

What's Love (And Men) Got to Do With It: Pregnancy and HIV Prevention

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Overall Conclusions

- Need to integrate male partners of young women in prevention of HIV/STDs and promotion of maternal-child health
- Need to focus on relationships in addition to condom use
- Pregnancy and the early postpartum period is a window of opportunity for HIV/STD prevention for both young women and their male partners

Presentation Objectives

- Epidemiological Overview
 - HIV/STDs Among Young Women
 - Impact of Adolescent Pregnancy
 - Role of Male Partners
- Program of Research: Relationships and Sexual Risk of Adolescent Mothers and their Male Partners
 - Influence of Couple's Condom Attitudes on Sexual Risk
 - Relationship Dissolution & STDs
 - Attachment and Sexual Risk Behavior
- Integrating Male Partners in Prevention

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Young Women & HIV

- Half of newly infected HIV cases occur among those ≤ 25 years old¹
- Young heterosexual women are increasingly at risk for HIV/STD due to biological, social, and behavioral factors²
 - Male to female transmission 8x than female to male
 - 85% of women's net risk comes from their primary male partner
 - Past and present risk of partners often unknown

Including Men in Prevention

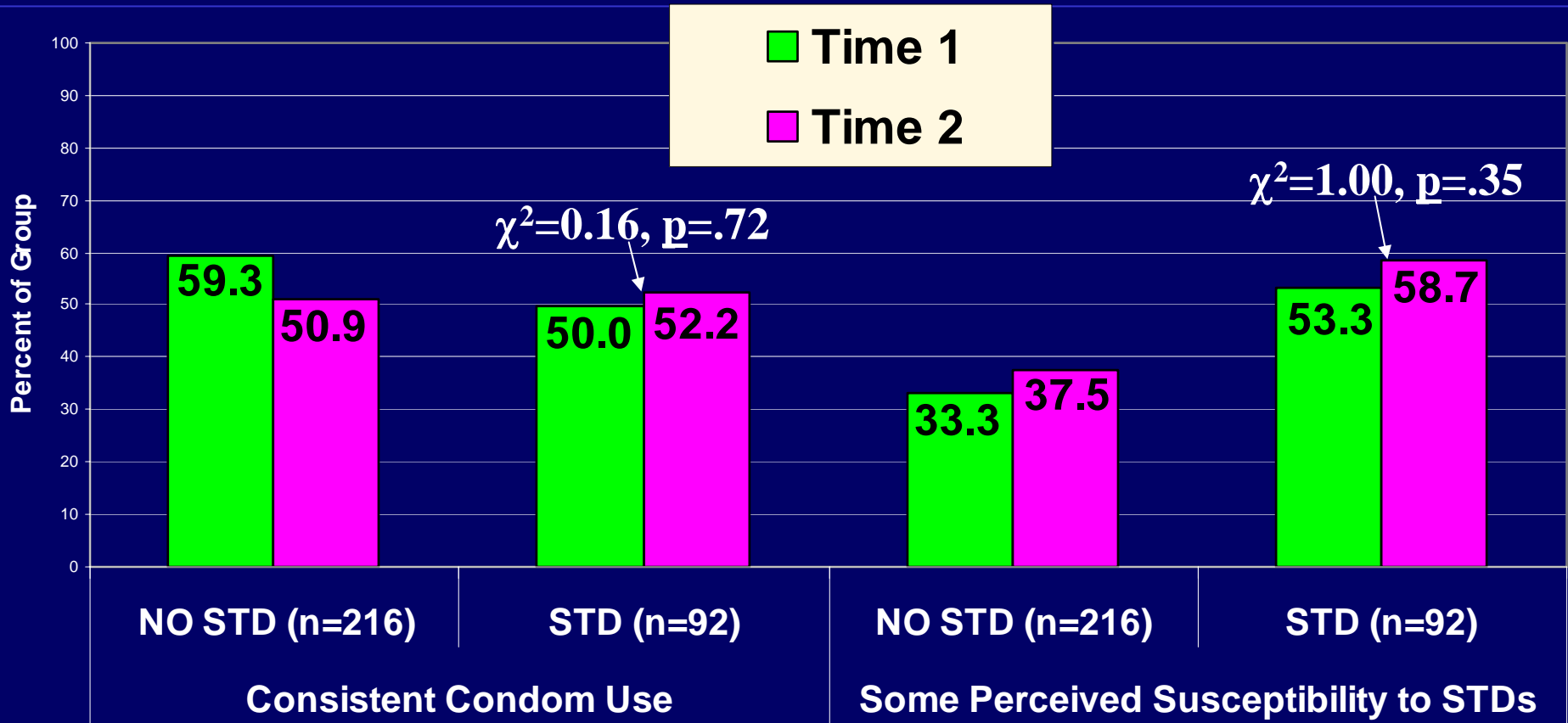
- Many prevention studies targeting heterosexual populations focus on women, fewer include men¹
 - 90% include women vs. 47% include men
 - 10% exclusively targeted men
- Important to include men because:
 - Infrequently access health care
 - Men's behavior puts self and partner at risk
 - Sex occurs in interpersonal context
 - Need to include general populations of men

