# Findings from a National Survey about Abstinence Knowledge and Attitudes

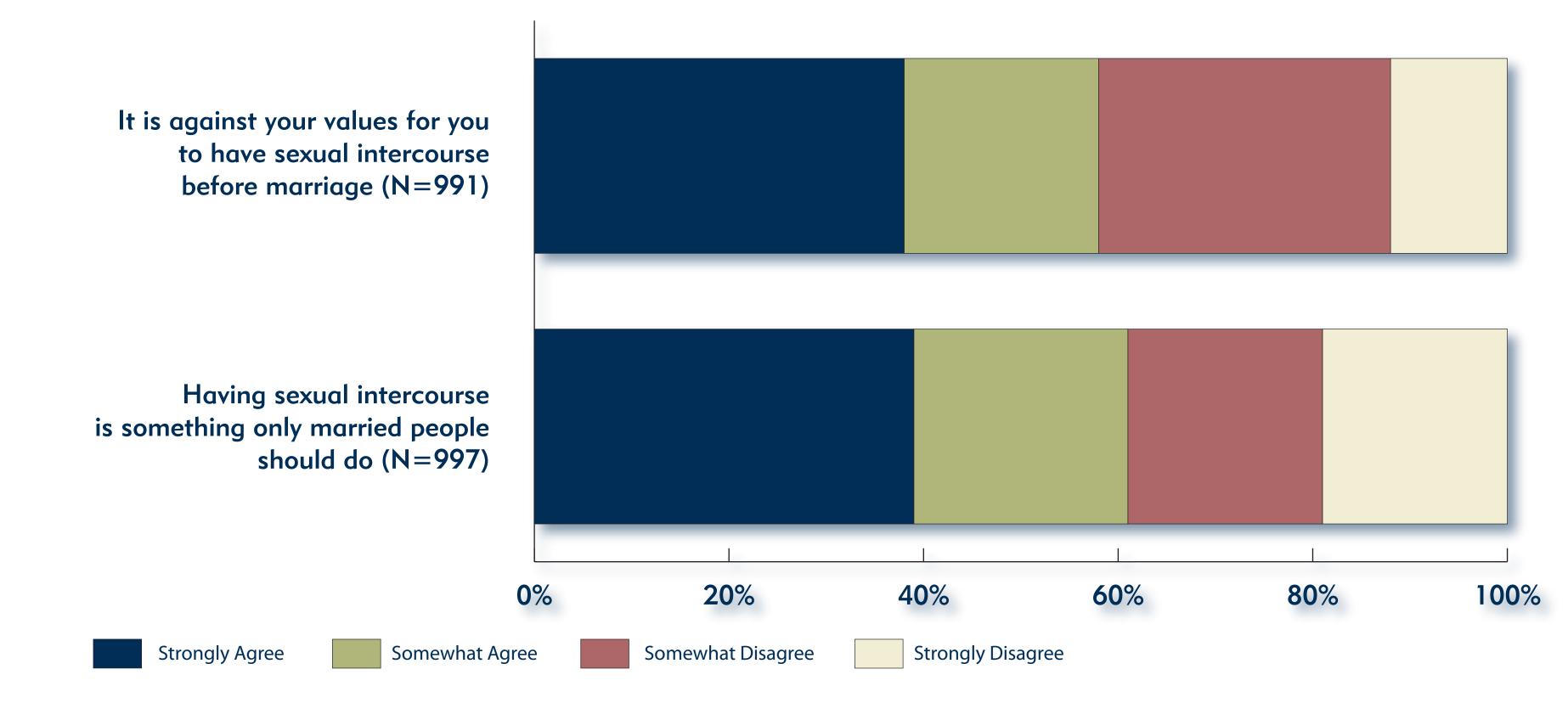
