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Barriers to a regular condom use in Ukraine

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Relevance

- Ukraine is home to 250,000 people living with HIV, with an adult prevalence rate of about 0.9%. (UNAIDS)
- In the structure of the routes of HIV infection, the majority of cases fall on the sexual route (80.0%). In comparison with 6 months of 2023 (73.1%), the tendency towards growth of the sexual route of transmission remains. (PHC MOH).
- In Ukraine, sexual contact has become the predominant mode of HIV transmission, overtaking injection drug use. This makes the promotion of condom use and other barrier methods crucial for reducing new infections.
- The war in Ukraine has led to disruptions in health care, including access to HIV treatment and prevention. prevention programs play a critical role in providing services, including condom distribution, in conflict zones.
- Awareness campaigns must emphasize safer sexual practices, particularly in regions where the population may not fully recognize the risks of unprotected sex. Promoting the use of male and female condoms can help decrease the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



Geography: the entire Ukraine, except for the temporarily occupied territories



A total of **1642** respondents aged 16 to 55 were interviewed.

The structure of the sample corresponds to the structure of the general population by age, gender, region and type of settlement. The sampling error does not exceed 2,4%



The survey included respondents who had **at least one sexual partner in the last 12 months.**

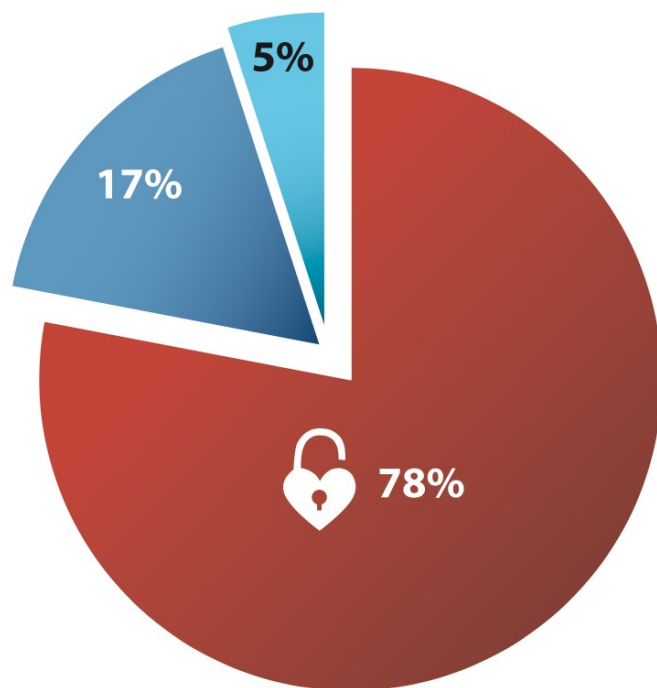


Research method: online survey.



The survey was conducted **in December 2023.**

Research results



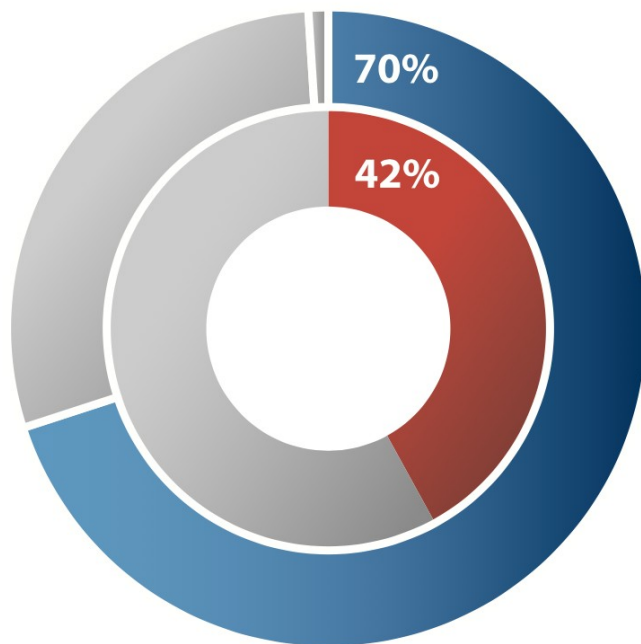
The majority of respondents (**78%**) have had one regular sexual partner in the past 12 months; **5%** – had sex only with casual partners

- With regular partners only
- Permanent/regular partner, but occasional sexual relations with others
- Only occasional partners



Women, rural residents and respondents with low income are more likely to be in relations with one partner

Research results



42% of respondents used condoms with regular partners during latest sexual intercourse within the recent 12 months, **70%** of respondents used condoms with occasional partners

Used condoms during the latest sexual intercourse...