¹ Logan et al, 2002

A “Window of Opportunity” for Prevention

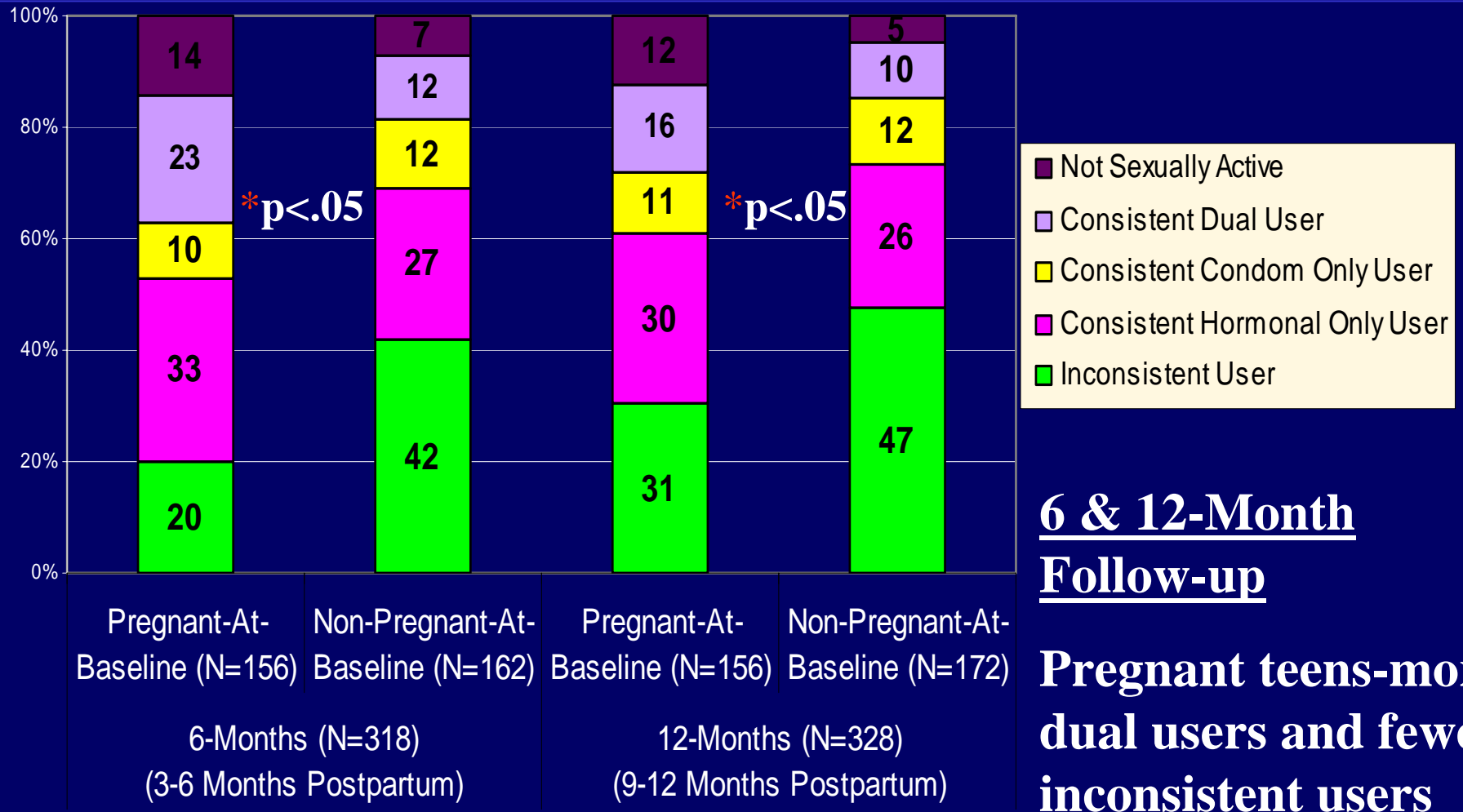
- Pregnancy among adolescents and young women common
 - >900,000 adolescents become pregnant each year¹
 - Over 80% are unintended pregnancies
- Frequent contact with health care providers
- Behavior change during pregnancy
- Motivated to have healthy pregnancy and child
- STDs vs. Pregnancy as a motivator for change

Incident STD: No Change in Condom Use and Perceived Susceptibility



***No significant change within and between groups**

Pregnancy: Increase in Hormonal Contraception and Dual-Use



¹Kershaw et al., 2003, Journal of Adolescent Health

A “Window of Opportunity” for Prevention

- STDs vs. Pregnancy as motivator to change
 - STD not enough to motivate adolescents to change behavior
 - Pregnancy leads to positive reproductive health changes
 - Pregnancy as a potential “window of opportunity” for intervention

Pregnant Young Women at Risk for STDs and HIV

- Behavioral:
 - history of poor contraceptive use
 - more sexual risk factors
 - engage in unprotected sex during pregnancy
- Psychosocial:
 - negative attitudes toward using condoms
 - poor negotiation skills
 - inaccurate risk perceptions
- Epidemiological:
 - high rates of STD history
 - high rates of STDs during pregnancy
 - high rates of STDs postpartum

