

**Table 2. Number of sexually active women aged 15–44 who used oral contraceptives throughout the three months prior to interview, and percentage of these women who used the pill inconsistently (and standard errors), by whether another method was also used, according to selected characteristics**

Characteristic	All		Pill only		Pill and another method	
	No. (in 000s)	% inconsistent	No. (in 000s)	% inconsistent	No. (in 000s)	% inconsistent
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,581</b>	<b>16.4 (1.19)</b>	<b>7,278</b>	<b>15.7 (1.30)</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>20.3 (3.08)</b>
<b>DEMOGRAPHIC</b>						
<b>Age</b>						
15–19	819	23.3 (4.18)	539	23.9 (5.42)	281	22.3 (8.23)
20–24	2,437	15.1 (2.04)	1,907	13.4 (2.36)	529	21.2 (4.98)
25–44	5,325	16.0 (1.37)	4,832	15.8 (1.43)	493	18.3 (4.45)
<b>% of poverty level</b>						
<250	3,199	18.9 (1.77)	2,615	16.4 (1.88)	584	30.1 (5.28)*
≥250	5,382	15.0 (1.42)	4,663	15.4 (1.53)	719	12.4 (3.17)
<b>Educational level</b>						
<high school graduate	914	21.1 (3.86)	735	18.4 (3.87)	178	32.1 (11.90)
High school graduate/GED	2,876	15.3 (1.74)	2,461	14.9 (1.80)	415	17.8 (5.42)
At least some college	4,791	16.2 (1.48)	4,082	15.8 (1.69)	710	18.9 (3.65)
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	734	25.7 (4.11)*	684	25.7 (4.48)*	50	25.8 (13.19)
Non-Hispanic black	1,002	20.9 (2.91)	712	21.7 (3.26)	290	18.9 (6.69)
Non-Hispanic white and other	6,845	14.8 (1.25)	5,882	13.9 (1.34)	964	20.5 (3.45)
<b>Marital status</b>						
Never-married	3,505	16.1 (1.65)	2,541	14.8 (1.92)	964	19.7 (3.65)
Formerly married	908	14.5 (3.31)	771	13.7 (3.50)	137	18.8 (9.12)
Currently married	4,168	17.1 (1.56)	3,965	16.8 (1.58)	202	24.4 (7.31)
<b>Employment</b>						
Not employed	2,015	17.0 (2.38)	1,682	15.0 (2.61)	334	27.1 (6.29)
Employed	6,566	16.3 (1.26)	5,596	16.0 (1.40)	969	18.0 (3.18)
<b>Residence</b>						
Central city of SMSA†	2,531	17.3 (1.84)	2,072	15.5 (1.80)	459	25.8 (5.55)
Other area of SMSA	4,164	17.3 (1.77)	3,652	17.1 (1.90)	512	18.7 (4.76)
Not SMSA	1,886	13.4 (2.34)	1,554	13.0 (2.52)	332	15.3 (4.71)
<b>REPRODUCTIVE</b>						
<b>Parity</b>						
0	4,522	16.0 (1.57)	3,597	15.0 (1.84)	925	20.0 (3.43)
1	1,913	18.3 (2.22)	1,670	17.9 (2.39)	242	21.2 (6.98)
≥2	2,146	15.7 (2.16)	2,011	15.3 (2.21)	135	21.1 (8.68)
<b>Intends future birth</b>						
Yes/uncertain	5,950	16.3 (1.39)	4,928	15.4 (1.53)	1,022	21.0 (3.50)
No	2,631	16.7 (1.81)	2,350	16.5 (1.90)	281	18.0 (5.77)
<b>Frequency of intercourse</b>						
<once a week	2,634	16.3 (1.98)	2,073	16.6 (2.22)	561	15.6 (4.01)
≥once a week	5,840	16.6 (1.38)	5,108	15.5 (1.48)	732	24.2 (4.13)
<b>Unintended pregnancies</b>						
≥1	3,203	19.6 (1.91)	2,824	19.1 (1.95)	379	23.4 (6.09)
0	5,363	14.6 (1.36)	4,439	13.6 (1.58)	924	19.1 (3.32)
<b>Duration of current pill use (mos.)</b>						
3–6	544	35.0 (5.78)*	420	31.2 (6.42)*	123	48.1 (11.34)*
>6	8,037	15.2 (1.13)	6,857	14.8 (1.23)	1,180	17.4 (3.16)

\*Difference between this subgroup and the subgroup with the low proportion is statistically significant at  $p < .05$ . †Standard metropolitan statistical area. Notes: Table is based on weighted data. Inconsistent use is defined as having missed two or more pills in the previous three months. Some numbers do not add to totals because of missing data or rounding.