

Marisol III

Eddie and I have been using condoms for about two years now. At first it wasn't easy to get Eddie to use them. We did a lot of talking and I had to tell him that he was going to use the condoms or he wasn't going to get anything! I finally convinced him and we've been using condoms ever since.

I feel so good about what happened. I proved to myself that I could get Eddie to use condoms. I have also done something for my kids...I'm protecting myself so that I can be here for them.

Using condoms every time you have sex isn't always easy. I remember one night not too long ago after Eddie and I had just put the girls to bed. We were sitting and talking on the sofa, watching some T.V. Eddie put his arms around me and we started to kiss...

We hugged and cuddled on the sofa for a while. I like the way Eddie holds me in his arms. It reminds me of the time that we first met in Puerto Rico. I really wanted to make love to him and I told him so... we walked towards our bedroom...

That was when I noticed it – we didn't have any more condoms! We were both so deeply involved wanting each other so badly! HE wanted to go ahead without a condom, just this one time. I said 'no', that we promised each other that we would use condoms every time. He looked so hurt and started to walk out of the bedroom. I told him "wait honey, there are other things that we can do, that are safe! I really want you inside me but we can't do that tonight – instead let's try something else, I know we can handle this...please."

We try to have condoms around all the time, but when we don't, Eddie and I can still have a good and safe time.

1. **Characterization:** Latina housewife with children.
2. **Membership:** Female sex partner of an IDU.
3. **Risk behavior:** She formerly engaged in sex without using condoms with her partner. (Condom main partner)
4. **Goal:** She wants to continue using condoms with her partner.
5. **Stage of Change:** Maintenance.
6. **Influencing factor:** She feared that she could contract HIV from her husband. (Self-efficacy)
7. **Barrier to Overcome:** Her husband did not want to use condoms.

Strategy: She insisted.

8. **Positive Outcome:** She always uses condoms when she engages in sex with her husband.

9. Source: The Lower East Side Health Project Role Model Stories Library; November 1991 – Vol. 1, No 6 (B); Susan Tross, Ph.D., Principal Investigator