



CWHS

Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Women account for one quarter of all new HIV/AIDS cases.¹ In 2004, HIV infection was the fifth leading cause of death for women ages 35-44 years and the sixth leading cause of death for women ages 25-34.¹ Considering some of the issues with condom use (e.g., partner negotiation, domestic violence), having a method under a woman's direct control could enhance protection against sexually transmitted diseases/HIV acquisition. Microbicides are pharmaceutical products in development that could reduce women's risk for acquiring HIV and STDs when applied intravaginally.² Preliminary results from various microbicide phase I trials yielded disappointing results with respect to reducing women's risk of acquiring HIV and consequently, no microbicides have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in the United States. Knowledge of women's acceptance of and readiness to use microbicides once available could help encourage the development of microbicides.³

In 2007, California Women's Health Survey respondents were given a brief explanation about microbicides and then asked: "Once they become available, would you be interested in using a microbicide compound?" Women were asked about their condom use and condom use based on partner reaction. Analyses were limited to sexually active women ages 18-49; results were weighted in these analyses by age and race/ethnicity to reflect the 2000 California adult female population and compared by chi-square statistics.

• Demographics

- A higher proportion of Hispanic women reported interest in using microbicides (47.0 percent) compared with African American/Black (38.2 percent), Asian/Other (26.3 percent), and White (25.2 percent) women (see Figure 1).⁴
- A higher proportion of women ages 18-29 reported interest in using microbicides (43.8 percent) compared with women ages 30-39 (33.1 percent) and women ages 40-49 (25.3 percent; see Figure 2).⁴
- A higher proportion of women with an income at or below 200 percent the federal poverty level (FPL) reported interest in using microbicides (46.5 percent) compared with women with an income above this level (25.4 percent).⁴

• Sexual Behavior

- A higher proportion of women who used condoms more than half the time reported interest in using microbicides (63.7 percent) compared with those using condoms half the time (60.4 percent), women using condoms less than half the time (44.1 percent), women always using condoms (42.8 percent), and women who never used condoms in the past 12 months (24.0 percent; see Figure 3).⁴

California Women's Interest in Using Microbicides, 2007

California Department of Public Health
Department of Health Care Services
Office of Women's Health

Public Health Message:

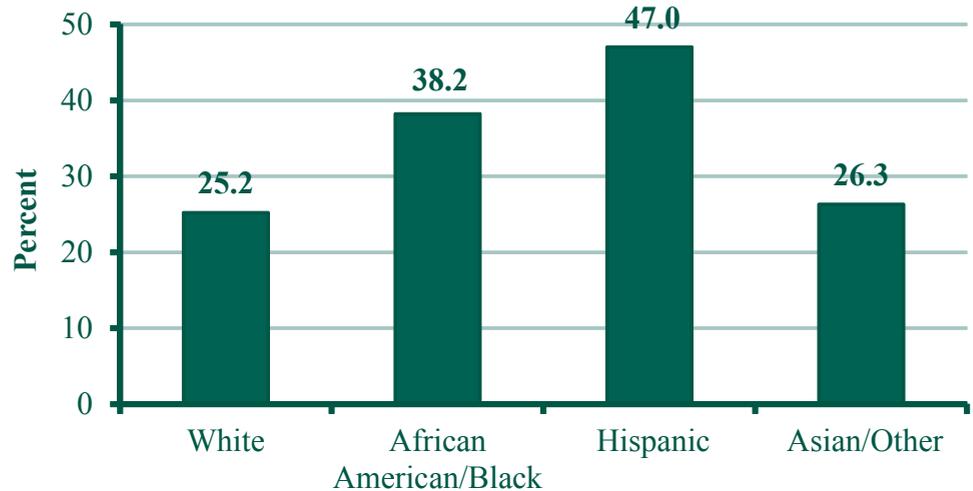
There is a wide range of women interested in microbicides. These women could benefit from the availability of microbicides.

California Women's Interest in Using Microbicides, 2007

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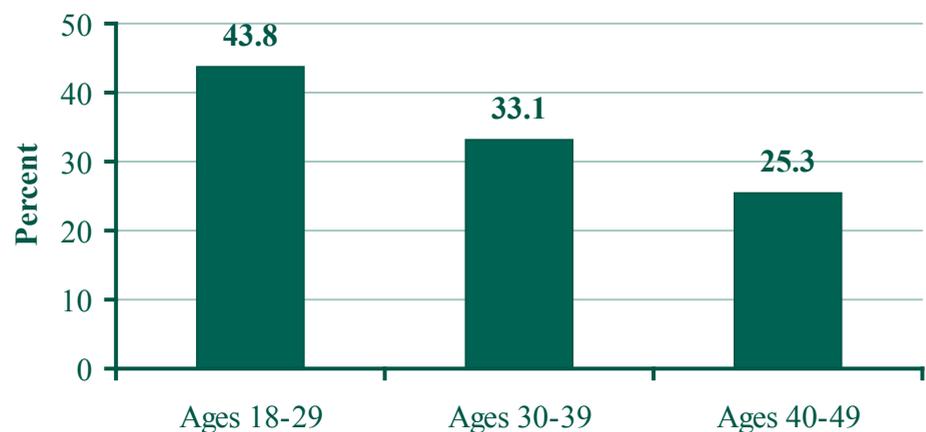
- A higher proportion of women who reported not using condoms at last sex because of partner reaction reported interest in using microbicides (65.6 percent) than women who did not attribute lack of condom use to partner reaction (29.7 percent; see Figure 4).⁴
- A higher proportion of women who reported having more than one male partner in the past 12 months reported interest in using microbicides (67.3 percent) than women who reported having only one male partner (30.9 percent).⁴

