Background

Teenage years are characterized as a period of sexual exploration.¹ Teenage years are characterized as a period of sexual exploration.¹ Teenage years are characterized as a period of sexual exploration.¹ Teenage years are characterized as a period of sexual exploration.¹ Teenage years are characterized as a period of sexual exploration.¹ Teenage years are characterized as a period of sexual exploration.¹ Teenage years are characterized as a period of sexual exploration.¹

Conceptualization

The fundamental concern is having sexually ‘safe’ relationships, which involve the use of contraception to protect against STIs and unintended pregnancies.²

Current Study

Examines different relationship contexts (committed; going steady; and casual) that are associated with contraceptive use among teenagers and its consequences,³⁻⁶ but these studies are limited because they:

- Do not reflect recent experiences of both male and female teenagers
- Focus on methods used rather than the contraceptive context

Additional covariates tied to contraceptive use: nativity, age at first intercourse, age homogamy, males in going steady relationships, net of controls.

Contraception

• Contraception Methods
  - Hormonal methods (pill, implants, injection, emergency pill, contraceptive rings and patches)
  - Other methods (condom, diaphragm, spermicides,cap, ist, rhythm method, female condom, non-randomized, other methods)

- Type of Use:
  - Any method
  - Condom only
  - Hormonal only
  - Dual Methods
  - Other Methods

Degree of certainty:

- Zero-Order: relationship context
- Full Model: relationship context + control variables

Results

- There is an association between relationship context and contraceptive use at first intercourse for males and not for females.
- Males in casual relationships have lower odds of using any method of contraception compared to males in going steady relationships.
- Additional covariates tied to contraceptive use at first sex.

Conclusions

Relationship type at first intercourse matters. Sexual health programs need to focus on teenagers in all relationships.

References


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Conception of contraception function as a protective barrier against both STIs and unintended pregnancies.

Descriptive Findings

• Percentage Distribution of Relationship Types and Methods of Contraception at First Intercourse (Weighted Values)

Female Any Use:

- Males in committed relationships are more likely to report using hormonal methods.
- Males in casual relationships are less likely to use any method of contraception and as a consequence face the greatest sexual health risks.

Males Any Use:

- Females in going steady relationships are not statistically different from females in committed relationships.
- Among female contraceptive users in committed relationships, hormonal methods were more likely used than condoms.

Type of Use:

- Dual methods that are protective against STIs and pregnancy were less likely to be used among females in committed relationships compared to females going steady.
- Males in casual and going steady relationships share similar sexual health risks as using both hormonal and dual methods used at first intercourse.

Multivariate Findings: Any Method

- There is an association between relationship context and contraceptive use at first intercourse for males and not for females.
- Males in casual relationships have lower odds of using any method of contraception compared to males in going steady relationships.
- Additional covariates tied to contraceptive use at first intercourse, which function as a protective barrier against both STIs and unintended pregnancies.
- Males in committed relationships are more likely to report using hormonal methods than condoms at first intercourse.

Type of Use:

- There is an association between relationship context and contraceptive use at first intercourse for males and not for females.
- Males in casual relationships have lower odds of using any method of contraception compared to males in going steady relationships.
- Additional covariates tied to contraceptive use at first intercourse, which function as a protective barrier against both STIs and unintended pregnancies.
- Males in committed relationships are more likely to report using hormonal methods than condoms at first intercourse.

Implications

- Relationship type at first intercourse matters. Sexual health programs need to focus on teenagers in all relationships.

- Findings suggest that sex education programs do not only focus on abstinence or improving teens' knowledge of contraceptive methods but also improving communication and negotiation skills within teenage relationships.

- Although condom and hormonal method (especially pills) use are prevalent among teenagers, sexual health programs must improve their campaign on the effectiveness of dual methods in an effort to further combat high rates of STIs and unintended pregnancies among American teenagers.