

Politics, Sexual Health Policies, and Adolescent Sexual Behavior in Colombia: The Case of Caldas State

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Reproductive & Sexual Health In Caldas State

Caldas State
in the heart of
the main coffee
region is one of
the most
conservative
provinces in the
Republic of Colombia



<http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/features/MapCenter/Map.aspx?name=Colombia>

Politics and Sexual Health in Colombia

1980 to Date

Free Market
Economic Policies
Health Reform
US – Colombia FTA
Social Polarization
< Democracy

Commoditization of Sexuality

> Sex Industry
> Survival Sex
> Sexual Abuse
> Adolescence
Pregnancy Rates
< Sexual Health
Services

Sex Ed National Plan 1993

Based on Social
Constructivism
“Truth About
Sexuality
Does Not Exist”
Emphasis in
Method
OPUS DEI

Caldas State Policy of Reproductive and Sexual Health (RSH)

1. Based on A sexological approach:
“Positive Sexuality Education” (PSE)
The erotic function of sexuality
2. Guided by STIs / adolescent
pregnancy rates & other indicators

+ Sexual Behavior Surveillance (SBS)

Caldas State Policy of Reproductive and Sexual Health (RSH)

3. It is supported by a State Senate Law:

“Ordenanza” No 0552 December 12, 2006

4. It Implies coordination between:

Education & Health State Departments

RSH State Committee

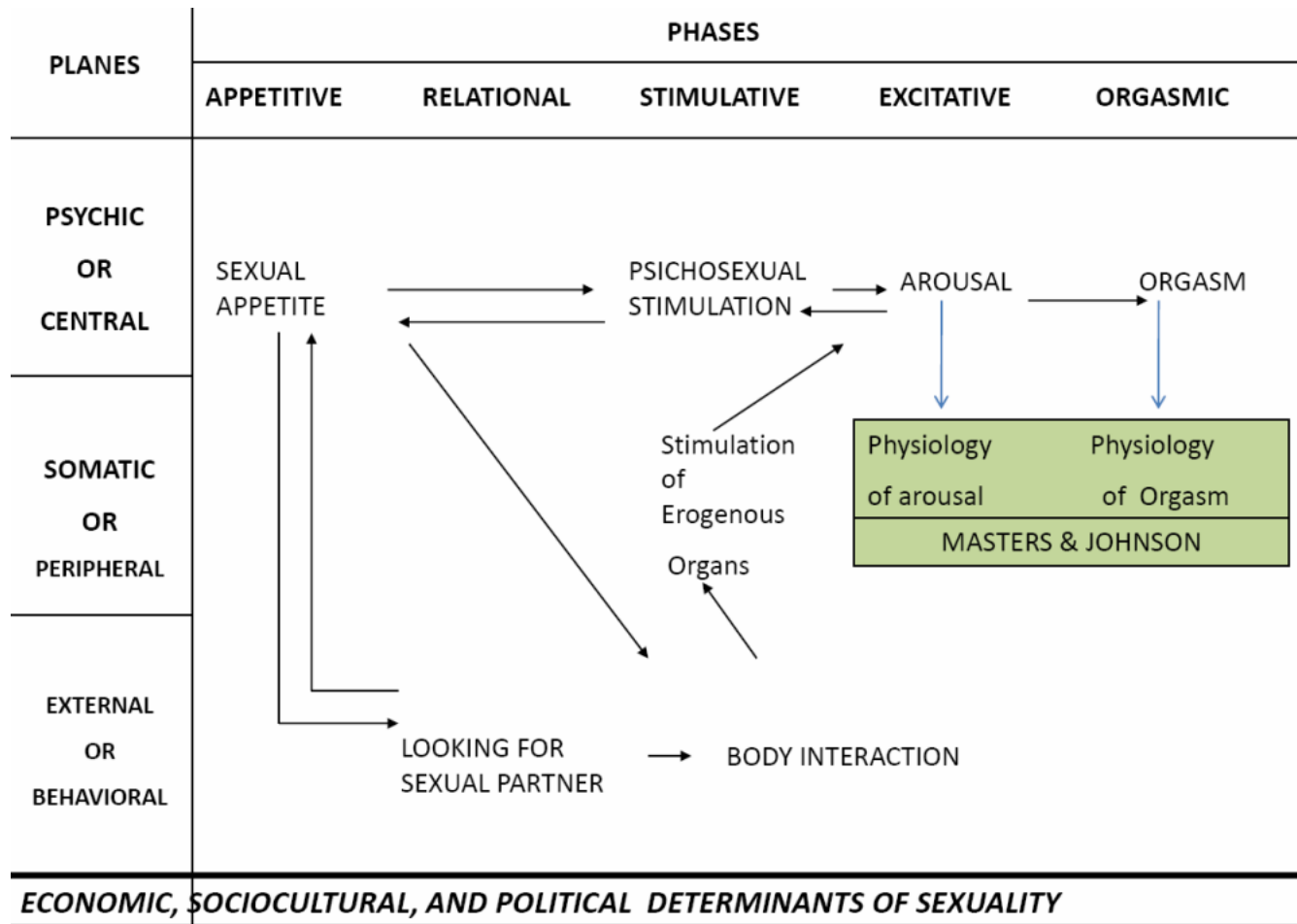
5. It includes evaluation of sexological knowledge/attitudes teachers & health providers (SKAT surveys) + Continuous education

Conceptual Framework

- ***“The human sexual function may be defined as a culturally conditioned, conscious function, phylogenetically derived from the reproductive function, that is primarily exercised in a pleasurable mode (erotic function), by means of body organs or zones of special sensitivity.”***

• ***Alzate, 1987***

The Erotic Function, (Alzate, 1987)

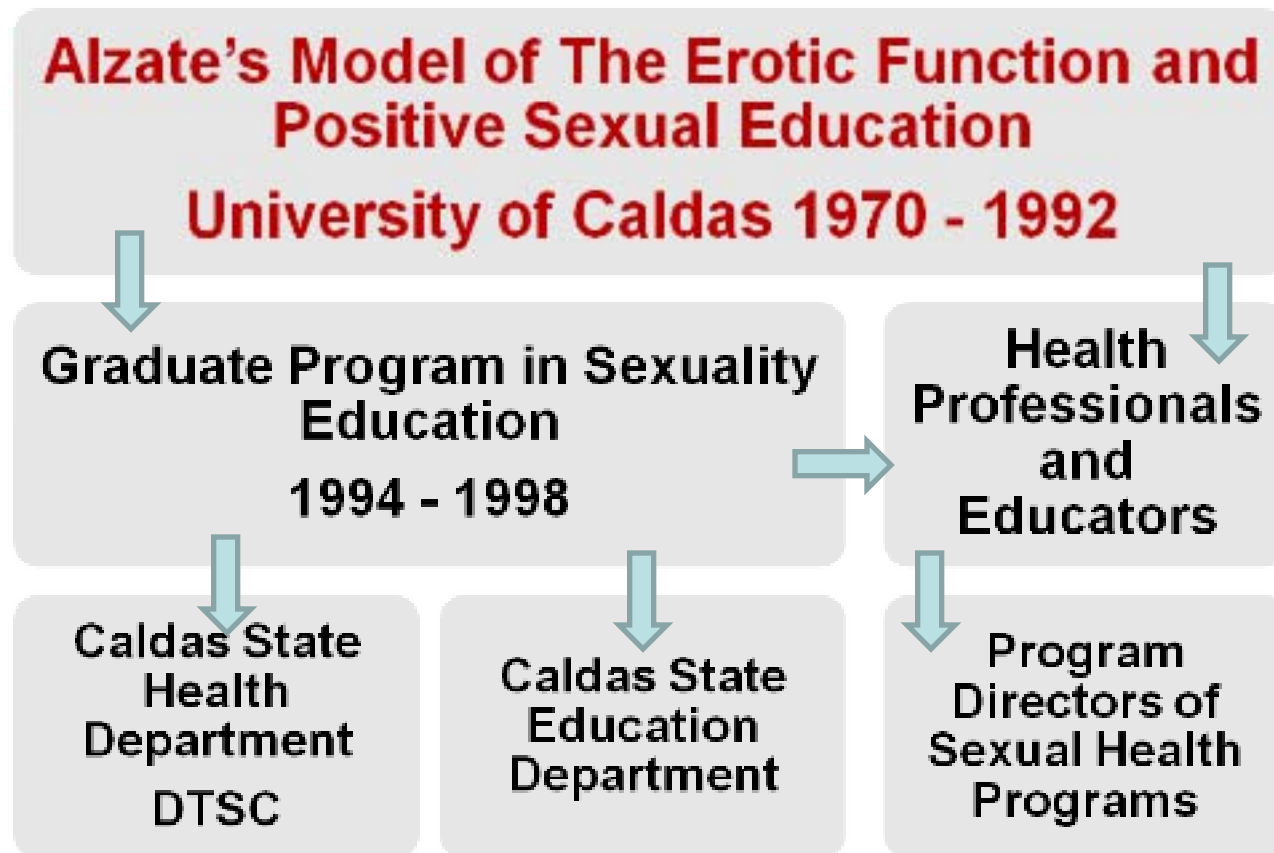


Positive Sexuality Education

- Informative & educational process
- Permits a person to obtain:
 1. A rational and scientific knowledge about human sexuality according with his/her intellectual development
 2. A tolerant attitude toward the sexual opinions and behaviors of the other, while these do not harm anyone
 3. Competence for the responsible exercise of the erotic and reproductive modes of the sexual function.

