

Exchange Sex Among Heterosexual Women at Risk for HIV Infection

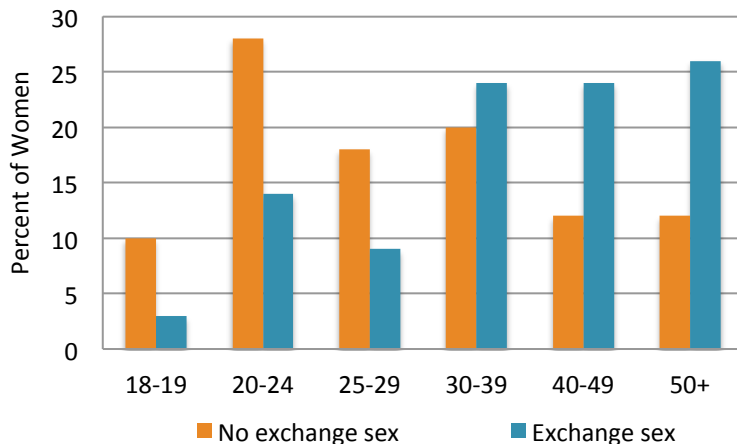
Background

- The National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System (NHBS) is a survey funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor behaviors of populations at high risk for HIV infection
- Heterosexual partnerships involving the exchange of money or goods for sex are a well-known HIV risk factor¹

Characteristics of Sample

- Data was taken from the 2013 NHBS heterosexual cycle
 - Eligible participants were individuals self-identifying as men or women living in Wayne County, Michigan and who have had sex with a person of the opposite sex in the 12 months preceding the interview
- This sample was restricted to women who were HIV negative at the time of the interview
- The women were then separated into those who had given or received something (i.e. money, drugs, food, services) in exchange for sex and those who had not to compare behaviors relating to sex, alcohol, drugs, testing and prevention

Age Distribution of Sample



Demographic Characteristics of Sample, N = 351

Characteristic	N	%
Age		
18-19	22	6
20-24	73	21
25-29	49	14
30-39	76	22
40-49	63	18
50+	68	19
Race/Ethnicity		
Black	327	93
Hispanic/Latino	5	1
White	3	1
Other	16	5
Education		
Less than high school	109	34
High school or equivalent	137	42
Some college or technical	76	24
College or postgraduate	1	0
Employment Status		
Employed full-time	34	11
Employed part-time	45	14
Homemaker	18	6
Full-time student	24	7
Retired	4	1
Unable to work	62	19
Unemployed	127	39
Other	9	3
Annual Household Income		
0 to \$19,999	279	87
\$20,000 to \$39,999	39	12
\$40,000 to \$74,999	4	1

¹www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/systems/nhbs/index.html