Role of Male Partners of Young Mothers

- Few studies have focused on male partners
- Viewed as “negative and negligible”
- Involvement decreases over postpartum period
- Male partners have an influence on:
 - Well-being of adolescent mother
 - Well-being of child
 - Sexual risk of mother

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Sample Description

- 203 pregnant and 209 non-pregnant adolescent women
 - Nulliparous, Aged 14-19, sexually active, HIV -
- Average age = 17.3 ± 1.5
- 44% African-American and 42% Hispanic
- High-risk population:
 - Average age at first intercourse = 14.5
 - 38% previously pregnant
 - 30% history STD

Methods

- **Design**: Longitudinal study:
 - Baseline
 - Third trimester of pregnancy (pregnant) or following a clinic visit for gynecologic care (non-pregnant)
 - 6-month follow-up
 - 12-month follow-up
 - 18-month follow-up
- **Sites**: 10 public health clinics in 3 CT cities
- **Enrollment**: June 1998 – March 2000
- **Data Collection**: Interview & STD testing

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Couple's Condom Attitudes on Sexual Risk: Background

- Sexual risk behavior occurs in the context of a relationship—we must look at both members of the relationship to determine how risk occurs
- Few studies have looked at the influence of condom attitudes of both adolescent mothers and their male partners on sexual risk behavior

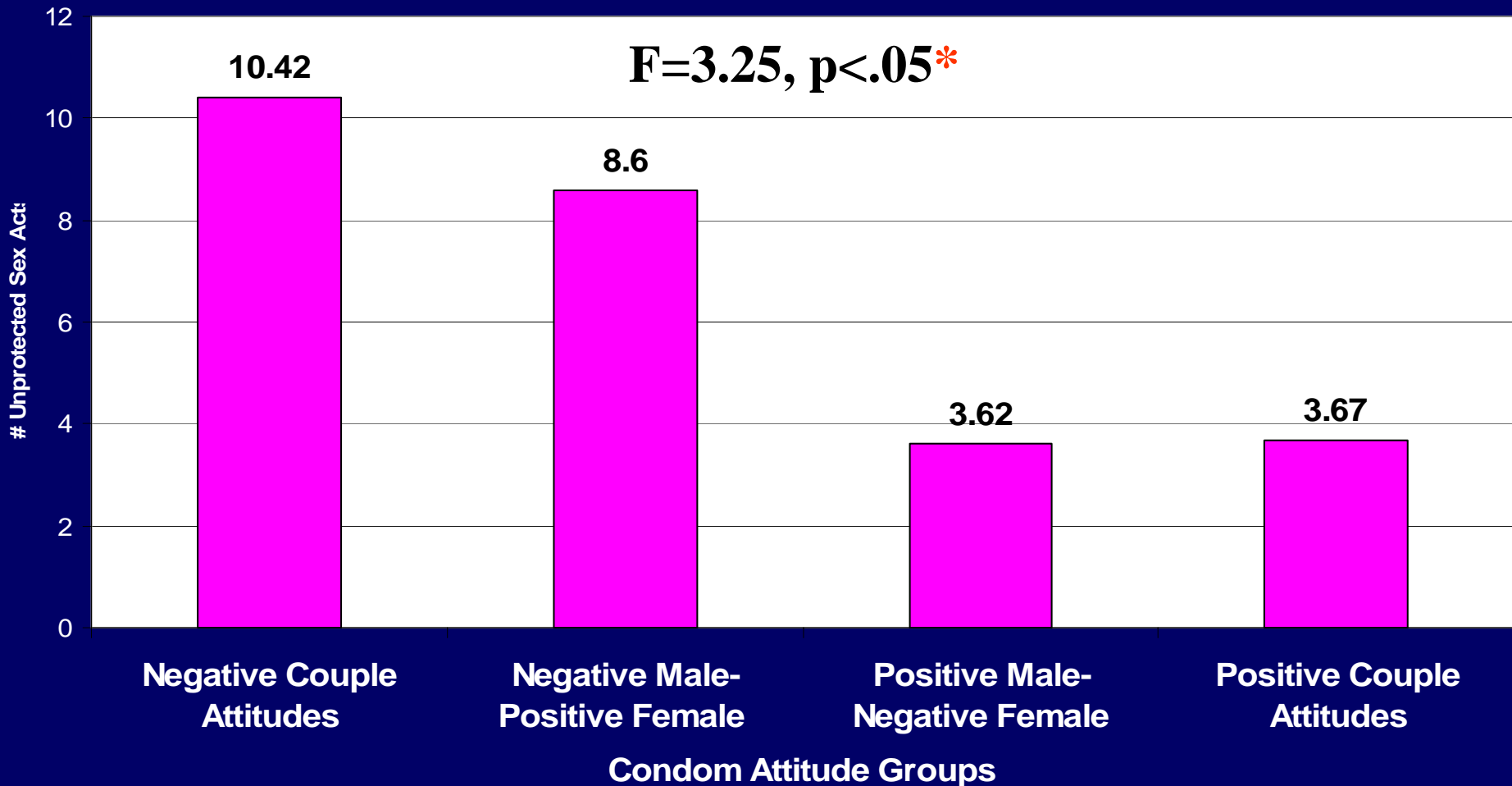
Couple's Condom Attitudes on Sexual Risk: Study Sample