- ... with regular partners
- ... with casual partners

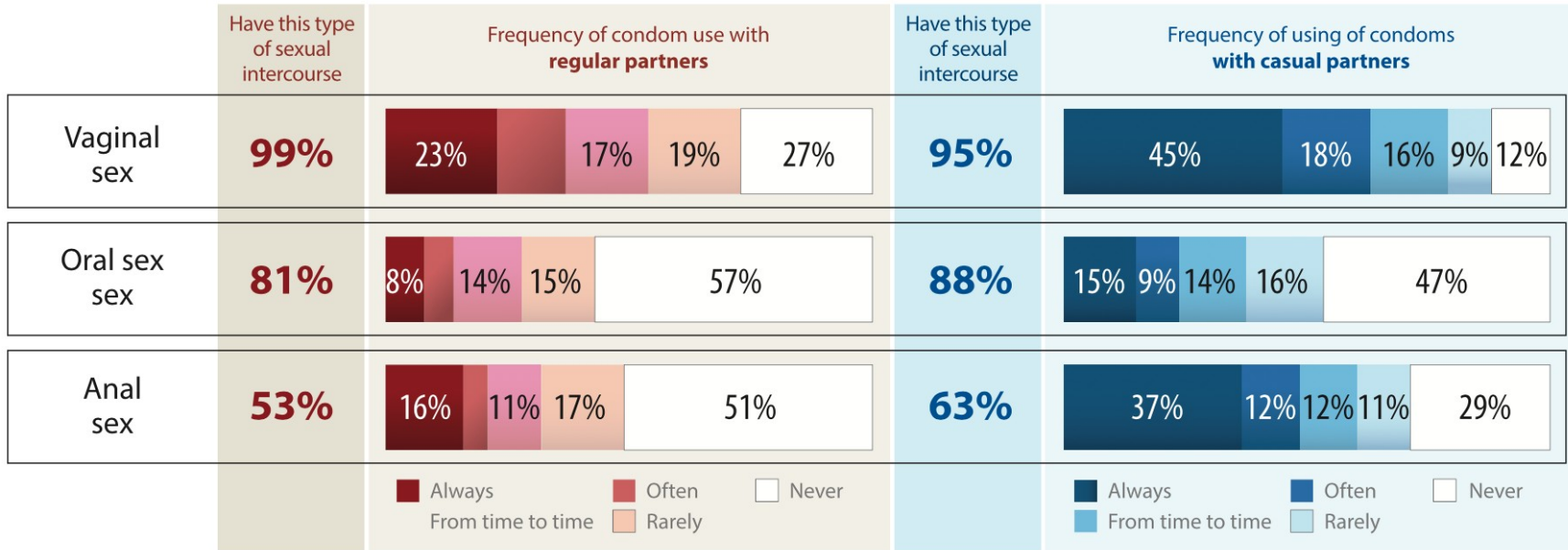


The older the respondents are, the less often they use condoms with regular partners