Figure 1 Intention to Use Microbicides by Race/Ethnicity, 2007



Source: California Women's Health Survey, 2007

Figure 2 Intentions to Use Microbicides by Age Group, 2007



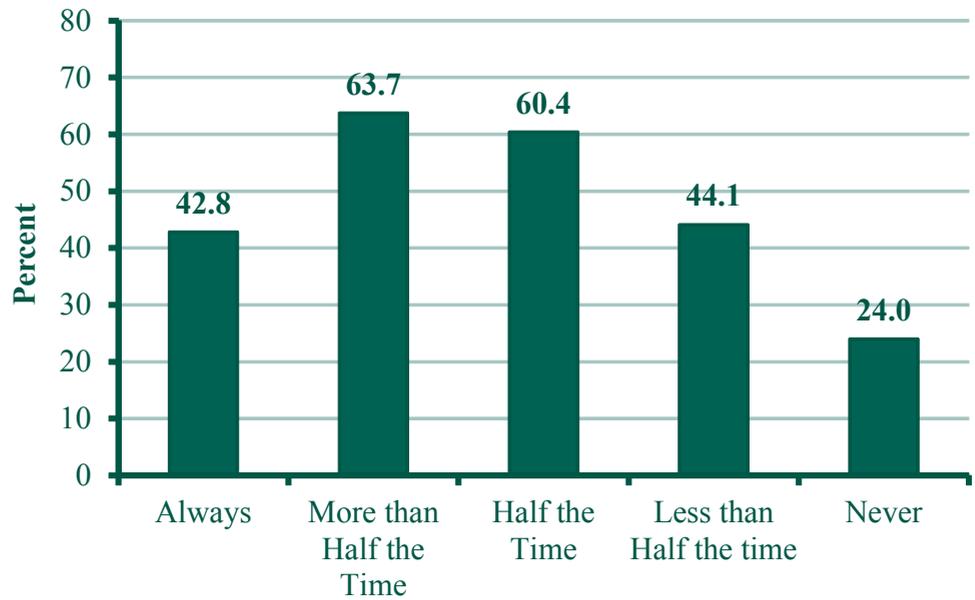
Source: California Women's Health Survey, 2007

*California Women's
Interest in Using
Microbicides, 2007*

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Figure 3

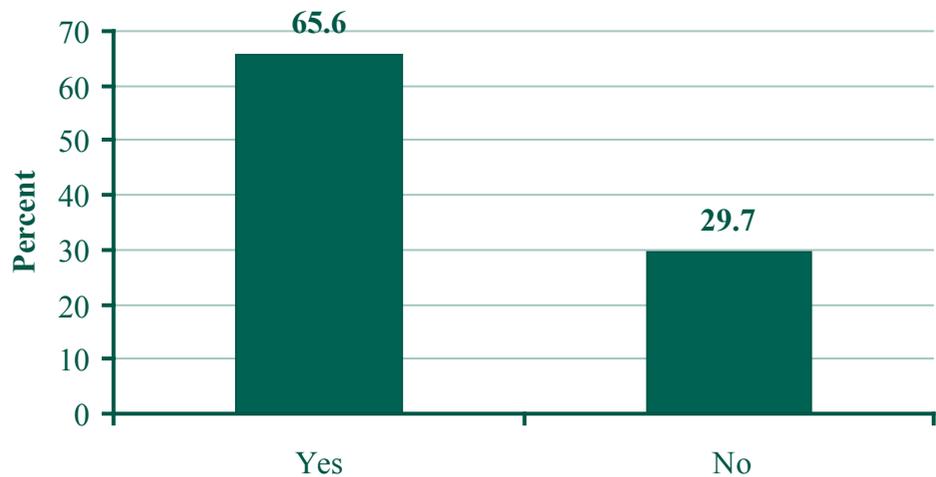
**Intentions to Use Microbicides by Condom Use,
2007**



Source: California Women's Health Survey, 2007

Figure 4

**Intentions to Use Microbicides by Not Using
Condoms Because of Partner Reaction, 2007**



Source: California Women's Health Survey, 2007

*California Women's
Interest in Using
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- 1 Centers for Disease Prevention. Fact Sheet – HIV/AIDS among women. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/women/resources/factsheets/women.htm>. Published August 2008. Accessed August 2008.
- 2 Skoler-Karpoff S, Ramjee G, Ahmed K, Altini L, Plagianos MG, Friedland B, Govender S, De Kock A, Cassim N, Palanee T, Dozier G, Maguire R, Lahteenmaki P. Efficacy of Carraguard for prevention of HIV infection in women in South Africa: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet*. 2008;372(9654):1977-87.
- 3 Family Health International. Will vaginal microbicides be acceptable? Qualitative research explores opinions and preferences of women and men. *Network*. 2002;22 (2). http://www.fhi.org/en/RH/Pubs/Network/v22_2/NWvol22-2vagmiccides.htm. Published 2002. Accessed December 2008.
- 4 $p < .0001$

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