TABLE 1. Percentage distribution of unmarried women at risk for unintended pregnancy, by selected characteristics, according to race or ethnicity, National Survey of Reproductive and Contraceptive Knowledge, 2009

Characteristic	Total (N=602)	Black (N=148)	Latina (N=129)	White (N=290)	Other (N=35)
Age					
18–19	25.6	25.8	34.0	25.0	12.0
20–24	40.5	43.2	36.5	39.0	56.4
25–29	33.9	31.0	29.5	36.0	31.6
Education**					
≤high school	43.5	55.5	59.7	37.8	27.3
>high school	56.5	44.5	40.3	62.2	72.7
Has current sex partner					
No	26.1	24.7	22.3	29.1	8.3
Yes	73.9	75.3	77.7	70.9	91.7
Has ≥1 child***					
No	63.3	39.6	44.1	73.0	82.7
Yes	36.7	60.4	55.9	27.0	17.3
Current method***					
Long-acting reversible†	5.3	4.8	4.6	6.0	1.3
Combined hormonal or injectable	47.8	28.7	29.9	58.5	40.0
Condom	17.4	21.4	27.9	11.8	37.9
No modern method	29.5	45.1	37.6	23.7	20.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**p≤.01. ***p≤.001. †IUDs and implants.

TABLE 2. Percentage distribution of unmarried women at risk for unintended pregnancy, by selected measures of attitudes or knowledge, according to race or ethnicity

Measure	Total	Black	Latina	White	Other
SKEPTICISM					
Government ensures birth control safety					
Strongly disagree	6.6	12.4	9.8	4.4	2.4
Somewhat disagree	16.8	19.8	15.1	16.6	12.9
Somewhat agree†	37.8	28.2	31.1	43.1	29.3
Strongly agree	38.8	39.6	44.0	35.8	55.2
Government promotes birth control to limit minorities**					
Strongly agree	13.3	23.4	20.5	9.4	5.4
Somewhat agree†	18.2	18.7	30.9	15.4	15.3
Somewhat disagree	21.5	25.6	12.1	21.1	34.4
Strongly disagree	47.0	32.3	36.5	54.1	44.9
ATTITUDES TOWARD EFFECTIVE METHODS					
Pill causes weight gain					
Not at all likely	9.7	12.6	8.3	8.6	14.5
Slightly likely†	48.1	42.8	44.7	51.3	39.4
Quite likely	30.5	33.3	34.4	29.4	25.0
Extremely likely	11.7	11.3	12.6	10.7	21.1
IUD leads to infertility					
Not at all likely	25.8	20.8	20.4	28.9	22.1
Slightly likely†	50.4	47.5	53.9	50.2	52.3
Quite likely	19.4	23.9	16.7	18.3	23.1
Extremely likely	4.4	7.8	8.9	2.5	2.6
KNOWLEDGE OF EFFECTIVE METHODS					
Women should take breaks from pill					
False (correct)	56.4	60.5	49.4	58.6	37.3
True (incorrect)	33.6	34.6	34.8	32.1	42.1
Don't know/have not heard of pill	10.1	4.9	15.8	9.3	20.6
Women without children can use IUD					
True (correct)	58.0	65.5	50.8	57.9	52.4
False (incorrect)	24.2	18.6	23.0	26.1	24.5
Don't know/have not heard of IUD	17.8	15.9	26.2	16.0	23.1
ATTITUDES TOWARD PREGNANCY					
Importance of avoiding pregnancy*					
Not at all important	3.9	4.6	7.7	2.7	4.9
A little important	6.1	1.5	2.1	9.1	0.2
Somewhat important†	11.0	14.7	19.1	8.6	5.4
Very important	79.0	79.3	71.1	79.7	89.6

Measure	Total	Black	Latina	White	Other
Feeling if pregnant now*					
Very pleased	12.8	5.0	28.4	12.7	3.3
A little pleased†	15.4	15.1	21.4	14.9	7.2
A little upset	28.8	33.0	22.1	28.8	29.7
Very upset	43.1	47.0	28.2	43.6	59.8
ATTITUDES TOWARD CHILDBEARING					
A baby would hamper work, school, going out					
Strongly/somewhat disagree	18.9	28.4	20.7	17.3	2.2
Neither agree nor disagree/don't know‡	8.5	10.3	11.6	7.7	4.5
Somewhat agree	18.0	10.6	18.8	20.7	12.9
Strongly agree	54.5	50.7	48.9	54.4	80.5
Would look forward to telling friends about a pregnancy*					
Strongly agree	28.6	33.6	44.2	24.6	18.2
Somewhat agree	22.0	14.6	31.2	23.0	14.9
Neither agree nor disagree/don't know‡	16.3	19.4	7.8	17.8	11.6
Strongly/somewhat disagree	33.1	32.5	16.9	34.7	55.4
BELIEF OF SUBFERTILITY					
Likelihood of infertility or difficulty conceiving					
Extremely likely	6.9	11.9	12.4	4.2	7.0
Quite likely	9.1	5.1	12.9	9.0	13.1
Slightly likely†	41.2	38.2	31.7	45.1	33.4
Not at all likely	42.8	44.9	43.0	41.7	46.5
FATALISM					
About pregnancy*					
Strongly agree	20.4	26.4	35.8	14.5	26.3
Somewhat agree†	20.4	17.6	21.9	20.7	23.0
Somewhat disagree	16.0	16.8	6.6	19.3	2.4
Strongly disagree	43.2	39.2	35.7	45.6	48.3
About life in general					
Strongly agree	26.3	37.6	32.0	23.0	11.8
Somewhat agree†	27.2	28.9	23.6	26.8	34.0
Somewhat disagree	23.7	17.3	21.7	24.0	44.0
Strongly disagree	22.9	16.3	22.8	26.2	10.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*p≤.05. **p≤.01. †Includes a small proportion of women who volunteered a response (e.g., "neither," "don't know"). ‡These were volunteered responses. *Notes:* Percentages may not total 100.0 because of rounding. Because of space constraints, descriptive data are not shown for all attitudes assessed; complete results are available on request.

