



Sexual Behavior of Middle and High School Students: Baseline Data from Project Connect

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Adolescent Pregnancy and STDs

- Decline in adolescent pregnancy
- 2002 birth rates to 15-19 year old mothers in study high school catchment areas: 43 to 95 per 1,000
- Half of new STDs in 2005 among people age 15-24
- 63% of Chlamydia cases in Los Angeles County among persons 10-24 years old



Purpose

- To investigate adolescents' experience with sexual intercourse and oral sex
- To explore differences in experience of sexual intercourse and oral sex by gender and grade in school



Methods

- Analyses utilized baseline data from Project Connect
- Surveyed 6th – 12th grade students at 26 public middle and high schools
- Randomly selected classes by grade in each school
- Consented/assented students completed self-administered survey in one class period

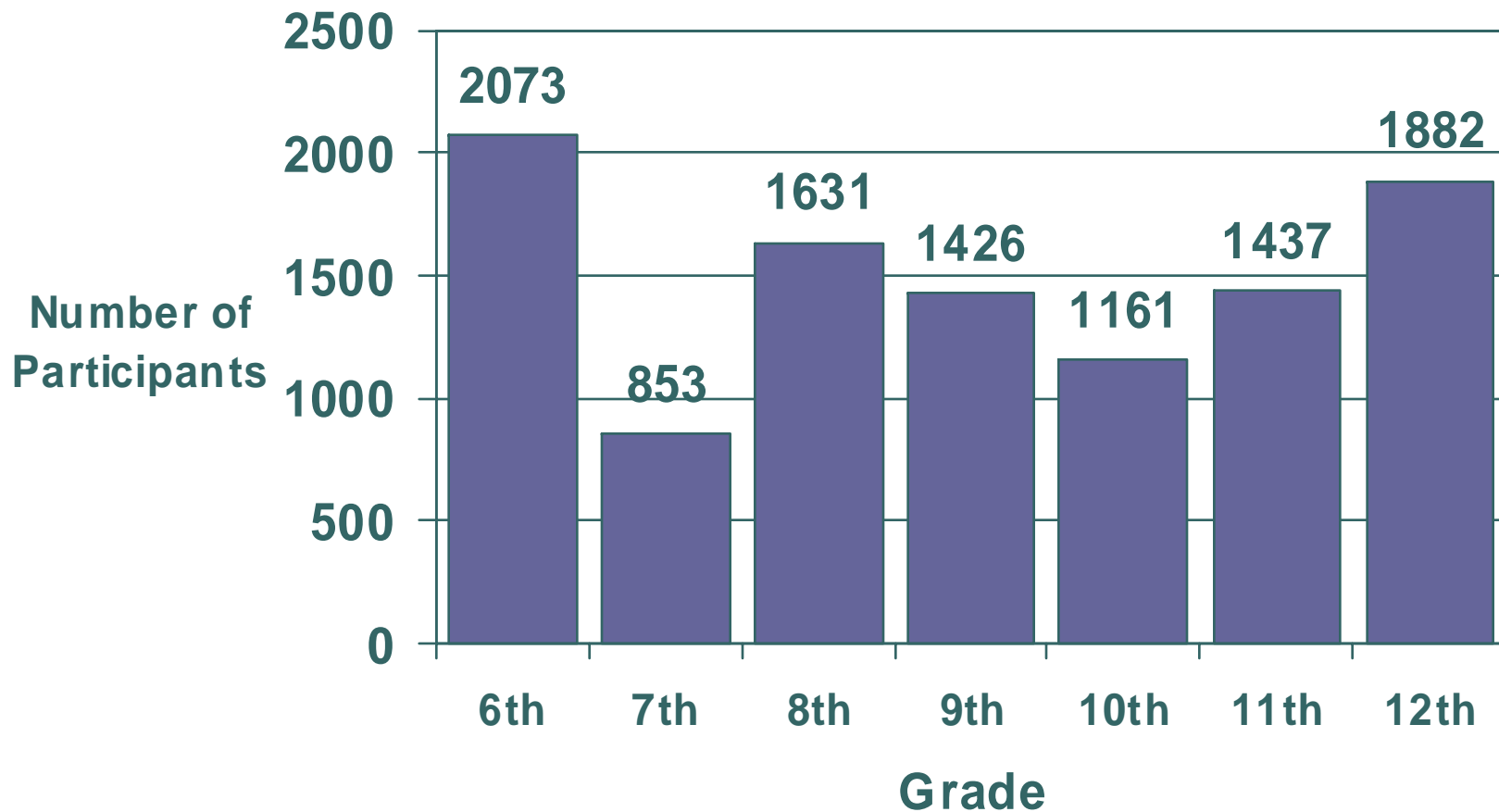


Measures and Analysis

