

**Trends and Current Levels in
Adolescent Sexual Risk Behaviors:
Data from the National Survey of Family Growth**

Gladys Martinez & Joyce Abma

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grantee Conference

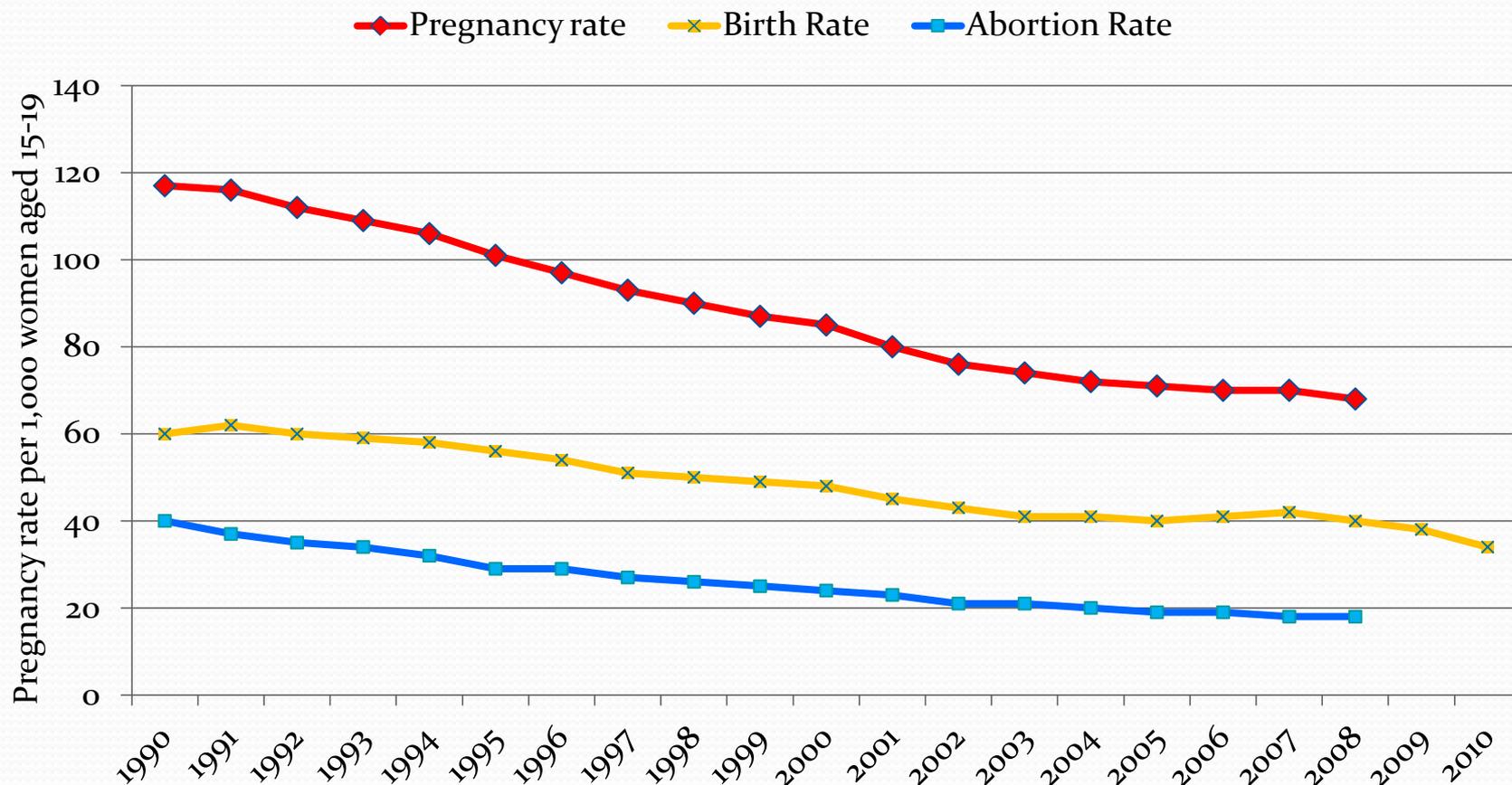
March 14, 2012

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel

Baltimore, MD

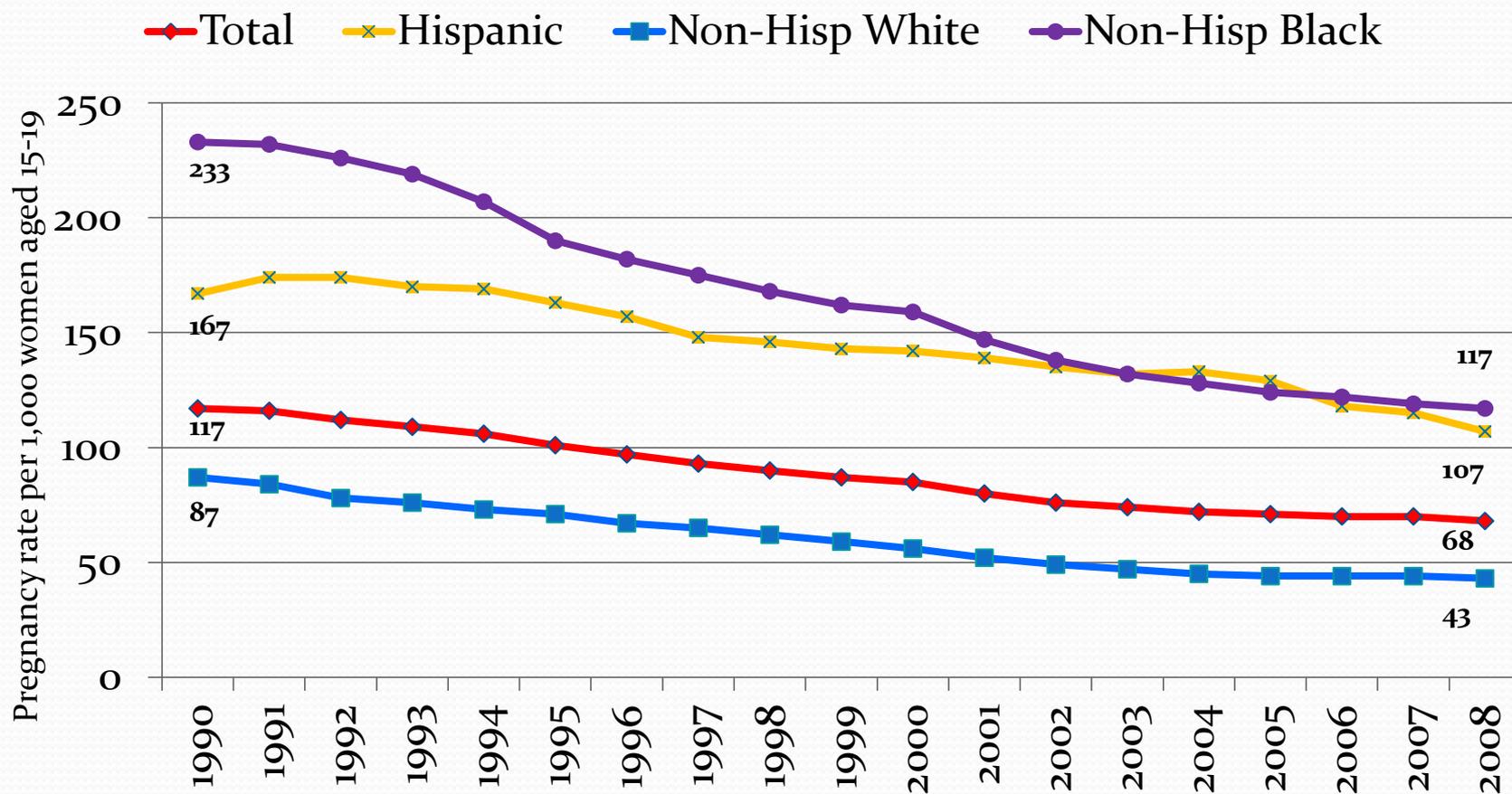
Pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years: United States, 1990-2010*

* pregnancy rates available through 2008



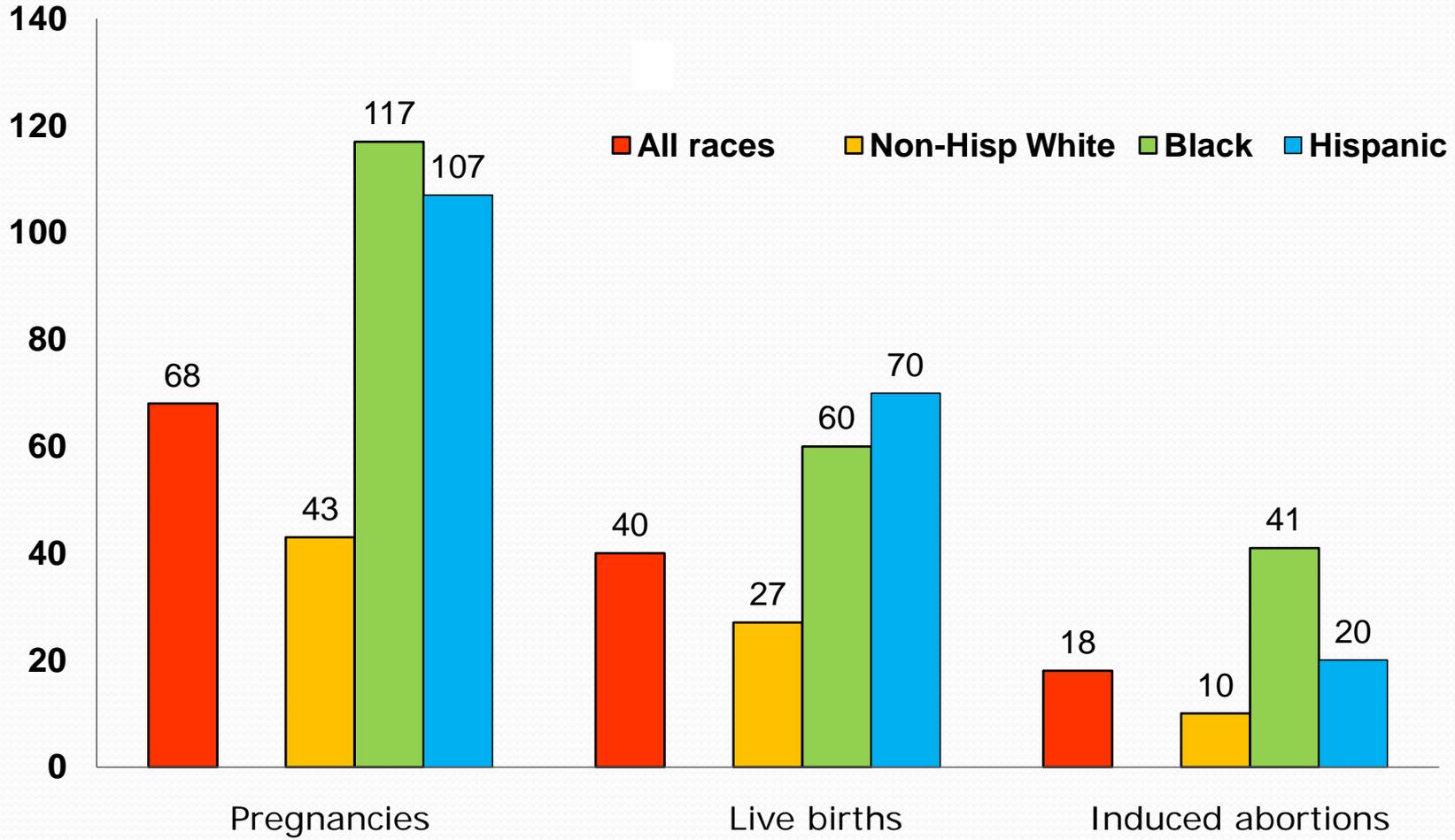
Pregnancy rates through 2005: Ventura SJ, Abma JC, and Mosher WD. Estimated Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1990-2005: An Update, National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol 58 (4), Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2009.
 Pregnancy rates for 2006, 07, and 08: Kost K and Henshaw S, U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2008: National Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity, 2012. <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends08.pdf>
 Birth rates: Hamilton BE, Martin JA, Ventura SJ. Births: Preliminary data for 2010. National vital statistics reports web release; vol 60 no 2. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2011.

Pregnancy rates per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1990-2008



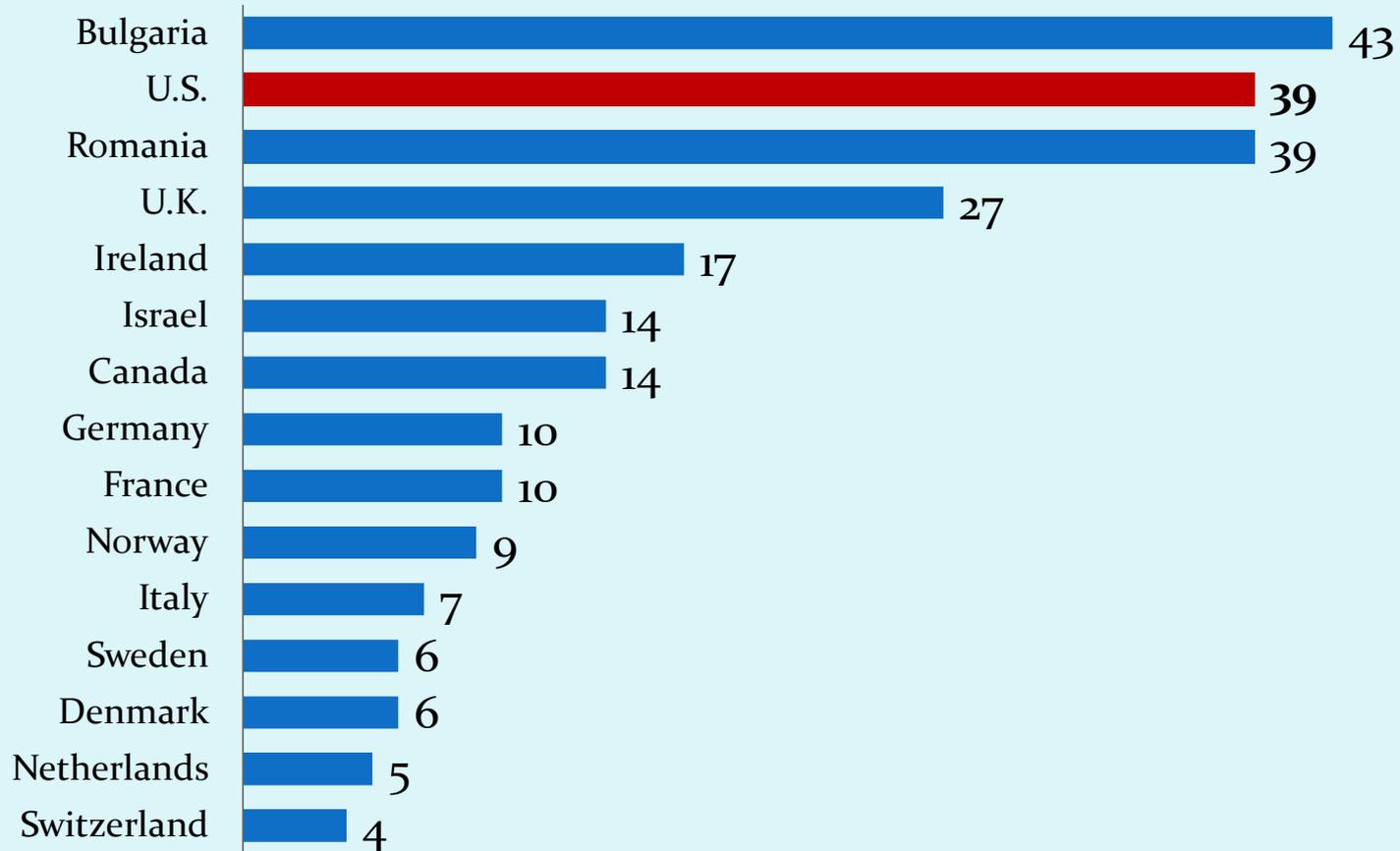
Note: Rates for 2006, 07, and 08 for Black women are for all black women, both Hispanic and non-Hispanic.
 Pregnancy rates through 2005: Ventura SJ, Abma JC, and Mosher WD. Estimated Pregnancy Rates for the United States, 1990-2005: An Update, National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol 58 (4), Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2009.
 Pregnancy rates for 2006, 07, and 08: Kost K and Henshaw S, U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2008: National Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity, 2012. <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends08.pdf>

Pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates for teenagers 15-19 years, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2008



Note: Rates for Black women are for all Black women, both Hispanic and non-Hispanic.
Source: Kost K and Henshaw S. U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions, 2008: National Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity. 2012, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends08.pdf>

U.S. teen birth rate one of highest among industrialized countries



Teen birth rates internationally, per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 years, 2008 and 2009
SOURCE: UN Demographic Yearbook (all data for 2008, except US 2009 preliminary data).

