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Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is caused by a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that weakens the immune system, making the body susceptible to and unable to recover from other diseases.

HIV/AIDS is a pandemic with cases reported from every country. The current estimate of the total number of cases of HIV infection among adults worldwide is approximately 36.1 million, including 1.4 million children. The United Nations Program on AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates that approximately 17.5 million adults and 4.3 million children infected with HIV have died since the beginning of the epidemic (UNAIDS/WHO, 2000).

Within the territory of Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, there are 700,000 estimated cases of HIV infection. This region has one of the fastest growing rates of HIV infection in the world. In Armenia, there were 161 cases of HIV registered between 1988 and September 1, 2001. It is believed that the number of HIV-infected individuals residing in Armenia greatly exceeds the number of officially registered cases. According to the official data, however, it is possible to determine the following trends. The large majority of the HIV-infected population are adult males (75 percent) and transmission occurred primarily through injecting drug use and heterosexual contacts. Children constitute 2 percent of the total number of HIV-infected individuals in Armenia. The majority of the cases have been registered in Yerevan (NCAP, 2001).

By September 1, 2001, 28 HIV-infected individuals had been diagnosed with AIDS. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 18 patients with AIDS have died, including five in 2000 and three in 2001. The number of HIV infection cases reported within the last two and a half years exceed the number of the cases registered during the whole previous period of registration. Half of the AIDS cases and almost half of the death cases have also been registered during the last two and a half years (NCAP, 2001).

The ADHS collected information from women and men on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), such as syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia, which are known to be important predisposing factors for HIV epidemics. This chapter summarizes information on knowledge, perceptions, and behaviors at the national level and within geographic and socioeconomic subgroups of the population.

12.1 KNOWLEDGE OF HIV/AIDS AND METHODS OF HIV PREVENTION

Table 12.1 shows the percentage of women and men who have heard of AIDS by background characteristics. Almost all of the respondents (94 percent of women and 97 percent of men) report that they have heard of HIV/AIDS. At least 9 in 10 women and men of all background characteristics have heard of HIV/AIDS with the exception of women and men with a primary/secondary education, women and men living in Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor, and women in Aragatsotn and Lori.

Table 12.1 Knowledge of HIV/AIDS

Percentage of women and men who have heard of HIV/AIDS and percentage who believe there is a way to avoid getting HIV/AIDS, by background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Women			Men		
	Has heard of HIV/AIDS	Believes there is a way to avoid HIV/AIDS	Number of women	Has heard of HIV/AIDS	Believes there is a way to avoid HIV/AIDS	Number of men
Age						
15-19	89.9	46.2	1,160	92.3	51.1	263
20-24	95.5	64.1	1,007	97.6	73.2	215
25-29	96.0	66.4	769	97.8	74.9	194
30-34	96.0	66.1	763	96.8	75.0	205
35-39	95.3	64.7	962	96.4	78.1	237
40-44	94.1	65.2	947	97.2	79.0	275
45-49	95.9	64.5	822	98.0	81.6	203
50-54	na	na	na	98.8	79.0	126
Marital status						
Never married	92.3	57.0	1,851	95.7	62.7	530
Currently married	95.6	63.5	4,125	97.0	77.9	1,161
Formerly married	92.6	63.9	455	(96.2)	(80.0)	28
Residence						
Urban	96.9	70.1	3,942	98.6	81.2	1,024
Rural	90.5	48.3	2,488	93.7	61.5	695
Region						
Yerevan	97.8	75.5	2,206	99.1	86.4	582
Aragatsotn	89.0	58.5	279	99.3	77.7	78
Ararat	98.6	62.8	642	100.0	69.8	177
Armavir	94.1	48.9	553	97.9	63.4	172
Gegharkunik	87.3	38.2	484	88.0	43.6	124
Lori	83.6	47.9	489	89.7	42.5	119
Kotayk	96.9	54.6	505	99.2	85.0	137
Shirak	95.7	66.5	611	94.2	77.7	161
Syunik	92.9	55.9	271	99.2	94.1	65
Vayots Dzor	86.7	55.9	113	88.1	47.5	25
Tavush	93.1	53.4	278	89.9	55.7	79
Education						
Primary/middle	79.9	30.2	593	89.3	49.7	245
Secondary	91.9	50.6	2,341	96.8	69.5	510
Secondary-special	98.1	69.3	2,295	97.7	75.8	588
Higher	99.5	84.2	1,201	99.3	89.5	376
Total	94.4	61.7	6,430	96.6	73.2	1,719

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.
na = Not applicable

To evaluate the level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, respondents who had heard of the infection were asked whether there is anything a person can do to avoid getting infected with the virus that causes AIDS. The data show that although almost all women and men have heard of HIV/AIDS, only 62 percent of women and 73 percent of men believe there is a way to avoid HIV/AIDS. Young people, residents of rural areas, and never-married individuals are less likely to believe there is a way to avoid getting HIV/AIDS. There is a strong positive correlation between educational background and the belief that there is a way to avoid HIV/AIDS. Less than half of women living in Armavir, Gegharkunik and Lori, and men from Gegharkunik, Lori, and Vayots Dzor, believe that there are ways to prevent HIV/AIDS.

If respondents reported that HIV infection could be prevented, they were asked to indicate the ways of prevention. Two types of questions were asked about means to prevent HIV infection. First, an open-ended question was asked and respondents were allowed to indicate any means that they know without prompting. Next, women and men were asked specific questions on whether condom use and having only one sexual partner can reduce their chances of becoming infected with HIV.

Tables 12.2.1 and 12.2.2 show the percentage of all women and men who spontaneously mentioned specific ways to avoid contracting the disease. The most frequently reported means to prevent HIV/AIDS is condom use. More than half of all men (53 percent) and a quarter of all women (27 percent) mentioned condom use. Among women, the second most common answer was abstinence from sexual relations; this answer was also given by 8 percent of men. Among men, the second most common answer was to avoid sex with prostitutes (31 percent). Approximately one-quarter of both women and men mentioned having one sexual partner as a way to prevent HIV/AIDS (23 percent and 26 percent respectively). Limiting the number of sexual partners was cited by 7 percent of women and 13 percent of men.

Table 12.2.1 Knowledge of ways to avoid HIV/AIDS: women

Percentage of women who spontaneously mentioned ways to avoid HIV/AIDS, by background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Ways to avoid HIV/AIDS														Number of women
	Does not know of AIDS or if avoided	Believes there is no way to avoid AIDS	Does not know specific way to avoid HIV/AIDS	Abstain from sexual relations	Use condoms ¹	Have only one sexual partner	Limit number of sex partners ¹	Avoid sex with person who has many partners	Avoid sex with prostitutes	Avoid sex with homosexuals	Avoid trans-fusions	Avoid injections	Avoid kissing	Other	
Age															
15-19	49.5	4.3	3.6	18.4	19.9	11.3	4.4	3.0	2.2	0.3	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.6	1,160
20-24	32.2	3.7	2.3	23.1	32.3	22.5	5.9	4.4	5.5	0.4	4.5	4.0	1.5	1.9	1,007
25-29	28.2	5.4	1.5	25.0	32.4	26.1	8.2	3.9	6.2	0.9	4.0	3.8	1.1	1.9	769
30-34	27.5	6.4	0.5	27.0	30.2	26.8	8.2	4.8	6.6	0.9	3.5	4.7	1.0	1.5	763
35-39	30.6	4.6	1.2	25.7	26.4	25.2	7.9	4.3	5.3	0.0	3.0	4.6	1.4	1.8	962
40-44	30.1	4.7	1.9	25.6	24.4	24.0	7.9	3.7	7.2	0.7	4.3	3.6	0.9	2.5	947
45-49	31.6	4.0	0.8	27.1	26.1	27.0	7.8	3.6	5.8	1.4	5.1	2.9	0.5	2.5	822
Marital status															
Never married	39.7	3.4	2.6	22.6	27.9	16.1	5.9	4.3	3.8	0.4	3.6	3.0	1.3	2.4	1,851
Currently married	31.3	5.2	1.5	24.8	26.0	25.4	7.6	3.8	6.2	0.7	3.4	3.8	1.0	1.8	4,125
Formerly married	30.8	5.3	1.4	25.9	32.1	23.7	6.7	3.0	4.5	0.2	3.7	2.4	1.0	1.8	455
Residence															
Urban	26.3	3.6	1.8	26.3	36.7	26.7	7.5	4.4	6.1	0.8	4.5	4.6	1.4	2.0	3,942
Rural	45.4	6.3	1.9	20.9	11.6	16.2	6.2	3.1	4.2	0.2	1.8	1.6	0.5	1.8	2,488
Region															
Yerevan	21.1	3.4	1.6	27.1	48.1	30.2	9.2	4.6	7.2	0.9	5.7	4.8	1.9	2.2	2,206
Aragatsotn	38.6	2.9	0.4	26.2	17.1	26.2	1.9	1.7	6.4	0.2	9.3	5.4	3.1	0.0	279
Ararat	30.9	6.4	1.8	30.3	10.3	21.1	14.0	4.3	3.7	0.7	0.9	1.2	0.0	2.8	642
Armavir	44.8	6.3	1.0	16.8	12.1	25.9	8.1	1.0	1.2	0.2	3.6	3.6	0.8	0.8	553
Gegharkunik	55.8	5.9	2.0	23.9	4.7	4.7	2.7	2.7	6.7	0.0	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.8	484
Lori	44.5	7.6	1.7	12.5	14.9	17.4	2.4	3.4	3.2	0.5	1.2	3.9	0.5	0.7	489
Kotayk	38.2	7.2	4.9	20.2	11.9	14.2	3.4	3.4	2.5	0.2	2.2	3.4	0.0	4.7	505
Shirak	31.7	1.8	1.4	29.9	37.2	22.4	7.1	7.3	4.5	0.8	2.0	3.7	0.6	1.8	611
Syunik	40.7	3.4	0.6	26.1	7.9	25.9	2.0	1.4	1.4	0.4	1.2	1.4	0.4	0.2	271
Vayots Dzor	40.0	4.1	3.1	15.9	21.8	18.8	8.7	10.3	11.1	1.1	1.5	1.5	2.2	3.9	113
Tavush	41.7	4.8	2.0	17.3	23.0	10.5	2.6	2.4	12.5	0.8	2.8	2.0	0.6	2.2	278
Education															
Primary/middle	64.2	5.5	2.5	12.9	7.9	9.7	3.8	1.3	2.5	0.2	1.2	1.2	0.5	2.1	593
Secondary	43.6	5.8	2.6	21.0	17.8	16.2	4.8	2.7	3.4	0.2	1.2	1.2	0.6	1.0	2,341
Secondary-special	26.2	4.5	1.3	27.5	30.6	25.8	8.2	4.7	6.3	0.7	4.3	4.1	1.2	2.4	2,295
Higher	13.3	2.5	0.9	29.9	47.5	35.5	10.6	6.0	8.8	1.4	7.6	7.7	2.1	2.8	1,201
Total	33.7	4.7	1.8	24.2	27.0	22.6	7.0	3.9	5.4	0.6	3.5	3.4	1.1	1.9	6,430

Note: Responses not shown were "sharing razor/blades" and "avoid mosquito bites" (each 0.2 percent or less).

¹ Spontaneous responses only. For both spontaneous and probed responses for condom use and limiting number of partners, see Table 12.3.1.

