

Ambivalent Childbearing Motivation and Condom Use in Young Urban Women

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Abstract

Research that is focused on ambivalence toward becoming pregnant has typically utilized bipolar scales to measure motivational ambivalence. In the research reported here we utilize two unipolar scales of childbearing motivation, one positive (PCM) and the other negative (NCM). These two scales allow us to construct a four-part motivational typology that reflects the interaction between positive and negative childbearing motivations. The four interaction variables derived from this typology include antinatal, ambivalent, pronatal, and indifferent motivation.

We hypothesize that the antinatal variable will be associated with a greater effectiveness of contraceptive use and that the other three variables will be associated with a lesser effectiveness of contraceptive use. We use regularity of condom use as our measure of contraceptive effectiveness and test these hypotheses in a sample of 184 young African-American women living in an urban setting. Because the respondents in our sample are using both hormonal and non-hormonal methods of contraception, we also hypothesize that the use of contraceptive moderator variables to examine sample subgroups would enhance the predictive power of the interaction variables. Finally, because of the interdependent nature of the four interaction variables, together with our sample being relatively small, we hypothesize that the predictive capacity of the three interaction variables associated with lower contraceptive use effectiveness would be clarified when all three were tested simultaneously.

We use ordinary linear regression to examine whether PCM, NCM, and the four interaction variables individually predict lower regularity of condom use, first in the entire sample and then in three sample subgroups: those using condoms, those using no method, and those using a hormonal method at last sex with their main (i.e., “serious”) partner. We repeat these regressions, adding as predictors two measures of the respondent’s motivation to avoid a sexually transmitted disease and her age as control variables. Finally, we repeat the regressions with the ambivalence, pronatal, and indifference variables included simultaneously as predictors.

The results confirm our antinatal hypothesis for the total sample, our ambivalence hypothesis for the condoms subgroup and for the condoms and nothing subgroups combined, and our combination of ambivalence, pronatal, and indifference hypothesis for the total sample. An unexpected finding is that indifference predicts lower regularity of condom use in the hormonal subgroup. These findings, as well as other results obtained with the use of control and other variables, are discussed.

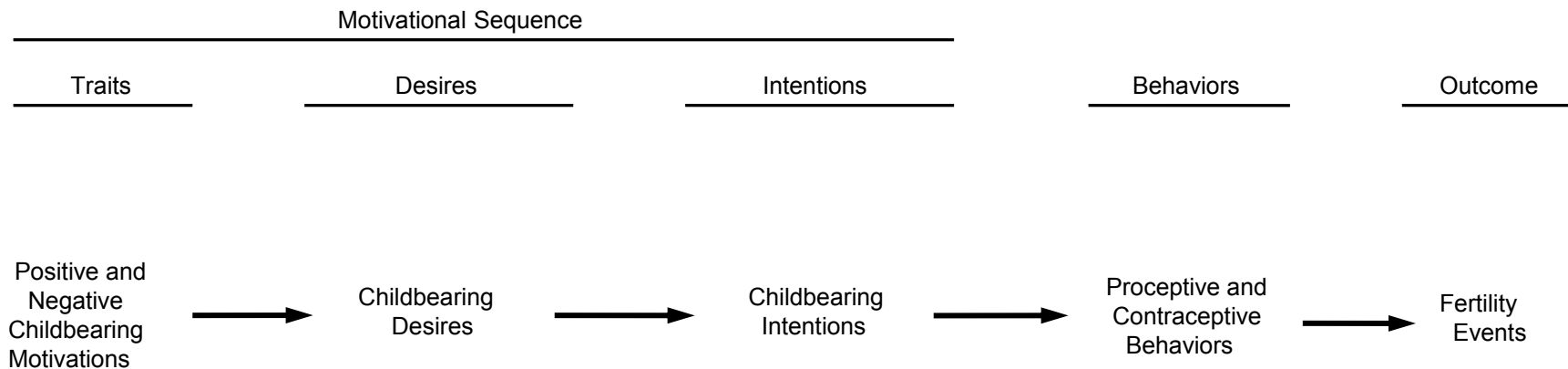


Figure 1. The motivational and behavioral sequence leading to fertility events hypothesized by the Traits-Desires-Intentions-Behavior (TDIB) theoretical framework.