Alzate, 1987

The Importance of a Sexual Health Conceptual Framework



Behavioral Surveillance Sampling & Demographics

1. Study Universe

9,584 students

(by 09/2006)

2. Sample Size:

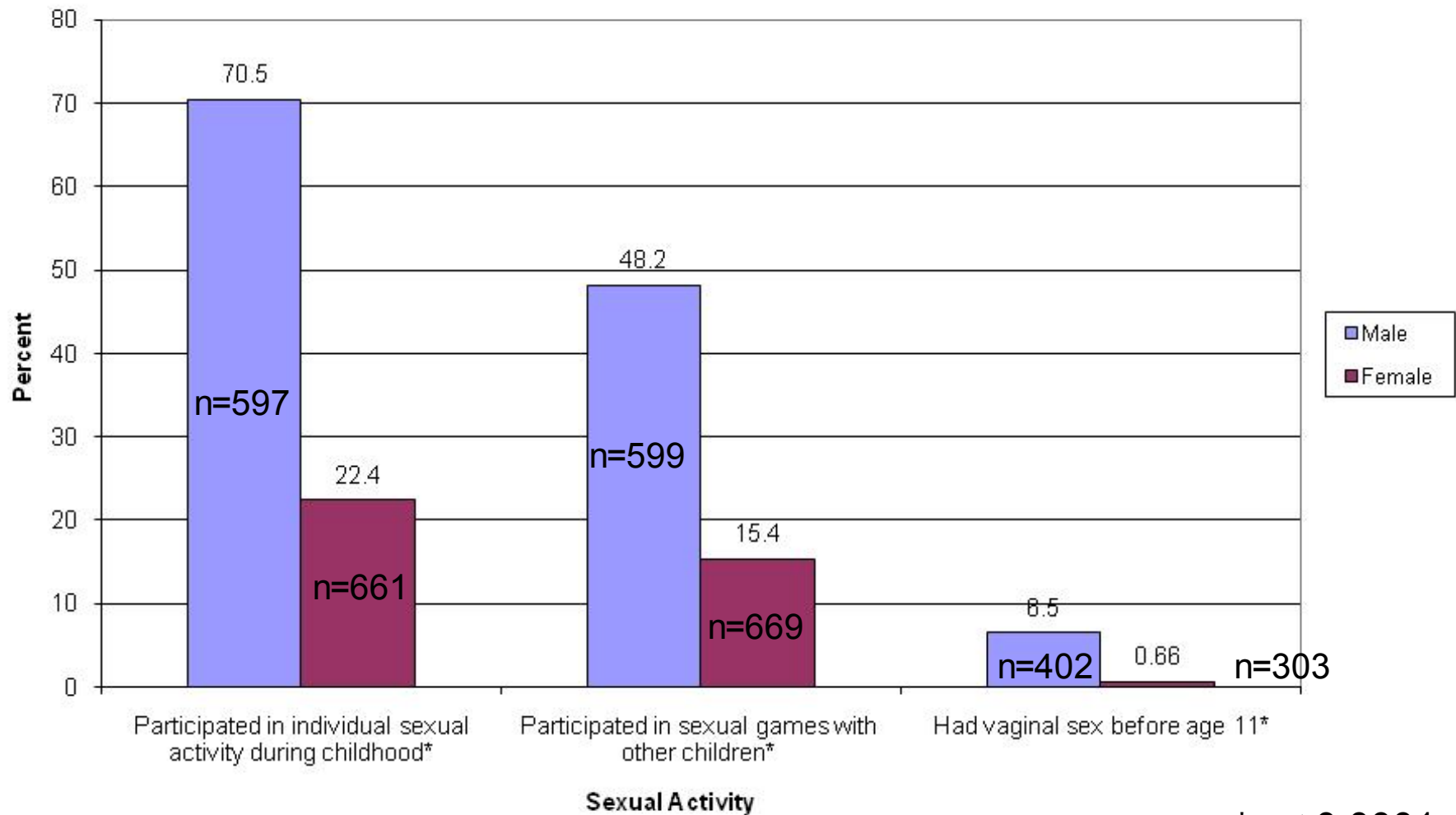
959 students (10% Universe)

3. Proportional Random

Sampling of 10th & 11th

- N = 1280
- Males N= 605 (48%)
- Females N= 675 (52%)
- Median Age: 16.0
- Catholic: 91.5
- Single: 93.4%
- “Free Union”: 6.2%

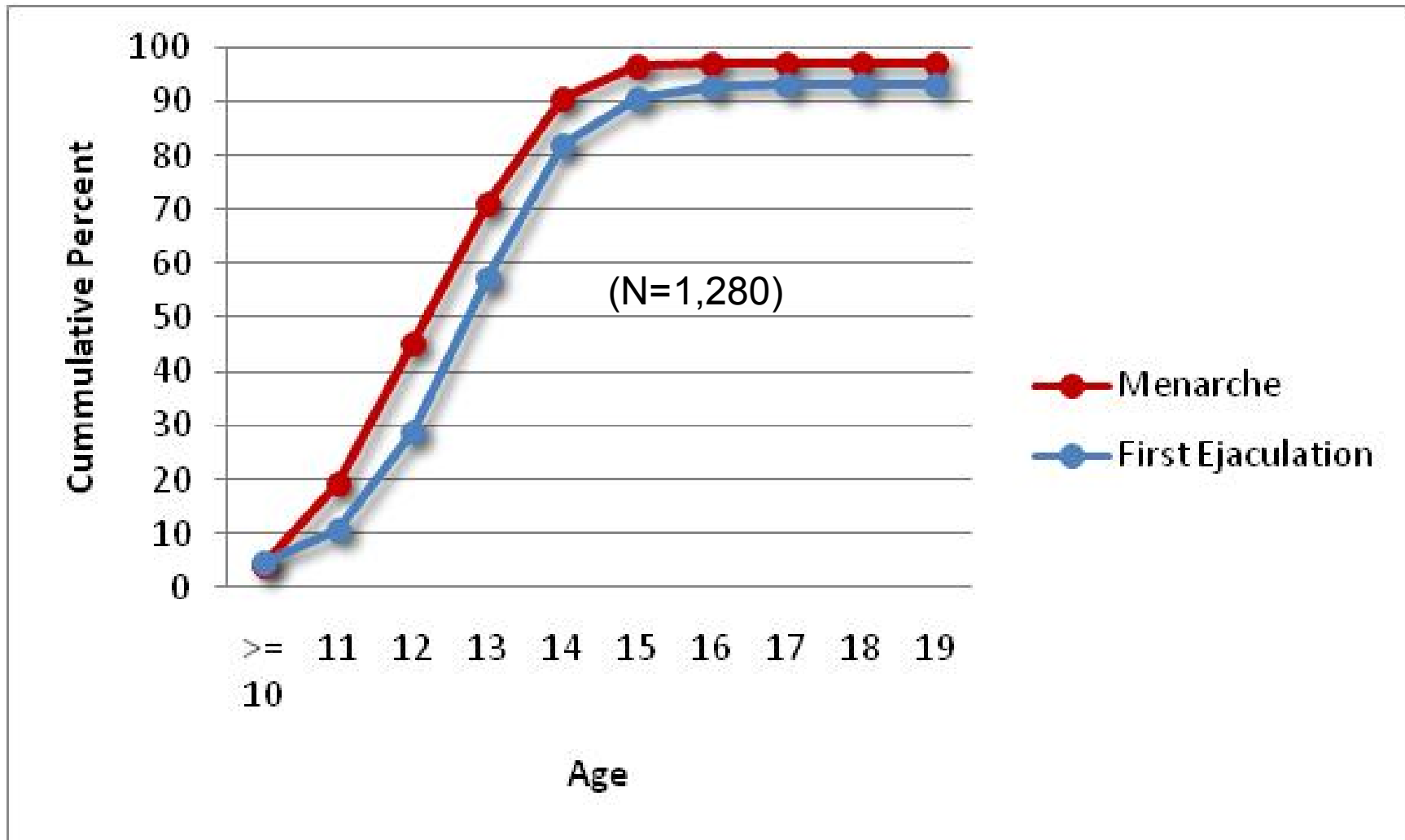
Gender Differences in Sexual Activity During Childhood