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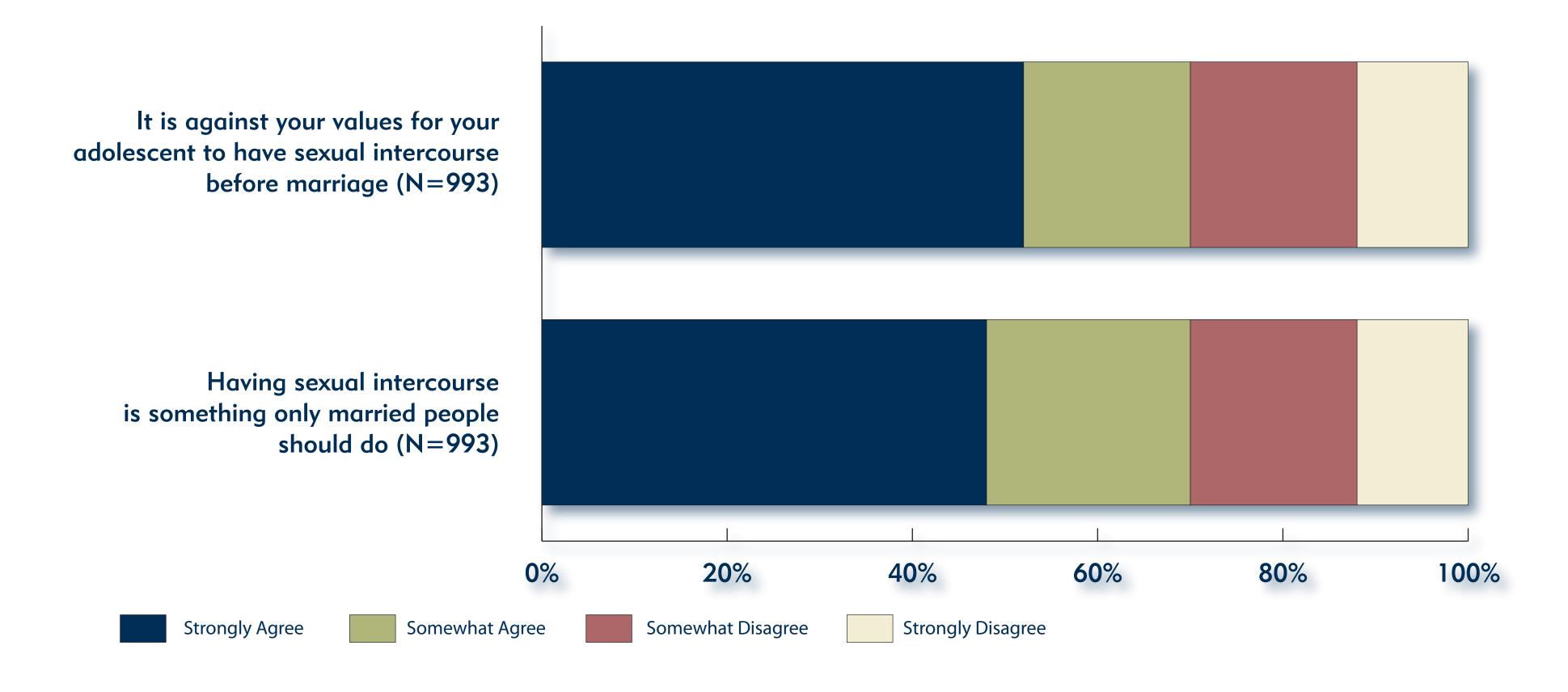
## Background

- Nationally representative sample of 1,000 adolescents and their "most knowledgeable parent" conducted in 2008
- Key research question: What factors are independently associated with differences in adolescent attitudes about sex and abstinence?
- Key outcomes:
- Adolescent attitudes about sex and abstinence
- Three main pathways of influence tested:
- Parent attitudes and communication
- Peer attitudes and communication
- Exposure to information about abstinence or sex in a class or program

## Key Adolescent Outcomes: General Attitudes about Sexual Intercourse



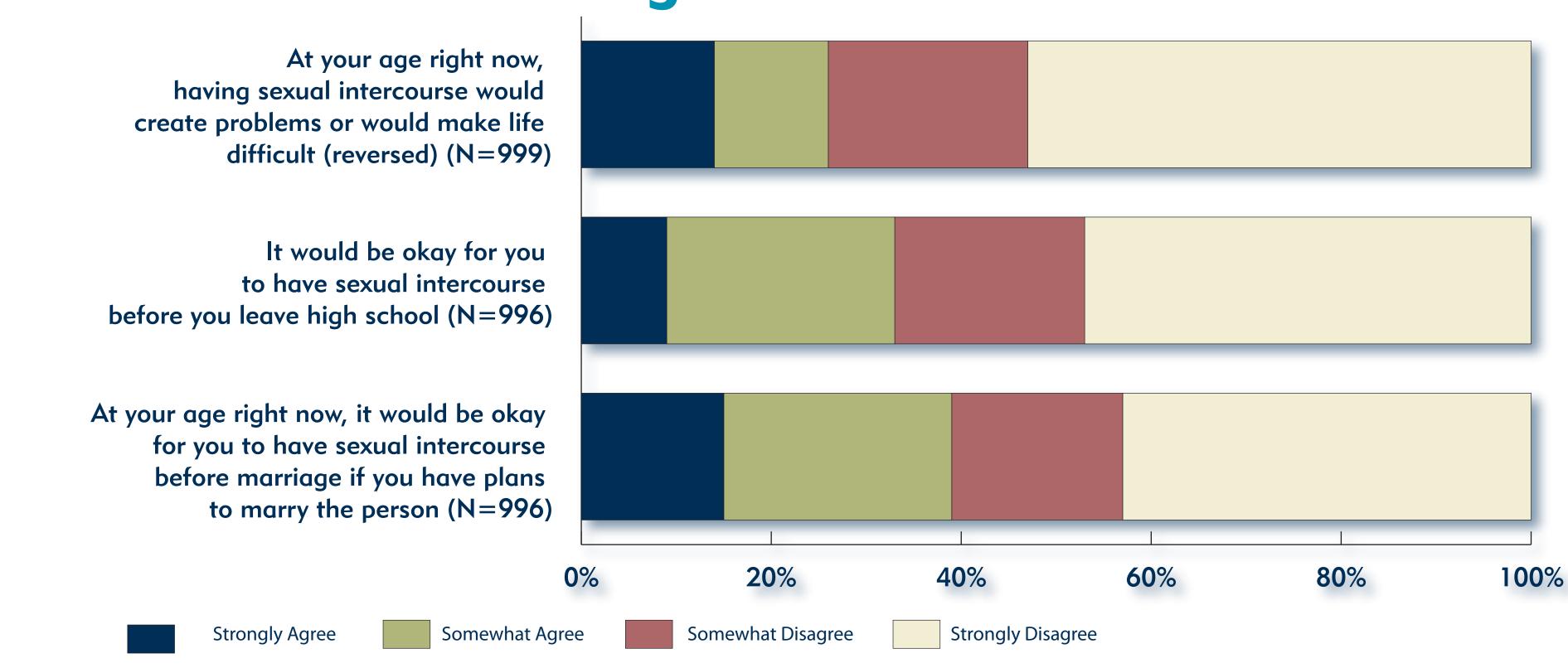
## Parallel Parent Reports: General Attitudes about Sexual Intercourse



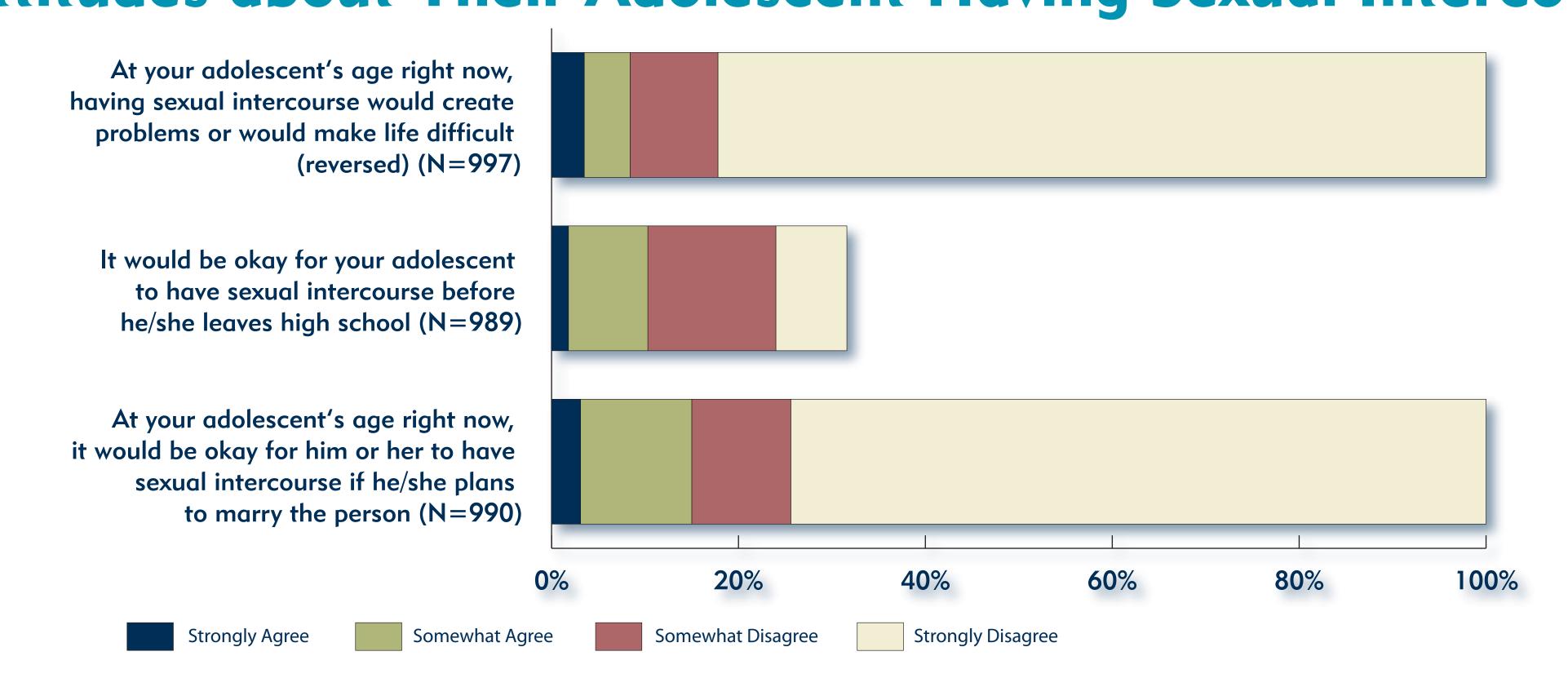
### Acknowledgement

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## Key Adolescent Outcomes: Attitudes about Having Sex

