

The Desire to Become Pregnant and the Desire to Avoid Pregnancy: Ambivalence, Indifference, Pronatalism and Antinatalism



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Outline

- Overview of RDSL Study
- Progress of the study
- Innovative measurement of pregnancy desires
- Results
 - Description of pregnancy desires
 - Links between pregnancy desires and pregnancy

Relationship Dynamics and Social Life

weekly internet or phone 5-minute follow-up interviews
for 30 months

sample: cohort of
1,003 18 and 19-
year-old women
in a Michigan
county

baseline
interview

semi-structured follow-up interviews of every 10th woman with an
unintended pregnancy (n ~ 50)

semi-structured interviews with
comparison group of women
avoiding pregnancy (n ~ 20)

Baseline Interview

- Completed in July 2009
- N=1,003
- 86% response rate
- 93% cooperation rate
- 99% enrolled in weekly journal

Baseline Characteristics (Controls) (N=992)

- Sociodemographic
 - 34% African American
 - 63% 12th grade education or less
 - 69% enrolled in school
 - 27% receiving public assistance
 - 36% religion very important
 - 16% living with romantic partner
 - 37% mom <20 years old at 1st birth
 - 52% grew up with two parents (both biological or biological/step)
 - 9% mom's education <HS grad
 - 14% parent's income <\$15K
- Sex/contraception/pregnancy
 - 77% ever had sex
 - average age at 1st sex: 15.6 years
 - median lifetime sex partners: 4
 - ever sex w/o birth control: 48%
 - 23% at least one prior pregnancy

Weekly Journal Content

- Relationship characteristics
 - Time spent together
 - Commitment
 - Conflict
 - Communication
 - Decision-making
 - Living arrangements
 - Engagement/marital plans
 - Sexual behavior
 - Multiple partners
- Pregnancy Desires
 - Positive/negative
 - Prospective
 - Retrospective
(wantedness, happiness)
 - General and partner-specific
- Pregnancy
- Contraceptive use
- Partner characteristics

Weekly Journal Progress

- Mode (N=992)
 - Computer 92%
 - Phone 8%
 - 56% of computer Rs did ≥ 1 by phone
- Reminder mode (N=992)
 - Text 27%
 - Email 38%
 - Both 32%
 - Missing 3%
- Number of days between completed surveys (N=36,042)
 - ≤ 9 days 75.0%
 - 10-11 days 11.3%
 - 12-19 days 9.1%
 - ≥ 20 days 4.7%
- 60% of Rs completed a survey in past 30 days (N=992)

Instability and Change (N=945)

- 56% had at least one partner switch
- 19% forgot to use birth control at least once
- 22% changed pregnancy status (not, probably, definitely)
 - Range: 1-10 changes
 - Average = 2.40 changes
- 15% had a partner threaten/push/hit in at least one week
- 8% had a live birth

Standard Measures of Pregnancy “Intention” (Wantedness)

- “Just before you became pregnant the (first, second, third, etc.) time, did you want to become pregnant when you did?”
 - Yes = **intended** (65%)
- If ‘no’, probe: “Did you want a(nother) baby but not at that time, or did you want (none/no more) at all?”
 - Want another baby = **mistimed** (25%)
 - No more babies = **unwanted** (10%)

(mistimed + unwanted = **unintended**)

Measurement Issues

- Feelings about pregnancy/childbearing are complex
 - Ambivalence
 - Relationship-specific
 - Temporal dimension
- Retrospective reporting adds additional complexity
 - *Ex post* rationalization
 - Limits dynamic measurement

New Measurement of Childbearing Desires

Intro: You know, getting pregnant and having a baby is a big event, one that has a lot of consequences. Most people your age have some positive and some negative feelings about getting pregnant and having a child. For this reason we are going to ask you first how much you want to get pregnant, using a scale from 0 to 5. Then we are going to ask you how much you want to avoid getting pregnant, using a scale from 0 to 5.

- First, how much do you want to get pregnant in the next month?
- And next, how much do you want to avoid getting pregnant during the next month?
- Measured weekly
- Partner-specific version
- Perception of partner's desire

General Pregnancy Desires among all Respondents
(n=44,563 weekly journals)

Desire to Avoid Pregnancy

		None (0)	Weak (1-2)	Medium (3-4)	Strong (5)	Total
Desire to become pregnant	None (0)	274	37	471	40,501	92.6%
	Weak (1-2)	12	134	771	182	2.5%
	Medium (3-4)	94	483	808	62	3.2%
	Strong (5)	448	161	63	62	1.6%
	Total	1.8%	1.8%	4.7%	91.6%	

Indifferent = 1.0%

Antinatal = 94.1%

Pronatal = 2.7%

Ambivalent = 2.2%

$r = -.79$

Partner-Specific Pregnancy Desires among all Respondents with Partners
(n=27,241 weekly journals)

		Desire to Avoid Pregnancy				Total
		None (0)	Weak (1-2)	Medium (3-4)	Strong (5)	
Desire to become pregnant	None (0)	129	30	232	23,761	88.7%
	Weak (1-2)	13	119	808	171	4.1%
	Medium (3-4)	108	479	718	43	4.9%
	Strong (5)	452	94	36	48	2.3%
	Total	2.6%	2.7%	6.6%	88.2%	