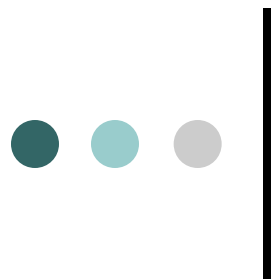
- Ever had sexual intercourse (no/yes)
- Ever had oral sex (no/yes based on four response options):
 - No
 - Yes (given only, received only, or both)
- Lifetime number of intercourse partners
- Condom use at last intercourse
- Analysis: Frequency counts, Chi-squares, univariate logistic regression



Participants by Grade



Total N=10,487 (n=24 missing grade variable)



Gender and Race/Ethnicity

	Overall N=10,487 %	Middle School n=4,557 %	High School n=5,930 %
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Gender			
Female	55.5	55.6	55.3
Male	44.5	44.4	44.7
Ethnicity ^a			
Latino/a	71.7	68.7	74.0
African-American	12.1	14.3	10.5
Asian	7.6	7.6	7.6
Caucasian	1.9	1.7	2.1
Other/Mixed	6.6	7.8	5.7

^a95% of participants reported only one race/ethnicity. Subsequent analyses use three race/ethnicity categories: Latino, African-American, and Other/mixed.



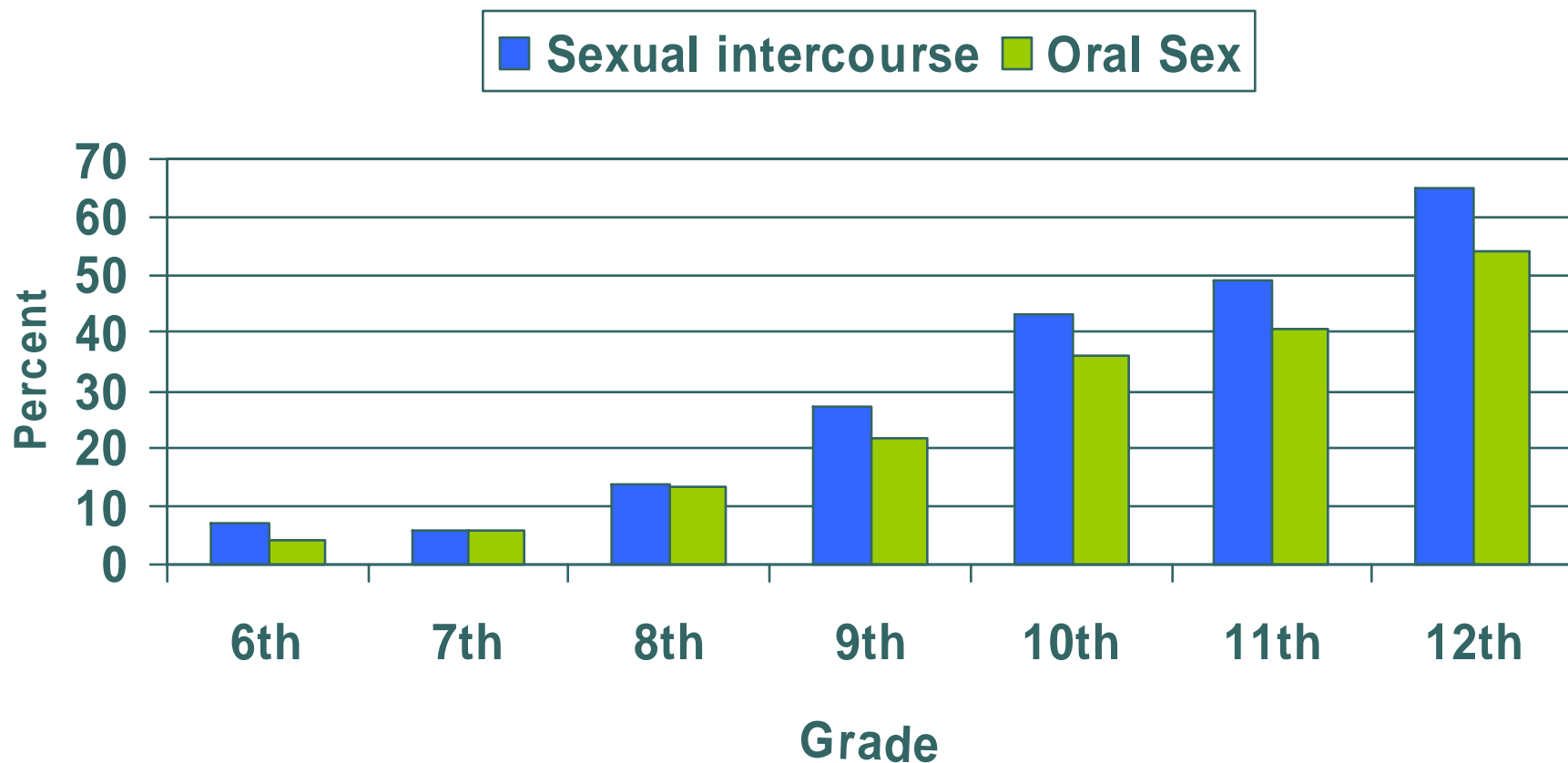
Ever Had Sexual Intercourse or Oral Sex, by Gender