Demographic Characteristics

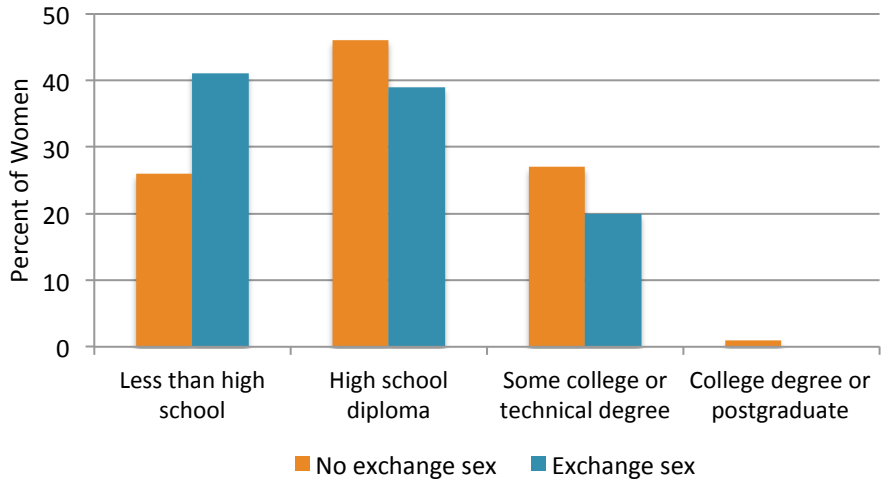
94% of women were black

76% of women had never been married

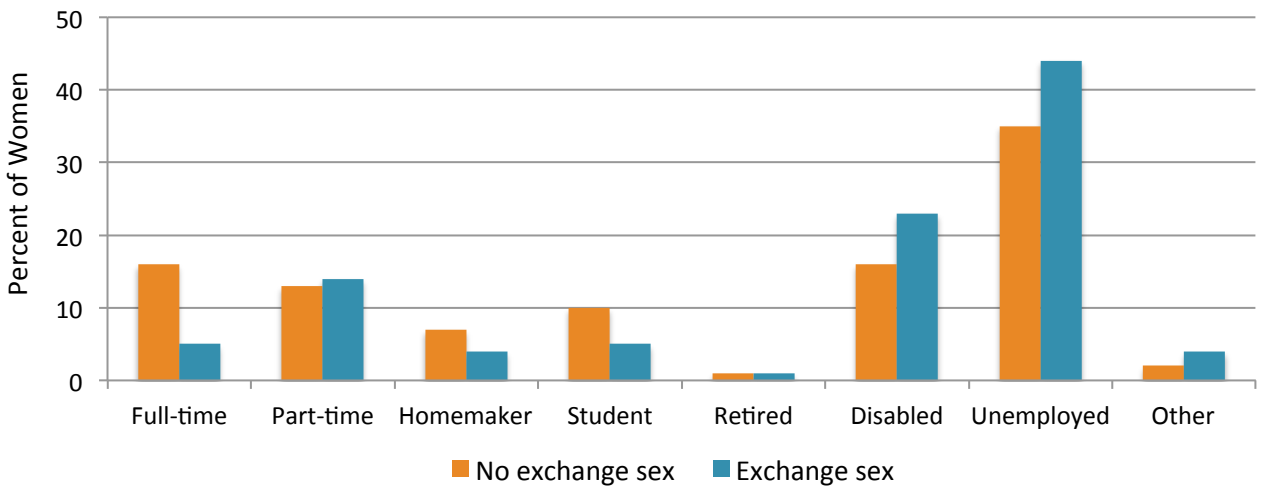
91% of women were in the lowest category of annual household income

Exchange sex was even reported among women with some college or a technical degree

Highest Education Level Attained



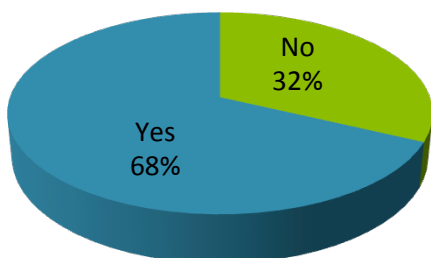
Current Employment Status



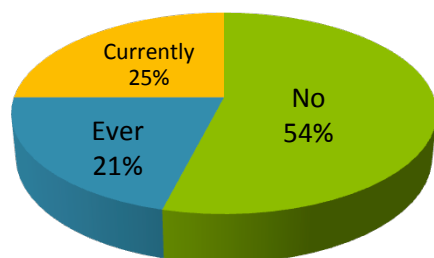
Of those currently employed, 5% of women working full-time and 14% of women working part-time practiced exchange sex in the past year.

Among women who responded yes to giving or receiving something in exchange for sex:

