

Leveraging a Research, Policy, and Practitioner Partnership to Promote Adolescent Sexual Health in New York State

Amanda Purington

Jane Powers

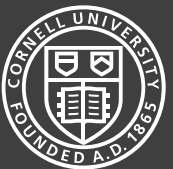
Heather Wynkoop-Beach

ACT for Youth Center for
Community Action

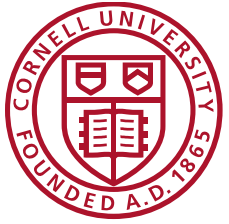
Cornell University

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Conference

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Bronfenbrenner Center
for Translational Research

Mission

To strengthen and speed the connection between cutting-edge research and the design, evaluation, and implementation of programs and policies that enhance human development, health, and well being.





Funded by NYS Department of Health

- Technical assistance (TA)
- Training
- Evaluation and research
- Disseminate information on current research and best practice
 - Website
 - Update
 - Publications

www.actforyouth.net

Answering
Questions
for the NYS
DOH

From existing research

From youth

From programs

Teen pregnancies in NYS have been declining...

... but youth STI rates are increasing.

https://webbi1.health.ny.gov/SASStoredProcess/guest?_program=%2FEBI%2FPHIG%2Fapps%2Fchir_dashboard%2Fchir_dashboard&p=str&ind_id=Fb13

https://webbi1.health.ny.gov/SASStoredProcess/guest?_program=%2FEBI%2FPHIG%2Fapps%2Fchir_dashboard%2Fchir_dashboard&p=str&ind_id=Gg47

Why?

Study questions

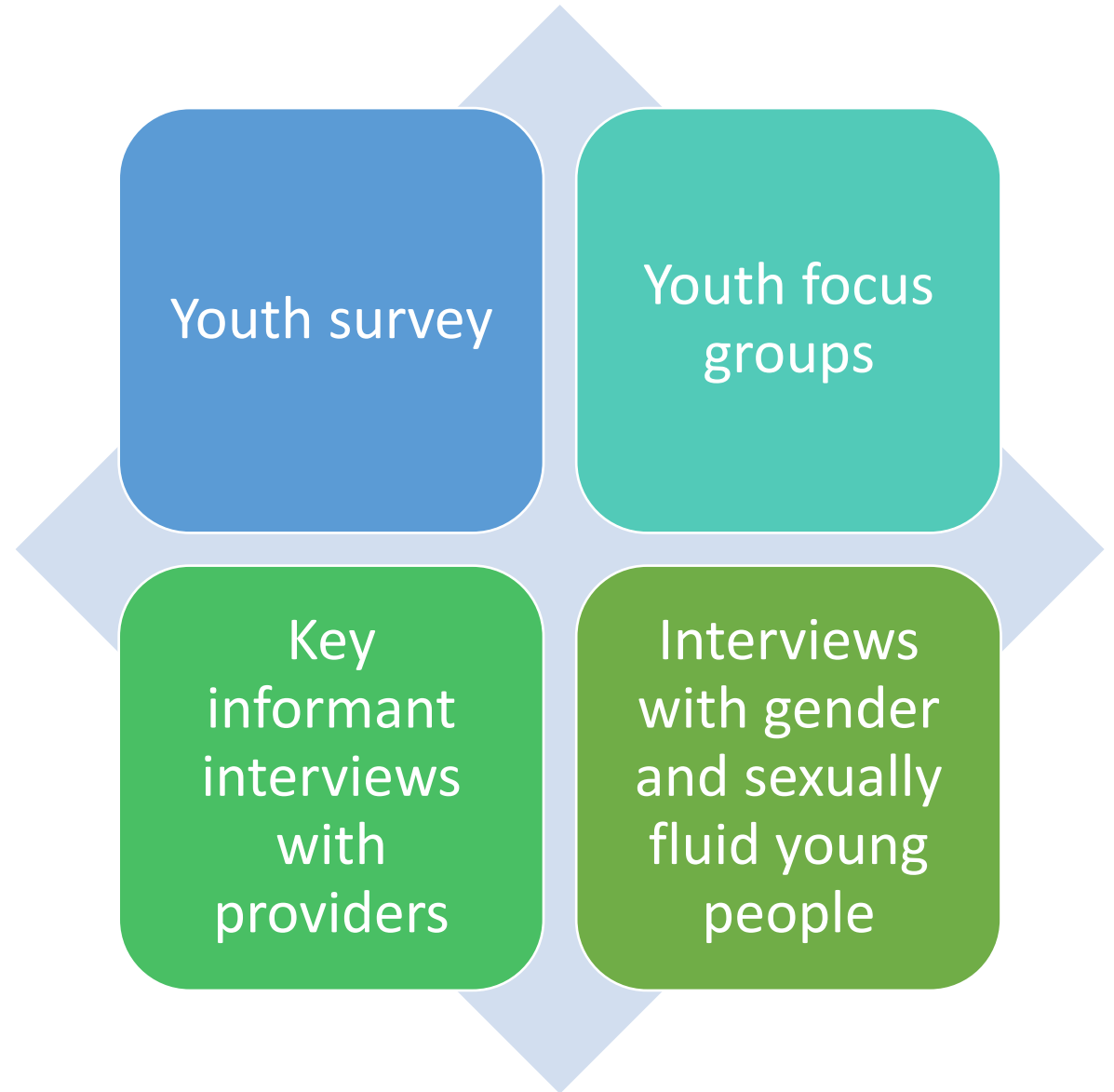
Where do young people get sexual & reproductive health care?

