

A Demographic Portrait of Statutory Rape



Kristin Moore, Ph.D. & Jennifer Manlove, Ph.D

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Research Questions

1. What is the prevalence of statutory rape?
2. Has the prevalence of statutory rape been increasing over time?
3. What individual and family factors are associated with statutory rape?
4. How do characteristics of statutory rape relationships and partners differ from other sexual relationships?
5. Is statutory rape linked to other adolescent behaviors?

Definition of Statutory Rape

- Teens aged 15 or younger with a sexual partner 3 or more years older

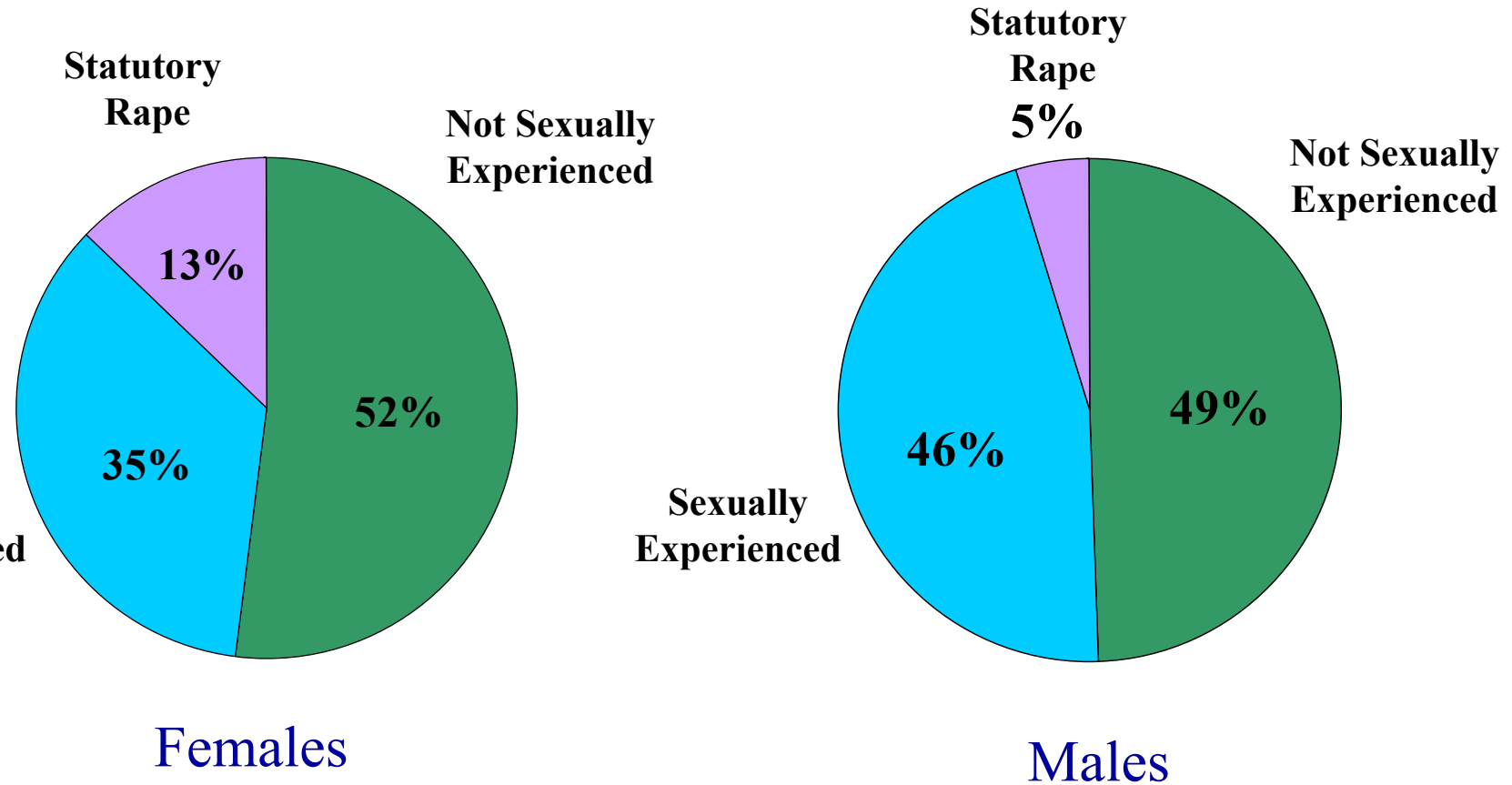
Data

- **National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), 1995 and 2002**
 - o Retrospective information on sexual experiences before age 18
 - o Information on teens' first sexual experiences
- **National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), 1995-1996**
 - o Teens in grades 7-12
 - o Information on all sexual relationships

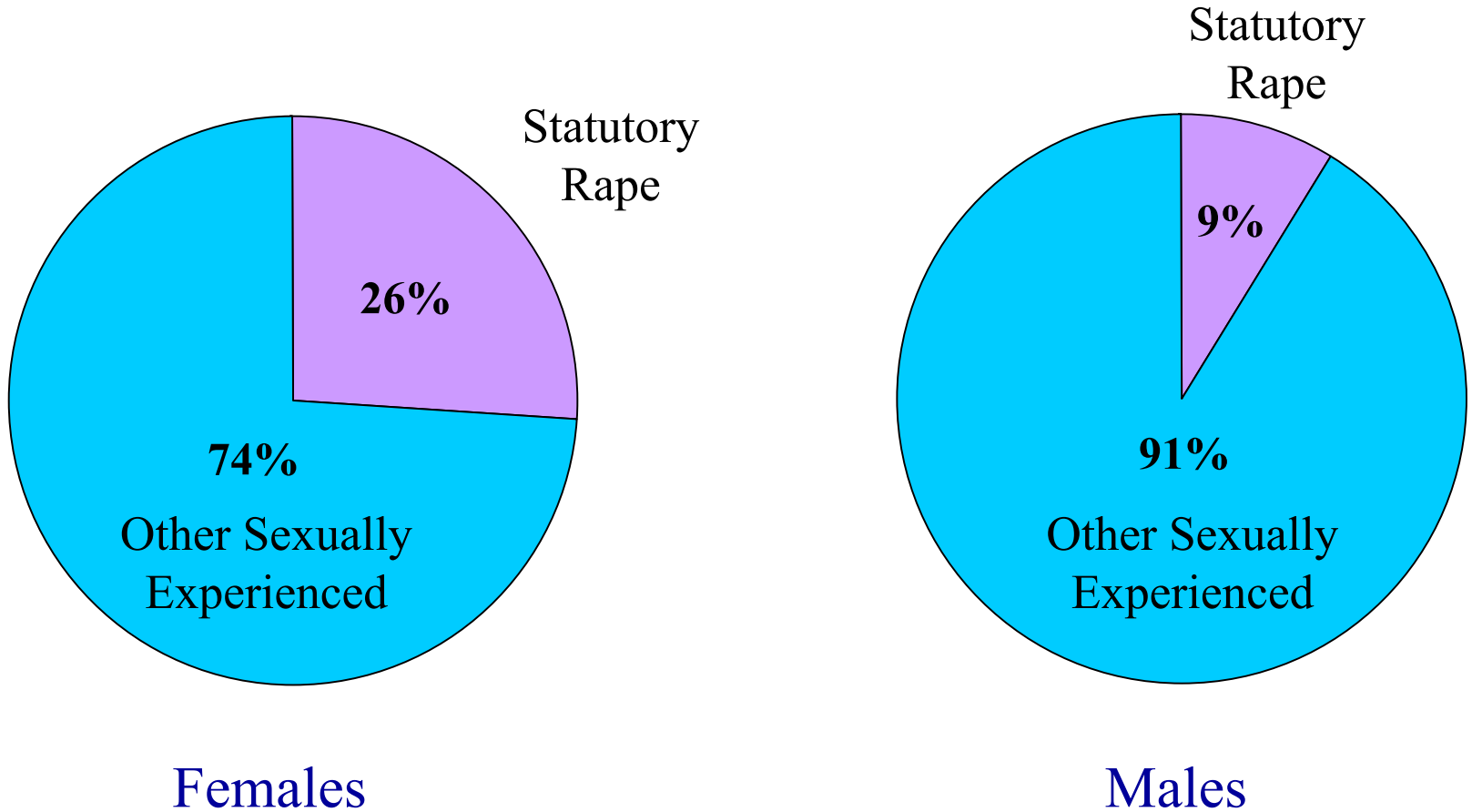
Question #1:

What is the prevalence of statutory rape?

Statutory Rape at First Sex Occurs Among Both Females and Males



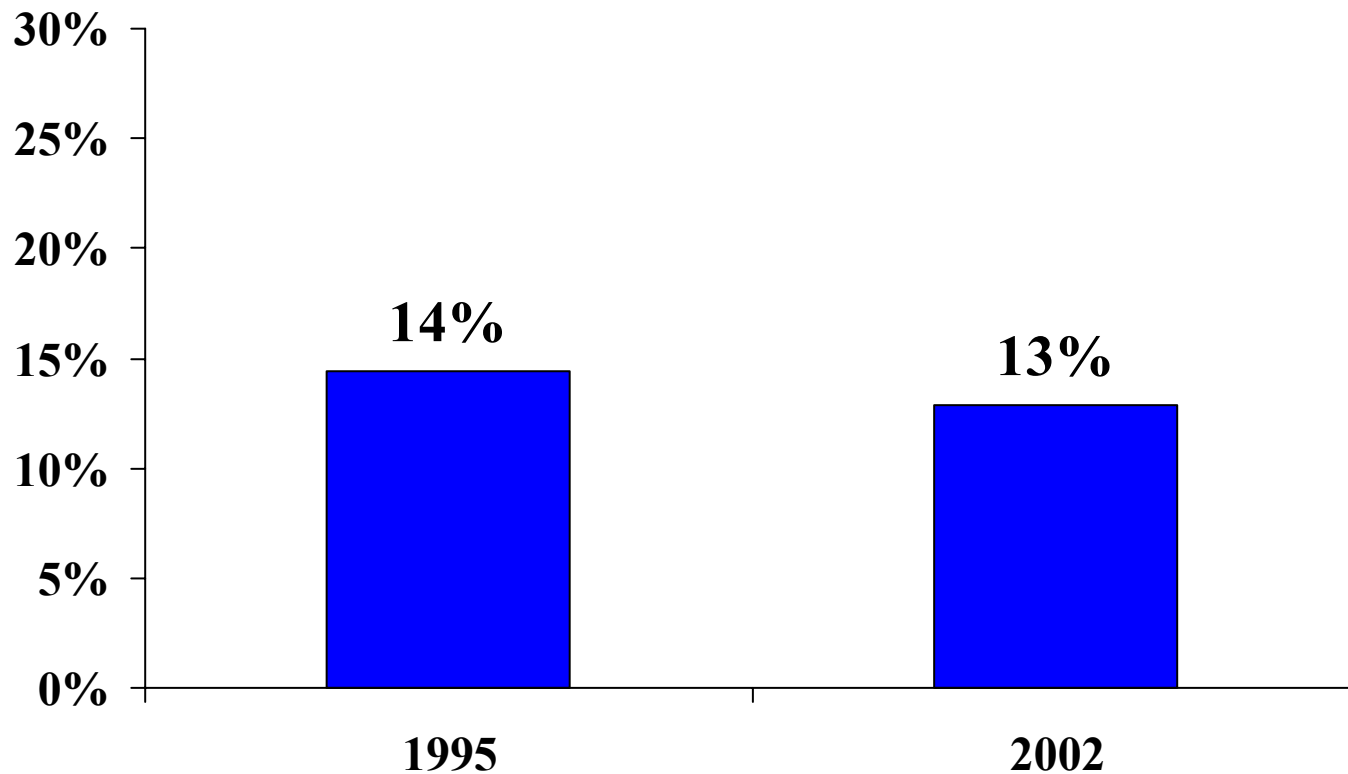
Statutory Rape Status at First Sex Among Sexually Experienced Females and Males



