

# HISPANIC TEENS

## AND COMMUNICATION ABOUT SEX AND CONTRACEPTION

Let's Talk!

### BY AGE 20

24% of Hispanic females will have a birth



compared with 10% of white females 21% of black females<sup>1</sup>

MOST OF THESE BIRTHS ARE UNINTENDED<sup>2</sup>

## BUT

TEENS WHO COMMUNICATE OPENLY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH PARENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE OLDER WHEN THEY FIRST HAVE SEX, AND USE CONTRACEPTION<sup>3</sup>

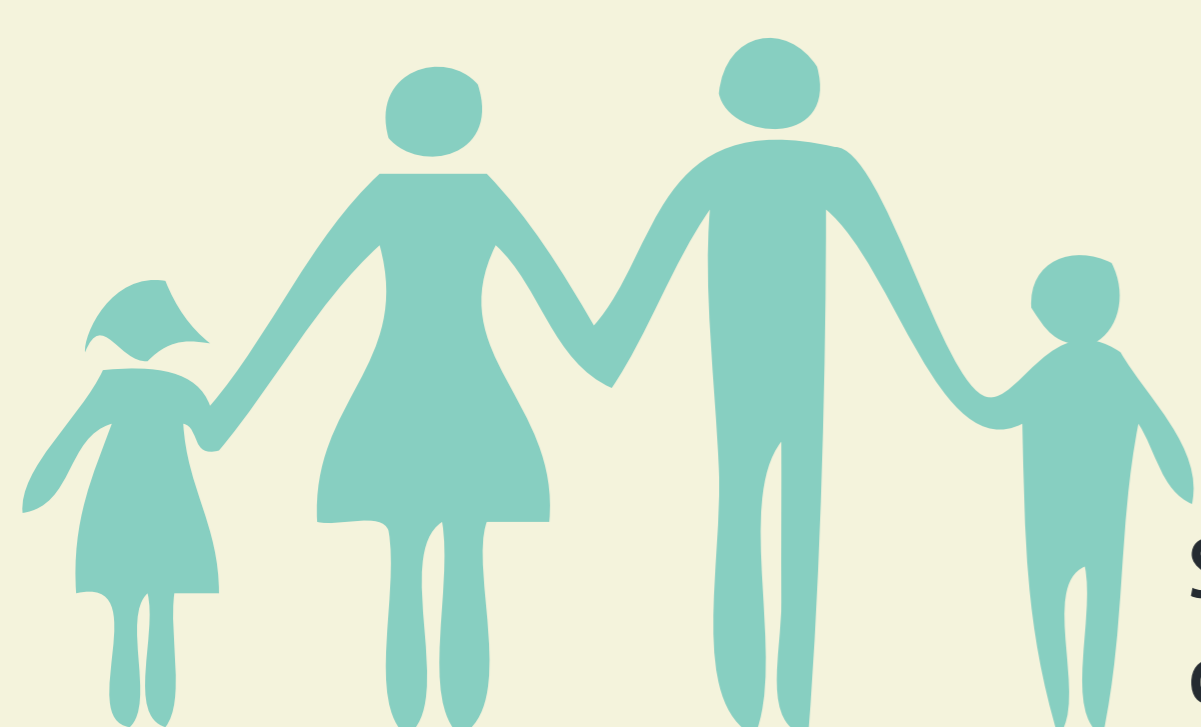
WHAT PUTS TEENS AT RISK OF PREGNANCY?



