

Exploring Teenage Pregnancy Intention and Contraceptive Choice

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Teenage births in Australia

- 16 per 1000 Australia
- 71 per 1000 Indigenous Australia
(*ABS, 2004*)
- Abortion rate higher than birth rate
(*UNICEF 2001*)

Profile of a West Australian teenage mother

- Maternal and Child Health Research Data Base links data re: birth, death and hospital discharge
 - Data of 311,625 children born in WA from 1984-1997, 11,440 had a teenage mum
 - Children born to teenage mums had:
 - Poorer birth outcomes
 - preterm birth, low birth weight
 - Poorer infant outcomes
 - neonatal, postneonatal and childhood death
- Krista et al 1998*

Long term outcomes

- Millennium Study, 18,819 children born in 2000
- Exclusion education
- Exclusion employment
- 67% below official poverty line
- State housing, disadvantaged neighbourhood
- Least advantaged women have children earlier

Hawkes, Joshi & Ward, 2004

**Unplanned/unstable pregnancy intentions
associated with similar outcomes**

Bennett et al, 2006; Speizer, 2004; Pulley et al, 2002 and Kost, 1998

Pregnancy Intention



- Planned/unplanned
- Intended/unintended
- Wanted/unwanted
- Timed/mistimed
- Happiness
- Interpretation subjective
- Need to explore underlying concepts

Pregnancy Intention (cont)

- Psychometric Measure of Unplanned Pregnancy (Barrett et al, 2004)
- Validated for use in teenagers
- 6 item self report scale
- Combines a number of factors
 - pregnancy intention
 - pregnancy timing
 - contraceptive use
 - pregnancy planning

Aim

To examine the relationship between pregnancy intention and contraceptive use :

- Pre pregnancy (assessed antenatally)
- Every 3 months to 1 year postpartum

Study participants

- 179 participants from Adolescent Clinic at KEMH (represents 50% teenage birth in Perth metro area)
- ≤ 18 years old
- 2 year longitudinal study
- Follow up every 3 months
 - Alternate between phone / home visit

Current sample

- 179 - pre pregnancy (assessed antenatally)
- 133 - 6 weeks postpartum
- 118 - 3 months postpartum
- 93 - 6 months postpartum
- 70 - 9 months postpartum
- 49 - 12 months postpartum

Withdrawals

- 13% (n=23) only consented to baseline & clinical records
- Of 156 for follow up at 12 months drop out rate of 17% (n=27)
- Median number of houses lived in during 1st year = 3 (range 1-6)

Baseline characteristics

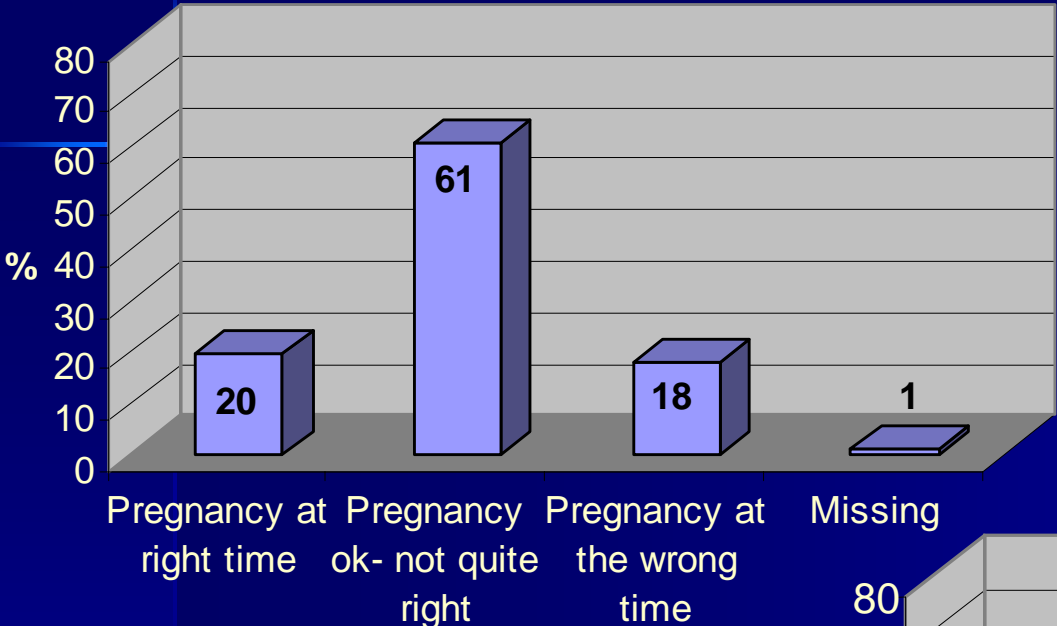
- Median age at conception 16 years (range 12-19 yrs)
- Pregnancy confirmed mean 11 wks GA
- Median age birthfather 20.2 years, 63% (n=113) in relationship with birthfather
- 23% (n=41) Indigenous
- Smoke > 10 per week = 56%