What are youth attitudes about youth sexual relationships?

What are youth perceptions of the need for risk reduction behaviors?

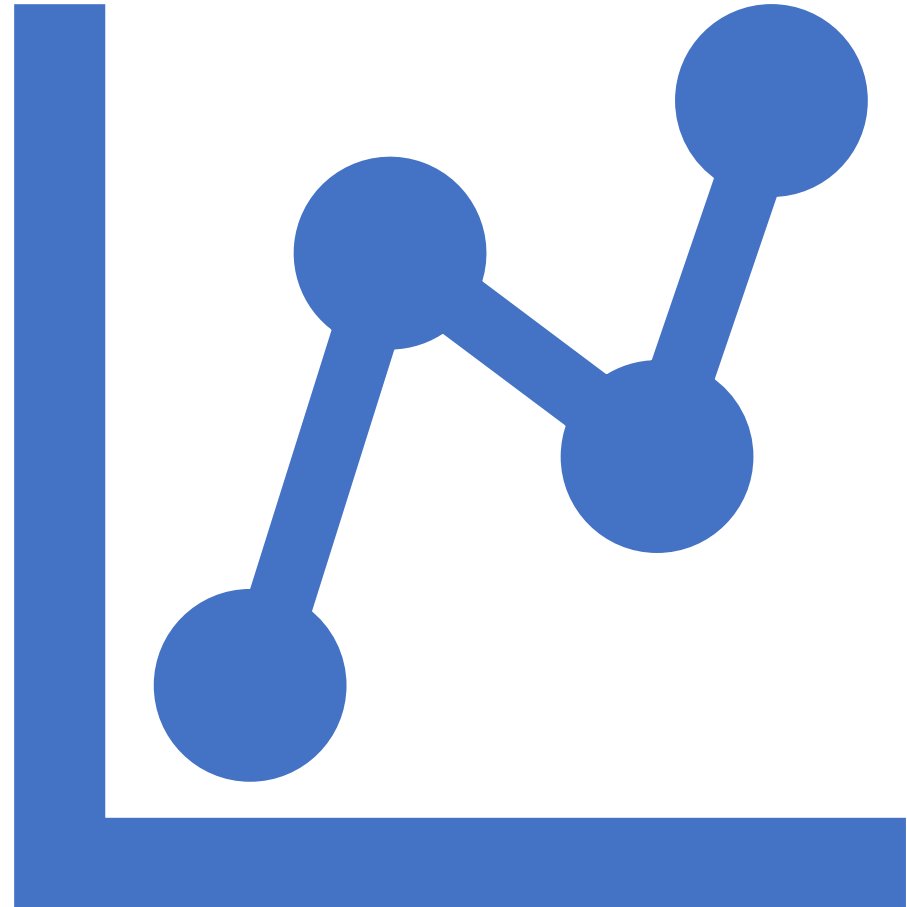
What explanations do young people and sexual health education & care providers give for why teen pregnancies are decreasing while youth STIs are increasing?