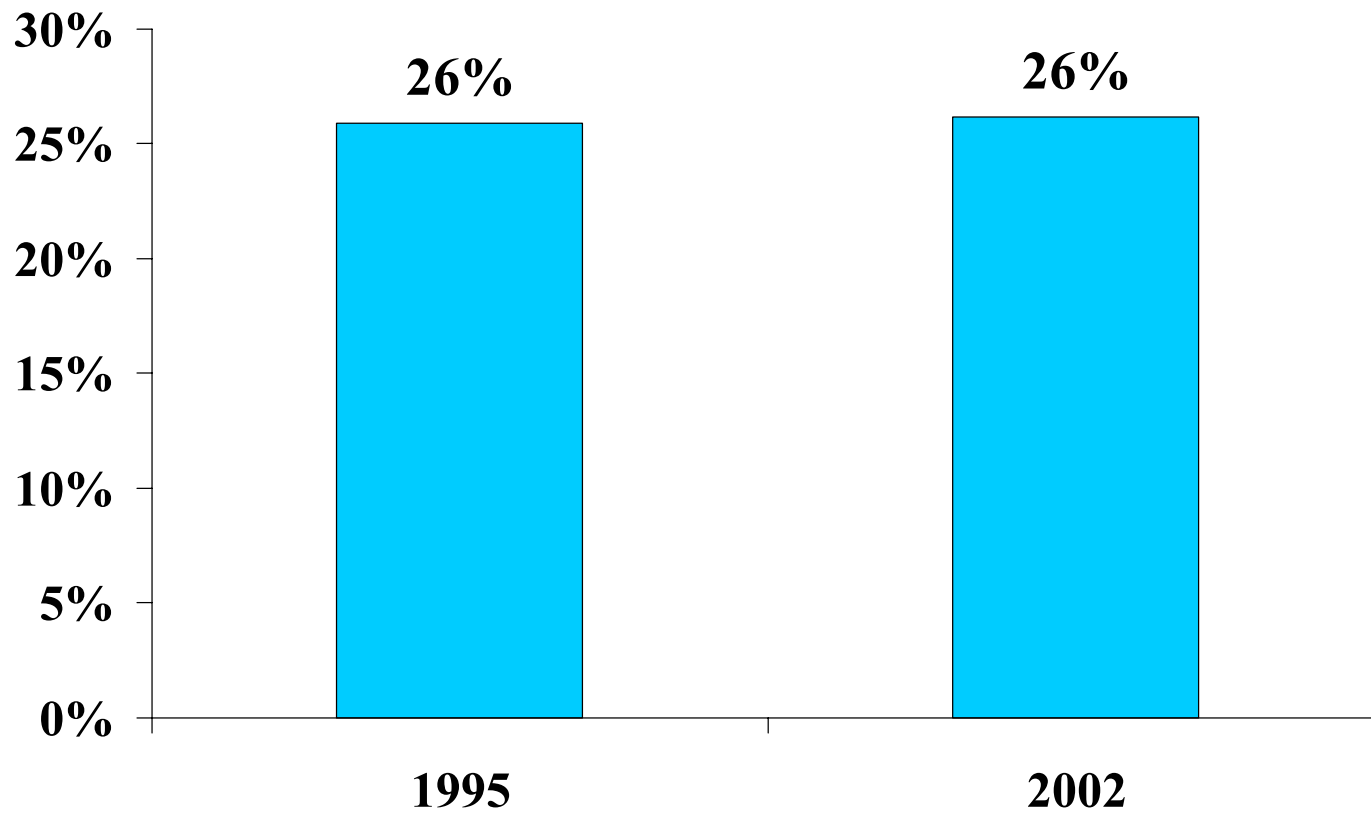
Question #2:

Has the prevalence of statutory rape
been increasing over time?

Incidence of Statutory Rape at First Sex Has Not Changed Significantly Among Females



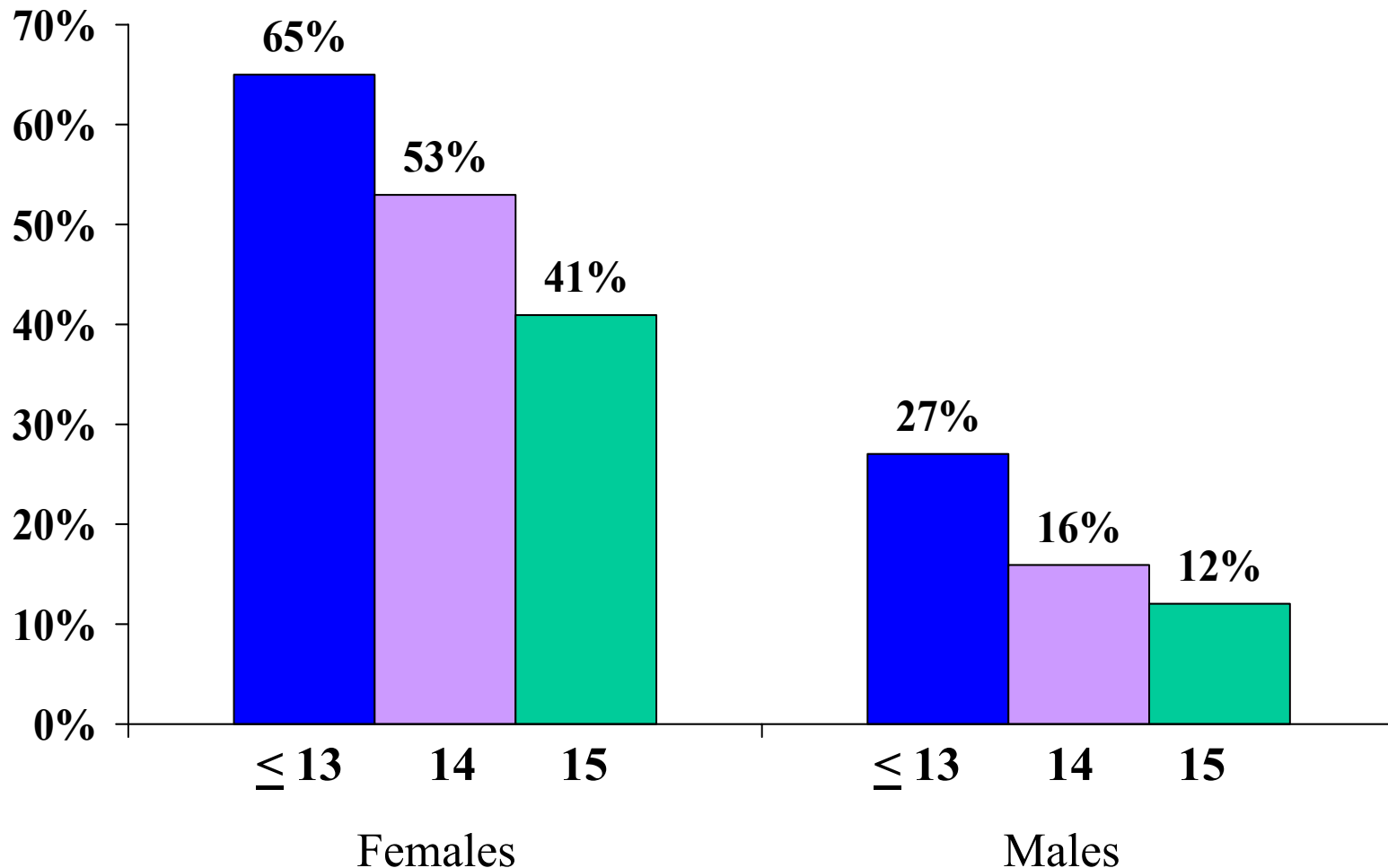
Incidence of Statutory Rape at First Sex Has Remained Stable Among Sexually Experienced Females



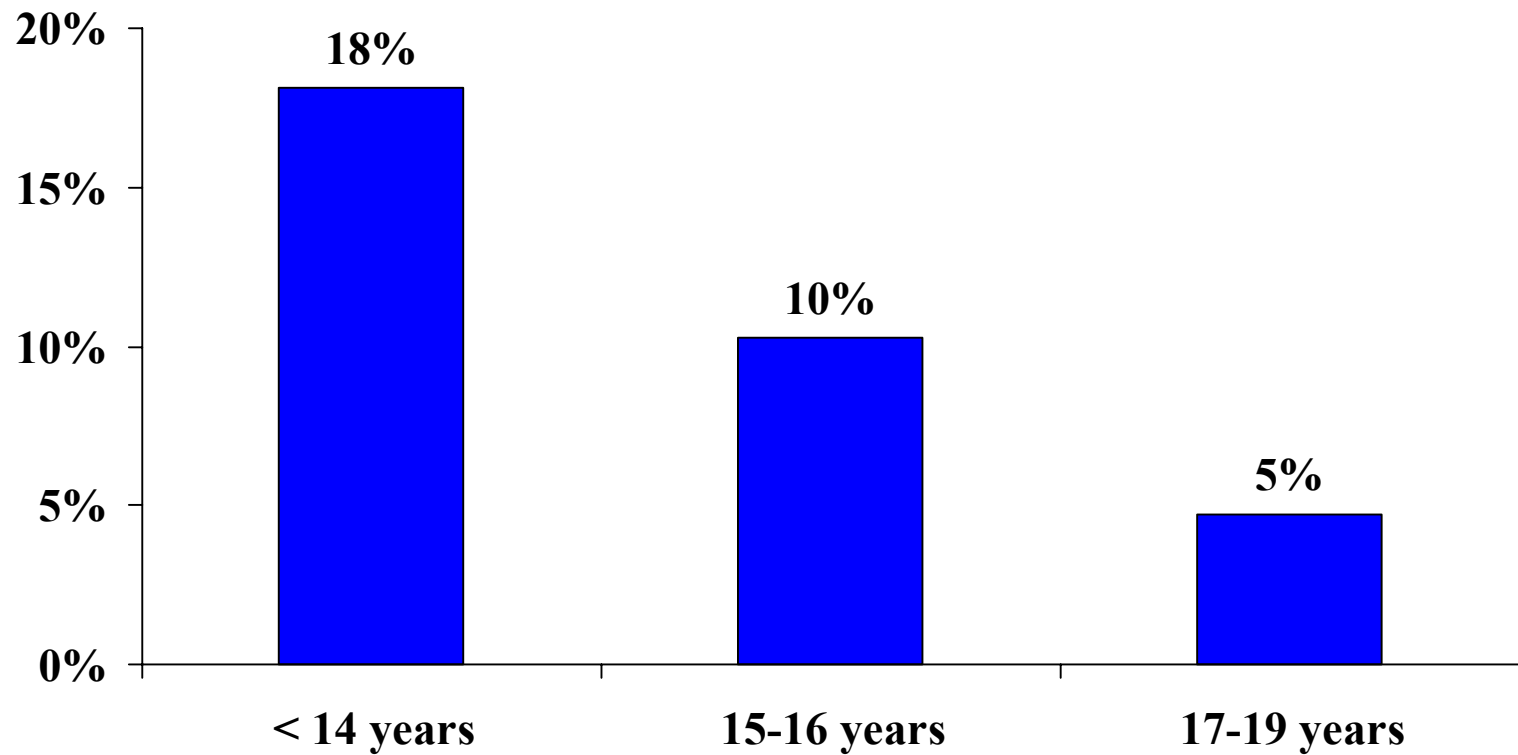
Question #3:

What individual and family factors are associated with statutory rape?

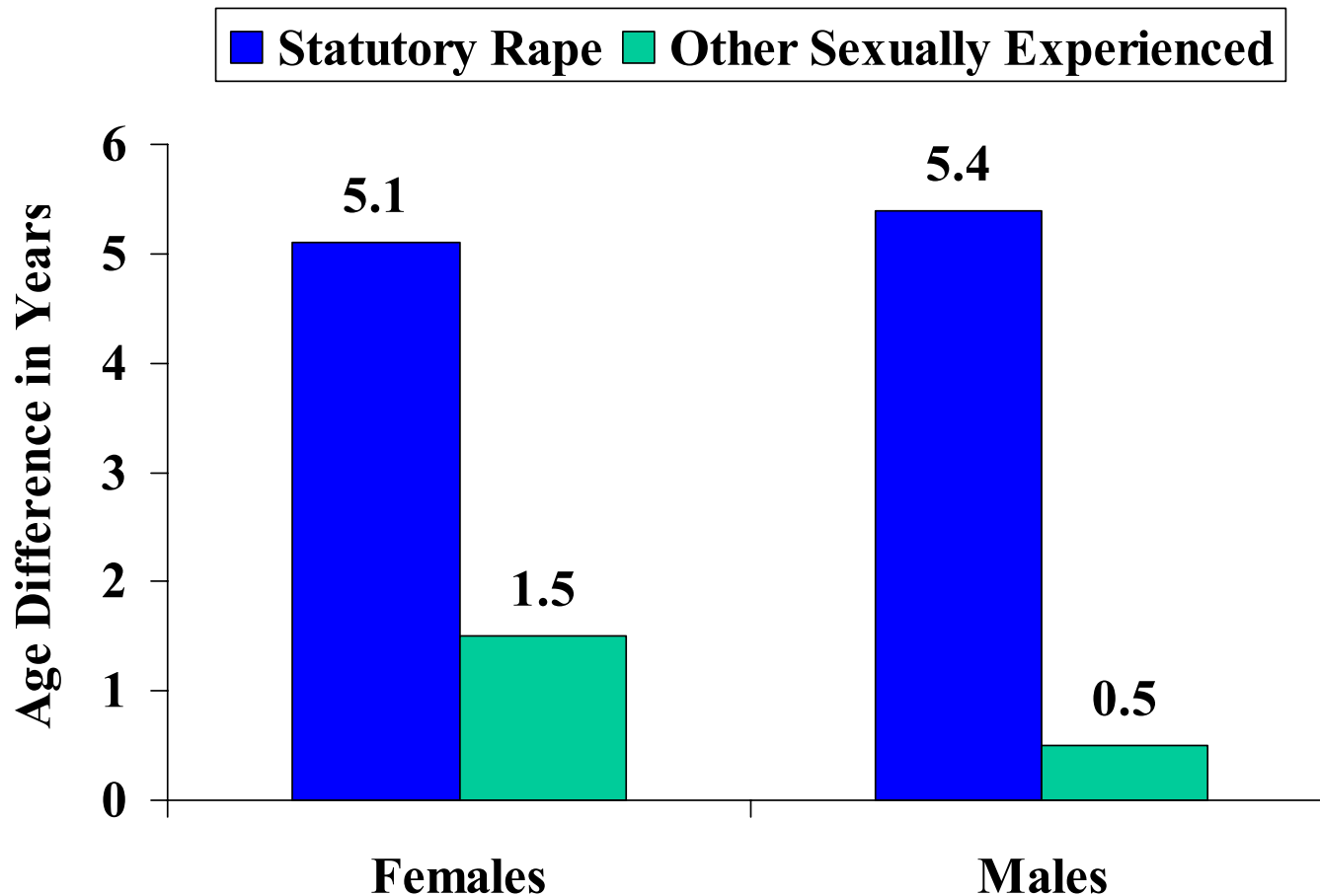
Younger Sexually Experienced Teens Are More Likely to Experience Statutory Rape