Current Health Insurance



Homelessness

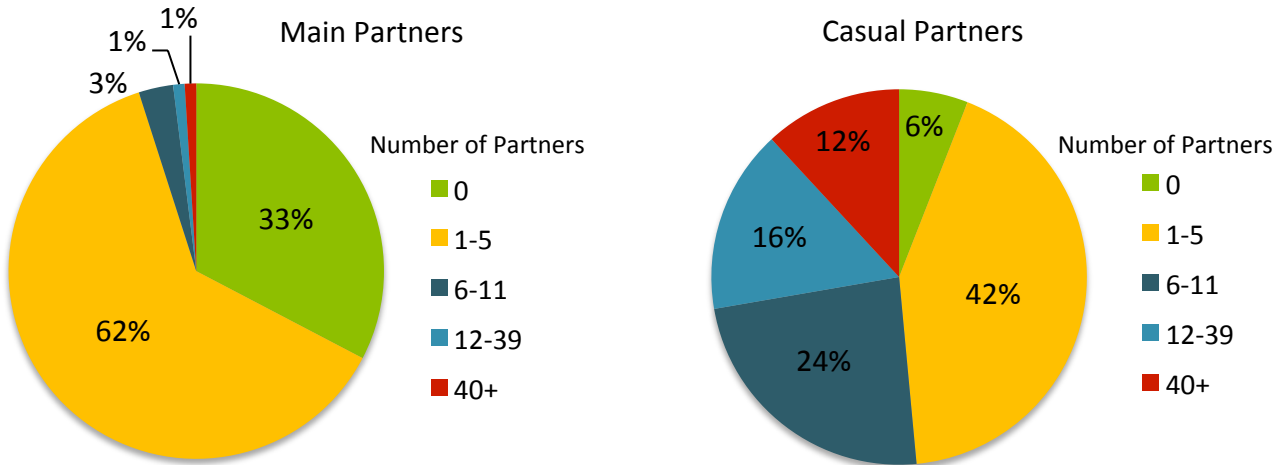


Sexual Behaviors, Past 12 Months

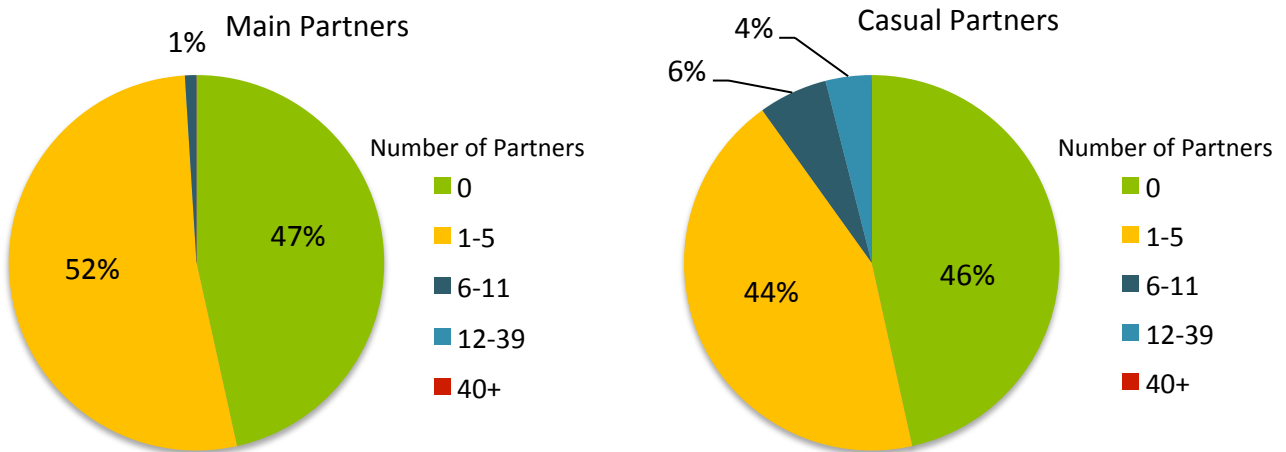
A casual partner is one with whom the participant did not feel committed to, she did not know well or with whom she had sex in exchange for something.

A main partner is one with whom the participant felt most committed to such as a boyfriend, spouse or significant other.

Among women who responded yes to giving or receiving something in exchange for sex



Among women who responded no to giving or receiving something in exchange for sex

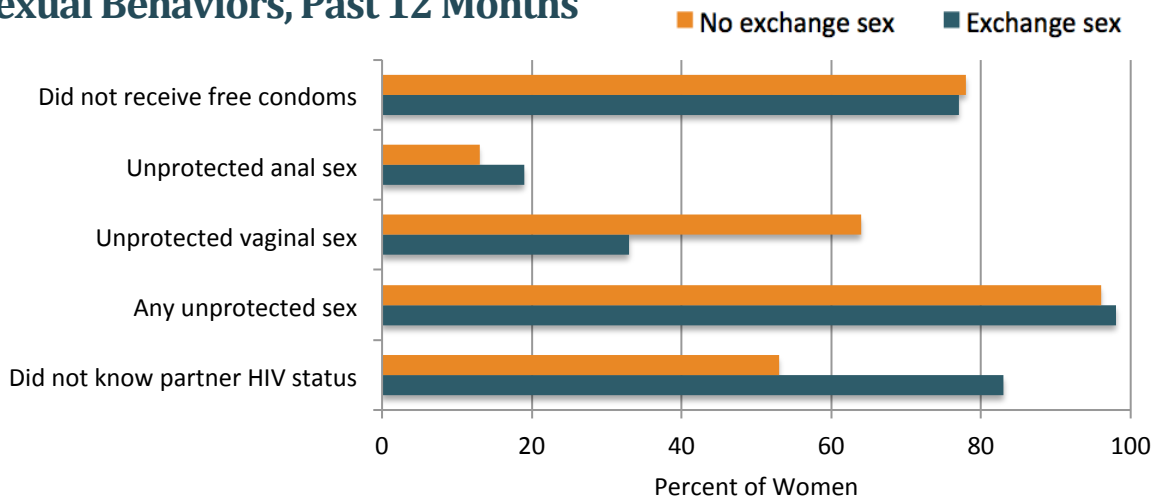


The distribution of number of main sexual partners in the past year was similar between women who practiced exchange sex and women who did not.