Methodology



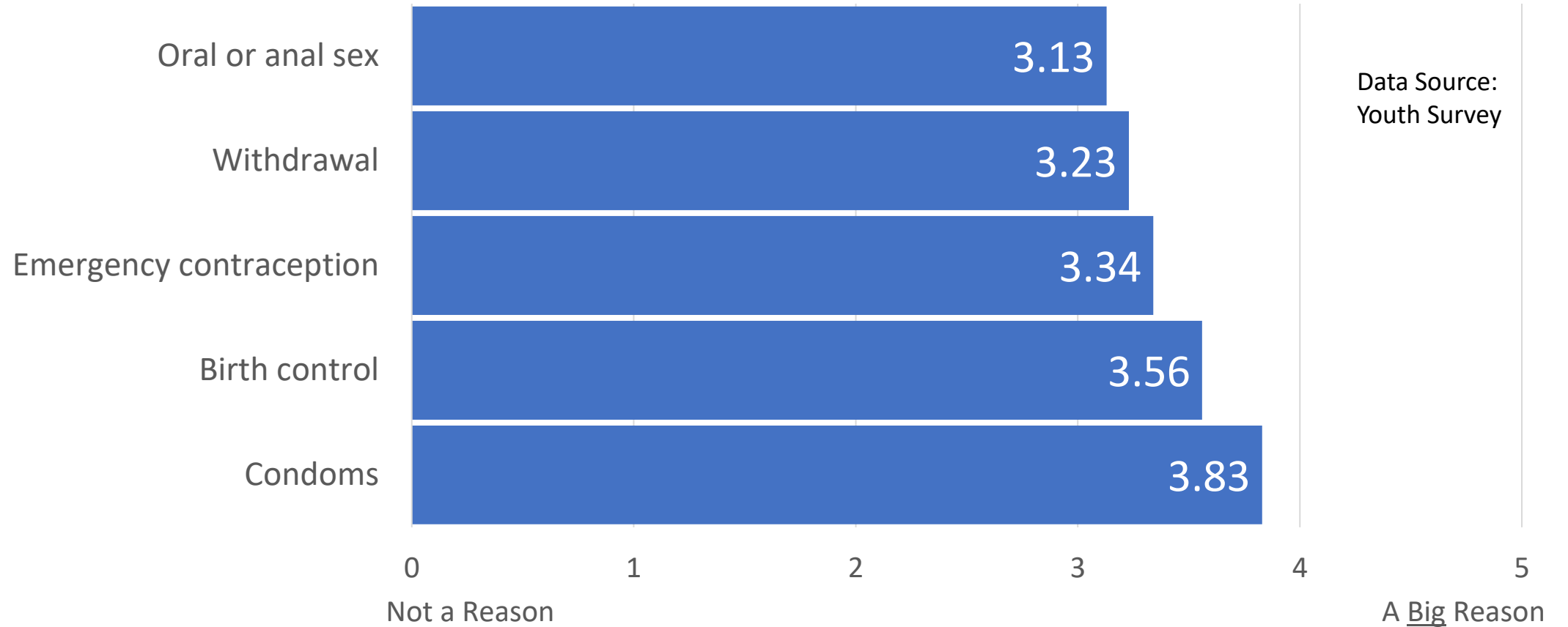
Results

Surveys, Focus
Groups, Interviews



Why is teen pregnancy
decreasing?

Top 5 Reasons



Focus group respondents said teen pregnancy is decreasing because of...

...education and awareness.

...greater access and less stigma.

...other activities.

...other priorities.

...oral and anal sex?

Focus group respondents said teen pregnancy is decreasing because of...

“Sending pictures instead...”

...education and awareness.

...greater access and less sti

...other activities.

