

Topic guide - Example

Before recording state:

"I would like to audio-record the consent and interview process. Are you happy for me to audio record?"

If your participant agrees, explain:

"I will now press record." [Press record button]

For the purposes of the recording, state:

"We are now on record. I will now go through the consent items one at a time. Please state 'agree' or 'disagree' after each statement." [insert statements from the consent form]

If they agree to all statements, proceed:

"I am now going to ask you some questions about what you know about contraception followed by some more specific questions about [INSERT CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD]. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to. You can pause or stop the recording at any time, and you can also stop the interview entirely at any time, if you wish."

Questions (these are a guide)

Opening question: Can you tell me a bit about yourself?

Prompts: How old are you? What region of the UK do you live in? Who do you live with? Are you in a relationship at the moment? Do you have a faith which you follow?

Section 1: Informal talk about contraception

- Can you tell me what contraception means to you? What do you see as the benefits? What about the drawbacks?
- Where do you usually find out your information about contraception?
- Who do you discuss contraception with? For example:
 - Have you ever discussed contraception with your friends?
 - When/why might you do that?
 - Have you discussed contraception with family?
 - Which family member? Sister/mother/cousin/father/brother etc.
 - When/why might you do that?
 - Have you ever discussed contraception with your partner?
 - When/why might you do that?
 - Have you ever discussed contraception with anyone else informally outside of your friends/family network, e.g. a community elder, family priest or religious leader, online community or message board, etc.

- When/why might you do that?
- How easy is it to talk about contraception with friends/family/partner?
- What types of information about contraception do your friends/family/partner share with you?
- Do different people share different types of information? Examples?
 - How about between your friends versus family members versus partner?
 - How do you explain these differences/similarities? (e.g. might these similarities/differences be generational/cultural/social/religious?)

Section 2: Social practices

- Have you ever done any information seeking about contraception together with friends/family members? (e.g. researching with friends/family online, going with friends and family to the sexual health clinic, GPs etc?)
 - Who did you do this with?
 - What did you find out?
- Have you ever taken friends/family with you to sexual health or contraception appointments or to pharmacies/shops for contraceptive items?
 - Who did you ask and why?
 - Has anyone ever asked you to attend with them?
 - Can you tell me more about that? i.e. who asked you and why?
- How do you remember to order/take/book your contraception? (e.g. some women might set an alarm as a reminder to take their pill, or to store their pill in a special pill box, or have other practices to help them remember)
 - Where/how did you learn to do this?
- When thinking about contraception do you consider any religious or cultural influences which may be personal to you when making your decisions?

Personal Experiences

- What have you learnt from other people's experiences in relation to contraception?
 - Do you feel that it is useful to know about other people's experiences with contraception? Can you tell me why?
 - Are the experiences/opinions of family, friends, and partner important when making contraceptive choices? Have they ever influenced your contraceptive decisions?
 - Have your own personal experiences changed your opinions about a method? (This could be positive or negative.)
- Have you ever shared your own personal experiences/opinions of contraception with others?
 - Who did you share your experiences with? (Friends/family/strangers etc.)

- Do you/would you take your partner's opinion into consideration when choosing a contraceptive?
 - How important is their opinion to you?

Hearsay, Anecdote and other Stories

So far, we've discussed what it's like to talk to family and friends about contraception, and the importance of their opinions. We've also thought about the family and friends' contraceptive experiences, and the kinds of things you and your family/friend network might do around contraception (e.g. going to contraceptive appointments together/setting an alarm to take the pill etc.) Now, we would like to explore any other information or stories you have heard about contraception.

- Can you tell me any stories you've heard about contraception? For example, things that may have happened to a friend of a friend, any rumours or 'myths' you may have heard about contraception, or any other stories you have heard/read about on social media, on the internet, or in magazines/newspapers. You do not have to believe they are true.
- What were the stories?
- How and who told you these stories/where did you learn about them?
- What did you think about them?
- Do you think about these stories when you are/have chosen contraceptive methods?
- Did you share these stories with other people? Who did you share the stories with? Why do you think people tell stories like these?

We're moving onto the final set of questions now, where I'm now going to ask you about a specific contraceptive method.

Section 3: What you've heard about [method of contraception]

- What sorts of things have you heard about [INSERT CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD]?
 - Where did you hear that?
 - What did that make you think?
- Have you heard anything about having a period and [INSERT CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD]?
- What have you heard about getting pregnant while using [INSERT CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD]?
- What about stopping [INSERT CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD] to have a baby?
- What have you heard about the side-effects of [INSERT CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD]? What do you think about that?

- Do you know anyone who has used [INSERT CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD]? Did they tell you anything about it?
- Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about [INSERT CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD]?

That is the end of the interview, but before we finish, do you have any final comments that you would like to add? Or things you would like to say? Thank you for your time.