TABLE 3. Odds ratios or linear regression coefficients (and 95% confidence intervals) from regression analyses assessing associations between measures of attitudes or knowledge and race and ethnicity

Measure	Blacks vs. whites	Latinas vs. whites
Skepticism		
Government does not make sure birth control is safe	1.20 (0.62–2.34)	0.90 (0.49–1.67)
Minorities and poor are used as guinea pigs	1.81 (0.94–3.47)	1.94 (1.04–3.61)*
Government promotes birth control to limit minorities	2.45 (1.41–4.26)***	2.52 (1.40–4.52)**
Drug companies just want to make money	1.58 (0.88–2.82)	1.02 (0.56–1.87)
Attitudes toward effective contraception		
Weight gain from pill not likely	0.95 (0.51–1.77)	0.80 (0.46–1.39)
Reduced desire for sex from pill not likely	0.67 (0.34–1.29)	0.83 (0.48–1.45)
Serious health problem from pill not likely	0.63 (0.36–1.11)	0.97 (0.51–1.84)
Severe mood problem from pill not likely	0.95 (0.53–1.69)	0.97 (0.50–1.85)
Infection with IUD not likely	1.00 (0.46–2.13)	0.86 (0.42–1.78)
Infertility with IUD not likely	0.58 (0.32–1.05)	0.67 (0.40–1.13)
Knowledge of effective methods§	0.09 (–0.20–0.02)	–0.24 (–0.3 to –0.14)***,†
Attitudes toward pregnancy		
Low importance of avoiding pregnancy	0.98 (0.46–2.06)	1.51 (0.75–3.02)
Positive feelings if pregnant	0.77 (0.45–1.31)	2.47 (1.31–4.65)**,‡
Attitudes toward childbearing§	0.14 (–0.08–0.37)	0.28 (0.12–0.45)***
Belief of subfertility	1.01 (0.55–1.86)	1.27 (0.66–2.43)
Fatalism		
About pregnancy	1.49 (0.84–2.65)	2.25 (1.21–4.21)*
About life in general	1.99 (1.11–3.58)*	1.36 (0.74–2.50)

*Different from white women at p≤.05. **Different from white women at p≤.01. ***Different from white women at p≤.001. †Different from black women at p≤.05. ‡Different from black women at p≤.001. §Data are regression coefficients, representing differences in mean scores.

TABLE 4. Odds ratios (and 95% confidence intervals) from ordinal logistic regression analyses assessing associations of attitudes or knowledge measures with effectiveness of current contraceptive method

Measure	Odds ratio
Skepticism	
Government does not make sure birth control is safe	0.72 (0.55–0.94)**
Minorities and poor are used as guinea pigs	0.89 (0.71–1.12)
Government promotes birth control to limit minorities	1.02 (0.81–1.27)
Drug companies just want to make money	0.93 (0.75–1.16)
Attitudes toward effective contraception	
Weight gain from pill not likely	1.19 (0.91–1.55)
Reduced desire for sex from pill not likely	1.16 (0.89–1.51)
Serious health problem from pill not likely	1.02 (0.80–1.30)
Severe mood problem from pill not likely	1.22 (0.97–1.53)
Infection with IUD not likely	0.81 (0.61–1.07)
Infertility with IUD not likely	1.01 (0.78–1.32)
Knowledge of effective methods	3.86 (2.08–7.15)***
Attitudes toward pregnancy	
Low importance of avoiding pregnancy	0.84 (0.61–1.15)
Positive feelings if pregnant	0.97 (0.79–1.20)
Attitudes toward childbearing	0.94 (0.66–1.34)
Belief of subfertility	0.96 (0.76–1.22)
Fatalism	
About pregnancy	0.90 (0.76–1.08)
About life in general	1.12 (0.90–1.39)

**p≤.01. ***p≤.001. *Note:* Models control for race and ethnicity.

TABLE 5. Odds ratios (and 95% confidence intervals) from ordinal logistic regression analyses assessing associations between selected characteristics and effectiveness of current contraceptive method

Characteristic	Model 1	Model 2
Race or ethnicity		
Black	0.26 (0.14–0.51)***	0.29 (0.15–0.56)***
Latina	0.34 (0.19–0.62)***	0.42 (0.24–0.77)**
Other	0.45 (0.23–0.86)*	0.80 (0.36–1.74)
White (ref)	1.00	1.00
Age	1.02 (0.94–1.10)	1.01 (0.93–1.09)
>high school	1.92 (1.10–3.36)*	1.62 (0.89–2.93)
Has current sex partner	2.13 (1.27–3.58)**	2.18 (1.29–3.68)**
Has ≥1 child	1.88 (1.05–3.37)*	1.69 (0.92–3.14)
Knowledge of effective methods	na	3.31 (1.73–6.31)***

*p≤.05. **p≤.01. ***p≤.001. *Notes:* The N for both models is 596 because of missing values on the knowledge variable. ref=reference group. na=not applicable.