

Number of different sexual partners in the preceding year.

More than half of sexually active Nunavimmiut aged 16 to 30 (57%) reported having had one sexual partner in the year preceding the survey; 17% had had two partners, 18% had had three or more, and 8%* had not had any (Table 3). While no age-related differences were observed for sexually active Nunavimmiut who had not had a partner in the last 12 months, a greater proportion of sexually active Nunavimmiut aged 21 to 30 reported only one sexual partner in the last year (63%) compared to those aged 16 to 20 (46%). Single sexually active Nunavimmiut were more likely to declare having had no sexual partner in the last 12 months than those who were married or in a common law relationship (11%* vs. 4%** for those who were married or in a relationship), whereas youth who were married or common law partners were more likely than single people

to declare having had one partner in the last 12 months (72% vs. 45% for single people). Single Nunavimmiut were also more likely to have had two partners (21% vs. 12%* for those who were married or in a relationship) or three or more partners (23% vs. 13%* for those who were married or in a relationship). No differences were observed according to sex or any other sociodemographic indicators (Table B, Appendix B).

To make the *Qanuippitaa? 2004* and *Qanuilirpitaa? 2017* survey data comparable, the 2017 data had to be adjusted to also include Nunavimmiut who had never had consensual sexual intercourse. Comparisons between the two surveys revealed a statistically significant increase in the proportion of people who had had at least one sexual partner in the last year (77% in 2004 vs. 84% in 2017).

Table 3 Number of sexual partners in the past 12 months by sex and age group (%), sexually active population aged 16 to 30 years old, Nunavik, 2017

	Men		Women		All		Total
	16-20 years	21-30 years	16-20 years	21-30 years	16-20 years	21-30 years	
None	11.5**	10.1**	6.9**	5.4**	9.3**	7.6*	8.2*
1 partner	41.1*	59.6	51.0 ¹	65.5	45.7 ¹	62.7	56.7
2 partners	23.4*	11.6**	24.7	14.8*	24.0 ¹	13.3*	17.0
3 partners or more	24.0*	18.7**	17.4*	14.4*	20.9*	16.4*	18.0

NOTES

- 1. Statistically significant difference observed using the 5% threshold compared to Nunavimmiut aged 21 to 30 years old.
- * The coefficient of variation is greater than 15% and lower than or equal to 25%. The proportion should be interpreted carefully.
- ** The coefficient of variation is greater than 25%. The proportion is shown for information only.

Use of birth control methods in the preceding year.⁵

Thirty-one percent (31%) of Nunavimmiut reported that either they or their sexual partner had always used birth control in the preceding year, while 37% had used it sometimes and 33% had never used it. The prevalence of constant use of birth control was higher among women than men (Table 4). Sexually active Nunavimmiut with greater emotional support (40% vs. 26% for those reporting low emotional support) and a higher level of love and affection (34% vs. 21% for a low level) were more likely to report constant use of birth control. No differences were observed between age groups, coasts or other sociodemographic and sociocultural indicators as presented in Tables C and D, Appendix B.

Proportions of birth control use could not be compared between the 2004 and 2017 surveys, as the questions had evolved in order to cover diverse frequencies of birth control use. In 2004, Nunavimmiut were asked, “In the past 12 months, did you and your partner **usually** use birth control?”, while in 2017, sexually active participants aged 16 to 30 were asked, “In the last 12 months, **how often** did you and your partner use birth control?”, with the following answers: “Always”, “Sometimes”, and “Never”. For information purposes only, in 2004, 33% of Nunavimmiut aged 15 to 29 who had been sexually active in the last 12 months had used birth control in the preceding year (Dodin, Blanchet, & Rochette, 2007).

5. The present survey did not specify what was included as “birth control”. This might partially explain a higher rate of birth control among women (as men having sexual intercourse with women are not always aware if the latter uses birth control).