

SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR IN ADOLESCENTS 13 TO 18 YEARS IN THE PROVINCE OF VALLADOLID (SPAIN)

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INTRODUCTION

Sexuality is a dimension of personality that is strongly influenced by culture, religion, society, and values. Adolescents usually initiate intimate relationships and become sexually active. Early sexual activity, initiated while young people are still developing emotionally and cognitively, may increase the risk of unwanted and unplanned pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections.

AIMS

Study the behavior and sexual habits of school adolescents in the province of Valladolid, Spain.

METHODS

Descriptive, cross-sectional study survey limited to a sample of 2412 children from 13 to 18 years

RESULTS

A 30.4% has had coital sex, higher in boys and the proportion rises in upper courses. Table1.

The age of onset of sexual intercourse is between 15 and 16 years. Percentage according to sex. Graph 1.

20.1% of teens have had more than two sexual partners in the past year, being more often in boys (27.5%) vs. girls (10.7%).

Those who don't use any method of protection are the 8.7%. They have used condoms (89.6%), the contraceptive pill (8.6%), reverse (9.5%), other methods (3%).

20.9% have used emergency contraception pill.

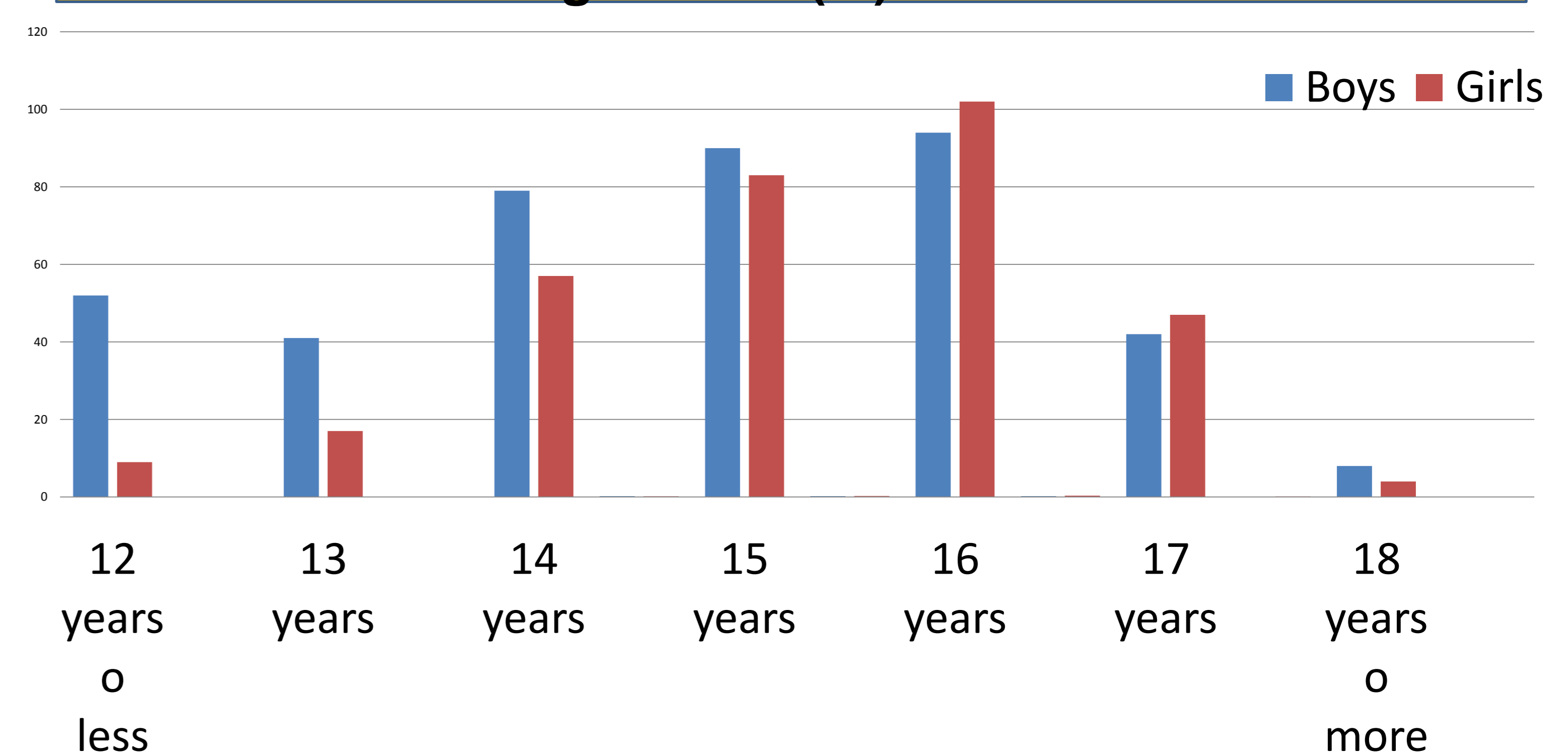
The percentage of pregnancies is 3.6%.

They have taken alcohol and/or drugs during sexual intercourse 23.4%.

Table 1. Proportion of students who have had sexual intercourse, according to sex and grade

	Total		Sex		Grade				
			Boys	Girls	2ºESO	3ºESO	4ºESO	1ºBach	2ºBach
	Sample	%	%	%	%				
YES	726	30,4	32,4	28,2	13,1	21,8	34,5	38,9	63,1
NO	1663	69,6	67,6	71,8	86,9	78,2	65,5	61,1	36,9

Graph 1. Age of onset of sexual intercourse according to sex (%)



CONCLUSIONS

We observed the increase of early sexual intercourses. We appreciate risks arising from these practices: unprotected sex, abuse of emergencies contraception, risk of sexual transmission diseases, unwanted pregnancies, as well as their relationship with alcohol and drugs intake.

Sex education programmes for adolescents and bring forward to 10 years old the human papillomavirus vaccine could prevent any of these risks.

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