NSFG Extends Prior National Data on Sexual Risk Behaviors among U.S. Teenagers

Survey	Years	Females interviewed	Males interviewed
National Survey of Young Women	1971, 1976, 1979	Age 15-19	---
National Survey of Young Men	1979	---	17-21, metropolitan residence
National Survey of Adolescent Males	1988, 1995	---	15-19 (1988: never-married males)
National Survey of Family Growth	1982, 1988, 1995	Age 15-44	---
	2002 2006-2010	Age 15-44	Age 15-44

NSFG history in brief

Cycle	Year	Scope	n	Over-Samples	Average Length	Contractor
1	1973	Ever-Married Women 15-44	9,797	Black Women	60 Min	NORC
2	1976	Ever-Married Women 15-44	8,611	Black Women	60 Min	Westat
3	1982	All Women 15-44	7,969	Black Women Teens	60 Min	Westat
4	1988	Women 15-44	8,450	Black Women	70 Min	Westat
5	1995	Women 15-44	10,847	Black Women Hispanic Women	100 Minutes	RTI
6	2002	Women 15-44 Men 15-44	12,571 W = 7,643 M = 4,928	Blacks Hispanics Ages 15-19	W= 85 M= 60	U of Michigan
n/a	2006-2010	Women 15-44 Men 15-44	22,682 W=12,279 M=10,403	Blacks Hispanics Ages 15-19	W=80 M=60 min	U of Michigan

Social Factors

Intermediate variables

Fertility

- Race/ethnicity
- Religion
- Labor force participation
- Education
- Income
- Access to health care
- Family background
- Community environment (economic, social, etc)

- Intercourse variables:**
- Timing of first intercourse
 - Percent of women who ever had intercourse
 - Time spent in marriage or cohabitation (separation, divorce)
 - Frequency of intercourse

- Conception variables:**
- Contraceptive use
 - Sterilization
 - Infertility

- Pregnancy outcome (gestational) variables:**
- Miscarriage and stillbirth
 - Induced abortion

Live births



NSFG Funders

- **National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)**
- **NICHD/Center for Population Research**
- **Office of Population Affairs (OPA)**

- Children's Bureau (Admin for Children & Families)
- CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention
- CDC's Division of STD Prevention

- CDC's Division Cancer Prevention & Control
- CDC's Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
- ACF's Office of Planning, Research, & Evaluation
- CDC's Division of Reproductive Health

How the 2006-2010 NSFG was Conducted

- Face-to-face interviewing in the respondent's home, with laptops
 - Female interviewers, trained for 1 week
 - \$40 Incentive for the interview
- Computer-assisted interviewing
 - CAPI (Interviewer administered)
 - ACASI (Self-administered, with audio)
- Oversamples:
 - Ages 15-19; Black and Hispanic
- Interviews in both English and Spanish
- Informed consent procedures:
 - For adults (18-44): Signed consent
 - For minors (15-17): Signed assent & parental consent

Sample Sizes and Response Rates for NSFG Public Use files

Sample sizes

	2002	2006-2010
TOTAL N	12,571	22,682
Male	4,928	10,403
Female	7,643	12,279
Age 15-19	2,271	4,662
Black	2,460	4,411
Hispanic	2,712	4,889

Teen sample sizes

All 15-19 yr olds	
Male	2378
Female	2284
white	2200
Black	900
Hispanic	1100

Response rates

2006-2010	Males	Females
Total	73%	76%
Age 15-19	75%	77%
Black	74%	80%
Hispanic	70%	78%
White & other	74%	75%



SEARCH

A-Z Index A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z #



National Survey of Family Growth

National Survey of Family Growth

- About NSFG
- What's New
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[NCHS Home](#) > [Surveys and Data Collection Systems](#)

The National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) gathers information on family life, marriage and divorce, pregnancy, infertility, use of contraception, and men's and women's health. The survey results are used by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and others to plan health services and health education programs, and to do statistical studies of families, fertility, and health. Links to some of those studies are included on this web site, under "[Publications and Information Products](#)."

For Survey Participants

Have you been selected to take part in the National Survey of Family Growth? Answers to some frequently asked questions can be found here.

Related Sites

- [Surveys and Data Collection Systems](#)
- [Vital Statistics: Birth Data](#)

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>

What's New

Announcements

- The 2006-2010 NSFG ACASI files are now available for statistical research purposes. The ACASI files are provided to researchers free of charge, upon written request. See the [2006-2010 NSFG: Public Use Data files, Codebooks, and Documentation](#) webpage for details. (1/2012)
- The 2006-2010 NSFG Contextual data files are now available for statistical research purposes. These data are available through the NCHS Research Data Center. See "Other Data Files" on the [2006-2010 NSFG: Public Use Data files, Codebooks, and Documentation](#) webpage for details. (11/2011)

Publications

- [HIV Risk-Related Behaviors in the United States Household Population Aged 15-44 Years: Data from the National Survey of Family Growth, 2002 and 2006-2010](#) [PDF - 333 KB] (1/2012)
- [Teenagers in the United States: Sexual Activity, Contraceptive Use, and Childbearing, 2006-2010 National Survey of Family Growth](#) [PDF - 692 KB] (10/2011)

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Contact Us:

- National Survey of Family Growth Staff
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Hyattsville, MD 20782
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Key Statistics from the National Survey of Family Growth

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T Listing

- [Teenagers](#) - See also [Sex education](#) and [Teen pregnancy](#)
- [Teen pregnancy](#) - See also [Teenagers](#)
- [Tubal sterilization](#) - See [Sterilization \(female\)](#)

Teenagers

See also [Sex education](#) and [Teen pregnancy](#)

- Percent of never-married teenagers 15-19 years of age who ever had intercourse by age and sex: United States, 1995, 2002, and 2006-2010

Female	1995	2002	2006-2010
15-19 years of age	49.3%	45.5%	42.6%
15-17 years of age	38.0%	30.3%	27.0%
18-19 years of age	68.0%	68.8%	62.7%

Male	1995	2002	2006-2010
15-19 years of age	55.2%	45.7%	41.8%
15-17 years of age	43.1%	31.3%	28.0%
18-19 years of age	75.4%	64.3%	63.9%



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Vital and Health Statistics

October 2011

Series 23, Number 31

Teenagers in the
United States: Sexual
Activity, Contraceptive Use,
and Childbearing,
2006–2010 National Survey
of Family Growth



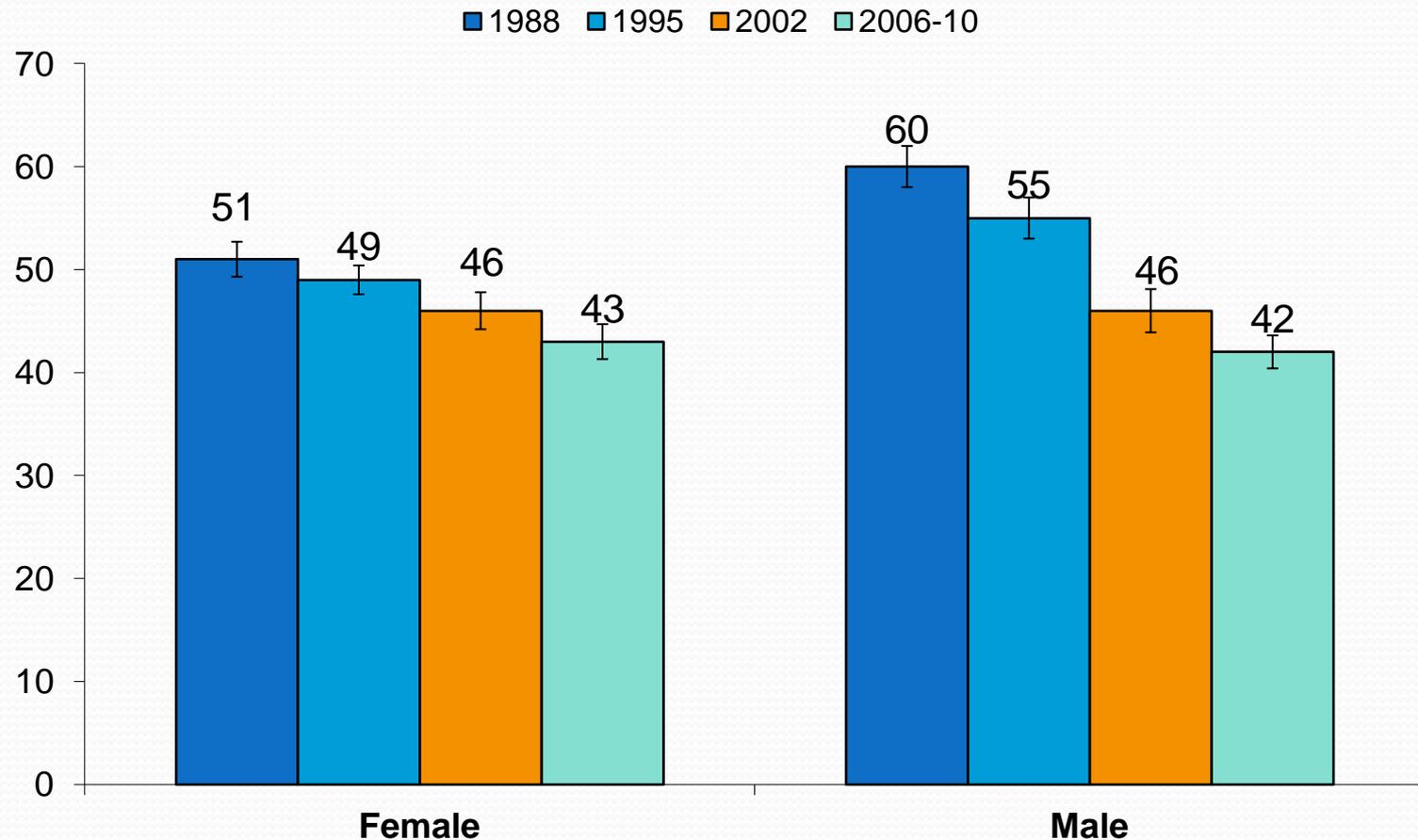
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics

Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

Available at:

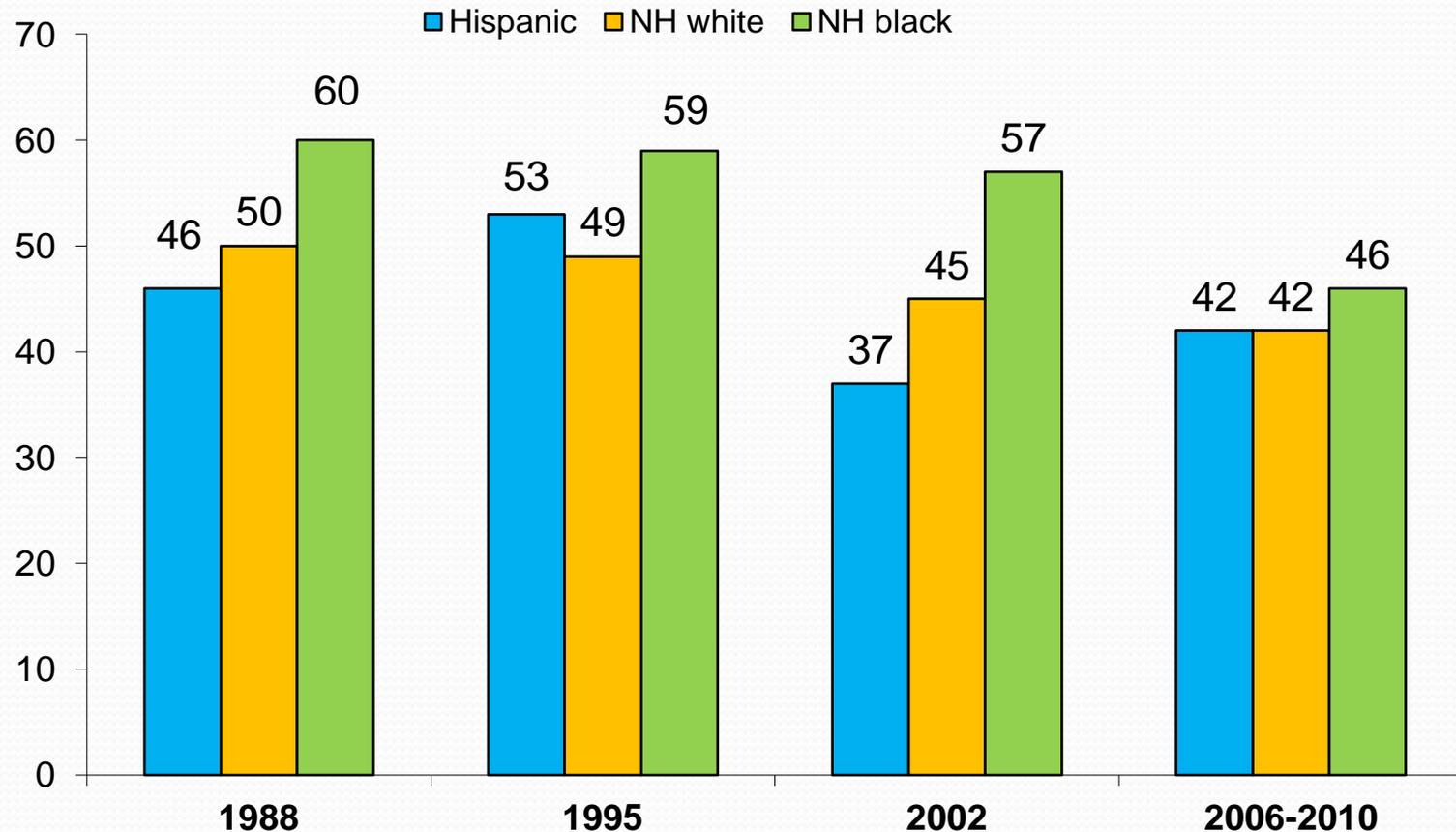
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_23/sr23_031.pdf

Never married females and males aged 15-19 who have ever had sexual intercourse: United States, 1988-2010.



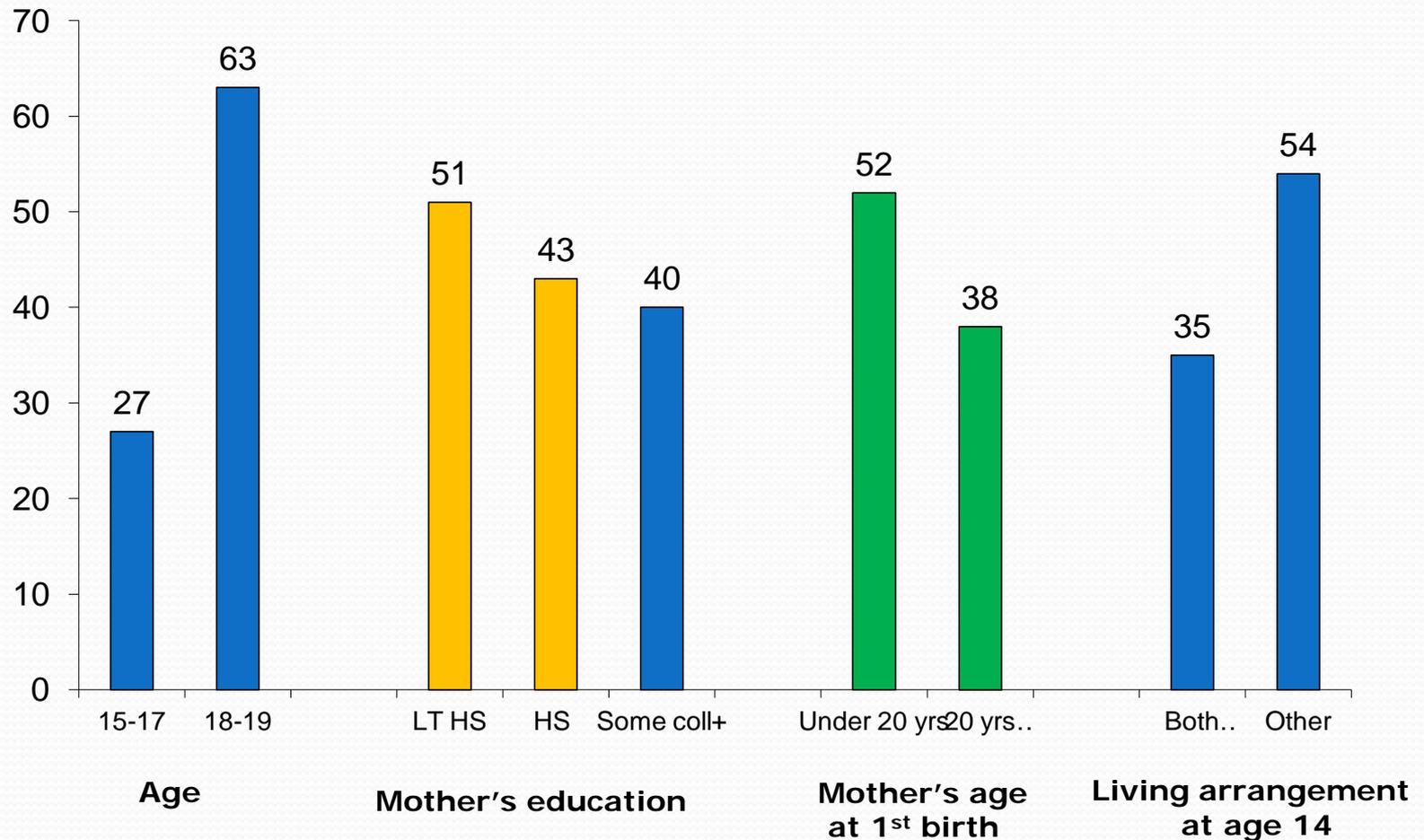
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Never married females aged 15-19 who have ever had sexual intercourse by Hispanic origin and race: United States, 1988-2010.