Having sex



Not using contraception

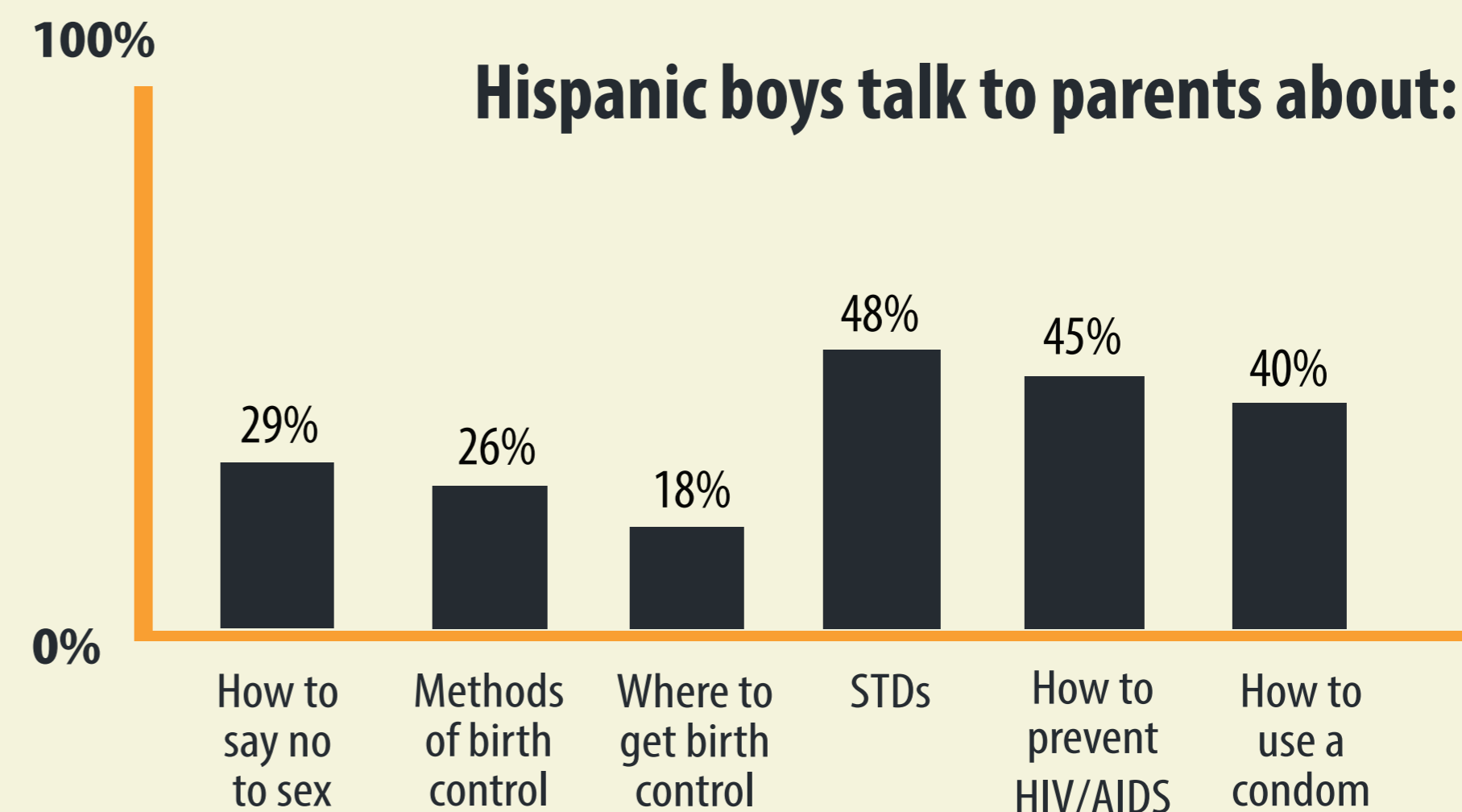
