

Latent classes analyzed in a study of 9,441 males and females aged 26–32, and defining features of their members, Wave 4, National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health

Vaginal initiators/multiple behaviors

- Sixty-nine percent initiated vaginal sex first; none initiated a second behavior within the same year.
 - Average age at initiation was 15.7 years.
 - All went on to initiate a second type of behavior, typically, oral sex; 60% did so within two years.
 - Seven percent had anal sex before age 18.
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Dual initiators

- All initiated oral and vaginal sex within the same year.
 - Average age at initiation was 16.5 years.
 - None had anal sex before age 18.
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Postponers

- Eighty-five percent initiated oral and vaginal sex within the same year. The remainder initiated oral, vaginal and anal sex within the same year; initiated anal sex first; or initiated anal sex and vaginal or oral sex in the same year.
 - Average age at initiation was 21.7 years.
 - Fewer than 1% had anal sex before age 18.
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Vaginal initiators/single behavior

- Sixty-five percent initiated vaginal sex first.
 - Seventy-seven percent reported only one type of behavior.
 - Average age at initiation was 17.8 years.
 - Three percent had anal sex before age 18.
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Atypical/early initiators

- Sixty-four percent initiated oral and vaginal sex within the same year. The remainder initiated oral, vaginal and anal sex within the same year; initiated anal sex first; or initiated anal sex and vaginal or oral sex in the same year.
- All initiated anal sex before age 18.
- Average age at initiation was 15 years.

TABLE 1. Selected characteristics of a sample of respondents to Waves 1, 3 and 4 of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health

Characteristic	% (N=9,441)	Characteristic	% (N=9,441)
PERCENTAGES (WAVE 4)		PERCENTAGES (WAVE 4) continued	
Emerging sexual behavior class		Age	
Vaginal initiators/multiple behaviors	49.9	24–28	56.0
Dual initiators	31.5	≥29	44.0
Postponers	5.8	PERCENTAGES (WAVE 1)	
Vaginal initiators/single behavior	7.1	Gender	
Early/atypical initiators	5.6	Male	50.4
Lifetime STD diagnosis†		Female	49.6
No	77.5	Race/ethnicity	
Yes	22.5	White	67.6
STD diagnosis in past year‡		Black	14.7
No	90.9	Hispanic	11.1
Yes	9.1	Other	6.6
Concurrent sexual relationships in past year§		Parent education	
No	87.5	<high school	10.7
Yes	12.5	High school/GED	26.5
Exchanged sex for money in past year		Some college	30.2
No	98.3	College graduate	32.6
Yes	1.7	Family structure	
Childhood maltreatment		Two biological parents	60.4
No	70.0	Other two-parent family	16.7
Yes	30.0	Single parent	19.7
Forced sex		Other	3.3
No	92.9	Total	100.0
Yes	7.2	MEANS (WAVE 1)	
Coerced sex		Parent relationship quality (range, 4–20)	17.8 (0.05)
No	88.6	Substance use (range, 0–8)	1.6 (0.06)
Yes	11.4	Grade point average (range, 1–4)	2.8 (0.02)
		Perceived parent attitude toward sex (range, 1–5)	4.2 (0.03)
		Religiosity (range, 3–17)	11.3 (0.13)

†N=9,327. ‡N=9,309. §N=9,423. Notes: Descriptions of emerging sexual behavior classes can be found in the box on page 220. Wave 1 was conducted in 1994–1995 (when respondents were in grades 7–12), Wave 3 in 2001–2002 and Wave 4 in 2008. Data for childhood maltreatment come from Waves 3 and 4. Percentages and means are weighted to yield national probability estimates for youth in grades 7–12 in the 1994–1995 school year. Figures alongside means are standard errors.

TABLE 2. Percentage distribution of young adults, by selected sexual and reproductive health outcomes, according to emerging sexual behavior class

Outcome	Vaginal initiators/ multiple behaviors	Dual initiators	Postponers	Vaginal initiators/ single behavior	Early/ atypical initiators
Lifetime STD diagnosis***					
No	72.6	80.9	94.4	83.6	77.7
Yes	27.4	19.1	5.6	16.4	22.3
STD diagnosis in past year***					
No	89.1	92.1	97.1	93.0	91.1
Yes	10.9	7.9	2.9	7.0	8.9
Concurrent partners in past year***					
No	86.8	86.9	96.8	93.2	80.0
Yes	13.2	13.1	3.2	6.8	20.0
Exchanged sex for money in past year					
No	98.2	98.5	99.7	98.0	97.2
Yes	1.8	1.5	0.3	2.0	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

***Distribution of outcome differs significantly across classes at $p < .001$. Note: Descriptions of emerging sexual behavior classes can be found in the box on page 220. Percentages and means are weighted to yield national probability estimates for youth in grades 7–12 in the 1994–1995 school year.