Research results

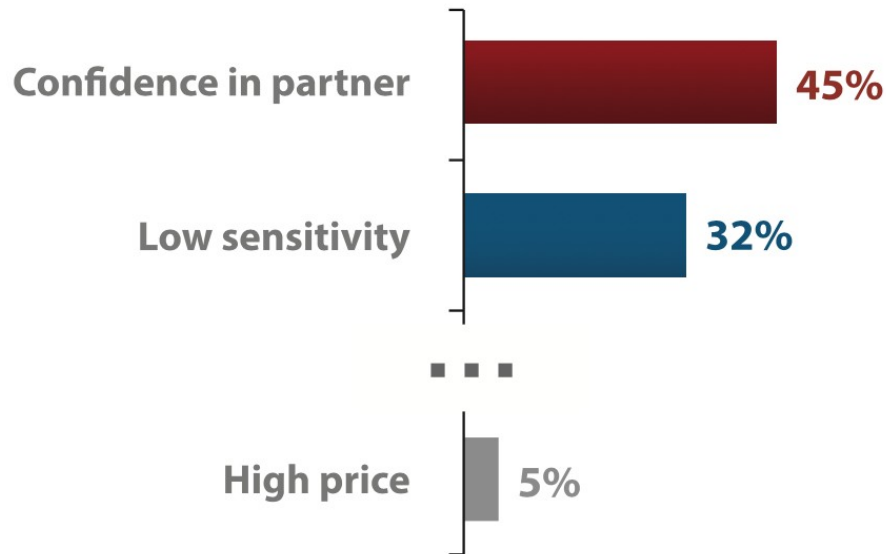
Condoms are most often used during vaginal sex intercourse, the least often during oral sex intercourse.

For sexual intercourses with occasional partners, the frequency of condom use is about **twice as higher than** with regular partners.



Research results

Reasons for not using condoms:



The main reason for not using condoms is **confidence in the partner.**

Only 5% of sexually active Ukrainians aged 16–55 respond that they do not use condoms because they are too expensive

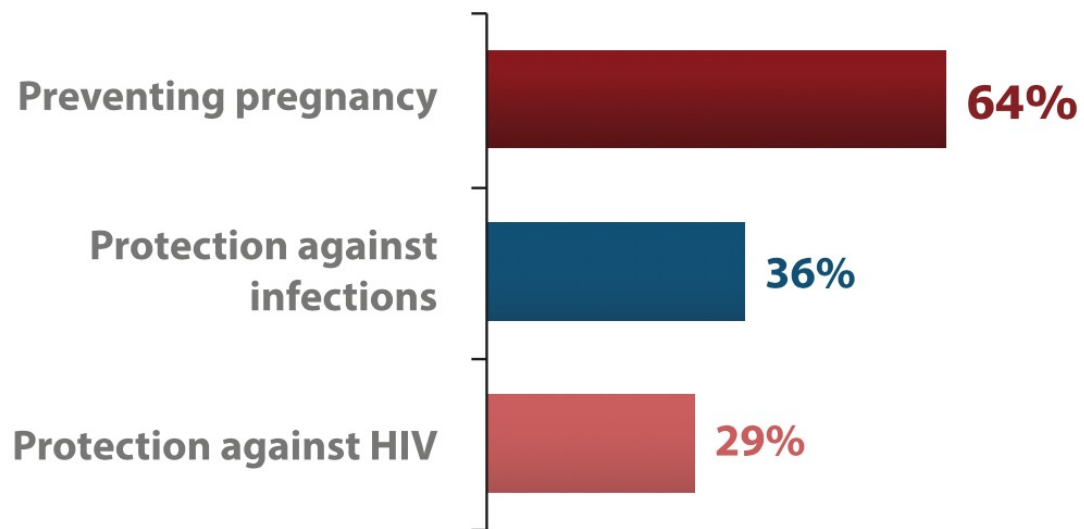


Men and young people aged 16–25 years are more likely than women and other age groups to be involved in spontaneous sexual intercourse

Young people under the age of 25 are more shy – they often feel uncomfortable buying condoms or are embarrassed to suggest that their partner use a condom