Table 12.2.2 Knowledge of ways to avoid HIV/AIDS: men

Percentage of men who spontaneously mentioned ways to avoid HIV/AIDS, by background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Ways to avoid HIV/AIDS														Number of men
	Does not know of AIDS or if AIDS can be avoided	Believes there is no way to avoid AIDS	Does not know specific way to avoid HIV/AIDS	Abstain from sexual relations	Use condoms ¹	Have only one sexual partner	Limit number of sex partners ¹	Avoid sex with person who has many partners	Avoid sex with prostitutes	Avoid sex with homosexuals	Avoid trans-fusions	Avoid injections	Avoid kissing	Other	
Age															
15-19	43.4	5.5	0.9	3.8	40.6	15.0	4.9	0.9	19.3	0.2	1.0	0.2	0.4	3.1	263
20-24	21.3	5.5	1.9	3.5	57.1	20.4	16.9	1.9	30.1	2.8	1.3	0.8	0.5	5.4	215
25-29	16.6	8.5	1.2	9.1	57.4	26.4	16.5	4.6	26.0	2.2	2.5	4.4	1.3	7.2	194
30-34	17.5	7.6	0.0	8.2	51.0	30.7	17.4	2.2	26.1	1.5	3.7	4.2	0.0	8.6	205
35-39	15.5	6.4	0.0	13.0	56.1	30.0	6.2	2.6	30.4	2.3	2.6	2.4	0.5	5.6	237
40-44	15.3	5.6	0.4	11.8	58.2	23.8	14.4	3.6	36.7	1.5	3.5	2.2	0.0	4.3	275
45-49	13.6	4.7	0.9	9.1	51.5	33.6	15.7	1.8	39.4	0.9	1.9	1.3	0.0	4.5	203
50-54	16.3	4.7	0.0	4.2	46.2	32.6	13.8	4.0	44.1	2.3	1.6	2.5	0.0	7.0	126
Marital status															
Never married	30.8	6.4	0.9	4.7	49.9	18.4	12.9	1.7	24.3	1.9	1.4	1.9	0.9	5.2	530
Currently married	16.1	6.1	0.6	9.5	53.6	28.8	13.0	3.1	34.0	1.5	2.8	2.2	0.1	5.7	1,161
Formerly married	(20.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(13.8)	(55.5)	(38.8)	(4.0)	(0.0)	(16.6)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(4.6)	(0.0)	(2.0)	28
Residence															
Urban	14.7	4.1	0.3	5.9	59.9	28.6	16.4	3.1	35.4	2.4	2.9	2.5	0.6	7.1	1,024
Rural	29.5	9.0	1.2	11.3	41.5	21.6	7.6	1.9	23.9	0.5	1.4	1.7	0.0	3.1	695
Region															
Yerevan	10.9	2.7	0.0	4.9	65.8	34.4	19.0	1.6	33.9	2.9	3.8	2.7	0.2	7.8	582
Aragatsotn	15.8	6.5	1.4	1.4	71.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	36.7	3.6	0.7	0.7	0.0	2.2	78
Ararat	26.6	3.6	0.0	41.0	41.0	43.2	3.6	0.0	4.3	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	177
Armavir	26.9	9.7	4.1	13.1	55.9	42.1	15.2	4.1	17.2	1.4	0.0	3.4	0.7	2.1	172
Gegharkunik	41.9	14.5	0.9	0.9	18.8	8.5	0.9	3.4	28.2	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.9	6.8	124
Lori	32.2	25.3	0.0	0.0	23.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	24.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	119
Kotayk	14.2	0.8	0.0	1.6	80.3	15.7	23.6	3.1	34.6	0.0	0.8	1.6	0.0	2.4	137
Shirak	19.4	2.9	0.0	5.8	54.0	10.1	10.1	9.4	66.2	2.2	4.3	0.7	1.4	6.5	161
Syunik	5.0	0.8	3.4	0.0	24.4	36.1	34.5	2.5	14.3	0.0	1.7	4.2	0.0	19.3	65
Vayots Dzor	40.6	11.9	0.0	5.0	15.8	24.8	4.0	2.0	33.7	2.0	3.0	1.0	0.0	9.9	25
Tavush	39.9	4.4	0.0	0.6	34.8	19.0	5.7	2.5	37.3	2.5	6.3	6.3	0.0	3.2	79
Education															
Primary/middle	42.8	7.5	1.2	6.9	31.7	13.9	9.9	1.6	17.5	0.2	1.1	0.5	1.0	4.4	245
Secondary	24.2	6.3	0.9	7.0	50.4	24.9	10.8	1.2	27.7	0.7	2.0	2.9	0.2	3.8	510
Secondary-special	16.3	7.8	0.2	9.2	54.1	27.3	13.5	2.1	30.8	1.5	2.5	2.0	0.2	6.0	588
Higher	8.3	2.2	0.8	8.5	66.2	32.4	16.4	5.9	43.3	4.1	3.2	2.6	0.3	7.8	376
Total	20.7	6.1	0.7	8.1	52.5	25.8	12.8	2.6	30.7	1.6	2.3	2.2	0.3	5.5	1,719

Note: Responses not shown were “sharing razor/blades” (1.0 percent) and “avoid mosquito bites” (0.1 percent). Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

¹ Spontaneous responses only. For both spontaneous and probed responses for condom use and limiting number of partners, see Table 12.3.2.

AIDS prevention programs focus their messages and efforts on three important aspects of behavior: condom use, limiting the number of sexual partners/staying faithful to one partner, and delaying the first sexual intercourse in young persons (i.e., abstinence). In the first three columns of Tables 12.3.1 and 12.3.2, the percentage of women and men who reported 0, 1, or 2-3 of these ways to avoid AIDS are shown. Overall, 61 percent of women and 72 percent of men were able to mention spontaneously or to recognize at least one programmatically important way to avoid HIV/AIDS (Figure 12.1).

Table 12.3.1 Knowledge of programmatically important ways to avoid HIV/AIDS: women

Percent distribution of women by knowledge of programmatically important ways to avoid HIV/AIDS, and percentage of women who know of two specific ways to avoid HIV/AIDS, according to background characteristics, Armenia, 2000

Background characteristic	Knowledge of programmatically important ways to avoid HIV/AIDS				Specific ways to avoid HIV/AIDS		Number of women
	None ¹	One way	Two or three ways	Total	Use condoms	Limit number of sexual partners ²	
Age							
15-19	56.4	9.0	34.6	100.0	32.4	38.7	1,160
20-24	36.9	8.8	54.2	100.0	52.8	58.3	1,007
25-29	34.3	9.6	56.1	100.0	54.5	62.2	769
30-34	34.5	8.1	57.5	100.0	51.6	63.9	763
35-39	35.5	10.3	54.3	100.0	49.8	60.4	962
40-44	36.0	11.0	53.0	100.0	48.7	59.6	947
45-49	36.0	8.6	55.3	100.0	51.1	61.7	822
Marital status							
Never married	45.0	8.5	46.4	100.0	44.7	49.8	1,851
Currently married	37.1	9.9	53.0	100.0	49.0	59.7	4,125
Formerly married	36.5	8.2	55.2	100.0	51.2	59.5	455
Residence							
Urban	30.7	8.5	60.7	100.0	58.4	65.0	3,942
Rural	53.0	10.7	36.3	100.0	31.3	43.9	2,488
Region							
Yerevan	25.6	6.4	68.0	100.0	66.1	70.0	2,206
Aragatsotn	41.7	14.9	43.4	100.0	37.4	51.7	279
Ararat	39.0	11.9	49.1	100.0	40.4	59.2	642
Armavir	51.5	11.5	37.0	100.0	31.7	47.1	553
Gegharkunik	63.6	9.0	27.4	100.0	22.7	29.9	484
Lori	52.3	9.3	38.4	100.0	35.0	44.7	489
Kotayk	46.7	16.9	36.4	100.0	33.3	50.1	505
Shirak	34.3	5.1	60.6	100.0	58.3	62.2	611
Syunik	44.7	9.9	45.3	100.0	41.7	52.4	271
Vayots Dzor	46.1	14.4	39.5	100.0	40.0	47.8	113
Tavush	47.2	11.9	40.9	100.0	42.9	47.6	278
Education							
Primary/middle	71.9	7.7	20.5	100.0	17.4	25.5	593
Secondary	50.8	10.1	39.1	100.0	35.3	45.3	2,341
Secondary-special	31.6	10.2	58.2	100.0	54.9	64.4	2,295
Higher	15.9	7.2	76.9	100.0	74.2	80.2	1,201
Total	39.4	9.4	51.3	100.0	47.9	56.8	6,430

Note: Programmatically important ways are abstaining from sex, using condoms, and limiting the number of sexual partners. Abstinence from sex is measured from a spontaneous response only, and using condoms and limiting the number of sexual partners is measured from spontaneous and probed responses.

¹ Those who have not heard of HIV/AIDS or do not know of any programmatically important ways to avoid HIV/AIDS.

² Refers to limiting the number of sexual partners and limiting sex to one partner/staying faithful to one partner.

Table 12.3.2 Knowledge of programmatically important ways to avoid HIV/AIDS: men

Percent distribution of men by knowledge of programmatically important ways to avoid HIV/AIDS, and percentage of men who know of two specific ways to avoid HIV/AIDS, according to background characteristics, Armenia, 2000

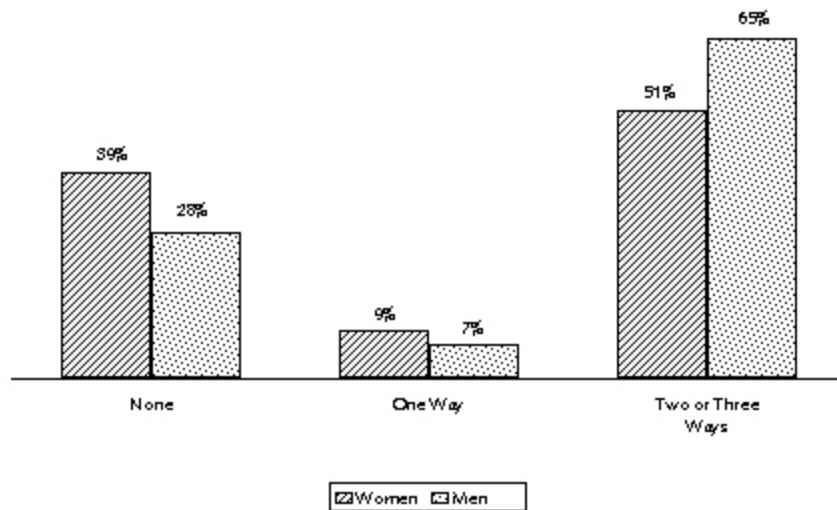
Background characteristic	Knowledge of programmatically important ways to avoid HIV/AIDS				Specific ways to avoid HIV/AIDS		Number of men
	None ¹	One way	Two or three ways	Total	Use condoms	Limit number of sexual partners ²	
Age							
15-19	50.2	3.0	46.8	100.0	48.1	47.1	263
20-24	28.4	9.3	62.3	100.0	66.5	66.2	215
25-29	26.8	5.4	67.8	100.0	68.1	68.9	194
30-34	25.7	3.9	70.3	100.0	70.4	72.4	205
35-39	23.8	8.3	67.9	100.0	66.8	73.1	237
40-44	22.2	6.9	70.9	100.0	72.8	73.0	275
45-49	20.1	9.6	70.2	100.0	70.4	77.3	203
50-54	22.9	7.5	69.5	100.0	68.5	77.1	126
Marital status							
Never married	38.7	4.8	56.5	100.0	58.4	58.4	530
Currently married	23.6	7.4	68.9	100.0	69.4	72.9	1,161
Formerly married	(20.0)	(9.2)	(70.8)	(100.0)	(66.2)	(75.4)	28
Residence							
Urban	19.7	5.4	74.9	100.0	76.1	78.2	1,024
Rural	40.8	8.5	50.7	100.0	51.0	54.2	695
Region							
Yerevan	13.6	2.2	84.2	100.0	84.6	85.9	582
Aragatsotn	23.0	5.0	71.9	100.0	74.1	74.1	78
Ararat	30.2	11.5	58.3	100.0	49.6	59.0	177
Armavir	37.2	3.4	59.3	100.0	61.4	57.9	172
Gegharkunik	67.5	15.4	17.1	100.0	24.8	23.9	124
Lori	63.2	11.5	25.3	100.0	33.3	28.7	119
Kotayk	15.0	0.8	84.3	100.0	84.3	85.0	137
Shirak	23.0	13.7	63.3	100.0	65.5	74.8	161
Syunik	6.7	10.9	82.4	100.0	83.2	92.4	65
Vayots Dzor	57.4	14.9	27.7	100.0	24.8	41.6	25
Tavush	44.3	5.7	50.0	100.0	50.0	55.7	79
Education							
Primary/middle	51.9	5.1	42.9	100.0	43.5	45.3	245
Secondary	32.3	5.6	62.0	100.0	62.2	65.1	510
Secondary-special	25.6	8.1	66.3	100.0	67.4	70.3	588
Higher	11.4	6.8	81.8	100.0	83.6	85.1	376
Total	28.2	6.7	65.1	100.0	66.0	68.5	1,719

Note: Programmatically important ways are abstaining from sex, using condoms, and limiting the number of sexual partners. Abstinence from sex is measured from a spontaneous response only, and using condoms and limiting the number of sexual partners is measured from spontaneous and probed responses. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

¹ Those who have not heard of HIV/AIDS or do not know of any programmatically important ways to avoid HIV/AIDS.