Indifferent = 1.1%

Antinatal = 91.7%

Pronatal = 4.2%

Ambivalent = 3.1%

$r = -.84$

Partner-Specific Pregnancy Desires among all Pregnant
(and Partnered) Respondents
(n=110 pregnancies)

		Desire to Avoid Pregnancy				Total
		None (0)	Weak (1-2)	Medium (3-4)	Strong (5)	
Desire to become pregnant	None (0)	1	1	2	57	55.5%
	Weak (1-2)	1	2	6	1	9.1%
	Medium (3-4)	2	15	7	0	21.8%
	Strong (5)	14	0	1	0	13.6%
	Total	16.4%	16.4%	14.5%	52.7%	

Indifferent = 4.5%

Pronatal = 28.2%

Ambivalent = 7.3%

Antinatal = 60.0%

$r = -.90$

Retrospective vs. Prospective Partner-Specific
Pregnancy Desires of Pregnant Respondents
(n=100 pregnancies)

		Retrospective Pregnancy Desire (similar to NSFG measure)			Total
		Unwanted	Mistimed	Intended	
Prospective Pregnancy Desire	Antinatal	24 39%	33 52%	5 8%	62 (100%)
	Ambivalent	1 17%	4 67%	1 17%	6 (100%)
	Indifferent	1 33%	2 67%	0	3 (100%)
	Pronatal	2 7%	14 48%	13 45%	29 (100%)
		28	53	19	

Logistic Regression Estimates of Effects of Desires for Pregnancy on Hazard of Pregnancy

Sociodemographic Characteristics		Sociodemographic Characteristics (cont'd)	
Age			
19 years old	-.02 (.23)	Mother's education less than high school graduate	.29 (.36)
20 years old	-1.98 (1.03)	Parent's income	
African American	.04 (.29)	\$14,999 or less	.11 (.31)
School enrollment/type		Don't know/Refused	.05 (.30)
Not enrolled and did not graduate	-.73 (.55)	Early Pregnancy-Related Experiences	
Not enrolled and did graduate	.78 * (.37)	Age at first sex 16 years or less	.38 (.29)
Enrolled in high school	.48 (.43)	Number of sexual partners 2 or more	.70 * (.33)
Enrolled in 2 year college/vocational/technical/otr	.08 (.37)	Ever had sex without birth control	.17 (.28)
Receiving public assistance	.53 + (.28)	Number of prior pregnancies	
Religious importance	.07 (.13)	1 prior pregnancy	.63 * (.29)
Living with partner	.62 * (.24)	2 or more prior pregnancies	.72 * (.36)
Biological mother less than 20 years old at first birth	.34 (.23)	Baseline Hazard Controls	
Family structure		Journal number	-.02 (.02)
One biological parent only	.30 (.26)	Journal number squared	.00 (.00)
Other	.37 (.36)	Constant	-8.04 .63
		χ^2	185.93
		Log-likelihood	-497.10

Notes: Coefficients are effects on log-odds. Standard errors in parentheses.

All measures of desires for pregnancy are time-varying and measured three weeks prior to the current week.

+ p < .10; * p < .05; ** p < .01; *** p < .001 (two-tailed tests)

Logistic Regression Estimates of Effects of Desires for Pregnancy on Hazard of Pregnancy

Desires

Desire to Become Pregnant (1=weak, 6=strong)	.42 *** -(.06)		.17 (.11)	.05 (.11)
Desire to Avoid Pregnancy (1=weak, 6=strong)		-0.43*** (.06)	-.29 ** (.11)	-.15 (.11)
Very Antinatal (1=yes, 0=no)				-1.15 ** (.38)
χ^2	185.93	189.33	191.90	200.12

Notes: Coefficients are effects on log-odds. Standard errors in parentheses.

All measures of desires for pregnancy are time-varying and measured three weeks prior.

+ p < .10; * p < .05; ** p < .01; *** p < .001 (two-tailed tests)

Logistic Regression Estimates of Effects of Partner-Specific Desires for Pregnancy on Hazard of Pregnancy

Dichotomized Pregnancy Desires:

Ambivalent	1.51*** (.30)				.47 (.33)				2.10*** (.32)
Indifferent		1.37** (.42)				.38 (.43)			2.10*** (.44)
Pronatal			1.38*** (.28)				.32 (.30)		1.95*** (.30)
Nearly Antinatal				.11 (.41)				-1.18** (.42)	.84* (.42)
Very Antinatal					-1.60*** (.25)	-1.68*** (.24)	-1.62*** (.26)	-2.03*** (.24)	
χ^2					197.80	196.54	196.90	205.92	206.15

Notes: Coefficients are effects on log-odds. Standard errors in parentheses.

All measures of desires for pregnancy are time-varying and measured three weeks prior.

+ p < .10; * p < .05; ** p < .01; *** p < .001 (two-tailed tests)

Summary

- Positive *and* negative desires
- Partner-specific context
- Time-varying
- Prospective desires vs. retrospective wantedness
- Predictive power: desire to *avoid* pregnancy
- Very antinatal category

Conclusions

- Desire to *avoid* pregnancy
- How much ambivalence and indifference is there?
- Temporal variance
- Teen pregnancy = unwanted (mistimed) pregnancy?