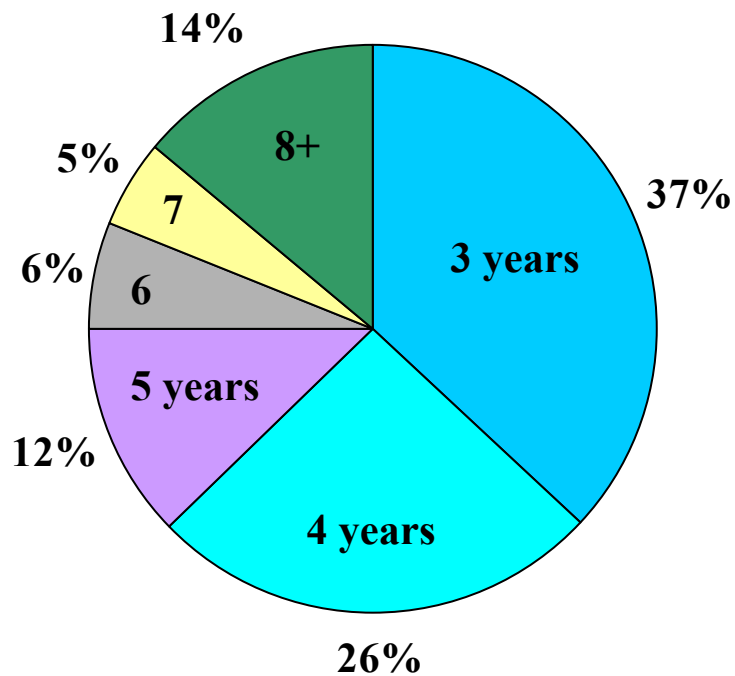
Females Who Are Younger at First Sex Are More Likely to Say that Sexual Experience Was Non-Voluntary



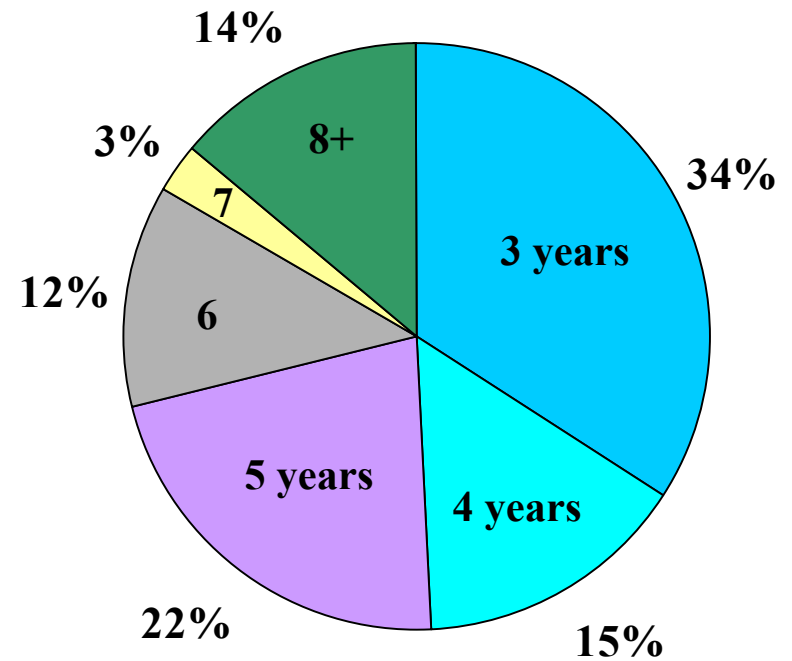
Average Age Difference Between Teens and Partners



Distribution of Partner-Teen Age Difference in Statutory Rape Relationships, by Gender



Females

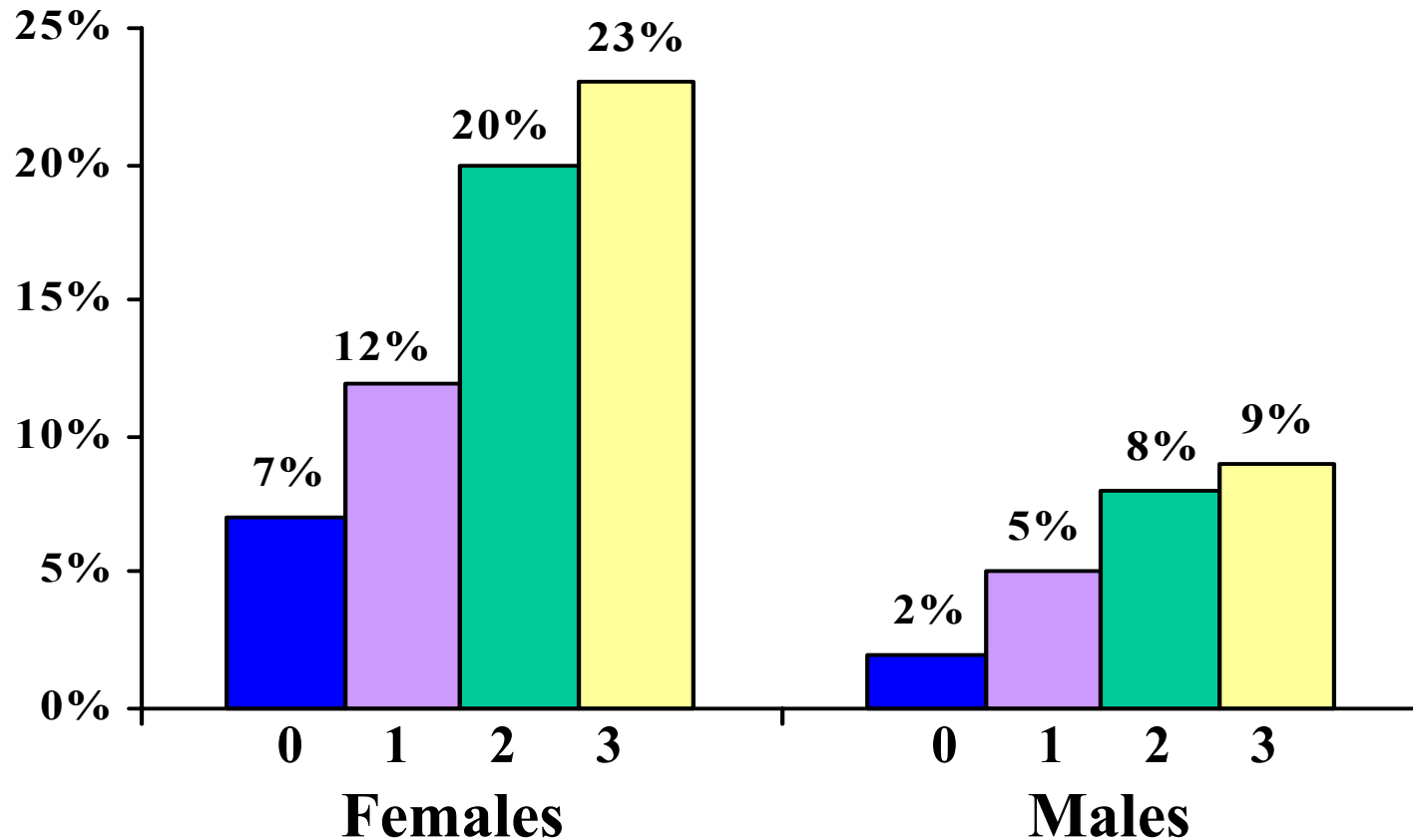


Males

The Incidence of Statutory Rape is Higher Among Teens:

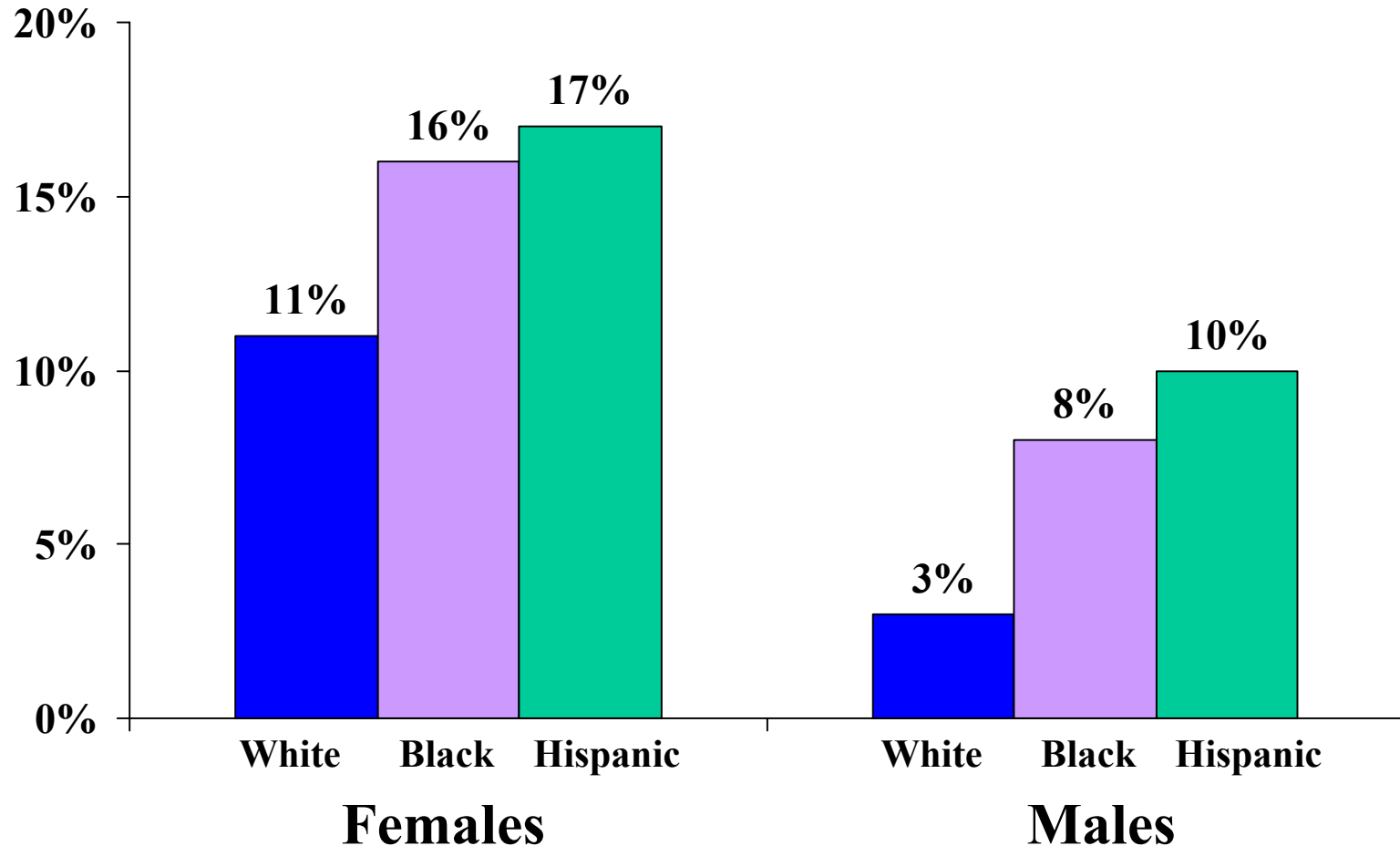
- who do not live with both biological parents
- whose parents have lower educational attainment, and
- whose mothers gave birth in their teen years

Statutory Rape Increases with the Number of Family Risks*



*Family risk factors include low parent education, family structure other than two biological parents, and son/daughter of a teen mother.