- 50 adolescent mothers and their male partners
 - Subset of pregnant sample referred a partner for interview at the Time 3 or 4 follow-up
 - Matched nearest interviews
 - Male partners were approximately 2 years older than participants (range -2 to 20 yrs older)

Couple's Condom Attitudes on Sexual Risk: Data Analysis

- Dependent Variable:
 - # unprotected intercourse acts past 30 days
- Predictor: Condom Attitude Group
 - Negative Couple Condom Attitudes
 - Negative Male and Positive Female
 - Positive Male and Negative Female
 - Positive Couple Attitudes
- Analysis: ANOVA

Unprotected Intercourse Occasions in Past 30 days by Couple's Condom Attitudes



Couple's Condom Attitudes on Sexual Risk: Conclusions

- Condom attitudes of male partners influence sexual risk behavior of adolescent mothers
- Prevention programs that only change attitudes of adolescent women may not be as successful as programs that target both partners

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Relationship Dissolution & STDs: Background

- Relationship dissolution among young couples is possible contributor to negative consequences of adolescent parenting
- Need to understand predictors of relationship dissolution and how dissolution influences STD risk
- Focus of dissolution literature has been on psychological predictors of dissolution

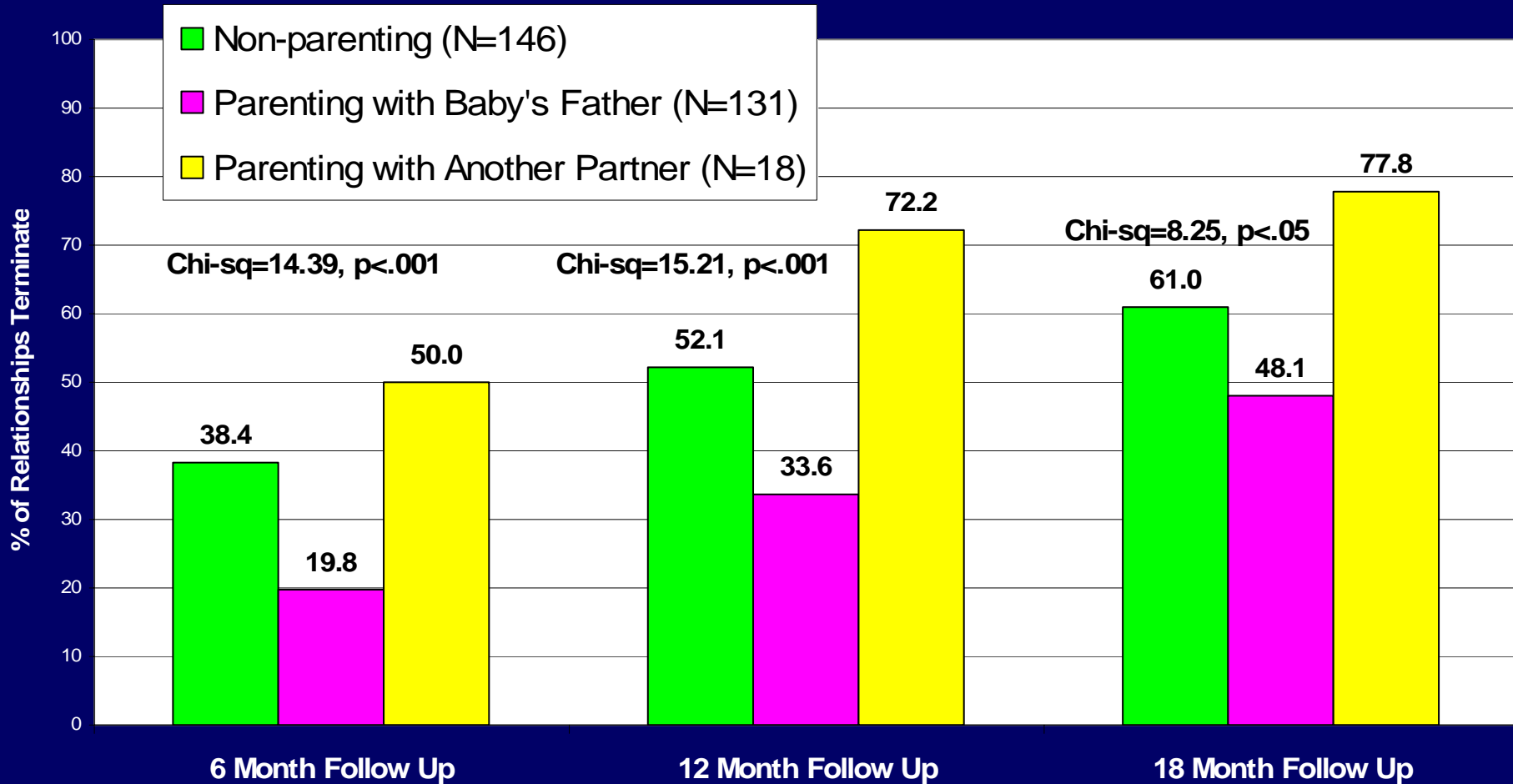
Relationship Dissolution & STDs: Study Sample

