



The Influence of Perceived Support and Goal Identification on Contraceptive-use in Adolescence

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Background

- Adolescents tend to have higher sexual risk behavior compared to younger and older people (Robertson, 2013)
- Individuals from low socioeconomic status or impoverished backgrounds are at high-risk for sexual risk behavior (Robertson, 2013)
- Youth's perception of social support (i.e., how much they feel supported by others) and goal-directedness (i.e., how much they plan for the future) may impact sexual risk behavior (Jumping-Eagle et al., 2008; Zimmer-Gembeck et al., 2004)
- Not yet examined is how these factors work together to impact adolescents' contraceptive-use

Research Question

Does adolescent's goal-directedness & perceived support impact both concurrent and future contraceptive use?

Methods

Participants

- N = 179 (48% female)
- Minnesota Longitudinal Study of Risk and Adaptation
- First-born children of low-income mothers
- Followed from birth through 32 years

Predictor Measures

Goal Directedness and Social Support

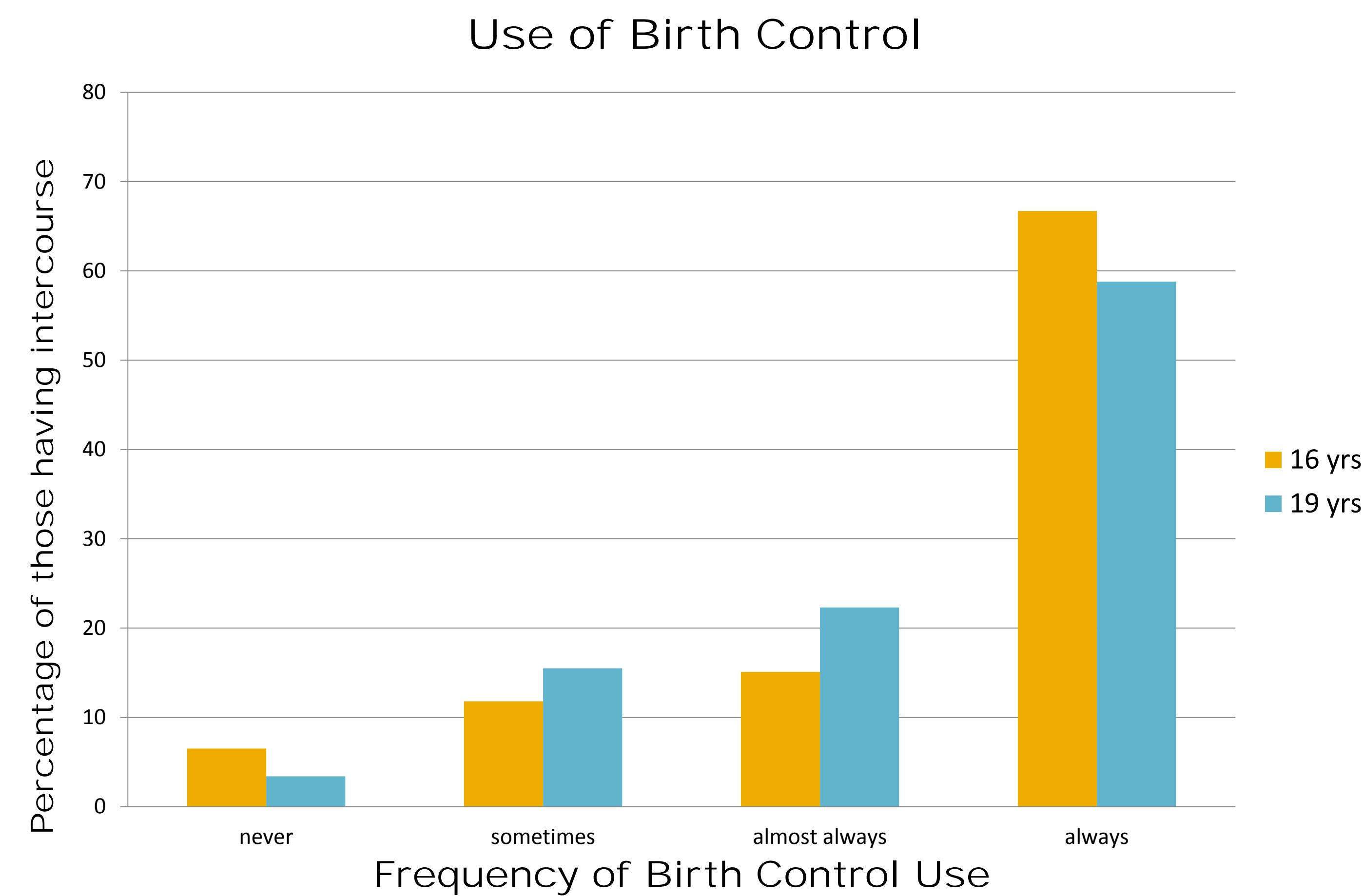
- Adolescent Interview (16 years)
 - Presence of goal(s) (yes/no)
 - Overall presence of goal
 - By type of Goal (occupational, educational, relationship oriented)
 - Support for goals (presence, from whom)

Outcome Measures

Sexual Health Practice

- Adolescent Health Survey (16 & 19 years)
 - Indication of contraceptive-use (yes/no) and frequency of use (always—never)
 - Pregnancy/ impregnation
- Relationships Interview (16 years)
 - Attitudes towards sexual health practice
 - Attitudes towards sexual intercourse
 - Current Relationship Status

Results



| Variable | No | Yes |
|------------------------------------|----|-----|
| 1. Identification of goal (16 yrs) | 2 | 167 |
| 2. Support for goals (16 yrs) | 22 | 62 |
| 3. Ever Had Intercourse (16 yrs) | 74 | 94 |
| 4. Ever Had Intercourse (19 yrs) | 23 | 148 |
| 5. Occupational Goal | 79 | 84 |
| 6. Educational Goal | 78 | 70 |

Preliminary results show:

- Almost all participants identified a goal
- More participants reported having had intercourse at both 16 and 19 years
- Of those who reported having intercourse, most reported always using contraceptives at ages 16 and 19

Table 12 Correlations among study variables.

| Variable | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--|------|------|------|-------|-------|---|---|
| 1. Support for goals (16 yrs) | - | | | | | | |
| 2. Educational Goal (16 yrs) | .30* | - | | | | | |
| 3. Occupational Goal (16 yrs) | .02 | .40* | - | | | | |
| 4. Ever Had Intercourse (16 yrs) | -.14 | -.00 | .02 | - | | | |
| 5. Frequency of Birth Control use (16 yrs) | .24 | -.01 | -.04 | - | - | | |
| 6. Ever Had Intercourse (19 yrs) | .15 | -.11 | -.02 | .37** | .28** | - | |
| 7. Frequency of Birth Control use (19 yrs) | .25* | .03 | .18* | -.06 | .19 | - | - |

Note: * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Conclusions

- Preliminary results show a relationship between frequency of birth control use and identification of support for goals at 19 years
- This may suggest that social support plays a role in more frequent contraceptive use
- There was also a relationship seen between having a higher educational goal and support for goals which may have an interesting implication for subsequent contraceptive use
- Identification of an occupational goal appears to have an influence on frequency of birth control use at 19 years
- Moving forward, analyses will be done to include regressions of the data in order to explore these relationships further

References

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