	Overall N=10,487 %	Middle School n=4,557 %	High School n=5,930 %
Ever had sexual intercourse			
Both genders	30	9	48
Females	27	5	45
Males	35	15	51
Ever had oral sex			
Both genders	25	8	40
Females	22	5	35
Males	30	11	45

Note: Significantly different by gender overall, in middle and high school ($p < .0001$) based on Chi-square analyses.



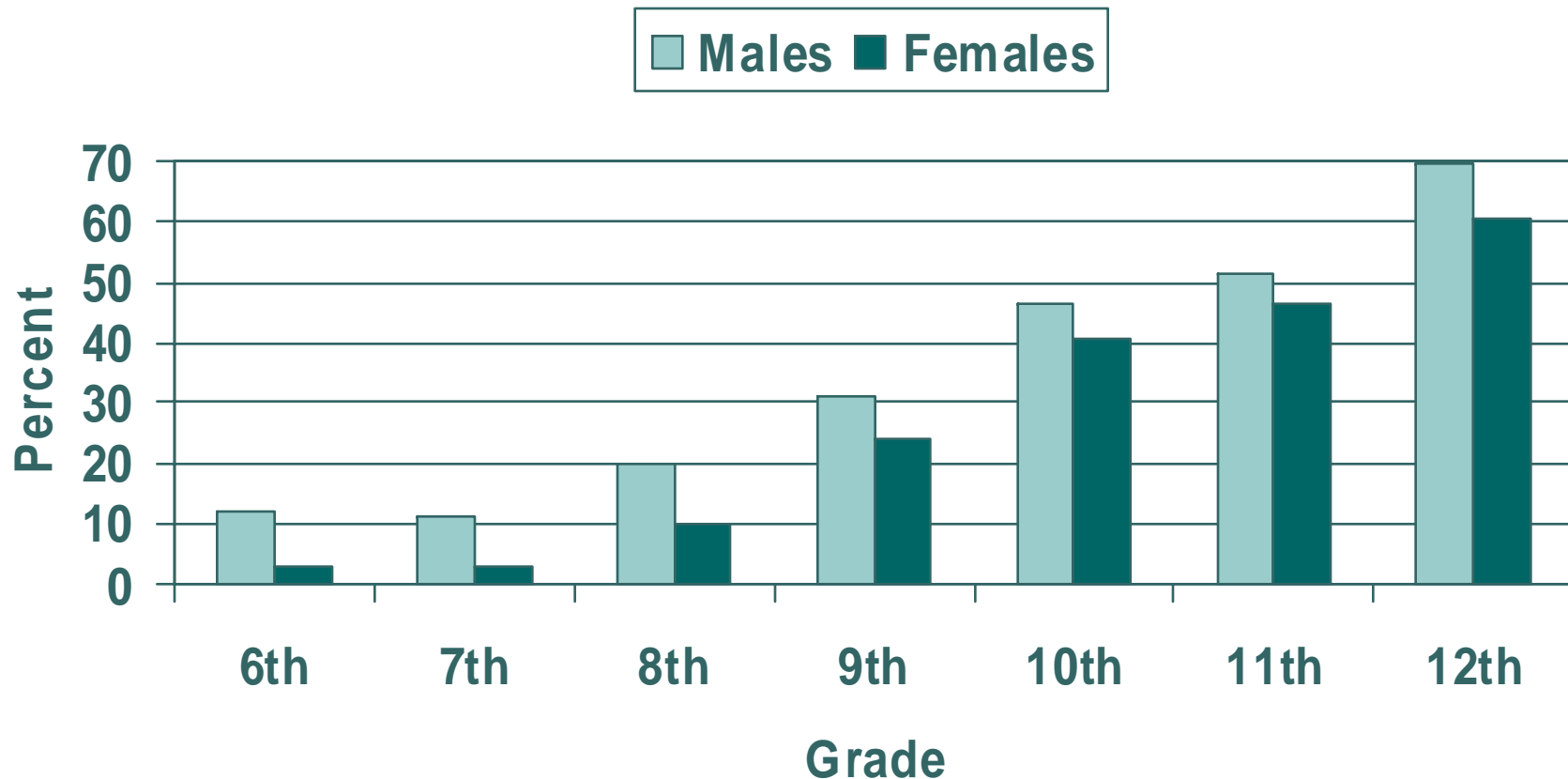
Sexual Intercourse and Oral Sex by Grade



Significant differences between consecutive grades: sexual intercourse except 6-7; oral sex, all grades (Based on 2X2 Chi-square analyses, all p -values $< .05$)



