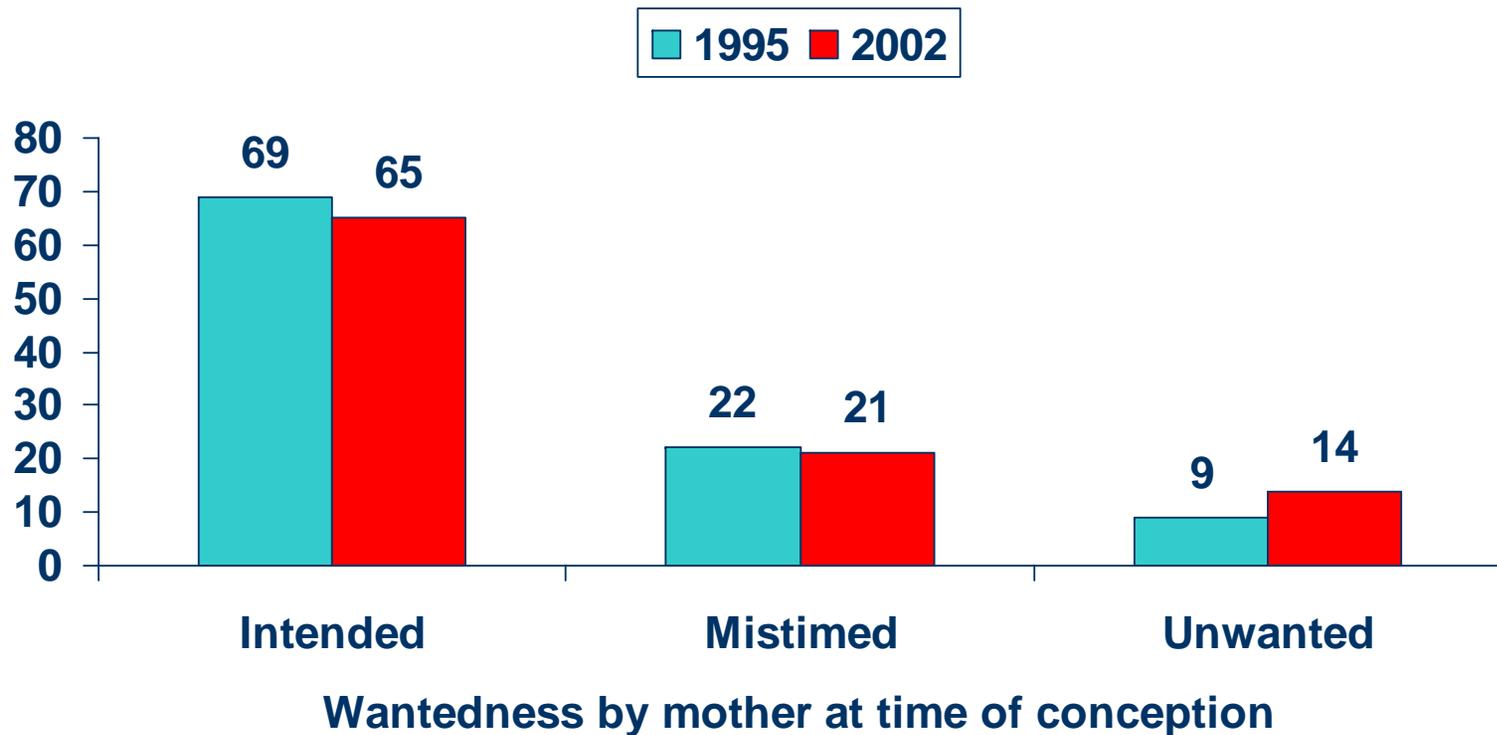


SOURCE: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

## The traditional concept of wantedness, plus other dimensions of attitudes towards pregnancy

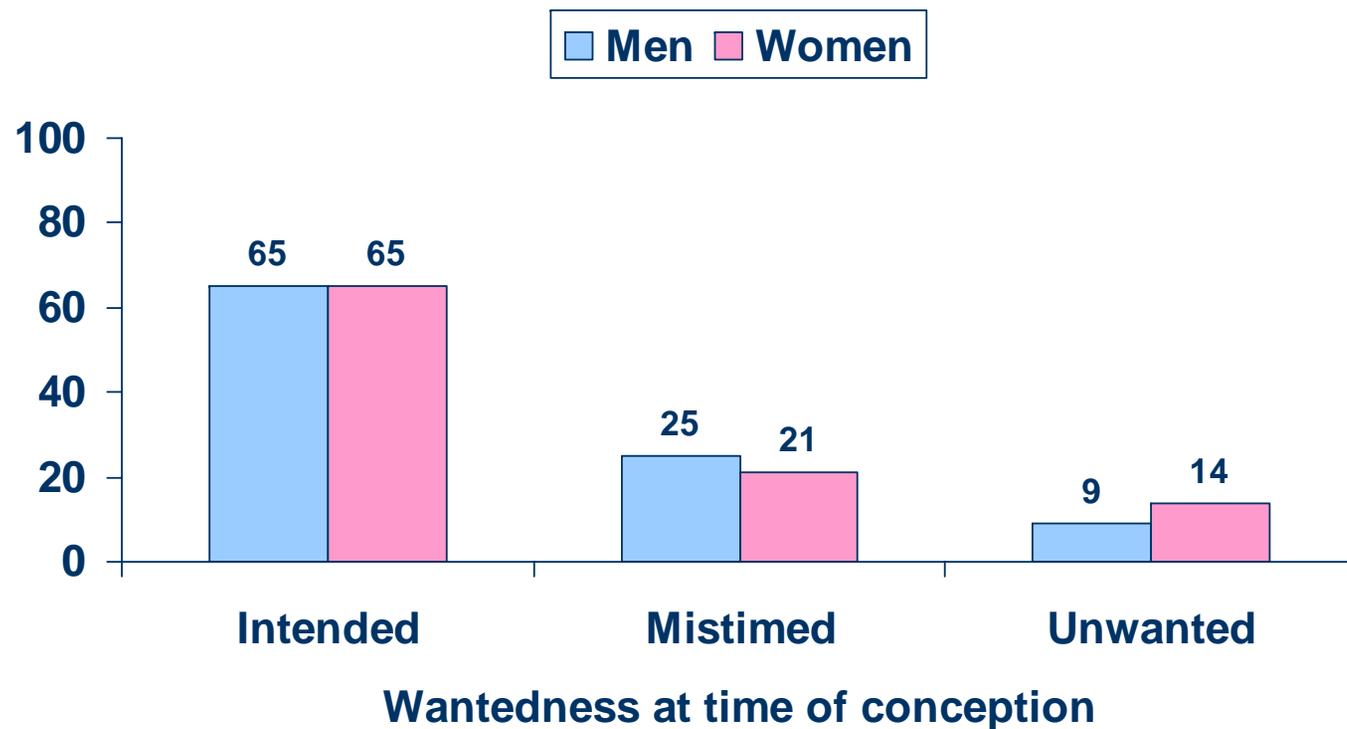
- Unwanted: Respondent did not want to have a baby of that birth order (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, etc) ever.
- Mistimed: Respondent wanted a (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc) baby, but not as soon as it happened.
  - ✦ Can be further broken down by “how much too soon”
  - ✦ Some mistimed pregs may be more like “intended/wanted” and some more like “unwanted”
- Unintended: Unwanted + Mistimed
- Intended/Wanted: Respondent wanted to get pregnant at about or before the time it happened.
- Other dimensions of pregnancy attitudes:
  - ✦ Happiness to be pregnant (after learning one is pregnant)
  - ✦ Extent of motivation to get pregnant vs. avoid it

Percent distribution of births in the last 5 years, by wantedness by the mother at time of conception: US, 1995 and 2002



SOURCE: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percent distribution of births in the last 5 years to men and women 15-44 years of age, by wantedness at time of conception: US, 2002



SOURCES: Martinez GM, Chandra A, Abma JC, Jones, J, Mosher, WD. Fertility, Contraception, and Fatherhood: Data on Men and Women from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 26. May 2006. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

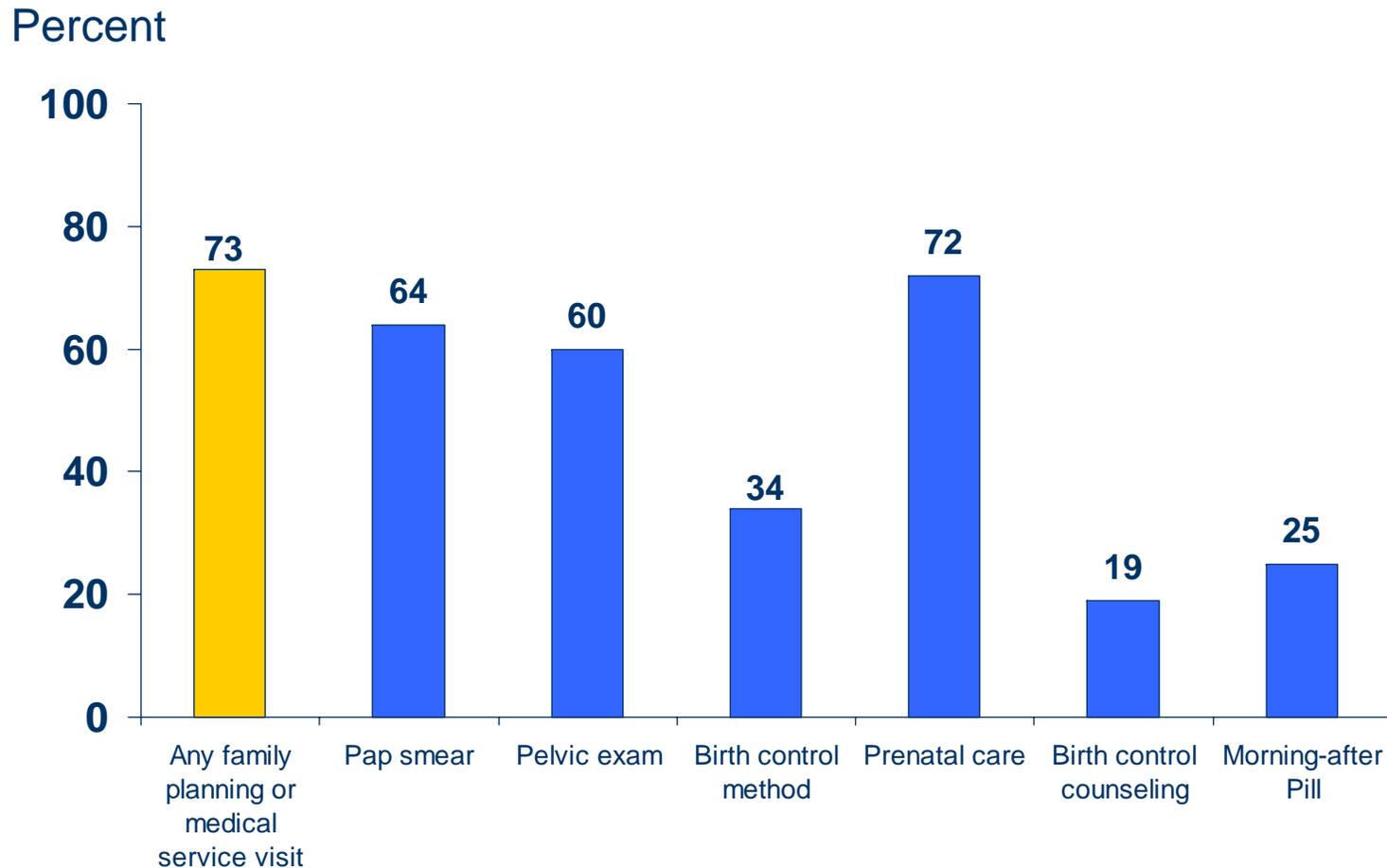
Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

“Please look at the scale on Card 39. On this scale, a 1 means that you were very unhappy to be pregnant, and a 10 means that you were very happy to be pregnant. Tell me which number on the card best describes how you felt when you found out you were pregnant.”

