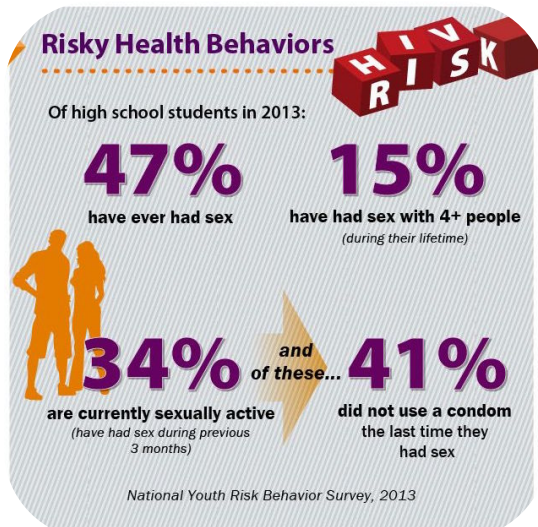


# HOW POLYVICTIMIZATION IMPACTS ADOLESCENT'S SEXUAL HEALTH: A LATENT CLASS APPROACH

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Improving adolescent's sexual self-efficacy is critical to reduce the prevalence and incidence of HIV, other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and pregnancy.

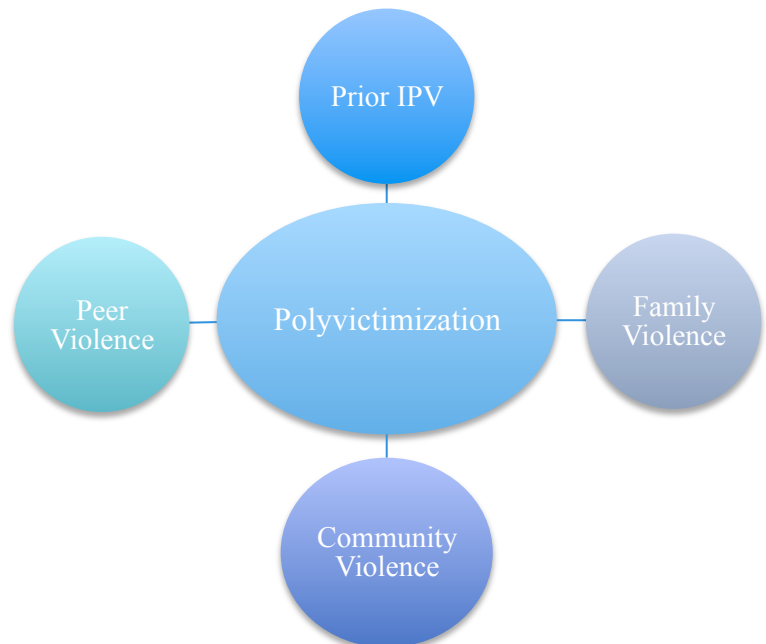
- Nearly 10 million new STDs are diagnosed among individuals aged 15-24, annually.
- 25% of new HIV infections are diagnosed among individuals aged 13-24
- Adolescent pregnancy rate remains higher in the United States compared to other developed countries.

(<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/sexualbehaviors/>)

## Understanding the role of violence victimization on adolescent's sexual health

- Adolescents who experience intimate partner violence, community violence, and family violence are more like to engage in risky sexual behaviors
- Violence can expose adolescents to social and psychological vulnerabilities placing them at an increased risk for HIV and other STDs.
  - Relationship power
  - Substance use
  - Mental health problems
  - Self-efficacy
- Multiple types of violence tend to co-occur among adolescents

**Polyvictimization**  
(*experiencing multiple types of violence*)



# Study Design

## Participants and Procedures

296 pregnant couples were recruited at OB/Gyn and ultrasound clinics in northeast region of the US to participate in a prospective study from pregnancy to 12 months postpartum. Participants were asked lifetime experiences of violence, sexual self-efficacy, and risk behavior questions.