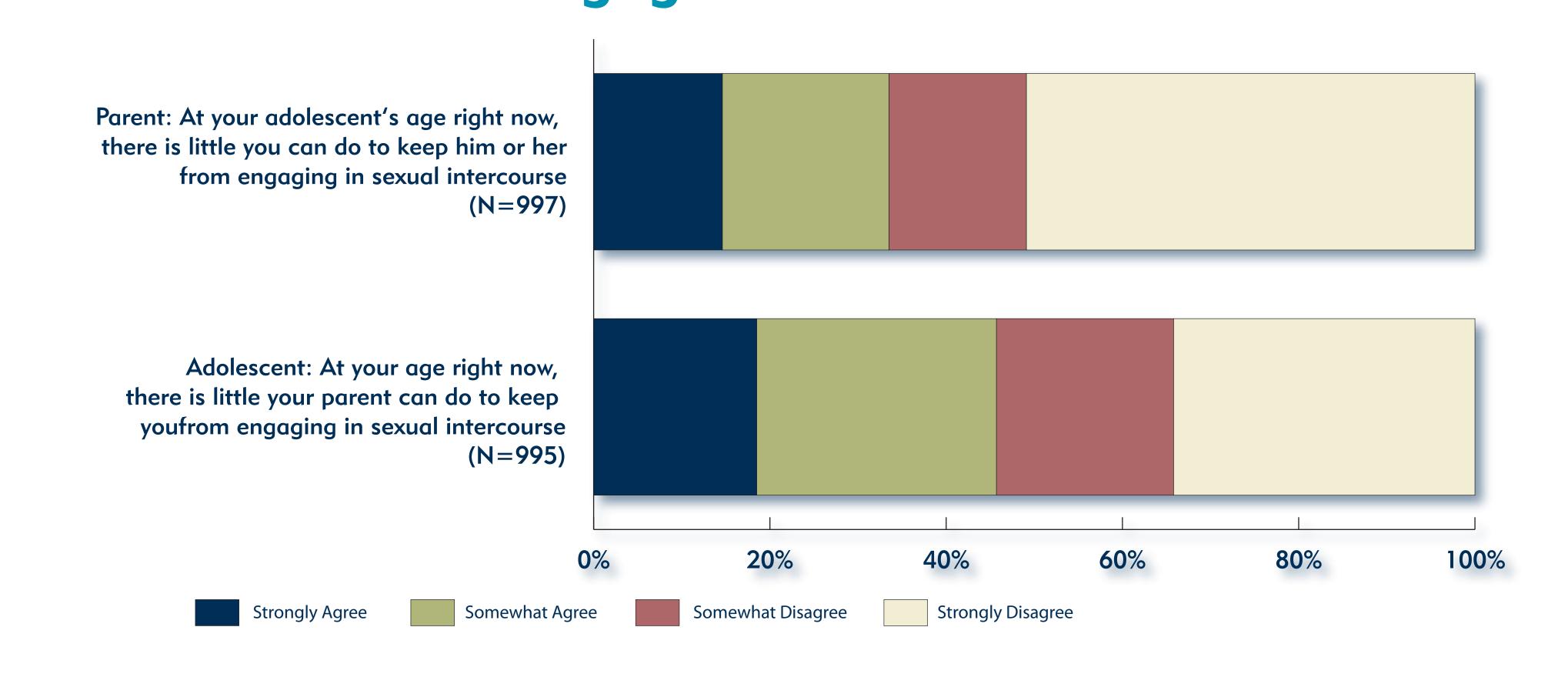


## Parallel Parent Reports: Attitudes about Their Adolescent Having Sexual Intercourse

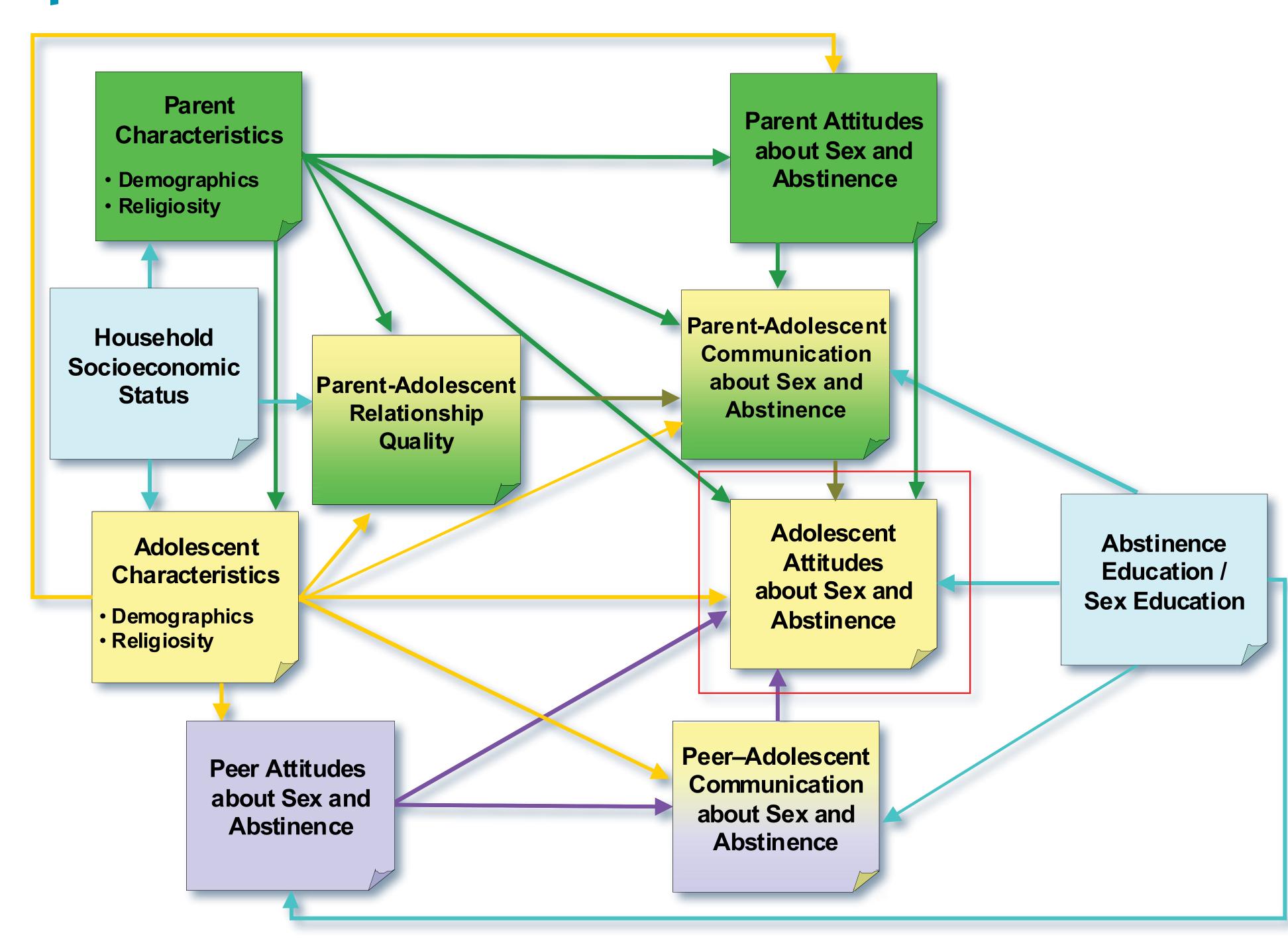


# Key Outcomes:

# Parent and Adolescent Perceptions of Parental Control over Adolescent Engagement in Sexual Behavior



## Conceptual Model



# Analytic Methods: Testing Conceptual Model

- Employed nested logistic regression specifications to test associations
- Direction of causation is assumed in conceptual model, but can only test correlations
- Built model sequentially
- Direct associations
  - Indirect associations
- Seemingly Unrelated Regression (SUR) techniques used for joint hypothesis testing for groups of outcome measures

# Key Findings

### Demographics

- Males and black/Hispanic adolescents expressed less restrictive views about sex.
- Older adolescents were more conservative about sex in general, but had less restrictive attitudes about their own behavior.

### Parents

- Conservative parent attitudes were strongly associated with conservative adolescent attitudes.
- However, higher levels of parent-adolescent communication about sex were not associated with any differences in adolescent attitudes.

### Peers

- Adolescents with more conservative peers reported more conservative views.
- Higher levels of peer-adolescent communication about sexual values were associated with less conservative adolescent attitudes.
- Peers were more influential for male adolescents than for females.

### Classes/Programs

• Though adolescent participation in classes/programs where messages about waiting to have sex until marriage were delivered increased parent-adolescent communication levels, it had no influence on adolescent attitudes.