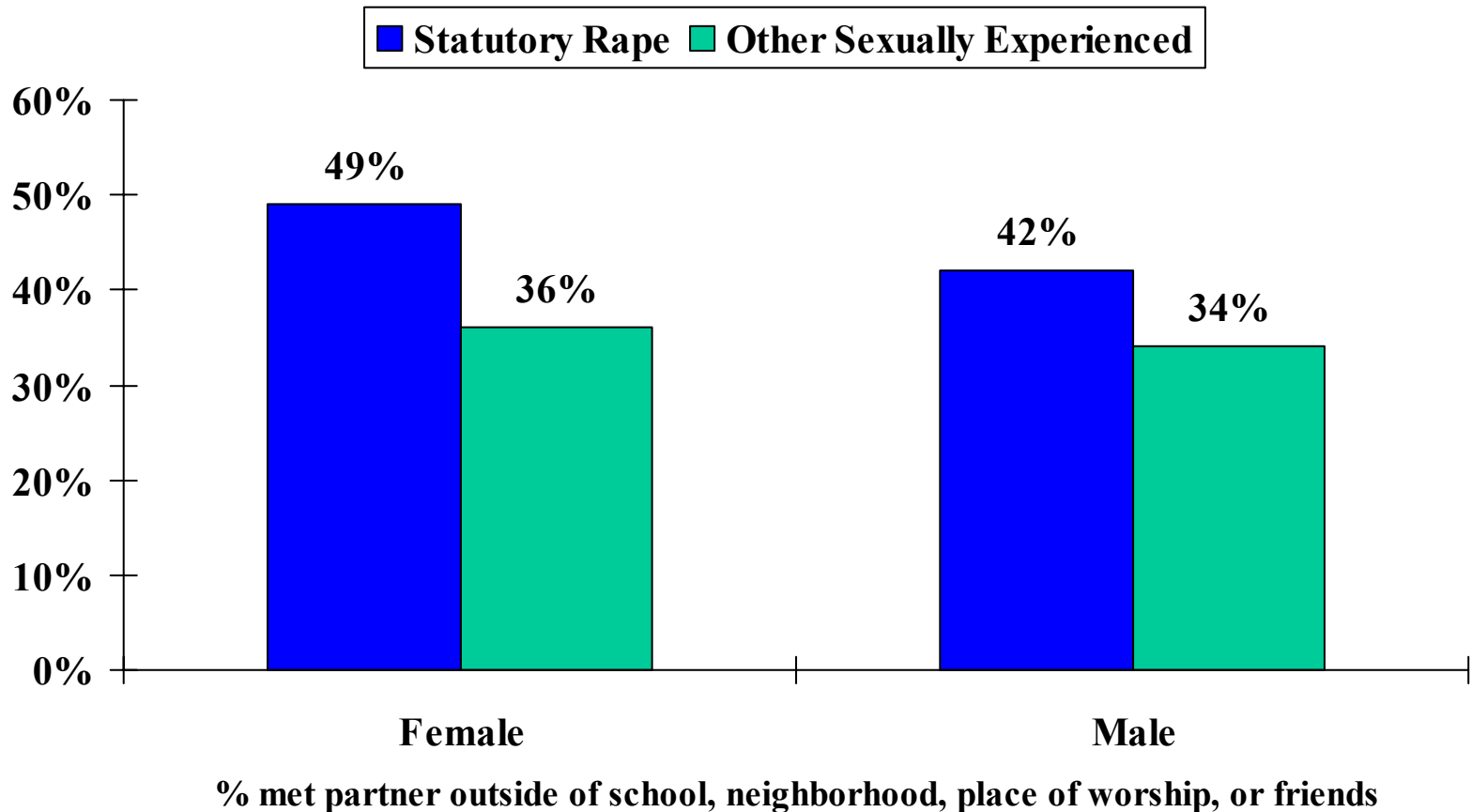
Racial/Ethnic Minorities Are More Likely to Experience Statutory Rape



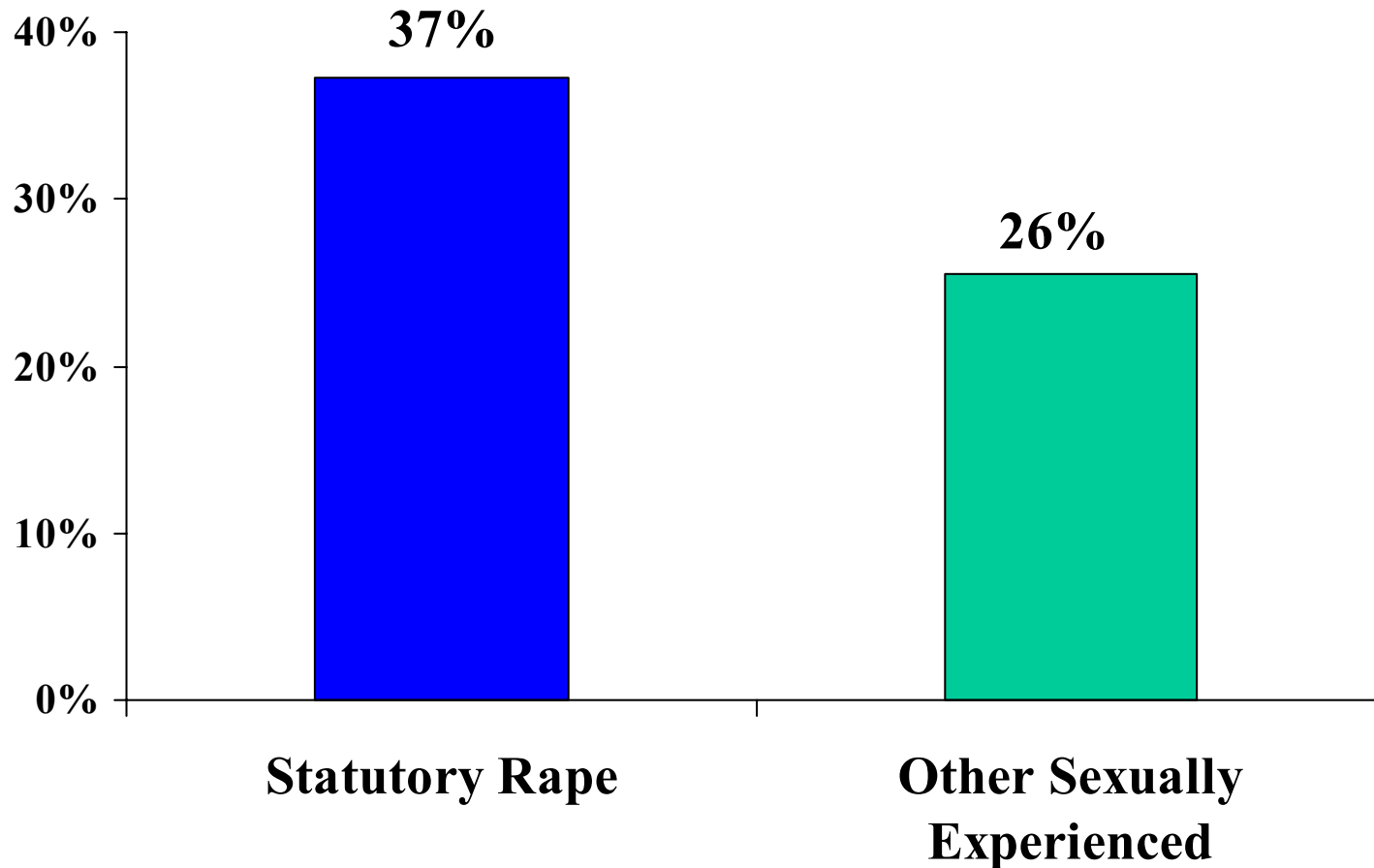
Question #4:

How do characteristics of statutory rape relationships and partners differ from other sexual relationships?

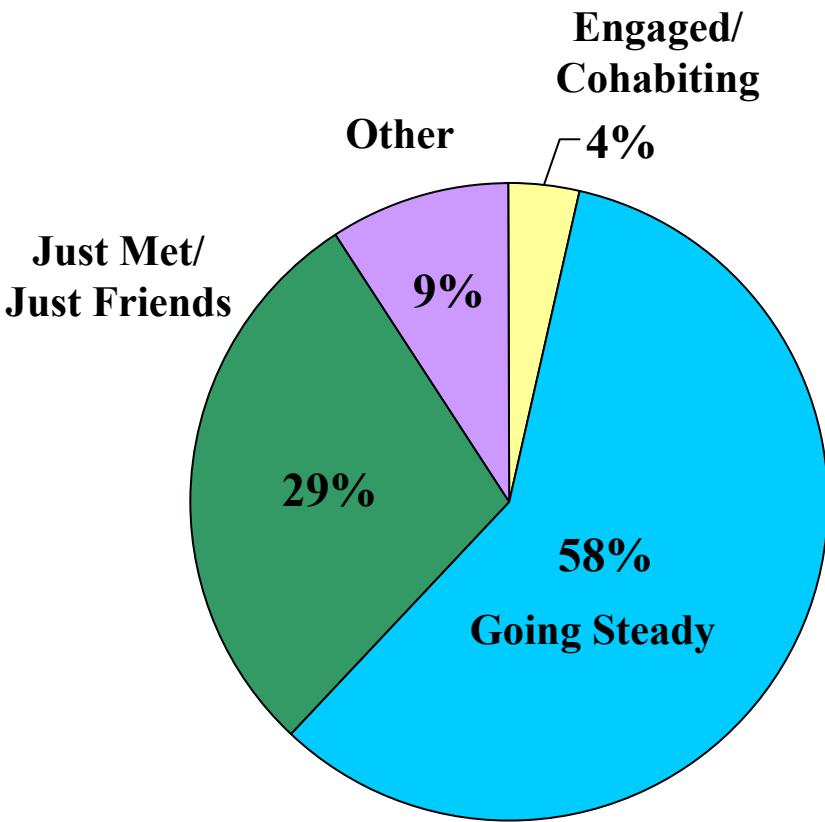
Teens in Statutory Rape Relationships Are More Likely to Meet Partner Outside of Social Networks



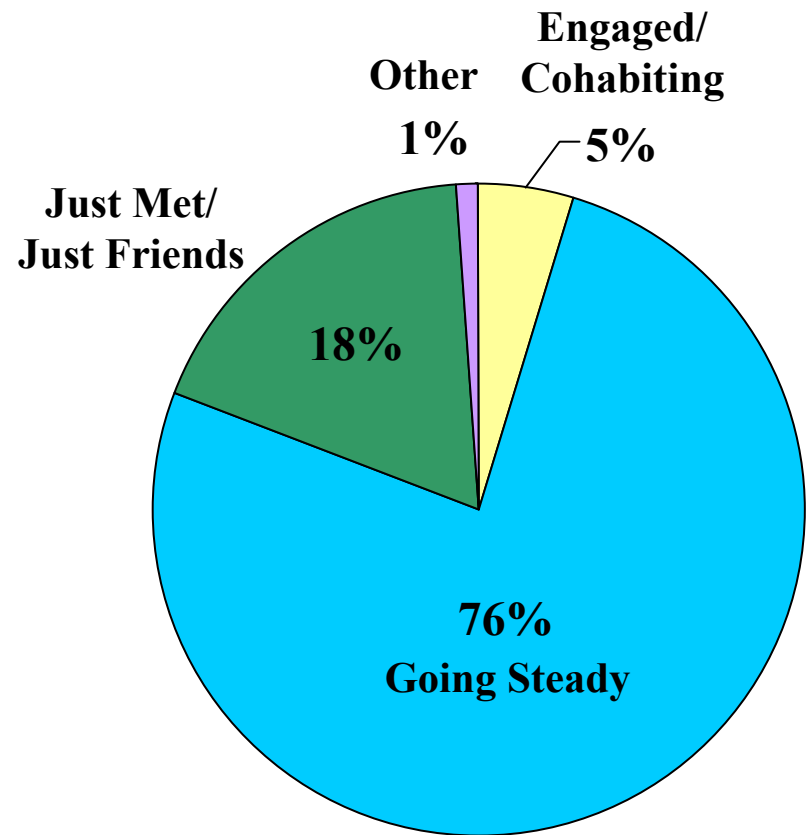
Statutory Rape Partners of Teen Females Are More Likely to be Behind Grade than Other Sexual Partners



