this group, as well as a somewhat delayed onset of sexual initiation. There are no differences in reported pregnancy among females. As expected, most pregnancies were reported in the 10th grade survey.

Table 2 also shows sexual risk-taking behaviors that become increasingly frequent as youth get older. By 10th grade, more than half (54%) of sexually initiated males reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners, while less than one-fifth (18%) of females did so; ethnic differences within gender are not significant (not shown). Of those who reported having engaged in recent sex, the proportion who reported having a frequency of intercourse of more than once per month is similar for males and females (52% and 55%, respectively), although more males than females (26% vs. 18%) reported having been drunk or high during recent sex (p<.01). Hispanic females were somewhat more likely than blacks to report having been drunk or high during recent sex (24% vs. 17%) and having had four or more sexual partners (28% vs. 16%, not shown). There were no ethnic differences in these behaviors for males. Relatively small proportions of males and females (6% and 3%, respectively) reported ever forcing a partner to have sex. As with pregnancy, most of these reports occurred at 10th grade.

Table 3 narrows the focus to consider risk behaviors of sexually experienced 10th graders (N=564). For each gender, we show data for three subgroups: those who reported having had intercourse at baseline, those between the seventh grade and the end of the eighth grade, and those in 10th grade spring. The proportion of adolescents who at 10th grade had had four or more partners is much greater among those who had first intercourse at baseline than among those whose first intercourse was in 10th grade. Differences by timing, however, are not as large for reports of recent intercourse. Pregnancy, in particular, appears to be a substantial risk for those who initiated intercourse earliest. Timing is also associated with reports of frequent sex during the last three months. The same is true for reports by males of being drunk or high during recent sex. Inconsistent condom use, however, appears relatively constant for both genders regardless of the timing of initiation of sex.

Table 4 provides the odds ratios and confidence intervals for sexual risks at 10th grade by timing of initiation and gender; the figures are adjusted for race, ethnicity, and age. The likelihood of having four or more lifetime partners and of having been pregnant or having impregnated a partner are examined for those youth who reported sexual initiation by the 10th grade, as well as for the whole sample of 10th graders.

Overall, among all 10th graders, those who had initiated sex by spring of eighth grade were more than four times as likely as all other 10th graders to have had four or more sex partners (odds ratio, 4.1). Among sexually experienced 10th graders, the earlier the timing of first intercourse, the greater the likelihood of having had multiple partners at 10th grade. For example, those who reported sexual experience in fall of seventh grade (at baseline) were more than twice as likely as those who abstained through the end of middle school to have had four or more sex partners by 10th grade (odds ratio, 2.2). Similarly, there is a dose-response relationship between timing of initiation and reports of pregnancy: Delaying sexual onset appears to reduce the risk of involvement in a pregnancy, even if only from early seventh grade (odds ratio, 2.1) until later in middle school (1.5).

In contrast to number of partners and pregnancy experience, reports of recent sex showed no relationship to the timing of initiation among those who were sexually experienced. However, among youth who reported recent sex, timing was associated with frequency. Both those who had had sex at baseline and those who initiated intercourse in seventh or eighth grade were more likely than those who did so in early high school to report frequent intercourse (odds ratios, 2.0 and 1.7, respectively). Youth who were sexually experienced at baseline (but not those whose first intercourse came later in seventh grade or in eighth grade) were also more likely to have forced a partner to have sex (2.4); those having had intercourse in the last three months were more likely to have been drunk or high during recent sex (1.9). Inconsistent condom use, however, did not vary by timing of initiation. This proportional measure of condom use masks the fact that those whose first intercourse came at early ages are likely to engage in more unprotected intercourse because they are engaging in more frequent intercourse, and thus are at increased risk of HIV and other STDs, as well as pregnancy.

Age is not significantly associated with any of the outcomes after controlling for gender, ethnicity, race and timing of sexual initiation. There are also no differences by year of enrollment. In these analyses, ethnicity and race are significantly associated with one outcome: inconsistent condom use. In contrast, gender remains significant for several of the 10th grade outcomes. Males are about four times as likely as females to report having had four or more partners, while females are about four times as likely as males to report being involved in a teenage pregnancy and are about half as likely to say they used condoms regularly. Among those with sexual experience, gender is not significantly associated with recent or frequent intercourse, with being drunk or high during sex, or with forcing someone to have sex. The interactions of gender by timing of initiation were examined for each of the reported outcomes and are not significant.

As a final step, we considered whether inconsistencies in the reporting of sexual initiation influence outcomes. While some level of inconsistent reporting is found in