Baseline characteristics (cont)

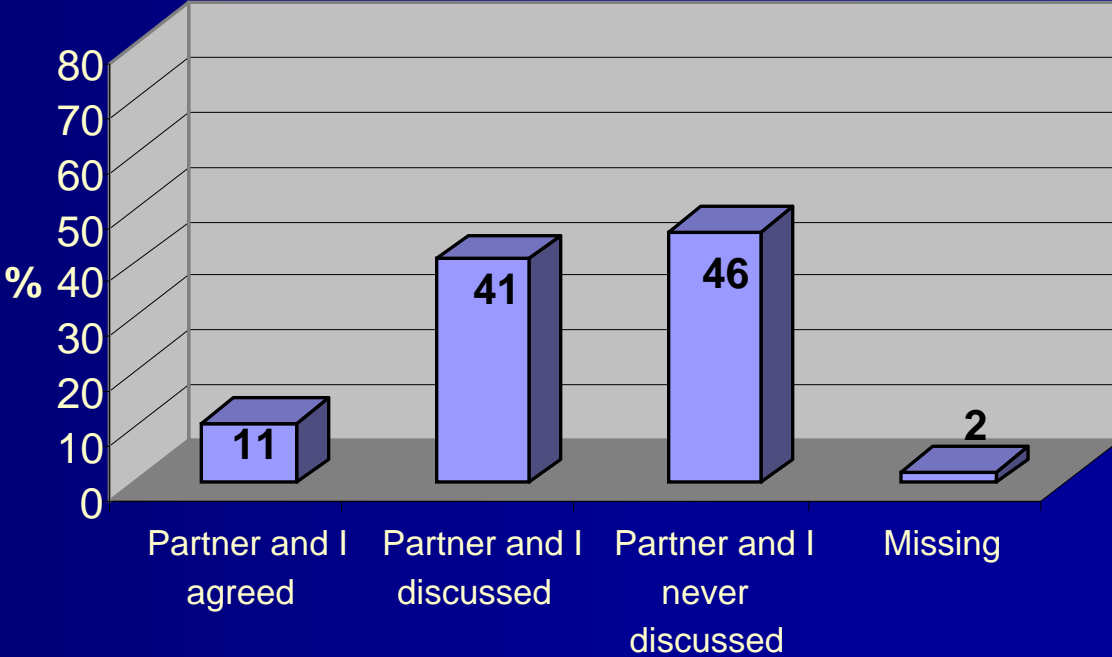
- Median age 1st sex = 14.5 years, 65% (n=117) used a condom
- 3 or more partners 41% (n=74)
- Living with:
 - 44% (n=79) one or both parents
 - 30% (n=54) birthfather of baby
 - 2% (n=4) alone