Relationship Type with First Sexual Partner- Females

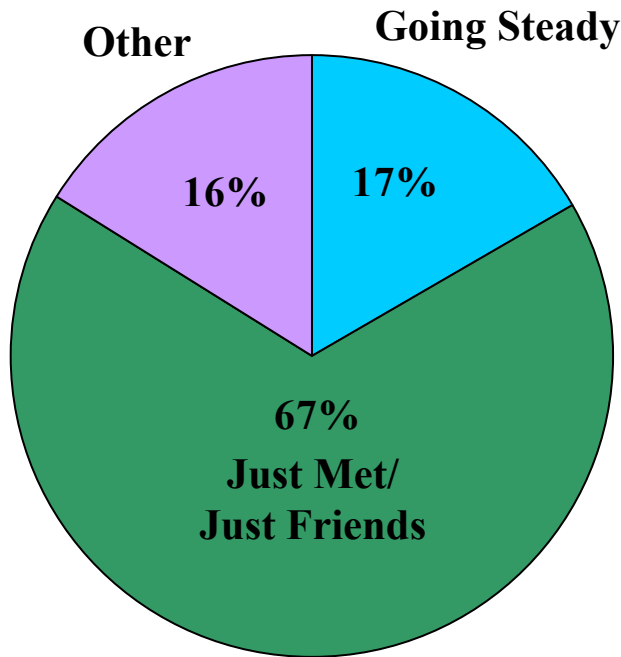


Statutory Rape

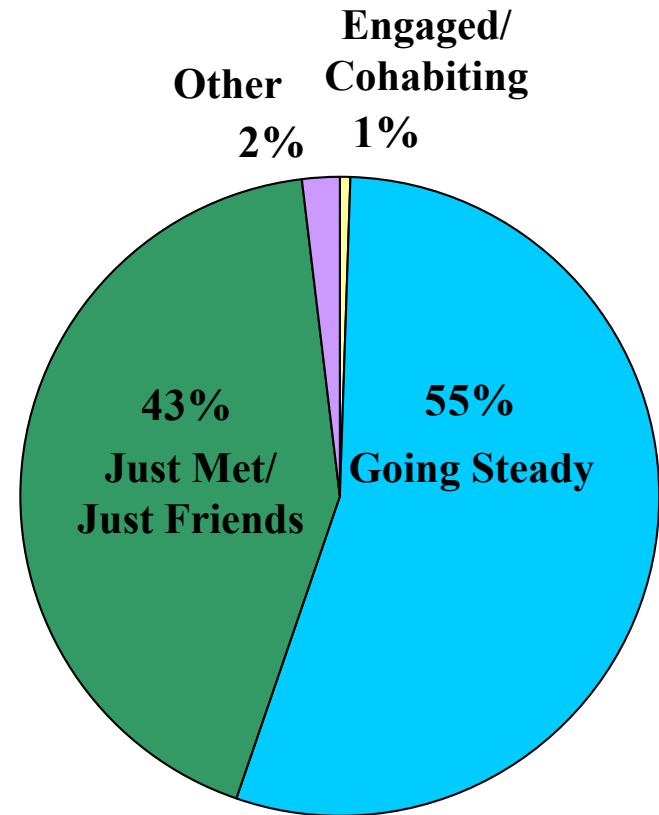


Other Sexually Experienced

Relationship Type with First Sexual Partner- Males

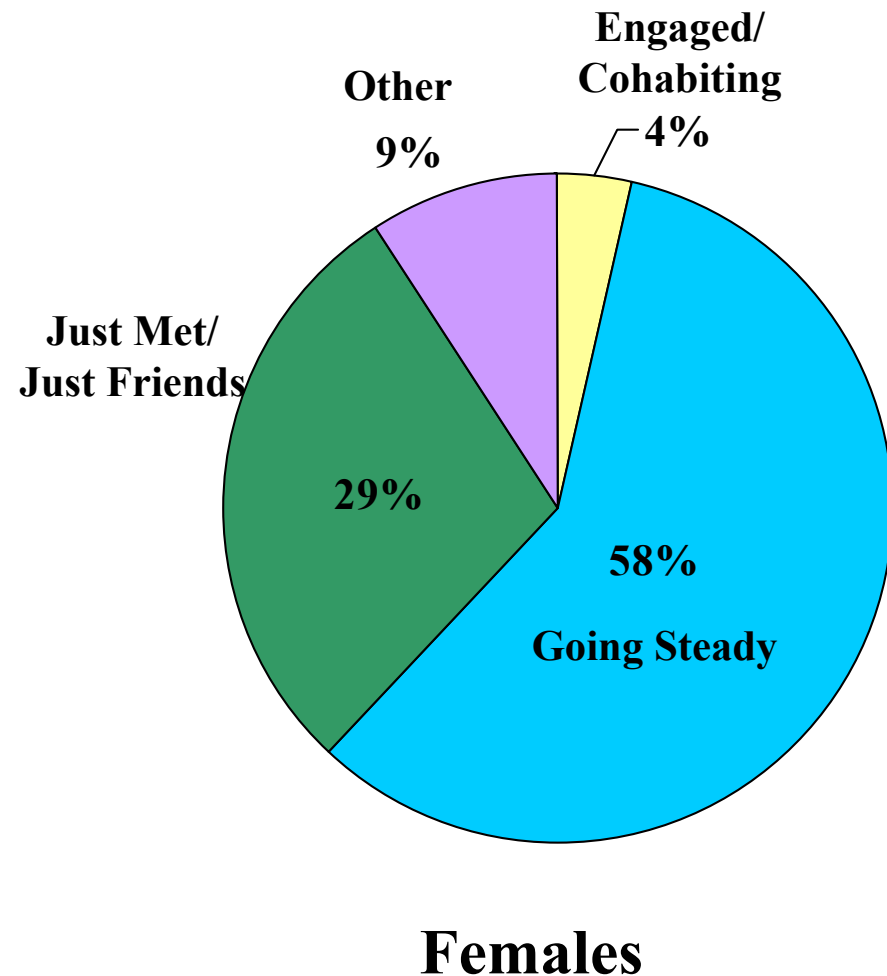


Statutory Rape



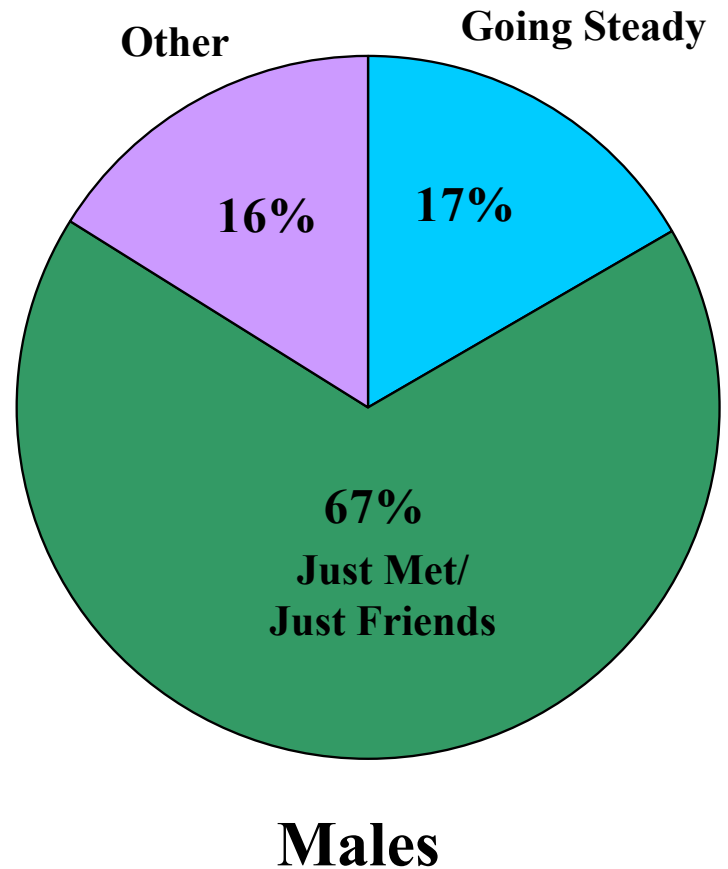
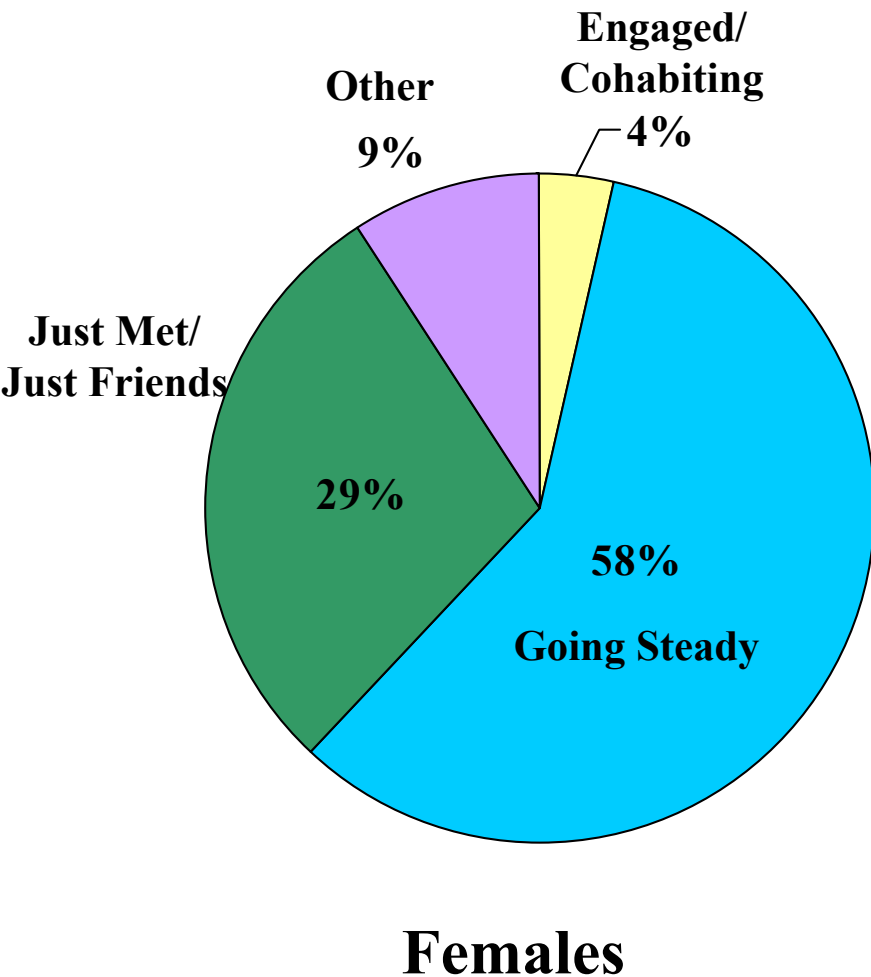
Other Sexually Experienced