² Refers to limiting the number of sexual partners and limiting sex to one partner/staying faithful to one partner.

Figure 12.1 Knowledge of Programmatically Important Ways to Avoid HIV/AIDS



Armenia DHS 2000

The table shows the level of awareness of ways to prevent HIV/AIDS by education and by place of residence. There is a strong relationship between education and knowledge of ways to prevent HIV. More urban than rural residents are aware of the practices of safer sexual behavior.

Respondents who had heard of HIV/AIDS were asked a number of questions on their knowledge of HIV/AIDS-related issues. The information is presented in Tables 12.4.1 and 12.4.2. When asked whether a healthy-looking person can have the AIDS virus, 56 percent of women and 58 percent of men responded yes. Young women and men, residents of rural areas, and individuals with lower levels of education were less likely to respond to this question correctly. There is significant variation by region, but the variation is not consistent between women and men. In Tavush, for example, 67 percent of women said that a healthy-looking person can have HIV, but only 29 percent of men gave the same answer. It is important to note that more than a quarter of all respondents said that they did not know whether a healthy-looking person could have HIV.

The ADHS asked respondents whether they thought the AIDS virus can be transmitted from mother to child during pregnancy and (in separate questions) during delivery and during breastfeeding. The results indicate that about two-thirds of both women and men responded yes, that they are aware of each of these three modes of mother-to-child transmission. Again, young, rural, or less educated women and men were least likely to be informed about this important AIDS-related issue.

Table 12.4.1 Knowledge of HIV/AIDS-related issues: women

Percent distribution and percentages of women by responses to questions on various HIV/AIDS-related issues, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Can a healthy-looking person have the AIDS virus?				Ways HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from mother to child						Number of women
	Yes	No	Don't know ¹	Total	There is no way	During pregnancy	During delivery	By breast-feeding	Other way	Don't know if there is a way ¹	
Age											
15-19	46.6	16.3	37.0	100.0	4.4	51.9	44.4	45.3	1.5	38.9	1,160
20-24	60.3	14.8	24.9	100.0	2.9	73.5	65.7	60.8	1.0	20.9	1,007
25-29	60.1	17.8	22.1	100.0	2.2	77.7	69.4	62.9	0.5	16.9	769
30-34	58.5	18.3	23.3	100.0	3.1	79.9	71.0	65.9	0.4	15.7	763
35-39	56.3	16.3	27.4	100.0	2.4	76.6	70.5	64.9	0.4	18.5	962
40-44	55.7	15.6	28.7	100.0	2.1	76.9	73.0	66.2	0.5	18.1	947
45-49	56.0	16.7	27.3	100.0	2.2	76.6	70.0	65.2	1.1	18.6	822
Marital status											
Never married	53.2	16.2	30.6	100.0	3.8	61.9	54.1	51.1	1.3	30.8	1,851
Currently married	57.1	16.7	26.2	100.0	2.4	76.7	69.9	64.9	0.7	18.0	4,125
Formerly married	54.5	15.1	30.4	100.0	2.7	73.2	68.2	63.3	0.3	22.5	455
Residence											
Urban	59.2	16.7	24.1	100.0	2.6	76.0	69.4	62.1	0.8	18.6	3,942
Rural	50.4	15.9	33.7	100.0	3.1	66.2	58.7	58.8	0.8	27.4	2,488
Region											
Yerevan	61.4	15.6	22.9	100.0	2.1	78.6	74.1	64.1	0.6	17.1	2,206
Aragatsotn	57.9	14.5	27.7	100.0	4.1	70.7	62.4	63.0	1.0	21.7	279
Ararat	61.7	14.2	24.1	100.0	0.7	84.0	77.3	76.8	0.9	13.7	642
Armavir	56.8	14.9	28.3	100.0	3.4	65.9	56.2	58.4	1.2	26.1	553
Gegharkunik	39.7	14.5	45.8	100.0	3.3	62.8	55.6	55.0	1.4	30.9	484
Lori	49.9	14.7	35.5	100.0	2.4	63.3	56.7	53.3	1.5	28.6	489
Kotayk	52.4	24.0	23.6	100.0	4.5	69.9	63.4	58.9	0.4	22.5	505
Shirak	44.1	26.2	29.7	100.0	5.1	61.6	46.7	40.0	0.2	30.7	611
Syunik	55.5	9.1	35.4	100.0	2.2	67.8	66.0	64.2	1.2	26.5	271
Vayots Dzor	48.5	17.7	33.8	100.0	2.8	71.8	69.7	69.4	0.9	22.1	113
Tavush	66.9	10.1	23.0	100.0	3.4	72.8	62.1	66.5	0.6	21.0	278
Education											
Primary/middle	34.5	12.8	52.6	100.0	2.6	43.5	38.4	41.3	1.4	50.5	593
Secondary	49.5	16.6	33.9	100.0	3.4	65.9	59.0	58.4	0.9	27.0	2,341
Secondary-special	58.9	18.4	22.7	100.0	2.3	79.6	72.7	66.4	0.9	15.6	2,295
Higher	72.4	14.1	13.5	100.0	2.7	84.6	76.7	64.6	0.3	10.3	1,201
Total	55.8	16.4	27.8	100.0	2.8	72.2	65.3	60.8	0.8	22.0	6,430

¹ Includes women who do not know of HIV/AIDS

Table 12.4.2 Knowledge of HIV/AIDS-related issues: men

Percent distribution and percentages of men by responses to questions on various HIV/AIDS-related issues, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Can a healthy-looking person have the AIDS virus?				Ways HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from mother to child						Number of men
	Yes	No	Don't know ¹	Total	There is no way	During pregnancy	During delivery	By breast-feeding	Other way	Don't know if there is a way ¹	
Age											
15-19	38.2	20.0	41.8	100.0	1.7	50.3	48.0	40.4	5.2	39.5	263
20-24	59.4	18.4	22.3	100.0	2.8	71.5	67.1	62.3	1.1	22.0	215
25-29	57.5	22.1	20.3	100.0	2.9	75.5	72.7	69.2	1.2	20.0	194
30-34	59.8	16.9	23.3	100.0	1.7	81.2	75.8	67.6	0.8	15.2	205
35-39	62.3	18.9	18.8	100.0	1.7	79.6	74.3	69.7	1.3	15.5	237
40-44	62.5	17.3	20.2	100.0	1.0	86.1	85.4	78.1	0.1	10.4	275
45-49	64.3	19.1	16.5	100.0	2.3	85.4	83.3	78.5	0.9	9.7	203
50-54	62.9	14.6	22.6	100.0	1.0	85.3	81.4	79.0	0.0	12.2	126
Marital status											
Never married	49.7	19.2	31.1	100.0	1.7	61.9	59.0	52.2	3.0	30.5	530
Currently married	61.1	18.5	20.3	100.0	2.0	81.9	78.8	73.3	0.8	13.7	1,161
Formerly married	(67.1)	(9.2)	(23.7)	(100.0)	(0.0)	(96.2)	(82.6)	(87.0)	(0.0)	(3.8)	28
Residence											
Urban	66.0	17.3	16.7	100.0	1.2	80.5	77.0	69.5	1.2	15.3	1,024
Rural	45.5	20.5	34.0	100.0	2.9	69.3	66.4	63.4	1.8	23.7	695
Region											
Yerevan	76.3	15.2	8.5	100.0	1.3	85.7	85.9	78.6	0.9	11.2	582
Aragatsotn	62.6	16.5	20.9	100.0	5.0	69.8	59.7	68.3	2.2	14.4	78
Ararat	56.8	18.7	24.5	100.0	1.4	79.9	76.3	74.8	1.4	15.8	177
Armavir	28.3	35.2	36.6	100.0	4.8	66.9	66.9	50.3	0.0	28.3	172
Gegharkunik	45.3	11.1	43.6	100.0	0.9	64.1	64.1	64.1	0.9	34.2	124
Lori	59.8	17.2	23.0	100.0	3.4	59.8	48.3	54.0	1.1	31.0	119
Kotayk	73.2	6.3	20.5	100.0	0.0	85.0	79.5	77.2	6.3	7.9	137
Shirak	20.9	34.5	44.6	100.0	0.7	64.7	54.7	36.0	0.7	28.8	161
Syunik	83.2	9.2	7.6	100.0	0.0	86.6	79.8	75.6	4.2	5.9	65
Vayots Dzor	48.5	20.8	30.7	100.0	5.0	41.6	40.6	35.6	1.0	45.5	25
Tavush	28.5	19.0	52.5	100.0	3.2	74.1	72.8	72.8	0.6	21.5	79
Education											
Primary/middle	41.2	18.6	40.1	100.0	3.9	53.7	52.5	45.5	1.9	38.6	245
Secondary	51.0	20.1	28.9	100.0	2.1	71.7	67.8	63.2	1.8	23.1	510
Secondary-special	61.8	17.9	20.3	100.0	1.4	80.8	77.0	72.8	1.8	13.8	588
Higher	71.2	17.6	11.2	100.0	1.0	88.6	85.9	77.1	0.1	7.6	376
Total	57.7	18.6	23.7	100.0	1.9	76.0	72.7	67.0	1.5	18.7	1,719

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

¹ Includes men who do not know of HIV/AIDS

12.2 SOCIAL ASPECTS OF HIV/AIDS

Social aspects of HIV/AIDS include, among others, negative attitudes toward people living with AIDS. The stigma is related to the public's perception of HIV/AIDS as associated with marginalized groups such as injecting drug users, sex workers, and homosexuals. The stigma is sometimes expressed by open discrimination, which is of concern because it affects HIV/AIDS prevention efforts.

Table 12.5 shows that only 10 percent of women and 13 percent of men think that an HIV-positive teacher should be allowed to continue teaching. There is some variation by background characteristics. For example, approximately one-fifth of men and women with higher education think that an HIV-positive should be allowed to continue teaching, as do more than half of men in Armavir (contrasting with just 7 percent of women in the region). Shirak is another notable region: 21 percent of men claimed to be unsure whether an HIV-positive teacher should be allowed to continue teaching.