- 336 indicated having a current partner at baseline
 - 295 had valid data at least at 18-month interview
 - Broke participants into 3 relationship groups:
 - 146 non-parenting adolescents
 - 131 parenting adolescents with baby's father
 - 18 parenting adolescents with another partner

Relationship Dissolution & STDs: Data Analysis

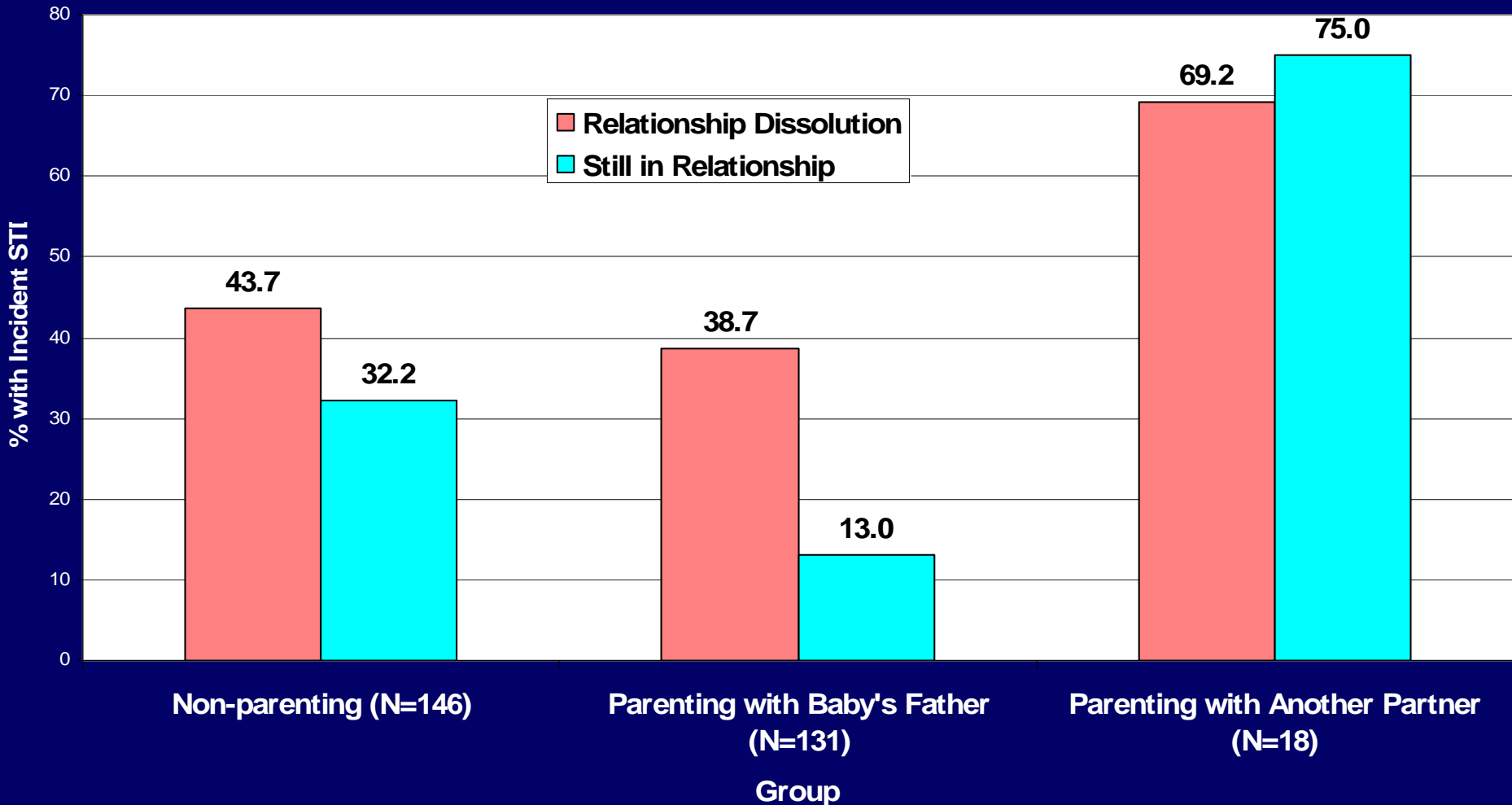
- Dependent Variable: Relationship Dissolution
- Secondary DVs: STD incidence
- Predictors:
 - Relationship Group
 - Non-parenting, Parenting w/ Baby's Father, Parenting w/ Another Partner
 - Individual
 - age, race, distress, self-esteem, age at sexual debut, past # partners
 - Relationship
 - Duration, contact frequency, importance of partner, pressure to have sex, emotional support, financial support
 - Partner
 - Age difference, partner risk
- Analysis: Chi-square and logistic regression

