

Abstract

Long-acting reversible contraceptive users' knowledge, conversations with healthcare providers, and dual condom use

Tsung-Chieh (Jane) Fu, PhD, ScM¹, Debby Herbenick, PhD, MPH², Brian Dodge, PhD², Jonathon Beckmeyer, PhD³ and Devon Hensel, PhD⁴

(1)Indiana University-Bloomington, Bloomington, IN, (2)Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington, Bloomington, IN, (3)Center for Sexual Health Promotion, Bloomington, IN, (4)Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN

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Background/Aims. In recent years, long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) uptake has increased among American women. LARC methods are efficacious for pregnancy prevention but offers no protection against sexually transmitted infections (STI). Our study describes LARC users' knowledge, patient-provider interactions, and dual condom use.

Methods. The 2018 National Survey of Sexual Health and Behavior is a national probability survey of Americans aged 14-49 administered online. We included women who reported use of intrauterine devices (IUD) or contraceptive implants in the past 6 months. Logistic regression was used to identify factors associated with condom use.

Results. Of 1,451 women, 11.2% (n=163) used IUD, and 3.1% (n=45) used implants. Approximately 19-26% reported inaccurately on the longevity of their LARC, and 30% of IUD users reported that they will rely on their healthcare provider to know the timing of their IUD removal. Though nearly 94% reported their provider indicated that LARC methods do not protect against STI, fewer mentioned condom use. Those who were younger, Black, and single were more likely to engage in dual condom use.

Conclusion. Our findings demonstrated that though most women possessed accurate knowledge regarding their LARC method's period of effectiveness and its inability to prevent STI, there is a reliance on healthcare providers to provide information. Fewer women recalled conversations about condom use with their providers. Our findings have implications on engaging certain priority groups in LARC messaging as well as how providers educate their patients on LARC use, dual condom use, and STI prevention.

Public health or related research