	<u>Mean scale</u> <u>value</u>
Intended	9.2
Mistimed	6.4
Less than 2 years too soon	7.5
2 years or more too soon	5.5
Unwanted	4.2
Married at outcome	8.7
Cohabiting	7.1
Neither	6.4

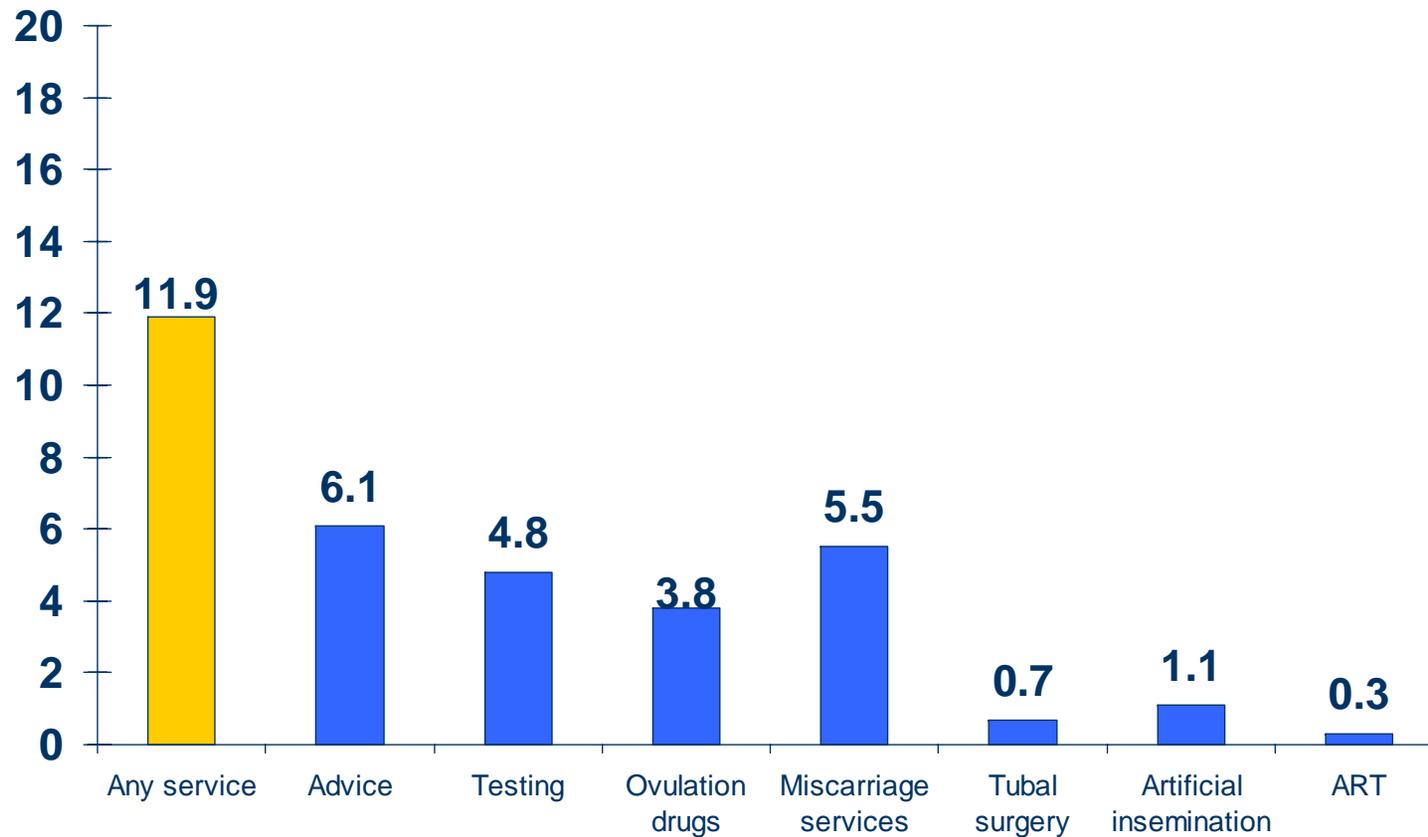
SOURCE: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of women 15-44 years of age who used the specified family planning or medical services in past year: US, 2002



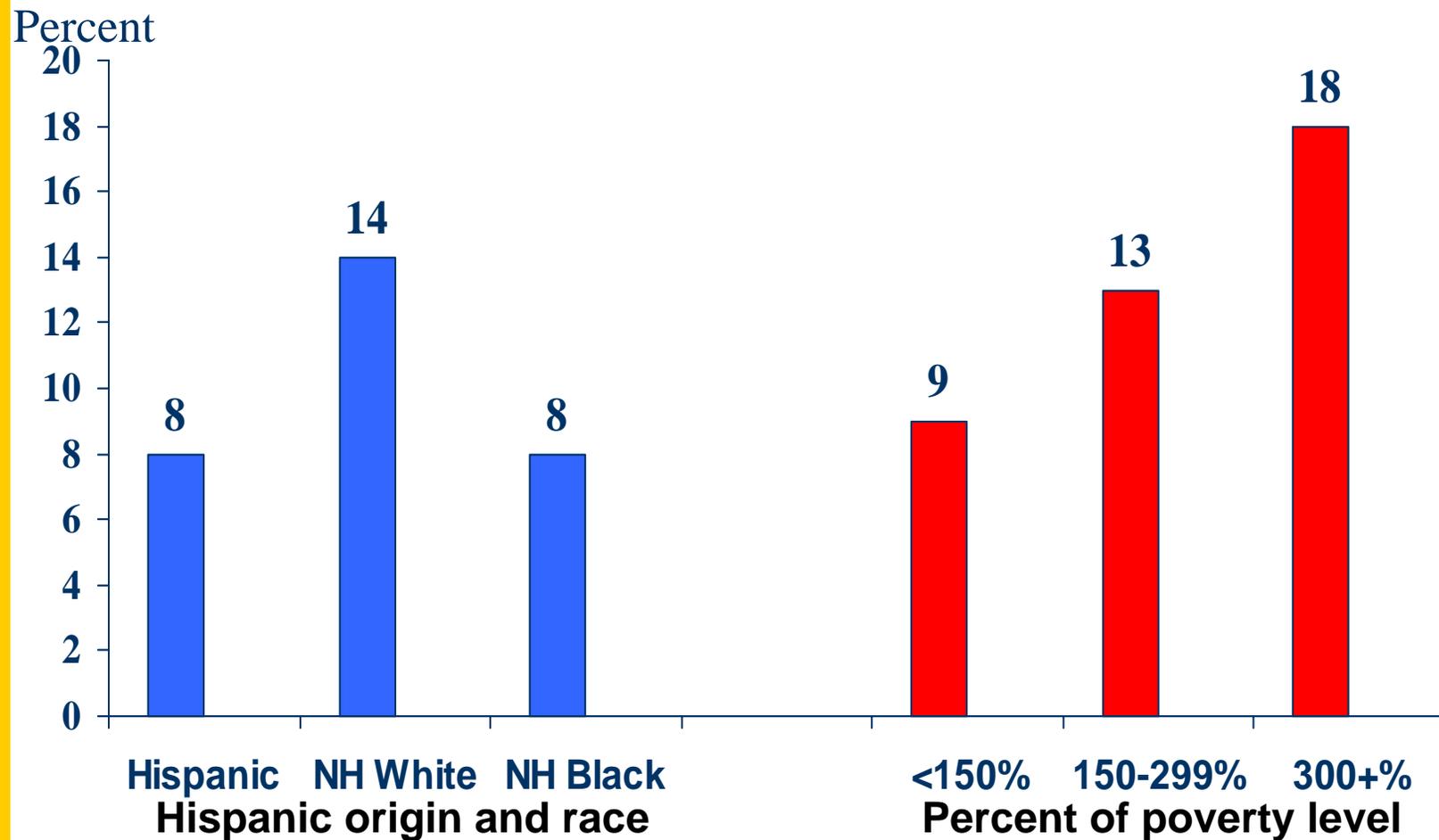
Percentage of women 15-44 years of age who ever used the specified infertility services: US, 2002

Percent



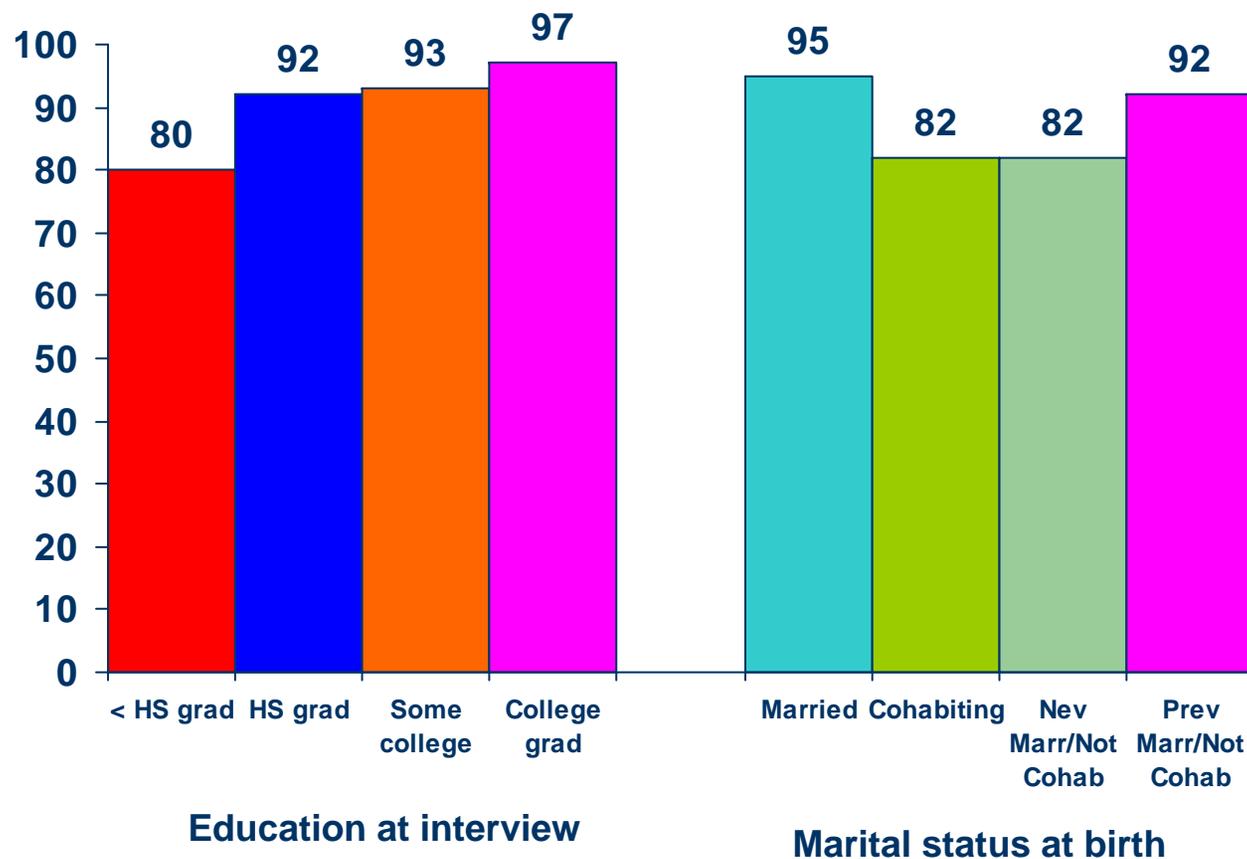
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## Infertility Service-Seeking among Women by Race & Hispanic Origin and Poverty Level



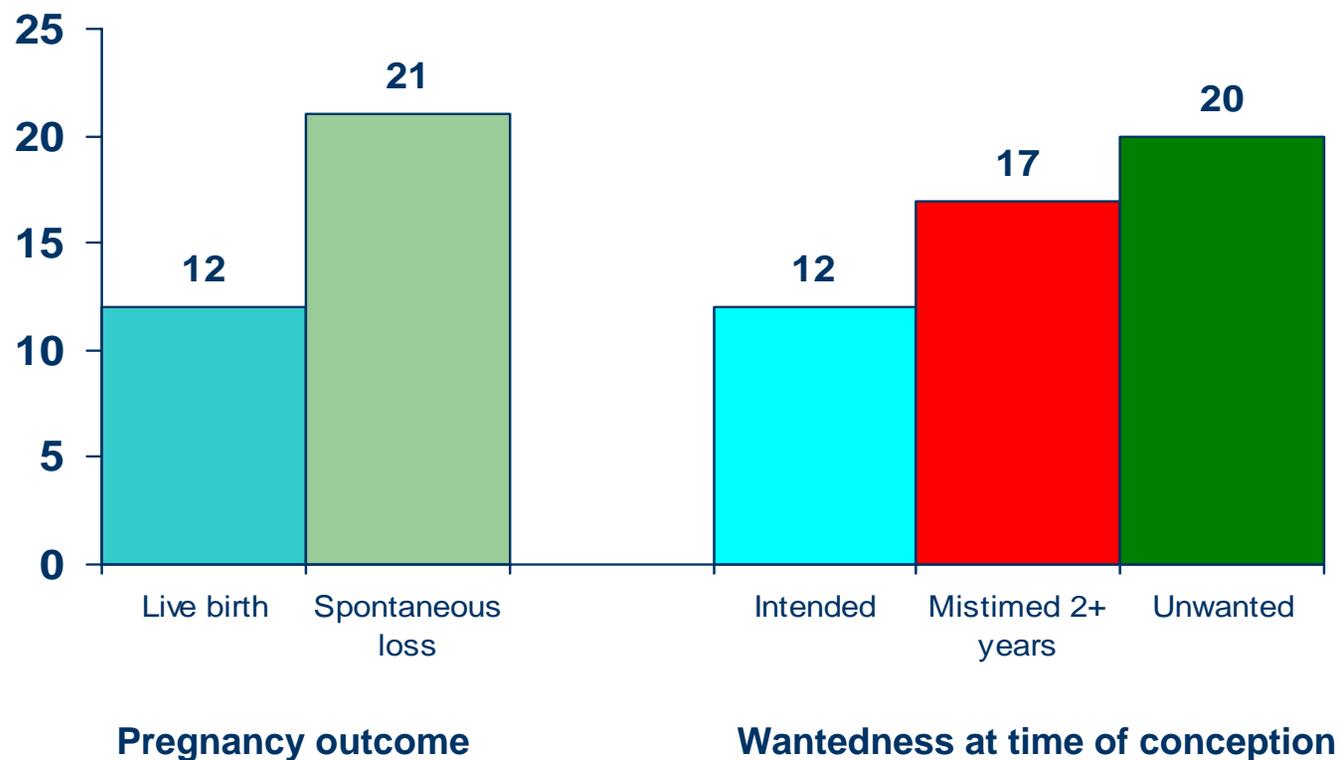
SOURCE: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of recent births (1997-2002) where prenatal care began in the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester: US, 2002