Pregnancy intention

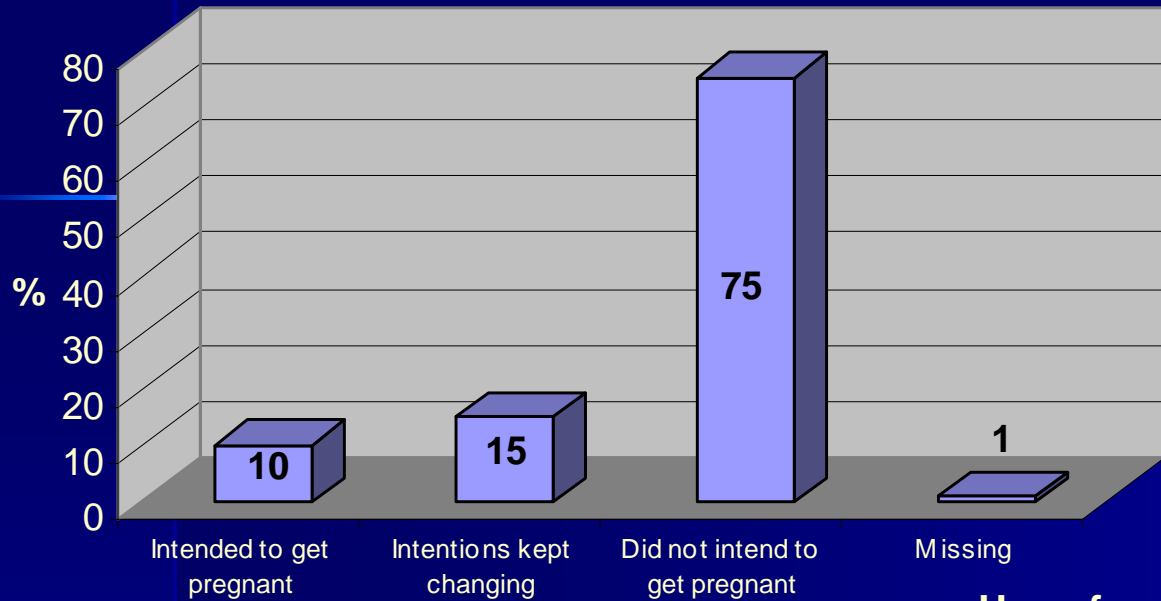
Pregnancy timing



Discussion with partner

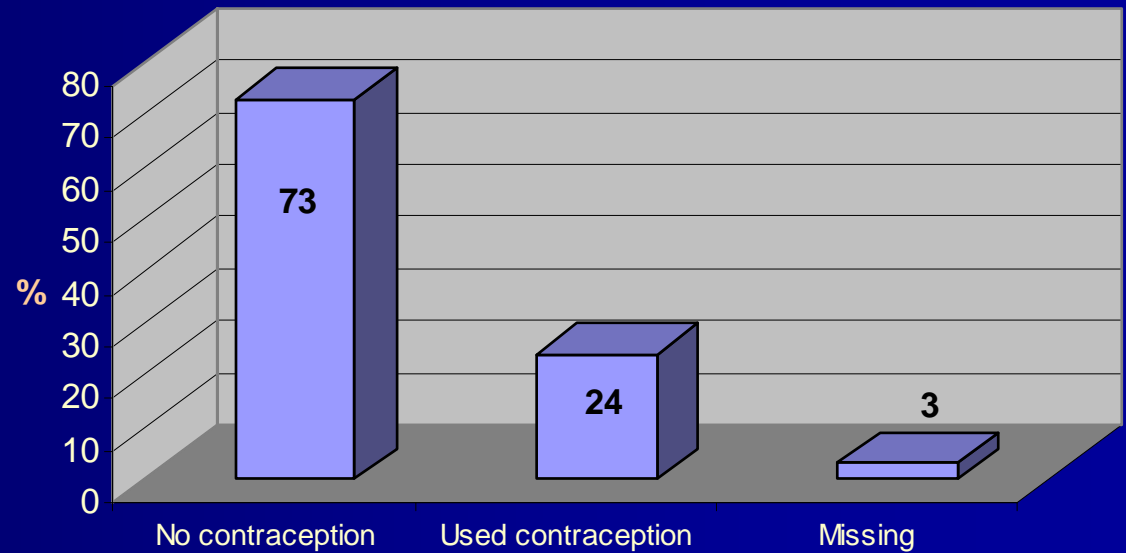


Preconceptual intentions

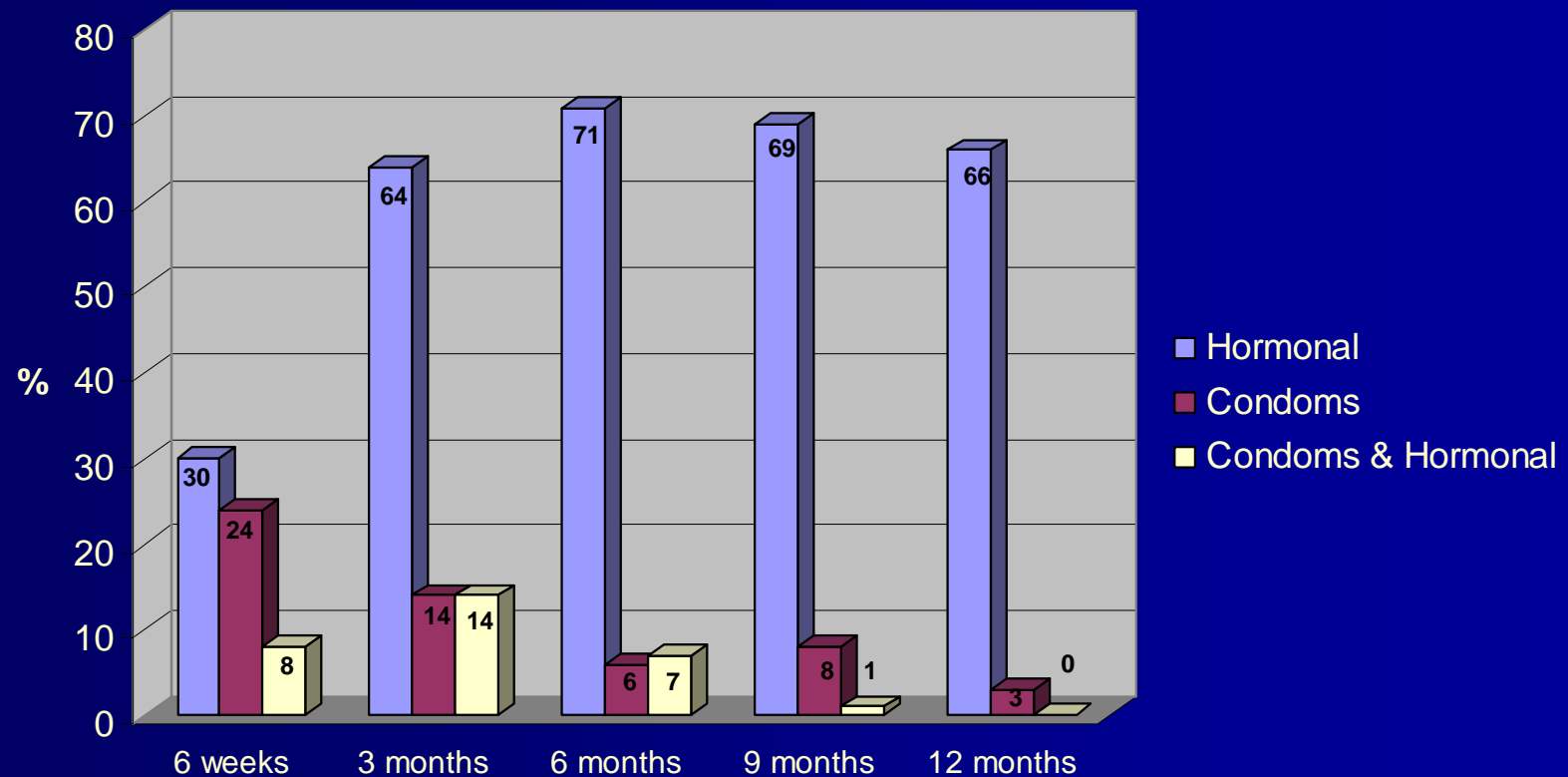


Ambivalence

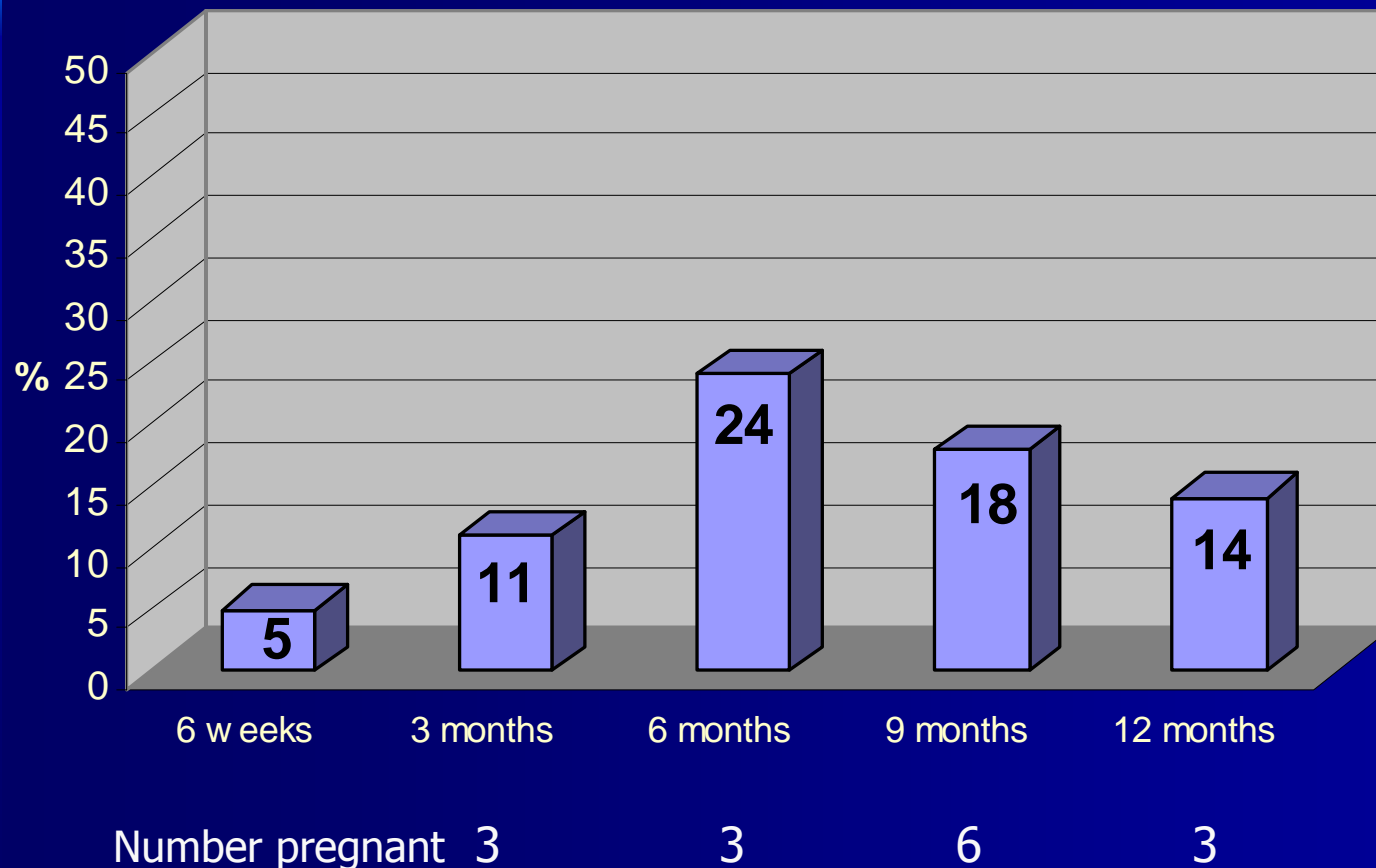
Use of contraception preconception



Postpartum contraceptive use



Sexually active wanting to be pregnant



Repeat teenage pregnancy

Of 46 participants now reached 12 months
33% (n=15) have had a repeat pregnancy

- 3 pregnant by 3 months
- 3 pregnant by 6 months
- 6 pregnant by 9 months
- 3 pregnant by 1 year
 - 1 Depo
 - 2 Following Implanon removal
 - 1 Condom
 - 1 Oral Contraception
 - 10 Nothing

Conclusions

- Prior to pregnancy most teenagers were ambivalent in relation to being pregnant. They did not intend to become pregnant, but did not use contraception to prevent pregnancy
- The majority of teenage mums report not wanting another pregnancy and are capable of using contraception, with initial uptake of contraception being good and sustained in terms of hormonal methods
- An important minority of teenage mums report wanting to have another baby and experienced rapid repeat conception

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