Women who exchanged sex had more variability in the number of casual partners they reported compared to those who did not exchange sex.

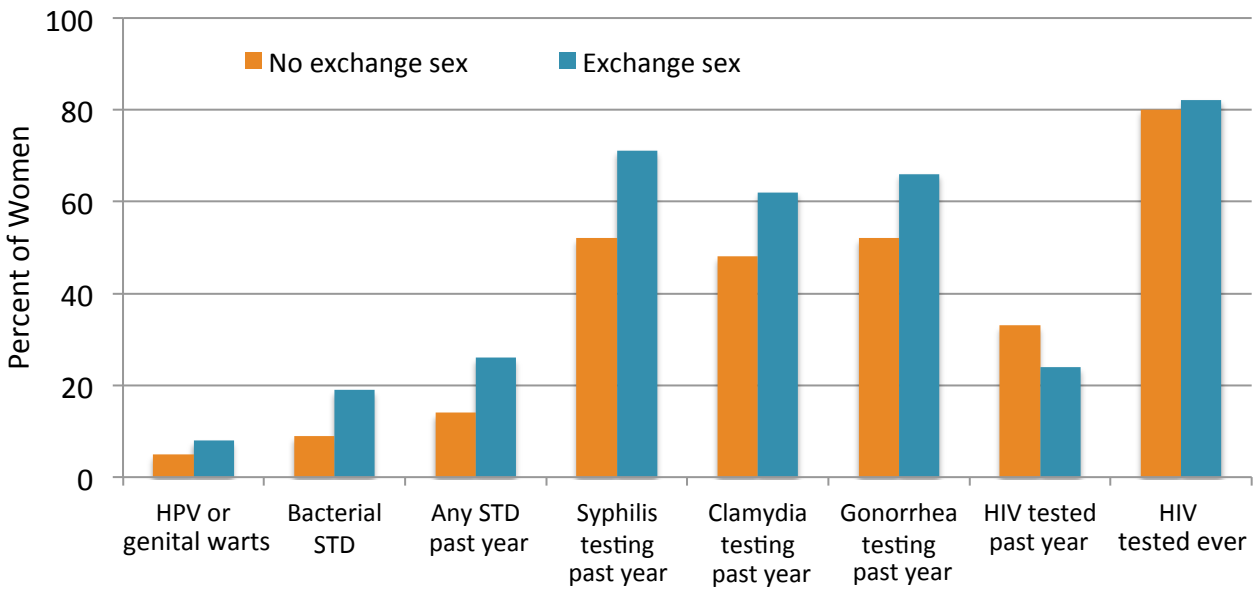
*There was a high percentage of missing data for these questions.

Sexual Behaviors, Past 12 Months



Women who practiced exchange sex don't know their partners' HIV status and engage in unprotected anal sex more often than women who do not practice exchange sex

Testing and Prevention



The exchange sex group reported more STD diagnoses, especially within the last year.

The majority of women had been tested for syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea in the last year.