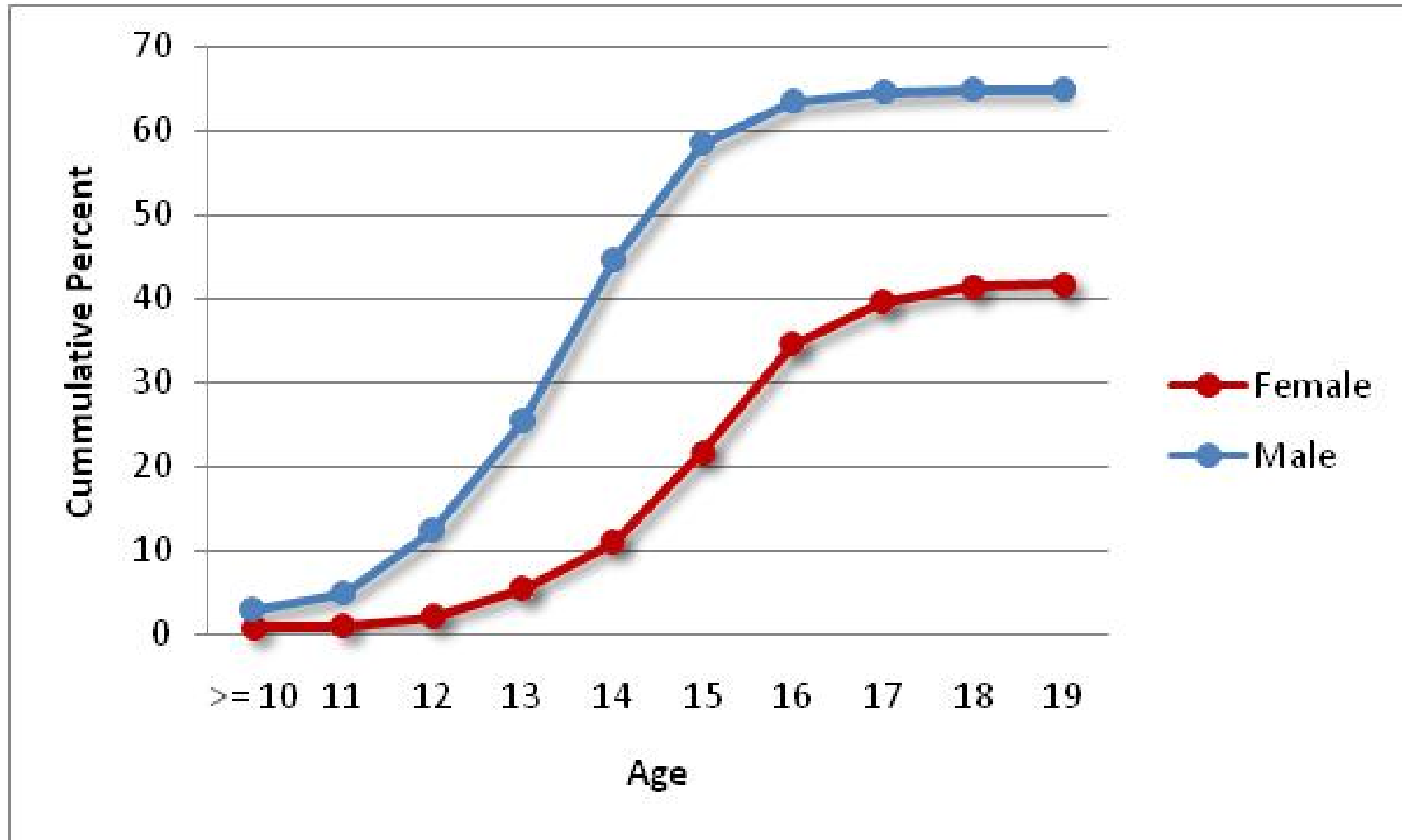
* $p \leq 0.0001$

First Ejaculation & Menarche

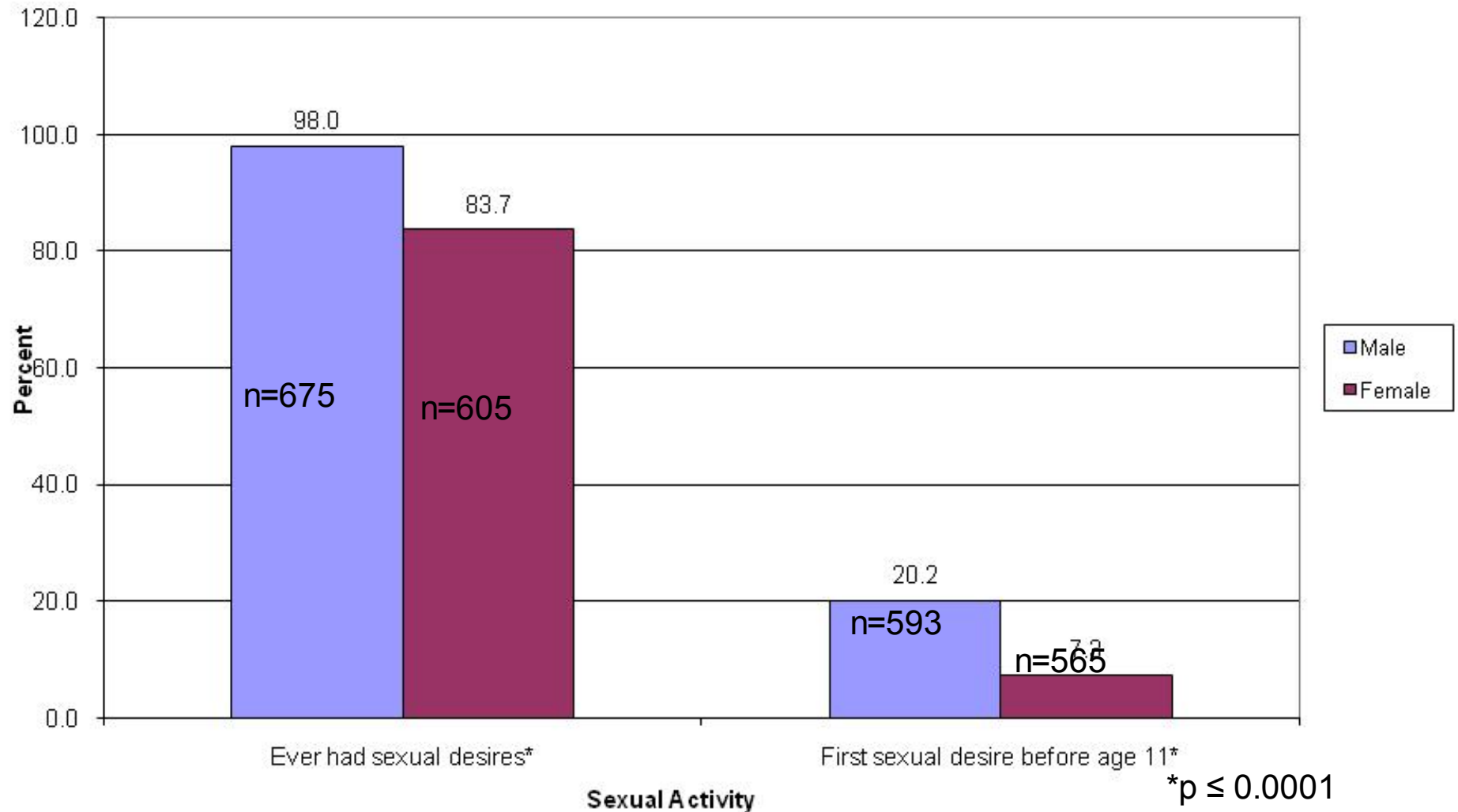
For males puberty begins with an orgasm!