Statutory Rape Relationships Differ by Gender

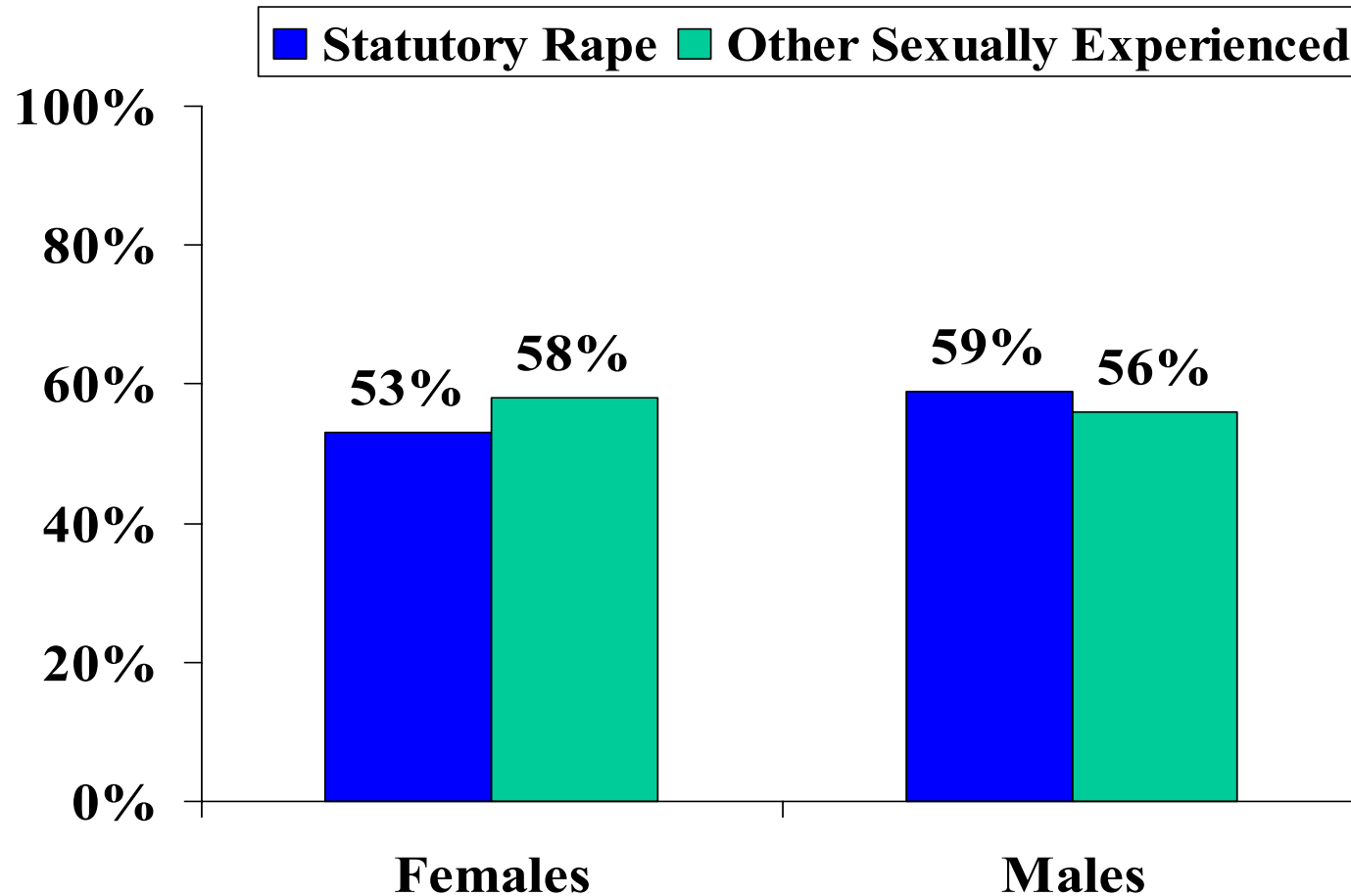


Source: NSFG 2002

Statutory Rape Relationships Differ by Gender



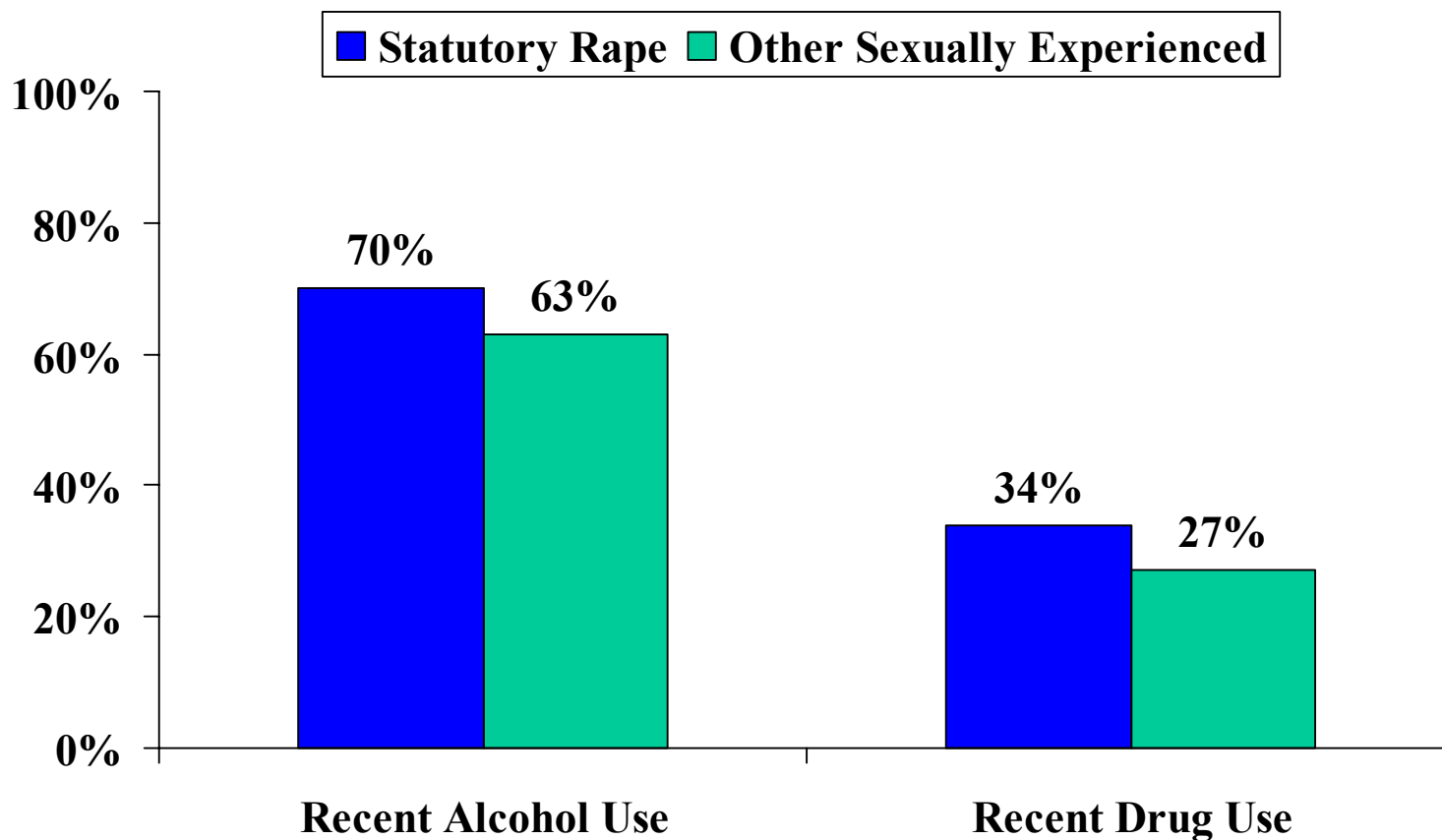
The Majority of Teens in Statutory Rape and Other Sexual Relationships Report that Most or All of Their Friends Know Their Partner



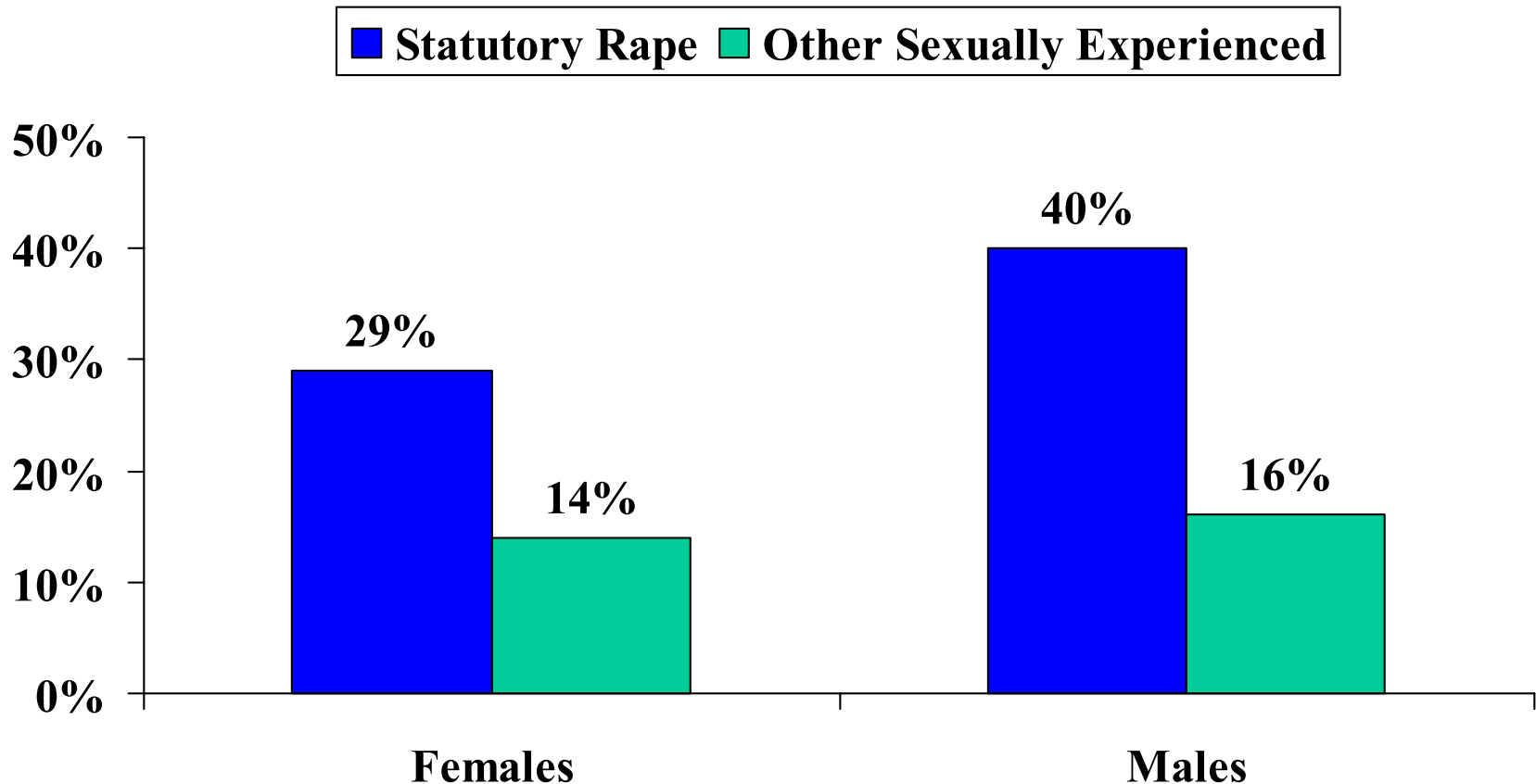
Question #5:

Is statutory rape linked to other adolescent behaviors?

High School Females with Statutory Rape Experiences Report Higher Alcohol and Drug Use

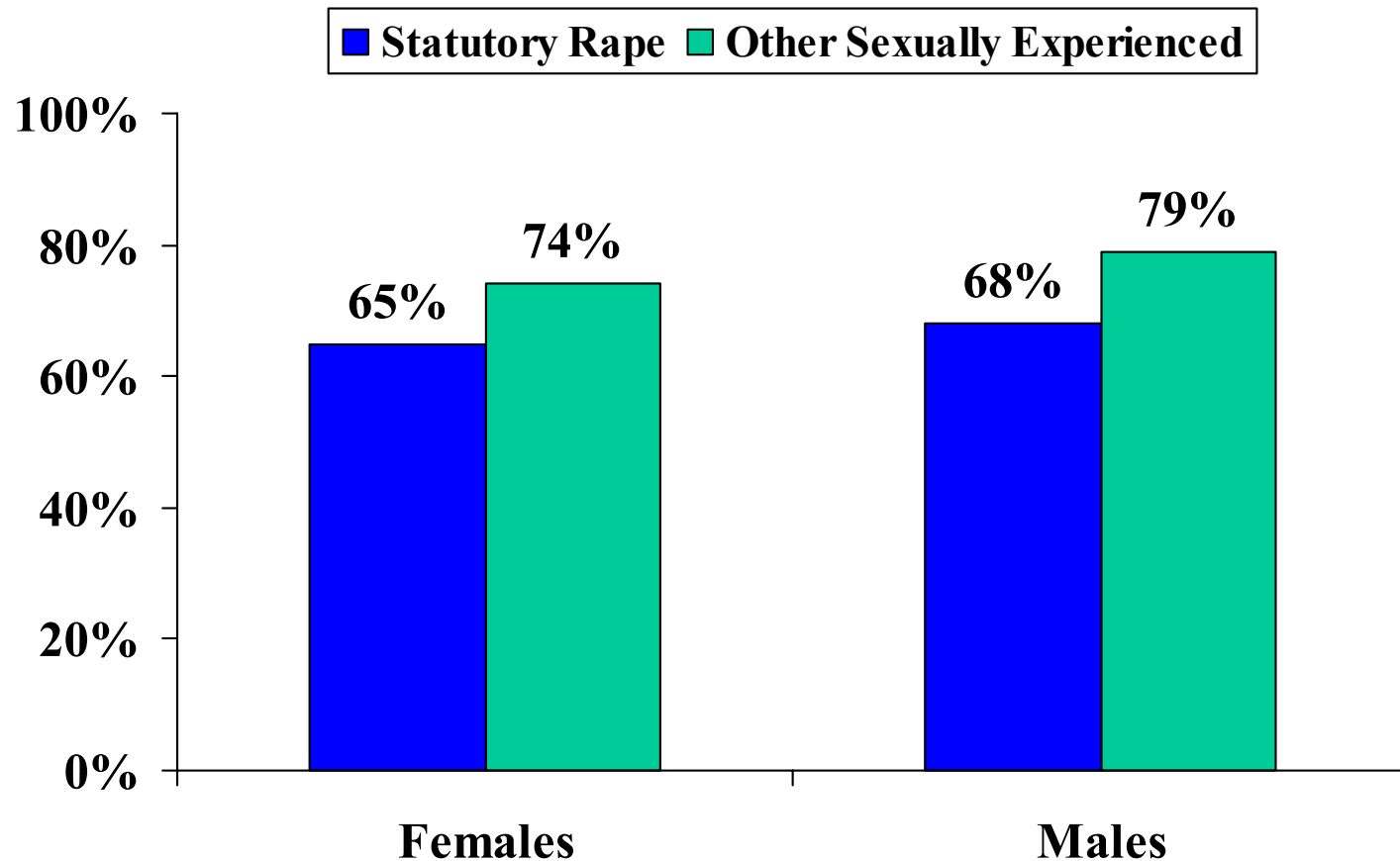


Females and Males in Statutory Rape First Relationships are More Likely to Drop Out of High School*

