

UNINTENDED AND UNWANTED PREGNANCY AND THEIR OUTCOMES AMONGST REPRODUCTIVE AGE WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA: A NATIONAL RANDOM CATI STUDY

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Introduction:

Prevention of unintended, unwanted pregnancy and induced abortion remains a challenge in Australia. We aimed to estimate the population prevalence of unintended and unwanted pregnancies, their outcomes and associated factors in a representative Australian female population of reproductive age

Methods:

We conducted a random population computer-assisted telephone interview from Dec 2014 -April 2015 among 2,013 Australian women aged 18-45 years

Main outcome measures: Unintended (including mistimed and unwanted) pregnancies and pregnancy outcomes - miscarriage, birth and induced abortion. We used descriptive statistics and multivariate logistic regression to assess factors associated with an unintended pregnancy.

Results:

Amongst 1390 (69.0%) ever pregnant respondents, 26% (n=362/1390) reported an unintended pregnancy ≤ 10 years. 56.6% (205/362) were not using contraception around the time of unintended pregnancy – of those who were, the majority (63.8%, 95/149) reported OCPs and 26.9% (40/149) condoms.

Of 362 unintended pregnancies, 246/362 (68%), were unplanned but wanted, 94/362 (26%) were unwanted and 22/362 (6%) were ambivalent.

Among 362 women with unintended pregnancy, 53.6% (194/362) gave birth, 30.4% (110/362) had abortions and 15.2% (55/362) miscarried.

Among 94 with unwanted pregnancies, 83% (78/94) had abortions, 9.6% (9/94) miscarried and 7.5% (7/94) gave birth.

Overall, 19% (261/1390) of ever-pregnant women reported abortions.

In an adjusted model, no significant socio-economic factors, but living with a partner (adjOR 2.1), having been pregnant ≥ 4 times (adjOR 3.5) or having no children (adjOR 4.23) were associated with unintended pregnancy.

Conclusion:

Most women who conceived an unintended pregnancy were either not using contraception or using condoms and OCPs. The promotion of less user dependent methods may prevent these. Clinicians and services should target women at highest risk including women who have had ≥ 3 pregnancies. The immediate postpartum period and immediate post-abortion period are opportune times to intervene to prevent future unintended pregnancy.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: *See example below:*

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