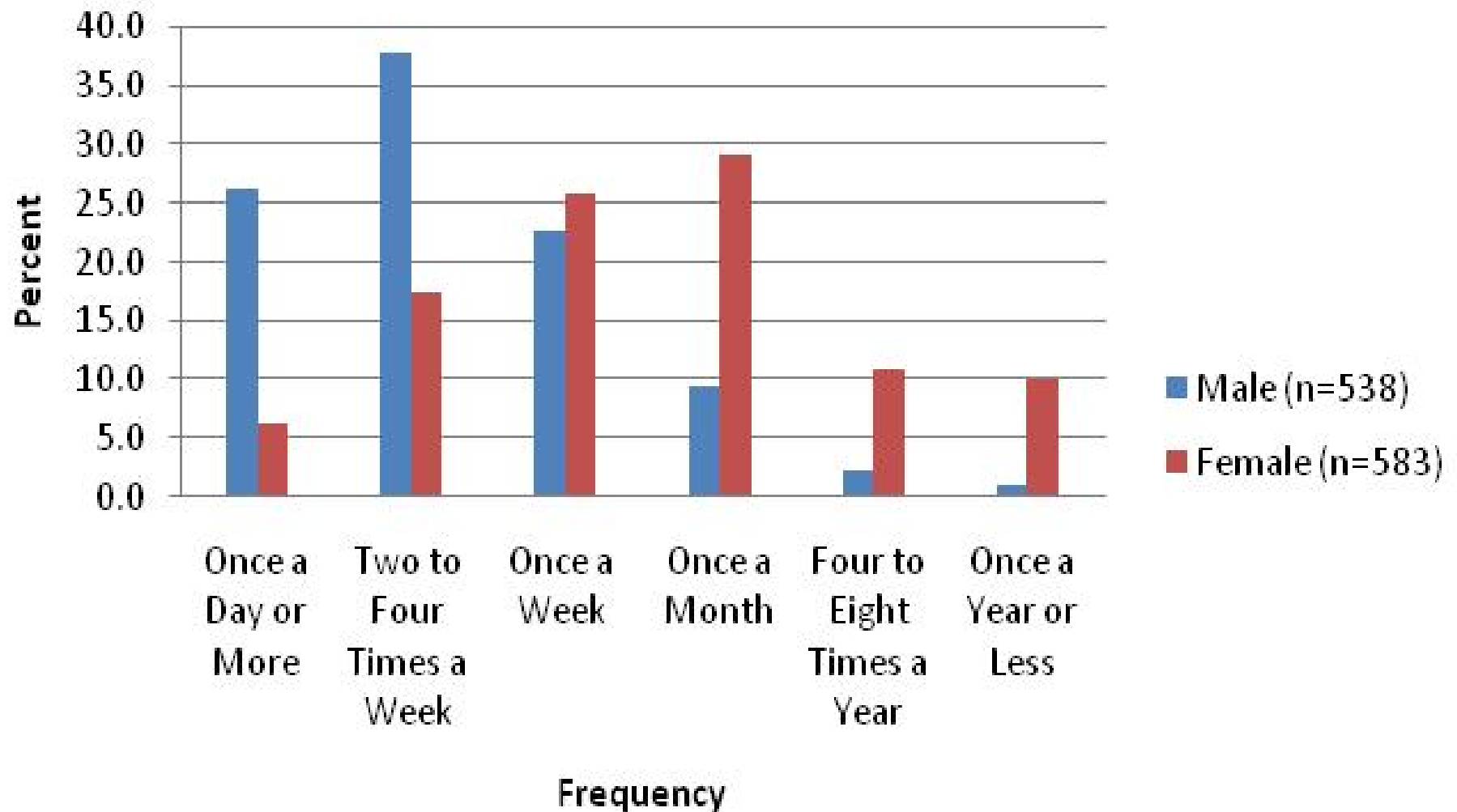
Orgasm by Age and Gender (N=1,280)



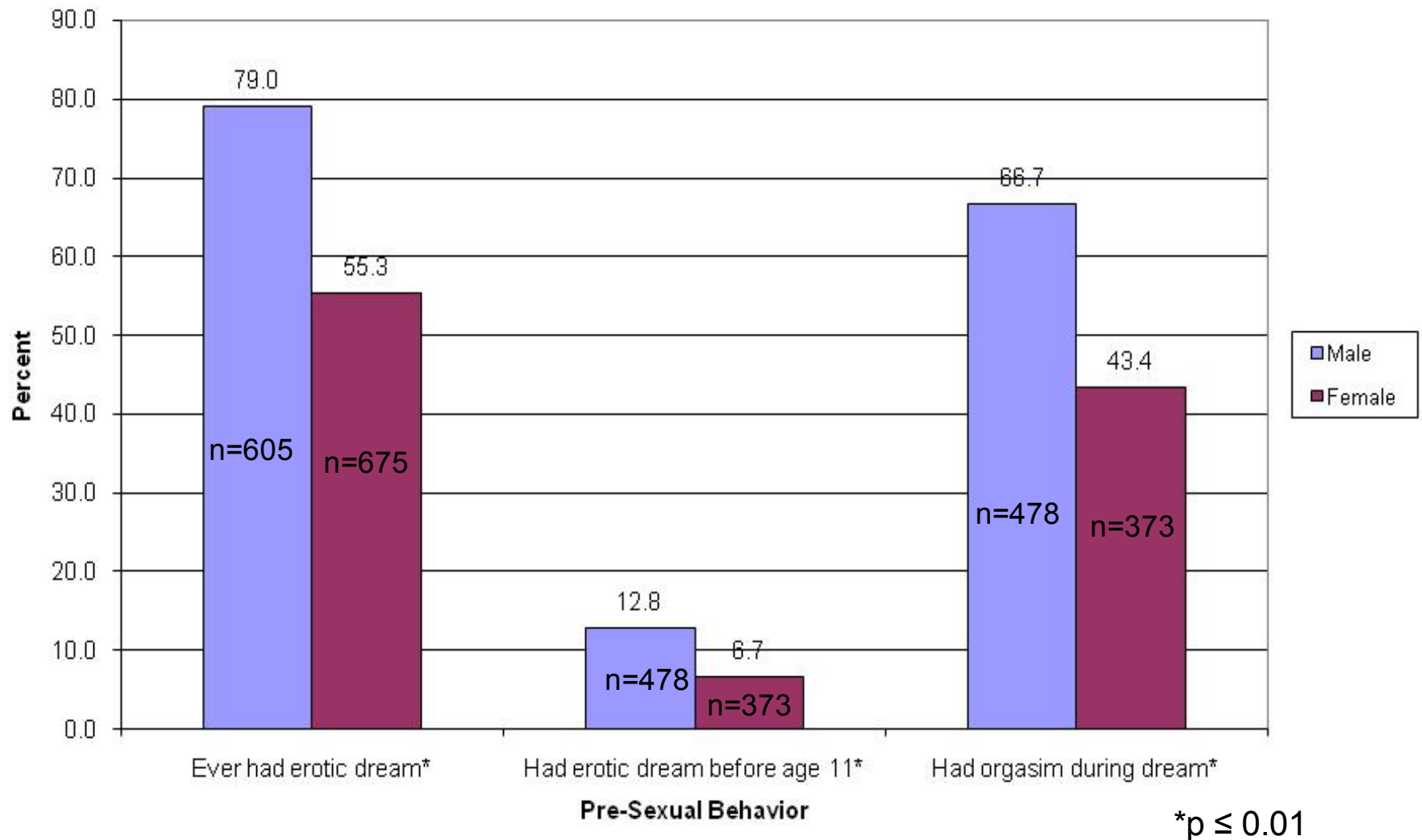
Gender Differences in Sexual Desire



Gender Differences in Frequency of Sexual Desire



Gender Differences in Experiencing Erotic Dreams



Gender Differences in Sexual Behavior

BEHAVIOR	MALES		FEMALES		χ^2
	N	%	N	%	
Masturbation	605	83.1	675	19.7	513.58***
Vaginal Sex	605	66.4	675	44.9	59.93***
Oral Sex	605	29.6	675	24.1	4.82*
Homosexual Activities	605	6.8	675	1.5	28.58***
Forced Sex	321	4.0	319	6.3	1.61