Table 12.5.1 Social aspects of HIV/AIDS: women

Percent distribution of women by responses to questions on various social aspects of HIV/AIDS, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Should an HIV-positive teacher be allowed to keep teaching?				Should children age 12-14 years be taught to use condoms?				Number of women who have heard of AIDS
	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	
Age									
15-19	11.3	79.4	9.3	100.0	38.8	33.3	27.8	100.0	1,043
20-24	13.4	81.0	5.6	100.0	46.2	36.6	17.2	100.0	962
25-29	10.0	86.0	4.0	100.0	50.0	37.6	12.5	100.0	738
30-34	10.1	86.9	2.9	100.0	47.4	39.7	12.9	100.0	733
35-39	7.1	88.9	4.0	100.0	42.3	42.5	15.2	100.0	917
40-44	9.4	87.8	2.8	100.0	41.4	41.9	16.7	100.0	891
45-49	6.7	89.2	4.1	100.0	43.6	41.5	14.9	100.0	788
Marital status									
Never married	13.7	78.1	8.3	100.0	46.2	31.3	22.6	100.0	1,709
Currently married	8.3	88.2	3.5	100.0	42.8	42.1	15.1	100.0	3,942
Formerly married	8.0	87.8	4.2	100.0	44.6	39.6	15.8	100.0	421
Residence									
Urban	11.5	83.2	5.3	100.0	47.9	36.5	15.6	100.0	3,820
Rural	6.9	88.9	4.2	100.0	37.0	42.9	20.1	100.0	2,252
Region									
Yerevan	12.9	80.5	6.6	100.0	52.3	30.1	17.6	100.0	2,156
Aragatsotn	4.6	93.5	1.9	100.0	45.5	37.4	17.2	100.0	249
Ararat	9.4	85.3	5.4	100.0	53.6	25.5	20.9	100.0	632
Armavir	6.9	88.6	4.5	100.0	34.1	51.1	14.8	100.0	521
Gegharkunik	4.0	91.6	4.4	100.0	28.6	47.3	24.1	100.0	423
Lori	10.5	86.3	3.2	100.0	41.2	49.4	9.4	100.0	409
Kotayk	8.1	87.2	4.6	100.0	41.5	40.8	17.6	100.0	489
Shirak	13.2	84.5	2.3	100.0	35.5	52.0	12.5	100.0	585
Syunik	2.6	94.8	2.6	100.0	39.2	42.0	18.7	100.0	252
Vayots Dzor	4.3	91.4	4.3	100.0	40.3	33.2	26.4	100.0	98
Tavush	9.3	85.3	5.4	100.0	26.8	56.1	17.1	100.0	259
Education									
Primary/middle	2.4	89.7	7.9	100.0	27.6	40.6	31.8	100.0	474
Secondary	6.6	88.4	5.0	100.0	37.6	42.5	19.9	100.0	2,152
Secondary-special	8.4	87.6	4.0	100.0	45.9	39.3	14.8	100.0	2,250
Higher	21.1	73.7	5.2	100.0	57.9	30.7	11.4	100.0	1,195
Total	9.8	85.3	4.9	100.0	43.9	38.8	17.3	100.0	6,072

HIV/AIDS prevention strategies may include educating young people, before they become sexually active, about the risks of unprotected sexual intercourse. Table 12.5 shows that 44 percent of women and 51 percent of men believe that children age 12-14 should be taught to use condoms. Urban dwellers and respondents with higher education are more likely than rural residents and respondents with lower levels of education to accept the idea of children being taught to use condoms. There is significant variation by region, ranging from 27 percent of women in Tavush to 54 percent in Ararat and from 27 percent of men in Armavir to 76 percent in Kotayk. It is notable that 17 percent of women overall said that they are not sure.

Table 12.5.2 Social aspects of HIV/AIDS: men

Percent distribution of men by responses to questions on various social aspects of HIV/AIDS, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Should an HIV-positive teacher be allowed to keep teaching?				Should children age 12-14 years be taught to use condoms?				Number of men who have heard of AIDS
	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	
Age									
15-19	9.4	78.6	12.0	100.0	56.4	35.2	8.5	100.0	243
20-24	12.1	81.2	6.7	100.0	51.7	41.9	6.4	100.0	210
25-29	13.9	79.5	6.6	100.0	58.9	31.5	9.6	100.0	190
30-34	16.7	79.2	4.1	100.0	48.4	43.2	8.4	100.0	198
35-39	13.6	83.9	2.4	100.0	47.7	44.8	7.5	100.0	229
40-44	14.5	82.6	2.9	100.0	49.3	46.0	4.7	100.0	267
45-49	14.7	79.7	5.6	100.0	47.6	45.9	6.4	100.0	199
50-54	12.7	82.0	5.3	100.0	48.1	45.3	6.6	100.0	125
Marital status									
Never married	13.6	76.5	9.8	100.0	57.3	35.2	7.5	100.0	507
Currently married	13.2	82.8	4.0	100.0	48.0	45.0	7.0	100.0	1,127
Formerly married	(18.9)	(81.1)	(0.0)	(100.0)	(68.2)	(22.0)	(9.8)	(100.0)	27
Residence									
Urban	12.9	80.7	6.5	100.0	60.3	33.2	6.6	100.0	1,009
Rural	14.3	81.2	4.6	100.0	36.9	54.8	8.2	100.0	651
Region									
Yerevan	11.7	83.1	5.2	100.0	65.3	28.8	5.9	100.0	577
Aragatsotn	0.7	97.8	1.4	100.0	28.3	67.4	4.3	100.0	77
Ararat	7.9	89.2	2.9	100.0	34.5	56.8	8.6	100.0	177
Armavir	54.9	38.0	7.0	100.0	26.8	70.4	2.8	100.0	169
Gegharkunik	6.8	90.3	2.9	100.0	37.9	49.5	12.6	100.0	109
Lori	9.0	83.3	7.7	100.0	48.7	38.5	12.8	100.0	107
Kotayk	0.8	98.4	0.8	100.0	76.2	19.8	4.0	100.0	136
Shirak	14.5	64.9	20.6	100.0	55.0	29.0	16.0	100.0	151
Syunik	11.0	89.0	0.0	100.0	29.7	69.5	0.8	100.0	65
Vayots Dzor	3.4	88.8	7.9	100.0	47.2	41.6	11.2	100.0	22
Tavush	0.0	97.9	2.1	100.0	48.6	47.9	3.5	100.0	71
Education									
Primary/middle	5.7	83.6	10.7	100.0	44.5	47.8	7.7	100.0	219
Secondary	13.0	81.8	5.2	100.0	46.4	43.9	9.7	100.0	494
Secondary-special	12.4	84.4	3.2	100.0	50.4	44.4	5.2	100.0	574
Higher	19.9	72.7	7.4	100.0	62.3	30.9	6.8	100.0	374
Total	13.4	80.9	5.7	100.0	51.1	41.7	7.2	100.0	1,661

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

Discussing HIV prevention with one's partner is an important aspect of preventive behavior. The data in Tables 12.6.1 and 12.6.2 show that 28 percent of married women and 31 percent of married men report having discussed with their partner how to prevent HIV infection. Higher levels of education and urban residence are associated with prevalence of discussion. The youngest and oldest women are the least likely to have discussed HIV prevention with their partners than women of other age groups.

All respondents also were asked "If a member of your family got infected with the virus that causes AIDS, would you want it to remain secret or not?" Only 16 percent of women and 26 percent of men thought that the HIV-positive status of a family member should be kept confidential. Fear of being stigmatized has been implicated as an important barrier to HIV-testing and programs aimed at assisting persons living with AIDS and their families.

Table 12.6.1 Communication and confidentiality issues concerning HIV/AIDS: women

Percent distribution of women by responses to questions about HIV/AIDS communication and confidentiality issues, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Did woman discuss with partner how to prevent HIV/AIDS?				Number of married women	Should the HIV-positive status of a family member be kept confidential?				Number of women who have heard of AIDS
	Yes	No/ unsure	Has not heard of AIDS	Total		Yes	No	Don't know/ missing	Total	
Age										
15-19	13.7	72.1	14.3	100.0	99	17.3	69.2	13.5	100.0	1,043
20-24	23.5	71.8	4.7	100.0	511	14.6	76.1	9.3	100.0	962
25-29	32.7	63.2	4.1	100.0	625	14.6	77.9	7.5	100.0	738
30-34	32.5	63.5	4.0	100.0	660	12.9	81.0	6.1	100.0	733
35-39	30.6	65.6	3.9	100.0	816	17.5	75.8	6.7	100.0	917
40-44	27.0	68.0	5.0	100.0	773	16.6	74.9	8.5	100.0	891
45-49	25.0	71.6	3.4	100.0	640	16.9	73.1	10.0	100.0	788
Marital status										
Never married	na	na	na	na	na	16.9	71.3	11.8	100.0	1,709
Currently married	28.4	67.2	4.4	100.0	4,125	15.6	76.4	8.0	100.0	3,942
Formerly married	na	na	na	na	na	14.4	78.3	7.2	100.0	421
Residence										
Urban	30.5	67.3	2.2	100.0	2,391	16.0	74.0	10.0	100.0	3,820
Rural	25.5	67.0	7.6	100.0	1,733	15.7	77.0	7.3	100.0	2,252
Region										
Yerevan	33.0	65.4	1.6	100.0	1,291	15.9	71.7	12.4	100.0	2,156
Aragatsotn	31.9	59.4	8.7	100.0	193	7.7	88.9	3.5	100.0	249
Ararat	36.7	62.8	0.5	100.0	449	9.0	82.0	9.0	100.0	632
Armavir	21.3	73.7	5.1	100.0	373	24.9	66.7	8.4	100.0	521
Gegharkunik	15.4	75.1	9.6	100.0	341	10.8	78.9	10.3	100.0	423
Lori	26.3	59.6	14.1	100.0	323	18.4	75.7	5.8	100.0	409
Kotayk	31.3	67.3	1.4	100.0	316	9.3	87.0	3.7	100.0	489
Shirak	20.5	76.3	3.2	100.0	388	25.3	68.6	6.2	100.0	585
Syunik	20.9	75.0	4.1	100.0	173	4.8	86.1	9.2	100.0	252
Vayots Dzor	39.4	49.4	11.3	100.0	79	14.9	71.3	13.9	100.0	98
Tavush	28.0	65.5	6.5	100.0	198	29.4	65.6	5.0	100.0	259
Education										
Primary/middle	10.1	71.9	18.0	100.0	276	15.2	70.2	14.6	100.0	474
Secondary	20.2	73.1	6.7	100.0	1,537	15.2	76.5	8.3	100.0	2,152
Secondary-special	32.1	66.1	1.8	100.0	1,603	14.8	76.4	8.8	100.0	2,250
Higher	44.9	54.9	0.2	100.0	708	19.5	72.1	8.4	100.0	1,195
Total	28.4	67.2	4.4	100.0	4,125	15.9	75.1	9.0	100.0	6,072

na = Not applicable

Table 12.6.2 Communication and confidentiality issues concerning HIV/AIDS: men

Percent distribution of men by responses to questions about HIV/AIDS communication and confidentiality issues, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Did man discuss with partner how to prevent HIV/AIDS?				Number of married men	Should the HIV-positive status of a family member be kept confidential?				Number of men who have heard of AIDS
	Yes	No/unsure	Has not heard of AIDS	Total		Yes	No	Don't know/missing	Total	
Age										
15-19	*	*	*	*	4	27.8	48.5	23.7	100.0	243
20-24	30.5	63.7	5.7	100.0	57	31.0	59.4	9.6	100.0	210
25-29	29.7	67.1	3.2	100.0	120	33.2	59.0	7.8	100.0	190
30-34	29.8	66.5	3.7	100.0	177	21.6	67.8	10.6	100.0	198
35-39	25.2	71.3	3.5	100.0	219	22.6	69.9	7.5	100.0	229
40-44	30.6	66.5	2.9	100.0	266	20.9	69.5	9.6	100.0	267
45-49	37.4	60.5	2.1	100.0	196	26.3	67.0	6.8	100.0	199
50-54	30.4	68.3	1.3	100.0	123	20.5	71.8	7.7	100.0	125
Marital status										
Never married	na	na	na	na	na	28.9	53.3	17.8	100.0	507
Currently married	30.5	66.5	3.0	100.0	1,161	24.1	68.1	7.8	100.0	1,127
Formerly married	na	na	na	na	na	(20.3)	(74.8)	(4.9)	(100.0)	27
Residence										
Urban	35.2	62.9	1.8	100.0	683	27.2	59.4	13.5	100.0	1,009
Rural	23.7	71.6	4.7	100.0	478	23.0	70.3	6.7	100.0	651
Region										
Yerevan	40.5	58.1	1.4	100.0	378	29.5	55.4	15.1	100.0	577
Aragatsotn	9.5	89.5	1.1	100.0	53	8.0	89.1	2.9	100.0	77
Ararat	21.0	79.0	0.0	100.0	127	15.1	79.1	5.8	100.0	177
Armavir	47.4	49.5	3.1	100.0	115	68.3	24.6	7.0	100.0	169
Gegharkunik	5.9	85.9	8.2	100.0	90	1.0	94.2	4.9	100.0	109
Lori	12.3	80.0	7.7	100.0	89	10.3	87.2	2.6	100.0	107
Kotayk	29.3	70.7	0.0	100.0	88	0.8	92.1	7.1	100.0	136
Shirak	29.3	65.2	5.4	100.0	106	26.0	53.4	20.6	100.0	151
Syunik	41.3	57.5	1.3	100.0	44	68.6	27.1	4.2	100.0	65
Vayots Dzor	37.5	54.7	7.8	100.0	16	15.7	65.2	19.1	100.0	22
Tavush	31.5	62.0	6.5	100.0	54	7.7	75.4	16.9	100.0	71
Education										
Primary/middle	11.3	78.6	10.1	100.0	118	25.0	58.9	16.2	100.0	219
Secondary	25.7	71.3	3.0	100.0	297	25.3	62.7	12.1	100.0	494
Secondary-special	28.0	69.6	2.4	100.0	474	21.8	69.5	8.6	100.0	574
Higher	48.4	50.7	0.9	100.0	273	31.9	58.7	9.4	100.0	374
Total	30.5	66.5	3.0	100.0	1,161	25.5	63.7	10.8	100.0	1,661

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

na = Not applicable

All men and women who knew of AIDS were asked to report whether they thought it was acceptable for AIDS-related messages to be broadcast on television and radio and to be published in newspapers. Table 12.7 shows that more than 90 percent of both women and men reported that it is acceptable for AIDS to be discussed in the three mass media.

