The Morning After: A Cross Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Unplanned Pregnancy*

Results of Online Survey

As part of the Cross Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Unplanned Pregnancy an online survey was run from 25th September to 2nd November 2012. It was promoted on the 2020health website as well as tweeted by 2020health, MPs who were involved in the inquiry, Mumsnet, other organisations who were interviewed as part of the research process and other interested parties. It consisted of 22 multiple choice questions. 345 people took part in the survey with the largest number of participants falling within the 25-34 age bracket.

Below are the results from this online survey.

![Survey Results Graph](image)

1. Have you been pregnant in the last 5 years?

- Yes: 22%
- No: 78%

*MSD is providing sponsorship to 2020health.org for the cost of conducting research and the associated publication and dissemination of the inquiry report. MSD has not been involved with the content development of this report. Editorial control rests with the report’s authors.
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2. If you have been pregnant was this planned or unplanned?

- Planned: 54.7%
- Unplanned: 45.3%

3. What was the outcome of this pregnancy?

- Birth: 62.4%
- Termination: 28.2%
- Miscarriage: 9.4%
4. The following question relates to unplanned pregnancies; if yours wasn't an unplanned pregnancy, please go directly to Q11.

How did you feel about your unplanned pregnancy?

- Very happy about it: 13%
- Disrupted, but happy nevertheless: 21%
- Neutral (neither happy nor unhappy): 5%
- Disrupted and unhappy: 33%
- It was a major disaster in my life: 28%
5. The next few questions all relate to the circumstances of your unplanned pregnancy.

What kind of contraception was used (if any)?

- Condom: 23%
- Contraceptive pill: 16%
-Withdrawal method: 14%
-Diaphragm (or cap): 5%
-Natural Family Planning: 9%
-None: 28%

Note: The following types of contraception were used by 0% of our participants: being sterilized, the implant, the contraceptive vaginal ring, the contraceptive injection and the contraceptive patch.
6. If no contraceptive precautions were taken, what were the circumstances?

- It was a spontaneous event with a regular partner: 65%
- It was a spontaneous event with a new partner: 13%
- I usually rely on withdrawal but it didn’t happen: 4%
- I assumed my partner would use a condom but he didn’t: 9%
- I never use contraception: 9%
- I never use contraception: 9%
7. Once you discovered you were pregnant, which of the following did you do first?

- I went to see my GP: 62%
- I went to the Family Planning Clinic: 15%
- I went to one of the non-NHS agencies (e.g., BPAS, Marie Stopes): 18%
- I did nothing for at least three months: 5%
8. In hindsight, how well did the service function?

- "Very smoothly, I was helped along every step of the way": 57.9%
- "The basics were there, but more assistance would have helped": 36.8%
- "I had to fight the system at every stage": 5.3%

9. ...and what about the emotional aspects?

- "It was very supportive, I was helped in every way I needed": 30.8%
- "The physical aspects of care dominated the emotional side": 41.8%
- "There was little or no support for how I felt": 28.2%
10. How do you feel now about the decisions you made?

- I am satisfied that I took the right course of action: 84.6%
- I have mixed feelings about what I did: 15.4%
- I really regret the path I took: 0%
11. A few questions about more general issues.

Have you heard of post-coital contraception (the ‘morning after’ pill)?

- Yes: 98.8%
- No: 2.1%

12. If you have heard of post-coital contraception (the ‘morning after’ pill), have you ever used it?

- Yes: 140
- No: 100
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13. The next few questions relate to the ethical and practical issues of the morning after pill.

Do you agree or disagree with the following, where 1 means completely disagree and 10 completely agree: The morning after pill should be easily available because...
14. Do you agree or disagree with the following, where 1 means completely disagree and 10 completely agree: The morning after pill should be easily available as a useful form of contraception

![Bar chart showing responses to the question. The chart has two categories: Completely agree and Completely disagree. The responses range from 1 to 10. The highest bar is for Completely agree, indicating a majority of respondents agree. The lowest bar is for Completely disagree, indicating a small number of respondents disagree.](image-url)
15. The morning after pill should not be available too easily because it may influence sexual behaviour in a negative way

17. If you answered ‘yes’ to the above question, which of the following statements best describes your experience?
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18. Have you visited a general practice about your contraceptive needs in the last year?

- Yes: 125
- No: 200

19. If ‘yes’, which of the following statements best describes your experience?

- I was offered excellent advice; it worked for me! (49%)
- The service was alright but it didn’t cover everything I needed (35%)
- I didn’t feel that I was offered adequate information or advice (13%)
- Other (3%)
20. What is your view on the sex and relationship education in schools?

- It seems to be really good, and meets my/my children's needs: 2%
- The service is adequate but doesn't cover everything required: 42%
- It isn't effective: 40%
- Other: 16%
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21. Into which of the following age groups do you fall?

- Under 25: 21%
- 25-34: 40%
- 35-44: 26%
- 45-54: 9%
- 55+: 4%

22. Where were you born?

- The UK: 87%
- Europe: 4%
- North America (USA or Canada): 3%
- Africa: 1%
- South America: 1%
- India or Pakistan: 1%
- Other parts of Asia: 2%
- Australia or New Zealand: 1%