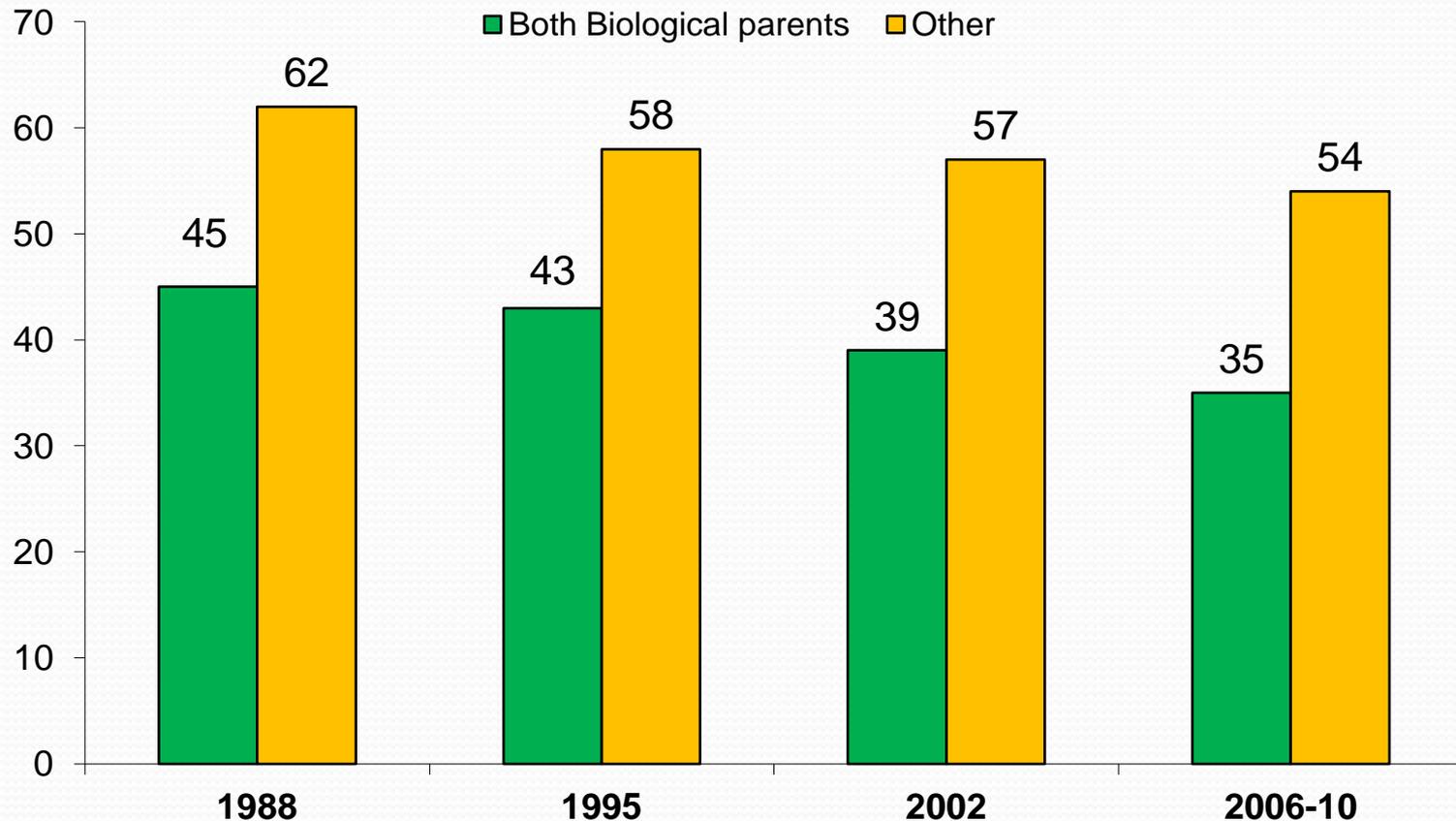
Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

Never married females aged 15-19 who have ever had sexual intercourse: U.S., 2006-2010.



Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

Never married females aged 15-19 who have ever had sexual intercourse by living arrangement at age 14: U.S., 1988-2010.



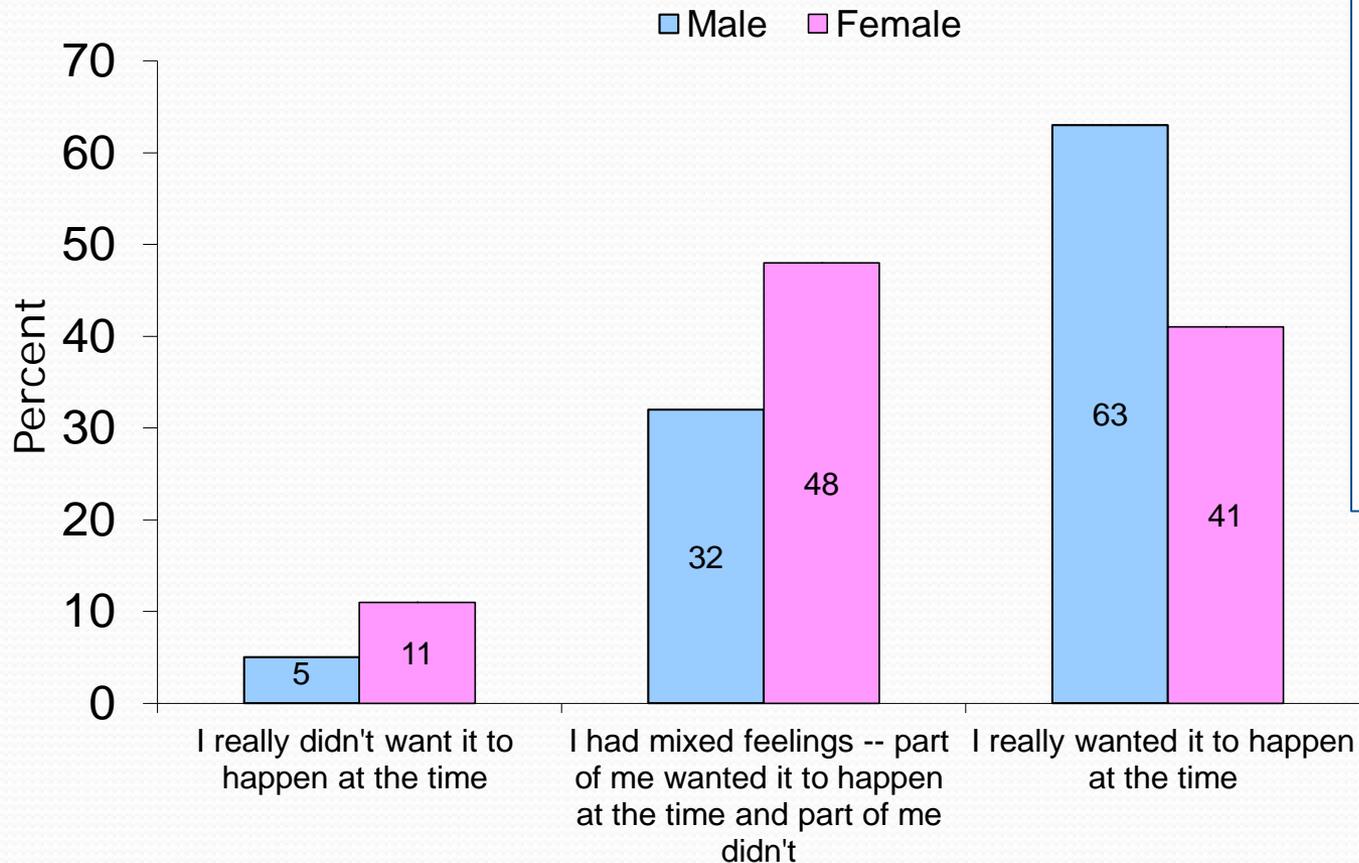
Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

Percent of all never married females and males aged 15-19 who ever had sex and had sex in past 12 months, past 3 months, and past month: U.S. 2006-2010

	Females	Males
Ever	43%	42%
Past 12 months	39%	37%
Past 3 months	31%	28%
Past month	26%	22%

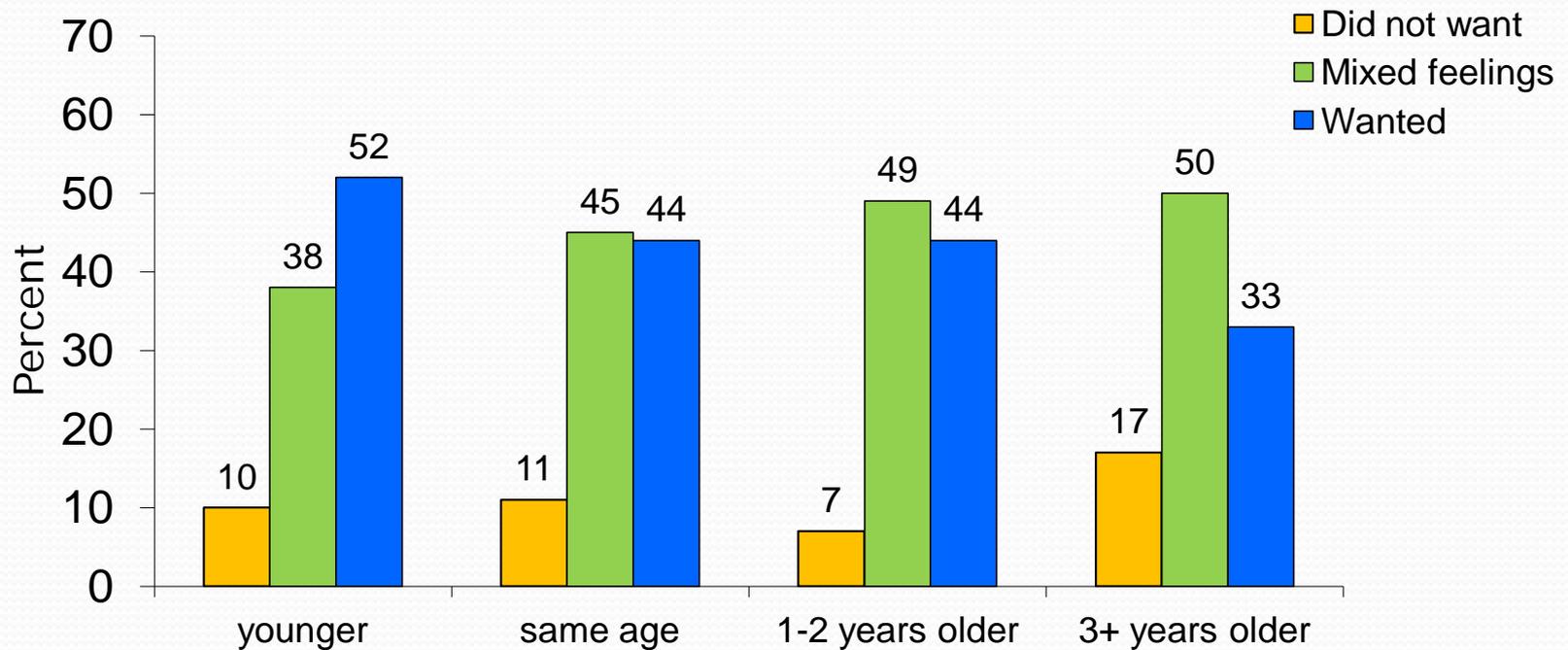
Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

How much first sex with opposite sex partner was wanted when it happened among females and males aged 18-24 who had their first sex before age 20: U.S., 2006-2010



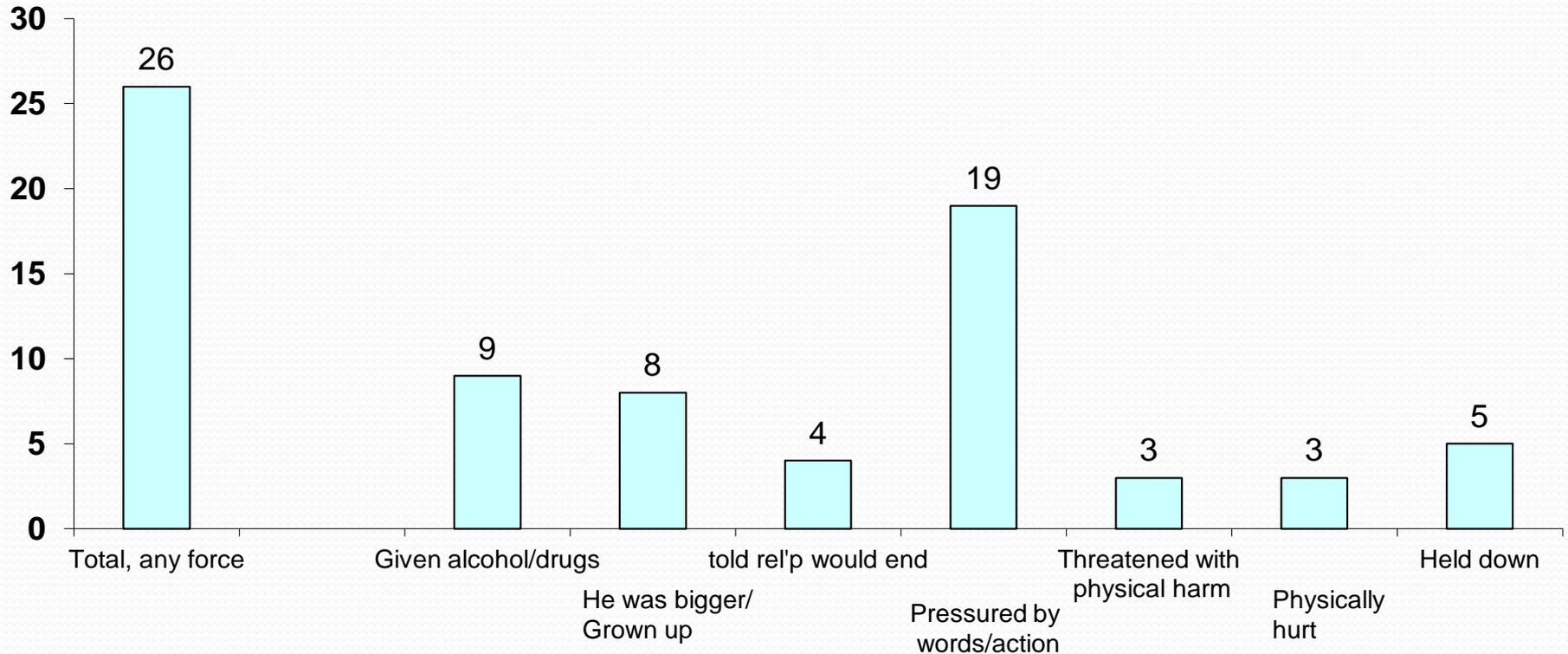
Think back to the very first time you had vaginal intercourse with a (male/female). Which would you say comes closest to describing how much you wanted that first vaginal intercourse to happen?