Table 12.7.1 Discussion of AIDS in the media: women

Among women who have heard of AIDS, percentage who think that discussion of AIDS in the media is acceptable, by media type, and background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Discussion of AIDS is acceptable:			Number of women who have heard of AIDS
	On radio	On TV	In newspaper	
Age				
15-19	87.9	87.3	87.8	1,043
20-24	94.3	94.2	94.2	962
25-29	95.0	95.6	95.3	738
30-34	95.1	95.5	95.8	733
35-39	93.4	93.3	93.4	917
40-44	93.0	92.6	93.3	891
45-49	93.0	92.9	93.1	788
Marital status				
Never married	90.9	90.6	90.7	1,709
Currently married	93.7	93.7	94.0	3,942
Formerly married	92.9	93.7	93.2	421
Residence				
Urban	93.9	93.8	94.2	3,820
Rural	91.1	91.1	91.0	2,252
Region				
Yerevan	94.7	94.3	95.0	2,156
Aragatsotn	92.6	92.3	92.1	249
Ararat	93.3	93.9	93.5	632
Armavir	91.4	91.6	91.8	521
Gegharkunik	82.4	82.7	82.4	423
Lori	94.4	95.0	94.7	409
Kotayk	89.6	88.9	89.8	489
Shirak	93.8	93.8	93.6	585
Syunik	95.2	95.0	95.2	252
Vayots Dzor	96.0	96.2	96.0	98
Tavush	95.0	95.5	94.8	259
Education				
Primary/middle	82.8	82.3	82.5	474
Secondary	90.6	90.5	90.7	2,152
Secondary-special	94.7	94.8	94.8	2,250
Higher	97.7	97.4	98.0	1,195
Total	92.9	92.8	93.0	6,072

Table 12.7.2 Discussion of AIDS in the media: men

Among men who have heard of AIDS, percentage who think that discussion of AIDS in the media is acceptable, by media type and background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Discussion of AIDS is acceptable:			Number of men who have heard of AIDS
	On radio	On TV	In newspaper	
Age				
15-19	90.2	91.4	90.3	243
20-24	94.1	93.5	94.1	210
25-29	94.9	95.6	95.6	190
30-34	93.8	93.8	93.8	198
35-39	93.2	94.2	93.7	229
40-44	93.0	93.5	93.0	267
45-49	95.0	94.4	95.6	199
50-54	94.1	95.0	95.0	125
Marital status				
Never married	93.1	93.4	93.1	507
Currently married	93.5	93.9	93.9	1,127
Formerly married	(95.1)	(95.1)	(95.1)	27
Residence				
Urban	93.8	94.2	94.3	1,009
Rural	92.7	93.1	92.7	651
Region				
Yerevan	97.1	97.1	97.1	577
Aragatsotn	92.8	93.5	92.8	77
Ararat	89.2	89.9	89.2	177
Armavir	96.5	98.6	97.9	169
Gegharkunik	88.3	88.3	88.3	109
Lori	80.8	80.8	80.8	107
Kotayk	99.2	99.2	99.2	136
Shirak	87.0	87.8	88.5	151
Syunik	94.1	94.1	94.1	65
Vayots Dzor	97.8	97.8	98.9	22
Tavush	94.4	94.4	94.4	71
Education				
Primary/middle	88.9	90.9	89.5	219
Secondary	92.7	92.9	92.7	494
Secondary-special	92.6	93.5	92.8	574
Higher	98.0	97.1	98.7	374
Total	93.4	93.8	93.7	1,661

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

12.3 TESTING FOR THE AIDS VIRUS

ADHS respondents were asked whether they had ever been tested for HIV. If they said that they had not, respondents were then asked whether they would like to be tested. If they said they would like to be tested, respondents were asked whether they knew of a specific place where they could go to get the test for the AIDS virus. It should be understood that responses to these questions do not necessarily represent experiences with voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services. Furthermore, it is not known from the survey data whether respondents received the results of the tests that were reported to have occurred. Last, the data on desire to be tested do not necessarily reflect a person's likelihood of actually pursuing HIV testing options. Table 12.8 shows that 7 percent of women and 4 percent of men reported that they had already been tested for HIV. Among those not tested, the vast majority do not want to be tested. Slightly more than one-third

of both men and women who had not been tested knew a source for testing.

Table 12.8.1 Testing for the AIDS virus: women

Percent distribution of women by status of testing for the AIDS virus and preference for testing if not tested, and among those not tested, percentage who know a source, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Tested for the AIDS virus	Has not been tested			Total	Not tested but knows source	Number of women
		Wants to be tested	Doesn't want to be tested	Doesn't know ¹			
Age							
15-19	0.8	7.4	72.2	19.6	100.0	29.7	1,160
20-24	4.9	8.0	76.3	10.7	100.0	40.1	1,007
25-29	11.6	8.9	66.9	12.6	100.0	39.6	769
30-34	11.2	8.2	70.2	10.5	100.0	39.5	763
35-39	10.3	7.1	71.8	10.8	100.0	37.2	962
40-44	5.2	5.6	76.1	13.1	100.0	39.7	947
45-49	4.6	4.5	81.7	9.1	100.0	42.4	822
Marital status							
Never married	0.9	6.8	76.0	16.3	100.0	37.4	1,851
Currently married	9.1	7.4	72.6	11.0	100.0	38.1	4,125
Formerly married	6.9	5.4	74.5	13.2	100.0	37.9	455
Residence							
Urban	7.9	4.9	77.3	10.0	100.0	41.7	3,942
Rural	4.4	10.5	68.0	17.0	100.0	31.8	2,488
Region							
Yerevan	9.9	4.6	76.2	9.3	100.0	41.6	2,206
Aragatsotn	4.1	15.7	67.1	13.0	100.0	40.1	279
Ararat	6.6	13.7	66.0	13.8	100.0	52.3	642
Armavir	8.1	11.3	66.5	14.1	100.0	33.3	553
Gegharkunik	1.2	7.0	75.1	16.8	100.0	23.9	484
Lori	6.6	12.5	53.5	27.4	100.0	29.6	489
Kotayk	6.5	5.2	77.3	11.0	100.0	28.5	505
Shirak	0.8	1.0	90.9	7.3	100.0	34.3	611
Syunik	2.6	2.0	84.2	11.1	100.0	50.2	271
Vayots Dzor	8.5	6.8	64.6	20.1	100.0	43.9	113
Tavush	3.8	7.1	74.8	14.3	100.0	30.8	278
Education							
Primary/middle	1.6	7.1	61.8	29.5	100.0	20.2	593
Secondary	5.0	7.8	71.3	15.9	100.0	30.8	2,341
Secondary-special	7.7	7.4	76.6	8.3	100.0	42.4	2,295
Higher	9.8	4.9	78.7	6.6	100.0	51.8	1,201
Total	6.5	7.1	73.7	12.7	100.0	37.9	6,430

Note: Among women who were tested, 98 percent were tested in a public facility. Among women who were not tested but know source for test, more than 99 percent know of a public source.

¹ Includes those who have never heard of HIV/AIDS.

Table 12.8.2 Testing for the AIDS virus: men

Percent distribution of men by status of testing for the AIDS virus and preference for testing if not tested, and among those not tested, percentage who know a source, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Tested for the AIDS virus	Has not been tested			Total	Not tested but knows source	Number of men
		Wants to be tested	Doesn't want to be tested	Doesn't know ¹			
Age							
15-19	0.0	8.2	78.3	13.5	100.0	22.8	263
20-24	3.0	10.8	77.3	8.9	100.0	36.9	215
25-29	5.2	13.3	74.4	7.1	100.0	28.7	194
30-34	6.5	10.4	76.2	6.9	100.0	34.9	205
35-39	1.8	10.5	82.4	5.3	100.0	42.8	237
40-44	7.0	9.6	78.4	5.1	100.0	41.3	275
45-49	3.7	6.8	82.5	7.1	100.0	45.5	203
50-54	3.0	6.8	86.9	3.3	100.0	38.1	126
Marital status							
Never married	1.7	11.0	76.7	10.6	100.0	30.7	530
Currently married	4.7	8.9	80.4	6.0	100.0	38.8	1,161
Formerly married	(6.6)	(15.6)	(74.0)	(3.8)	(100.0)	(33.3)	28
Residence							
Urban	3.5	7.0	83.2	6.3	100.0	42.6	1,024
Rural	4.1	13.5	73.3	9.0	100.0	26.8	695
Region							
Yerevan	4.5	8.3	78.8	8.5	100.0	44.0	582
Aragatsotn	0.0	31.7	61.2	7.2	100.0	48.9	78
Ararat	4.3	11.5	83.5	0.7	100.0	22.3	177
Armavir	6.9	16.6	70.3	6.2	100.0	32.4	172
Gegharkunik	0.9	0.9	85.5	12.8	100.0	16.2	124
Lori	10.3	13.8	65.5	10.3	100.0	33.3	119
Kotayk	0.0	1.6	95.3	3.1	100.0	48.8	137
Shirak	2.2	8.6	82.7	6.5	100.0	28.1	161
Syunik	2.5	9.2	87.4	0.8	100.0	73.1	65
Vayots Dzor	1.0	15.8	63.4	19.8	100.0	21.8	25
Tavush	0.6	0.6	83.5	15.2	100.0	10.8	79
Education							
Primary/middle	2.1	6.6	73.5	17.9	100.0	23.2	245
Secondary	2.4	10.8	78.3	8.5	100.0	31.5	510
Secondary-special	3.8	9.7	82.5	4.1	100.0	38.2	588
Higher	6.7	9.9	79.0	4.3	100.0	47.9	376
Total	3.8	9.6	79.2	7.4	100.0	36.2	1,719

Note: Among men who were tested, 82 percent were tested in a public facility. Among men who were not tested but know source for test, more than 99 percent know of a public source. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

¹ Includes those who have never heard of HIV/AIDS

12.4 KNOWLEDGE OF SYMPTOMS OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Sexually transmitted infections are important predisposing factors of HIV/AIDS transmission. As such, the presence of STIs in a population increases the likelihood of the occurrence of HIV. AIDS prevention programs should therefore also address the prevention and treatment of STIs. Additional questions were included in the ADHS to assess the level of awareness of STIs and knowledge of the symptoms of STIs among both men and women.

Table 12.9 shows that 42 percent of women and 15 percent of men had no knowledge of sexually transmitted infections. As expected, the youngest respondents, never-married individuals, rural residents, and women and men with lower levels of education are more likely than others to know nothing about STIs. Approximately half of women who knew about STIs were able to name at least one symptom of an STI in a man; almost two-thirds were able to name at least one symptom of an STI in a woman. Similarly, men were more knowledgeable about symptoms of an STI in a man than in a woman: among men who knew about STIs, 81 percent mentioned at least one male symptom, whereas 42 percent mentioned at least one female symptom.