Relationship Dissolution



Relationship Dissolution and STD Acquisition

Significant Relationship Type X Dissolution Interaction, $p < .05$



Relationship Dissolution & STDs: Conclusions

- Male partners of adolescent mothers are not “negative and negligible”
 - More likely to stay with partner than male partners of non-parenting adolescents
 - Young couples may be motivated to maintain relationship for well-being of their child
 - Dissolution rates increase in late postpartum period
 - Pregnancy and early postpartum is a “window of opportunity” to reach male partners

Relationship Dissolution & STDs: Conclusions

- Adolescent mothers who remain with their partner had lowest STD rates
 - Stable and loving relationships may be protective
 - Incorporate “relationship strengthening” in HIV-prevention programs
 - Communication
 - Support
 - Mutual respect

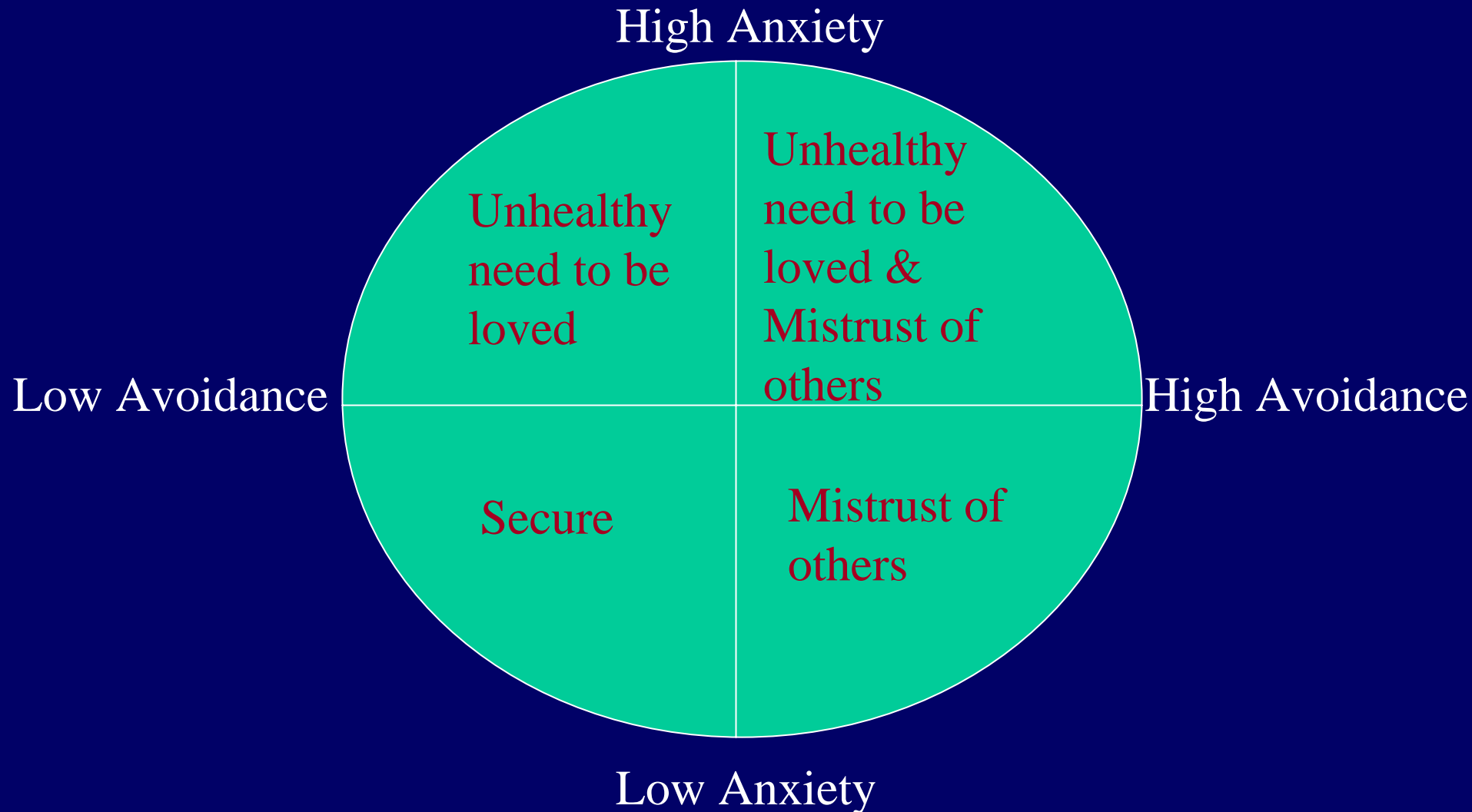
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Romantic Attachment and Sexual Risk: Background

- How young women think about relationships may contribute to their sexual risk behavior
- Romantic Attachment Theory

Romantic Attachment and Sexual Risk: Background



Romantic Attachment and Sexual Risk: Study Objective

Assess the influence of romantic attachment orientation on sexual risk beliefs, sexual risk behavior, and STIs above and beyond demographic variables.