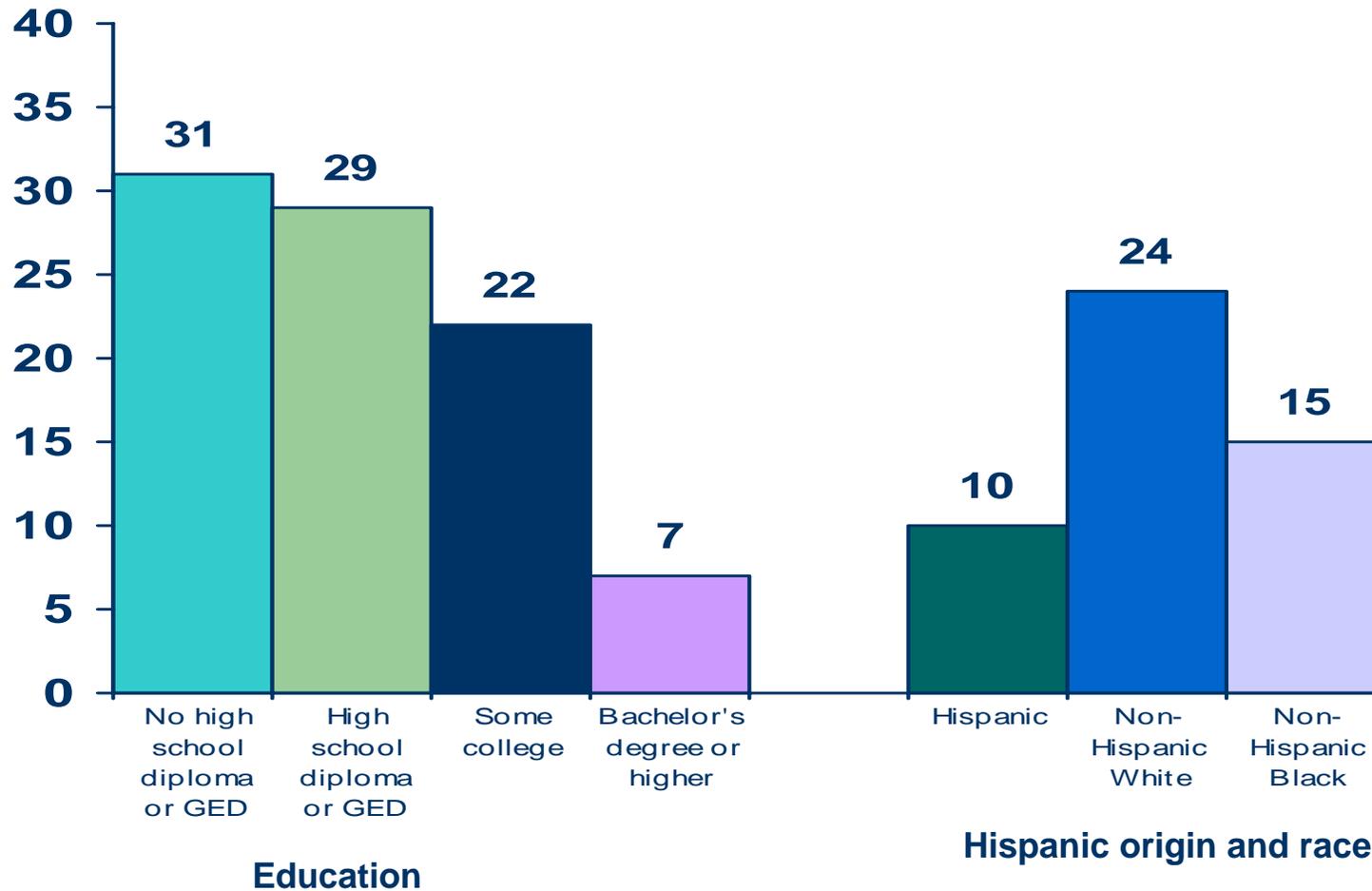
SOURCE: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of women who smoked during their most recent pregnancy ending in 1997-2002: US, 2002



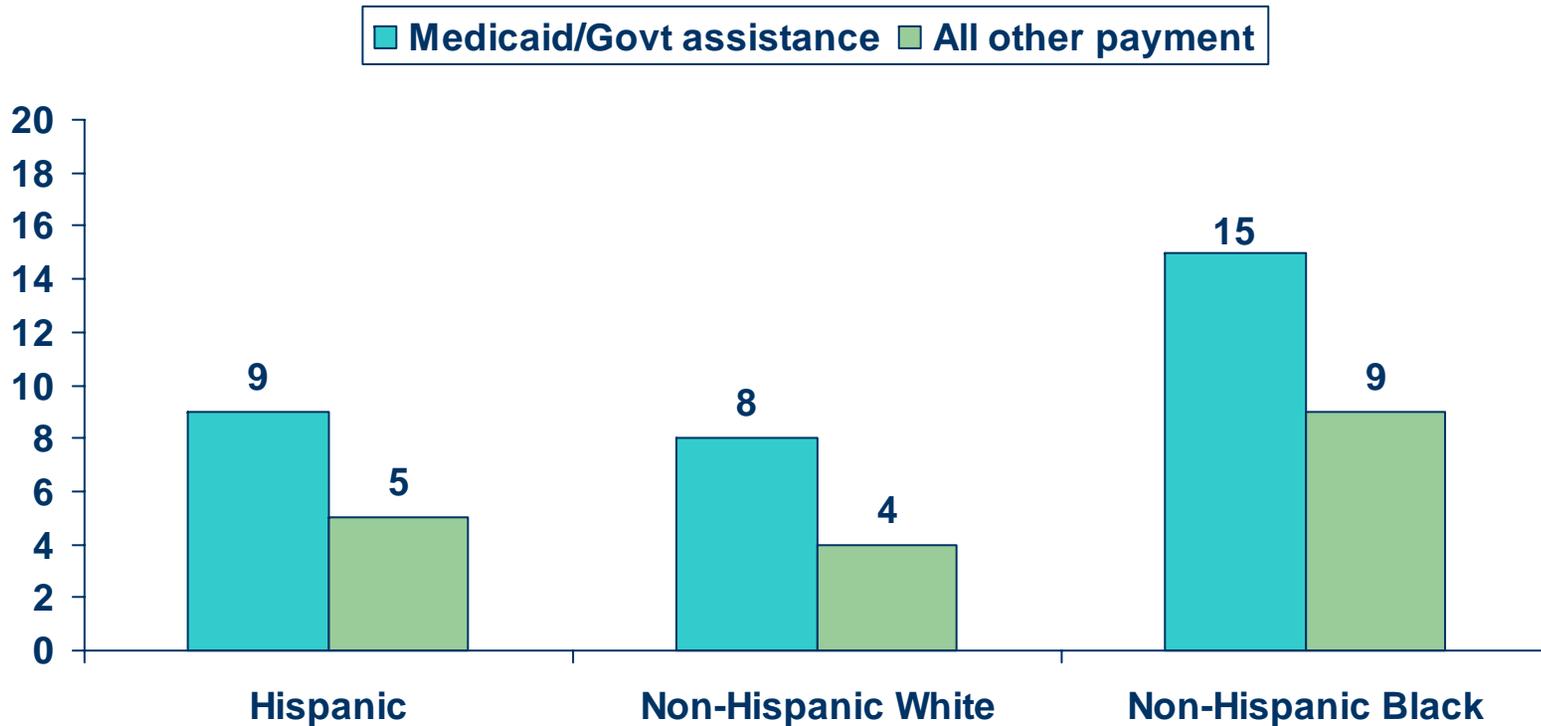
SOURCE: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of all women 15-44 years of age who smoked once a day or more in the last 12 months: US, 2002



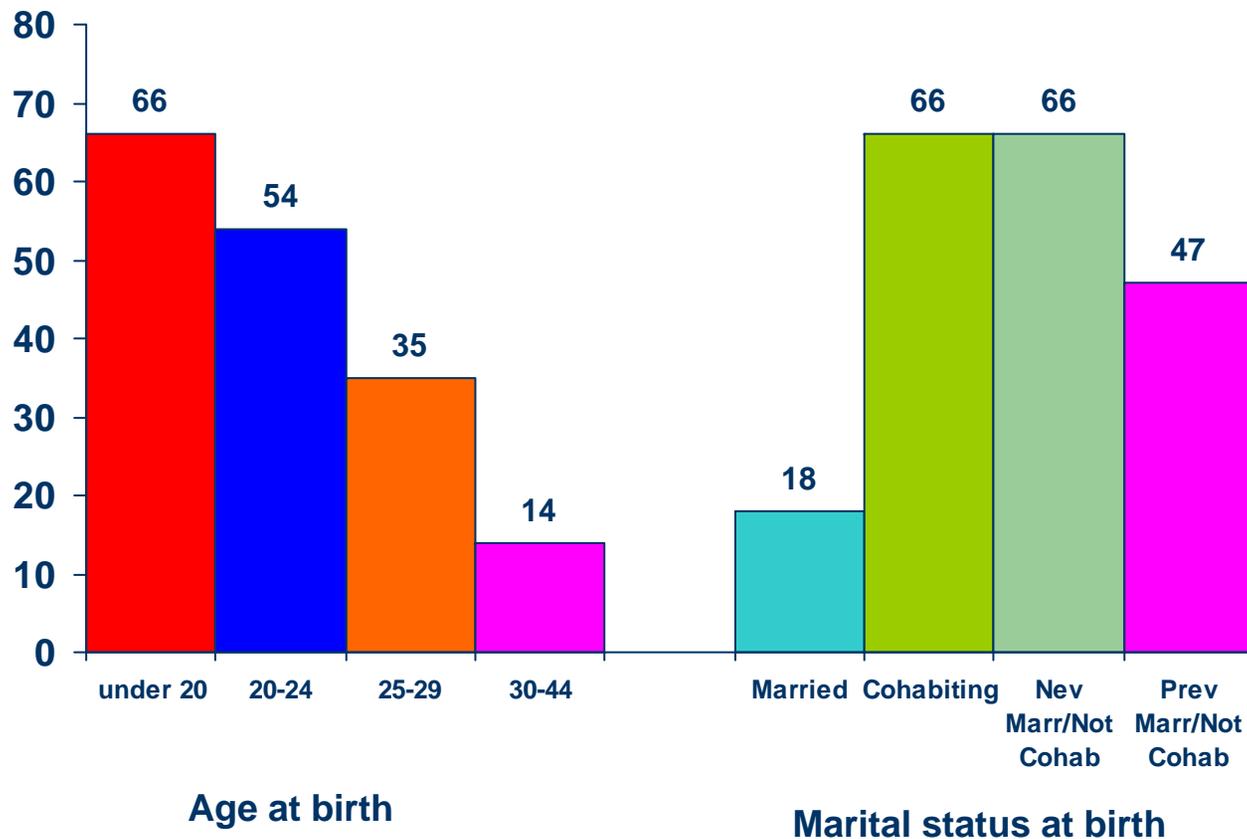
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Percentage of single live births (to women 15-44 in 2002) that were low birth weight, by how the delivery costs were paid, by Hispanic origin and race.



