

14. Contraceptive Microbicide Attitudes Among Young Women

By: Candace Best, Devon J. Hensel, [Amanda E. Tanner](#), J. Dennis Fortenberry, and Gregory D. Zimet

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Abstract:

Purpose: To evaluate relationship and behavioral predictors of attitudes towards contraceptive versus non-contraceptive microbicides among young women.

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Article:

Purpose: To evaluate relationship and behavioral predictors of attitudes towards contraceptive versus non-contraceptive microbicides among young women.

Methods: Data were taken from a subsample of quarterly interviews of a longitudinal cohort of young women in Indianapolis (N=263, 14-17yrs). Microbicide attitudes were assessed through difference scores calculated by subtracting contraceptive microbicide attitudes (5 items, 11-point scale, $\alpha=.91$) from non-contraceptive microbicide attitudes (7 items, 11-point scale, $\alpha=.91$). Scores could range from -100 to +100, with lower scores indicating a preference for a non-contraceptive microbicide and higher scores indicating a preference for a contraceptive microbicide. Relationship-based predictors of microbicide preference included: relationship quality (6 items, $\alpha = 0.95$), sexual satisfaction (5 items, $\alpha=0.94$), sexual negativity (5 items, $\alpha=0.89$), sexual coercion (3 items, $\alpha=0.76$), sexual communication (3 items, $\alpha=0.81$). Potential sexual behavior predictors were: coital frequency (past 90 days), condom use at last sex (no/yes), ratio of condom protected events (past 90 days), hormonal contraceptive use (past 90 days: no/yes), non-hormonal fertility control (rhythm method or withdrawal: no/yes), commitment to avoiding pregnancy (1 item), pregnancy as a reason for sex for participant or partner (separate single item), and age. A mixed effects linear regression approach, (SPSS, 19.0), was used to derive estimates adjusted for multiple within subject observations.

Results: Young women contributed a total of 2,162 partner quarters. Greater non-contraceptive microbicide preference was associated with pregnancy as a reason for participant's having sex

($b=-6.31$, $p<.01$) and marginally associated with higher levels of sexual coercion ($b=-.56$, $p=.051$). Greater contraceptive microbicide preference was related to higher sexual negativity ($b=.43$, $p<.04$), a greater commitment to avoiding pregnancy ($b=2.93$, $p<.001$), and a higher ratio of condom protected events ($b=.67$, $p<.05$).

Conclusions: Although microbicides have been described as female-controlled methods of prevention, results from this study suggest that sexual partner characteristics can influence young women's attitudes toward microbicide use. Further, findings suggest these young women considered microbicide preferences in a rational manner, consistent with pregnancy intentions and other sexual behaviors.

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