How much first sex was wanted when it happened among females aged 18-24 who had their first sex before age 20, by partner's age: U.S., 2006-2010



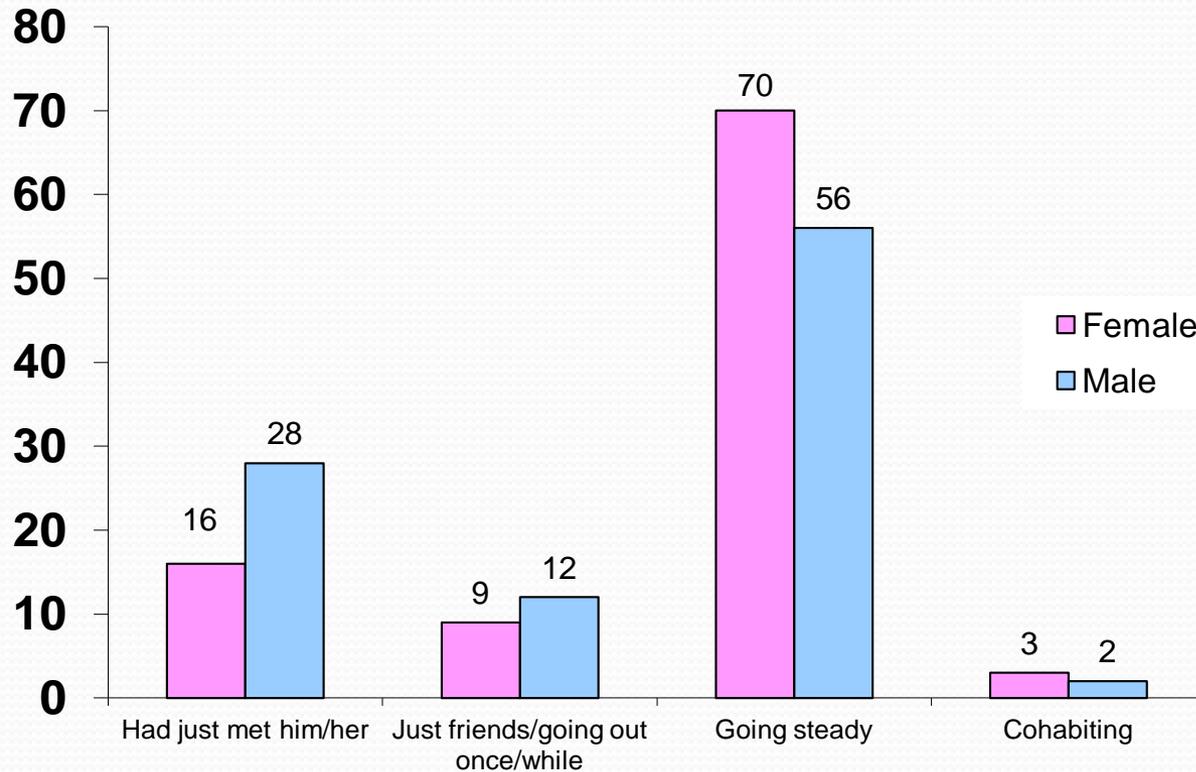
Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

Women age 18-44 who have ever had sex: percent who reported specific types of force at first sex: U.S., 2002



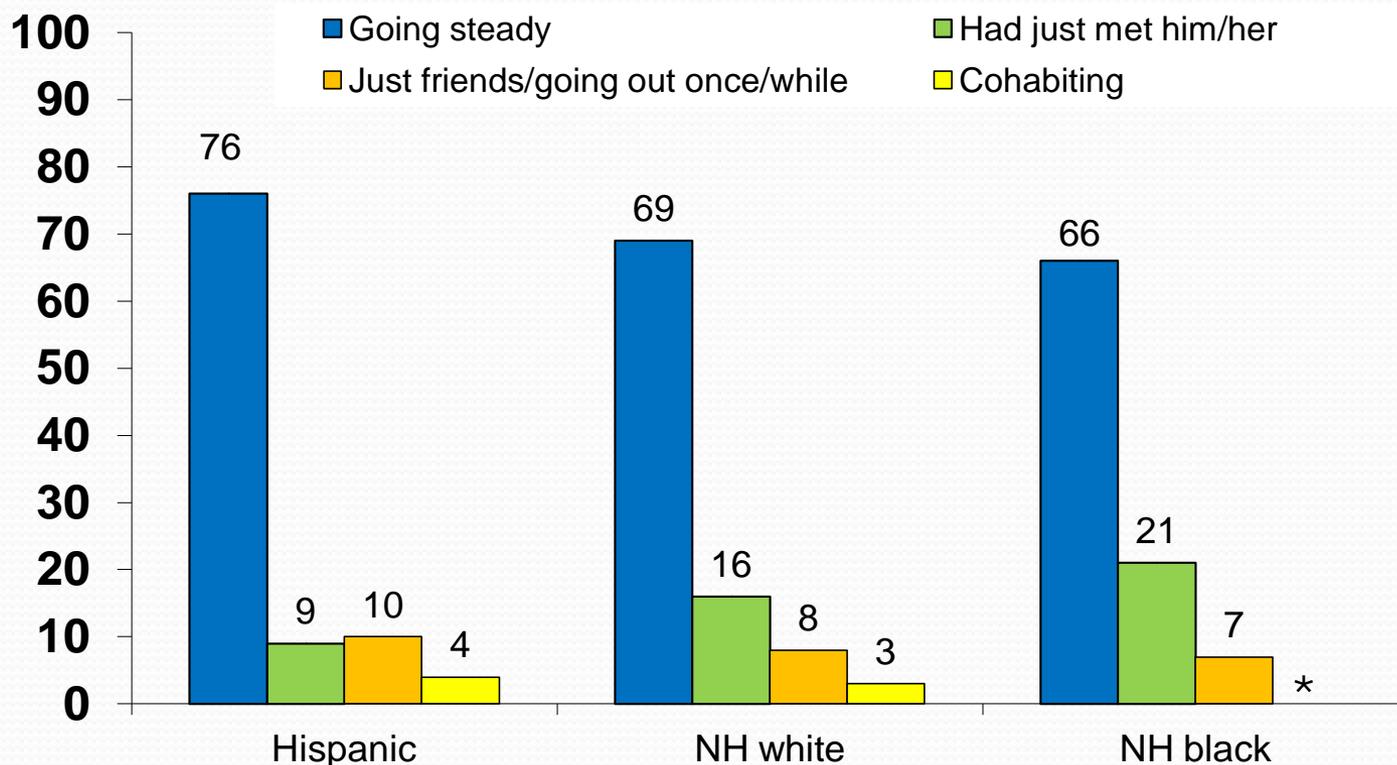
Source: Table 36 in Chandra A, Martinez GM, Mosher, WD Abma JC, Jones, J. Fertility, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health of U.S. Women: Data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital & Health Statistics Series 23*, Number 25. Dec 2005. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

First sex partner -- Percent of females and males aged 15-19 by relationship with partner at first sex



Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

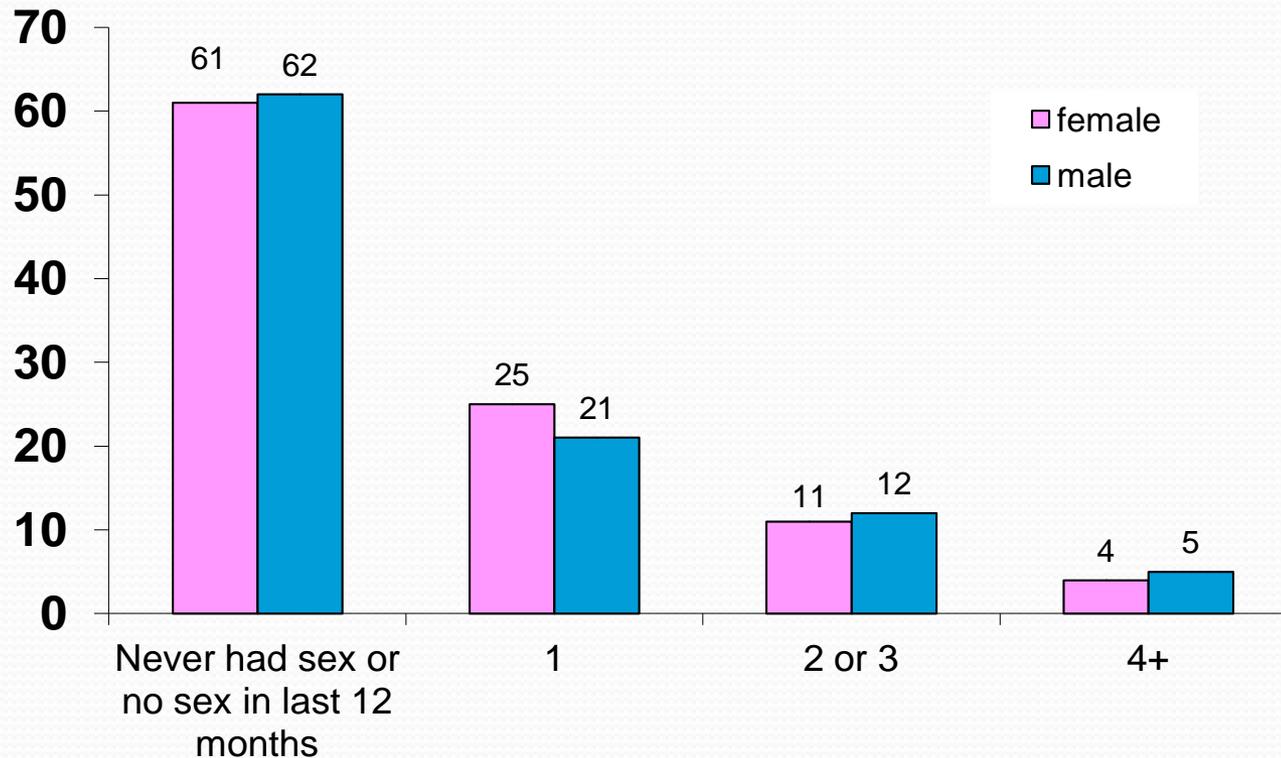
First sex partner -- percent of females and males aged 15-19 by relationship with partner at first sex by Hispanic origin and race: U.S. 2006-2010



* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision

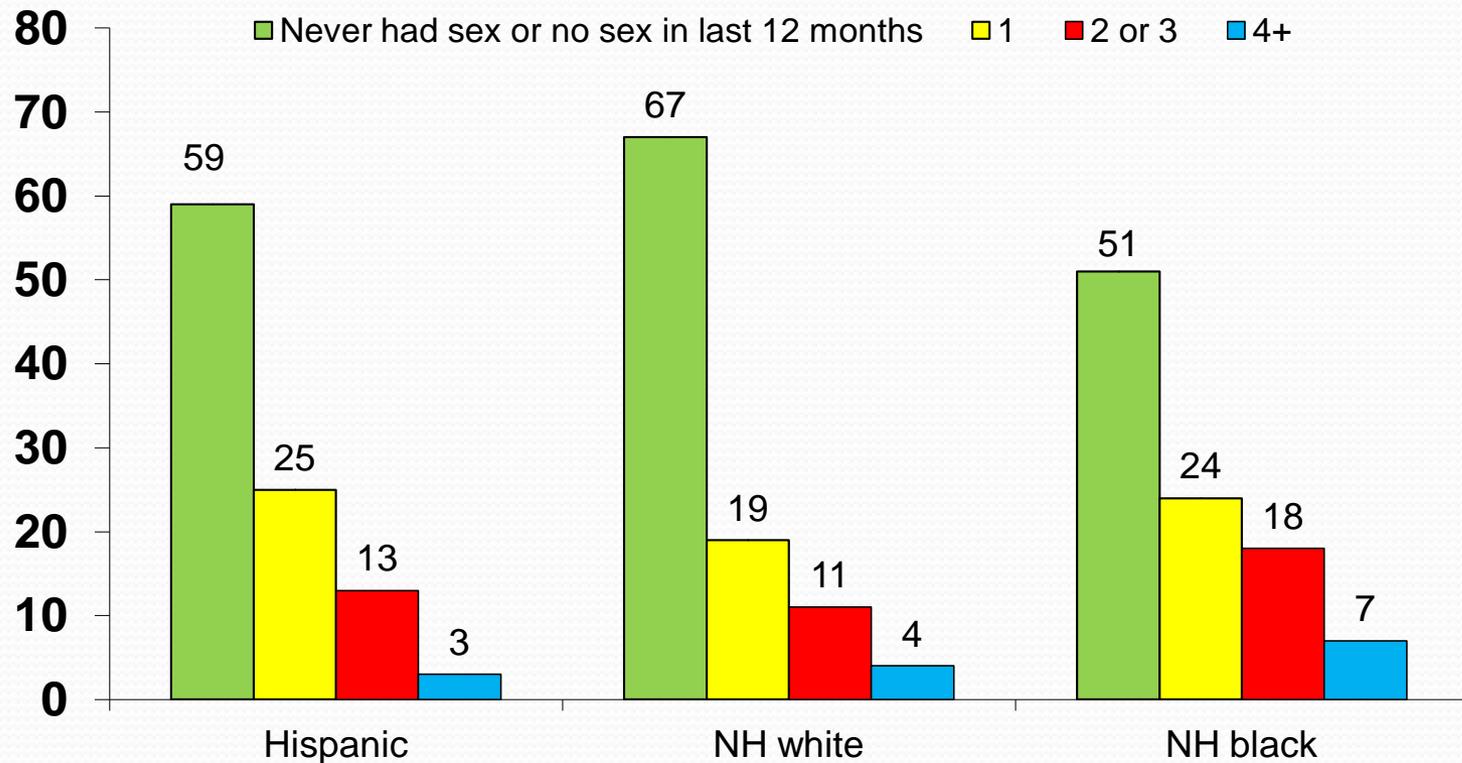
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Number of partners -- percent of all never-married females and males aged 15-19, by number of opposite-sex partners in last 12 months: U.S. 2006-2010



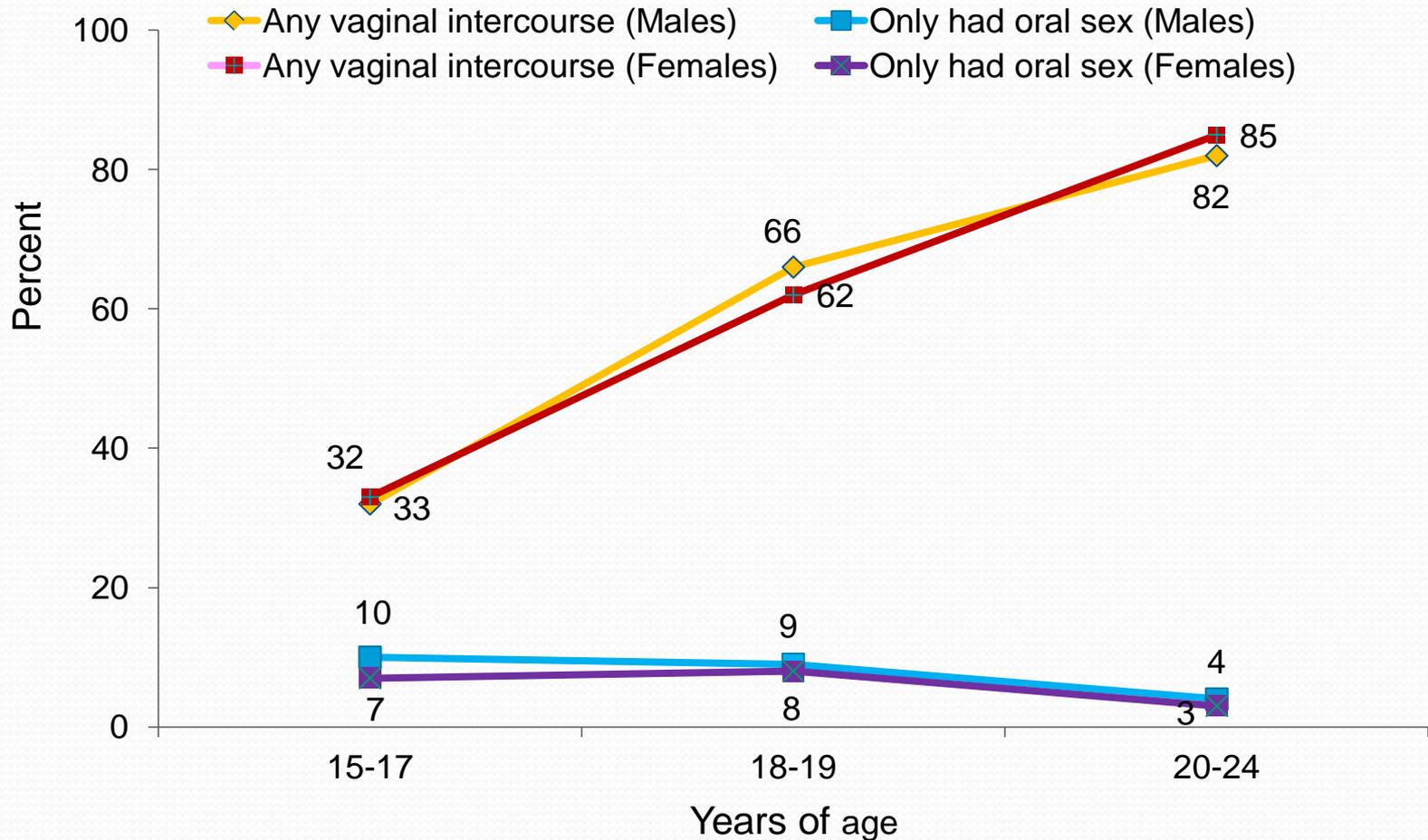
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Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

Vaginal and oral sex experience with an opposite-sex partner among males and females 15-24 years of age: U.S., 2006-2008



Source: Table 8 in Chandra A, Mosher WD, Copen C, Sionean C. Sexual behavior, sexual attraction and sexual identity in the United States: Data from the 2006-2008 National Survey of Family Growth. NHR #36. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2011.

