

Location



- Ecuador, Metropolitan District of Quito
- Counterpart Organization: Ministry of Public Health
- Study site: Secondary school (public)

Background

- Ecuador has third-highest teen pregnancy in South America; ~15% of girls have given birth at least once
- Teen pregnancy is correlated with higher risk of morbidity and mortality for mother and child
- Many teen pregnancies are unwanted; 3 million girls age 15-19 undergo unsafe abortions each year
- Teen motherhood may be linked to lifelong social and economic consequences for mother and child
- Ecuadorian government has formulated national strategy for teen pregnancy prevention, including situation analysis

Methods

Focus Groups

- Four gender-segregated sessions
- 32 randomly selected participants
- Ages 14-17
- Sessions recorded, transcribed, and coded according to analytical framework



Surveys

- 128 questions based on analytical framework
- 348 respondents
- Ages 14-18
- Data analysis in Epi Info 7 and STATA 13.1



Situation Analysis of Adolescent Pregnancy in Cumbayá, Ecuador

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Purpose

- Assess teens' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights, with focus on adolescent pregnancy
- Create population-specific intervention and curriculum recommendations

Results

Knowledge

| | Percent who think statement might be true |
|--|---|
| Birth control pills cause cancer | 78% |
| Condoms have microscopic holes that permit HIV to travel through them | 70% |
| A girl can't get pregnant if her partner doesn't ejaculate inside her vagina | 66% |
| A girl cannot get pregnant if she engages in sexual activity during her period | 57% |
| Putting one condom on over the other will provide extra protection against pregnancy and STIs | 53% |
| Vaginal douching can prevent pregnancy | 42% |
| A man should engage in sexual activity, even if it's with a sex worker, because if he doesn't he could have physical or psychological problems | 33% |
| A girl cannot get pregnant if she's only has sex a few times | 26% |
| A girl can't get pregnant the first time she has sex | 19% |

"For guys, their friends will make fun of them if they don't have sex. They will say he is gay, that he's not a man. For girls it's different; they support each other, they're like family."
-- Male focus group participant