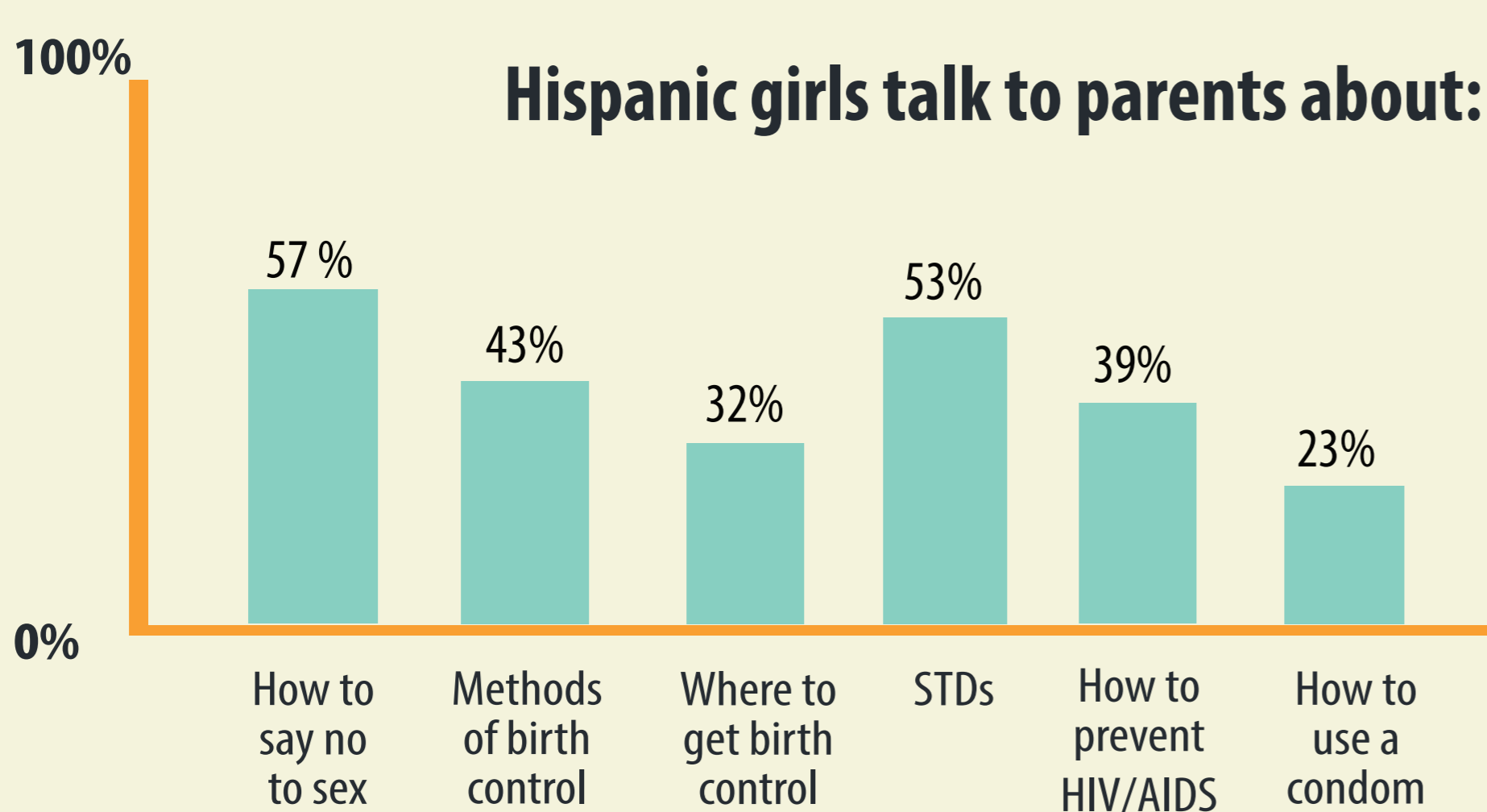
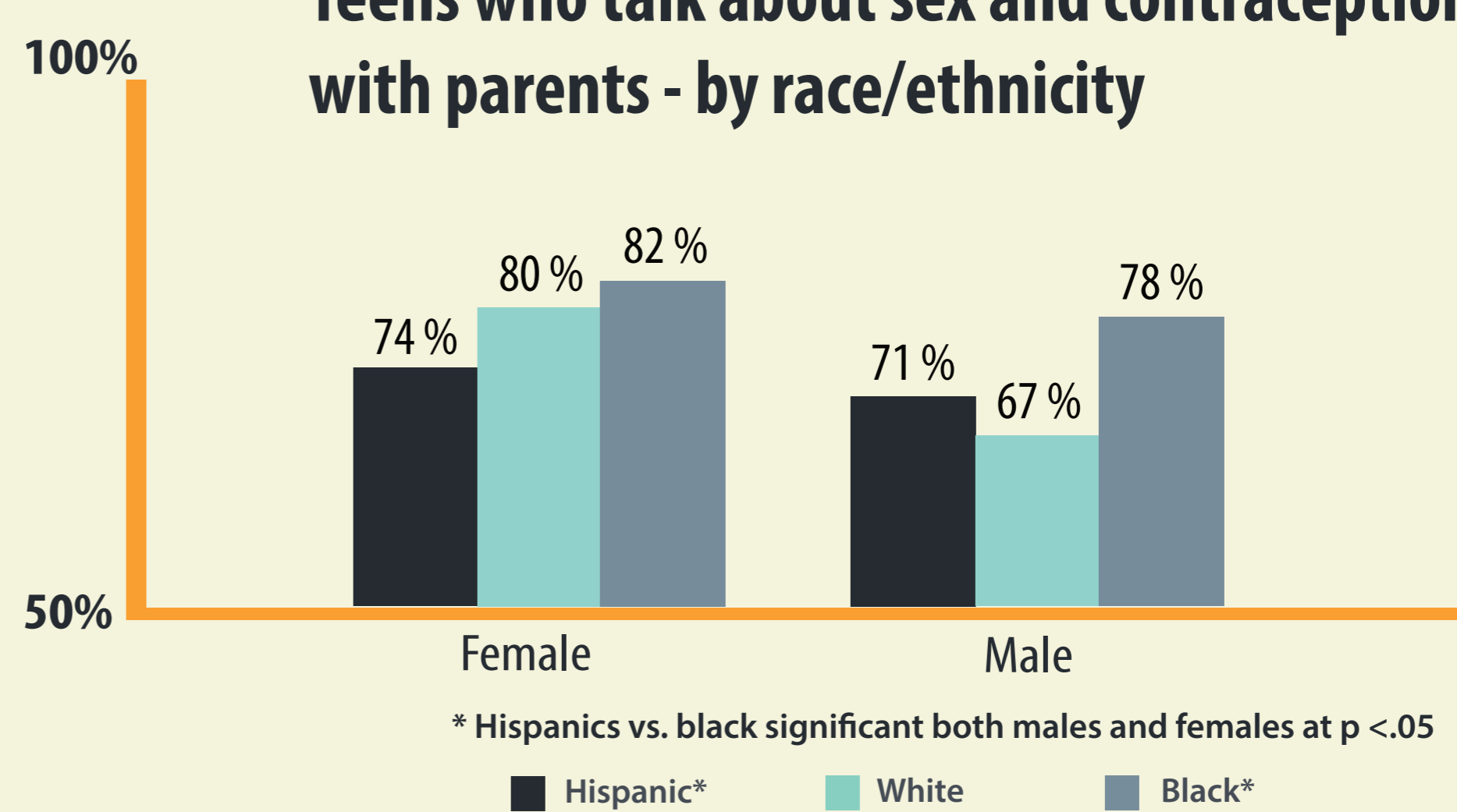