Educating Teenagers About Sex in the United States

Gladys Martinez, Ph.D.; Joyce Abma, Ph.D.; and Casey Copen, Ph.D.

Key findings

Data from the National Survey of Family Growth

- Most teenagers received formal sex education before they were 18 (96% of female and 97% of male teenagers).
- Female teenagers were more likely than male teenagers to report first receiving instruction on birth control methods in high school (47% compared with 38%).
- Younger female teenagers were more likely than younger male teenagers to have talked to their parents about sex and birth control.
- Nearly two out of three female teenagers talked to their parents about "how to say no to sex" compared with about two out of five male teenagers.

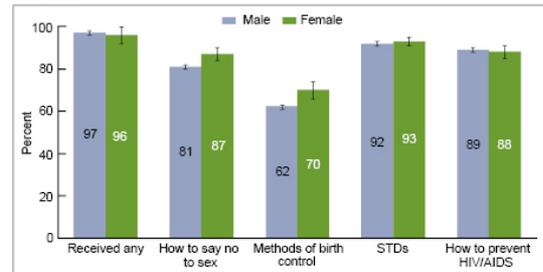
Sex education in schools and other places, as well as received from parents, provides adolescents with information to make informed choices about sex at a crucial period of their development. Using data from the 2006–2008 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), this report examines the percentage of male and female teenagers 15–19 years who received sex education. Teenagers were asked if they received formal instruction on four topics of sex education at school, church, a community center, or some other place before they were 18 years old and the grade they were in when this first occurred. In addition, they were asked if they talked to their parents before they were 18 about topics concerning sex, birth control, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus HIV/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention.

Keywords: sex education • talk to parents • say no to sex • methods of birth control

What percentage of teenagers received formal sex education?

- Most teenagers received formal sex education before they were 18 (96% of female and 97% of male teenagers) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Teenagers 15–19 who received formal sex education by topic and sex: United States, 2006–2008



† 95% confidence interval.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2008.

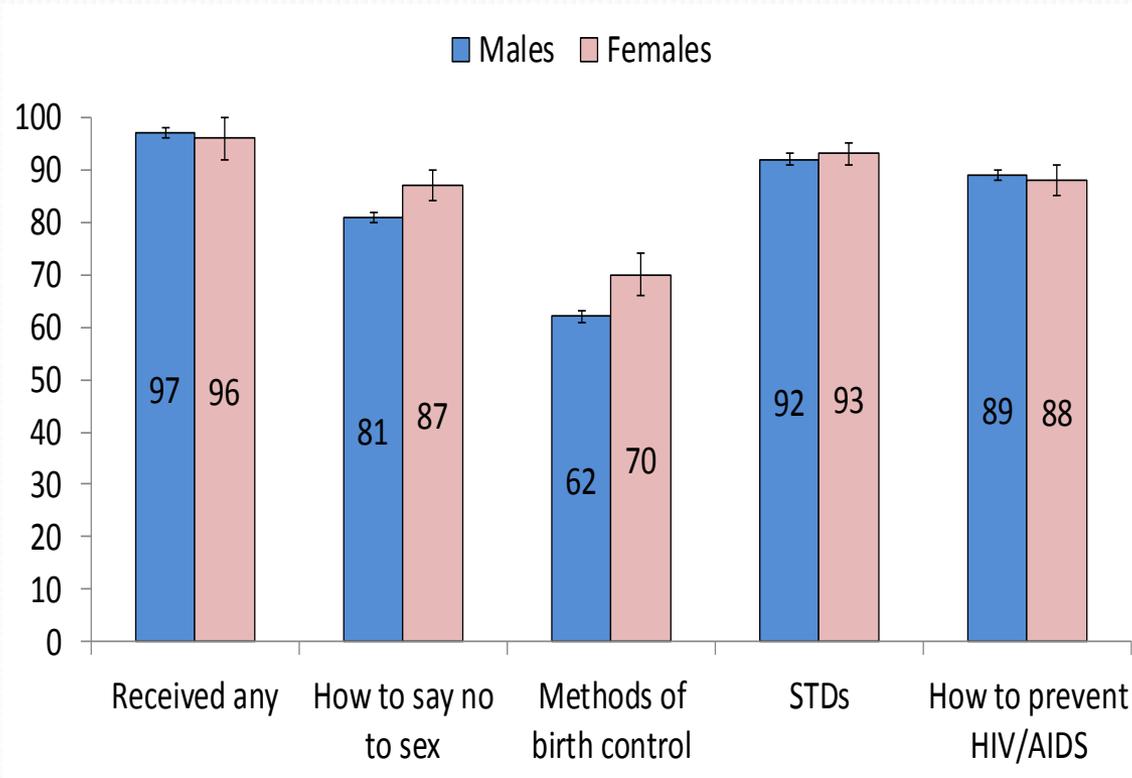
Martinez G, Abma J, Copen C. Educating teenagers about sex in the United States. NCHS data brief, no 44. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2010.



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Teens 15-19 who received formal sex education: U.S., 2006-2008

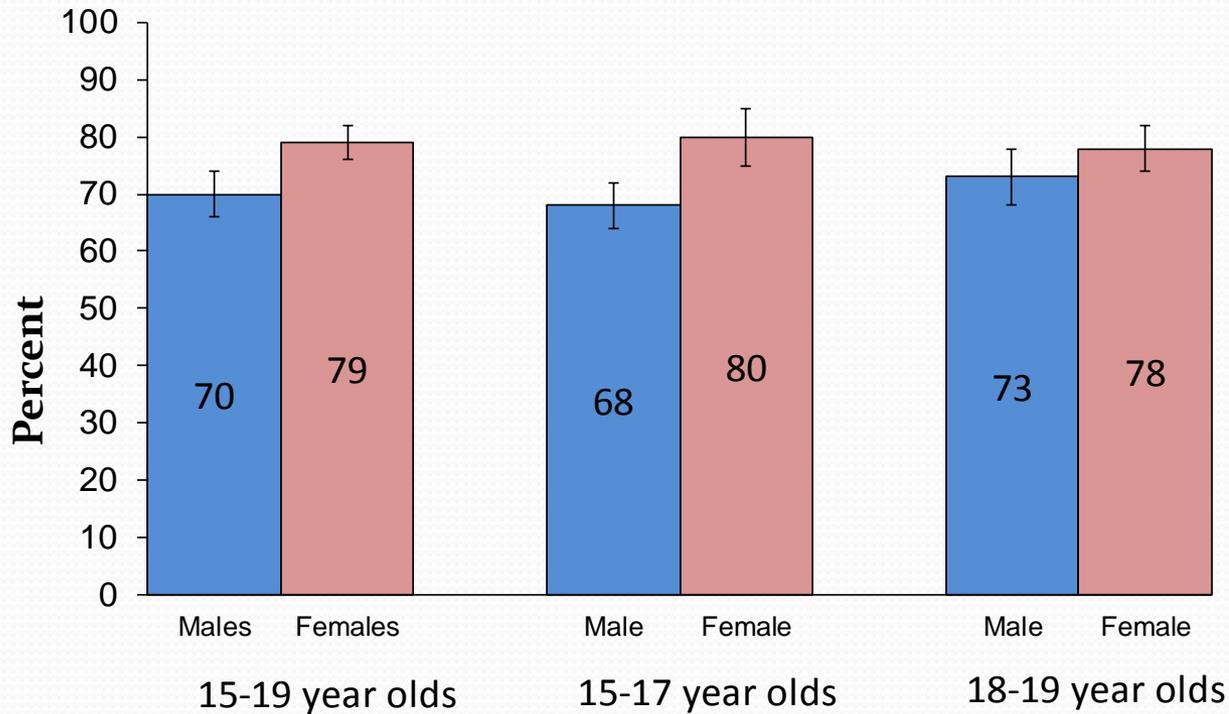


⊥ 95% confidence interval

A larger percentage of teens reported receiving formal sex education on 'how to say no to sex' than on method of birth control

Martinez G, Abma J, Copen C. Educating teenagers about sex in the United States. NCHS data brief, no 44. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2010.

Teens 15-19 who talked with a parent about sex education: U.S., 2006-2008.

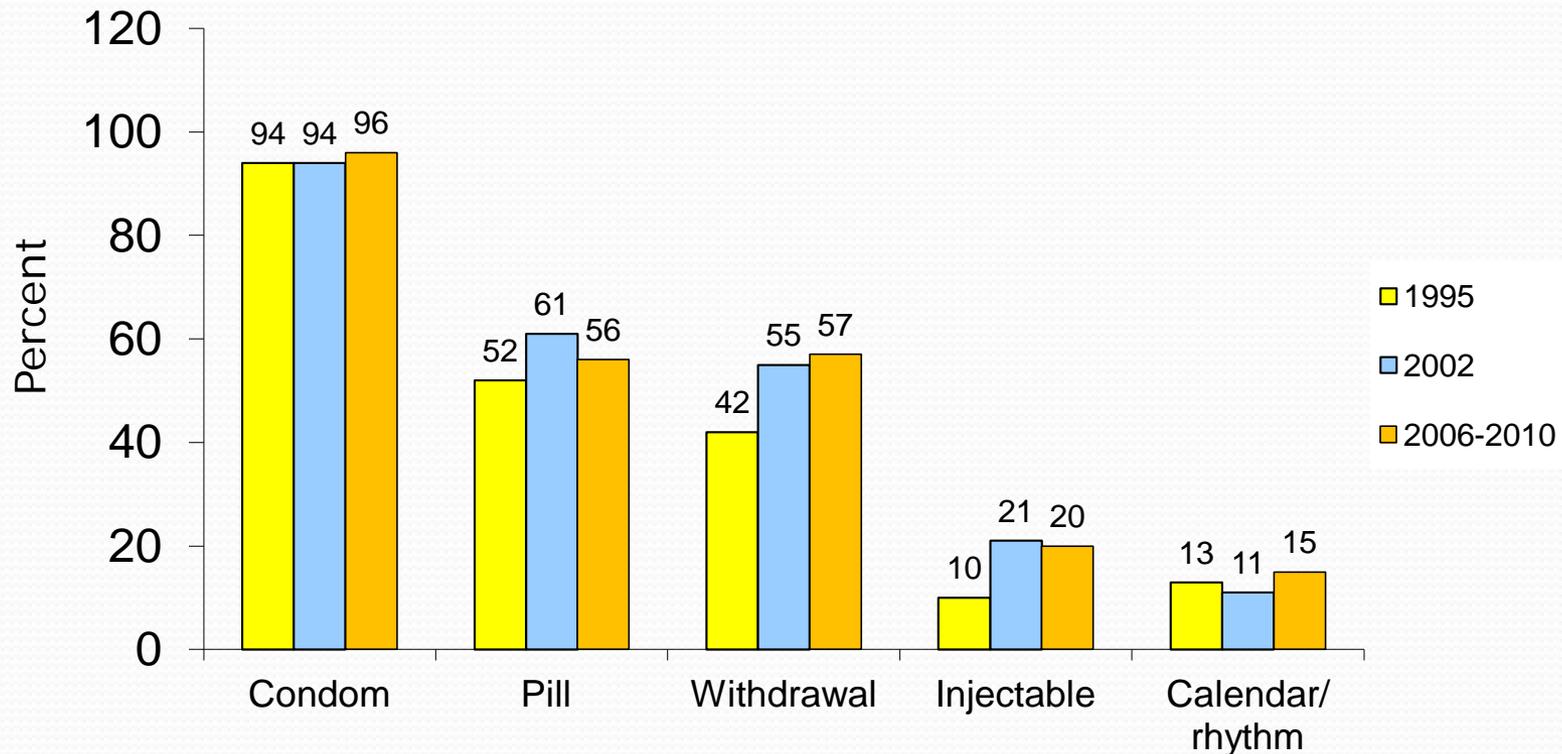


Younger female teens were more likely than younger male teens to have talked to their parents about sex and birth control

Note: Teenagers were asked if they talked with a parent before age 18.

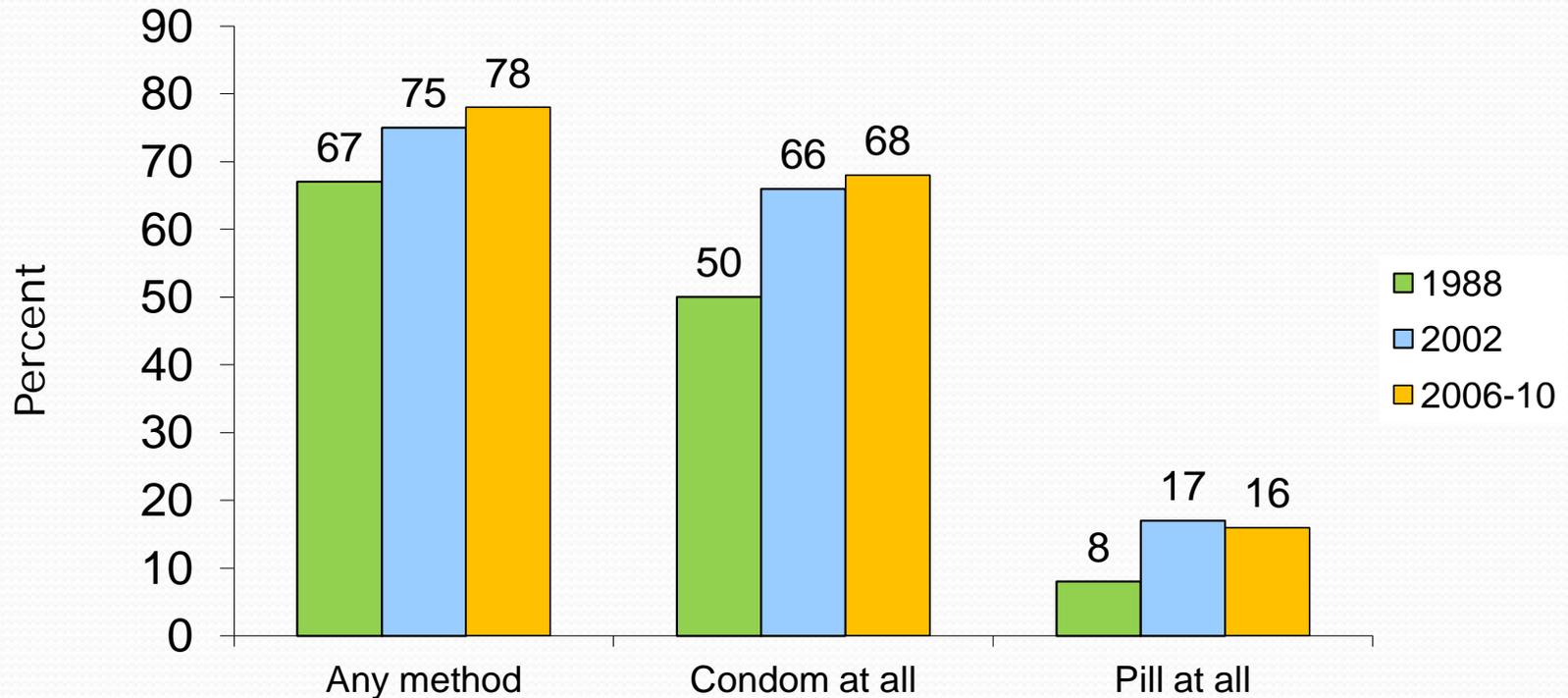
⊠ 95% confidence interval

Ever-use of contraception among sexually experienced females aged 15-19, by method of contraception: U.S., 1995, 2002, and 2006-2010