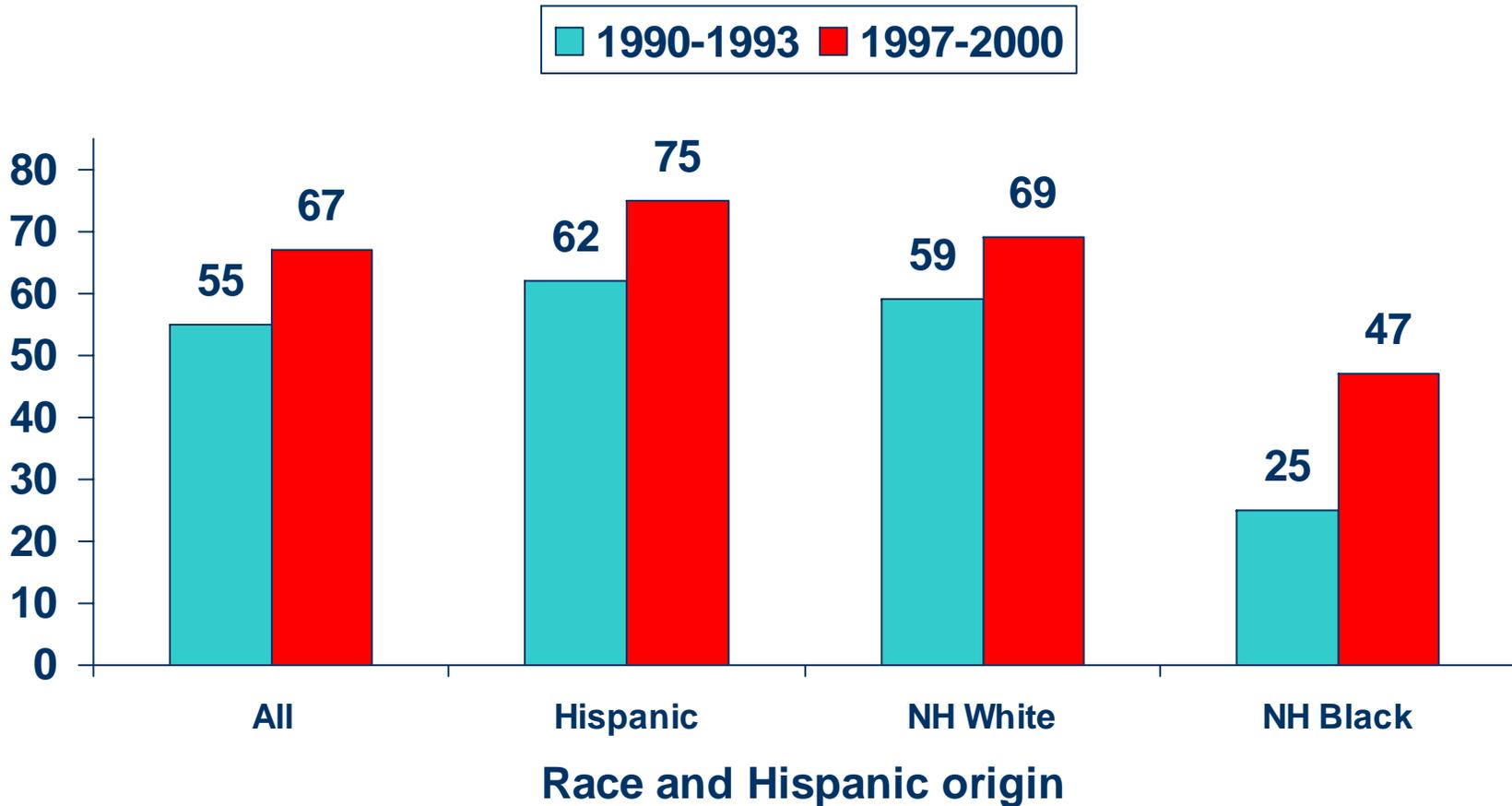
SOURCE: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of women who paid for their most recent live birth delivery (1997-2002) with Medicaid or government assistance: US.



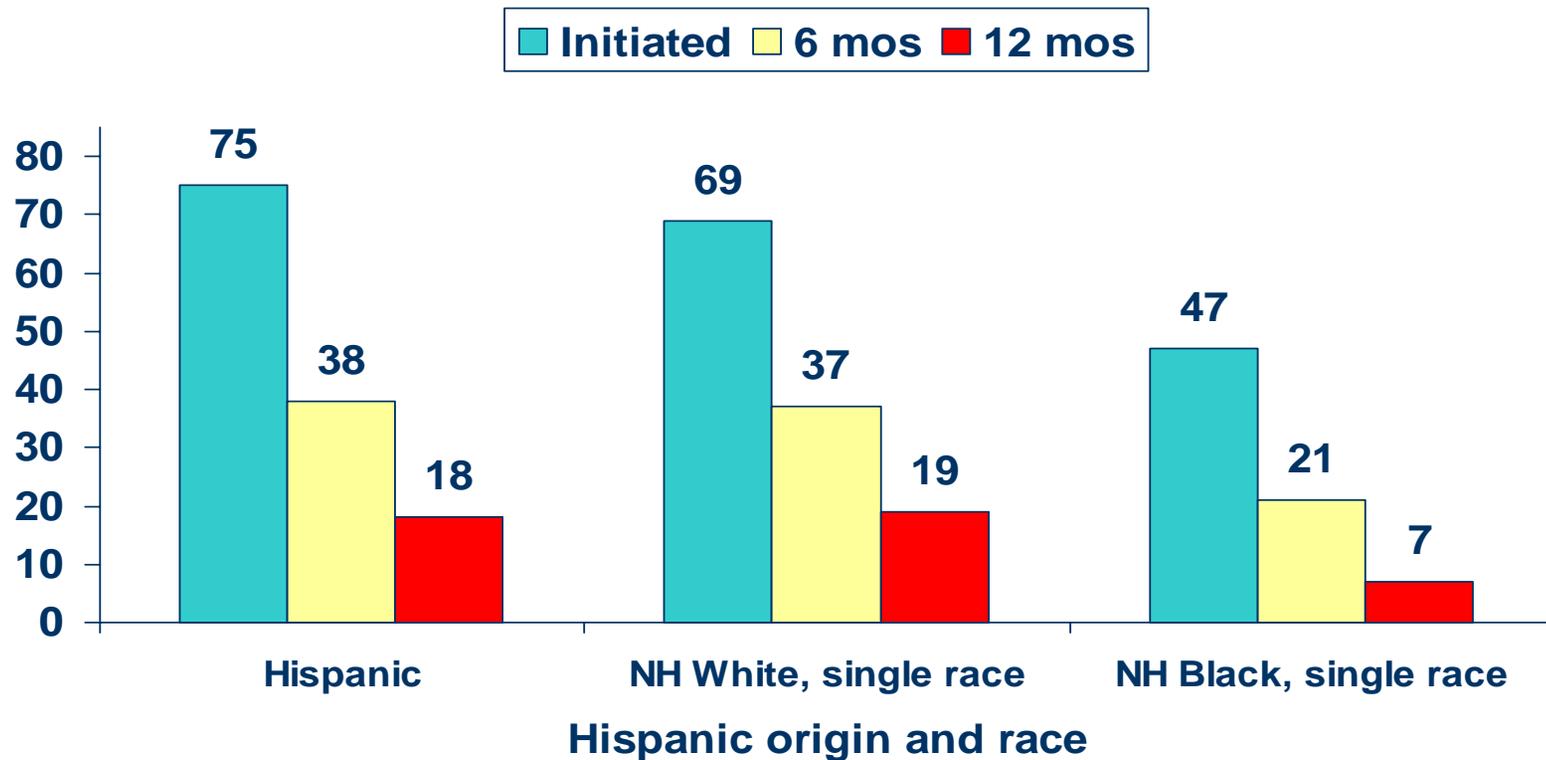
SOURCE: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of babies breastfed at all, by race and Hispanic origin:  
single births 1990-93 and 1997-2000



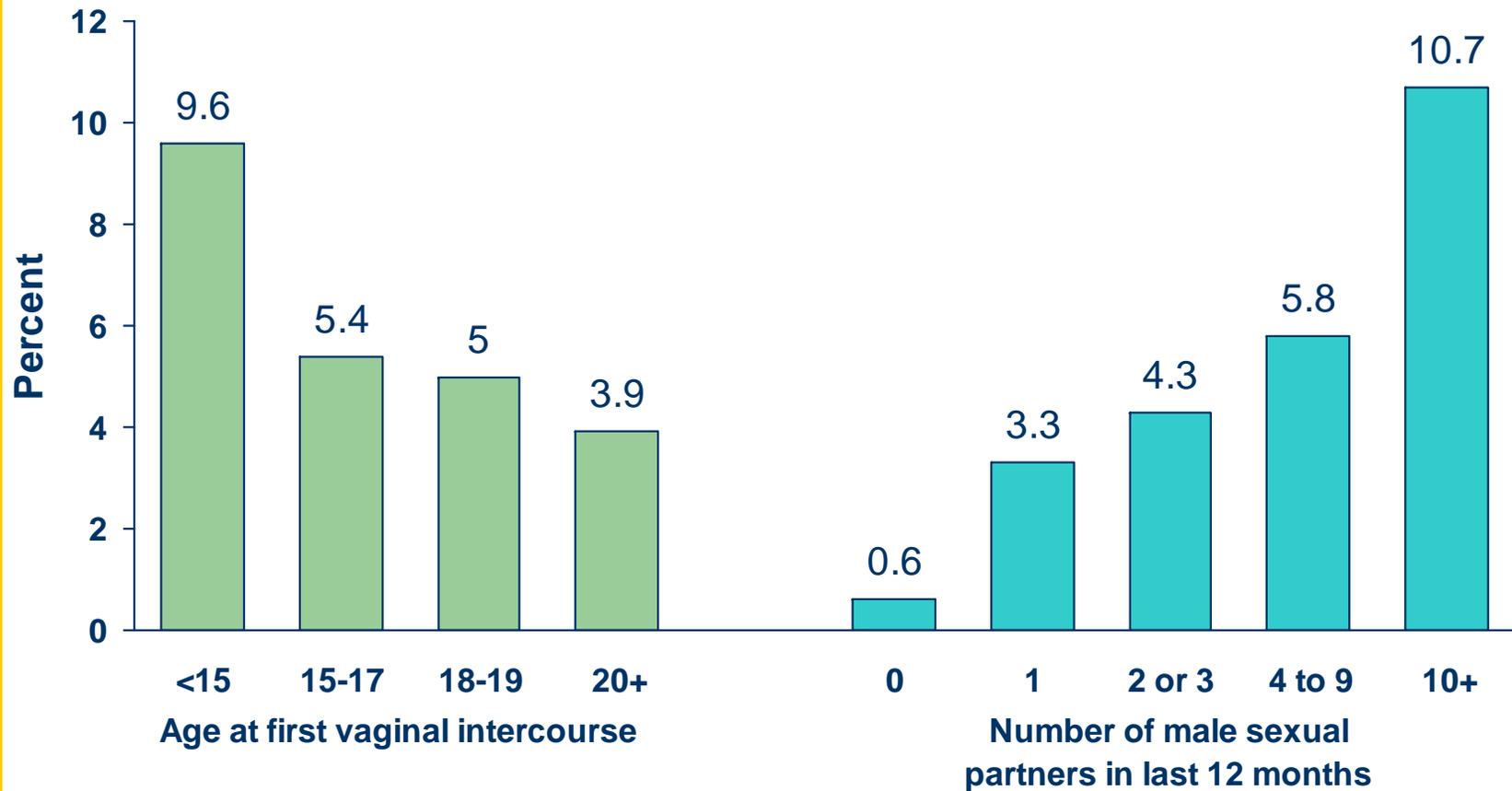
SOURCE: Chandra A. New Data on Breastfeeding. DataSpeak Web Conference, May 11, 2005.  
Data from NSFG Cycles 5 and 6.

Percentage of single births born 1997-2000 still being breastfed at selected months of age, by Hispanic origin and race



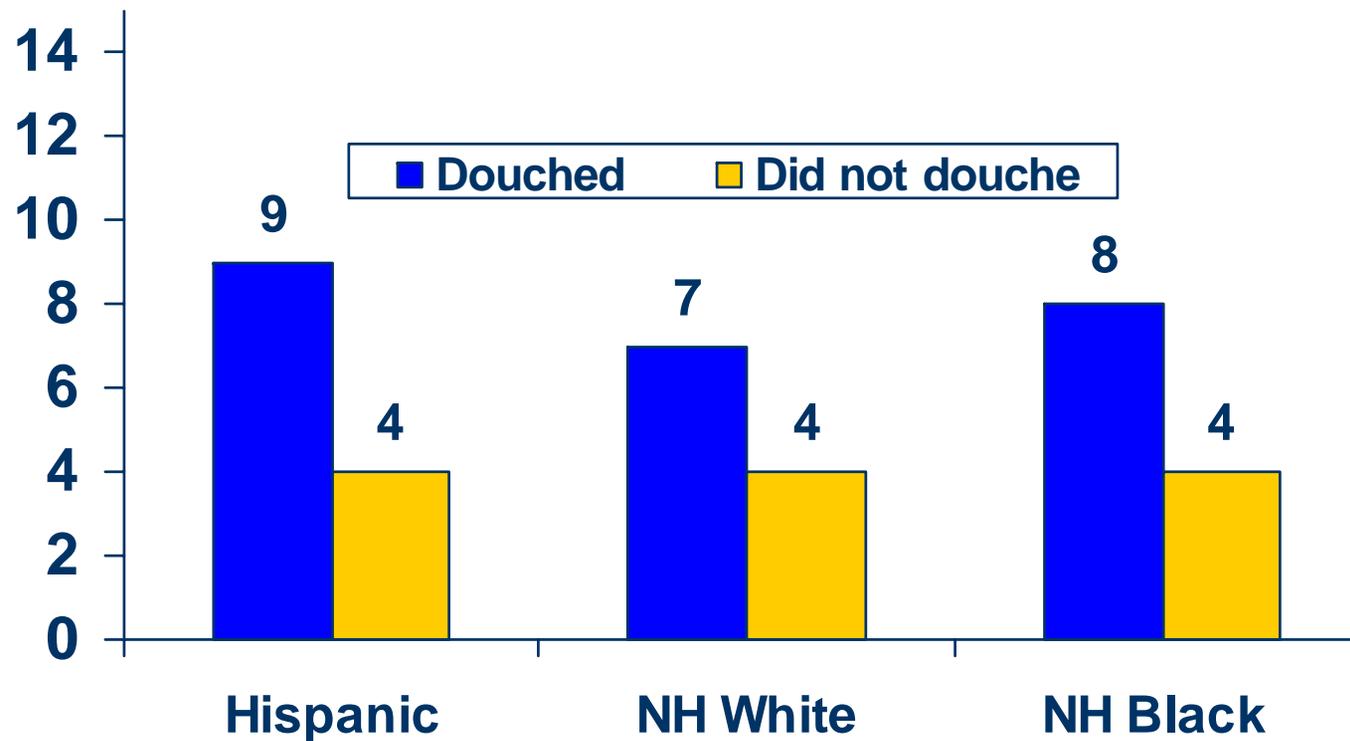
SOURCE: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of women 15-44 years of age ever treated for pelvic inflammatory disease: US, 2002