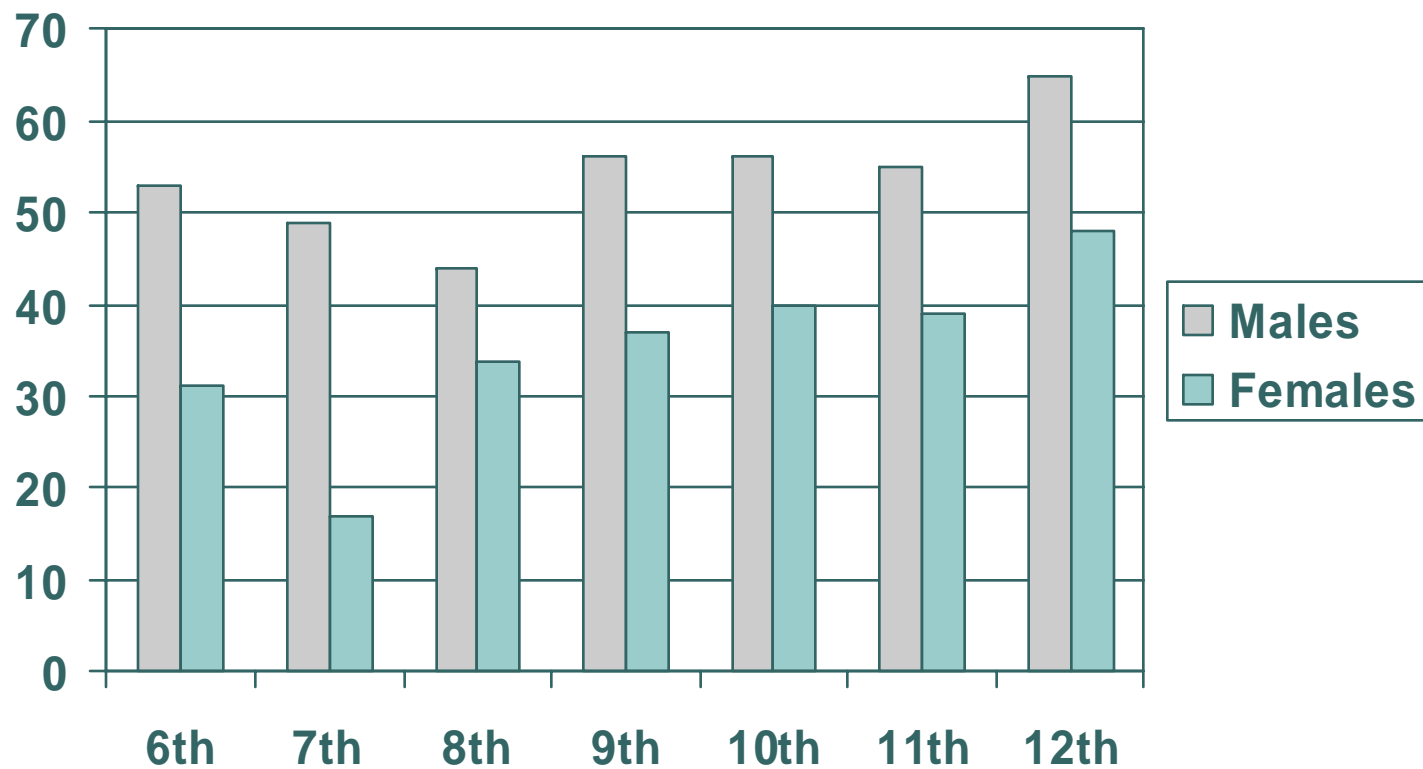
Sexual Intercourse by Gender and Grade



Significant difference in sexual intercourse by gender except in grades 10 and 11
(Based on 2X2 Chi-square analyses within each grade, p 's<.01)