Motivation Not To Have a Baby

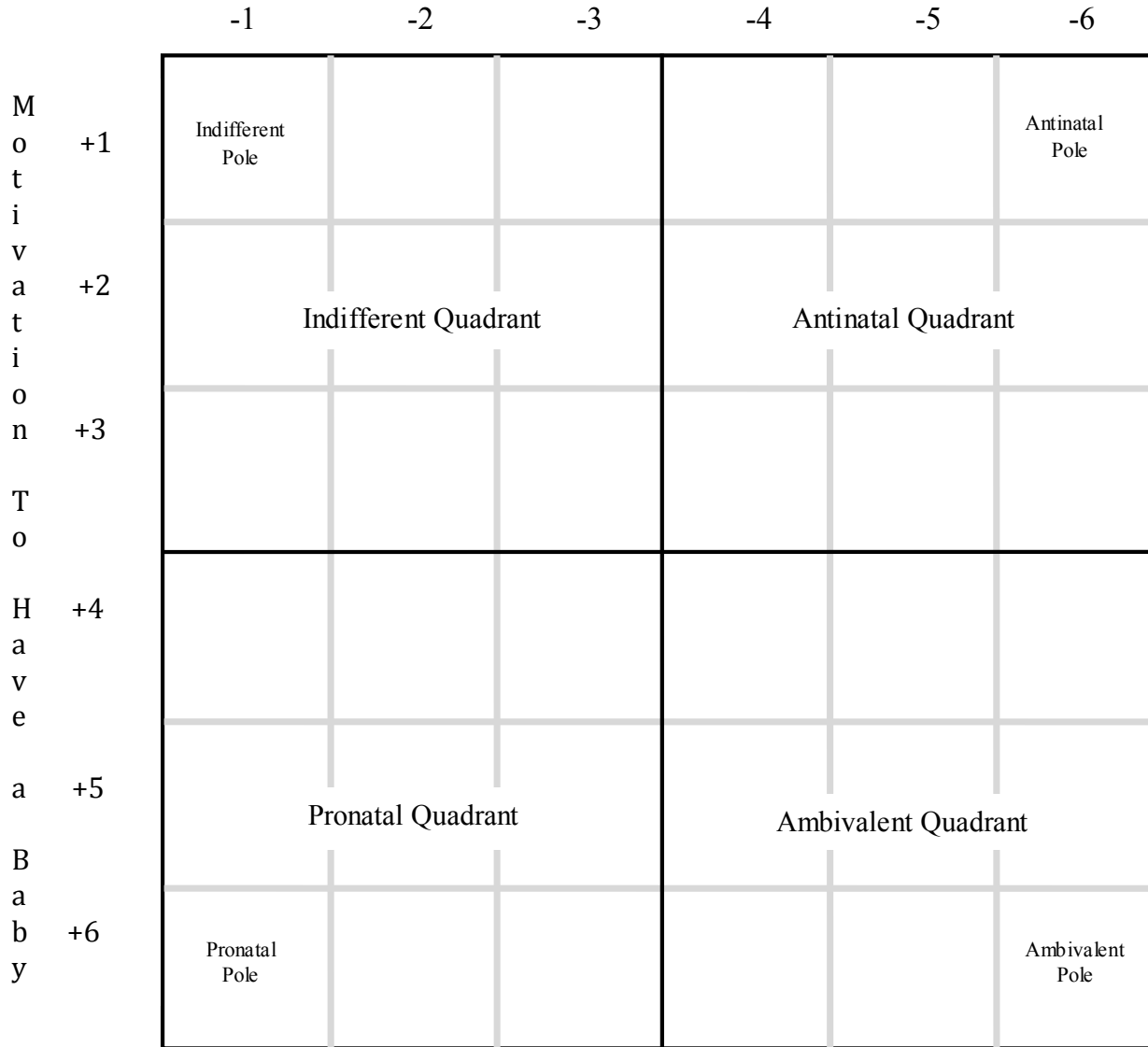


Figure 2. A graphic representation of the orthogonal interaction of two unipolar dimensions of motivation, one positive and the other negative, both varying from 1 to 6.

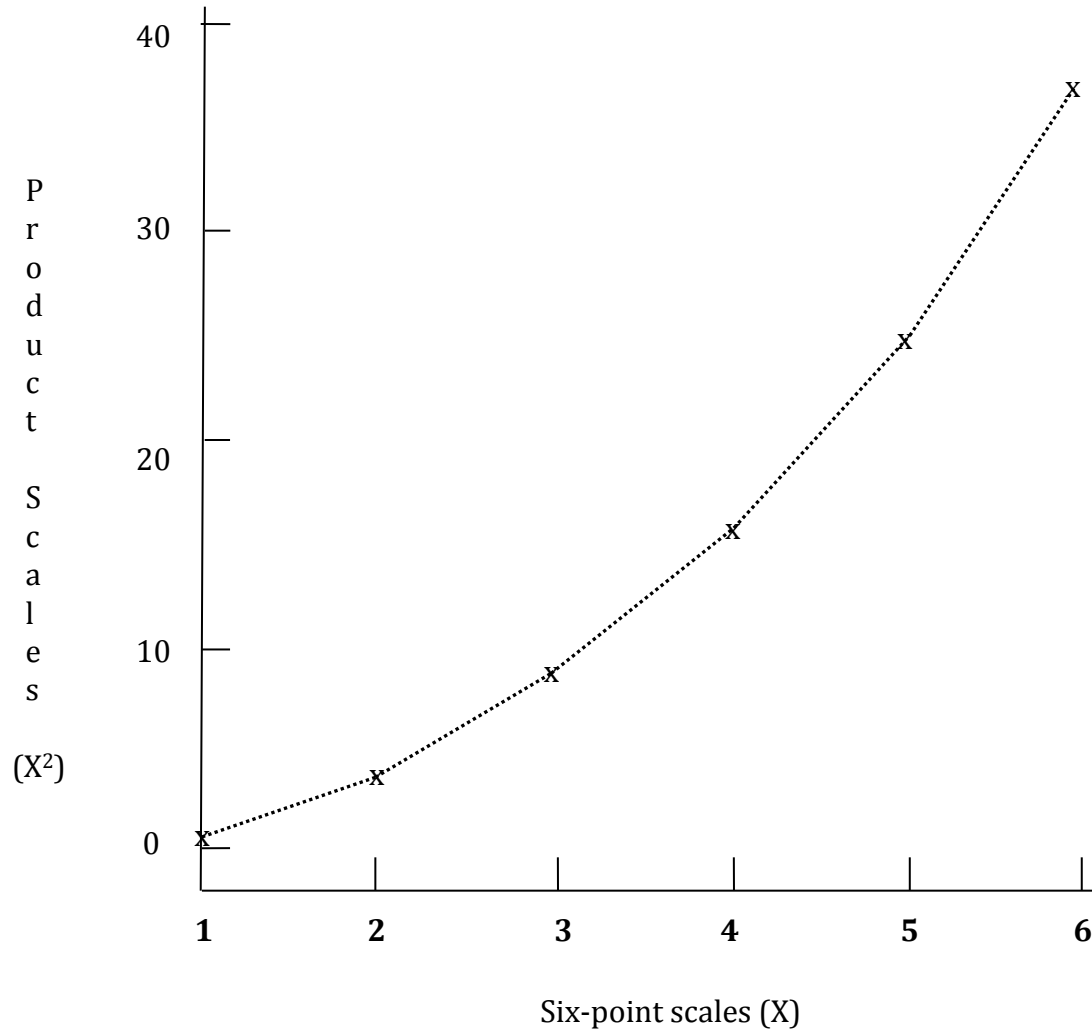


Figure 3. A graph showing the accelerating curve of the product of two six-point scales.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics of the Main Demographic Variables of the Study Sample and Its Subgroups.

Interval Variables	Sample Subgroups Based on Contraceptive Method Used at Last Sex							
	Total Sample (N = 183)		Condoms (N = 78)		Nothing (N = 52)		Hormone (N = 53)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Age	19.5	2.7	19.4	2.9	20.4	2.5	18.8	2.3
Categorical Variables	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Education - % HS Diploma/GED	62.5	37.5	61.3	28.7	75.4	24.6	52.8	47.2
Marital Status - % Single	90.7	9.3	92.3	7.7	86.8	13.2	92.5	7.5
Living Status - % Living with Parents	60.3	39.7	68.0	32.0	43.4	56.6	66.0	34.0
Work Status - % Employed	47.8	52.2	48.7	51.3	54.7	45.3	39.6	60.4
Parity Status - % 1 or More Children	41.9	58.1	39.7	60.3	43.4	56.6	43.4	56.6

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of the Motivational Variables of the Study Sample and Its Subgroups.

Interval Variables	Sample Subgroups Based on Contraceptive Method Used at Last Sex							
	Total Sample (N = 183)		Condoms (N = 78)		Nothing (N = 52)		Hormonal (N = 53)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Positive Childbearing Motivation	97.6	21.2	95.8	22.0	101.6	17.5	96.2	23.1
Negative Childbearing Motivation	51.4	18.7	53.6	19.3	51.3	17.0	48.3	19.1
Antinatal Motivation	3780	2445	4040	2470	3414	1778	3757	2924
Ambivalent Motivation	6744	2788	6931	2914	7086	2719	6132	2614
Pronatal Motivation	7876	3159	7438	3217	8104	2782	8297	3389
Indifferent Motivation	4100	1979	4091	2127	3896	1843	4315	1895
Anti-STD Motivation-1	13.7	1.9	13.8	2.0	13.7	2.2	13.7	1.6
Anti-STD Motivation-2	17.4	3.6	18.1	3.1	17.1	3.4	16.6	3.9

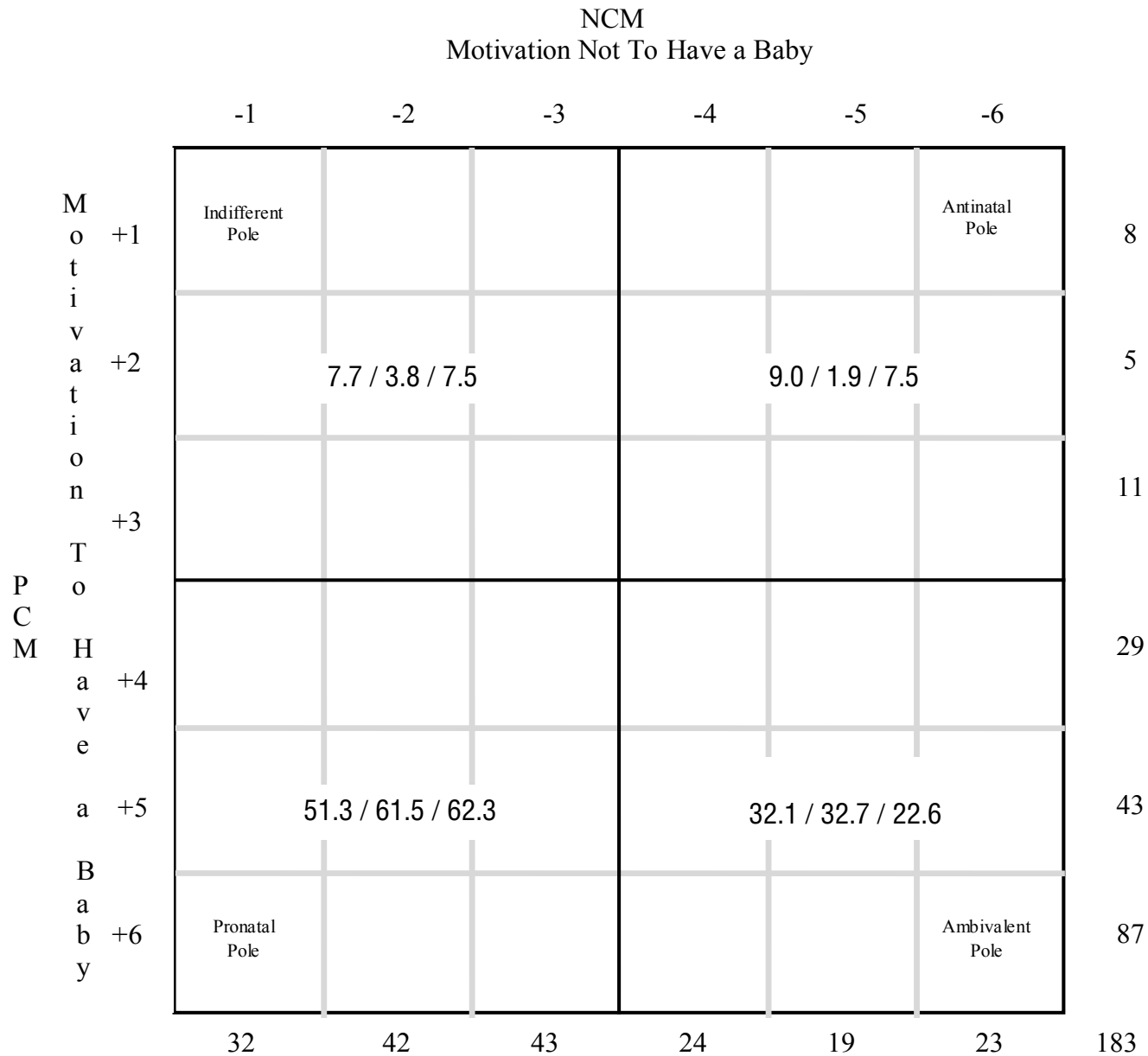


Figure 4. A cross-tabulation of categorical versions of the PCM and NCM variables, showing the percent of the Condom / Nothing / Hormone subgroups falling in each quadrant and the numbers of marginal cases for the total sample.

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics of the Contraceptive Variables of the Study Sample and Its Subgroups.

Ordinal Variable	Sample Subgroups Based on Contraceptive Method Used at Last Sex							
	Total Sample (N = 183)		Condoms (N = 78)		Nothing (N = 52)		Hormonal (N = 53)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Regularity of Condom Use During Last 90 Days	4.1	2.5	5.3	2.1	2.1	1.6	4.3	2.5
Categorical Variable								
Method used at Last Sex	#	Yes	#	Yes	#	Yes	#	Yes
Condoms	113		78				35	
Oral Contraception	24						24	
Depo Provera	31						31	
Norplant	1						1	
Withdrawal	18		7		7		4	
Rhythm	0		0		0		0	
Other	15		5		9		1	
Nothing	46		4		39		3	

Note: Subgroup criterion methods are shown in bold. An additional criterion for the Condoms subgroup is the non-use of a hormonal method and for the Nothing subgroup is the non-use of condoms and a hormonal method.

Table 4. Results of Regression of Regularity of Condom Use on Motivation Variables in the Study Sample and Its Subgroups.

Motivational Variables	Sample Subgroups Based on Contraceptive Method Used at Last Sex							
	Total Sample (N = 183)		Condoms (N = 78)		Nothing (N = 52)		Hormonal (N = 53)	
	Coef.	P Value	Coef.	P Value	Coef.	P Value	Coef.	P Value
<u>Univariate Regressions</u>								
Positive Childbearing Motivation	-.056	.070	-.019	.085	-.011	.403	.007	.659
Negative Childbearing Motivation	.004	.554	-.018	.043	.008	.410	.029	.108
Antinatal Motivation	.149	.048	.021	.828	.139	.283	.142	.230
Ambivalent Motivation	-.061	.362	-.242	.003	.030	.722	.258	.048
Pronatal Motivation	-.057	.327	.066	.382	-.072	.391	-.108	.294
Indifferent Motivation	.309	.674	.274	.015	-.035	.780	-.487	.006
<u>Multivariate Regressions</u>								
Ambivalent Motivation	-.295	.038	-.287	.117	-.170	.485	-.135	.526
Pronatal Motivation	-.161	.035	-.042	.659	-.139	.294	-.138	.220
Indifferent Motivation	-.276	.125	-.043	.850	-.216	.479	-.619	.051

Note: Actual values of all coefficients shown, excepting those for Positive and Negative Childbearing Motivations, are 10^{-3} times the value shown. P values of less than .050 are shown in bold.