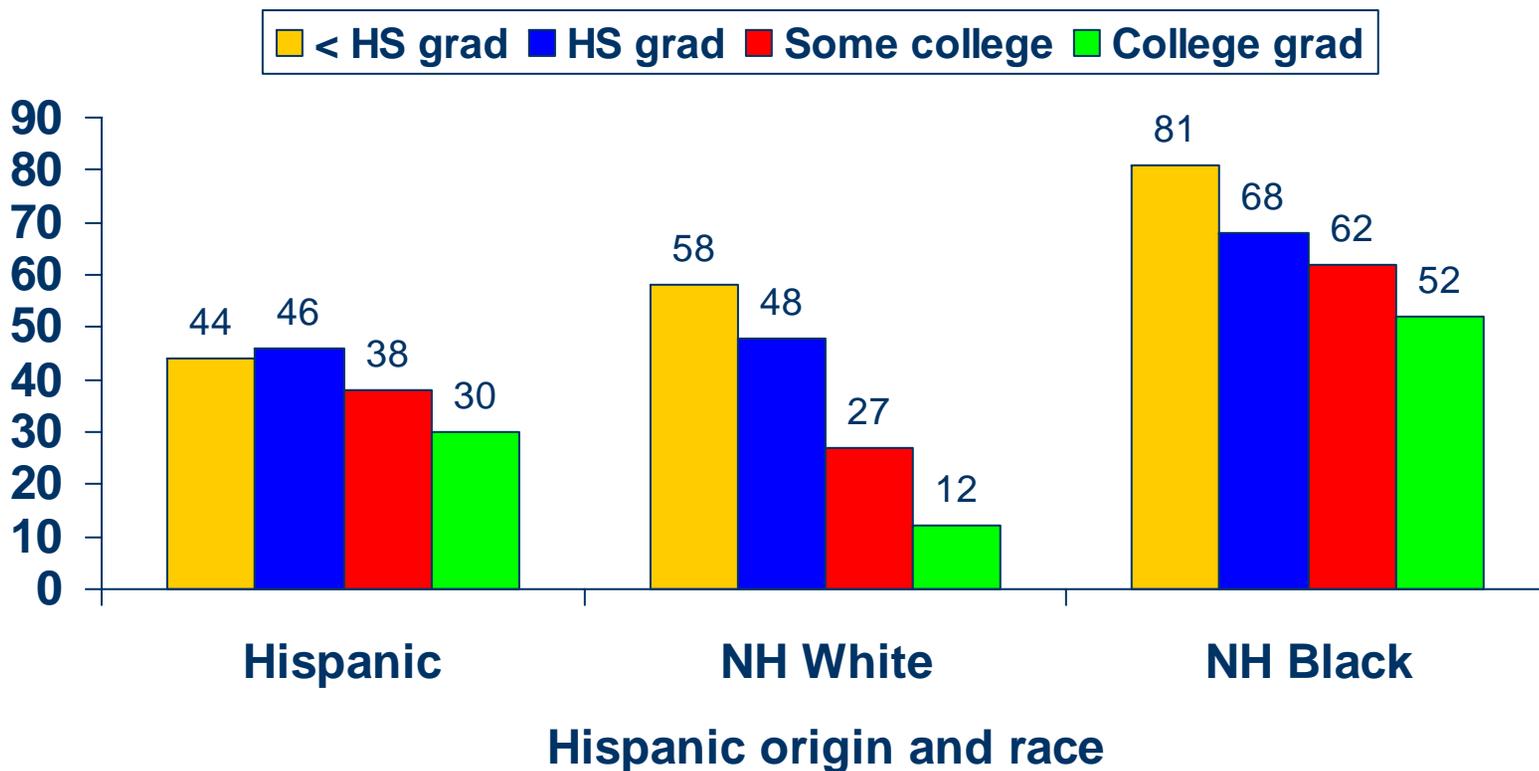
Source: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher WD, Abma JC, Jones J (2005). Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. Vital and Health Statistics Series 23, Number 25. December 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of women 15 to 44 years of age ever treated for PID, by vaginal douching in last 12 months and Hispanic origin and race, US 2002



Source: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher WD, Abma JC, Jones J (2005). Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. Vital and Health Statistics Series 23, Number 25. December 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Percentage of women 22-44 who douched at all in the last year, by Hispanic origin and race and education: US, 2002



Source: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher WD, Abma JC, Jones J (2005). Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. Vital and Health Statistics Series 23, Number 25. December 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

## Collecting data on sex in CAPI & ACASI

- In CAPI (interviewer administered): We collect data only on heterosexual vaginal intercourse.  
Sex ⇔ Babies
- In ACASI (self-administered), we ask about:
  - ✦ Opposite sex and same sex partners
  - ✦ All types of sexual activities (vaginal, oral & anal)Sex ⇔ risks for STDs and HIV

Selected Cycle 6 (2002) NSFG content:  
Data collected in self-administered section (ACASI) - 1

- Height and weight
- Alcohol & drug use in last 12 months
- Non-voluntary sex (18-44 only)
- Sexual orientation and attraction
- STD history
- Pregnancies had (women)
- Pregnancies fathered (men)
- Income and sources of income

Selected Cycle 6 (2002) NSFG content:  
Self-administered section (ACASI) – 2: HIV & STD risk

Focus on behaviors in last year

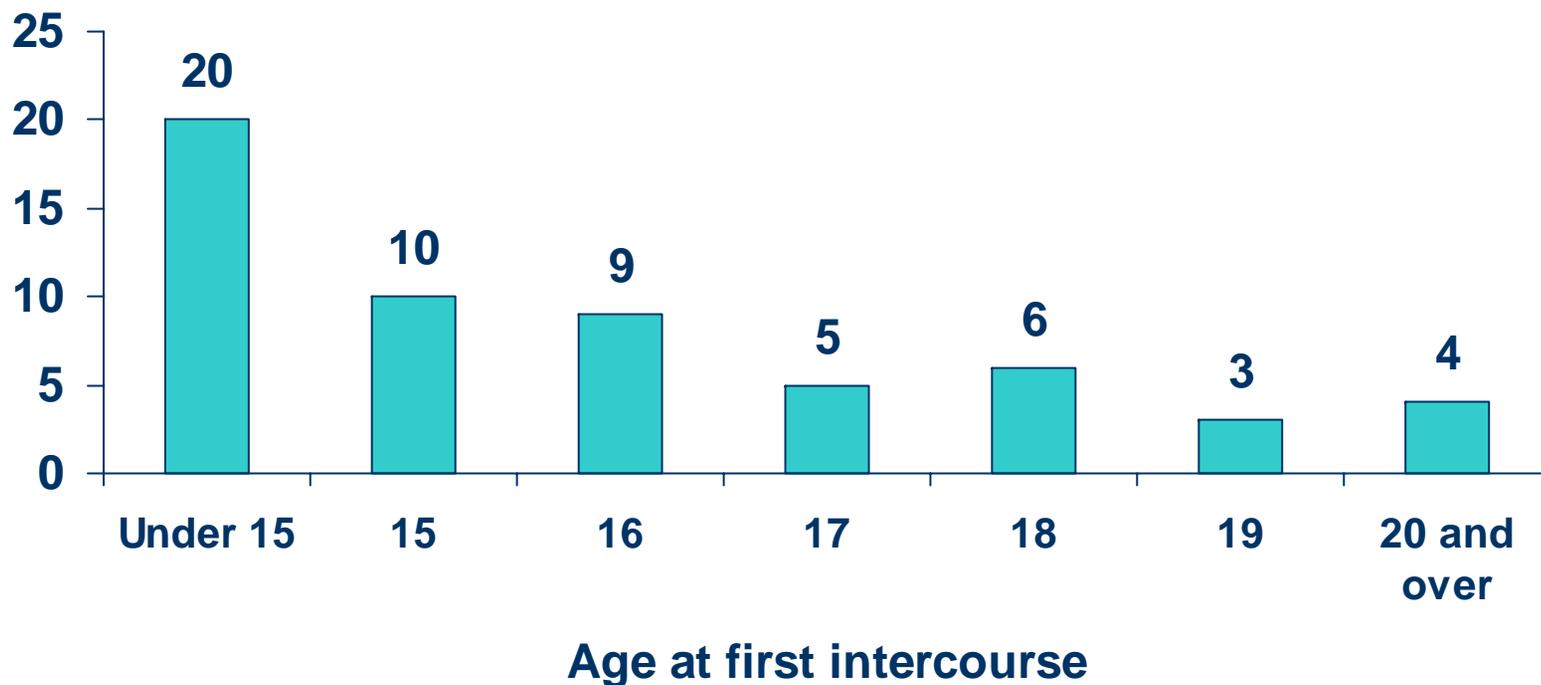
Drug-related risk:

- ✦ Injection of non-prescription drugs
- ✦ Use of illicit drugs

Sex-related risk:

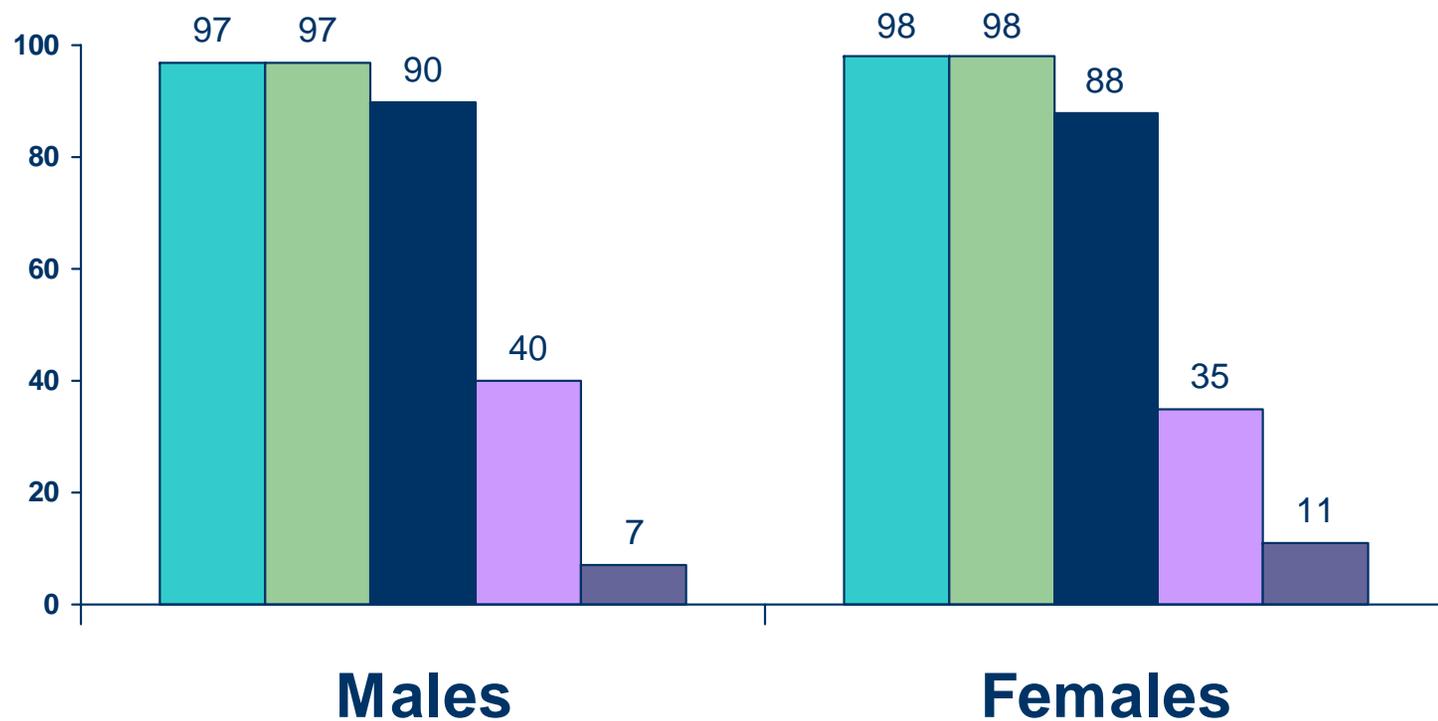
- ✦ If male: sexual contact with other males;  
If female: sex with men who have had sex with men
- ✦ Sex with an HIV-positive partner
- ✦ Sex with an IV drug user
- ✦ Number of sexual partners in last year
- ✦ Exchange of sex for drugs or money
- ✦ Testing or treatment for sexually transmitted infection