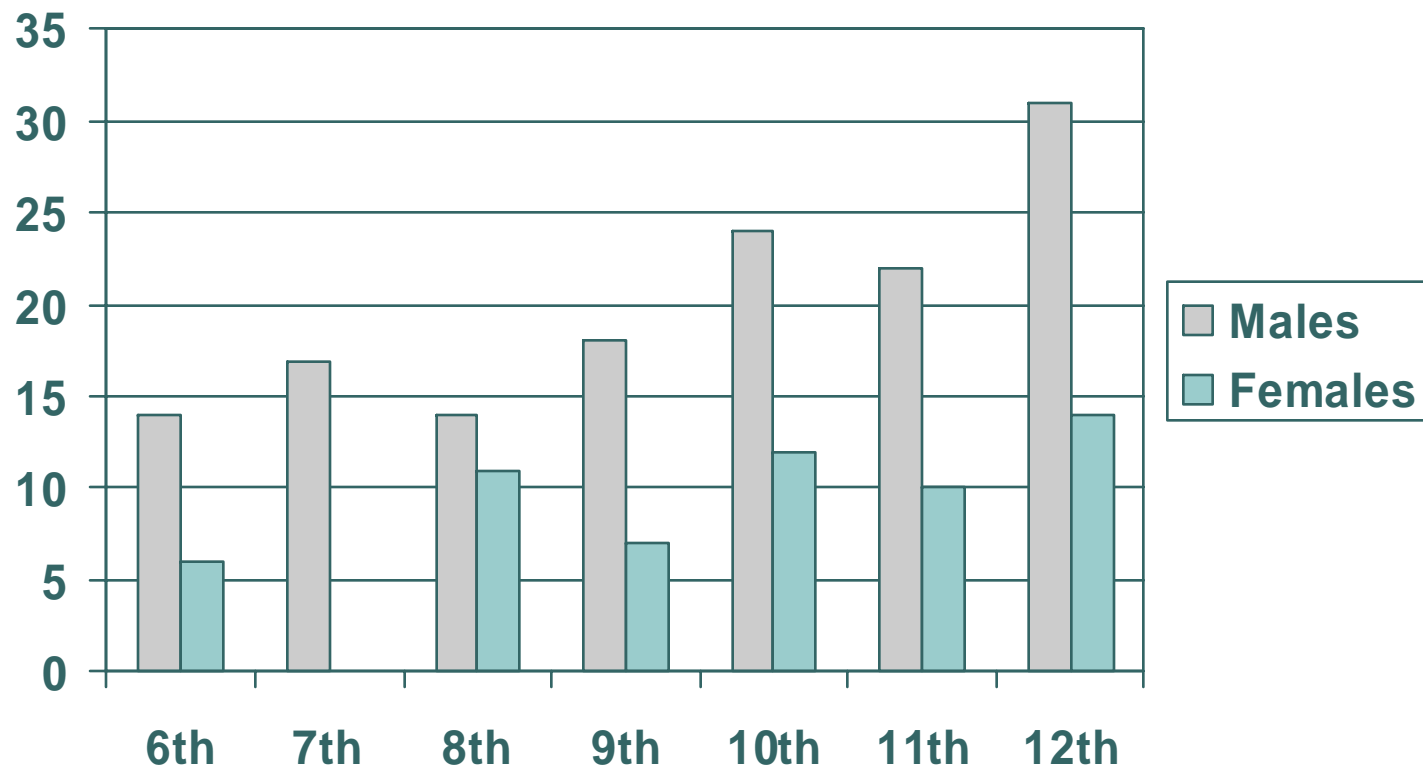
Lifetime Intercourse Partners: More than 1



In all grades except 8th, males more likely to report multiple partners, all p-values <.05. Odds of multiple partners increases with grade (OR=1.10, 95% CI 1.05, 1.15; p<.0001).



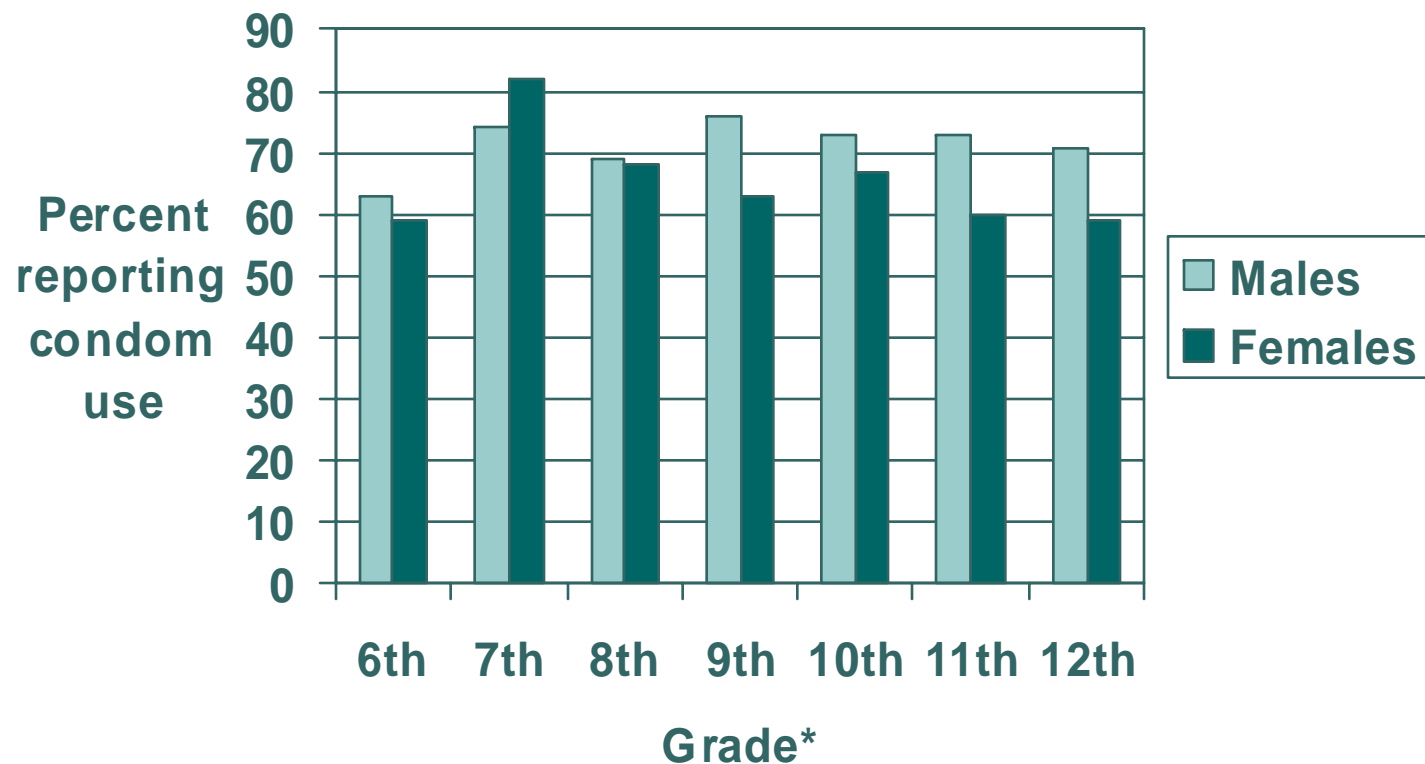
Lifetime Intercourse Partners: 4 or More



