

What is The Fog Zone?

[The Fog Zone](#) is the first survey of its kind focusing primarily on factors surrounding teen and unplanned fertility exploring individuals' knowledge of contraceptives and reproductive health. The Fog Zone is nationally representative of unmarried men and women aged 18-29 in 2009. Data are comprised of 1,800 telephone interviews (897 women and 903 men) collected by the Guttmacher Institute for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. The Fog Zone collects detailed information from individuals concerning:

- Knowledge and usage of contraceptive methods
- Attitudes/behaviors regarding pregnancy risk and contraceptive methods
- Experience with sex education
- Relationships and pregnancy experiences
- Basic demographic characteristics

What does the Fog Zone offer family scholars?

The Fog Zone provides rich, detailed data concerning individuals' knowledge surrounding contraceptive use and reproductive health. These data are particularly useful for better understanding individuals' capacities and motivations to avoid teen and unplanned pregnancies. Additionally, The Fog Zone identifies respondents' sources of information for reproductive health and contraceptive use. These data provide a unique opportunity to evaluate individuals' navigation of sexual encounters by considering their risk management and their evaluation of the consequences following an unplanned birth.

In addition to providing data on knowledge about contraceptives and reproductive health, The Fog Zone collects data on basic demographic characteristics including:

- Age, current marital status, education/employment status, race/ethnicity
- Current living arrangements (respondents can select multiple responses for "lives with": responses include parents, partner, roommates, someone else, or alone)
- Medical insurance coverage
- Religiosity
- Current partner's age, work status, and level of education (if applicable)

Aside from information concerning contraceptive knowledge, use, and demographic characteristics, The Fog Zone also provides detailed information surrounding relationships and pregnancies. These questions target important factors such as current (and previous) sexual behaviors, number of recent sexual partners, previous pregnancies, planfulness of previous pregnancies, and current fertility intentions.

Where can I download the data?

Researchers can [access these data](#) by submitting a short abstract and [signed agreement](#) form to [Alison Stewart](#). After submitting these documents, the National Campaign staff will email researchers a copy of the data set. These data are available in SAS, STATA, SPSS, and ASCII formats.

In order to access the restricted data, researchers must agree to terms and conditions in the [Contract Data Use License](#). Furthermore, Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval must be acquired. Lastly, researchers must submit an extended abstract, curriculum vitae, and further information to the [Center of Research and Child Wellbeing](#).

Where can I find the data documentation?

The [user's guide](#), [codebook](#) and [survey questionnaire](#) are available online.

Where can I find The Fog Zone report?

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy has released [The Fog Zone: How Misconceptions, Magical Thinking, and Ambivalence Put Young Adults at Risk for Unplanned Pregnancy](#), a report highlighting some basic findings from these data. Ultimately, these data demonstrate that the majority of unmarried, young adults are not currently planning a pregnancy. However, many individuals' behaviors do not directly correspond with their current plans and/or attitudes. Most respondents mention multiple risk factors associated with nonmarital and unplanned pregnancies. However, many of these individuals report having sexual encounters but do not use contraceptive methods consistently. Furthermore, these data demonstrate that inaccurate knowledge concerning contraceptive use, misconceptions about side effects of contraceptive use, and ambivalent attitudes about family formation and its timing are factors linked to young adults' vulnerability to experiencing an unplanned birth.

In addition to the comprehensive report, a brief [summary](#) is also available online. Users can download [specific sections](#) of the report and [technical appendices](#) separately.

Where can I learn more?

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy provides basic [contact information](#) if researchers encounter questions when using the data.

Suggested Citation

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