

Reasons for Contraceptive Nonuse at First Sex and Unintended Pregnancy

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Objective: To examine reasons for contraceptive nonuse at first sex and subsequent unintended pregnancy among women attending family planning and prenatal clinics. **Methods:** Data come from the Determinants of Unintended Pregnancy Risk in New Orleans study. Reasons for nonuse by age, partner's age, and pregnancy status are compared. **Results:** Concern about parents' finding out about sexual activity was a common reason for nonuse at first sex

and first unintended pregnancy. Problems accessing and discontinuation of contraception were reasons given at second or higher-order unintended pregnancy. **Conclusions:** Reasons for nonuse vary by event and age at event. Providers should consider various reasons when counseling patients on contraceptive options.

Key words: contraception, unintended pregnancy, adolescent, first sex, service barriers

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