Table 12.9.1 Knowledge of symptoms of STIs: women

Percent distribution of women by knowledge of symptoms associated with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in men and women, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Knowledge of symptoms of STIs in a man					Knowledge of symptoms of STIs in a woman					Number of women
	No knowledge of STIs	No symptoms mentioned	Mentioned one symptom	Mentioned two or more symptoms	Total	No knowledge of STIs	No symptoms mentioned	Mentioned one symptom	Mentioned two or more symptoms	Total	
Age											
15-19	75.7	17.5	3.7	3.2	100.0	75.7	16.2	4.5	3.6	100.0	1,160
20-24	42.9	31.0	11.4	14.7	100.0	42.9	25.4	13.0	18.7	100.0	1,007
25-29	33.1	33.4	13.4	20.1	100.0	33.1	28.0	13.8	25.0	100.0	769
30-34	32.6	28.6	12.6	26.2	100.0	32.6	23.0	13.2	31.2	100.0	763
35-39	33.4	27.8	14.8	24.0	100.0	33.4	21.9	15.5	29.2	100.0	962
40-44	32.9	27.6	14.2	25.3	100.0	32.9	22.7	15.1	29.3	100.0	947
45-49	29.3	26.4	13.8	30.6	100.0	29.3	20.0	14.9	35.8	100.0	822
Marital status											
Never married	60.1	23.5	6.9	9.6	100.0	60.1	20.4	7.9	11.6	100.0	1,851
Currently married	34.7	28.3	13.7	23.4	100.0	34.7	23.0	14.4	27.9	100.0	4,125
Formerly married	31.5	29.6	12.5	26.3	100.0	31.5	21.2	14.6	32.7	100.0	455
Residence											
Urban	33.5	28.6	13.4	24.5	100.0	33.5	22.6	14.6	29.4	100.0	3,942
Rural	55.0	24.4	8.7	11.9	100.0	55.0	21.5	9.2	14.3	100.0	2,488
Region											
Yerevan	30.0	28.1	12.9	28.9	100.0	30.0	21.9	14.0	34.0	100.0	2,206
Aragatsotn	59.5	20.9	4.5	15.1	100.0	59.5	16.9	4.5	19.0	100.0	279
Ararat	37.2	40.1	7.1	15.6	100.0	37.2	35.8	7.6	19.3	100.0	642
Armavir	53.7	24.4	8.9	12.9	100.0	53.7	20.2	9.7	16.4	100.0	553
Gegharkunik	58.5	23.3	11.7	6.5	100.0	58.5	21.3	10.8	9.4	100.0	484
Lori	45.2	32.3	11.7	10.8	100.0	45.2	28.1	12.2	14.4	100.0	489
Kotayk	57.5	23.1	12.1	7.2	100.0	57.5	20.2	13.5	8.8	100.0	505
Shirak	30.7	16.7	17.9	34.8	100.0	30.7	12.0	18.5	38.8	100.0	611
Syunik	50.6	28.5	10.7	10.1	100.0	50.6	21.7	13.0	14.8	100.0	271
Vayots Dzor	52.4	23.6	6.8	17.2	100.0	52.4	18.6	9.2	19.9	100.0	113
Tavush	51.8	25.4	12.3	10.5	100.0	51.8	20.4	15.1	12.7	100.0	278
Education											
Primary/middle	79.0	13.9	3.9	3.2	100.0	79.0	12.1	4.7	4.3	100.0	593
Secondary	54.7	26.6	8.7	10.0	100.0	54.7	23.4	9.2	12.7	100.0	2,341
Secondary-special	31.3	30.0	13.4	25.4	100.0	31.3	23.0	15.1	30.7	100.0	2,295
Higher	18.4	28.3	17.7	35.5	100.0	18.4	23.2	17.9	40.5	100.0	1,201
Total	41.8	27.0	11.6	19.6	100.0	41.8	22.2	12.5	23.5	100.0	6,430

Table 12.9.2 Knowledge of symptoms of STIs: men

Percent distribution of men by knowledge of symptoms associated with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in men and women, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Knowledge of symptoms of STIs in a man					Knowledge of symptoms of STIs in a woman					Number of men
	No knowledge of STIs	No symptoms mentioned	Mentioned one symptom	Mentioned two or more symptoms	Total	No knowledge of STIs	No symptoms mentioned	Mentioned one symptom	Mentioned two or more symptoms	Total	
Age											
15-19	48.0	21.7	13.6	16.7	100.0	48.0	40.2	4.8	6.9	100.0	263
20-24	12.6	19.8	23.2	44.4	100.0	12.6	57.8	8.9	20.6	100.0	215
25-29	12.3	14.9	22.0	50.8	100.0	12.3	48.4	9.4	29.9	100.0	194
30-34	11.4	16.2	21.4	51.0	100.0	11.4	50.4	9.8	28.3	100.0	205
35-39	7.1	15.7	22.5	54.7	100.0	7.1	59.3	9.6	24.0	100.0	237
40-44	9.2	9.8	22.8	58.2	100.0	9.2	45.8	11.1	33.9	100.0	275
45-49	5.9	14.8	17.8	61.4	100.0	5.9	47.4	10.2	36.4	100.0	203
50-54	7.1	15.3	18.6	59.0	100.0	7.1	48.0	12.0	32.9	100.0	126
Marital status											
Never married	29.3	18.9	17.6	34.3	100.0	29.3	45.8	7.0	17.9	100.0	530
Currently married	9.4	14.4	21.3	54.9	100.0	9.4	50.9	10.1	29.6	100.0	1,161
Formerly married	(0.0)	(29.4)	(26.5)	(44.1)	(100.0)	(0.0)	(61.6)	(15.9)	(22.5)	(100.0)	28
Residence											
Urban	9.0	13.7	17.2	60.1	100.0	9.0	48.9	10.0	32.1	100.0	1,024
Rural	24.7	19.4	24.7	31.1	100.0	24.7	50.5	8.2	16.6	100.0	695
Region											
Yerevan	7.1	8.7	15.4	68.7	100.0	7.1	43.5	12.1	37.3	100.0	582
Aragatsotn	23.7	20.1	36.7	19.4	100.0	23.7	66.9	5.8	3.6	100.0	78
Ararat	23.7	10.1	51.1	15.1	100.0	23.7	40.3	25.2	10.8	100.0	177
Armavir	6.2	33.1	0.7	60.0	100.0	6.2	33.1	0.7	60.0	100.0	172
Gegharkunik	20.5	30.8	3.4	45.3	100.0	20.5	75.2	2.6	1.7	100.0	124
Lori	40.2	34.5	11.5	13.8	100.0	40.2	50.6	8.0	1.1	100.0	119
Kotayk	12.6	11.0	43.3	33.1	100.0	12.6	85.0	0.8	1.6	100.0	137
Shirak	10.8	8.6	4.3	76.3	100.0	10.8	42.4	2.2	44.6	100.0	161
Syunik	5.0	19.3	46.2	29.4	100.0	5.0	60.5	16.8	17.6	100.0	65
Vayots Dzor	38.6	33.7	10.9	16.8	100.0	38.6	50.5	3.0	7.9	100.0	25
Tavush	38.0	6.3	27.2	28.5	100.0	38.0	34.8	12.7	14.6	100.0	79
Education											
Primary/middle	38.5	21.3	14.1	26.1	100.0	38.5	41.4	5.0	15.0	100.0	245
Secondary	20.8	19.7	21.1	38.5	100.0	20.8	50.7	8.3	20.2	100.0	510
Secondary-special	10.1	15.3	24.1	50.5	100.0	10.1	56.1	9.9	23.9	100.0	588
Higher	1.2	8.8	17.1	72.9	100.0	1.2	42.8	12.4	43.6	100.0	376
Total	15.3	16.0	20.2	48.4	100.0	15.3	49.5	9.3	25.9	100.0	1,719

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

12.5 PREVALENCE AND TREATMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Respondents were asked whether they had a sexually transmitted infection or had experienced symptoms of an STI in the 12 months preceding the survey. It is important to note that these data are likely to underestimate the true prevalence of STIs for a number of reasons. First, if symptoms are not obvious or prolonged, they may not be recognized as an STI. Furthermore, health care may not be sought for STIs because of the embarrassment or the presumed stigma associated with such infections and may go undiagnosed. Even if an individual knows she/he has an STI, there may be a reluctance to report the infection during an interview.

Table 12.10 shows that less than 1 percent of both women and men reported an STI in the past 12 months, which suggests underreporting of STIs. However, when asked whether they had experienced an abnormal genital discharge in the last 12 months, 23 percent of women reported that they had. To the extent that women may report normal genital discharge as abnormal, this may be an overestimate of any serious STI. However, 9 percent of women reported a genital sore or ulcer, which is of concern in the context of evidence that sores or ulcers (whether a frank STI or not) may facilitate transmission of HIV, especially if left untreated. Prevalence of genital sores or ulcers is particularly high among women in their 20s (Figure 12.2). Virtually no men reported abnormal genital discharge or a genital sore or ulcer.

Table 12.10.1 Self-reporting of sexually transmitted infections and STI symptoms: women

Among women who ever had sex, the percentage self-reporting an STI and/or associated symptoms in the 12 months preceding the survey, by background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Percentage with an STI	Percentage with genital discharge	Percentage with genital sore or ulcer	Percentage with STI, or discharge, or sore/ulcer	Number of women
Age					
15-19	1.4	24.4	3.5	24.9	100
20-24	1.0	34.0	13.0	35.3	529
25-29	0.3	31.7	14.8	35.9	666
30-34	0.7	27.5	11.5	30.8	725
35-39	0.6	19.4	8.4	22.3	908
40-44	0.6	15.4	5.1	17.0	887
45-49	0.3	13.9	3.5	15.4	776
Marital status					
Never married	*	*	*	*	13
Currently married	0.6	23.1	9.2	25.7	4,124
Formerly married	0.1	17.7	4.8	18.9	455
Residence					
Urban	0.5	19.4	7.6	22.0	2,717
Rural	0.7	27.2	10.4	29.3	1,874
Region					
Yerevan	0.4	17.6	6.8	20.0	1,475
Aragatsotn	0.3	17.9	11.5	22.4	206
Ararat	0.5	24.8	12.6	28.1	478
Armavir	0.3	28.8	11.2	30.4	419
Gegharkunik	0.0	31.1	8.6	33.2	366
Lori	1.0	26.1	7.7	27.1	370
Kotayk	3.3	34.5	15.8	39.1	345
Shirak	0.3	10.8	1.7	11.6	439
Syunik	0.0	25.1	11.7	28.4	197
Vayots Dzor	0.0	24.4	11.9	28.2	85
Tavush	0.8	24.9	7.7	26.2	212
Education					
Primary/middle	0.3	27.3	8.2	27.9	325
Secondary	0.6	24.7	9.1	26.7	1,668
Secondary-special	0.5	22.3	10.0	25.7	1,806
Higher	0.8	16.7	5.5	18.5	793
Total	0.6	22.6	8.8	24.9	4,592

Note: The percentage of cases with missing values was as follows: had an STI (0.3 percent), abnormal genital discharge (0.2 percent), genital sore or ulcer (3.4 percent), STI/discharge/sore/ulcer (1.5 percent). An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

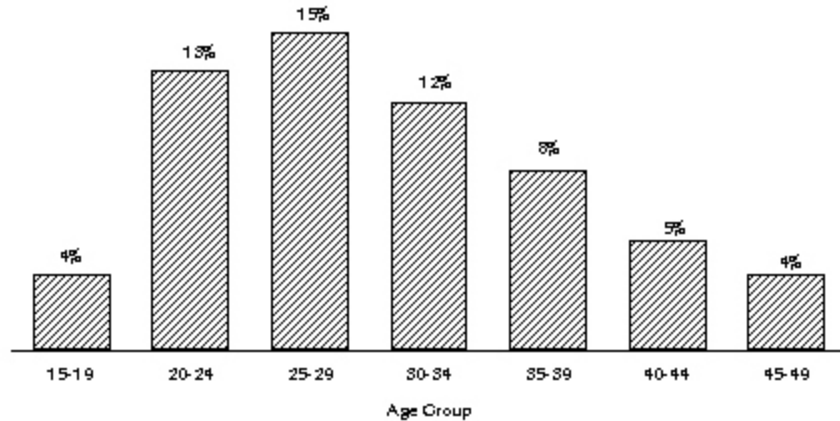
Table 12.10.2 Self-reporting of sexually transmitted infections and STI symptoms: men

Among men who ever had sex, the percentage self-reporting an STI and/or associated symptoms in the 12 months preceding the survey, by background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Percentage with an STI	Percentage with genital discharge	Percentage with genital sore or ulcer	Percentage with STI, or discharge, or sore/ulcer	Number of men
Age					
15-19	0.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	38
20-24	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	156
25-29	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.9	177
30-34	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	202
35-39	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	237
40-44	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	275
45-49	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	201
50-54	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	126
Marital status					
Never married	0.2	1.0	0.0	1.0	224
Currently married	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	1,161
Formerly married	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	28
Residence					
Urban	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.4	858
Rural	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.4	556
Region					
Yerevan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	504
Aragatsotn	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.9	64
Ararat	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	151
Armavir	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	145
Gegharkunik	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	106
Lori	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Kotayk	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	90
Shirak	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.9	122
Syunik	1.0	1.9	0.0	1.9	57
Vayots Dzor	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16
Tavush	1.8	1.8	0.0	1.8	57
Education					
Primary/middle	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	148
Secondary	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3	383
Secondary-special	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	541
Higher	0.1	1.0	0.0	1.0	342
Total	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.4	1,413

Note: The percentage of cases with missing values was as follows: had an STI (0.2 percent), abnormal genital discharge (0.3 percent), genital sore or ulcer (0.4 percent), STI/discharge/sore/ulcer (0.3 percent). Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

Figure 12.2 Self-reporting of Genital Sores or Ulcers in the 12 Months Preceding Survey among Women 15-49 Who Have Ever Had Sex, by Age Group



Armenia DHS 2000

When all reports of sores or ulcers, discharges, and STIs are combined into one index, the ADHS finds that less than 1 percent of men reported an STI or symptoms in the last 12 months, but one-quarter of all women suffered from an STI or symptoms. Women in their twenties, women residing in rural areas, and women with less than higher education were more likely than other women to complain of an STI or STI symptoms. There is significant regional variation from a low of 12 percent in Shirak to 39 percent in Kotayk.

