

Reviewer's report

Title: Ambivalence towards a prospective pregnancy among contraceptive users

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Reviewer: Laura D Lindberg

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MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISION

This study of pregnancy intentions among women in Honduras provides some interesting analyses of 1) changes in pregnancy intentions over time and 2) discordance between different measures/aspects of pregnancy intention. However, I challenge the framing of the project and its measures as "ambivalence." Ambivalence is when a woman reports a 5 on scale of 0-10...she does not have a strong opinion in either direction. Such ambivalence around pregnancy intentions can be measured in the National Survey of Family Growth, in which women were asked on a scale of 0-10 if they were trying to get pregnant, if they wanted to get pregnant and how happy they were when they found out they were pregnant.

Discordance is a different concept. In discordance, a respondent offers responses to two measures which the reviewer identifies as discordant. In this analysis, discordant response may be when a woman reports

However, the authors identify women as ambivalent if they were using effective contraception but responded that getting pregnant in the next few weeks would not be a problem. It is interesting to identify and better understand these women, but I don't think it is correct to label them as ambivalent. Ambivalence suggests weakly held beliefs. In these measures, we know of nothing of the strength of their pregnancy desires or intentions. Indeed, pregnancy intention is only measured indirectly through contraceptive use; inconsistent contraceptive use might itself be an indicator of weak pregnancy intention. As the authors recognize later in the paper, the measure of whether a pregnancy would be a problem may indicate fatalism or other spiritual beliefs around the value of a pregnancy. Yet this is in not in conflict with not wanting to get pregnant. Women seem to not intend to get pregnant, but report that they would not consider it a problem if they did. This is not ambivalence in the sense of weak emotions. Instead, it appears to reflect two different sets of factors--one about intentions and the other about the value of children/pregnancy more generally. Stating there would not be a problem is not an indicator of desire. Stating that "I don't want to get pregnant right now, but if I did I could manage" is not ambivalent. The authors need to better characterize and label what they are measuring. I suggest looking at the article by Thompson and Nora Cate Schaeffer as a starting point.

Minor Essential Review

The justification for the need to examine pregnancy intentions over time is not fully developed. Please expand.

The authors switch between the terms pregnancy ambivalence and unmet need. This needs better clarification. Which is the paper about?

Discretionary Reviews

Reference 5 is a lit review---please provide the original citation

Im not sure you need table 2.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests