

INTRODUCTION

Ovulation increases women's likelihood to engage in short-term mating with highly attractive men, thus elevating the likelihood of conception with attractive men (Baker & Bellis, 1995; Bellis & Baker, 1990). Given what is suggested to be an implicit goal of (short-term) mating with highly attractive men, what affect does ovulation have on women's explicit condom attitudes and behaviors?

Therefore, we predict ovulation could **decrease** condom-condoning attitudes and intentions relative to non-ovulating women, potentially suggesting that women would be less likely to use condoms during peak fertility, resulting in an increased likelihood of conception.

METHODS

PARTICIPANTS

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire undergraduate heterosexual women not using birth control participated in a Qualtrics survey that asked questions about condom use and behaviors.

Using the Reverse Cycle Day Method (Haselton & Gangestad, 2006), women were identified as ovulating and not ovulating:

Ovulating: 8
Not Ovulating: 21

DESIGN

2 (Ovulation Status: Ovulating vs. Not Ovulating, between-subjects) x 3 (Condom Attitudes: Intentions, attitudes, autonomy, within-subjects)

DEPENDENT VARIABLES:

Condom Intentions (1 = Not Very Likely, 7 = Very Likely):

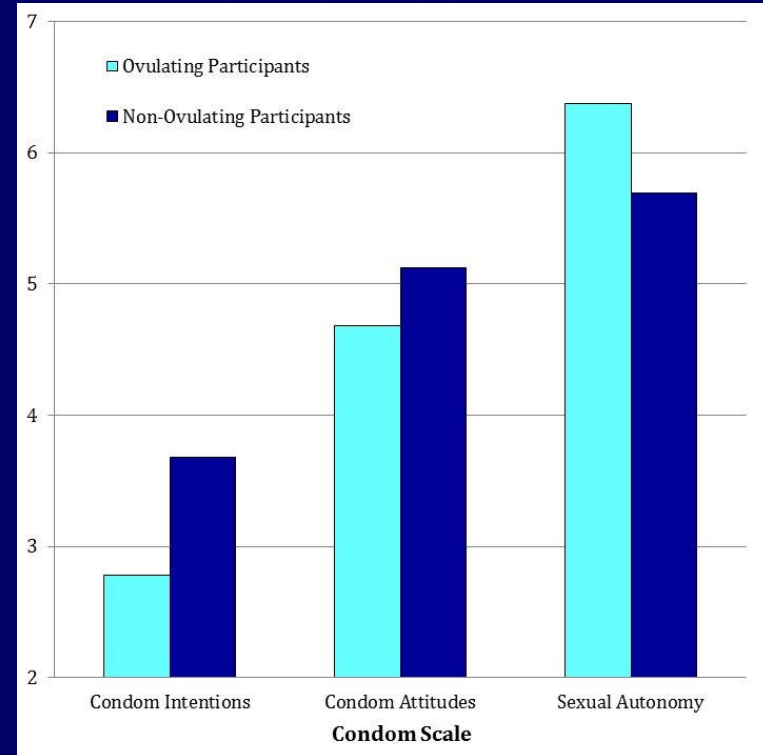
1. How likely is it that you will buy or get condoms in the next six months?
2. How likely is it that you will carry condoms with you in the next six months?
3. How likely is it that you will talk to a sex partner about using condoms in the next six months?
4. How likely is it that you will use a condom every time you have sexual intercourse in the next six months?

Condom Attitudes (1 = Strongly Disagree, 7 = Strongly Agree):

1. I like sex with condoms.
2. People who use condoms are very responsible.
3. Condoms take all the fun out of sex. [reverse coded]
4. Condoms can ruin the sexual mood. [reverse coded]

Sexual Autonomy (1 = Strongly Disagree, 7 = Strongly Agree):

1. I believe I can decide when in the relationship we will have sex.
2. I believe I could make decisions about what goes on when I have sex.
3. If I am not in a sexual mood, I believe I can tell my partner I don't want to have sex.
4. I don't feel I would be in control of myself in a sexual situation. [reverse coded]



RESULTS & DISCUSSION

We examined the effects of ovulatory status (ovulating vs. not ovulating) on condom attitudes using a mixed ANOVA: 2 (Ovulation Status: Ovulating vs. Not Ovulating, between-subjects) x 3 (Condom Attitudes: Intentions, attitudes autonomy, within-subjects).

The interaction between ovulation status and condom scale was significant, $F(2, 54) = 3.22, p < .05, \eta_p^2 = .11$. This suggests that ovulation *decreased* condom intentions and attitudes but *increased* feelings of sexual autonomy.

Women who are ovulating are more likely to engage in short-term mating than women who are not ovulating (Baker & Bellis, 1995; Bellis & Baker, 1990) and with lowered condom intentions and attitudes the likelihood of conception increases for these women. Perhaps, ovulating women's heightened sexual autonomy can attribute to their heightened interest in short-term mating. If ovulating women are intuitively interested in conceiving, then it would make sense for them to feel in control sexually.