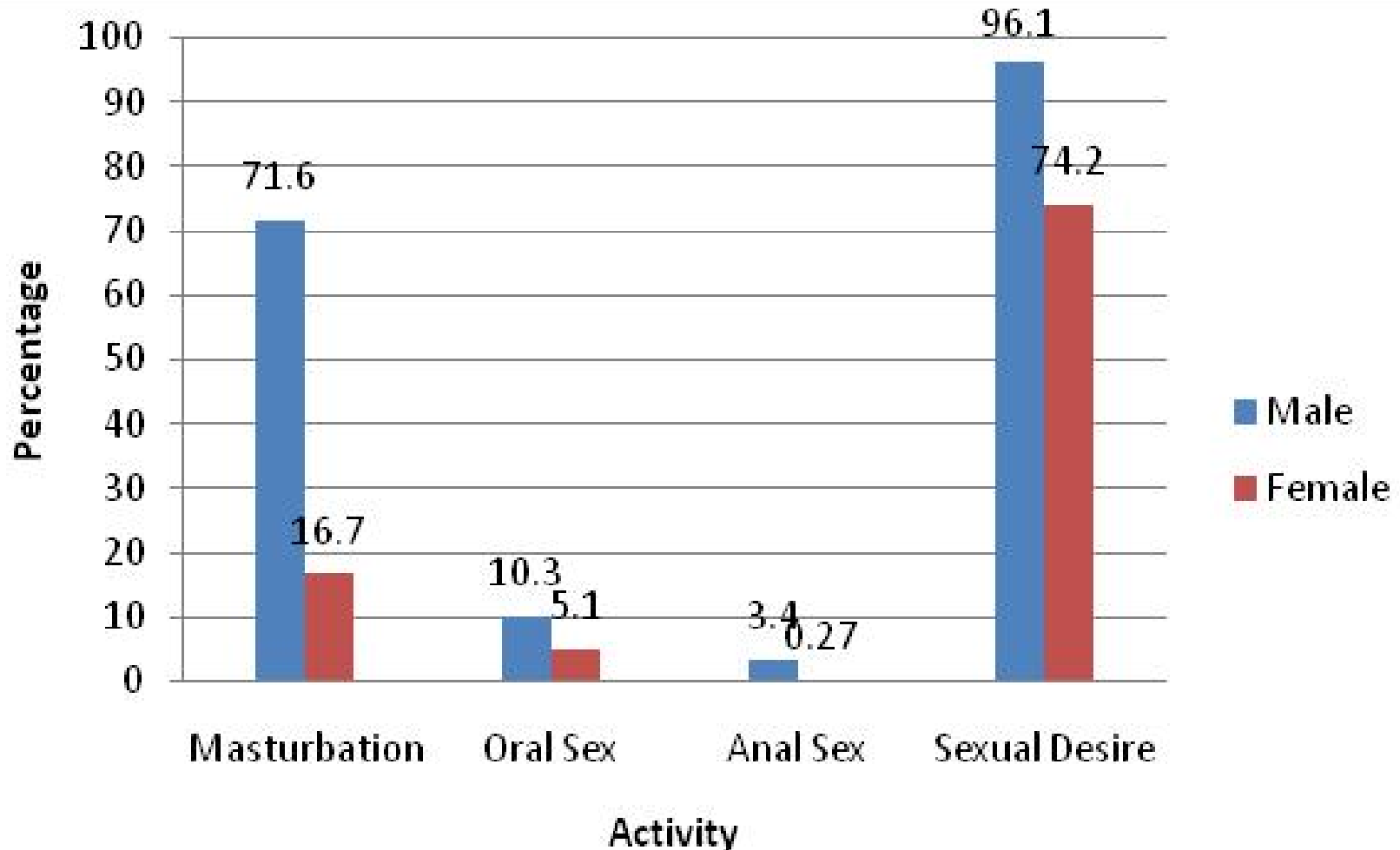
* <0.05 ; *** ≤ 0.0001

Sexual Activity Among Virgins (N=575)

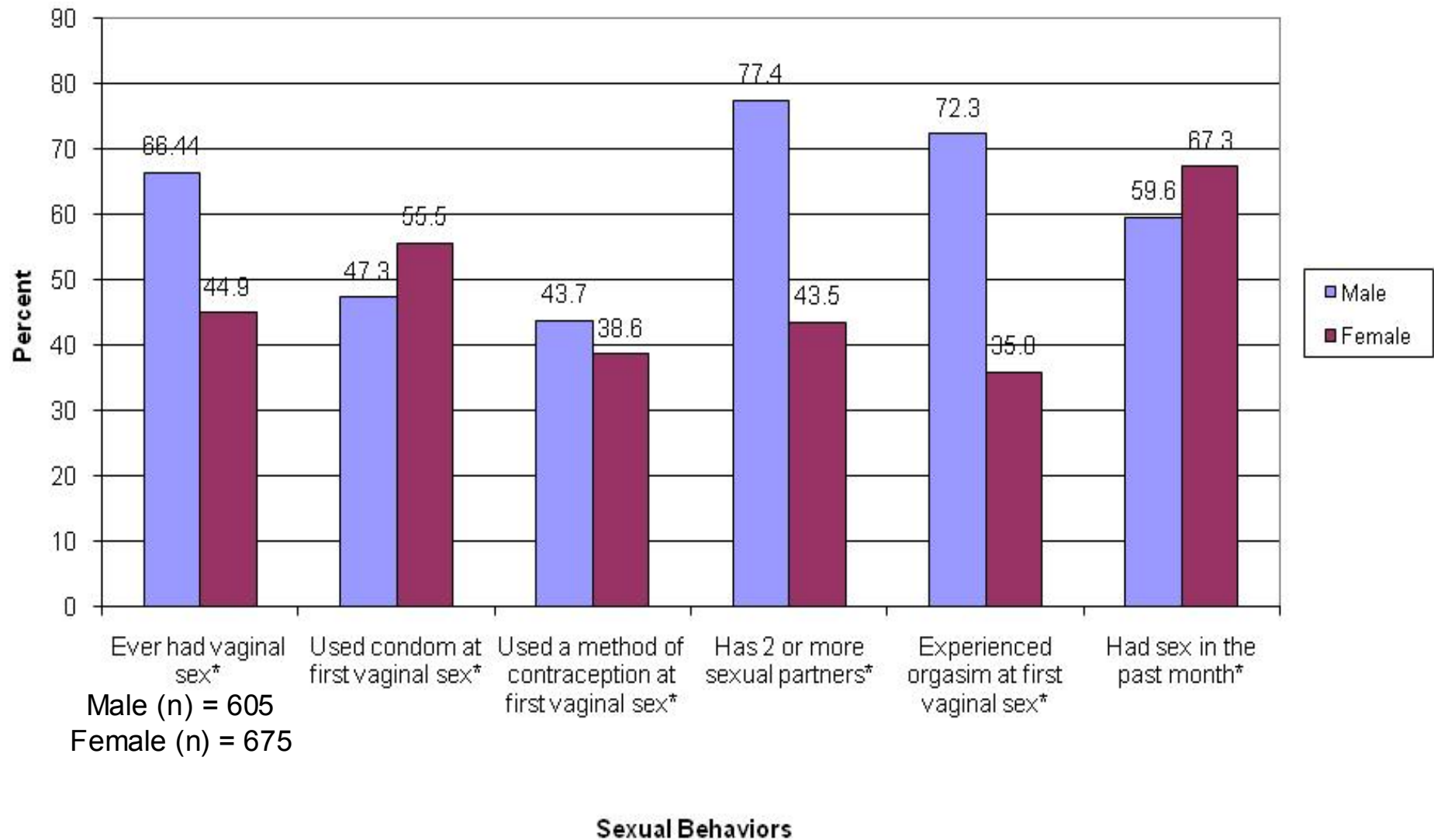
Behavior	Male		Female		X^2
	n	%	n	%	
Masturbation	203	71.6	372	16.7	202.07***
Oral Sex	203	10.3	372	5.1	5.57*
Anal Sex	203	3.4	372	0.27	9.68**
Sexual Desire	203	96.1	372	74.2	42.38***