Strong family communication skills can get passed on to children...

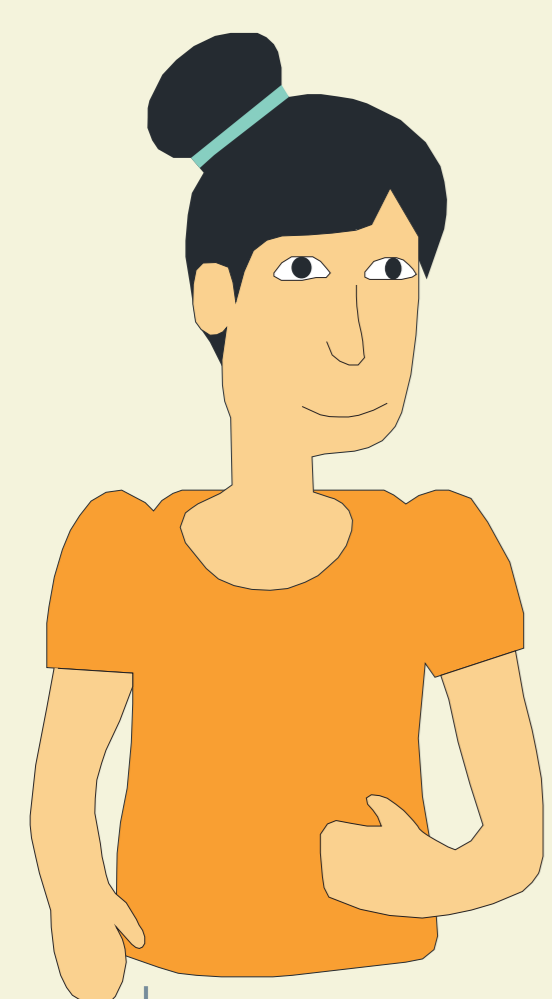
...who tend to have more effective communication within their own relationships<sup>4</sup>