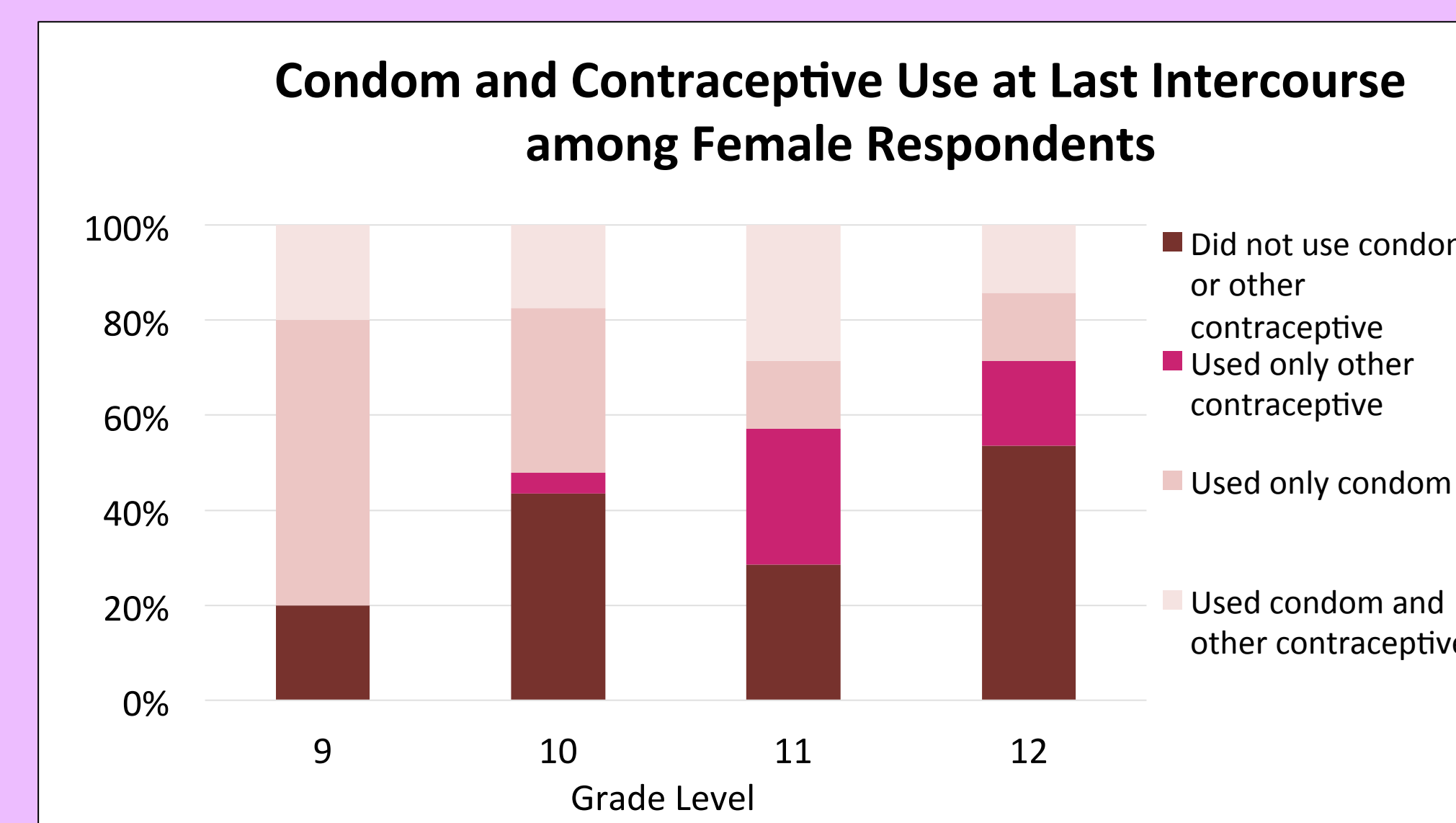
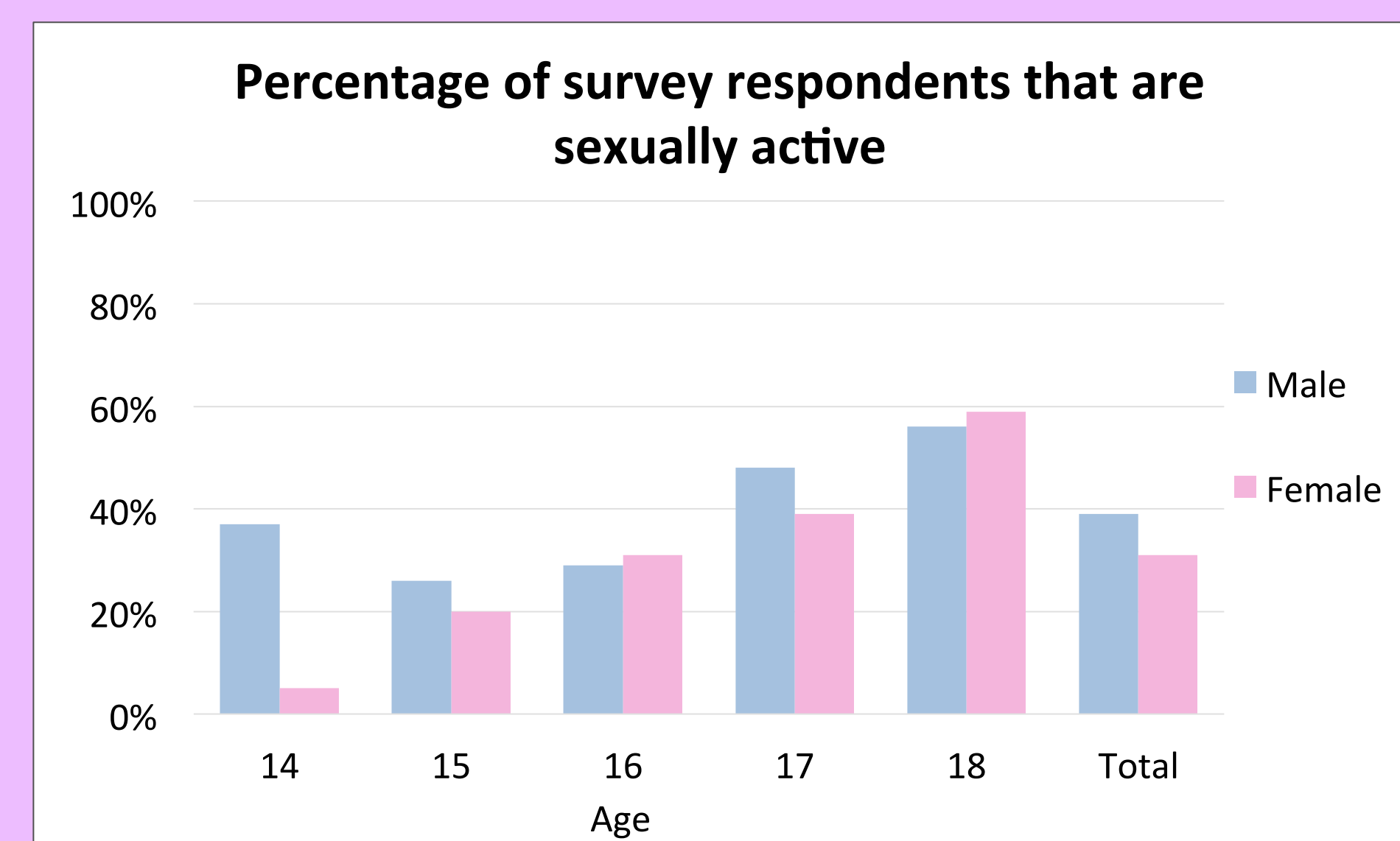
"Men...are always going to see a girl who carries condoms as the worst—always."
-- Female focus group participant