*p < 0.05 ***p ≤ 0.0001

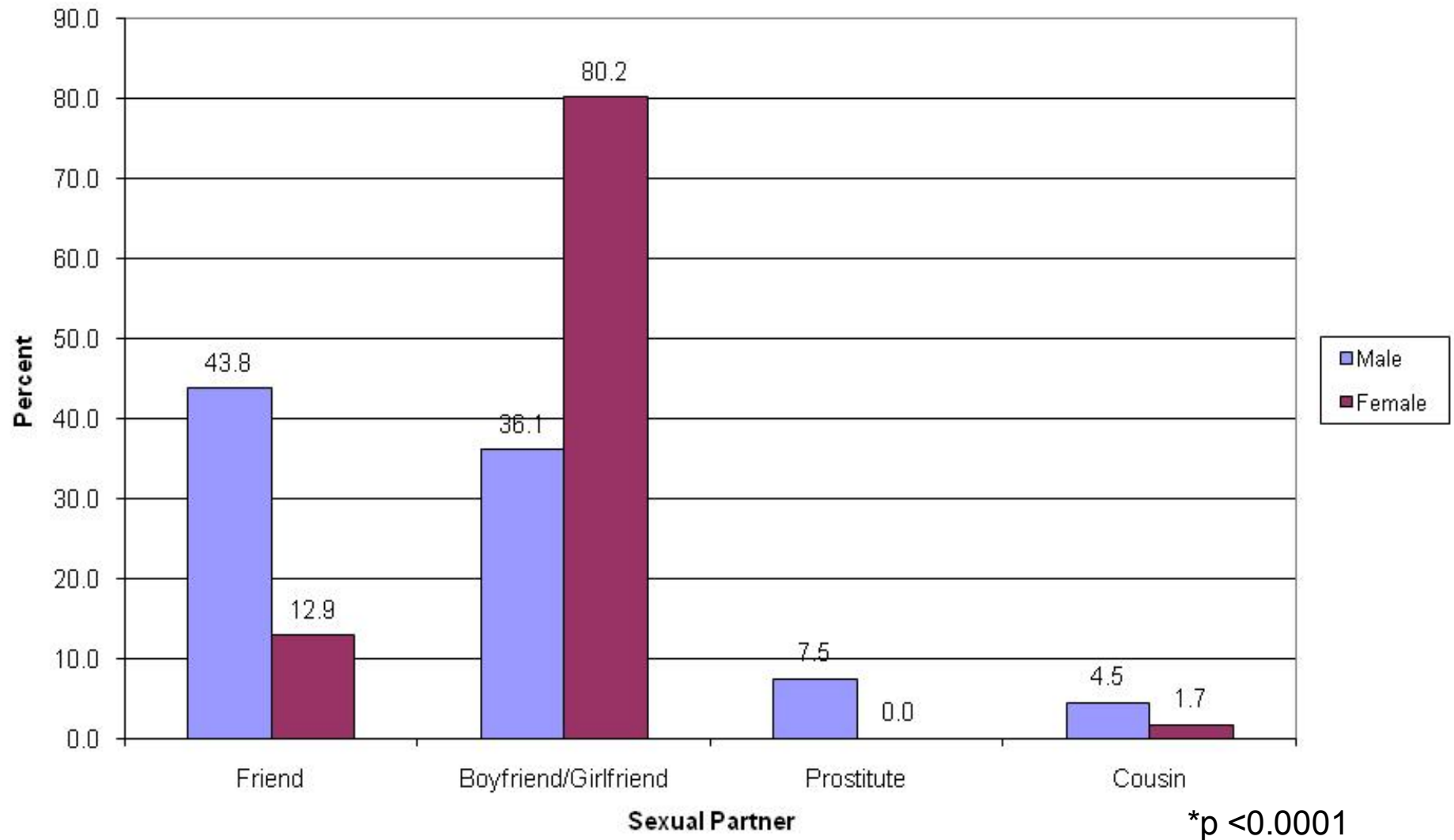
Sexual Desire & Sexual Behavior Among Virgins (N=575)