Teens who talk about sex and contraception with parents - by race/ethnicity

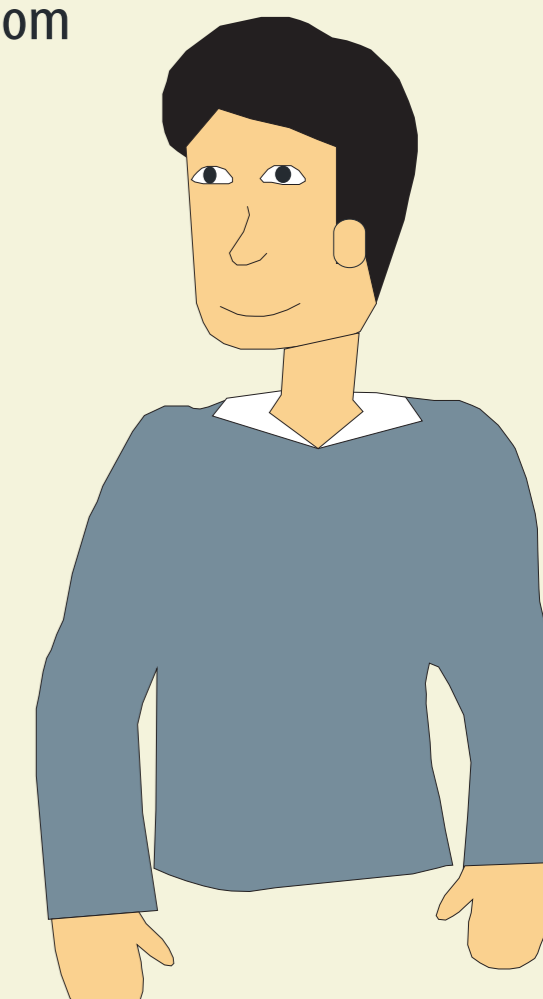
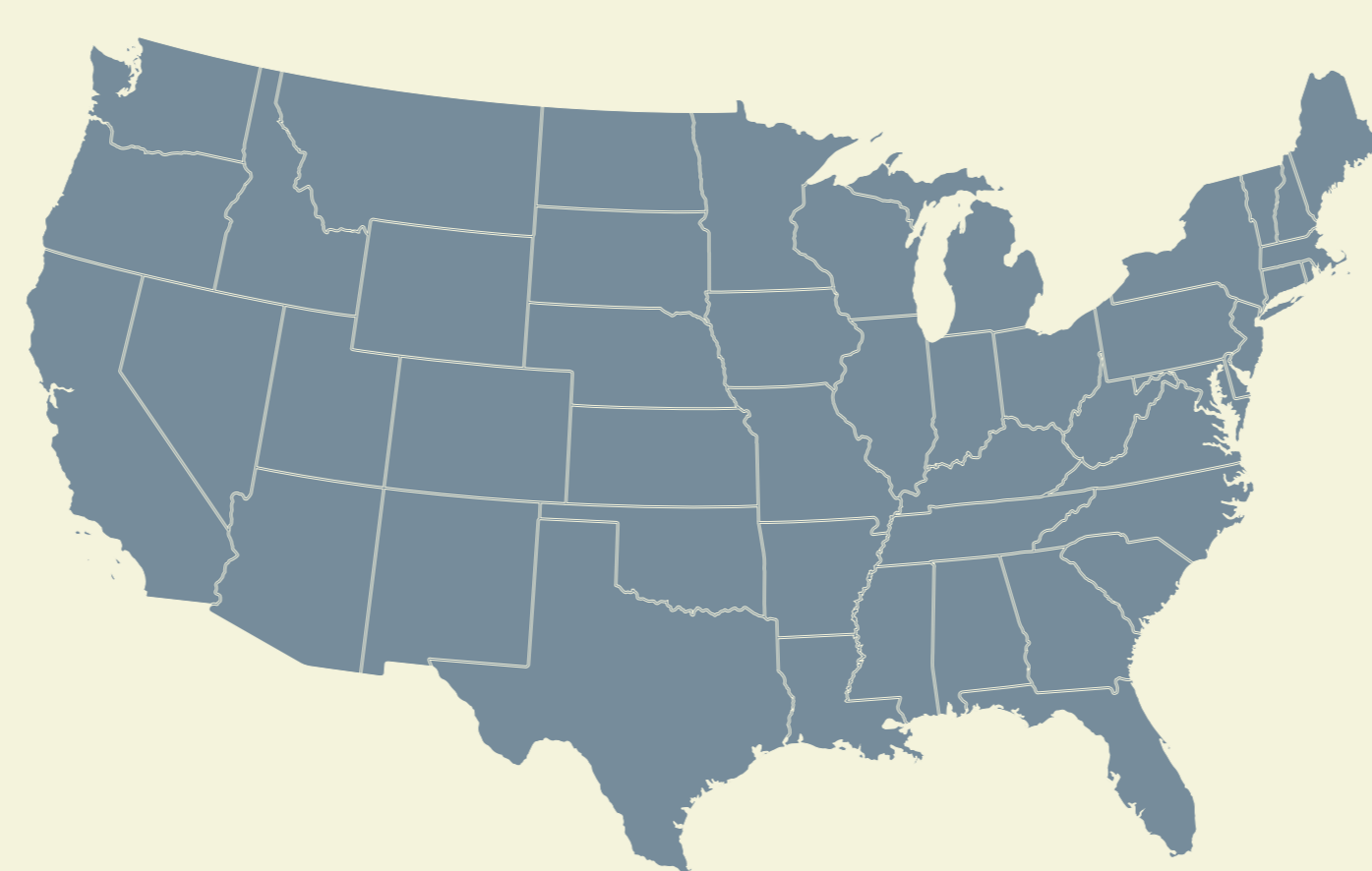