If respondents reported an STI or STI symptoms (i.e. discharge or sore or ulcer) in the past 12 months, they were asked questions on their actions in response to the illness or symptom. Due to the small number of men reporting an STI or STI symptoms, only the data on women are analyzed here. Half of the women who reported an STI or STI symptoms in the past 12 months sought advice or treatment. Women who did seek treatment were most likely to go to a medical facility or doctor. Almost half of women who sought treatment received advice or medicine from a pharmacy or shop. It is notable that 18 percent of all women with an STI or STI symptoms solicited advice from friends or relatives (see Table 12.11).

Table 12.11 Source of treatment of STIs among women

Percentage of women who self-reported a sexually transmitted infection (STI) and/or associated symptoms in the 12 months preceding the survey, by source of treatment and background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Source of treatment of STI ¹						Number of women with an STI ²
	Medical facility or doctor	Traditional healer	Advice or medicine from pharmacy or shop	Advice from friends or relatives	Advice or treatment from any source	No advice or treatment	
Age							
15-19	(38.7)	(5.5)	(17.9)	(12.3)	(38.7)	(61.3)	25
20-24	51.3	3.2	24.0	23.4	56.7	43.3	187
25-29	49.6	2.7	25.6	18.7	54.5	45.0	239
30-34	47.5	5.8	25.9	19.1	54.9	45.1	223
35-39	43.8	4.0	24.2	19.5	50.0	49.3	203
40-44	35.5	4.3	12.3	14.8	42.3	57.7	151
45-49	32.9	2.5	16.6	11.0	38.3	61.2	119
Marital status							
Currently married	46.1	3.8	23.1	18.9	51.9	47.8	1,059
Formerly married	26.9	4.2	12.4	10.1	34.6	65.4	86
Residence							
Urban	46.3	3.8	25.4	21.1	55.1	44.4	597
Rural	42.8	4.0	19.0	15.1	45.5	54.5	550
Region							
Yerevan	50.7	5.6	36.3	27.4	63.3	35.8	296
Aragatsotn	53.7	6.2	21.2	18.7	57.5	42.5	46
Ararat	49.2	5.1	34.7	11.9	51.7	48.3	134
Armavir	38.6	6.1	17.5	22.8	43.9	56.1	127
Gegharkunik	35.8	1.6	14.6	15.4	36.6	63.4	122
Lori	36.9	3.6	21.4	9.5	42.9	57.1	100
Kotayk	47.1	0.8	3.4	14.3	50.4	49.6	135
Shirak	(24.4)	(4.9)	(2.4)	(12.2)	(31.7)	(68.3)	51
Syunik	53.9	0.0	28.4	23.5	56.9	42.2	56
Vayots Dzor	41.2	0.0	19.6	11.3	43.3	56.7	24
Tavush	45.5	2.0	7.1	8.1	47.5	52.5	55
Education							
Primary/middle	25.2	2.5	11.7	7.4	29.0	71.0	91
Secondary	40.8	4.3	19.8	20.4	47.8	52.2	445
Secondary-special	47.6	3.6	23.9	16.1	52.2	47.0	464
Higher	58.9	4.4	31.4	25.1	66.4	33.6	146
STI or symptom in last 12 months							
STI	(74.7)	(14.2)	(36.5)	(36.1)	(74.7)	(25.3)	27
Genital discharge	43.7	3.8	23.0	18.4	50.1	49.6	1,035
Genital sore/ulcer	60.7	4.6	27.1	24.0	65.2	34.4	403
Total	44.6	3.9	22.3	18.2	50.5	49.2	1,147

Note: Total includes one never-married woman. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

¹ Respondents were able to report more than one source of treatment.

² Includes women reporting having had an STI, genital discharge, ulcer, or sore in the preceding 12 months.

Table 12.12 shows that 68 percent of women reporting an STI or an STI symptom in the past year said that they had informed their partner. Respondents reporting an STI were also asked whether they had done something to avoid infecting their partner. The results indicate that 29 percent of women took some action. When asked what action they took, the most frequently mentioned action was use of medicines (24 percent). Sixteen percent of women mentioned abstinence from sex. Only 5 percent of women said that they used condoms to prevent infecting their partner.

Table 12.12 Protection of partner by women with STIs

Percentage of women who had an STI and/or associated symptom in the 12 months preceding the survey, by actions taken to protect partner and background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Action taken to protect partner ¹						Partner already infected	Number of women with an STI ²
	Informed partner of STI or symptoms	Avoided sexual relations	Used condoms	Used medicine	Any action	No action		
Age								
15-19	(73.2)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(16.0)	(16.0)	(78.5)	(5.5)	25
20-24	74.3	13.9	7.8	26.6	30.0	68.0	2.0	187
25-29	72.2	19.4	6.3	29.6	33.5	66.0	0.0	239
30-34	69.8	21.4	9.2	24.7	34.8	64.6	0.0	223
35-39	68.8	16.0	2.8	23.0	25.8	73.0	0.3	203
40-44	56.7	11.5	1.3	17.5	22.4	76.8	0.8	151
45-49	56.0	14.9	0.0	21.1	24.3	74.5	0.0	119
Marital status								
Currently married	72.7	17.6	5.3	26.0	31.0	67.7	0.6	1,059
Formerly married	6.9	1.3	1.6	1.3	2.9	97.1	0.0	86
Residence								
Urban	70.8	20.1	7.2	26.5	32.9	65.9	0.5	597
Rural	64.4	12.2	2.7	21.7	24.8	74.1	0.7	550
Region								
Yerevan	72.1	30.7	11.6	33.5	44.2	54.0	0.9	296
Aragatsotn	77.5	30.0	6.2	41.2	43.7	55.0	0.0	46
Ararat	64.4	11.9	7.6	30.5	35.6	64.4	0.0	134
Armavir	73.7	15.8	0.0	17.5	19.3	80.7	0.0	127
Gegharkunik	62.6	10.6	1.6	12.2	17.1	82.9	0.0	122
Lori	54.8	4.8	1.2	13.1	13.1	83.3	2.4	100
Kotayk	74.8	12.6	2.5	30.3	32.8	65.5	0.8	135
Shirak	(53.7)	(0.0)	(2.4)	(14.6)	(14.6)	(85.4)	(0.0)	51
Syunik	72.5	9.8	2.0	9.8	10.8	89.2	0.0	56
Vayots Dzor	76.3	16.5	1.0	32.0	37.1	60.8	0.0	24
Tavush	53.5	5.1	2.0	12.1	16.2	82.8	1.0	55
Education								
Primary/middle	52.8	6.5	1.1	15.9	17.0	83.0	0.0	91
Secondary	65.8	12.7	3.9	19.3	23.1	75.5	0.8	445
Secondary-special	71.0	18.7	4.9	27.4	32.9	66.0	0.7	464
Higher	73.0	26.2	11.4	34.3	42.4	56.8	0.0	146
STI or symptom in last 12 months								
STI	(87.1)	(43.4)	(9.4)	(39.3)	(43.4)	(41.6)	(14.9)	27
Genital discharge	67.2	16.3	5.3	24.3	29.0	70.0	0.5	1,035
Genital sore/ulcer	80.3	17.6	5.6	26.8	31.9	66.9	0.6	403
Total	67.8	16.4	5.0	24.2	29.0	69.9	0.6	1,147

Note: Total includes one never-married woman who reported abnormal genital discharge. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

¹ Respondents could give more than one answer.

² Includes women reporting having had an STI, genital discharge, ulcer, or sore in the preceding 12 months

12.6 SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Promoting safe sexual behavior has been the primary focus of HIV/AIDS prevention programs. This component of prevention programs includes encouraging lifelong, mutually monogamous relationships; reducing the overall number of sexual contacts outside marriage; and using condoms, especially with partners other than spouses. Thus, information on sexual behavior is important in designing and monitoring a program that is aimed at preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other STIs. It should be noted, however, that accurate data are difficult to obtain because many people are reluctant to discuss their experiences.

According to Table 12.13, almost all married women (96 percent) claim to have had only one sexual partner in the 12 months preceding the survey. Four percent report no sexual partner. Virtually no married women (0.1 percent) report having more than one sexual partner. It should be noted that among married women who claimed to have only one sexual partner, the partner mentioned was not necessarily the woman's spouse. Nonetheless, overall, the ADHS data reveal that almost no married women admit to having multiple sexual relationships. Furthermore, the data indicate that virtually no unmarried women had a sexual partner (or admitted to having one) in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Married men were more likely than married women to have multiple partners. Five percent of married men reported having two or more sexual partners in the 12 months preceding the survey. Men in Syunik were significantly more likely than other men to report multiple partners. Men residing in Yerevan were the most likely to refuse to answer the question (13 percent). Overall, the average number of sexual partners among married men is 1.1, varying by background characteristics from 1.0 to 1.2. Again, it should be noted that married men who mentioned only one sexual partner may not have been referring to their wife.

More than one-third of all unmarried men reported having at least one sexual partner in the 12 months preceding the survey. More than half of unmarried men residing in Yerevan and men with higher education reported one or more sexual partners. The mean number of sexual partners among unmarried men ranges from a low of 0.3 among rural residents and men with a primary/middle education to a high of 1.5 among residents of Yerevan and 1.6 among men with higher education. The mean number of sexual partners among all unmarried men is 0.8.