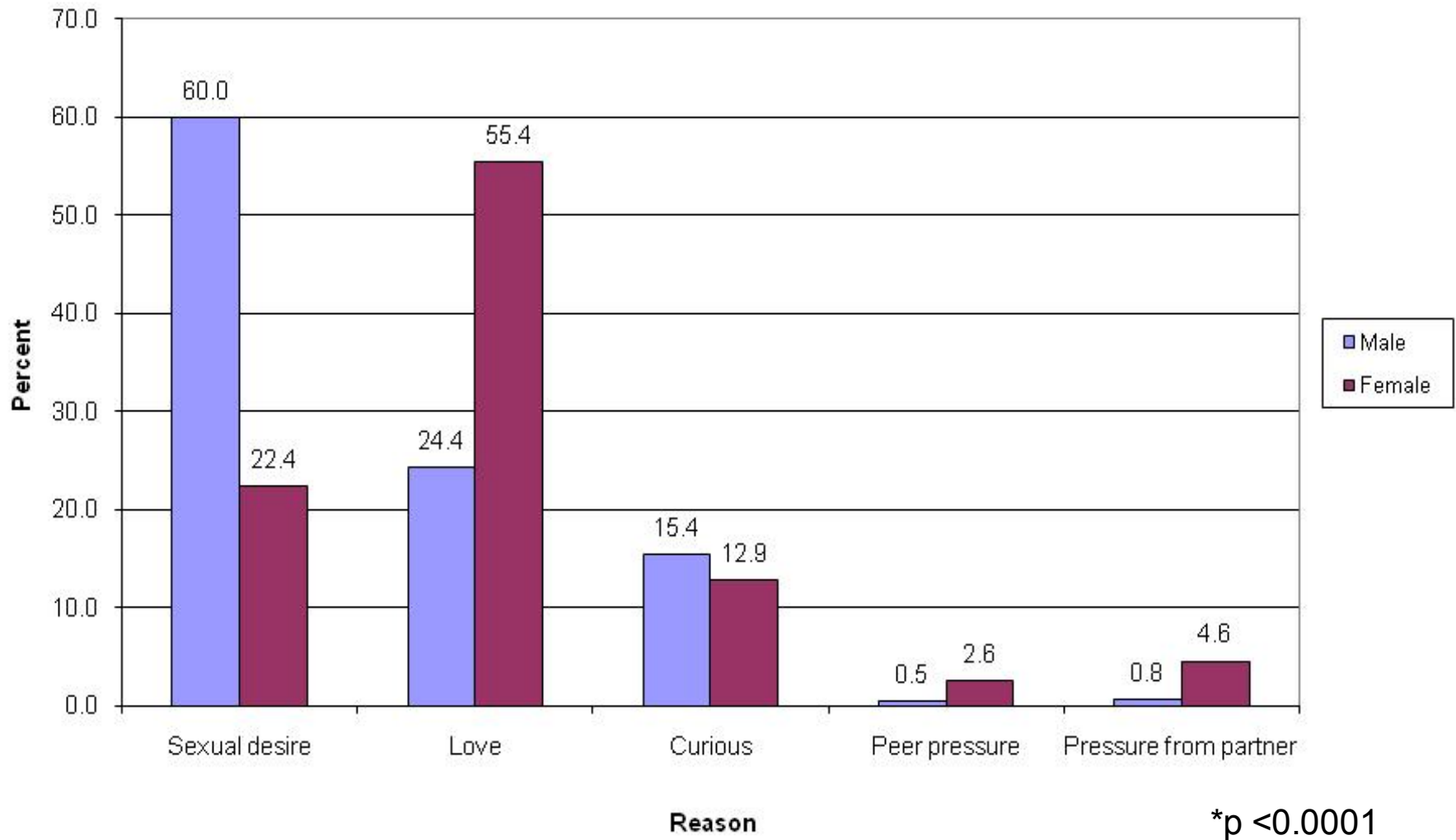
Gender Differences in Vaginal Sex



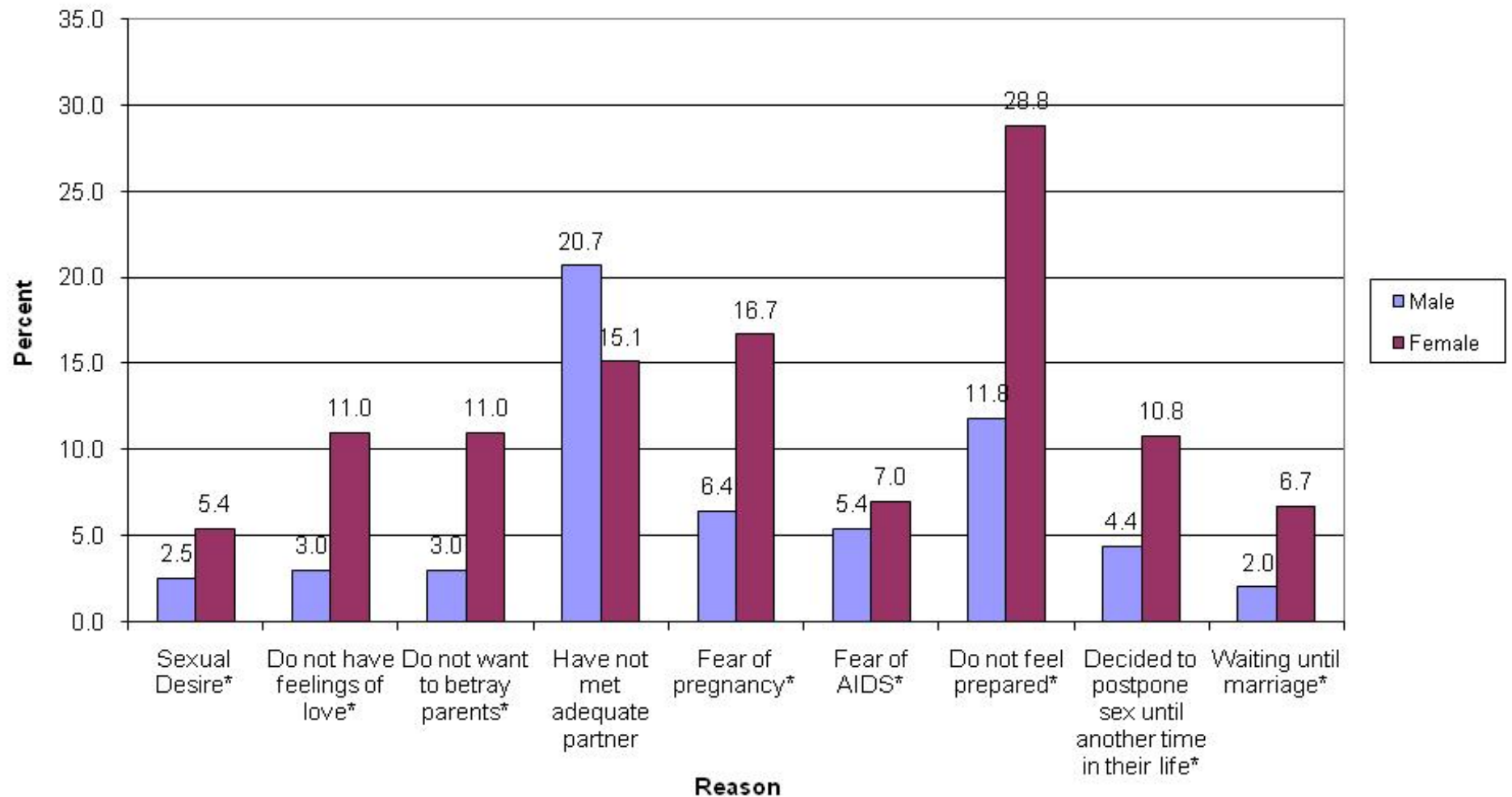
Gender Differences in Sexual Partner at First Coitus (N=669)



Reasons Why Adolescents Initiated Sex (N=682)



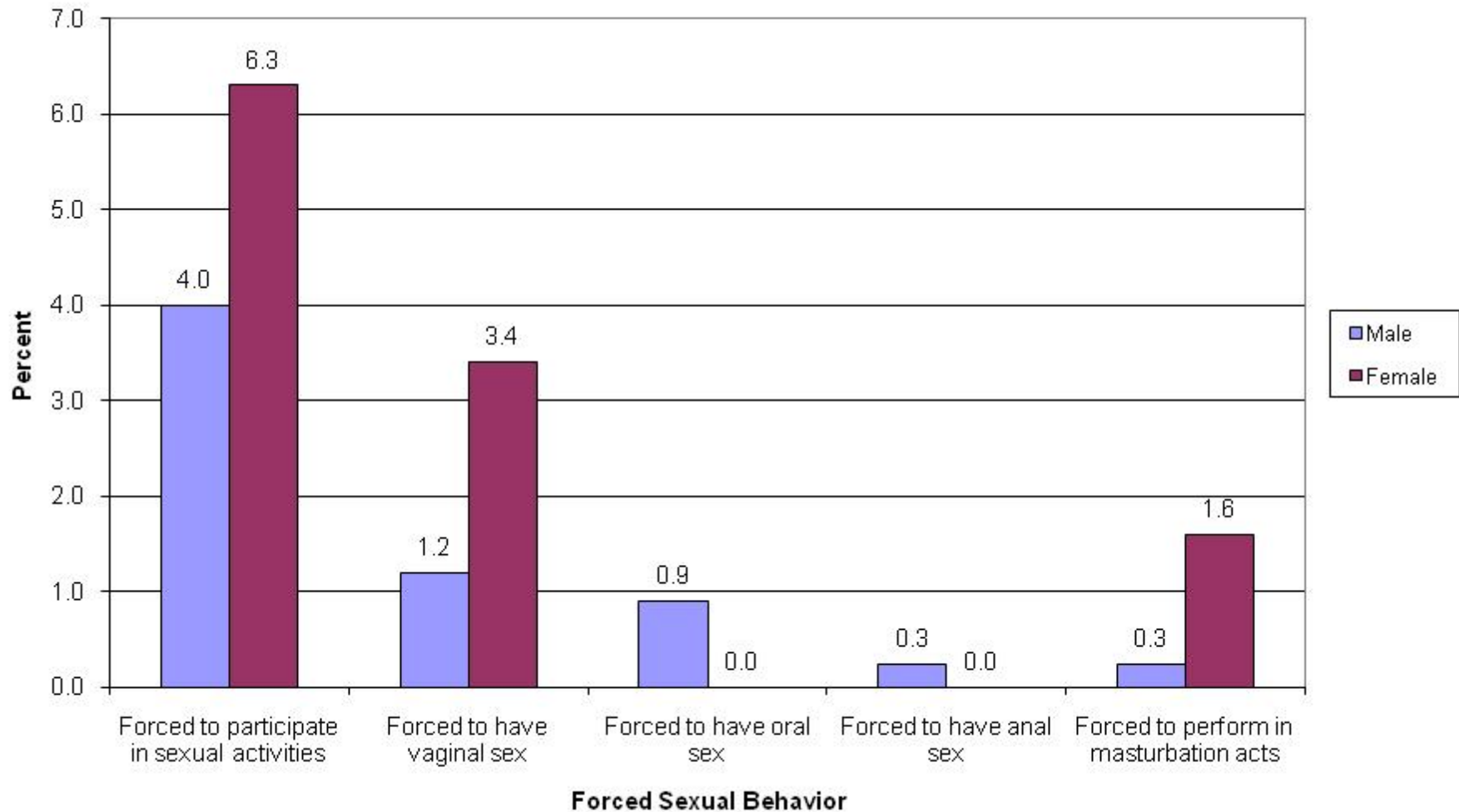
Reasons Why Adolescents Have Not Initiated sex (N=575)