Romantic Attachment and Sexual Risk: Study Sample

- 755 pregnant women from large RCT
 - 2 large hospital obstetrics and gynecology clinics
 - 80% African-American
 - 13% were Latina
 - Age: $M=20.4$ years ($SD=2.6$)
 - Gestational age at interview: $M=18$ weeks
 - 81% in current relationship
 - 70% with the father of the baby

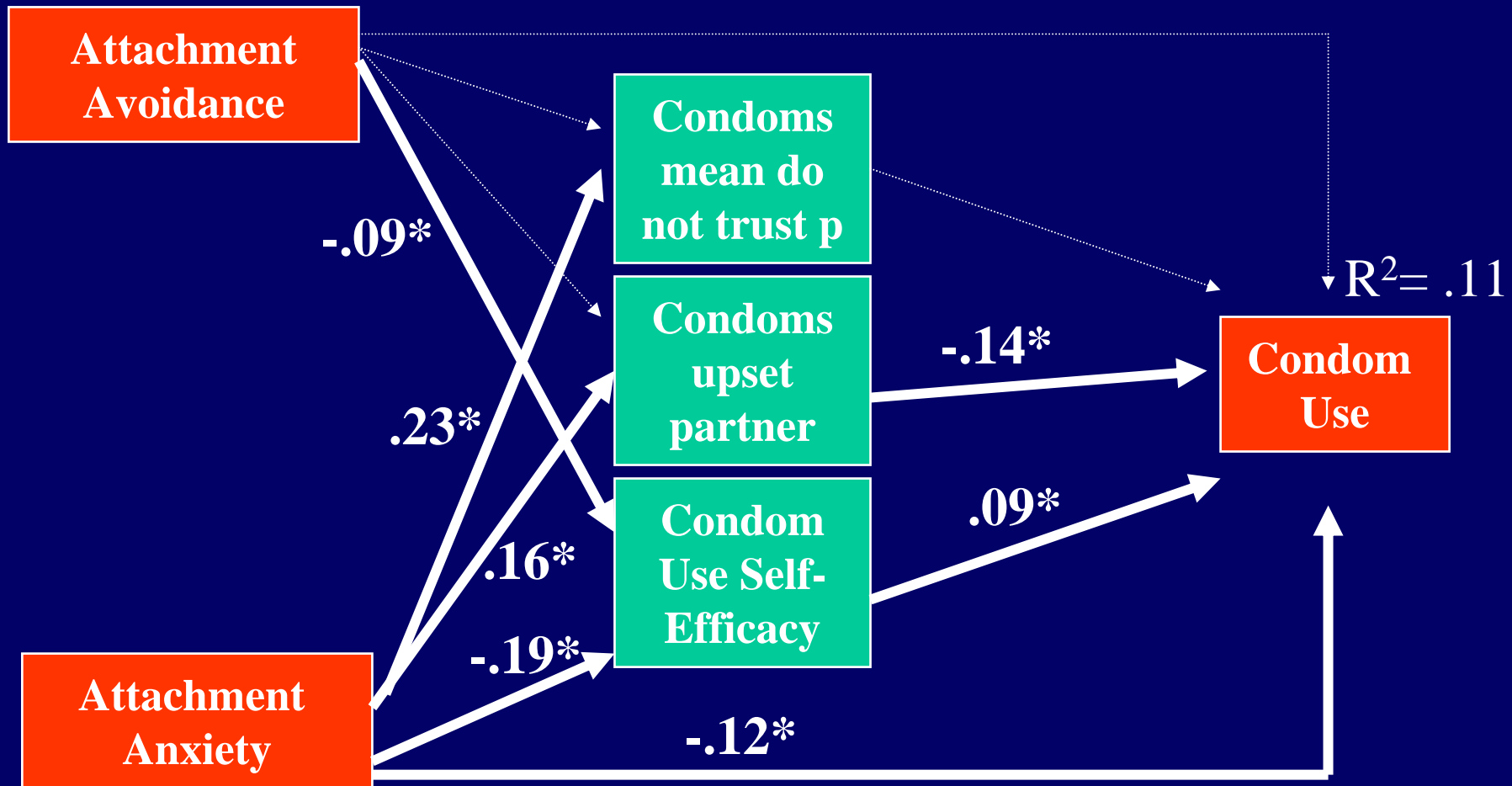
Romantic Attachment and Sexual Risk: Data Analysis

- Dependent Variables: Condom Use, Multiple Partners, Unprotected Sex with a Risky Partner, Self-reported STI
- Mediators:
 - Beliefs about condom use, condom use self-efficacy, type of relationship
- Primary Predictors:
 - Romantic Attachment: Avoidance and Anxiety
- Control Variables:
 - Age, race, education, employment, number of children, relationship duration
 - Analysis: Regression and logistic regression