Attitudes

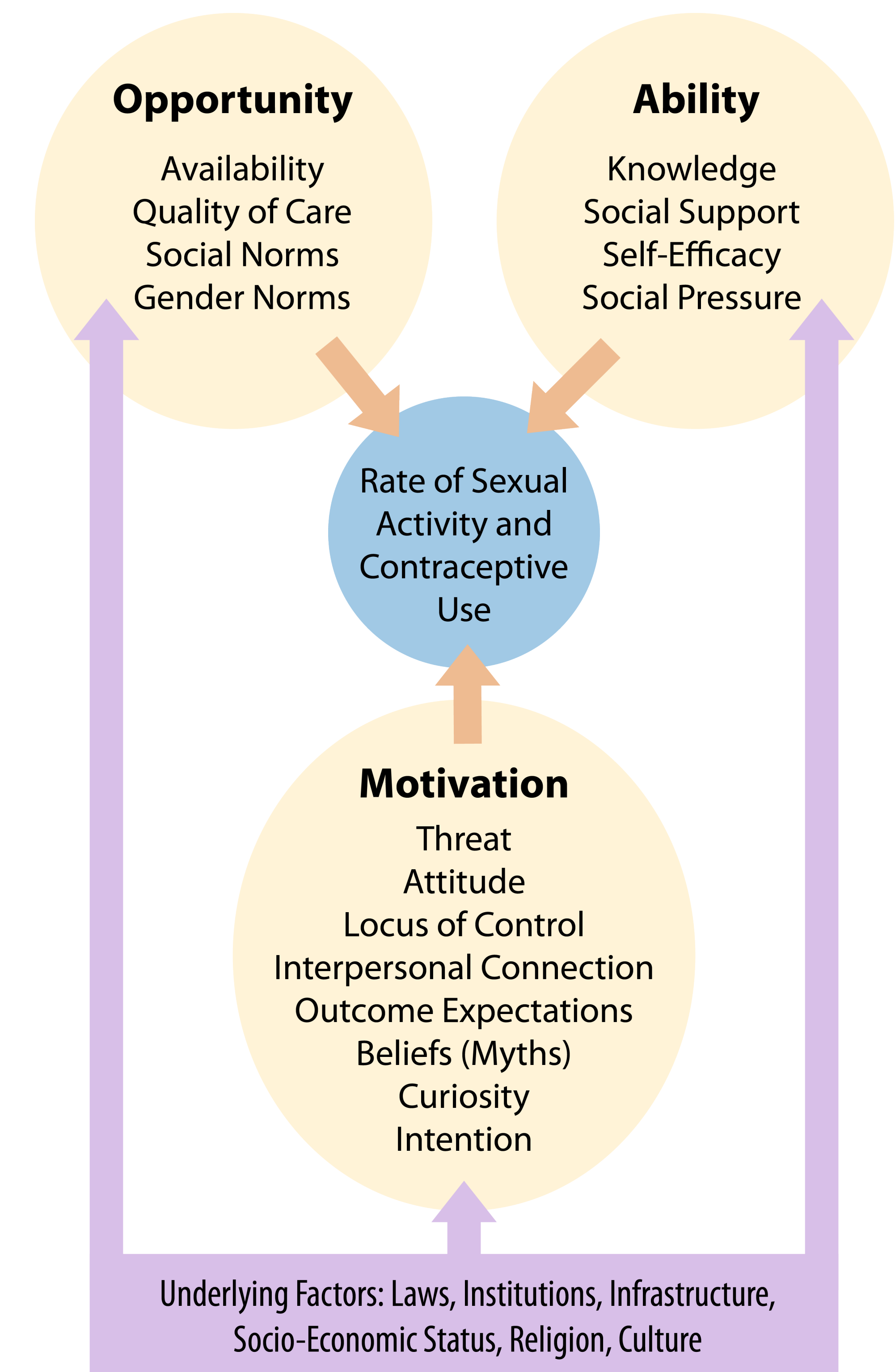
| | Female (percent that agree) | Male (percent that agree) |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Using condoms is an effective way to prevent pregnancy | 79% | 82% |
| I would feel capable of speaking openly with my partner about my feelings and thoughts about sexual activity | 65% | 58% |
| If I had a child now, it would make it difficult for me to achieve my goals for my future | 59% | 58% |
| Before engaging in sexual activity, it is the man's responsibility (not the woman's) to obtain a condom | 36% | 37% |
| It feels very different to engage in sexual activity without a condom as compared to with a condom | 25% | 36% |
| Buying condoms makes me feel very embarrassed | 47% | 33% |
| I drink alcohol at least once a month | 16% | 22% |
| Using a condom during sexual activity is a sign of lack of trust in one's partner | 9% | 18% |

"It's normal here for teenagers to go to parties, drink alcohol, and do drugs. In that atmosphere, they don't think straight and they do things they regret or don't remember."
-- Male focus group participant

Behaviors



Analytical Framework



Recommendations

- Begin intervention with younger students
- Focus on knowledge and myths about pregnancy, contraception, and STIs
- Promote discussion about gender roles
- Promote development of communication skills and critical thinking about future goals

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