Research results

Reasons for using condoms



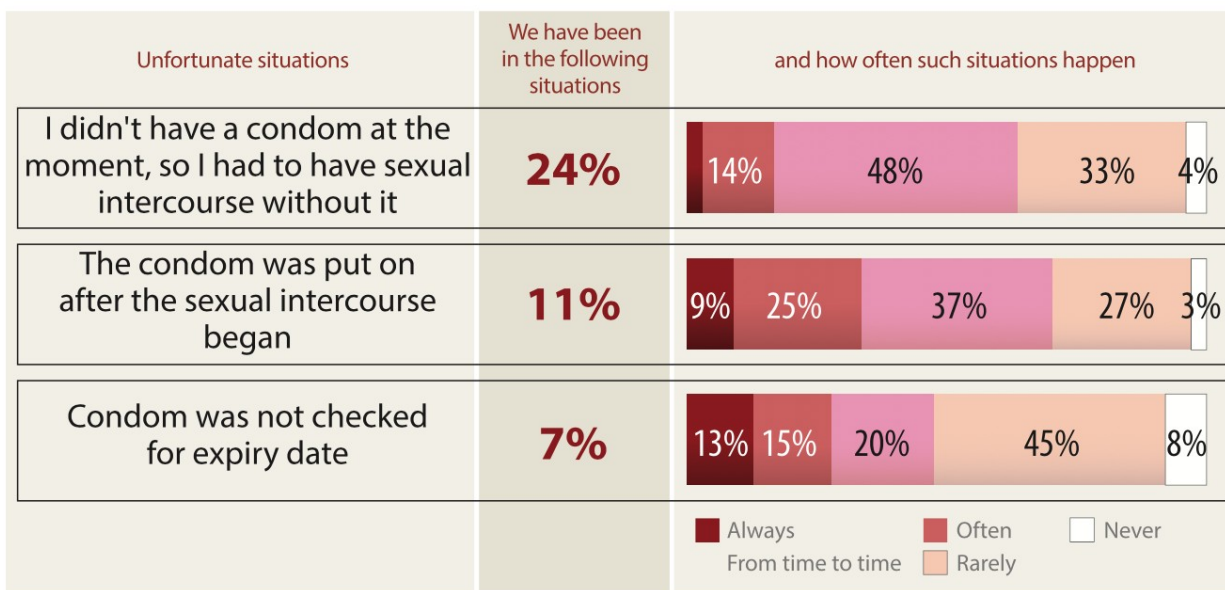
The main reason for using condoms is to **prevent pregnancy**.



Young people under 25 and those with more than one partner are more likely to use condoms to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV

Research results

The most **common** are the situations when partners just do not have a condom at the moment, or when a condom is put on after sexual intercourse already started.



55% of respondents experienced at least one unfortunate situation

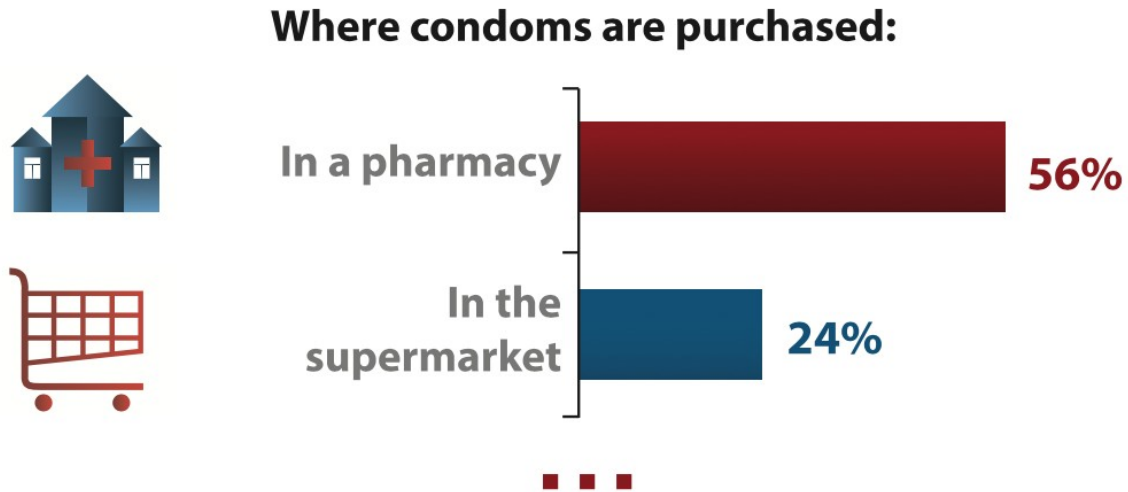


Young people aged 16–25 prefer pharmacies – 64% of respondents in this age group most often buy condoms there

Research results

Men category predominate women category of condom buyers – **10%** and **50%** of men said that they were the ones who had condoms with them.