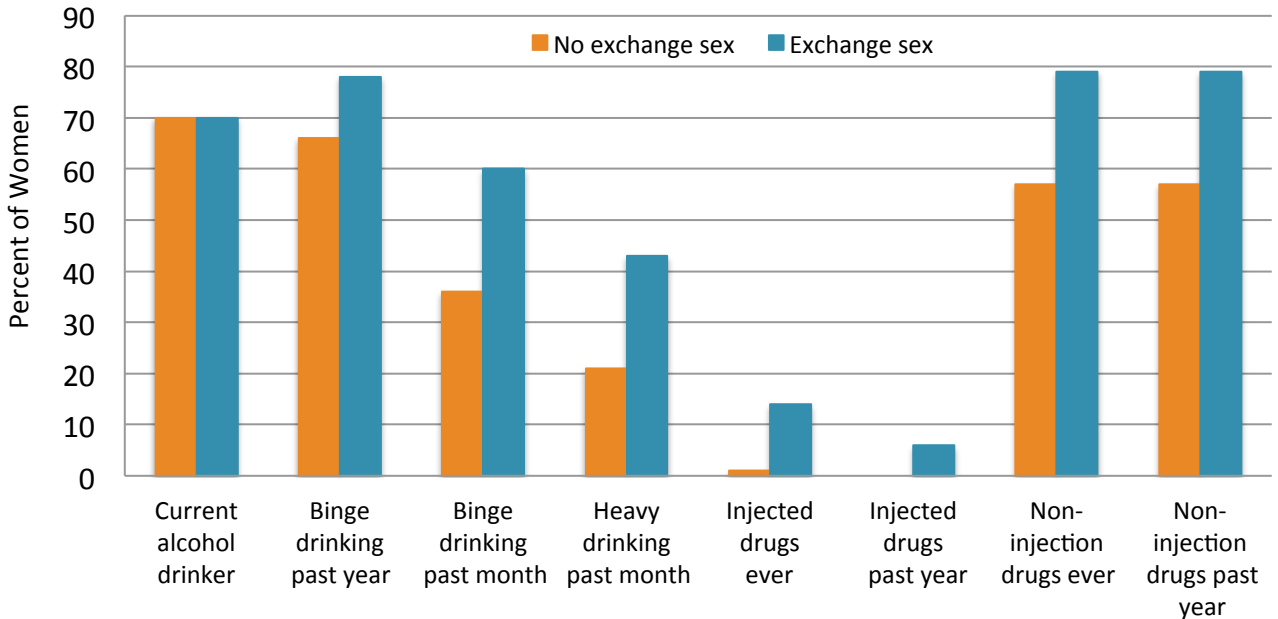
More women who practice exchange sex had gotten tested for all three diseases.

Over 80% of women in both groups reported having ever tested for HIV.

However, the majority of women had not been tested within the last 12 months.

Women who exchange sex are less likely to have been tested for HIV in the past year.

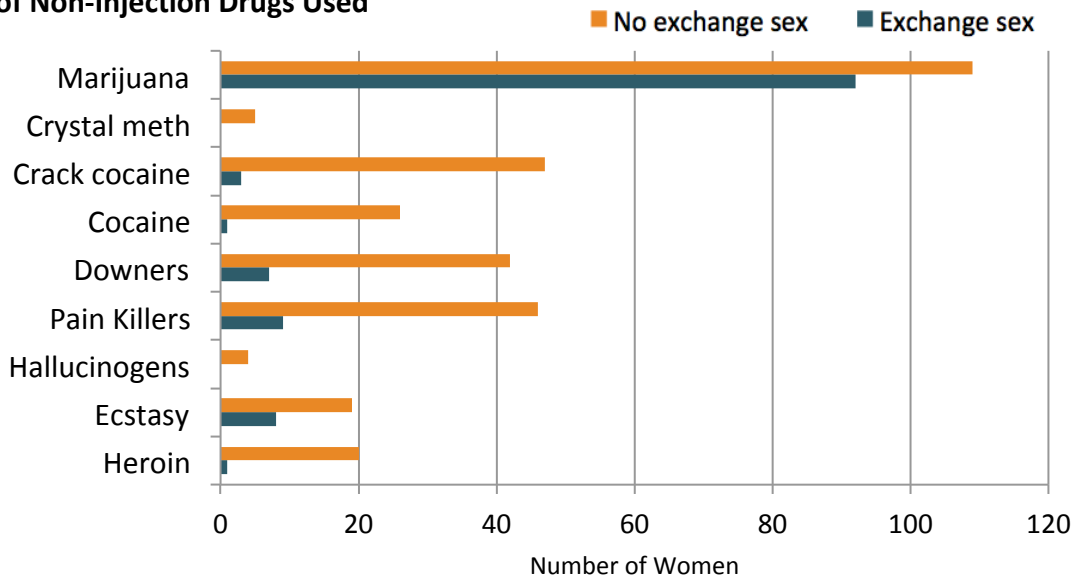
Alcohol and Drug Use



Alcohol consumption was common among both groups of women, however women who participated in exchange sex reported higher rates of both heavy and binge drinking within the past month.

Injection drug use was not common among either group of women and non-injection drug use was more common among women who practiced exchange sex.

Types of Non-Injection Drugs Used



Marijuana was the most commonly used drug, with over half (57%) of women reporting using it at least once in the past 12 months.

Overall, women who practice exchange sex reported using more types of drugs and drugs more frequently than women who do not practice exchange sex.