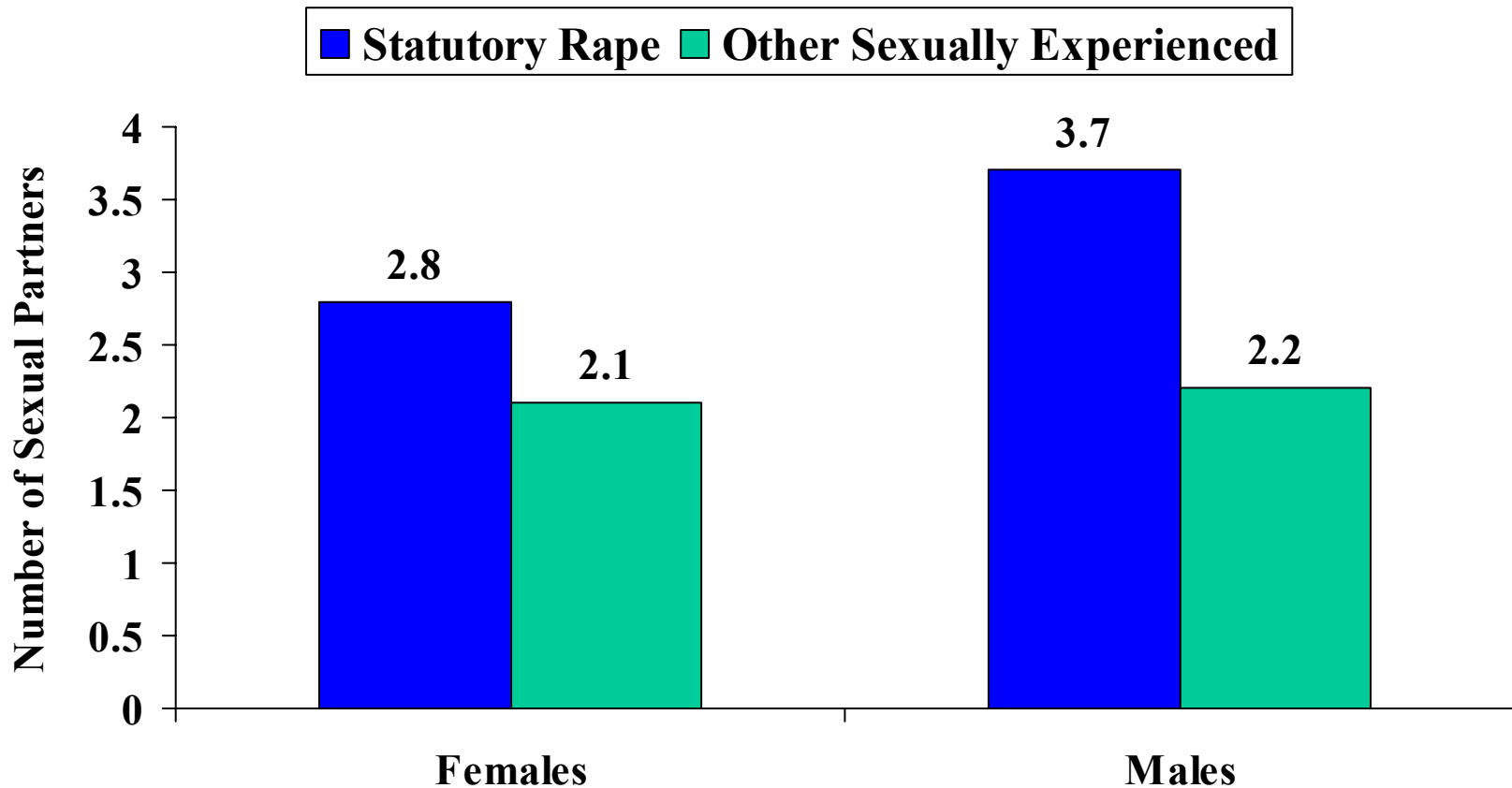


*Measured as males and females aged 20-24 who completed less than 12 years of high school and did not complete a GED.

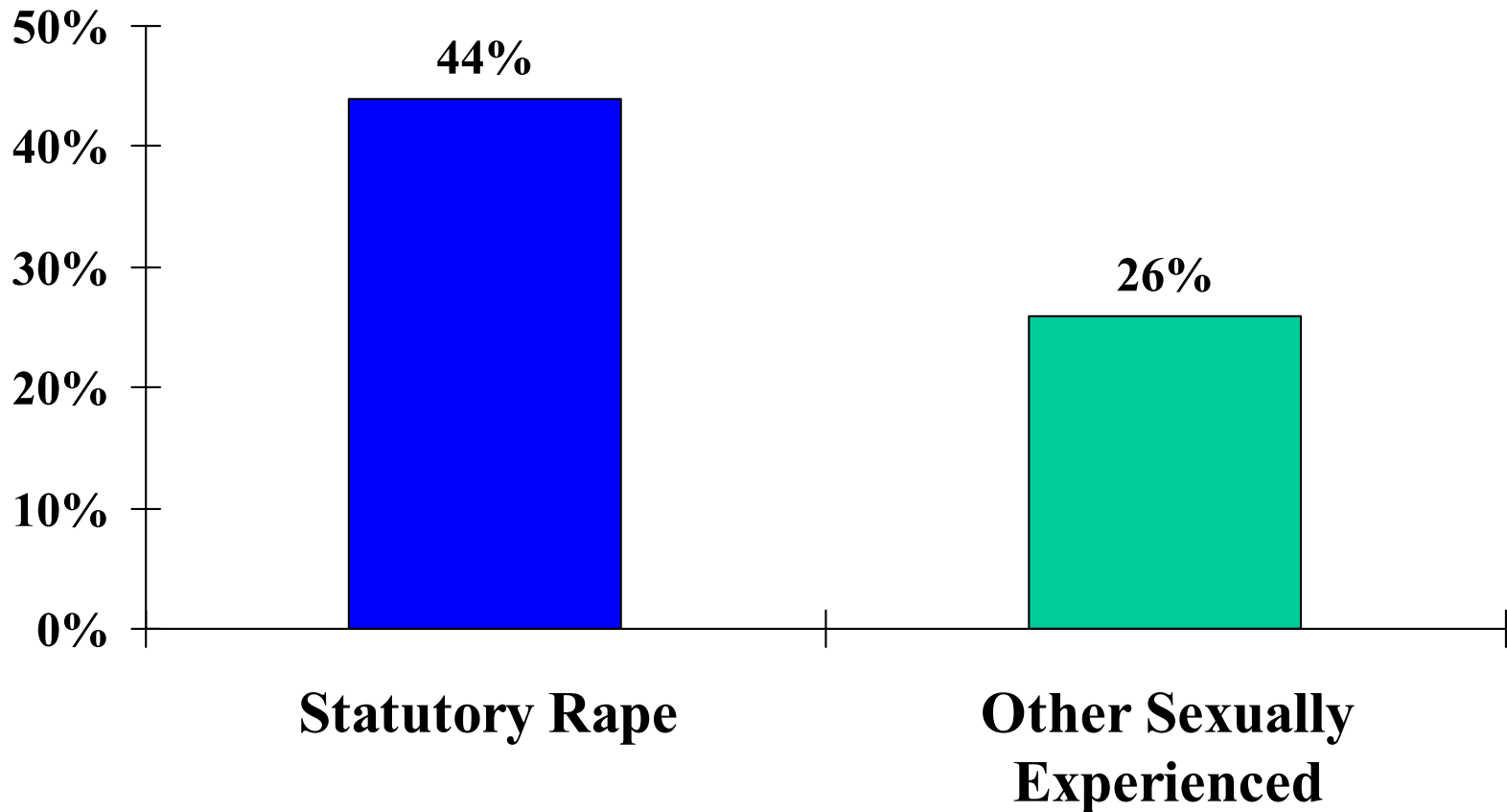
Females and Males in Statutory Rape Relationships Are Less Likely to Use Contraception at First Sex



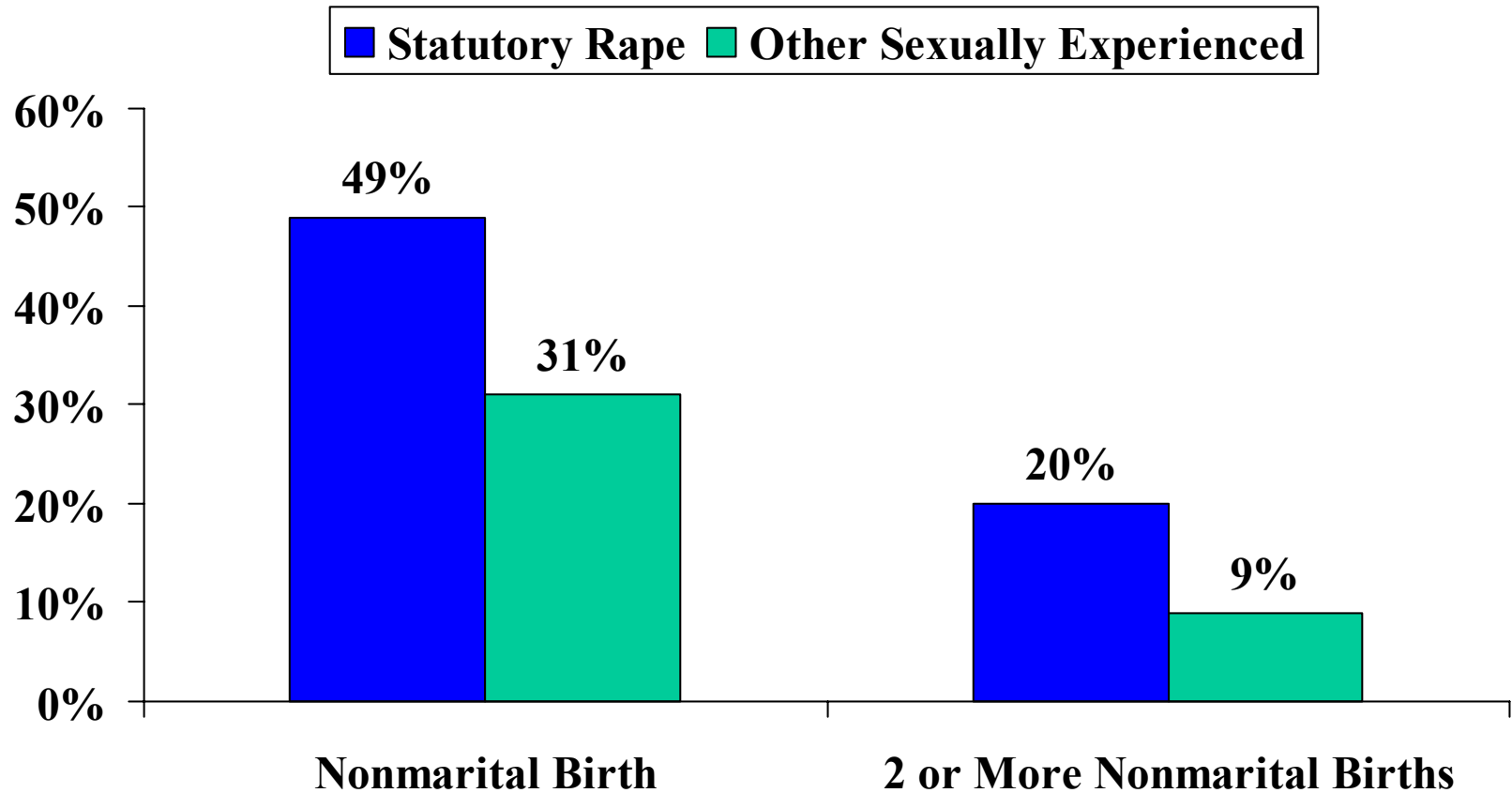
High School Teens in Statutory Rape Relationships Report More Lifetime Sexual Partners