Percentage of sexually experienced women 18-44 years of age whose first intercourse was not voluntary, by age at first intercourse: US, 2002



SOURCE: Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

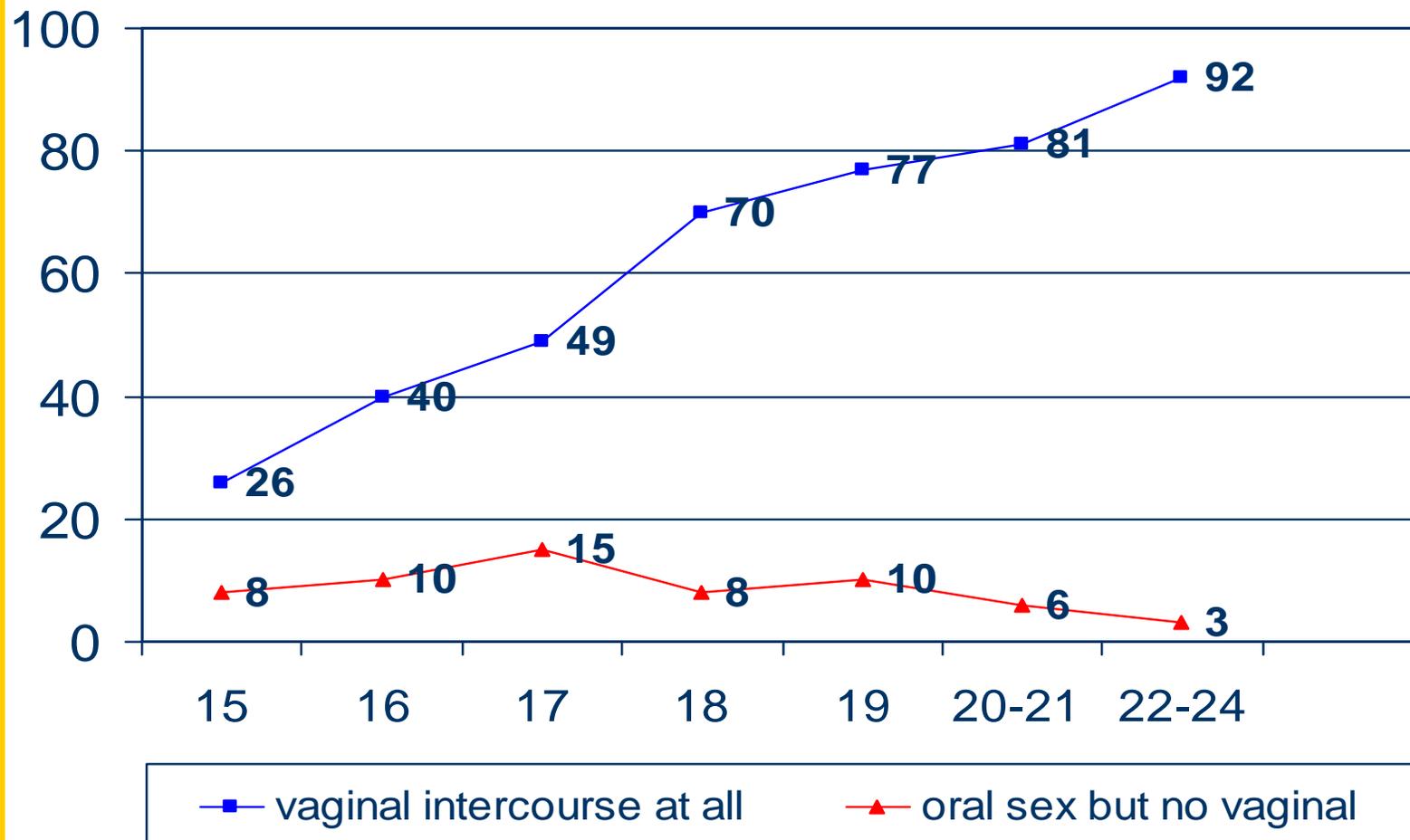
Percentage of males and females 25-44 years of age who have had each type of sexual contact: US, 2002



■ Any opp-sex contact    
 ■ Vaginal intercourse    
 ■ Oral sex with opp-sex  
■ Anal sex with opp-sex    
 ■ Same-sex contact

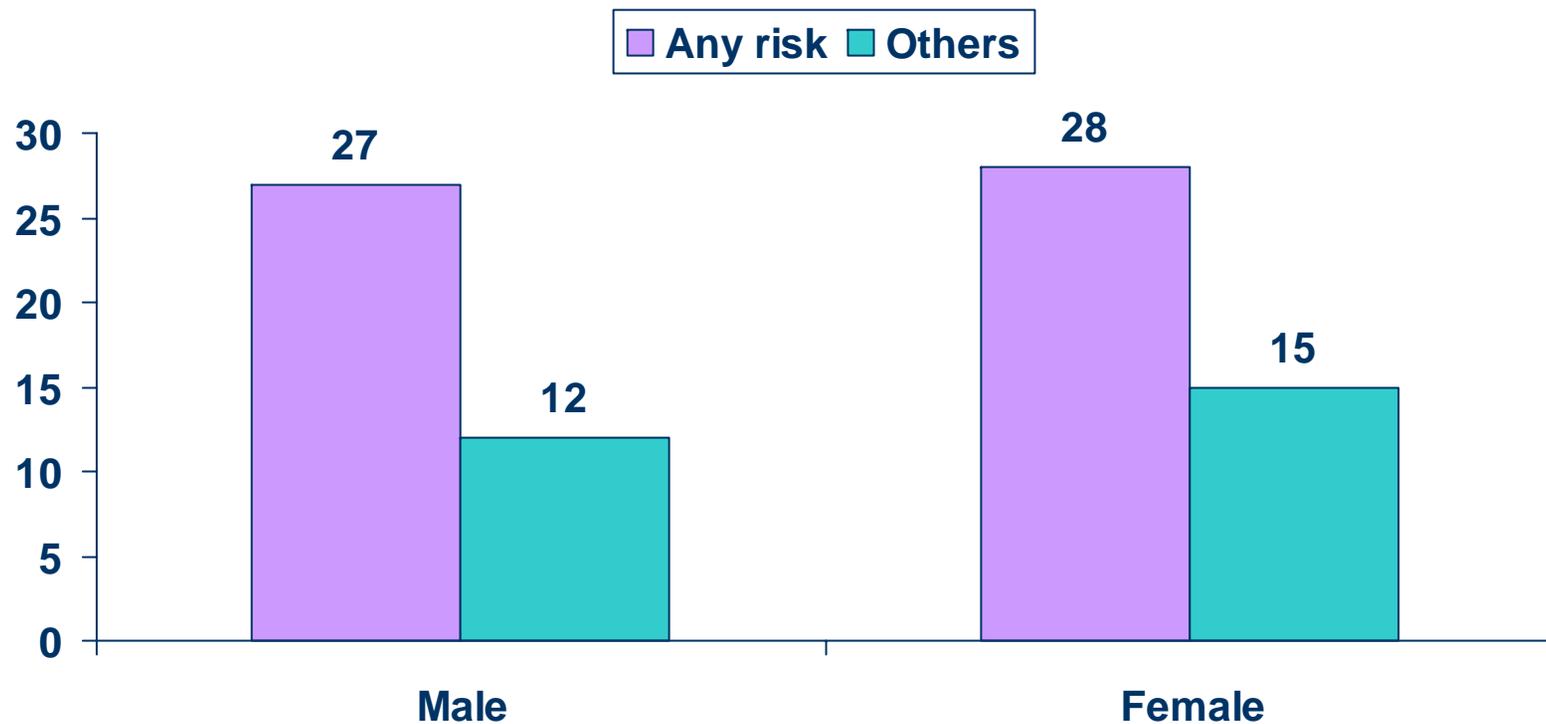
Source: Mosher WD, Chandra A, Jones J. Sexual Behavior and Selected Health Measures: US, 2002. Advance Data Report 362. Sept 15, 2005.

## Sexual experience of females 15-24 years of age, by age : US, 2002



Source: Mosher WD, Chandra A, Jones J. Sexual Behavior and Selected Health Measures: US, 2002. Advance Data Report 362. Sept 15, 2005.

Percentage tested for HIV in the 12 months before interview, by HIV risk status: US, 2002



Any risk=Drug-related, sex-related, recent STI treatment.

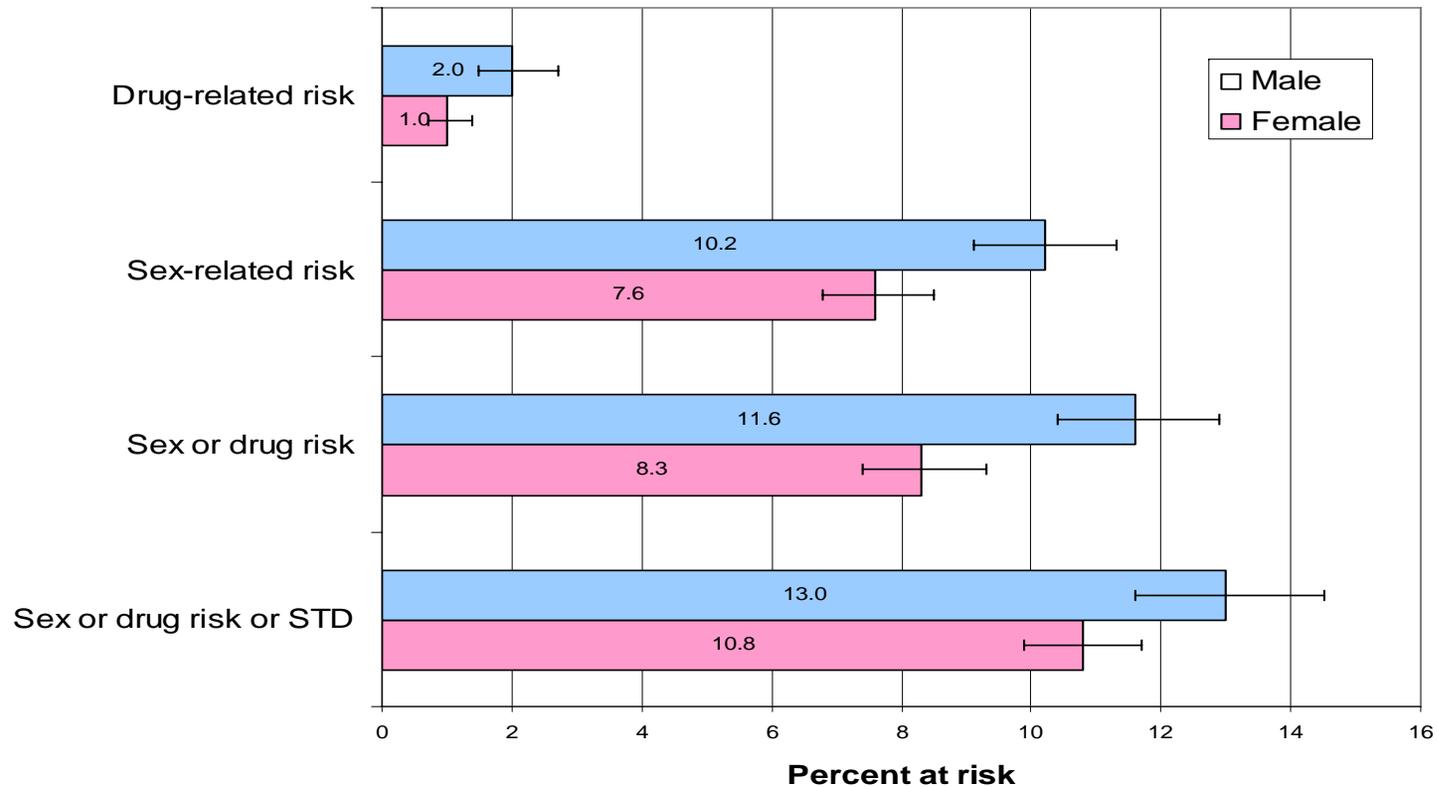
Source: Anderson JE, Chandra A, Mosher WD. HIV Testing in the United States. Advance Data Report 363, Nov 8, 2005.