*p < 0.05

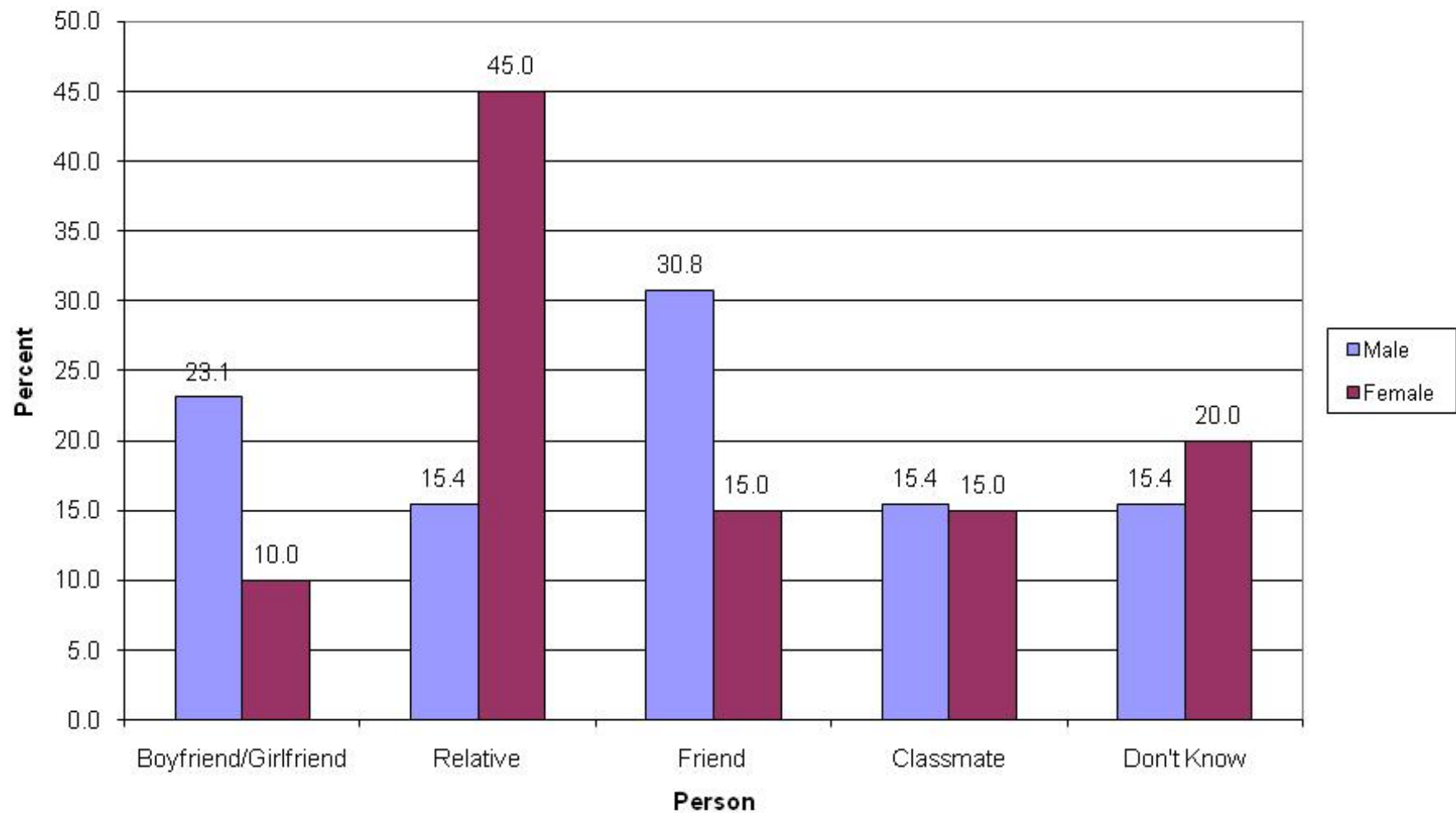
Adolescents Reporting Forced Sexual Activity by Gender

(N=640, Male: n= 321, Female: n= 319)



*p > 0.05

Person who forced sexual activity (N=33)



*p > 0.05

Gender Differences in Media Use

Media	N	Male (%)	Female (%)	χ^2
Read books, magazines, or looked at movies with explicit sexual activity	1,235	97.2	91.0	20.79***
Was excited sexually first time looked at sexually explicit media	1,159	67.3	32.0	143.92***
Was excited sexually the last time looked at sexually explicit media	1,159	49.6	27.4	60.90***
Read romantic novels, watched romantic movies, or romantic soap operas	1,232	89.3	98.0	38.21***
Was excited sexually the last time looked at romantic media	1,161	12.8	10.3	0.039*
Had sexual experiences on the internet	1,265	29.4	9.2	84.81***
Accessed pornography on the internet	238	83.6	63.9	10.44***

* $p \leq 0.05$ *** $p \leq 0.0001$

Sexual Desire & Sexual Behavior

Behavior	Total	Female	Male
Ever had erotic dreams	8.52 (4.87, 14.90)***	9.38 (5.12, 17.16)***	2.91 (0.46, 18.37)
Ever masturbated	12.09 (4.10, 35.62)***	29.34 (4.04, 213.86)**	3.74 (0.60, 23.18)
Participated in individual sexual activity during childhood	2.79 (1.45, 5.37)*	3.01 (1.49, 6.32)*	1.68 (0.27, 10.35)
Had sexual experiences on the internet	0.93 (0.45, 1.91)	0.87 (0.40, 1.87)	1.50 (0.17, 13.72)
Ever had an orgasm	7.01 (3.64, 13.52)***	7.96 (3.87, 16.38)***	2.71 (0.45, 16.45)
Ever had vaginal sex	4.91 (2.75, 8.76)***	5.30 (2.85, 9.83)***	2.79 (0.44, 17.88)

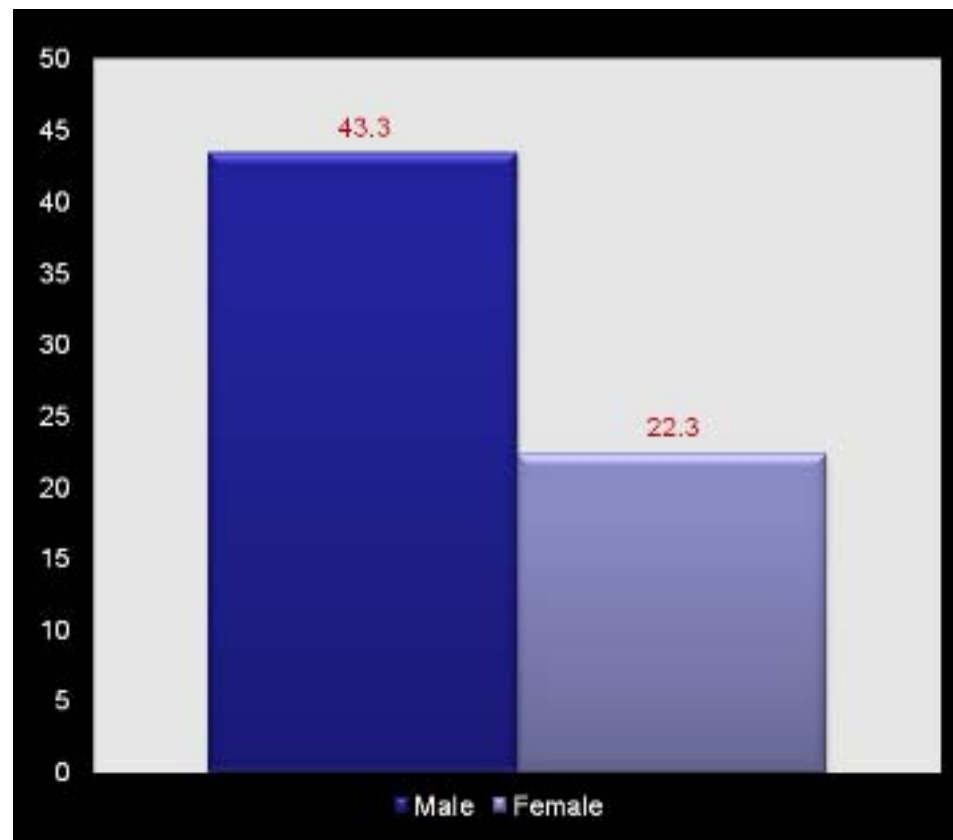
*p < 0.05 ***p ≤ 0.0001

Odds ratios are for ever had sexual desires, adjusted for age, gender, and religion

Do you Believe it is Acceptable to Pursuit Sexual Pleasure Independently of Love and Reproduction?

Female
n= 572

Male
n= 453



*p ≤ 0.0001

Conclusions

- At present, most of the approaches to sexual health promotion among adolescents are focused on abstinence only & how to prevent unintended pregnancy and HIV/STIs
- While ignoring the fact that adolescence is a period of wakening sexual desire which includes a learning process on how to obtain sexual pleasure.

Respect for Religious principles:



“Adolescence is a critical period of sexual development when boys and girls reach sexual reproductive maturity, experiment frequent sexual desires, and become fully interested in the pleasurable function of sexuality

Adolescence Part I

Many virgin adolescents engage in masturbation and other sexual behaviors. Even adolescents who refrain from participating in conscious sexual activities can experiment erotic dreams or involuntary sexual fantasies”

Useche, 2007