Table 12.13.1 Number of sexual partners among women

Percent distribution of women by number of persons with whom they had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Number of sexual partners			Total	Mean number of sexual partners	Number of women
	0	1	2+			
CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN						
Age						
15-19	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	1.0	99
20-24	1.3	98.7	0.0	100.0	1.0	511
25-29	2.9	97.1	0.0	100.0	1.0	625
30-34	3.5	96.1	0.4	100.0	1.0	660
35-39	3.5	96.5	0.0	100.0	1.0	816
40-44	5.1	94.9	0.0	100.0	0.9	773
45-49	7.7	92.3	0.0	100.0	0.9	640
Residence						
Urban	4.7	95.1	0.1	100.0	1.0	2,391
Rural	3.0	97.0	0.0	100.0	1.0	1,733
Region						
Yerevan	4.0	95.7	0.2	100.0	1.0	1,291
Aragatsotn	3.3	96.7	0.0	100.0	1.0	193
Ararat	2.8	97.2	0.0	100.0	1.0	449
Armavir	2.7	97.3	0.0	100.0	1.0	373
Gegharkunik	2.9	97.1	0.0	100.0	1.0	341
Lori	3.7	96.3	0.0	100.0	1.0	323
Kotayk	6.1	93.9	0.0	100.0	0.9	316
Shirak	7.7	92.3	0.0	100.0	0.9	388
Syunik	2.5	97.5	0.0	100.0	1.0	173
Vayots Dzor	2.8	97.2	0.0	100.0	1.0	79
Tavush	3.4	96.6	0.0	100.0	1.0	198
Education						
Primary/middle	4.1	95.9	0.0	100.0	1.0	276
Secondary	3.5	96.5	0.0	100.0	1.0	1,537
Secondary-special	5.1	94.8	0.1	100.0	0.9	1,603
Higher	2.5	97.3	0.2	100.0	1.0	708
Total	4.0	95.9	0.1	100.0	1.0	4,125
UNMARRIED WOMEN						
Total	99.2	0.8	0.0	100.0	0.0	2,305

Table 12.13.2 Number of sexual partners among men

Percent distribution of men by number of persons with whom they had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, according to background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Number of sexual partners				Total	Mean number of sexual partners	Number of men
	0	1	2+	Don't know/missing			
CURRENTLY MARRIED MEN							
Age							
15-19	*	*	*	*	*	*	4
20-24	0.0	90.0	3.2	6.8	100.0	1.0	57
25-29	0.0	92.1	3.6	4.3	100.0	1.1	120
30-34	0.7	90.9	4.8	3.7	100.0	1.1	177
35-39	0.0	89.0	7.4	3.6	100.0	1.2	219
40-44	2.7	87.2	5.8	4.3	100.0	1.0	266
45-49	2.8	88.7	3.0	5.6	100.0	1.0	196
50-54	5.6	86.6	1.4	6.4	100.0	1.0	123
Residence							
Urban	1.9	87.4	3.3	7.3	100.0	1.0	683
Rural	1.6	91.2	6.5	0.7	100.0	1.1	478
Region							
Yerevan	1.0	83.5	2.4	13.1	100.0	1.0	378
Aragatsotn	1.1	90.5	6.3	2.1	100.0	1.1	53
Ararat	3.0	88.0	7.0	2.0	100.0	1.1	127
Armavir	2.1	93.8	4.1	0.0	100.0	1.0	115
Gegharkunik	0.0	94.1	5.9	0.0	100.0	1.1	90
Lori	4.6	86.2	9.2	0.0	100.0	1.2	89
Kotayk	2.4	95.1	2.4	0.0	100.0	1.0	88
Shirak	2.2	92.4	5.4	0.0	100.0	1.0	106
Syunik	1.3	86.3	12.5	0.0	100.0	1.2	44
Vayots Dzor	0.0	95.3	1.6	3.1	100.0	1.0	16
Tavush	1.9	97.2	0.9	0.0	100.0	1.0	54
Education							
Primary/middle	4.3	87.3	1.8	6.6	100.0	1.1	118
Secondary	1.1	87.2	5.8	5.9	100.0	1.1	297
Secondary-special	2.1	91.0	3.9	3.0	100.0	1.0	474
Higher	0.9	88.1	5.7	5.2	100.0	1.1	273
Total	1.8	89.0	4.6	4.6	100.0	1.1	1,161
UNMARRIED MEN							
Marital status							
Never married	64.6	20.3	15.1	0.0	100.0	0.8	530
Formerly married	(55.1)	(34.0)	(10.9)	(0.0)	(100.0)	(0.6)	28
Residence							
Urban	55.2	25.4	19.4	0.0	100.0	1.1	341
Rural	78.1	14.0	7.9	0.0	100.0	0.3	217
Region							
Yerevan	45.2	28.0	26.8	0.0	100.0	1.5	204
Education							
Primary/middle	81.7	13.0	5.4	0.0	100.0	0.3	127
Secondary	69.4	18.8	11.8	0.0	100.0	0.6	213
Secondary-special	55.1	25.5	19.4	0.0	100.0	1.0	115
Higher	41.7	30.3	28.0	0.0	100.0	1.6	103
Total	64.1	21.0	14.9	0.0	100.0	0.8	558

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

12.7 KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF CONDOMS

Because of the important role that the condom plays in combating the transmission of HIV, respondents were asked where condoms could be obtained. If the respondent reported knowing a source and could cite a specific source, the respondent was asked whether she/he could actually get a condom, if desired. This last question was intended to ascertain the level of personal access to condoms as opposed to having passing knowledge.

Table 12.14 shows that 79 percent of women and 91 percent of men could cite a place where they could obtain a condom. Knowledge of a source for condoms follows expected patterns by background characteristics. Virtually all women who know a source for condoms cite a public source. Almost all men, on the other hand, mention a pharmacy. Sixty-six percent of women and 85 percent of men say that they themselves could obtain condoms.

Table 12.14.1 Knowledge of source for male condoms: women						
Among women who know of HIV/AIDS and who have had sexual intercourse, percentage who know a source for male condoms, and percentage who could get a condom themselves, by background characteristics, Armenia 2000						
Background characteristic	Knows source for condom			Could get a condom herself	Does not know a source for condoms	Number of women
	Public source	Private pharmacy	Other source			
Age						
15-19	52.2	1.6	2.8	41.8	45.0	85
20-24	71.2	3.6	2.3	62.2	24.4	503
25-29	79.7	3.1	3.0	70.8	15.6	638
30-34	78.5	2.9	3.3	70.4	17.8	696
35-39	76.6	3.8	2.0	68.7	18.9	869
40-44	73.9	3.3	2.1	64.5	22.2	841
45-49	71.7	3.7	0.4	61.9	25.0	743
Marital status						
Never married	*	*	*	*	*	13
Currently married	75.5	3.3	2.4	66.7	20.5	3,941
Formerly married	68.7	3.8	0.1	58.8	27.3	421
Residence						
Urban	80.1	4.8	2.8	70.8	14.3	2,648
Rural	66.9	1.2	1.1	58.7	31.4	1,727
Region						
Yerevan	82.5	6.1	3.3	73.4	10.5	1,445
Aragatsotn	64.2	0.0	0.3	56.6	35.5	189
Ararat	85.8	2.2	0.7	76.7	12.3	473
Armavir	78.2	0.3	0.8	71.8	21.5	396
Gegharkunik	54.2	0.0	2.4	41.3	44.6	330
Lori	63.5	11.7	1.5	62.4	22.9	318
Kotayk	67.1	1.7	2.0	52.7	31.2	338
Shirak	69.7	0.6	2.6	66.5	29.4	426
Syunik	69.6	0.6	2.6	43.9	28.1	188
Vayots Dzor	76.3	0.0	1.3	70.1	22.7	75
Tavush	78.8	0.8	0.8	73.4	19.8	198
Education						
Primary/middle	49.6	1.9	1.4	40.4	47.1	263
Secondary	67.3	2.6	1.3	58.0	29.3	1,550
Secondary-special	80.0	3.7	1.9	69.5	15.7	1,772
Higher	87.0	4.5	4.4	82.5	8.3	790
Total	74.9	3.4	2.1	66.0	21.1	4,376

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

Table 12.14.2 Knowledge of source for male condoms: men

Among men who know of HIV/AIDS and who have had sexual intercourse, percentage who know a source for male condoms, and percentage who could get a condom themselves, by background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Knows source for condom				Could get condom himself	Does not know a source for condoms	Number of men
	Public source	Private Source	Private pharmacy	Other source			
Age							
15-19	(3.0)	(6.8)	(93.8)	(22.6)	(91.1)	(3.1)	38
20-24	5.2	4.3	90.1	9.6	93.1	5.0	151
25-29	12.1	4.5	86.7	20.7	87.4	9.3	174
30-34	7.8	2.0	82.9	16.5	87.9	8.7	196
35-39	11.9	1.7	80.7	13.9	83.7	10.7	229
40-44	11.4	2.5	80.2	8.1	84.9	8.2	267
45-49	11.1	2.6	83.6	10.3	80.8	10.6	197
50-54	11.3	3.1	77.0	8.0	77.4	13.1	125
Marital status							
Never married	7.2	4.7	90.4	16.3	92.6	3.9	223
Currently married	10.4	2.7	81.4	11.8	83.5	10.4	1,127
Formerly married	(19.0)	(0.0)	(95.7)	(19.7)	(98.1)	(0.0)	27
Residence							
Urban	11.1	4.6	87.7	15.3	90.9	3.6	844
Rural	8.5	0.3	75.9	8.6	76.2	17.9	532
Region							
Yerevan	5.7	7.8	95.6	20.3	92.4	1.0	499
Aragatsotn	0.0	0.0	88.5	5.3	83.2	11.5	63
Ararat	0.8	0.0	85.7	16.0	85.7	12.6	151
Armavir	0.8	0.8	91.6	0.0	92.4	6.7	142
Gegharkunik	0.0	0.0	50.0	29.3	48.9	48.9	97
Lori	0.0	0.0	68.7	6.0	67.2	29.9	92
Kotayk	0.0	0.0	100.0	3.6	98.8	0.0	90
Shirak	67.3	0.0	30.7	0.0	98.0	2.0	117
Syunik	1.0	0.0	93.2	13.6	77.7	3.9	56
Vayots Dzor	23.3	1.7	85.0	0.0	73.3	15.0	15
Tavush	46.7	0.0	91.6	1.9	57.9	4.7	54
Education							
Primary/middle	6.9	1.9	75.5	7.4	72.9	19.3	134
Secondary	9.7	2.5	81.6	13.6	82.8	11.3	374
Secondary-special	9.1	2.4	83.1	12.5	84.7	9.6	528
Higher	13.3	4.6	87.9	14.1	93.8	1.9	339
Total	10.1	2.9	83.2	12.7	85.2	9.1	1,376

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

Overall, 7 percent of cohabiting women say that they used a condom during the last sexual intercourse with their partner (Table 12.15.1). Women residing in urban areas, living in Yerevan or Tavush, with higher education, or age 25-34 are significantly more likely than other women to have used condoms. Seven percent of men also state that they used a condom during the last sexual intercourse with their spouse or cohabiting partner (Table 12.15.2). The likelihood of using a condom increases more than sixfold if a man had sex with a noncohabiting partner (43 percent).

Table 12.15.1 Use of condoms with cohabiting partner: women

Among women who had sexual intercourse in the past year, percentage who used a condom during last sexual intercourse with spouse or cohabiting partner, by background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Percentage who used condom during last sex	Number of women
Age		
15-19	1.2	98
20-24	8.0	504
25-29	11.1	605
30-34	10.2	636
35-39	6.8	777
40-44	4.8	723
45-49	2.0	583
Marital status		
Currently married	7.0	3,906
Residence		
Urban	9.0	2,253
Rural	4.2	1,674
Region		
Yerevan	12.1	1,216
Aragatsotn	2.4	189
Ararat	6.2	438
Armavir	3.1	362
Gegharkunik	2.1	330
Lori	3.1	313
Kotayk	3.9	291
Shirak	7.4	350
Syunik	3.6	169
Vayots Dzor	3.5	77
Tavush	10.5	191
Education		
Primary/middle	1.3	263
Secondary	3.9	1,480
Secondary-special	7.4	1,511
Higher	14.8	673
Total	7.0	3,927

Note: The total includes 21 formerly married women who had a cohabiting partner in the preceding 12 months but were not in union at the time of the survey.

Table 12.15.2 Use of condoms with partner: men

Among men who had sexual intercourse in the past year, percentage who used a condom during last sexual intercourse, by type of partner and background characteristics, Armenia 2000

Background characteristic	Spouse or cohabiting partner		Noncohabiting partner	
	Percentage who used condom during last sex	Number of men	Percentage who used condom during last sex	Number of men
Marital status				
Never married	na	na	46.3	185
Currently married	7.0	1,079	35.7	60
Formerly married	*	3	*	12
Residence				
Urban	9.8	615	54.3	179
Rural	3.6	467	18.6	79
Region				
Yerevan	13.0	321	60.0	123
Education				
Primary/middle	3.0	105	*	24
Secondary	6.0	276	41.5	83
Secondary-special	7.8	449	39.8	70
Higher	8.9	251	48.9	81
Total	7.1	1,082	43.3	257

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

na = Not applicable