COUNTRY OF BIRTH MATTERS, TOO



Hispanic girls born in the U.S. are more likely than foreign-born Hispanic girls to talk with parents about:

Where to get birth control  
STDs



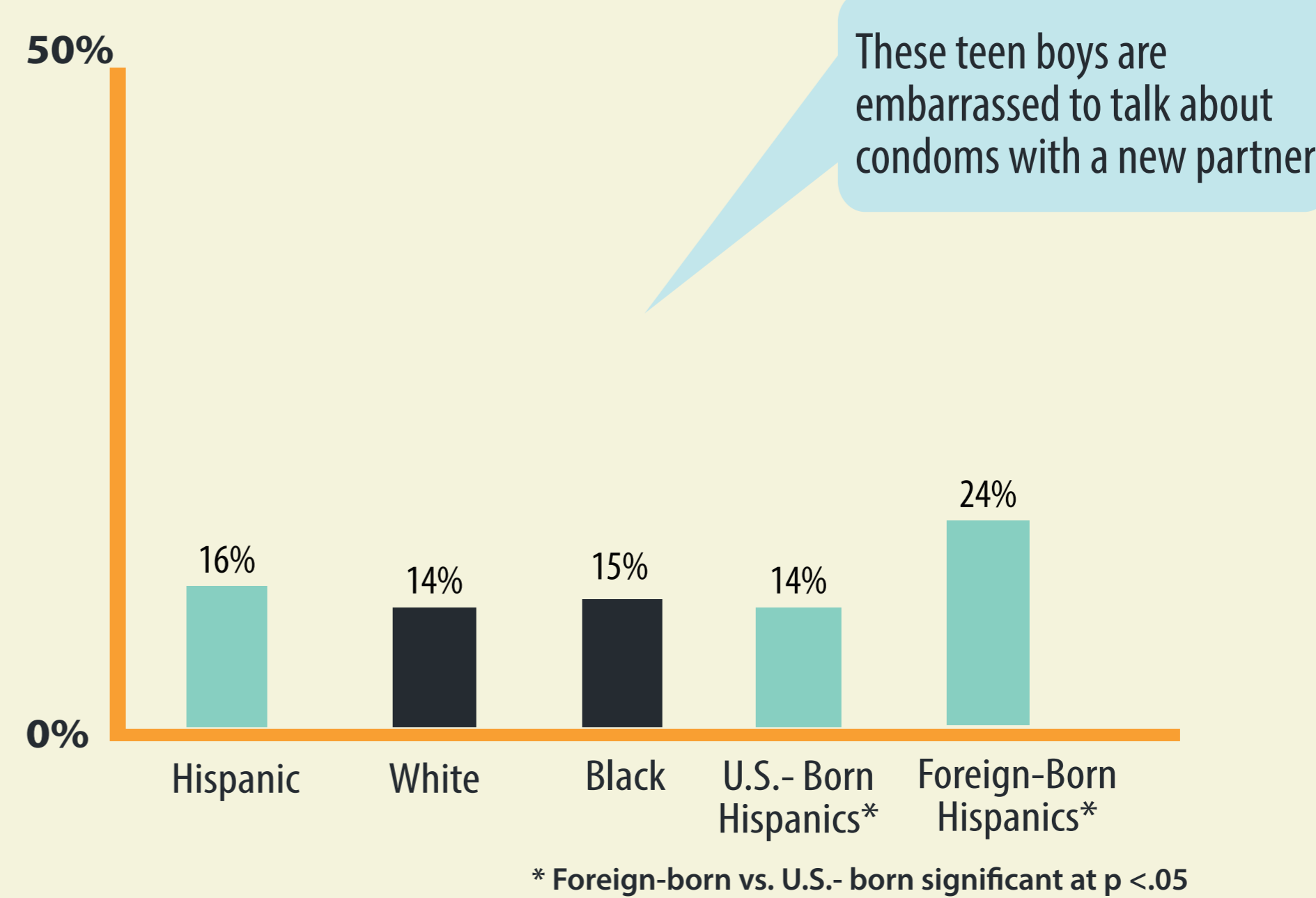
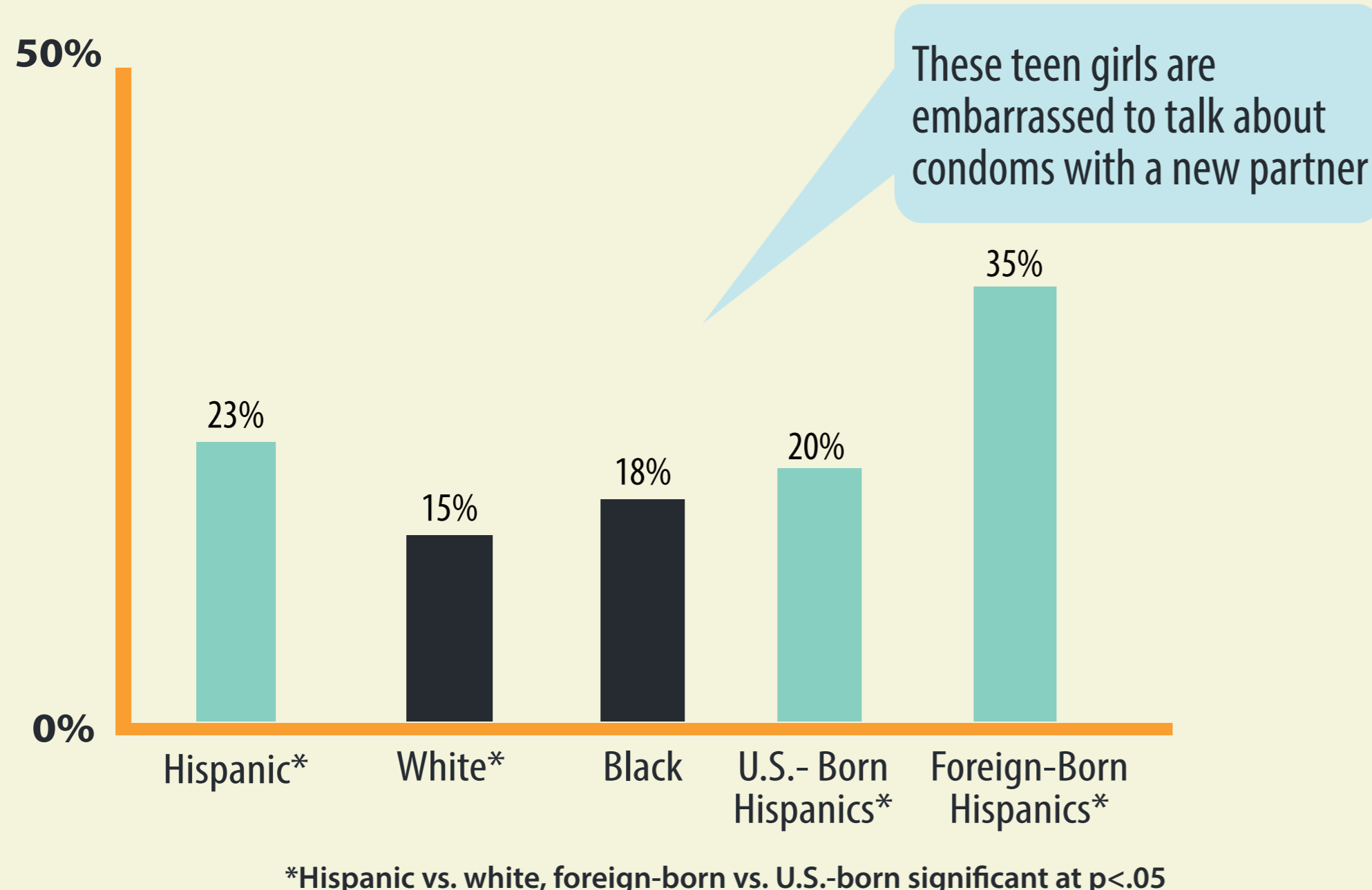
Hispanic boys born in the U.S. are more likely than foreign-born Hispanic boys to talk with parents about:

