

**KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION AND
LIFETIME TELEVISION**

**VITAL SIGNS INDEX No. 2:
Emergency Contraception (Selected Findings)**

Total n= 516 U.S. women age 18 or older
 Margin of error: plus or minus 5 percentage points
 sqrt. of deff = 1.10
 Dates of interviewing: November 8-November 19, 2000
 Conducted by telephone for Kaiser / Lifetime by Princeton Survey Research Associates

Note: Because percentages are rounded they may not total 100%; Percentages are reflective of all U.S. women of noted age.

Q1. Have you ever heard of “morning-after pills”?

Current		Current	11/97
<u>18+</u>		<u>18-44</u>	<u>18-44</u>
72	Total who have heard of morning-after pills	74	62
52	Yes, have heard of morning-after pill	48	43
20	Volunteered as “a way to prevent pregnancy” in Q.8	26	19
28	No	25	38
*	Not sure/Don’t know/ Refused	1	1

Q2. Have you ever heard of “emergency contraceptive pills”?

Current		Current	11/97
<u>18+</u>		<u>18-44</u>	<u>18-44</u>
26	Total who heard of emergency contraceptive pills	27	38
18	Yes	18	37
8	Volunteered as “a way to prevent pregnancy” in Q.8 or a definition of MAPs	9	1
73	No	72	60
1	Not sure/Don’t know/ Refused	1	1

SUMMARY OF Q1 AND Q2:

Awareness of emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs) and morning after pills (MAFs)

Current	Current	11/97	
<u>Current</u>	<u>18-44</u>	<u>11/97</u>	
75	76	66	Have heard of either ECPs and/or MAPs
25	24	34	Haven’t heard of ECPs or MAPs/Don’t know/Refused

Q3. As far as you know, are emergency contraceptive pills, also known as morning after pills, currently available in the United States, or not?

	Current	11/97 ¹	
Current	18-44		
40	43	19	Yes, available – <i>correct answer</i>
17	20	17	No, not available
43	36	30	Not sure/Don't know
*	*	34	Refused

Q4. To the best of your knowledge, does a woman need a prescription to get emergency contraceptive pills, or can she get them without a prescription?

	Current	11/97 ²	
Current	18-44		
30	30	16	Need a prescription
5	7	1	Can get without a prescription
5	6	2	Not sure/Don't know
60	57	81	Not aware that emergency contraceptive pills are available in the U.S.

Q5. From what you know, how soon after sexual intercourse do emergency contraceptive pills, also known as morning-after pills, have to be taken? Do they have to be taken immediately, within 12 hours, within 24 hours, within 72 hours, or within one week?

	Current	11/97	
Current	18-44	18-44	
7	6	3	Immediately
12	12	10	Within 12 hours
21	22	22	Within 24 hours
11	16	8	Within 72 hours – <i>correct answer</i>
2	3	1	Within one week
23	18	23	Not sure/Don't know
25	24	34	Have not heard of either MAPs or ECPs

Of women who have heard of emergency contraceptive pills or morning-after pills ...

	Current	11/97	
Current	18-44	18-44	
10	8	4	Immediately
16	15	15	Within 12 hours
28	29	33	Within 24 hours
14	21	13	Within 72 hours – <i>correct answer</i>
2	4	1	Within one week
30	24	34	Not sure/Don't know

¹ The 1997 question had slightly different wording: "As far as you know, are morning-after pills currently available..."

² The 1997 question had different wording: "Can a woman buy morning-after pills at a drug store, or does she need a prescription from a doctor or other health professional?"

Q6. As you may know, emergency contraceptive pills are a high dose of birth control pills that are taken after unprotected sexual intercourse. If several pills are taken at the same time within 72 hours of sex, they reduce the chance of pregnancy by approximately 75 percent. If you had unprotected sex, or your regular birth control failed, and you wanted to prevent pregnancy, how likely would you be to take emergency contraceptive pills – very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

Current 18+	Current 18-44	11/97 18-44 ³	
47	47	50	Total likely
43	47	46	Total unlikely
34	33	30	Very likely
13	14	20	Somewhat likely
6	7	10	Somewhat unlikely
37	40	36	Very unlikely
6	2	0	(VOL) Doesn't apply to me/Can't get pregnant
4	3	3	Don't know
*	0	1	Refused

Q7. Have you ever taken emergency contraceptive pills?

Current 18+	Current 18-44	11/97 18-44 ⁴	
2	2	1	Yes
97	98	61	No
*	0	38	(VOL) Doesn't apply to me/Can't get pregnant
*	0	*	Not sure/Don't know
0	0	0	Refused

Q8. Now, not thinking about yourself in particular, do you approve or disapprove of the use of emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy?

Of all women 18+ ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Refused</u>
a. If a woman's regular form of birth control fails	61	30	8	1
b. If a woman has unprotected sex	55	37	8	*
c. In cases of rape or incest	81	14	4	1

³ The 1997 question had slightly different wording: "...morning-after pills are a high dose of birth control pills that are taken after unprotected sexual intercourse. If several pills are taken at the same time within 72 hours of sex, they may reduce the chance of pregnancy by approximately 75 percent. From what you know about morning-after pills, if you had unprotected sex and wanted to prevent pregnancy, how likely would you be to take them...?"

⁴ The 1997 question had slightly different wording: "Have you ever taken morning-after pills, or not?"