...other priorities

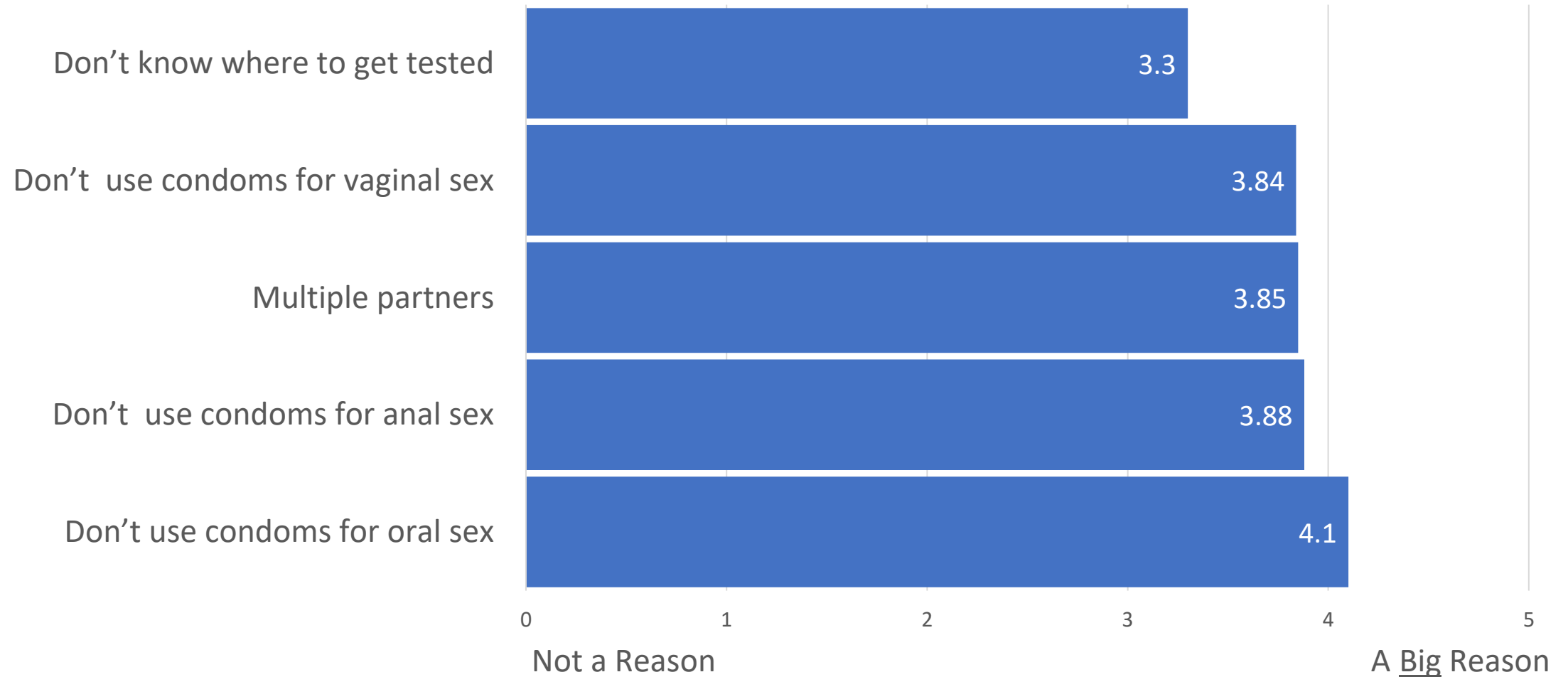
...oral and a

“There are other things to do – rather play video games than have sex.”

“Phones – you can do everything on your phone. Don't even find the appeal in sex... because [they're] having fun online.”

Why are youth STIs increasing?

Increasing Youth STDs: Top 5 Reasons



Focus group respondents said youth STIs are increasing because...



Youth STIs are increasing because... people don't use condoms.

“[People don't use condoms] especially for oral and anal.”

“[They are] more focused on preventing pregnancy, not STIs.”

“[They use] PReP and PEP [and] they think they're already protected.”

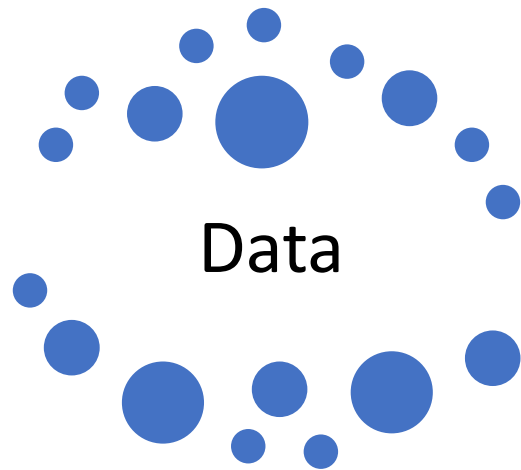
“Don't like the feel of the condom.”

Provider Interviews

Teen pregnancy is decreasing
while youth STIs are increasing
because...



- Pregnancy prevention efforts have been successful, but to the exclusion of STI prevention.
- Longer-term contraception is more accepted and available.
- Birth control is accessible, & STIs aren't scary.
- Decreased pregnancy concerns leads to lax condom use.
- STI stigma means we don't talk about them.
- Not all STIs have advocates.



Synthesis &
Dissemination



- Youth Surveys
- Youth Focus Groups & Interviews
- Practitioner Interviews

Inform new initiatives: Adolescence to Adulthood

- Work with young people at earlier ages, before high school;
- Discuss alternatives to sex;
- Make resources more visible in the community;
- Help parents talk to their preteen youth
- Educate caring adults such as mentors, relatives, and other adults to support youth

Inform new initiatives: Adolescent Sexual Health

- Incorporate evidence-based programming
- Improve access to services
- Increase capacity of healthcare providers to better serve adolescents
- Mobilize skills and assets of adolescents and supportive adults
- Use new technologies to provide info and improve services

From Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention RFA (1007301230)



Questions?

Amanda Purington ald17@cornell.edu