Next Steps

- TDIB model (work w/ Rennie Miller)
 - Measures of traits available in the data?
 - Relevant behaviors: sex and contraception
- The role of perceived partner desires
- The role of relationship characteristics in predicting desires
- Differences between desired and undesired pregnancies

Extra Slides

Study Protocol

- Advance letters mailed to Rs (\$5)
- Field IWERs contact Rs and conduct a 60-minute baseline interview (\$30)
- Upon completion, field IWERs enroll Rs in journal
- Field IWERs work with Rs to determine mode
 - Computer
 - Phone
- R may, in any week, change mode (e.g., R with computer may do journal by phone)

Study Protocol (cont.)

- First weekly journal completed immediately after baseline while field IWERs present (\$5)
 - Contact information
 - Method of automated reminder (email, text, both)
 - Cash card activation
 - Relationship and pregnancy status

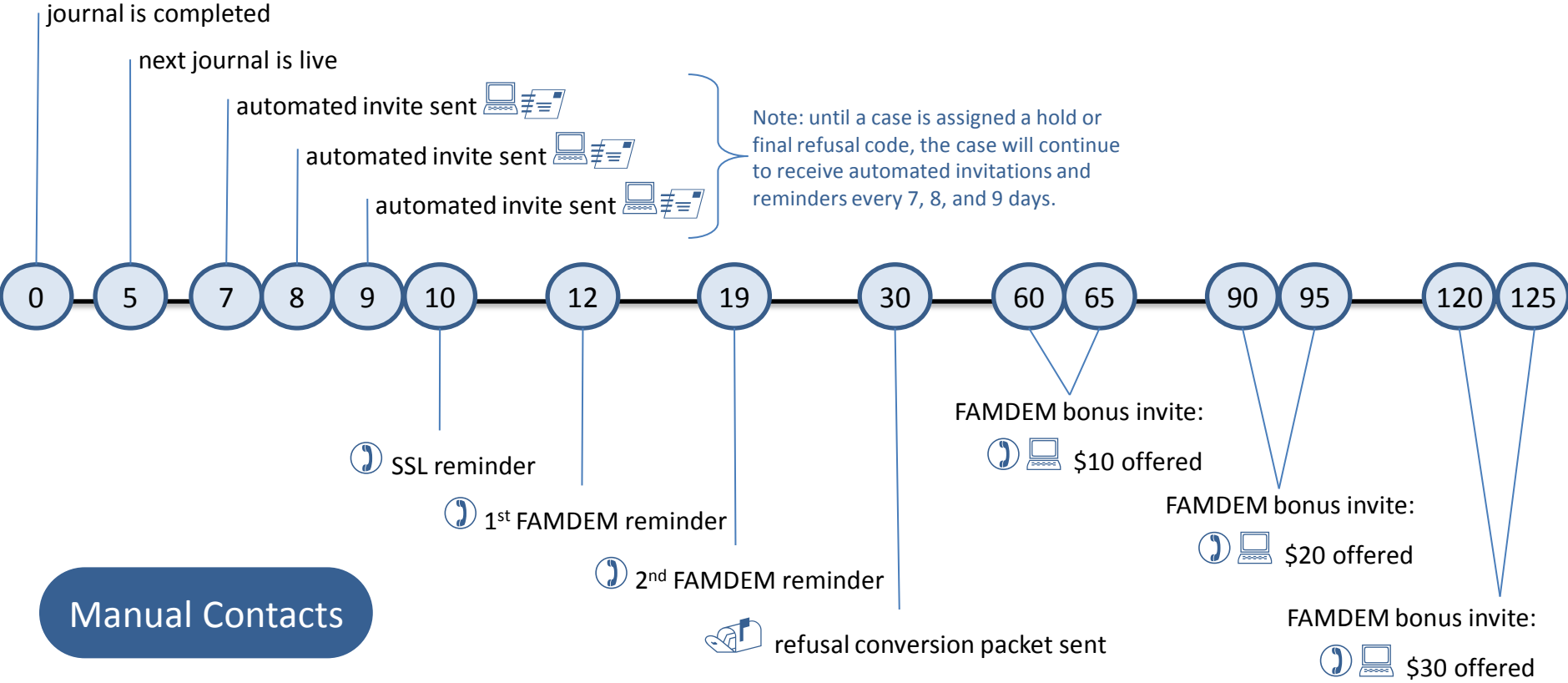
Study Protocol (cont.)

- Weekly journal 2+ (2-4 \$5 each, 5-130 \$1 each, \$5 bonus every 5 on time)
 - Rotating questions (attitudes, preferences, beliefs)
 - Pregnancy status and intentions
 - Contraceptive use
 - Partner and relationship information
 - Update contact information (monthly)

Reminder Schedule

Automated Contacts

📞 phone call 📧 email 📄 text message 📦 gift packet



Manual Contacts

Reward gift packets are sent out quarterly regardless of participation performance.

