or residuals of parental monitoring, peer risk involvement and sexual risk behaviors were also included in the model.

The final analytic step extended the latent growth curve model by examining simultaneous associations of changes in peer risk involvement and parental monitoring and effects of initial levels and growth rates of peer risk involvement and parental monitoring on sexual risk behavior at Time 4; the model was run separately for males and females. Structural equation modeling and latent growth curve modeling analyses were performed using Mplus 7.

Standardized regression coefficients for all paths were estimated using robust maximum likelihood estimation. Missing data were handled using the full information maximum likelihood method. Goodness of model fit was assessed by calculating the ratio of chi-square to degrees-of-freedom ($\chi^2$/df), root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA), Bentler’s comparative fit index (CFI) and Tucker-Lewis index (TLI). Acceptable model fit was determined by an RMSEA less than 0.08, values of CFI and TLI greater than 0.90, and a $\chi^2$/df ratio less than 3.46,47 Path coefficients were considered significant at $\alpha<0.05$.

RESULTS

Descriptive Findings

At baseline (Time 1), 99% of youth were of African descent, and the mean age of respondents was 14.5 years (range, 13–17 years). At Time 1, 30% of males and 16% of females reported having had sexual intercourse in the last six months; at Time 4, those figures were 46% and 34%, respectively (Table 1, page 92). The proportion of youth with multiple sex partners in the last six months increased among male youth (from 15% at baseline to 24% at Time 4), but re-