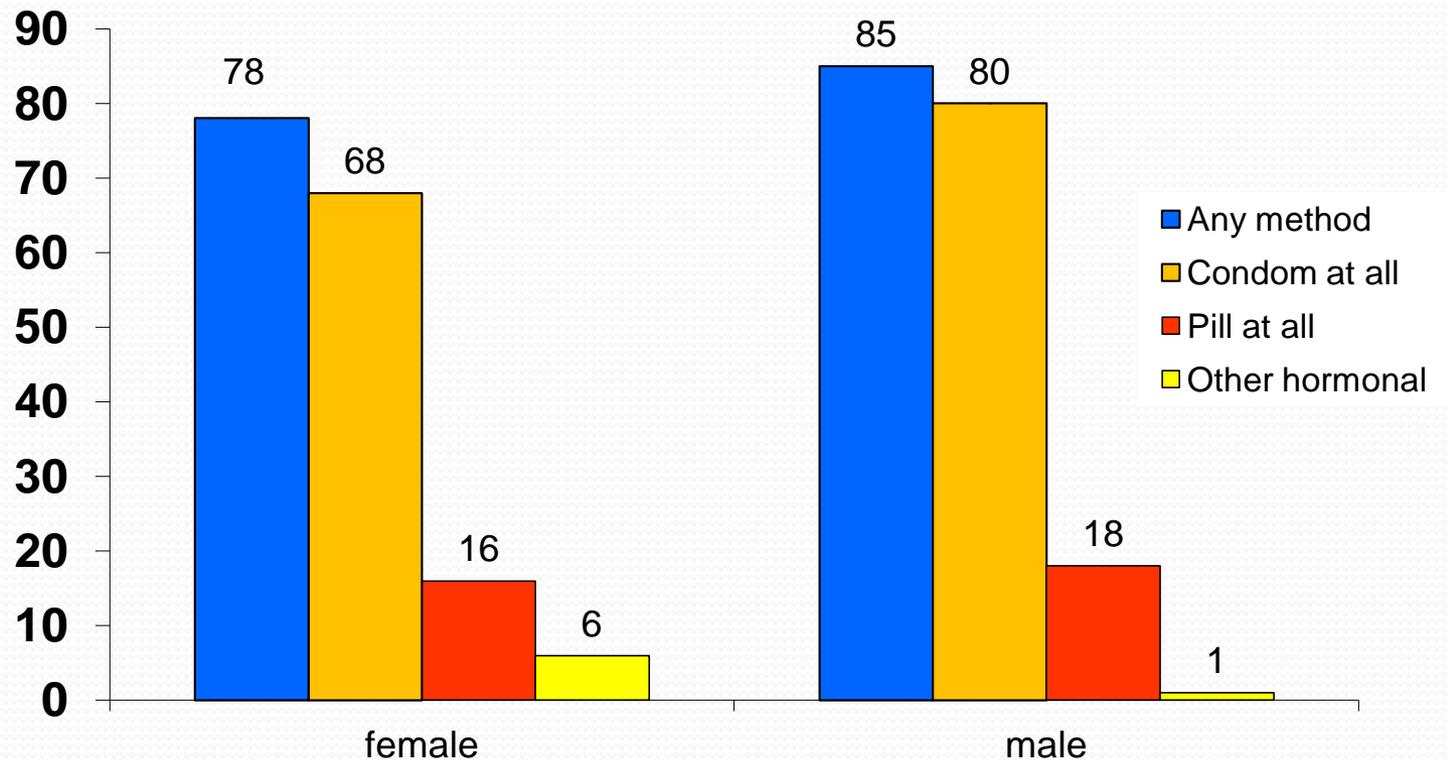
Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

Use of contraception **at first sex** among sexually experienced females aged 15-19, by method used: U.S., 2002 and 2006-2010



Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

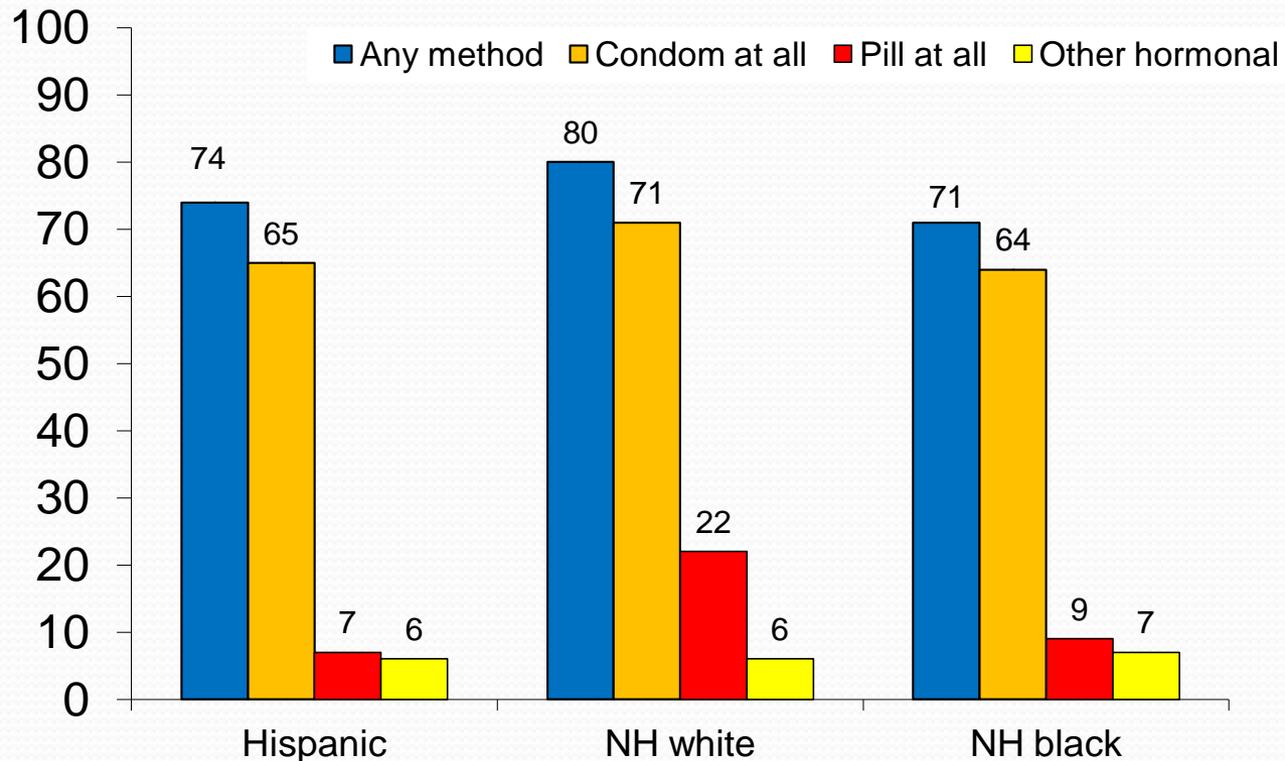
Use of contraception **at first sex** -- percent of never married females and males aged 15-19 using contraception at first sex by method used: U.S., 2006-2010



Note: "Other hormonal" includes Lunelle injectable, emergency contraception, and contraceptive patch in 2002; adds contraceptive ring (Nuva-Ring) and Implanon implant in 2006-2010.

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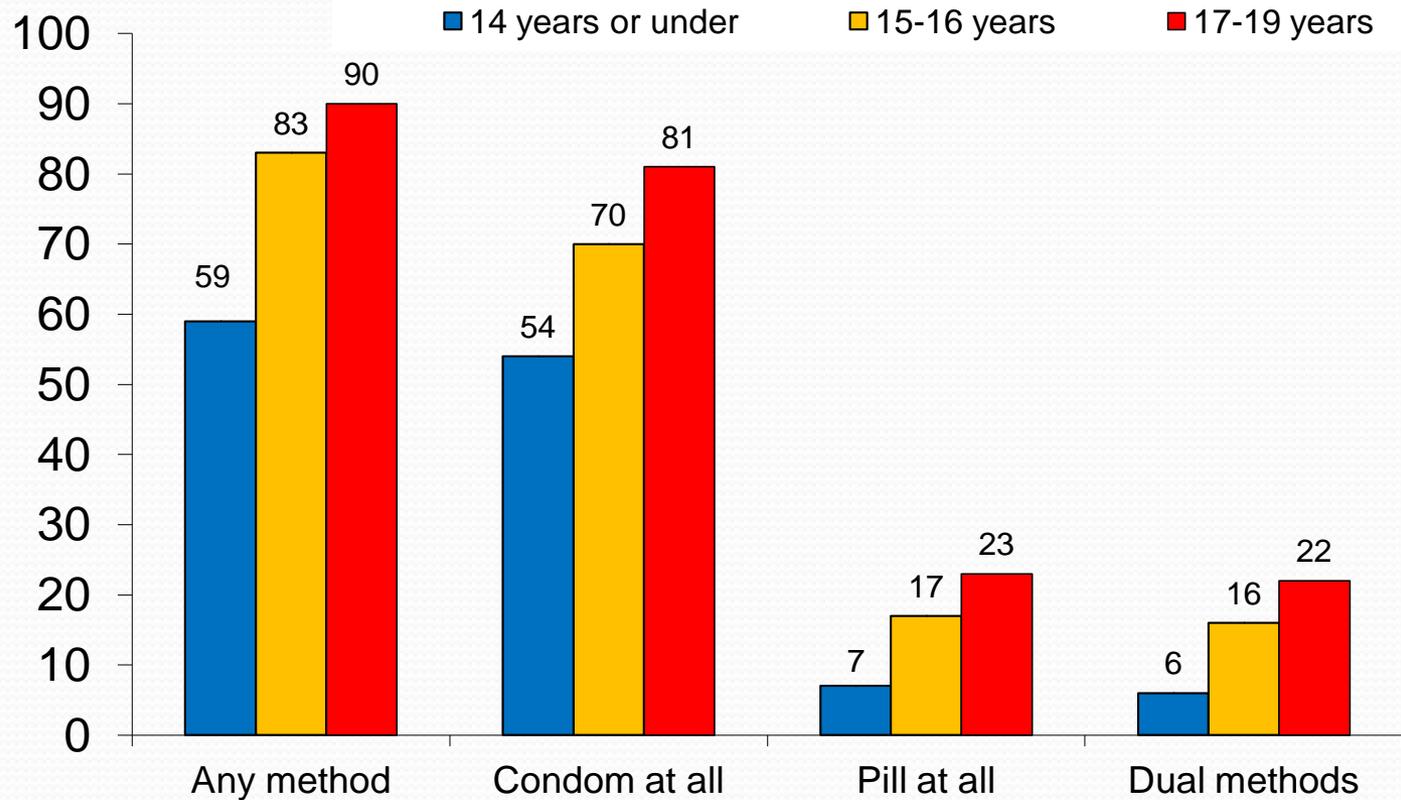
Use of contraception **at first sex** -- percent of never married females aged 15-19 using contraception at first sex, by method used and Hispanic origin and race: U.S. 2006-2010



Note: "Other hormonal" includes Lunelle injectable, emergency contraception, and contraceptive patch in 2002; adds contraceptive ring (Nuva-Ring) and Implanon implant in 2006-2010.

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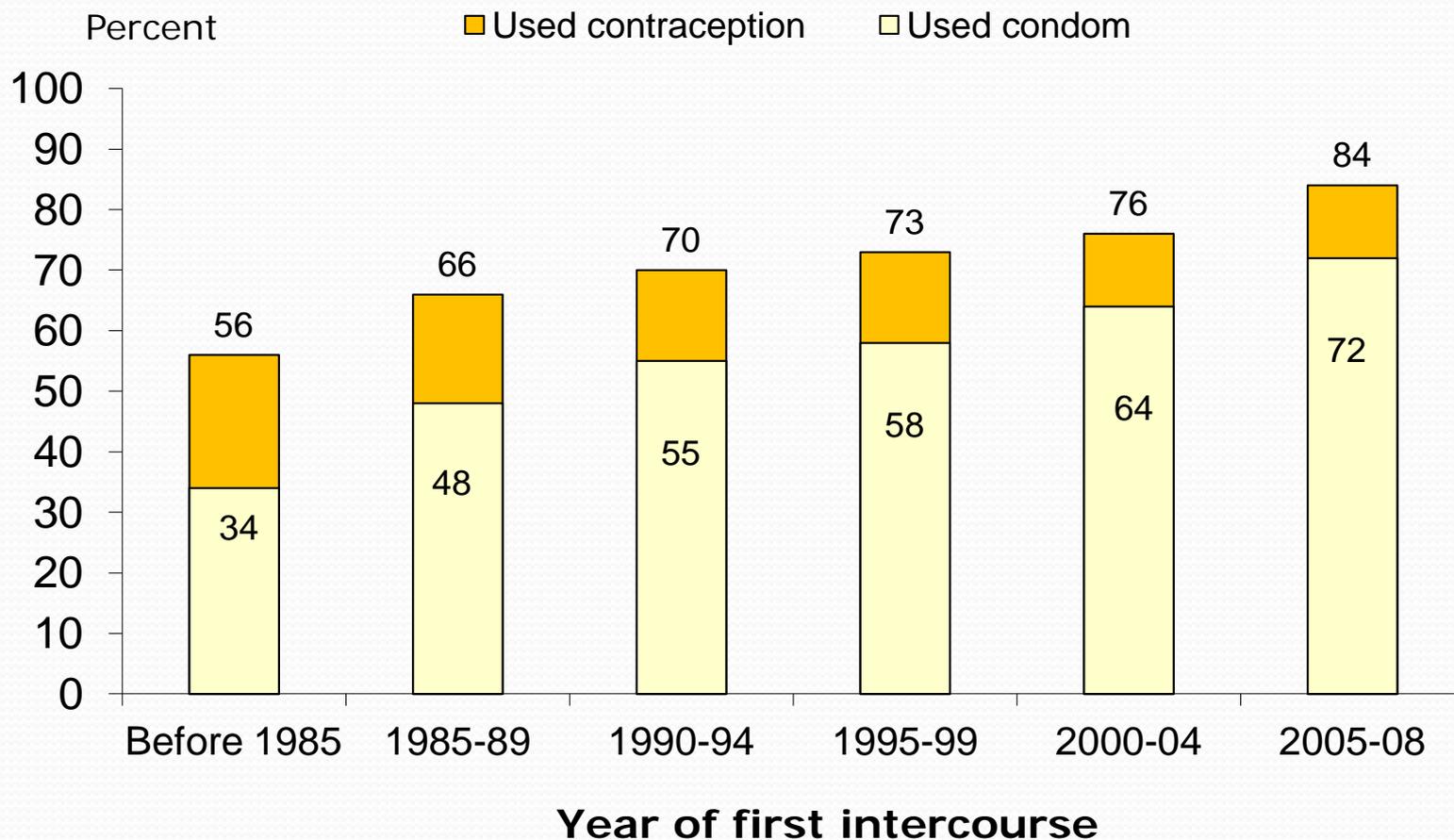
Use of contraception **at first sex** -- percent of never married females aged 15-19 using contraception at first sex, by age at first sex: U.S. 2006-2010



Note: "Dual methods" refers to condom and hormonal method used at the same time

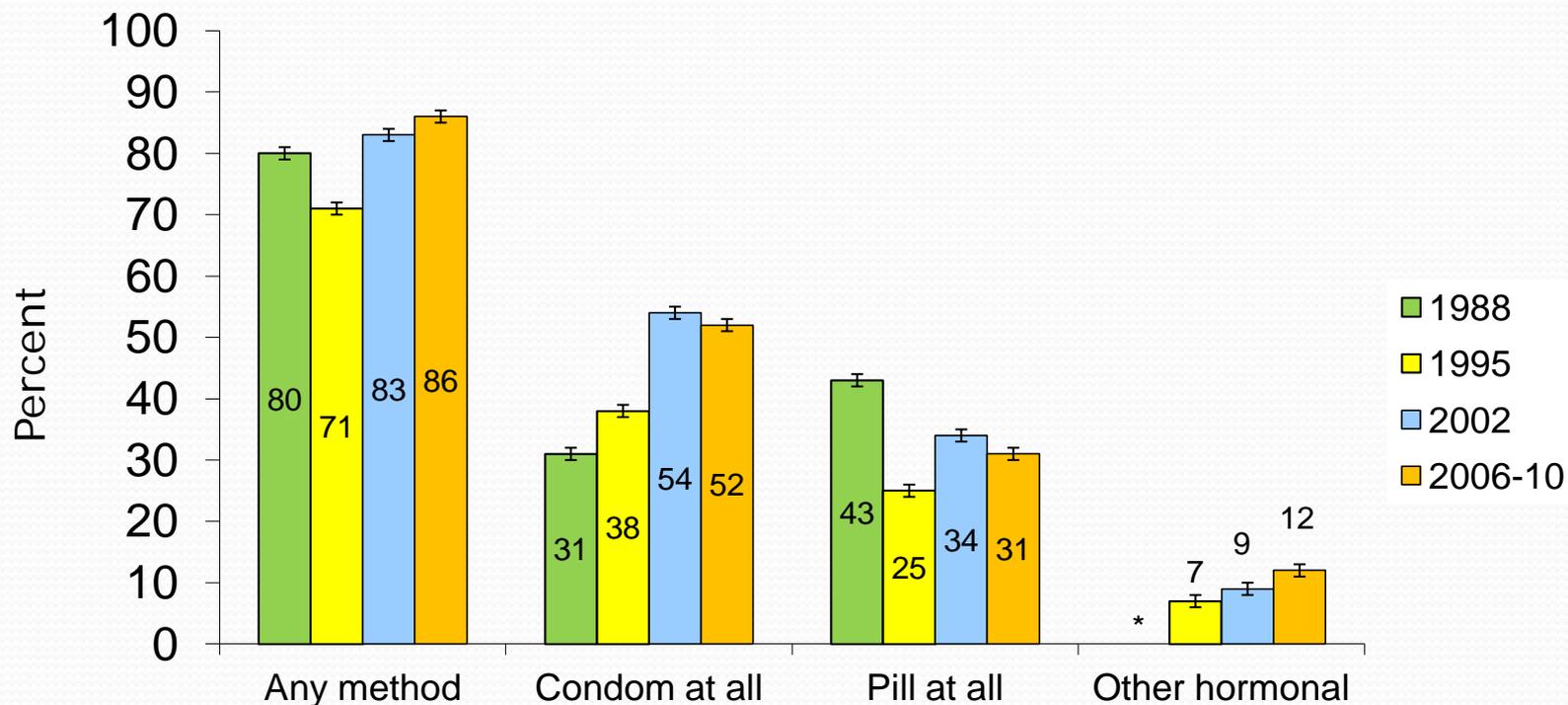
Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

Contraceptive method use *first premarital intercourse* among women aged 15-44, by year of first intercourse: United States, 2006-08



Source: Mosher WD, Jones J. Use of Contraception in the United States: 1982-2008. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(29). 2010.