Sex and contraception topics in general

## AND

TEENS WHO DISCUSS BIRTH CONTROL WITH SEXUAL PARTNERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO USE CONTRACEPTION

BUT SOME TEENS ARE EMBARRASSED TO TALK WITH THEIR PARTNER



So?

Pregnancy prevention interventions for Hispanic teens should promote parent involvement and help adolescents develop effective communication skills with parents and partners, while providing information that teens might not be getting at home.

#### References

- 1 Welti, K. (2012). Child Trends' analysis of National Vital Statistics System birth data. Washington, DC: Child Trends.
- 2 Mosher, W. D., Jones, J., Abma, J.C. (2012). Intended and unintended births in the United States: 1982-2010. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved April 26, 2013, from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr055.pdf>
- 3 Kirby, D., Lepore, G., & Ryan, J. (2005). A matrix of risk and protective factors affecting teen sexual behavior, pregnancy, childbearing, and sexually transmitted disease. Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
- 4 Collins, W. A., Welsh, D. P., & Furman, W. C. (2009). Adolescent romantic relationships. Annual Review of Psychology, 60, 631-652.

#### Methods

This uses data from the 2006-2010 cycle of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), a nationally representative survey conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) designed to gather information on family life, marriage and divorce, pregnancy, infertility, use of contraception, and the health of women and men ages 15 to 44. The analytic sample was limited to the 531 Hispanic, 423 non-Hispanic black, and 1,122 non-Hispanic white females aged 15-19 at the time of the survey. Analyses were conducted using the Stata statistical software package (version 11.0, Stata Corporation, College Station, Tex.), and utilized weighting procedures to account for design effects. All statistically significant differences by subgroups (p < .05) are noted in the figures.

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