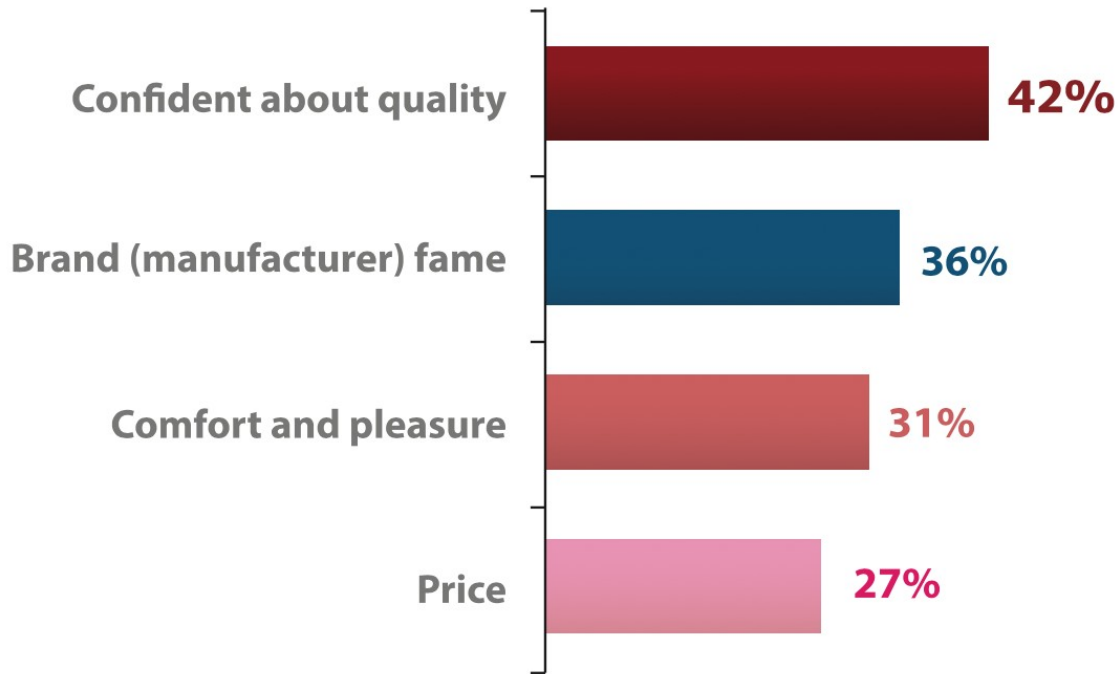
Pharmacy – is the most popular place to buy condoms.



Young people aged 16–25 are more focused on pharmacies – 64% of respondents in this age group most often buy condoms there

Research results

Factors for choosing condoms:



Price is listed the last among the choosing factors



The importance of trust in quality decreases with age: 53% of young people under the age of 25 said it was a **key factor** in choosing condoms, while only 38% of those aged 36–55 said it was important

The price factor, on the contrary, becomes more important within older age category

KEY CONCLUSIONS

- Condoms are most often used during vaginal sex - a quarter (23%) of respondents always used condoms with their regular partner and almost half (45%) used it with occasional partner. Condoms are used the least during oral sex - 8% of respondents always used condoms during sex with their regular partner, 15% used it with occasional partner.
- Condoms are primarily seen as a mean of pregnancy prevention, and it was mentioned as the main reason for condom use by two-thirds (64%) of respondents. Only one third (36%) use condoms to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections other than HIV, while 29% use them to protect themselves from HIV.
- The main reasons for not using condoms are, first of all, confidence in the partner, as it was mentioned by - 45% of respondents who always used condoms for any type of sexual contact; one third believed that condoms would make sex less pleasant, and reduce sensitivity; Only 5% of sexually active Ukrainians aged 16-55 reported that they did not use condoms because they were too expensive.
- Condom use behaviour among young people aged 16-25 differs from other age groups. Young people, in comparison to the other age groups, have more occasional partners and are more likely to be engaged in spontaneous sex, with a higher proportion of those who said that they did not use condoms because they did not have them at the moment or sometimes they had unprotected sex when drunk. At the same time, young people are more likely to use condoms during all types of sexual intercourse with regular partners.



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USE IT.**

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AHF UKRAINE

Thank you for your attention!