Use of contraception at **last sex** among sexually active¹ females aged 15-19, by method used: U.S., 1988, 1995, 2002 and 2006-2010

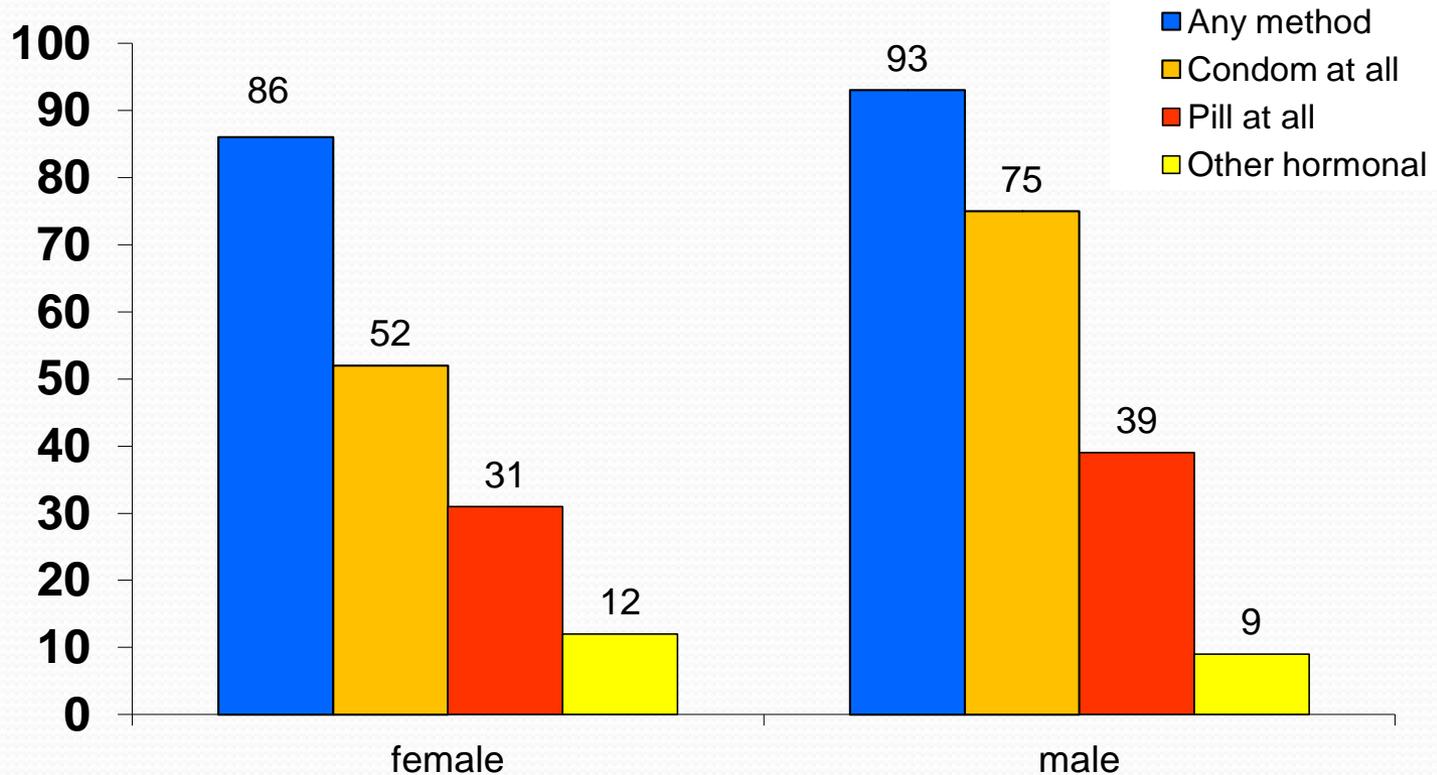


¹ sexually active: had sex within the 3 months prior to the interview

* Data not applicable because other hormonal methods were not available.

Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

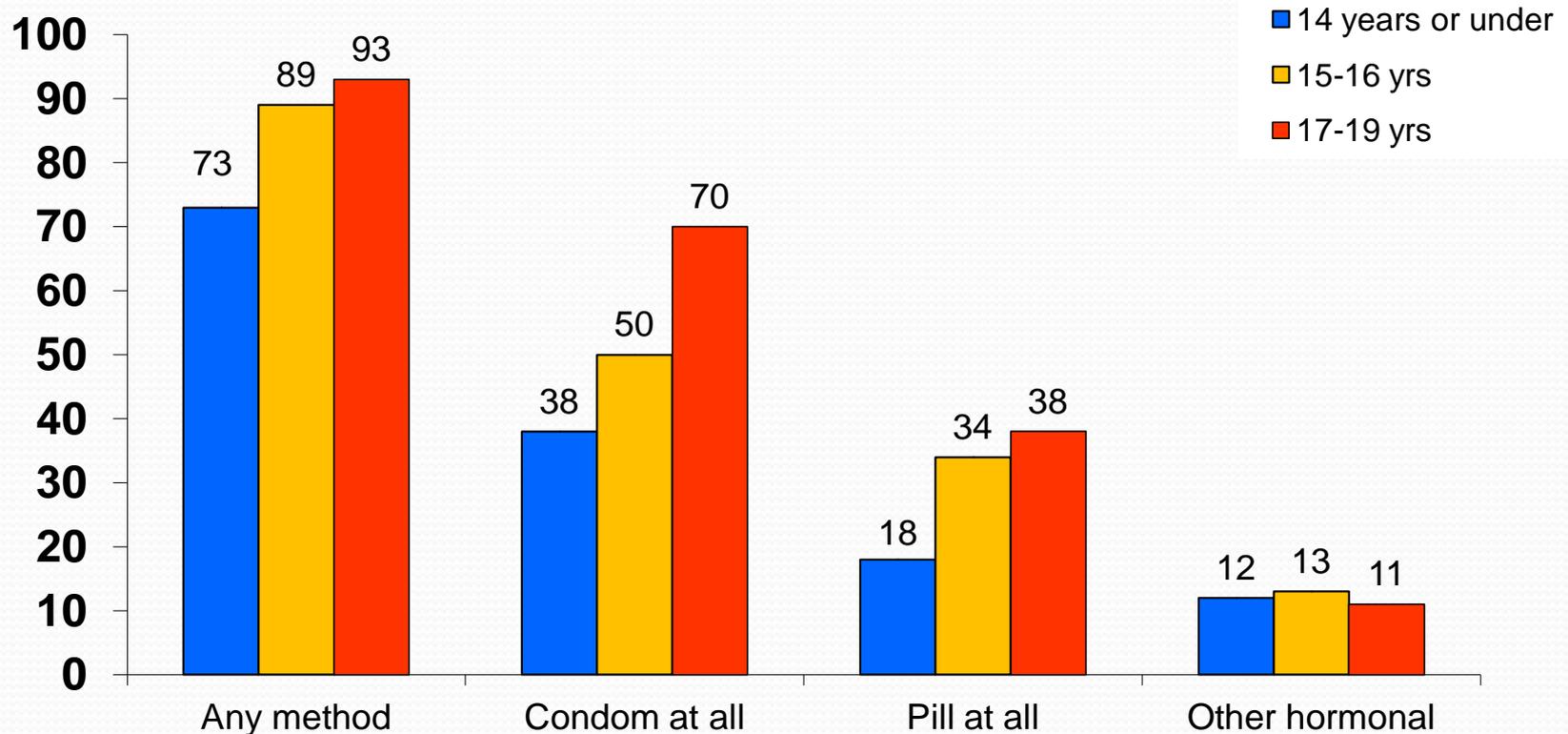
Use of contraception at **most recent** sex in last 3 months - percent of never married females and males aged 15-19 using contraception at last sex, by method used: U.S. 2006-2010



Note: "Other hormonal" includes Lunelle injectable, emergency contraception, and contraceptive patch in 2002; adds contraceptive ring (Nuva-Ring) and Implanon implant in 2006-2010.

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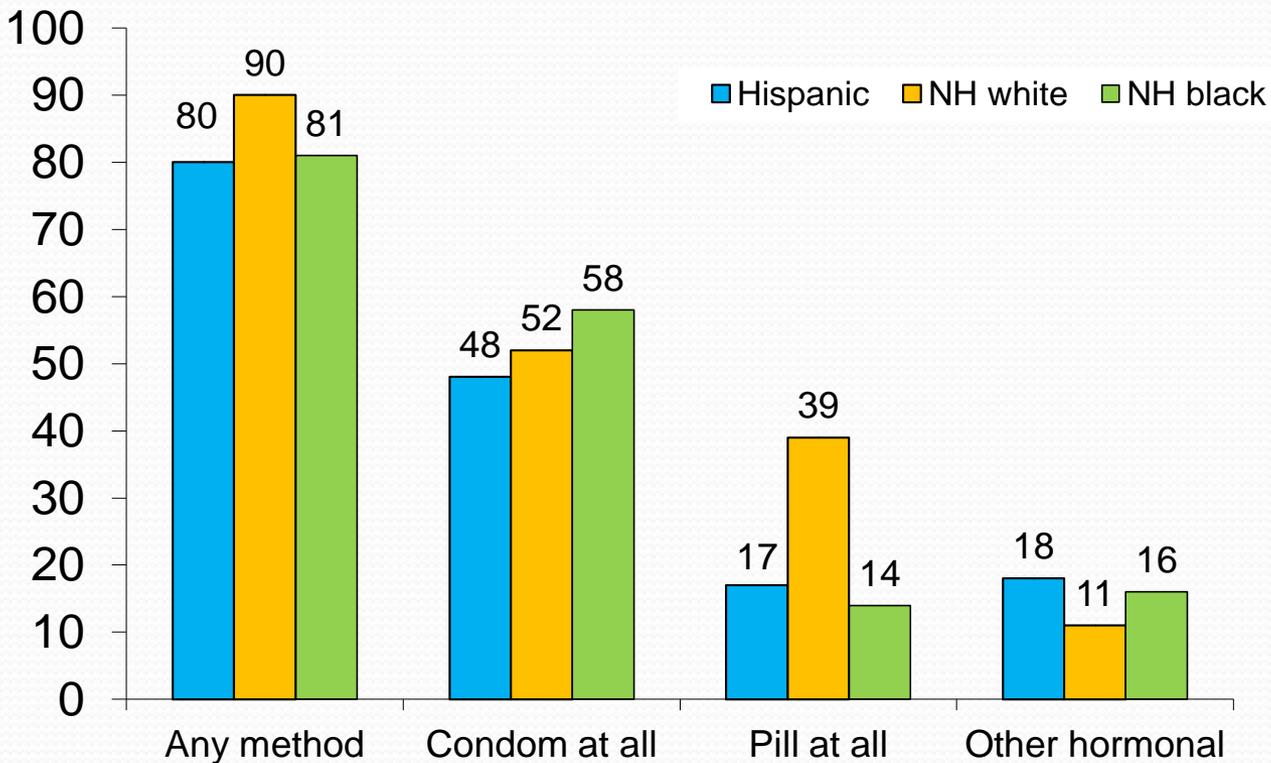
Use of contraception at **most recent** sex in last 3 months - percent of never married females aged 15-19 using contraception at last sex, by method used and age at first sex: U.S. 2006-2010



Note: "Other hormonal" includes Lunelle injectable, emergency contraception, and contraceptive patch in 2002; adds contraceptive ring (Nuva-Ring) and Implanon implant in 2006-2010.

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Use of contraception at **most recent** sex in last 3 months - percent of never married females aged 15-19 using contraception at last sex, by method used and Hispanic origin and race: U.S. 2006-2010



Note: "Other hormonal" includes Lunelle injectable, emergency contraception, and contraceptive patch in 2002; adds contraceptive ring (Nuva-Ring) and Implanon implant in 2006-2010.

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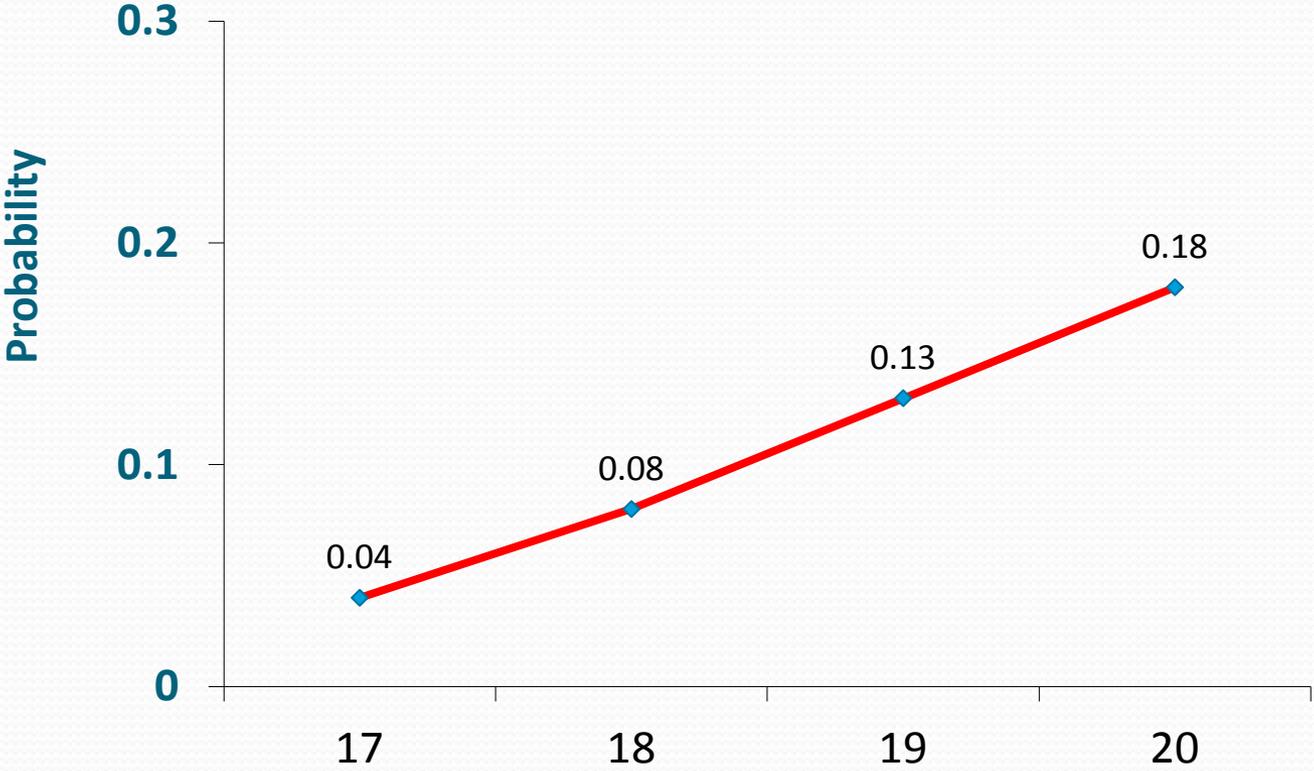
Consistent condom use -- Percent of never married females and males aged 15-19 who had used condoms consistently in the last 4 weeks: U.S. 2006-2010

