



Male Contraception Attitudes: Summary of Surveys and Research, March, 2016

In almost all discussions about the development of new male contraceptive options, the issues that come up most often are: would men use it? would women trust men to use it? A number of scientifically conducted surveys in the past 15 years have measured the attitudes of men and women about male contraception. The information available to date indicates:

1. About half of men surveyed would be willing to use new male contraceptive methods. This figure varies by country and is often related to demographic variables (including the acceptability of using existing contraceptive options).
2. Women overwhelmingly respond that they would trust their partner to use contraception.
3. A daily pill was reported as most acceptable in many locations, followed by implants and injections.

In a survey of self-selected participants interested in new male contraceptive options, 99% said they would use a new method, 72% of women said they trust men to use a new method, and there was preference for non-hormonal methods given by yearly injection or daily pill. Surveys conducted through media outlets have varying outcomes, likely related to the methodology used.

Published References

Martin CW, Anderson RA, Cheng L, Ho PC, van der Spuy Z, Smith KB, Glasier AF, Everington D, Baird DT. 2000. **Potential impact of hormonal male contraception: cross-cultural implications for development of novel preparations.** Human Reproduction 15(3):637-645.

<http://humrep.oxfordjournals.org/content/15/3/637.long>

- 450 men in Shanghai, Edinburgh and Hong Kong and 493 in Cape Town surveyed about male contraception
- Majority of men welcomed new male methods
- 44-83% said they would use male pill
- Pill was more acceptable than injection, and more than implant (except in Shanghai)
- Hong Kong least acceptance of new male methods, but higher use of condoms
- Women surveyed said male pill was a good idea (70% overall, and 90% in S. Africa and Scotland)
- Only 2% of women said they would not trust partner to use contraception

Weston GC, Schlipalius ML, Bhuienneain MN, Vollenhoven BJ. 2002. **Will Australian men use male hormonal contraception? A survey of a postpartum population.** Med. J. Australia 176(5):208-210.

<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2002/176/5/will-australian-men-use-male-hormonal-contraception-survey-postpartum-population>

- 148 new fathers surveyed in Australia
- 75% of men willing to try a male method if available
- Significant association between acceptability of vasectomy and acceptability of male hormonal contraception

Heinemann K, Saad F, Wiesemes M, White S, Heinemann L. 2005. **Attitudes toward male fertility control: results of a multinational survey on four continents.** Human Reproduction 20(2):549-556.
<http://humrep.oxfordjournals.org/content/20/2/549.long>

- 9000 men surveyed in Europe (France, Germany, Spain, Sweden); North America (USA); Central/South America (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico); and Asia (Indonesia)
- 55% of the current survey respondents reported being willing, or very willing, to use a new method of male fertility control as described in the study, with favorable response rates ranging from 28.5% in Indonesia to 71.4% in Spain
- Demographic characteristics that were found to be important predictors of a willingness to consider the use of male fertility control included educational and income levels, current use of contraception, and the acceptance of vasectomy
- Daily pill was most acceptable in all countries except Indonesia; yearly implant was second in European countries but lowest in Latin American and Indonesian countries

Marcell AV, Plowden K, Bowman SM. 2005. **Exploring older adolescents' and young adults' attitudes regarding male hormonal contraception: applications for clinical practice.** Human Reproduction 20(11):3078-3084.

<http://humrep.oxfordjournals.org/content/20/11/3078.full.pdf>

- Interviewed 30 young African American men and women about male hormonal contraception
- 67% had positive impressions of male contraception
- 85% of women said they would trust their partner to use contraception
- 60% of men said that they would use male contraception if available

Eberhardt J, van Wersch A, Meikle N. 2009. **Attitudes towards the male contraceptive pill in men and women in casual and stable sexual relationships.** J Fam Plann Reprod Health Care 35(3):161-5.

<http://jfprhc.bmj.com/content/35/3/161.full.pdf>

- 220 men and women (matched on age and relationship type) surveyed in England about male pill
- Used a ranking scale from 1 (not true) to 4 (exactly true)
- Attitude toward male pill had slightly positive rank of 2.8 overall, with more women having a positive attitude than men
- Effective use of a male pill had a 2.2 rank overall, with men having more positive rankings than women

Glasier et al., 2010. **Acceptability of contraception for men: a review.** Contraception 82(5):453-456.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20933119> (abstract)

- Review of current contraceptive use and attitudes about hormonal contraception
- Surveys indicated at least 25% of men, and substantially more in most countries, would consider using hormonal contraception
- Despite commonly expressed views to the contrary, most women would trust their male partner to use a hormonal method

Dorman E, Bishai D. 2012. **Demand for male contraception.** Expert Rev Pharmacoecon Outcomes Res. 12(5):605–613.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/775627>

- Review of attitudes about male contraceptives, including clinical trials, surveys and secondary data

- Estimated at least 44 M potential users of male contraception based on a conservative 25% of Heinemann survey results
- Estimating male contraceptive use based on current use or data in the U.S.: 50% of never-married fathers (9% of U.S. population) = 4.5M; 50% of married condom users (7.5% of U.S. pop) = 3.7M; 50% of vasectomy customers (6% of U.S. pop) = 3 M

Unpublished survey

MaleContraceptives.org survey 2006-2008

- Self-selected men seeking information on new methods from website
- 1,930 men (75%) and women (25%) participated in the survey from September 2006 to September 2007
- The majority of respondents live in the U.S. (75%), the U.K. or Canada (6% each), or Australia (3%)
- The majority of respondents (80%) do not have children; 9% have one child; 7% have two children; the remaining 4% have three or more children
- 85% of respondents are married, in a committed relationship, or dating
- Reasons for discontinuing birth control: Unpleasant side effects (67%); inconvenience (52%); health risks (35%); the method not effective enough (21%); too expensive (18%)
- Three-quarters of men report sharing the decision about what type of contraceptive to use with their partners; women are three times as likely to report choosing what type of birth control to use without discussing it with their partner
- 99% of male respondents would use a new male contraceptive
- Upper third of contraceptive choice: 61% prefer systemic non-hormonal drug; 42% systemic hormonal drug; 29% systemic immunization; 27% vas deferens implant; 21% application of local heating; 20% modified underwear
- Yearly injection was most preferred delivery method followed by daily pill
- 72% of women trust men to use a new male contraceptive

The survey continued and another summary included 3,724 men and women (through Aug 2008). The results are generally same as above.

- 59% of men wanted new contraceptive options because they desired autonomous control over their fertility; one-third wanted to share the burden of family planning with their partners
- Couples in this sample were 2-4 times more likely to use condoms, fertility awareness, and withdrawal than the national average

Surveys in the media

VoucherCodesPro.co.uk survey 2015

- Survey reported in news media (The Telegraph)
- 2,681 men (over 18 and in relationships for at least six months) in England
- 11% would be happy to take the male pill
- Reasons cited by the other 89% were a fear of long term repercussions (29%) and belief that 'women should take responsibility for contraception' (24%)

The Telegraph 2016

- Survey reported in news media (LOOK)
- 84,000 people surveyed
- 52% of men said they would take a daily birth control pill if they could