

Condoms and Pregnancy: Facts for Teens

Condom Use

- Among contracepting teens, 37% use a condom.

Source: CDC "Contraceptive use among women 15 to 44 years of age, according to age, race, Hispanic origin, and method of contraception: United States, 1982, 1988, and 1995," Health, United States, 2002

- In their first experience with intercourse as adolescents, more than two-thirds of men and women rely on the condom.

Source: AGI, unpublished tabulations of the 1995 National Survey of Adolescent Men and the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth.

Condom Failure

- Studies show that condoms break at a rate of anywhere from 0-6.7% of the time, per use.
- On average, one in fifty condoms will break, and over twice that number will slip off during vaginal intercourse.
- Oil-based lubricants like cold cream, mineral oil, cooking oil, petroleum jelly, and even yeast infection creams, can cause the latex to rupture.
- Spermicidal condoms have not been proven more effective than non-spermicidal condoms.

Source: Hatcher et al, Contraceptive Technology, 17th Revised Ed., Ardent Media, New York, 1998.

Side Effects & Difficulties

- Most men experience reduced sensitivity during intercourse, some men find they cannot retain an erection when a condom is used, and condoms may affect the spontaneity of intercourse.
- Some men and women find the latex irritating due to allergy (1-3% of persons are latex-sensitive, as well as 6-7% of surgical workers)
- Spermicidal condoms can worsen the allergenic properties of the latex.

Source: Hatcher et al, Contraceptive Technology, 17th Revised Ed., Ardent Media, New York, 1998, p. 337, 327.

Teen Condom Users

- In preventing pregnancy, condoms have a standardized failure rate of 14.7% over the course of a year.
- For teens not living together, 14-23% of condom users will experience an unplanned pregnancy over the course of a year.
- For teens living together, over 50% of condom users will experience an unplanned pregnancy over the course of a year.

Source: H Fu, JE Darroch, T Haas, N Ranjit, Contraceptive Failure Rates: New Estimates From the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth, Family Planning Perspectives, 1999, 31(2):56-63

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