	Females	Males
Always	49%	67%
Some	12%	11%
None	39%	23%

Condoms were used consistently by nearly half of sexually active females and two-thirds of sexually active males in last 4 weeks

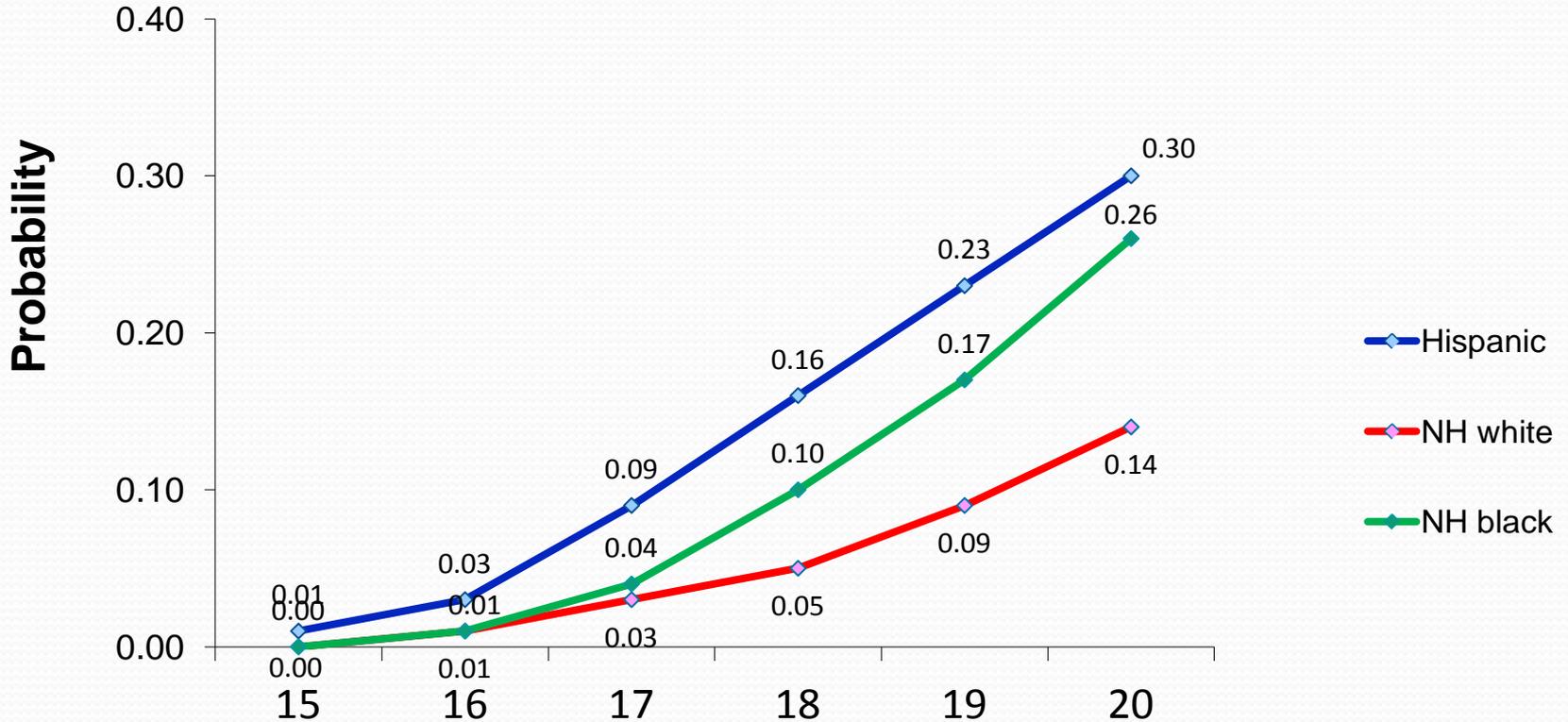
**among teens sexually active in 4 weeks prior to interview*

Probability of a first birth by age 17, 18, 19, and 20 for women 15-24 years of age: U.S., 2006-2010



Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

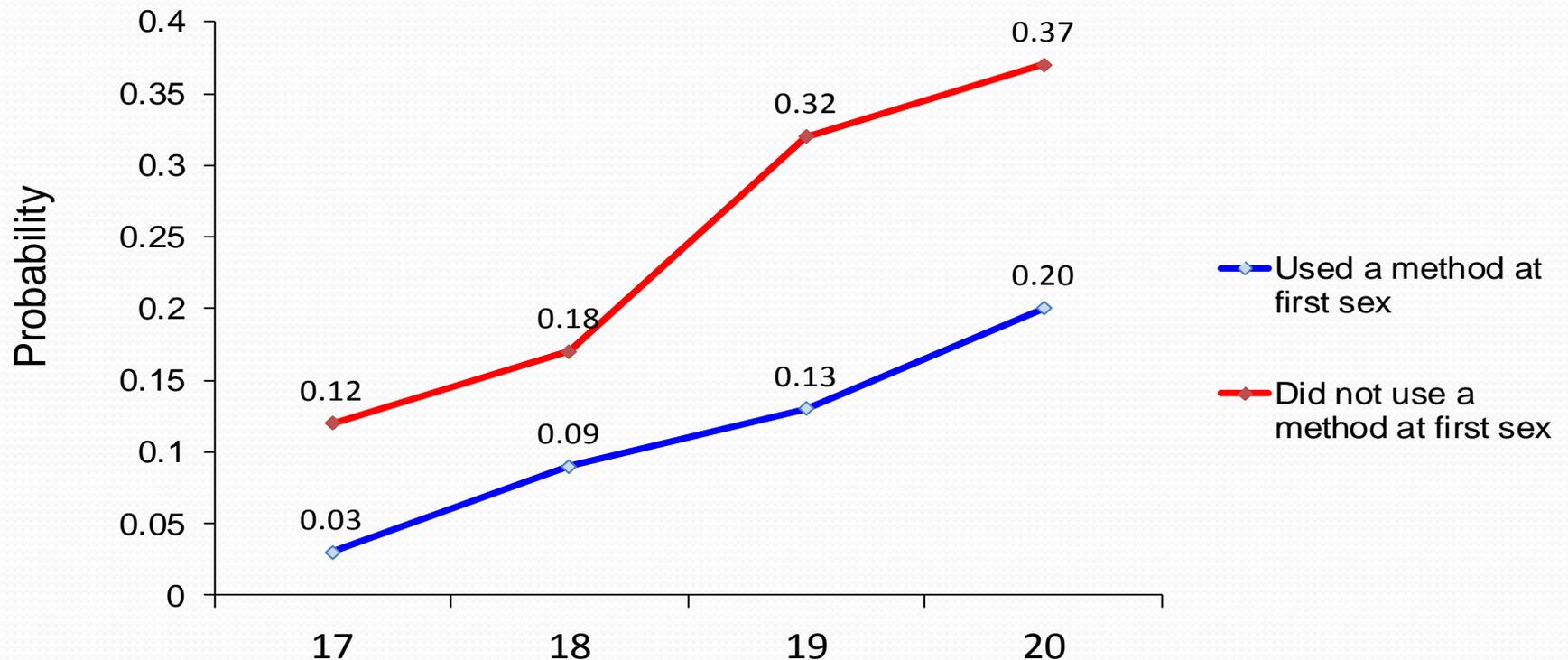
Probability of a first birth by selected ages for women 15-24 years of age: US, 2006-2010



Note: Probabilities were calculated using the life table procedure in SAS.

Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

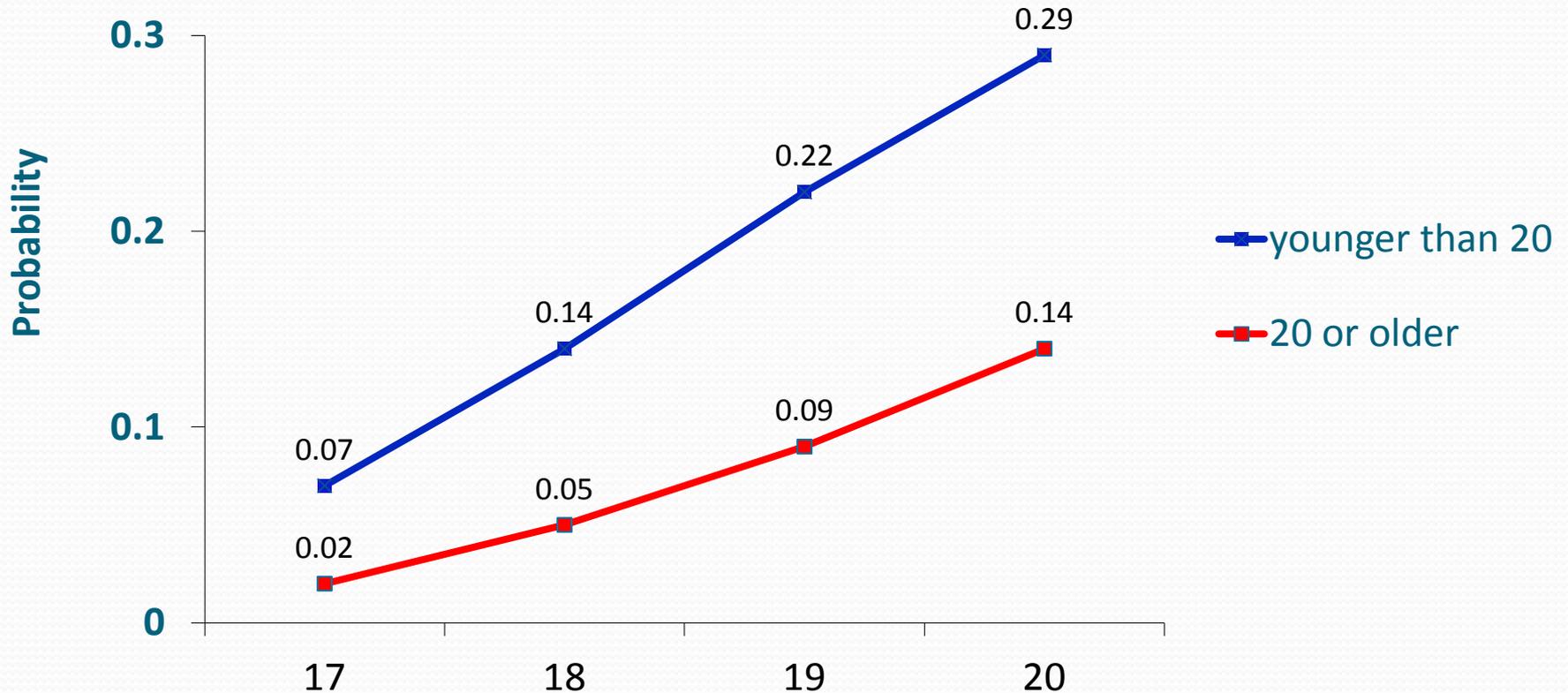
Probability of a first birth by age 17, 18, 19, and 20 for women 15-24 years of age, by whether they used contraception at first intercourse: U.S., 2006-2010



Note: Probabilities were calculated using the life table procedure in SAS.

Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

Probability of a first birth by age 17, 18, 19, and 20 for women 15-24 years of age, by her mother's age at first birth: U.S., 2006-2010



Martinez G, Copen CE, Abma JC. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(31). 2011.

Percentage reporting specified HIV risk-related behaviors in the past 12 months among females and males aged 15–19 years : U.S. 2006-2010

	5 or more opposite sex partners	Treatment for a STD	Any HIV risk related (drug) behavior	Any HiV risk related (sexual) behavior	Any HIV risk related behavior
Females	3.5	4.3	1.1	5.8	9.5
Males	3.6	2.0	1.4	6.2	8.7

Chandra A, Billioux VG, Copen CE, Sionean C. HIV Risk-Related Behaviors in the United States Household Population Aged 15–44: Data from the National Survey of Family Growth, 2002 and 2006–2010. National health statistics reports; no 46. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2012. Tables 3 and 4.

Teens' attitudes about pregnancy and childbearing: U.S., 2002 and 2006-2010

If got pregnant now/got a female pregnant now, how would you feel?

Very upset

A little upset

A little pleased

Very pleased

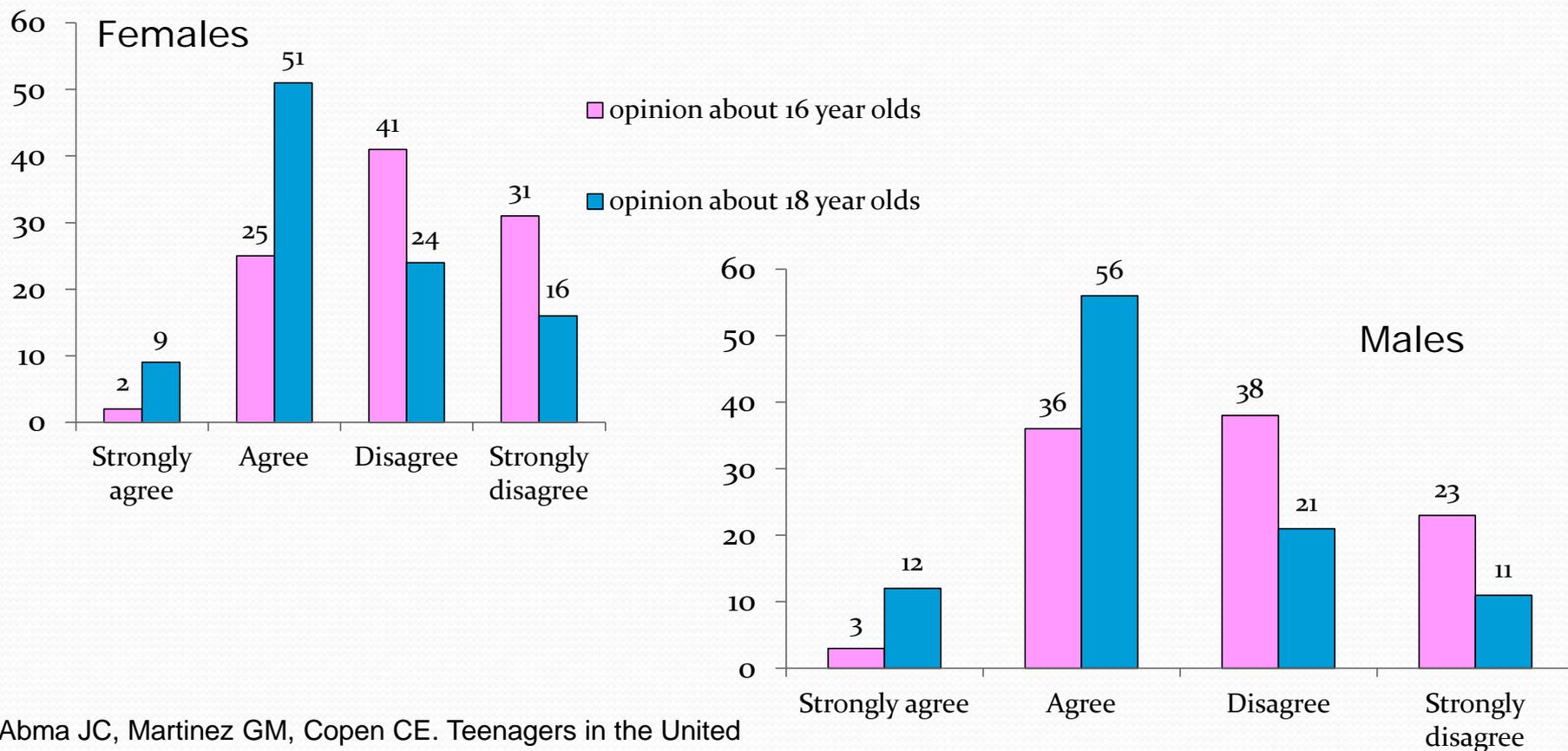
	Very upset	Little upset	Little pleased	Very pleased
Females				
2002	60	27	8	5
2006-2010	58	29	8	5
Males				
2002	51	33	11	4
2006-2010	46	34	14	4

Main reason for not having had sex : U.S., 2006-2010

	2002	2006-2010
Females	Against religion or morals (38%) Don't want to get pregnant (19%) Haven't found right person yet (17%)	Against religion or morals (41%) Haven't found right person yet (19%) Don't want to get pregnant (18%)
Males	Against religion or morals (31%) Don't want to get girl pregnant (25%) Haven't found right person yet (21%)	Against religion or morals (31%) Haven't found right person yet (29%) Don't want to get girl pregnant (13%)

Attitude regarding sexual relationship for 16 and 18 year olds among male and female teens 15-19: U.S. 2006-2008

“It is all right for unmarried 16 year olds/18 year olds to have sexual relations if they have strong affection for each other”



Abma JC, Martinez GM, Copen CE. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, National Survey of Family Growth 2006–2008. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(30). 2010.



Thank you

For more information:

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