Percentage tested for HIV in last year by number of opposite-sex partners in the last year: US, 2002



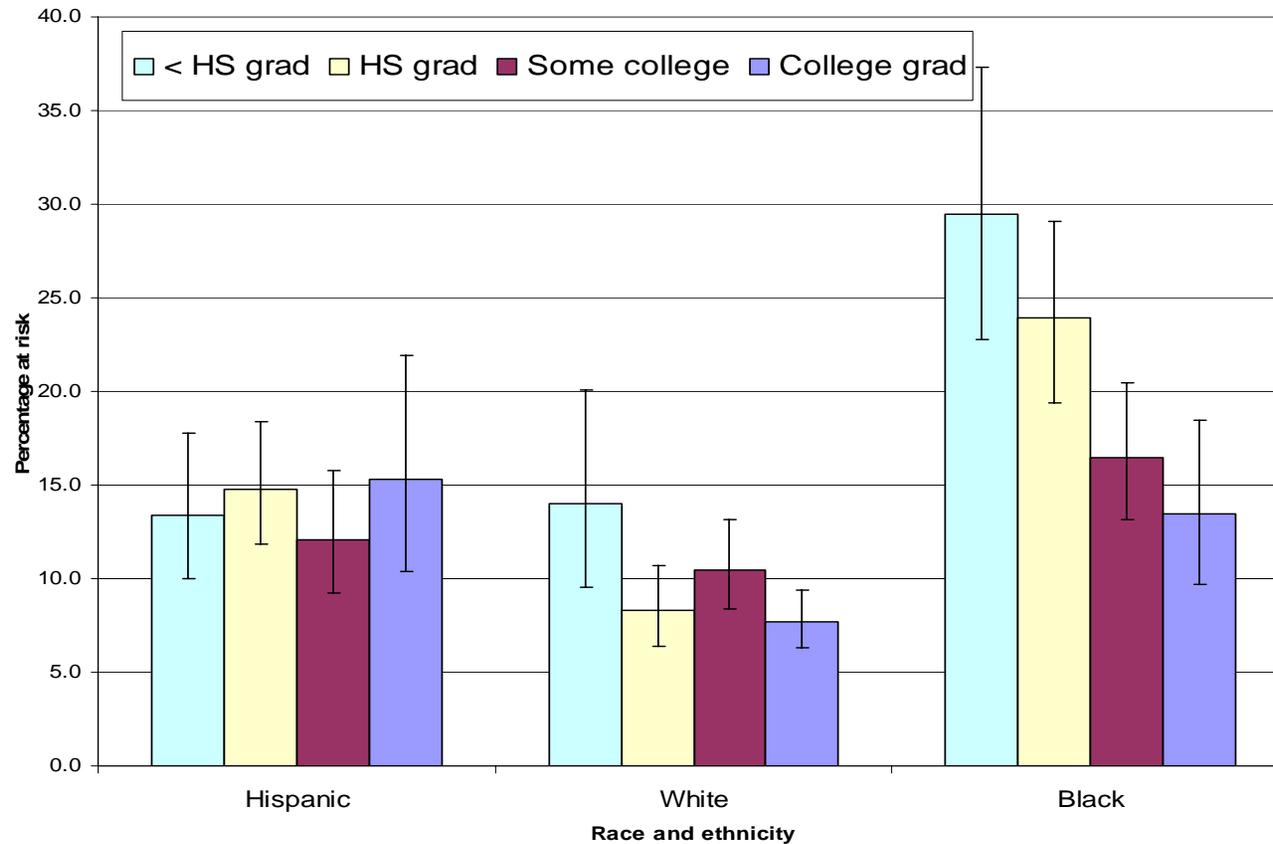
Source: Anderson JE, Chandra A, Mosher WD. HIV Testing in the United States. Advance Data Report 363, Nov 8, 2005.

Percentage of persons aged 15-44 at risk for HIV through sex and drug-related behavior, and 95 percent confidence intervals, by sex: US, 2002



Source: Anderson, JE, Mosher, WD, and Chandra, A. (2006) Measuring HIV Risk in the US Population aged 15-44: Results from Cycle 6 of the National Survey of Family Growth. Advance Data from Vital and Health Statistics, No. 377, October 23, 2006. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

## Percentage of Persons Aged 22-44 Years of Age at Increased Risk of HIV by Race/Ethnicity and Education: US, 2002



Source: Anderson, JE, Mosher, WD, and Chandra, A. (2006) Measuring HIV Risk in the US Population aged 15-44: Results from Cycle 6 of the National Survey of Family Growth. Advance Data from Vital and Health Statistics, No. 377, October 23, 2006. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

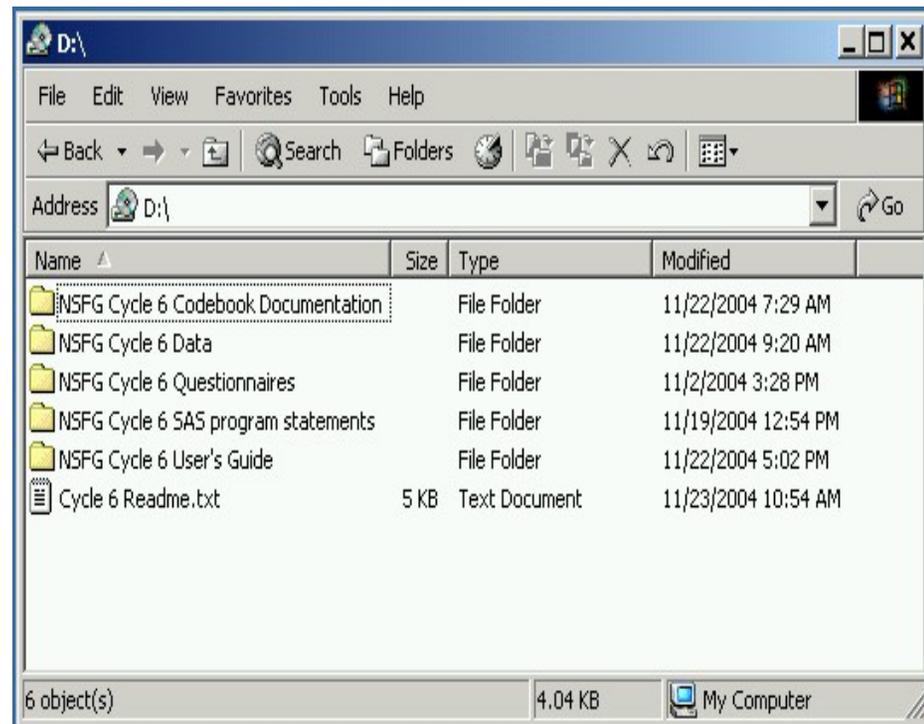
## Available data files from NSFG

- Public-use files for Cycles 1 thru 6 are available free on CD-ROM. Cycle 6 “PUF” data also downloadable from webpage.
- ACASI data files from Cycles 5 & 6 are available free on request but require a signed User Agreement.
- Contextual data files for Cycles 5 and 6 are available through the Research Data Center at NCHS.
- Interviewer observation data file is also available through the RDC

## Obtaining Cycle 6 public-use data



Available Free on CD-ROM from [nsfg@cdc.gov](mailto:nsfg@cdc.gov)



## Cycle 6 NSFG **ACASI** Data

- The ACASI data files and documentation are available free by request:
  - ✦ Provide a brief summary, on your organization's letterhead, of how you propose to use the data.
  - ✦ Submit a signed User Agreement (on the web site)
  - ✦ All users should sign the agreement
  - ✦ A CD-ROM will be sent to you by fedex
- “Omitted items” files for Cycles 4 & 5 also available (much smaller than Cycle 6 ACASI files)

## Cycle 6 NSFG Contextual Data

- Use by “remote access” or in NCHS Research Data Center (RDC)
- Characteristics of the community the respondent lives in:
  - ✦ 4 levels (county, census tract, block group, state)
  - ✦ 2 time points (based on respondent’s addresses in 2000 & 2002)
- List of variables (over 1,000 variables) is on the website
- Fairly simple application required.
- Contextual files are **available now** for Cycles 5 & 6.

On the NSFG web site: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm)

- PDF files of all NCHS NSFG reports
- Lists of other NSFG-based publications (more than 570 to date, from Cycles 1-6)
- Short description of continuous interviewing
- Information for survey participants (since we're in the field)
- 2008 NSFG Research Conference: Call for Papers
  - ✦ June 17, 2008 = Deadline for submissions
  - ✦ Conference will be at NCHS on Oct 16-17, 2008
- Shortcut for subscribing to "NSFG Announcements" listserv

On the NSFG web site: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm)

- Questionnaires, User's Guides, & Codebooks for all 6 cycles (pdf)
  - ✦ Questionnaires provided as full "CRQs" & abridged "CAPI-lites"
  - ✦ User's Guides include file indexes, recode specifications, plus lots of other critical information to help users
- Additionally for Cycle 6:
  - ✦ SAS, SPSS, STATA program statements
  - ✦ Downloadable ASCII data files
  - ✦ Web-based (interactive) codebook documentation ("webdoc")
  - ✦ Access information for ACASI, contextual, and other C6 files
- Coming soon:
  - ✦ Downloadable ASCII data files and program statements for Cycles 1-5
  - ✦ "Key statistics from NSFG (from A to Z)"

## Key statistics of the NSFG

- ❖ Topics arranged from A to Z (almost):
  - ❖ From “Adoption” to “Wanted Pregnancy”
- ❖ 83 entries focused on NSFG content
- ❖ Gives a published statistic and a link to the source report’s PDF

NSFG - Listing A B C - N C H S - Windows Internet Explorer provided by CDC - Unauthorized Use Prohibited

http://interdev2.nchs.cdc.gov/nchs/under\_constr/k\_nsfg-keystats/about\_major\_nsfg/abclist.htm

National Center for Health Statistics...Monitoring the Nation's Health

## Key Statistics from the NSFG (from A to Z)

**Recommended Resources**

- > [NSFG Description](#)
- > [Series 23 Reports](#)
- > [Cycle 6 Reports](#)
- > [Advance Data Report](#)

**Related Links**

- > [National Vital Statistics System](#)
- > [NSFG: Home](#)
- > [Births: Home](#)

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3311 Toledo Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20782  
Phone:  
1-800-232-4636  
[nchsquerv@cdc.gov](mailto:nchsquerv@cdc.gov)

[NSFG homepage](#)



These "Key Statistics" give some of the most important findings from Cycle 6 of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), conducted in 2002. All of the results below are from published reports. For each topic, a hyperlink to a published report is given. Readers are referred to the reports for details that may be helpful in interpreting the findings—such as the demographic or public health importance of the data, definitions of technical terms, results for sub-groups (by age, Hispanic origin and race, education, etc), and estimates of sampling errors.

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M**  
**N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

**A**

- [Adoption and Nonbiological Parenting](#)
- [Attitudes](#)
  - [Condom use](#)
  - [Marriage and cohabitation](#)
  - [Parenthood and childbearing](#)
  - [Sexual activity](#)
  - [Work and family](#)

**B**

- [Birth control](#)
- [Births \(mothers\)](#)
  - [Marital and cohabitating status of mother at time of birth](#)

[Email this page](#)

[Printer-friendly version](#)

**Contact Us**

National Center for Health Statistics  
NSFG Staff, 7th Floor  
3311 Toledo Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20782

# DRAFT ONLY

NCHS - Surveys and Data Collection Systems - National Survey of Family Growth - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Address <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm> Go Links

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News Releases ■ [What's New](#)

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**1-800-232-4636**

[Information for Survey Participants](#)

[Description of NSFG](#)

[Cycle 6 \(2002\): Reports](#)

[Cycle 6 \(2002\): Public Use Data Files, Codebooks, and Documentation](#)

[Cycle 6 \(2002\): Other Data Files](#)

[Cycles 1-5 \(1973 - 1995\): Codebooks and Documentation](#)

[Questionnaires: 1973 - 2002](#)

[NSFG Bibliography: Cycles 1-6](#)

Related Links  
■ [Vital Statistics: Birth Data](#)

Contact Information:  
National Survey of Family Growth Staff  
Division of Vital Statistics  
National Center for Health Statistics, 7th Floor  
3311 Toledo Road  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782  
(301) 458-4222

[NSFG@cdc.gov](mailto:NSFG@cdc.gov)



Same NSFG webpage shown earlier:  
[www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm)

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Address <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nsfg/nsfgcycle6datadoccodebooks.htm> Go Links

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## Cycle 6 (2002): Public Use Data Files, Codebooks, and Documentation

- [Cycle 6 \(2002\) Webdoc and User's Guide](#) Interactive codebook documentation
- Cycle 6 (2002) Program Statements
  - [SAS Program Statements](#)
  - [SPSS Program Statements](#)
  - [STATA Program Statements](#)
- [Cycle 6 \(2002\): Variance Estimation Examples](#)
- [Cycle 6 \(2002\) Downloadable Data Files](#)
- Cycle 6 (2002) Codebooks
  - [Female](#)
  - [Male](#)
  - [Pregnancy](#)Full codebooks in PDF format
- [2002 NSFG Household Variables, User's Guide and Codebook](#)

This page last reviewed May 22, 2007



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**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

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NCHS - Surveys and Data Collection Systems - Cycle 6 Documentation - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nsfg/nsfgdoc.htm>

**NSFG National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)**

**Cycle 6 Documentation**

- Webdoc
- User's Guide
  - Main Text [View/download PDF](#) 209 KB
  - Appendix 1 (File indexes) [View/download PDF](#) 432 KB
  - Appendix 2 (Recode specs) [View/download PDF](#) 374 KB

Interactive codebook documentation

User's Guide in PDF format

Search engine in webdoc

NSFG Cycle 6 Webdocs - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: <http://webapp.icpsr.umich.edu/cocoon/WebDocs/NSFG/public/index>

Search:  in

match all

## Survey Description

Cycle 6 of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) was conducted in 2002 by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), with the participation and funding support of 9 other programs of the US Department of Health and Human Services. This documentation is intended to assist researchers who wish to use the data for statistical research.