### Race/Ethnicity

- African-American (48%, men; 40% women)
- Hispanic (36% men; 40% women)
- White (15% men; 20% women)

### Age and Education (in years)

- Mean age for women: 18.7 and for men 21.3
- Average education was 11.8 for men and 11.7 for women

# Findings

## Latent Class Analyses

Revealed three classes for *females* (No Violence, Peer/Prior IPV, Community/Prior IPV) and *males* (No Violence, Prior IPV, High Polyvictimization).

## ANOVA Analyses

Revealed differences in sexual health among female and male classes:

Males in **High Polyvictimization class** lower condom use in the past six months than the No Violence class.

Females in **Community/Prior IPV class** lower condom use in the past six months compared to No Violence class.

Females in **Peer/Prior IPV class** lower condom self-efficacy and positive condom attitudes than the other classes.

Males in **Prior IPV class** reported *more* HIV risks compared to the No Violence class.

Females in **Community/Prior IPV class** communicated about HIV *more* with their partner compared to the No Violence class.

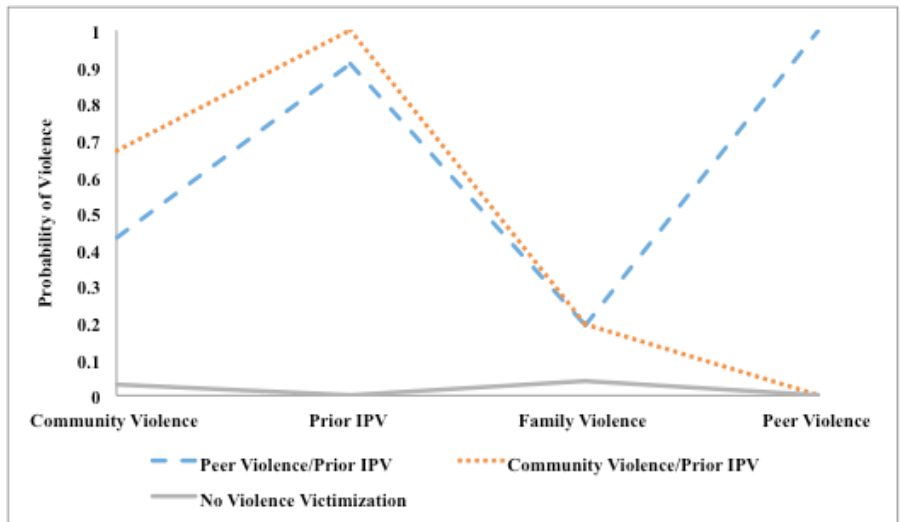


Figure 1. Three latent class model for female's experiences of violence.

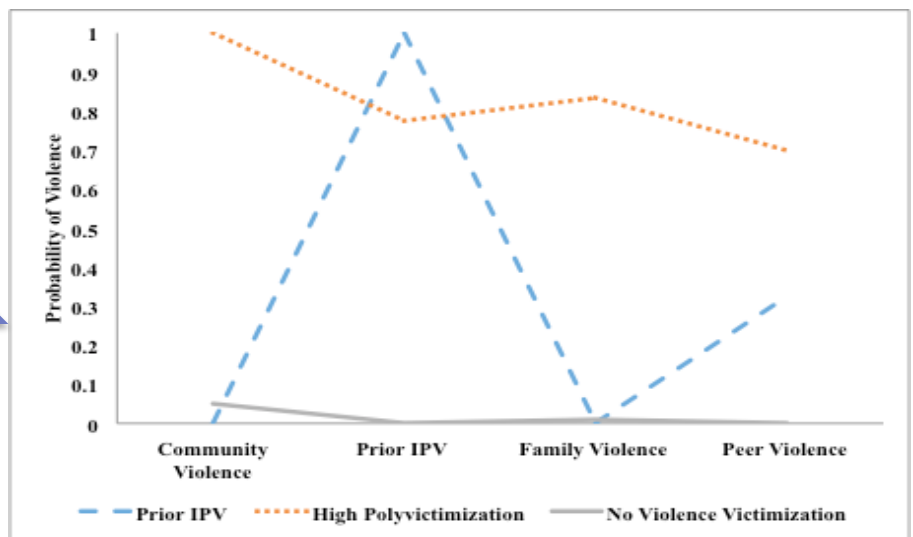


Figure 2. Three latent class model for male's experiences of violence.