Romantic Attachment and Sexual Risk: Results

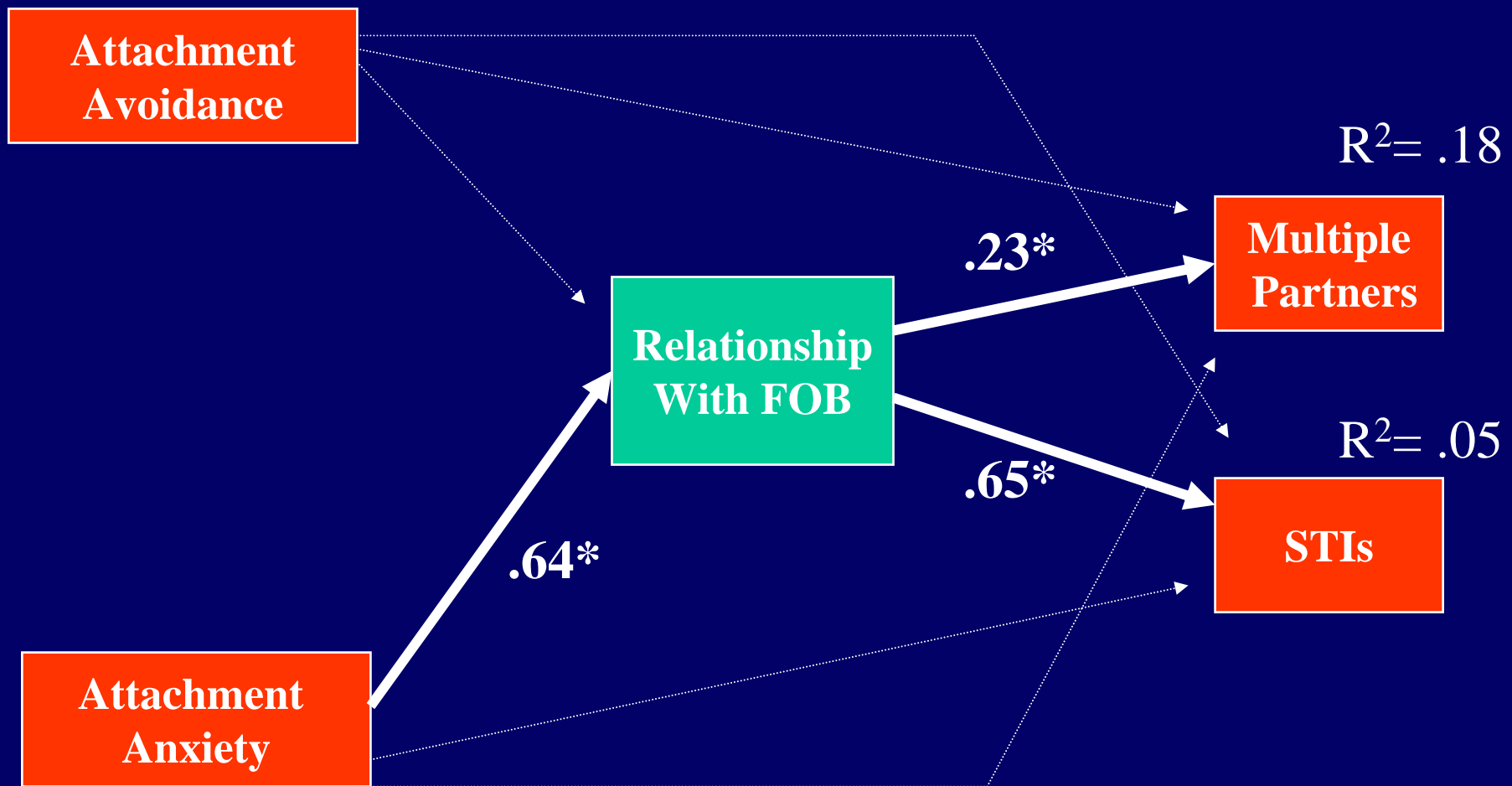
- Romantic attachment had direct effects on sexual risk beliefs
 - High levels of attachment avoidance were related to less condom use self-efficacy
 - High levels of attachment anxiety were related to beliefs that condoms mean you do not trust your partner, beliefs that condom use would upset your partner, and less condom use self-efficacy
 - Anxiety had stronger effects than avoidance

Regression of Attachment on Condom Use Percentage



Coefficients represent standardized Beta weights

Logistic Regression of Attachment on Multiple Partners and STIs



Coefficients represent Adjusted Odds Ratios

Romantic Attachment and Sexual Risk: Conclusions

- Attachment had direct or indirect effect on all 7 sexual risk beliefs and behaviors
 - Anxiety had more impact than avoidance
 - Anxiety had as big/bigger effect than traditional individual-level cognitive variables (beliefs and self-efficacy)
- Changing how individuals view relationships may lead to decreased sexual risk and may facilitate change of sex related beliefs and attitudes

Overall Conclusions

- Need to include male partners of young women in HIV/STD prevention programs
 - Male partners influence sexual risk behavior of women
 - Programs targeting only women uncover only half the story
- Need to focus on relationships in addition to condom use
- Pregnancy and the early postpartum period is a window of opportunity for HIV/STD prevention for both young women and their male partners

Future Directions

- Longitudinal descriptive study of 300 expectant fathers and their pregnant adolescent partners
 - Pregnancy to postpartum
 - Follow both men and women regardless of relationship status
 - Using Attachment Theory and Ecological Systems
 - Assess impact of attachment and relationship functioning on sexual risk and STIS

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