In all high school grades, males more likely to report 4+ partners; all p-values <.05.
No gender differences in middle school grades.
Odds of 4+ partners increases with grade (OR=1.16, 95% CI 1.09, 1.23; p<.0001).



Condom Use at Last Intercourse



*Grade not significantly associated with condom use.

Overall, males more frequently reported condom use at last intercourse (71% vs. 62%; $p < .0001$)



Findings

- Overall, prevalence of sexual experience in effect doubled between 7th-8th, 8th-9th, and 9th-10th grades
- Sharper incline in sexual experience among girls between 8th and 10th grades
- Oral sex almost as commonly reported as sexual intercourse
- Younger sexually active participants equally likely to use condoms as older participants
- Multiple partners commonly reported

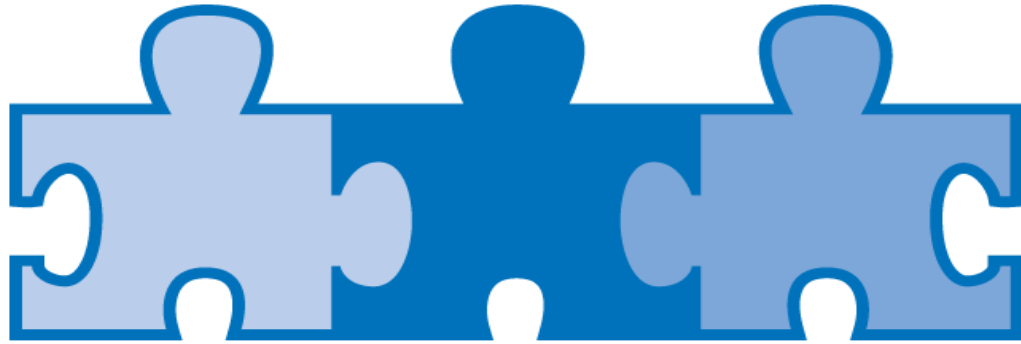


Implications for Interventions

- Interventions must:
 - Reach adolescents well before 9th grade
 - Address a full range of sexual behavior, not just intercourse
 - Emphasize the importance of limiting the number of sexual partners
- Boys may need to be targeted for intervention earlier than girls
- Condom use appears to be a viable strategy in this sample, even with young adolescents



Thank you!



Project Connect

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