Cycle 6 of the NSFG was based on an area probability sample. The sample represents the civilian non-institutional population of the United States, 15-44 years of age. The survey sample is designed to produce national data, not estimates for individual states. The contractor for the survey, the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan, hired and trained over 200 female interviewers for the

- Female Respondent File Codebook
- Female Pregnancy File Codebook
- Male Respondent File Codebook
- Questionnaires
- User's Guide

NSFG Cycle 6 Webdocs - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: <http://webapp.icpsr.umich.edu/cocoon/WebDocs/NSFG/public/search?varAtLeast=parity&filesToSearch=fem>

Search:  in

match all

CDC Home | NCHS Home | NSFG Home

### National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 6

Your search for (parity) within female respondents file returned 3 results:

- [PARITY\\_1](#): PARITY Imputation Flag
- [PARITY](#): CAPI-based total # of live births (accounting for mult birth)
- [numbabes](#): Number of babies born alive to R (Parity)

- Female Respondent File Codebook
- Female Pregnancy File Codebook
- Male Respondent File Codebook
- Questionnaires
- User's Guide

NSFG Cycle 6 Webdocs - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address <http://webapp.icpsr.umich.edu/cocoon/WebDocs/NSFG/public/NSFG---8032-var>

Google Search 547 blocked Check AutoLink AutoFill Options

Female Respondent File Codebook ▶

Female Pregnancy File Codebook ▶

Male Respondent File Codebook ▶

Questionnaires ▶

User's Guide ▶

[NSFG Cycle 6 :: Female File :: Section B](#)

**PARITY** ( 3790-3791 )

**Description:** CAPI-based total # of live births (accounting for mult birth)

value	label	Total
0	0 BABIES	3230
1	1 BABY	1519
2	2 BABIES	1603
3	3 BABIES	828
4	4 BABIES	309
5-95	5 OR MORE BABIES	154
<b>Total</b>		<b>7643</b>

**Universe:** Applicable for all respondents

Recode specs: [pdf](#) [html](#) ← **Link to User's Guide appendix 2**

Start Conn... Inbox ... C7Fe... K:\FG... Micro... NSF... Internet 11:28 AM

ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\_Documentation/NSFG/Cycle6Codebook-Female.p - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\_Documentation/NSFG/Cycle6Codebook-Female.pdf

Options

- Section A
- Section B
- Section C
- Section D
- Section E, Part I
- Section E, Part II
- Section E, Part III
- Section F
- Section G
- Section H
- Section I
- Section J
- Recodes
- Weights

NSFG Cycle 6 Female Respondent File Section C

**TIMESMAR** (337 - 338)

CA-1: (Including your present marriage,) how many times have you been married?

Value	Label	Total
.	INAPPLICABLE	3517
1	1 TIME	3428
2	2 TIMES	582
3	3 TIMES	90
4	4 TIMES	15
5	5 TIMES	3
98	REFUSED	6
99	DON'T KNOW	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>7643</b>

**Universe:**  
Applicable if R has ever been married (fmarit = 1, 2, 3, or 4)

**HSBVERIF** (339 - 339)

112 of 1896

Downloaded (0 B) : Unknown Zone

Codebook entry for another variable, taken from bookmarked pdf of full codebook

Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer®

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1-866-441-NCHS

**Data and Documentation: Public Use**

- [Cycle 6 \(2002\) Documentation](#)
- [Cycle 6 \(2002\) SAS Program Statements](#)
- [Cycle 6 \(2002\) SPSS Program Statements](#)
- [Cycle 6 \(2002\) STATA Program Statements](#)
- [Cycle 6 \(2002\): Variance estimation examples](#)
- [Cycles 1-5](#)
- [Cycle 6 \(2002\) Data](#)

**Survey Questionnaires**

- 2002 NSFG Questionnaires
  - [Description of the two questionnaire formats](#)
  - [Female Questionnaire](#)
  - [Male Questionnaire](#)
- 1995 NSFG Questionnaire (Females 15-44)  
 [View/download PDF](#) 419 KB
- 1988 NSFG Questionnaire (Females 15-24)  
[View/download PDF](#) 107709 KB
- 1988 NSFG Questionnaire (Females 25-44)  
[View/download PDF](#) 90727 K
- 1982 NSFG Questionnaire (Females 15-24)
- 1982 NSFG Questionnaire (Females 25-44)  
 [View/download PDF](#) 419 KB
- 1976 NSFG Questionnaire (Currently Married Females 15-44)  
[View/download PDF](#) 38598 KB
- 1976 NSFG Questionnaire (Post Married Females 15-44)
- 1973 NSFG Questionnaire (Currently Married Females 15-44)  
[View/download PDF](#) 2722 KB
- 1973 NSFG Questionnaire (Formerly Married Females 15-44)  
[View/download PDF](#) 20416 KB

[Other Cycle 6 Data Files](#)

Microsoft Internet Explorer  
Address: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>

Cycle 6 program statements & variance estimation examples

Cycle 6 questionnaires in 2 formats

ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\_Statistics/NCHS/Datasets/NSFG/ - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Name	Size	Type	Modified
sas		File Folder	11/4/2006 12:00 AM
spss		File Folder	11/4/2006 12:00 AM
stata		File Folder	11/4/2006 12:00 AM
FemPreg.dat	5.80 MB	DAT File	2/23/2005 12:00 AM
FemResp.dat	35.9 MB	DAT File	2/23/2005 12:00 AM
Male.dat	14.0 MB	DAT File	2/23/2005 12:00 AM
NSFG6HHvars.dat	282 KB	DAT File	3/26/2007 11:50 AM
nsfg6hhvars.sas7bdat	0.97 MB	SAS Data Set	3/26/2007 11:50 AM

Other Places: Datasets, My Documents, My Network Places

Details

User: Anonymous Local intranet

start Connected - ... Inbox - Micro... ftp://ftp.cdc... DAG\_July200... 2:17 PM

3 ascii data files for C6

-- Cycle 6 program statements for public use files are in separate folders.  
-- Supplementary file to public use files also on ftp site.

## Frequently Asked Questions from NSFG Users

- 1) What's a recode?
- 2) What is the difference between the female respondent file and pregnancy file?
- 3) Do I need to use the weights and design variables?
- 4) How do I combine male & female data from Cycle 6?
- 5) How do I pool data across NSFG cycles?

NOTE: A lot of these answers are in the User's Guide or on the NSFG webpage.

## 1) What's a recode?

- Constructed variable on which missing values are imputed
  - ✦ Imputation flags included on file to indicate whether & how imputation was done
- Allow comparable, reproducible measurement of key variables, which is critical for valid national estimates
- Some recodes are very simple, and some are quite complex
  - ✦ RCURPREG – simple (straightforward transfer from a single raw variable)
  - ✦ CONSTAT – complex (draws upon many variables)
- Full specifications are provided in User's Guide Appendix 2
- NSFG data cleaning and editing focuses on recodes. (We don't edit most of the other variables on the file. As noted in the documentation, inconsistencies will exist.)

## 2) What is the difference between the female respondent file and pregnancy file?

### Respondent File

- 1 record per female respondent
- Selected arrays of pregnancy-based variables included to minimize need for merging (see page 8 of User's Guide for list)
- Cycle 6 has 7,643 records with a record length of 4,927

### Pregnancy File

- 1 record per pregnancy
- Selected respondent-based variables included to minimize need for merging (see pages 8-9 of User's Guide for list)
- Only contains records for respondents who have reported any pregnancies to interviewer
- Cycle 6 has 13,593 records (lrecl=447) representing pregnancies reported by 5,033 ever-pregnant respondents

**Merging of respondent and pregnancy-based data can be done in either direction, and relies on CASEID and PREGORDR variables. See pages 51-52 of User's Guide for SAS syntax, adaptable for other software.**

### 3) Do I need to use the weights and design variables?

- YES, if you want to make valid national estimates
- Ignoring the weights will skew your point estimates because each respondent represents thousands of people. (Also, Cycle 6 weights vary considerably more than prior cycles.)
- Ignoring the multistage probability design features (in particular, the oversampling and nonresponse adjustments) will skew your variance estimates and inferences.
- The next several slides will describe variance estimation for Cycle 6, but much of it applies to other cycles as well.

Design variable	Cycle 6 (2002)
Stratum variable	SEST values 1-84
Cluster/Panel Variable	values 1-2 SECU_R --female resp file SECU_P --female preg file SECU --male file
Final post-stratified, fully adjusted case weight	FINALWGT

NCHS - Surveys and Data Collection Systems - Cycle 6 Files, Codebooks and Documentation - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nsfg/nsfgcycle6datadoccodebooks.htm>

## Cycle 6 (2002): Public Use Data Files, Codebooks, and Documentation

- [Cycle 6 \(2002\) Webdoc and User's Guide](#)
- [Cycle 6 \(2002\) Program Statements](#)
  - [SAS Program Statements](#)
  - [SPSS Program Statements](#)
  - [STATA Program Statements](#)
- [Cycle 6 \(2002\): Variance Estimation Examples](#)
- [Cycle 6 \(2002\) Downloadable Data Files](#)
- [Cycle 6 \(2002\) Codebooks](#)
  - [Female](#)
  - [Male](#)
  - [Pregnancy](#)
- [2002 NSFG Household Variables, User's Guide and Codebook](#)

This page last reviewed May 22, 2007

  
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3a:  
Variance estimation examples on the NSFG webpage



### 3b. Variance Estimation Examples on the NSFG webpage (cont'd)

- We provide full syntax and output (in pdf files) using 4 major software packages:
  - ✦ SAS 9.1
  - ✦ SUDAAN 8.0.2
  - ✦ STATA 8.0
  - ✦ WesVar 4.1 (for Windows)
- Users can then modify to suit their own computer setup and analysis project.

### 3c. Variance Estimation Examples on the NSFG webpage (cont'd)

- 9 separate examples to **illustrate common estimation tasks**:
  - ✦ Percentages & percentage distributions
  - ✦ Total counts or numbers
  - ✦ Mean numbers
  - ✦ Pooling data for males and females
  - ✦ Use of subsetting statements (e.g., subpopn)
  - ✦ Linear regression (continuous DV)
  - ✦ Logistic regression (binary DV)

### 3d. Variance Estimation Examples on the NSFG webpage (cont'd)

- All examples illustrate **comparability of estimates across all packages:**
  - ✦ Point estimates are equivalent
  - ✦ Standard errors differ slightly
  - ✦ Design effects vary a bit more

#### 4) How do I combine male & female data from Cycle 6?

- Make sure you are using truly comparable variables
  - ✦ Consult recode specs and other documentation
  - ✦ This point also important when pooling data across Cycles
- See example under “Variance Estimation Examples” on webpage:
  - ✦ Define new variables for stratum and cluster separately for males and females (finalwgt – same varname for M&F)
  - ✦ Append male and female case records (in SAS, use “SET” statement)
  - ✦ Run analyses using the new variables you’ve defined

## 5) How do I pool data across NSFG cycles? (female data)

Design variable	Cycle 5 (1995)	Cycle 6 (2002)
Stratum variable	COL_STR	SEST
Cluster/Panel Variable	PANEL	SECU_R – female resp SECU_P – female preg
Final post-stratified, fully adjusted case weight	POST_WT	FINALWGT

Cycle 5 NSFG:  
stratvar=col\_str;  
panelvar=panel;  
weightvar=post\_wt;  
survey=1995;

Cycle 6 NSFG:  
stratvar=sest;  
panelvar=secu\_r;  
weightvar=finalwgt;  
survey=2002;

## 5 things we hope you'll remember about the NSFG...

- 1) It's a rich data system for studying trends and differentials in fertility, family formation, and reproductive health among women, men, and teens.
- 2) Just about anything you need to help you use the NSFG is on the webpage (or soon will be).  
[www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm)
- 3) Try to use recodes whenever they exist.
- 4) Don't ignore the complex sample design:
  - ❖ Use the weights to get accurate point estimates
  - ❖ Incorporate the design variables to get accurate variances
- 5) [NSFG@CDC.GOV](mailto:NSFG@CDC.GOV) or 301-458-4222

## How to contact the NSFG team

- Email: [nsfg@cdc.gov](mailto:nsfg@cdc.gov)
- Voicemail: 301-458-4222
- Mailing address:
  - NSFG Team, NCHS
  - Room 7318
  - 3311 Toledo Road
  - Hyattsville, MD. 20782
- NSFG website: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm)