Loyalty of sex and condom use in general population, Taiwan

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Introduction

Patterns of sexual behavior and condom use are important in spreading sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), particularly for HIV transmission. Furthermore, the frequency of condom use varied with the pattern of sex partners (regular and irregular).

In Taiwan, most relevant studies were for students and high risk groups, and were rarely based on the general population. Our previous study indicated that non-anonymous HIV screenees were not considered high-risk groups for HIV infection and can be treated as a general population.

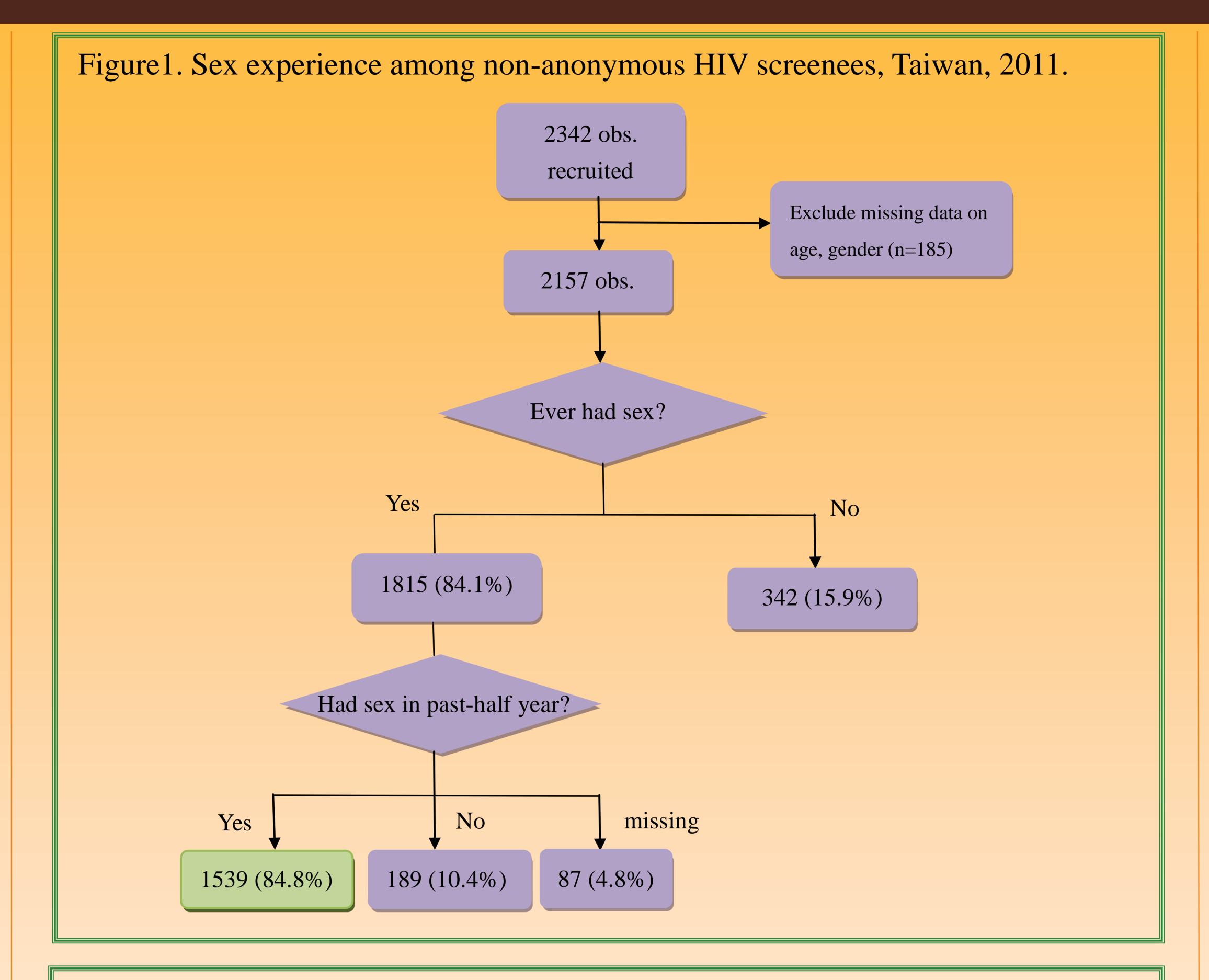
Aims: To survey sexual behavior and condom use in general Taiwan population.

All individuals who underwent non-anonymous HIV screening in Taoyuan, northern Taiwan, 2011, were asked to fill out the questionnaire. This study obtained an approval from the IRB of Chang Gung Memorial Hospital (100-0710A3).

Results

Table 1. Demographic characteristics among adults who had sex in the past half—year among non-anonymous HIV screenees, Taiwan, 2011

	Total (n=1539)	Men (n=664)	Women (n=875)	p
Age (yrs)				0.0820^{1}
18-20	132 (8.5%)	67 (10.1%)	65 (7.4%)	
21-30	736 (47.9%)	329 (49.6%)	407 (46.5%)	
31-40	422 (27.4%)	164 (24.7%)	258 (29.5%)	
41-50	175 (11.4%)	71 (10.7%)	104 (11.9%)	
51-60	61 (4.0%)	27 (4.1%)	34 (3.9%)	
61+	13 (0.8%)	6 (0.9%)	7 (0.8%)	
Mean ± SD	29.7 ± 9.9	28.9 ± 10.0	30.3 ± 9.7	0.0006^2
Minmax.	18-85	18-85	18-84	
Marital status				$< 0.0001^3$
single	885 (57.8%)	442 (67.1%)	443 (50.8%)	
married	586 (38.3%)	198 (30.1%)	388 (44.5%)	
divorced	47 (3.1%)	10 (1.5%)	37 (4.2%)	
other	9 (0.6%)	6 (0.9%)	3 (0.3%)	
missing	4 (0.3%)	3 (0.5%)	1 (0.1%)	
Education				< 0.0001
Graduate	47 (3.1%)	31 (4.7%)	16 (1.8%)	
Undergraduate	540 (35.1%)	232 (34.9%)	308 (35.2%)	
College	366 (23.8%)	100 (15.1%)	266 (30.4%)	
Senior high	490 (31.8%)	256 (38.6%)	234 (26.7%)	
Junior high or	80 (5.2%)	36 (5.4%)	44 (5.0%)	
below				
missing	16 (1.0%)	9 (1.4%)	7 (0.8%)	
Occupation				0.3938^4
Full time	1156 (75.1%)	490 (73.8%)	666 (76.1%)	
Part time	220 (14.3%)	101 (15.2%)	119 (13.6%)	
None	118 (7.7%)	49 (7.4%)	69 (7.9%)	
Missing	45 (2.9%)	24 (3.6%)	21 (2.4%)	
Sex worker	- (/ - /			0.9645^4
no	1512 (98.3%)	653 (98.3%)	859 (98.2%)	
yes	12 (0.8%)	5 (0.8%)	7 (0.8%)	
missing	15 (1.0%)	6 (0.9%)	9 (1.0%)	
Ever had STDs			2 (2.070)	0.8421^3
No No	1483 (96.4%)	641 (96.5%)	842 (96.2%)	0.0121
yes	29 (1.9%)	11 (1.7%)	18 (2.1%)	
missing	27 (1.5%)	12 (1.8%)	15 (2.1%)	



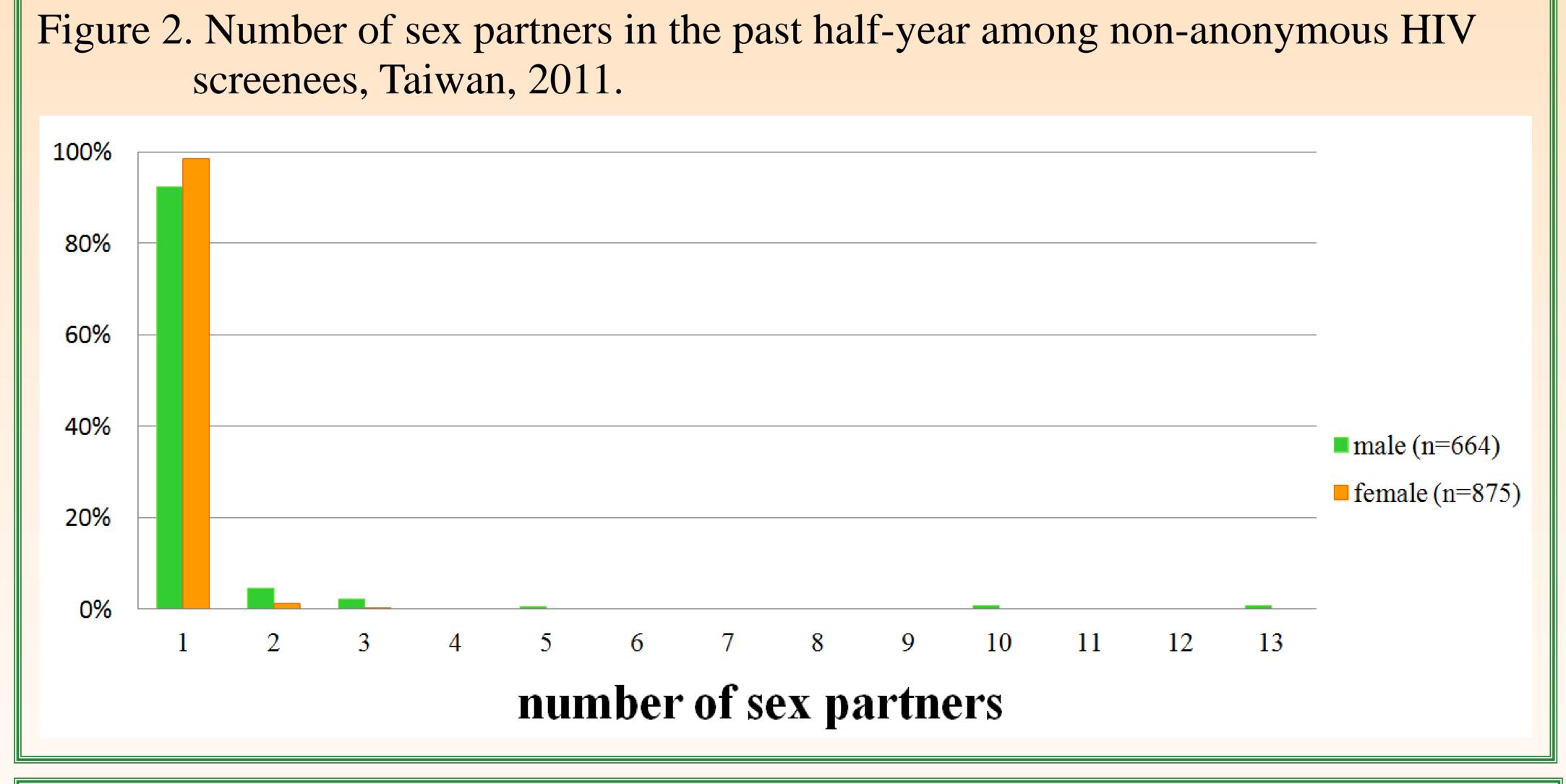


Figure 3. Pattern of sex partners in the past half-year among non-anonymous HIV screenees, Taiwan, 2011.