TABLE 3. Odds ratios (and 95% confidence intervals) from logistic regression analyses examining associations between young adults' sexual and reproductive health outcomes and selected characteristics

Characteristic	Lifetime STD diagnosis (N=9,327)	STD diagnosis in past year (N=9,306)	Concurrent partners in past year (N=9,421)	Exchanged sex for money in past year (N=9,419)
Emerging sexual behavior class				
Vaginal initiators/multiple behaviors (ref)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Dual initiators	0.87 (0.74–1.03)	0.91 (0.71–1.16)	1.03 (0.84–1.26)	0.85 (0.51–1.43)
Postponers	0.23 (0.15–0.38)**	0.35 (0.20–0.61)**	0.27 (0.16–0.45)**	0.22 (0.08–0.61)**
Vaginal initiators/single behavior	0.44 (0.31–0.63)**	0.61 (0.38–0.96)*	0.43 (0.28–0.66)**	0.71 (0.30–1.66)
Early/atypical initiators	1.05 (0.75–1.45)	1.03 (0.67–1.59)	1.56 (1.03–2.36)*	1.37 (0.64–2.96)
Race/ethnicity				
White (ref)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Black	3.44 (2.79–4.24)**	1.90 (1.43–2.53)**	2.51 (1.97–3.21)**	3.94 (2.32–6.69)**
Hispanic	1.40 (1.07–1.83)*	1.68 (1.16–2.44)**	1.48 (1.11–1.97)**	1.90 (1.01–3.60)*
Other	1.17 (0.82–1.67)	0.95 (0.63–1.46)	0.97 (0.67–1.39)	1.42 (0.54–3.73)
Parent education				
<high school	0.83 (0.62–1.12)	0.66 (0.46–0.94)*	0.89 (0.65–1.21)	1.65 (0.89–3.04)
High school/GED	0.88 (0.74–1.04)	0.95 (0.76–1.19)	0.92 (0.73–1.17)	1.38 (0.82–2.32)
Some college	0.87 (0.72–1.04)	0.87 (0.65–1.15)	1.00 (0.78–1.28)	0.58 (0.30–1.10)
College graduate (ref)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Family structure				
Two biological parents (ref)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Other two-parent	0.96 (0.75–1.23)	0.79 (0.58–1.09)	1.15 (0.90–1.48)	0.70 (0.35–1.37)
Single parent	1.00 (0.82–1.21)	1.03 (0.81–1.32)	1.13 (0.91–1.40)	1.11 (0.65–1.90)
Other	1.01 (0.67–1.50)	1.01 (0.62–1.63)	1.26 (0.72–2.21)	0.45 (0.18–1.12)
Age				
24–28 (ref)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
≥29	0.79 (0.66–0.94)**	0.63 (0.50–0.79)**	0.74 (0.62–0.88)**	1.27 (0.76–2.12)
Male				
	0.31 (0.27–0.37)**	0.33 (0.26–0.41)**	2.68 (2.20–3.26)**	6.09 (3.20–11.59)**
Religiosity				
	0.99 (0.97–1.01)	1.00 (0.98–1.02)	0.99 (0.97–1.01)	1.02 (0.95–1.09)
Grade point average				
	0.93 (0.84–1.03)	0.92 (0.82–1.04)	0.88 (0.78–0.99)*	0.78 (0.54–1.12)
Parents' attitudes toward sex				
	0.86 (0.77–0.97)*	0.97 (0.86–1.08)	1.02 (0.90–1.17)	1.01 (0.68–1.51)
Substance use				
	1.09 (1.04–1.14)**	1.08 (1.02–1.15)**	1.08 (1.03–1.13)**	1.13 (0.99–1.29)
Coerced sex				
	1.46 (1.14–1.89)**	1.14 (0.85–1.54)	1.72 (1.26–2.36)**	1.24 (0.62–2.49)
Forced sex				
	1.47 (1.11–1.96)**	1.16 (0.80–1.70)	1.01 (0.63–1.62)	0.90 (0.32–2.52)
Childhood maltreatment				
	1.43 (1.24–1.65)**	1.45 (1.20–1.77)**	1.27 (1.05–1.55)*	2.26 (1.43–3.59)**
Parent relationship quality				
	0.96 (0.93–0.99)*	0.96 (0.93–1.00)*	0.97 (0.94–1.01)	0.96 (0.86–1.08)

*p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001. Notes: ref=reference category. Descriptions of emerging sexual behavior classes can be found in the box on page 220. ref=reference category. Gender, coerced sex, forced sex and childhood maltreatment are dichotomous measures. All other measures for which no reference category is shown are scaled.

FIGURE 1. Predicted probabilities of young adults' selected sexual and reproductive health outcomes, by emerging sexual behavior class, according to race and ethnicity