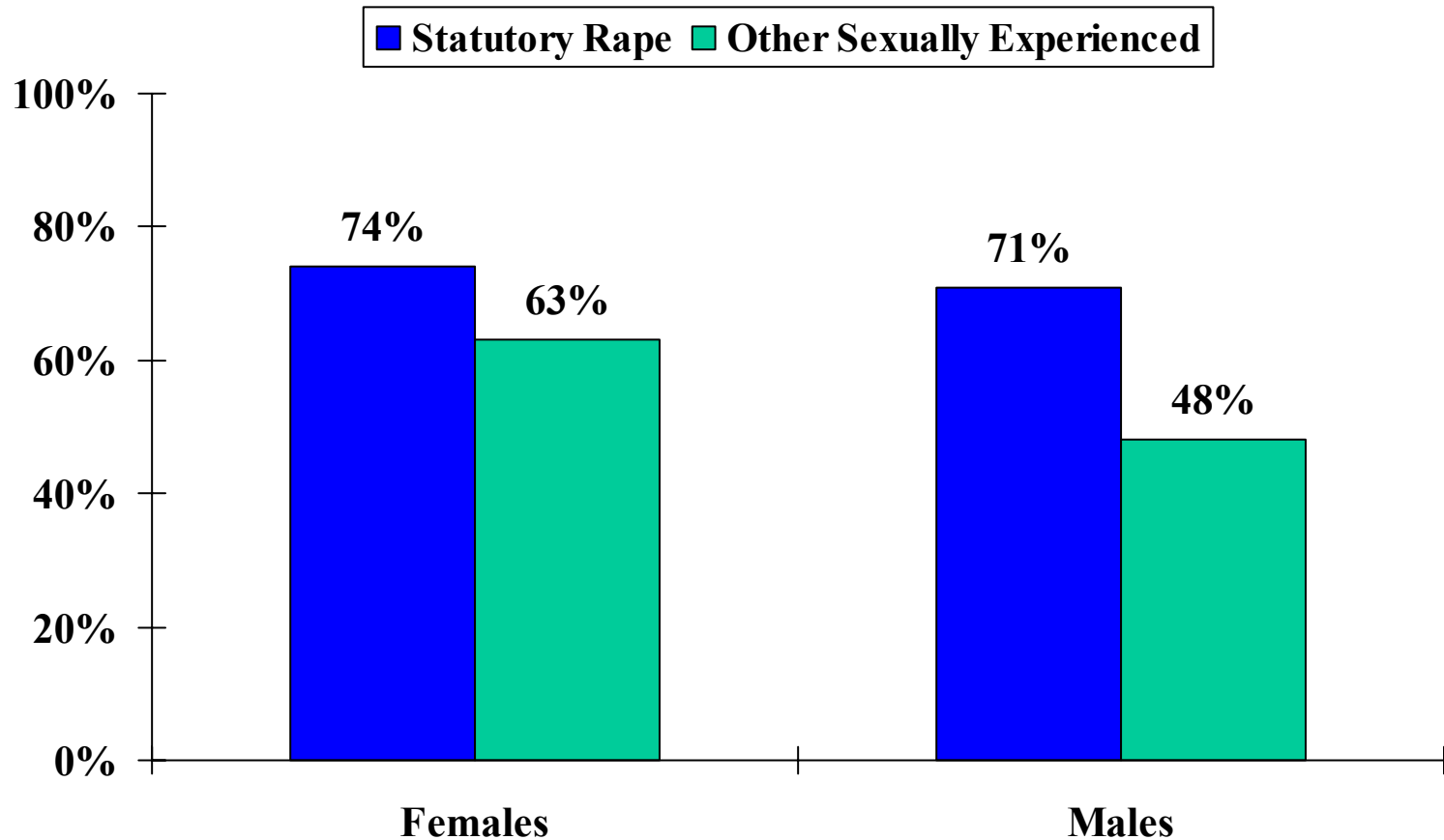
Females in Statutory Rape First Relationships Are More Likely to Have a Teen Birth



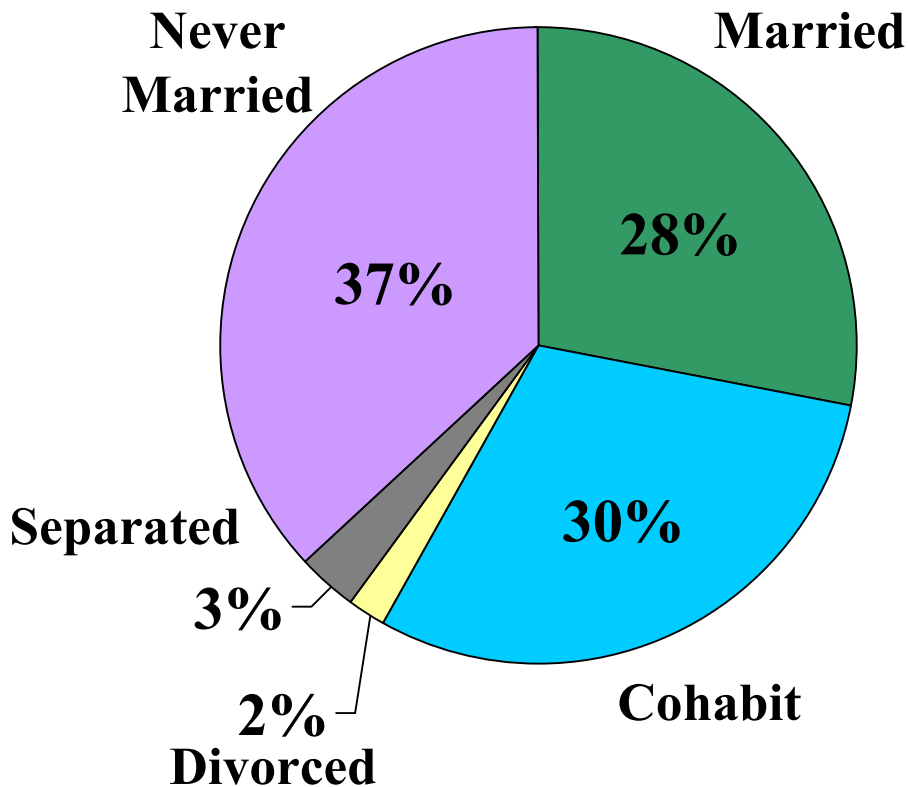
Females in Statutory Rape First Relationships Are More Likely to Have Any or 2+ Nonmarital Births



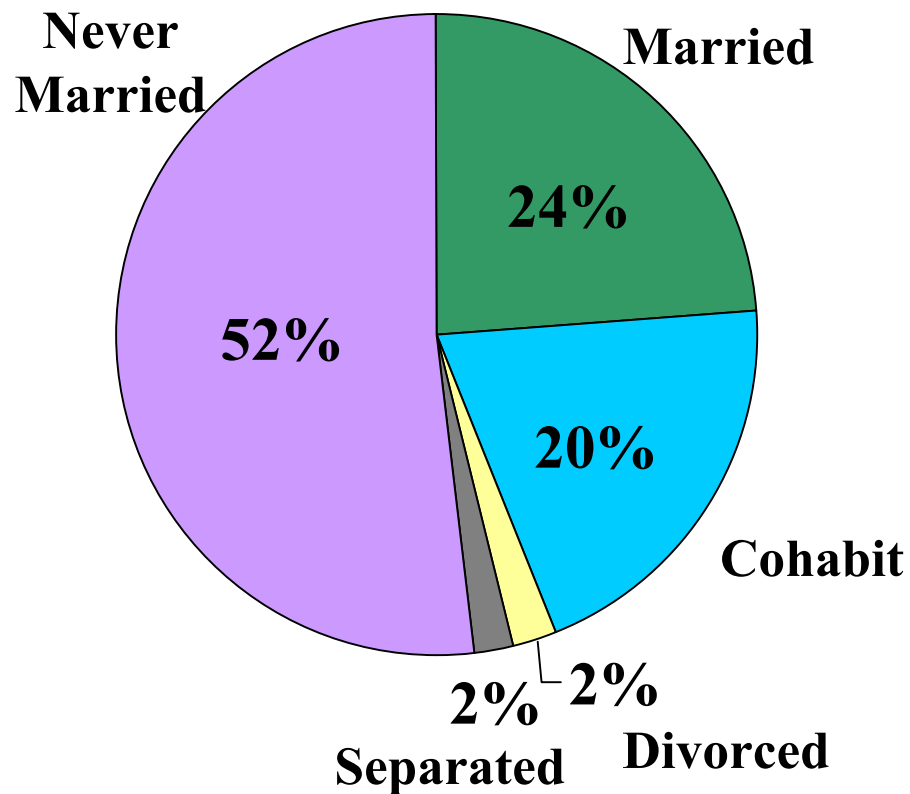
Females and Males in Statutory Rape First Relationships Are More Likely to Have Ever Been Tested for HIV



Females in Statutory Rape First Relationships are More Likely to Cohabit or Marry at an Early Age

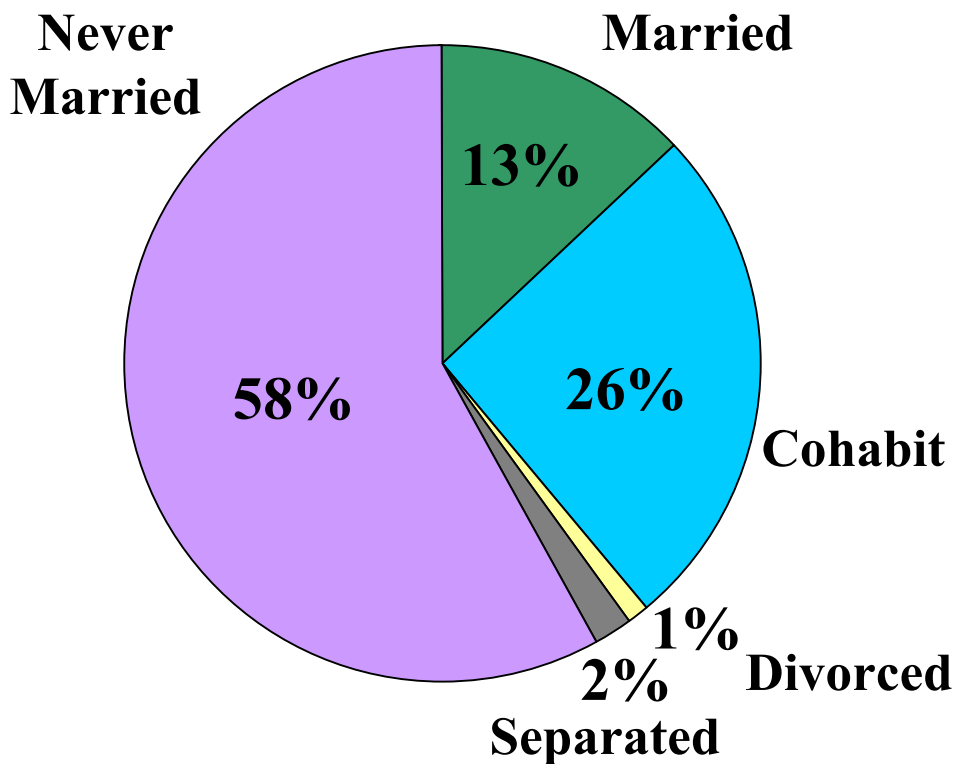


Statutory Rape

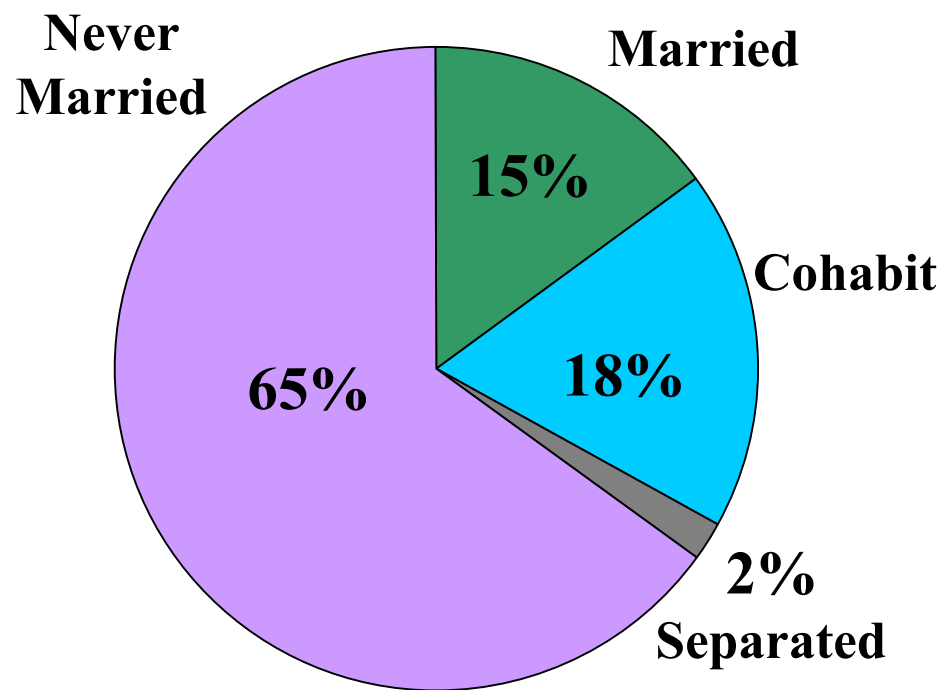


Other Sexually Experienced

Males in Statutory Rape First Relationships are More Likely to Cohabit at an Early Age



Statutory Rape



Other Sexually Experienced

Conclusions

Q1. What is the prevalence of statutory rape?

- Statutory rape remains a critical issue, affecting 13% of females and 5% of males at first sex.

Q2. Has the prevalence of statutory rape been increasing over time?

- There was no significant change in the overall incidence of statutory rape among females at first sex between 1995 and 2002.

Conclusions

Q3. What individual and family factors are associated with statutory rape?

- The youngest sexually experienced teens are most likely to experience statutory rape at first sex.
- Family risks are associated with statutory rape.

Conclusions

- Q4. How do characteristics of statutory rape relationships and partners differ from other sexual relationships?
- Teens are more likely to meet statutory rape partners outside of their usual social networks.
 - Statutory rape partners are more likely to be behind in school.
 - Statutory rape partners are more likely to be casual partners.

Conclusions

Q5. Is statutory rape linked to other adolescent behaviors?

Although causality is not determined, statutory rape is linked to:

- negative health outcomes
- lower educational attainment
- risky sexual behaviors and teen childbearing
- earlier union formation



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