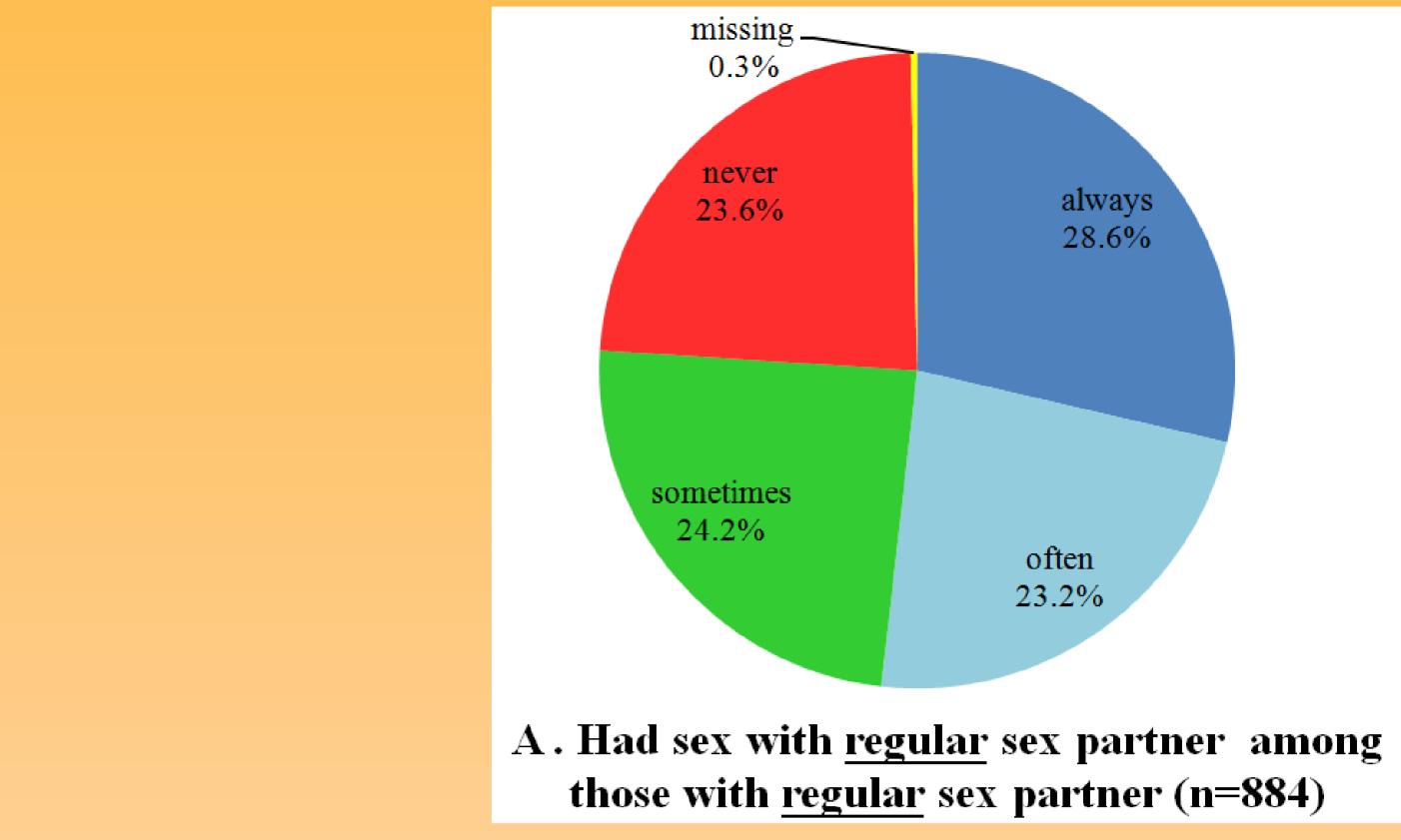
missing 23.5%

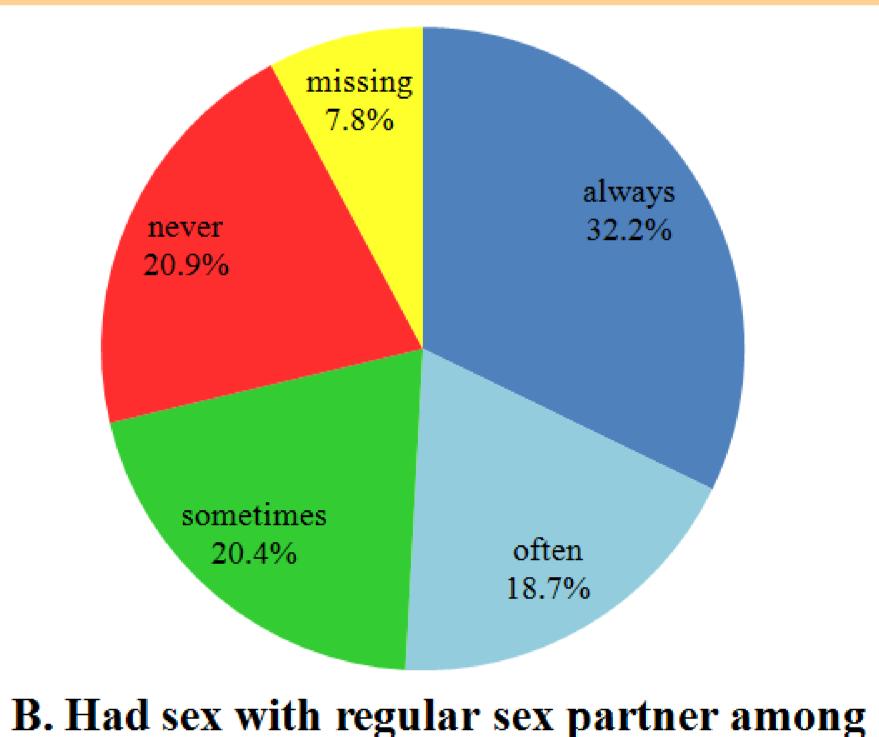
regular 55.9%

A. Male (n=664)

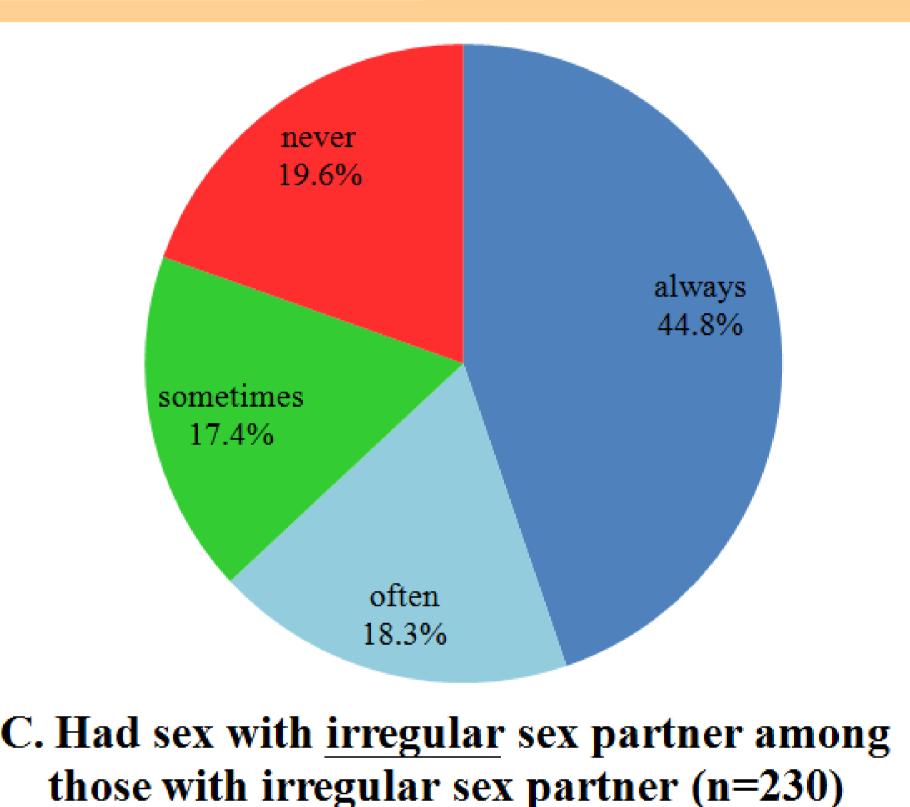
B. Female (n=875)

Figure 4. Condom use by pattern of sex partners in the past half-year among non-anonymous HIV screenees, Taiwan, 2011.





those with irregular sex partner (n=230)



Discussion

In this study, we saw a right distributed numbers of sex partners in general population of Taiwan and the behavior of the right tail is crucial for the spread of STDs. The pattern of sex partners (regular, irregular, missing) was significantly different between male (55.9%, 20.6%, 23.5%, respectively) and female (58.6%, 10.6%, 30.7%, respectively) (p<.0001). The irregular sex partnership is increasing in general population from 7.3% in Taipei, 2003 (Chen et al, 2005) to 14.9% (this study) in Taoyuan, 2011.

Overall, the proportion of "always" using condom during intercourse was low. Interestingly, for individuals with irregular sex partners, proportion of "always" using a condom during intercourse with irregular sex partners (44.8%) was higher than that with regular sexual partners (32.2%) (p<.0001). The pattern of condom use during intercourse varied with the pattern of sex partners, which is consistent with Taiwan studies.

The finding in this study is useful to promote safe sex and to alert their risk of acquiring STDs for sexually active adults.