

# Differences in HIV Risk Behaviors among Asian High School Aged Youth: Sexual Minority Youth vs. Sexual Majority Youth

Ysabel Beatrice Floresca, MPH <sup>1,2</sup>, Sophia Huang<sup>1,2</sup>, Joseph Choi<sup>1,2</sup>, Kagen Quiballo, MS<sup>1,2</sup>, Gregory Phillips II, PhD, MS<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Evaluation, Data Integration, and Technical Assistance (EDIT) Program, <sup>2</sup>Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing

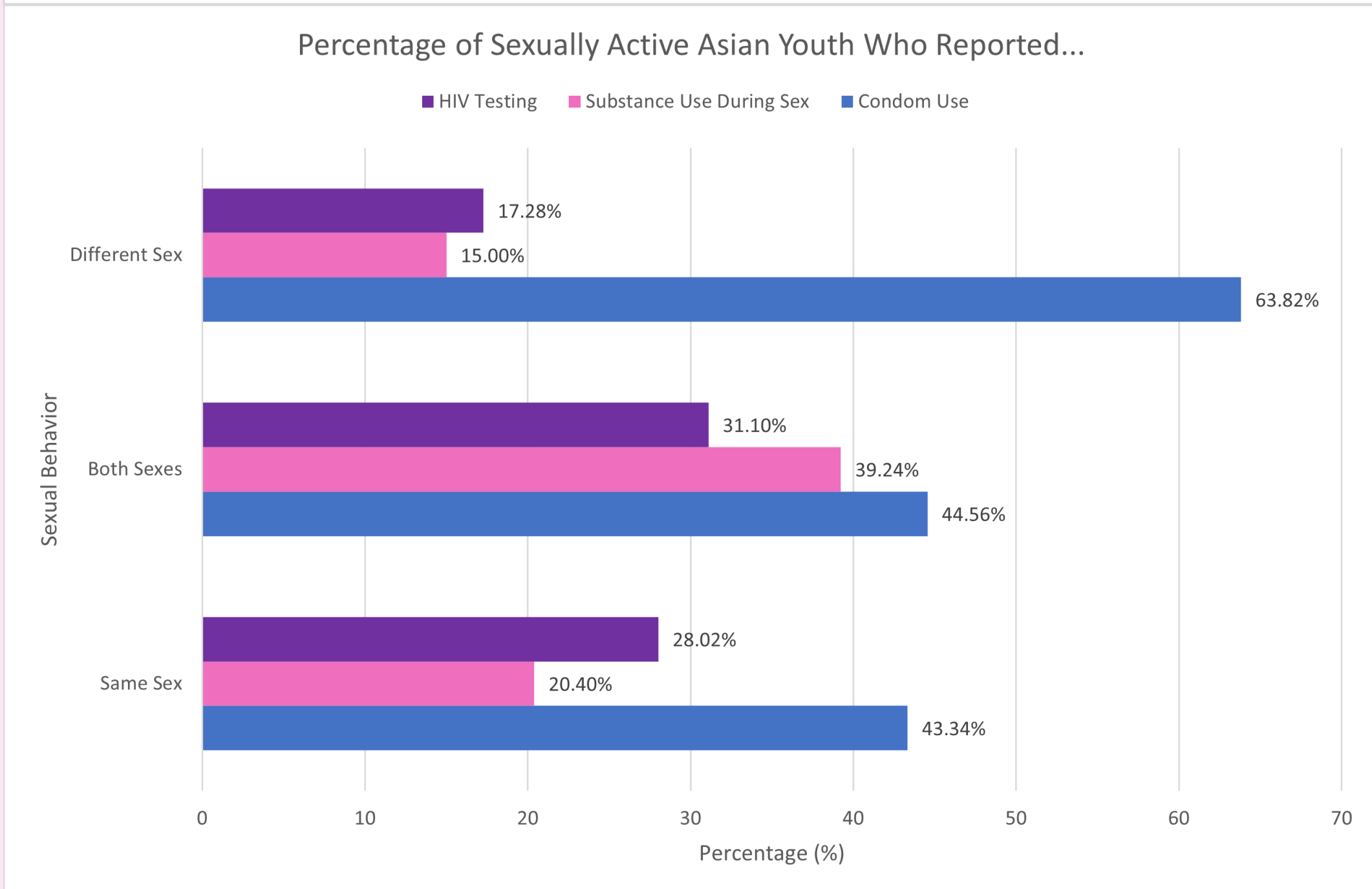
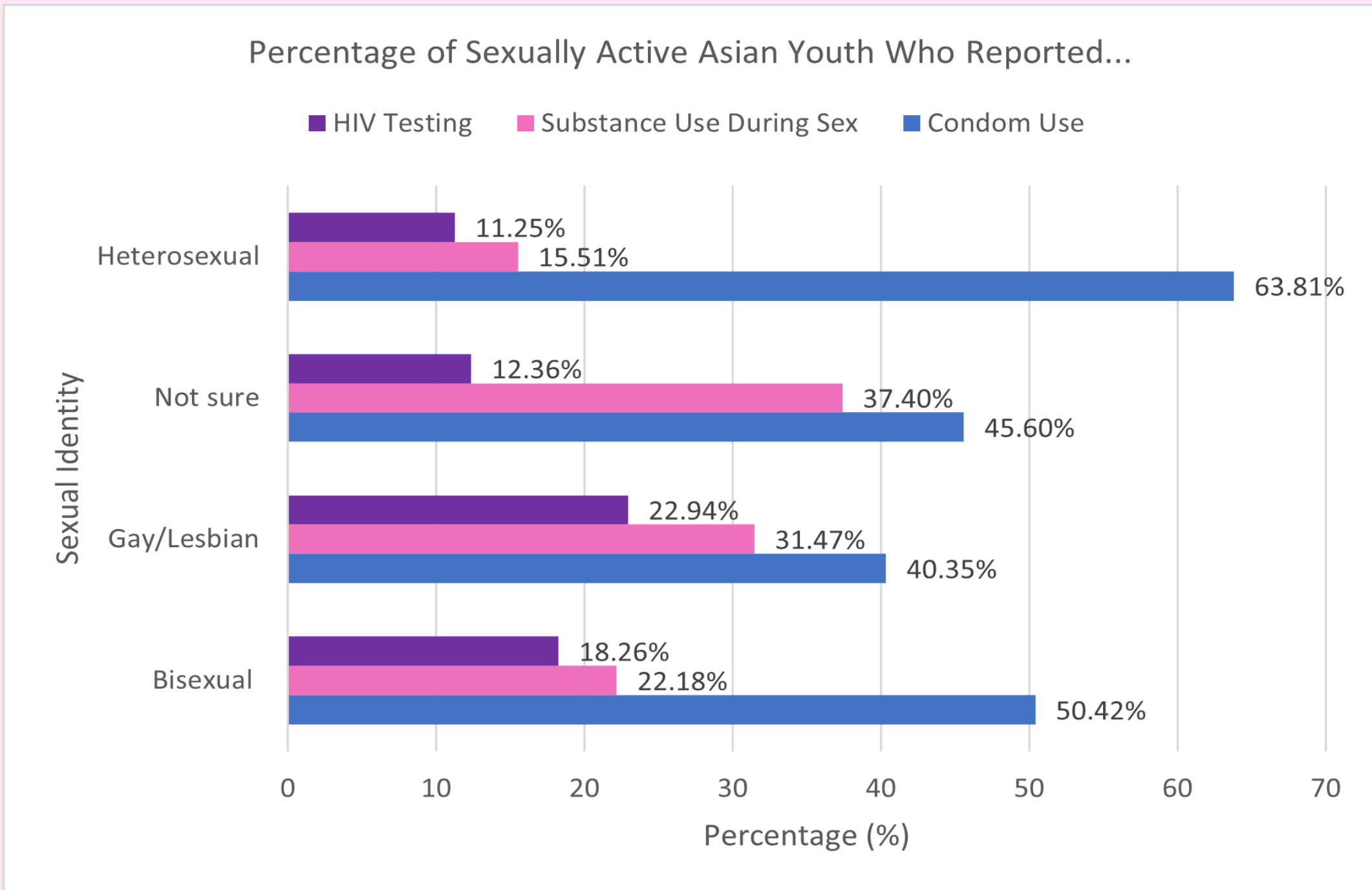
## INTRODUCTION

- Lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) students or sexual minority youth (SMY), as well as racial and ethnic minority youth (REMY), face increased health risks due to stigma and discrimination.
- There is a concerning knowledge gap regarding the experiences of Asian SMY in the current literature due to factors like the Model Minority Myth and the aggregation of Asian identities into an “other races” category. Asian SMY face unique stressors such as homo/biphobia from within the Asian community and generational cultural differences.
- Our study aims to address the lack of focused sexual behavior research on Asian SMY.

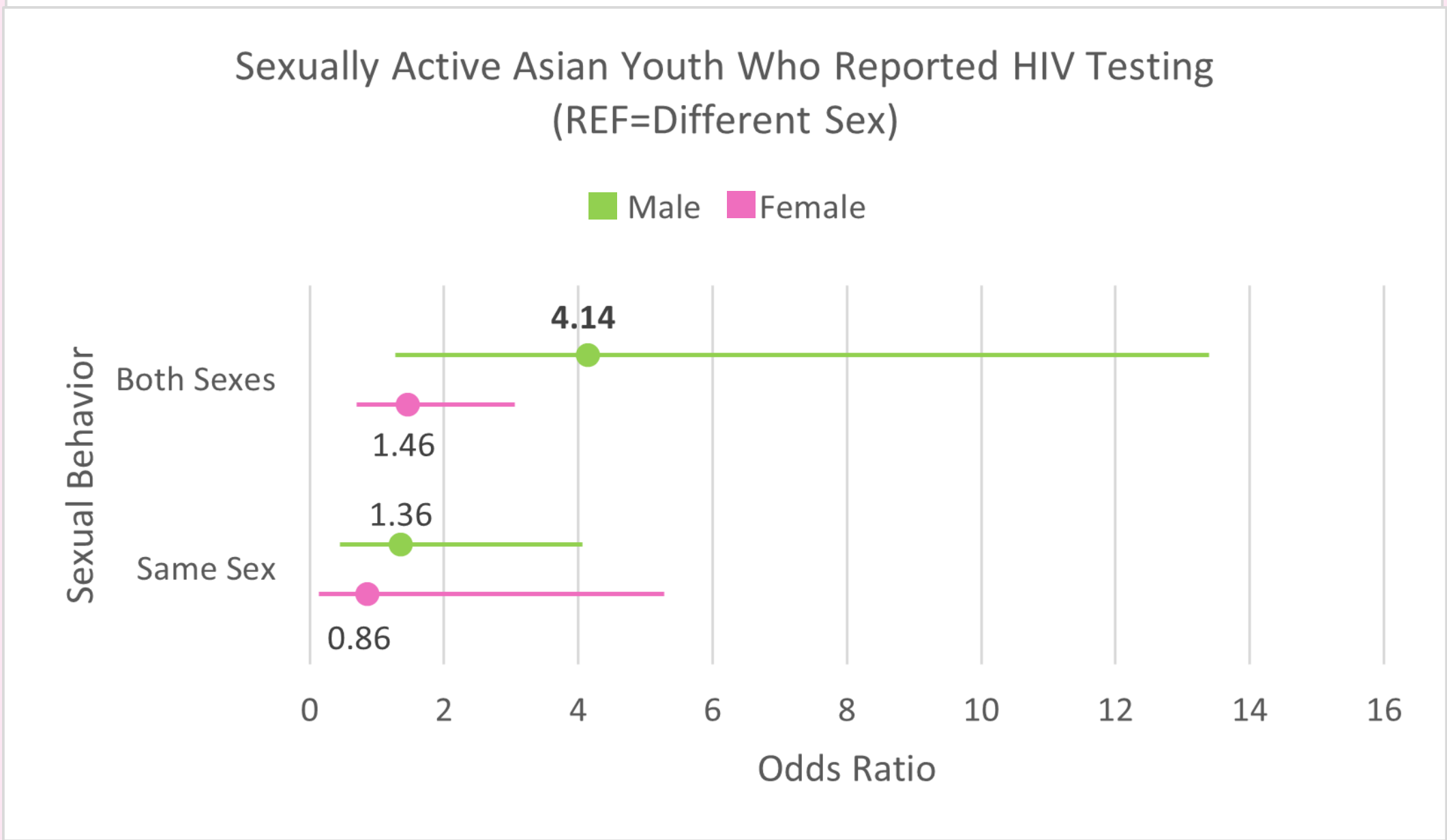
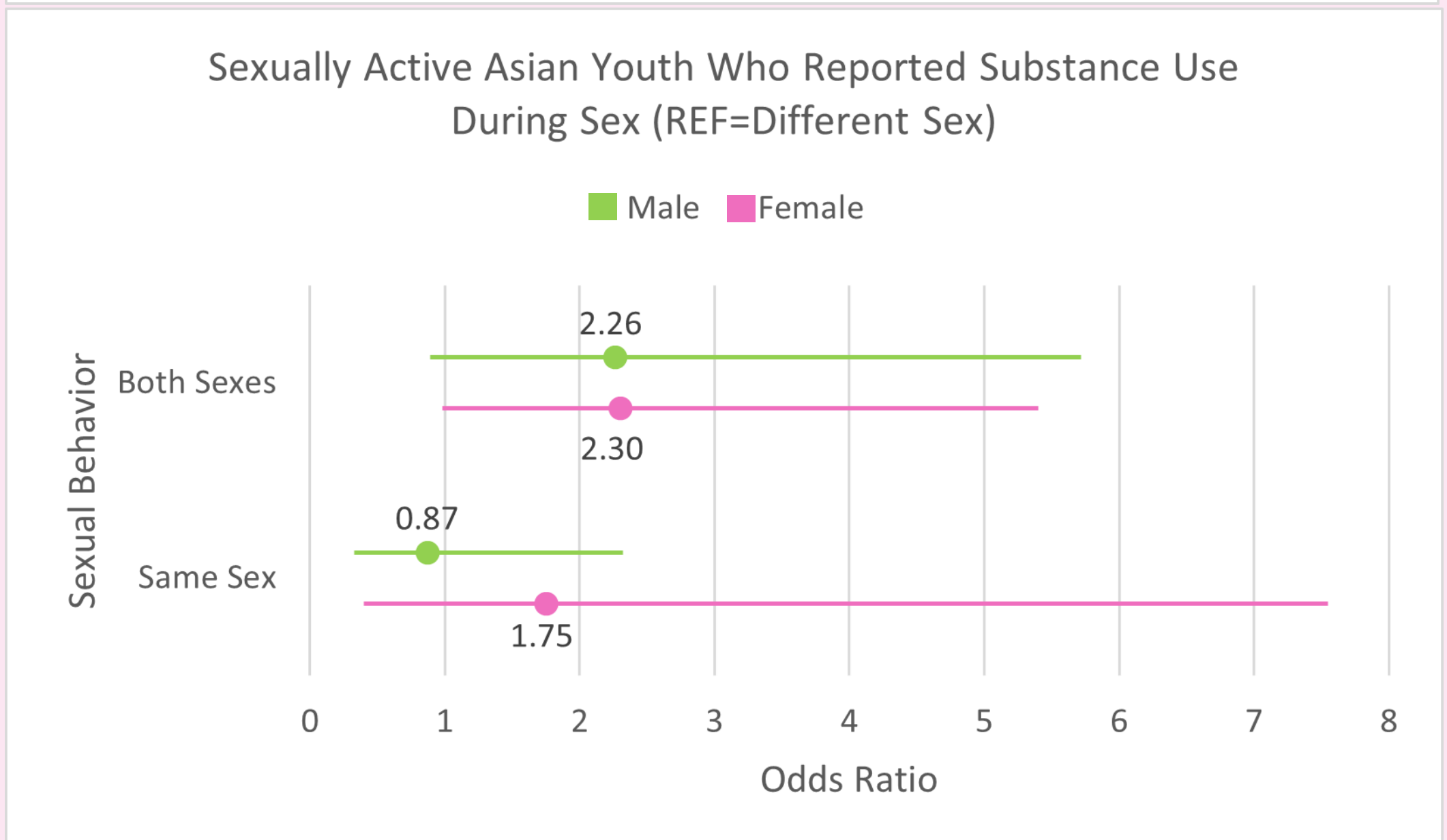
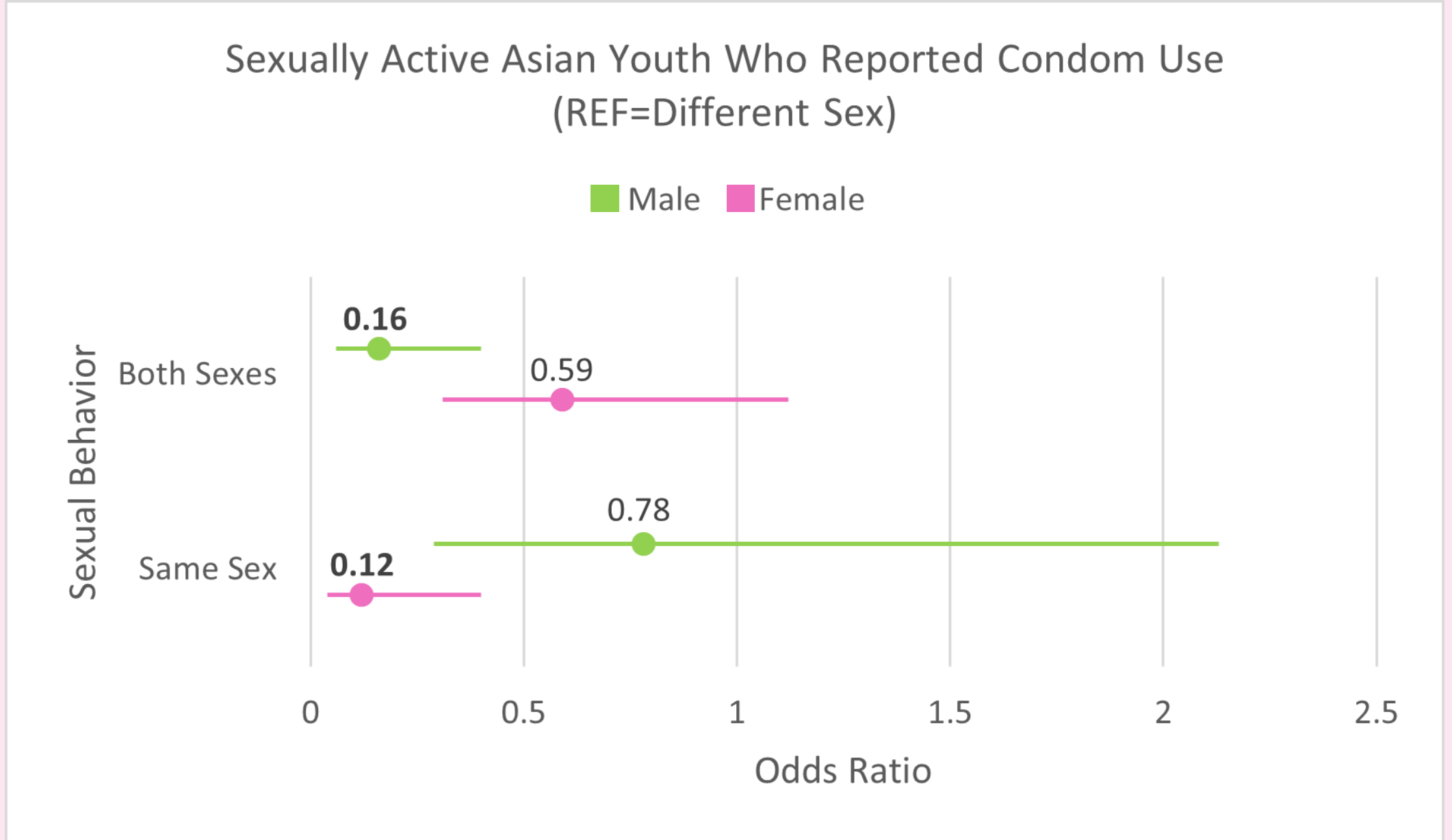
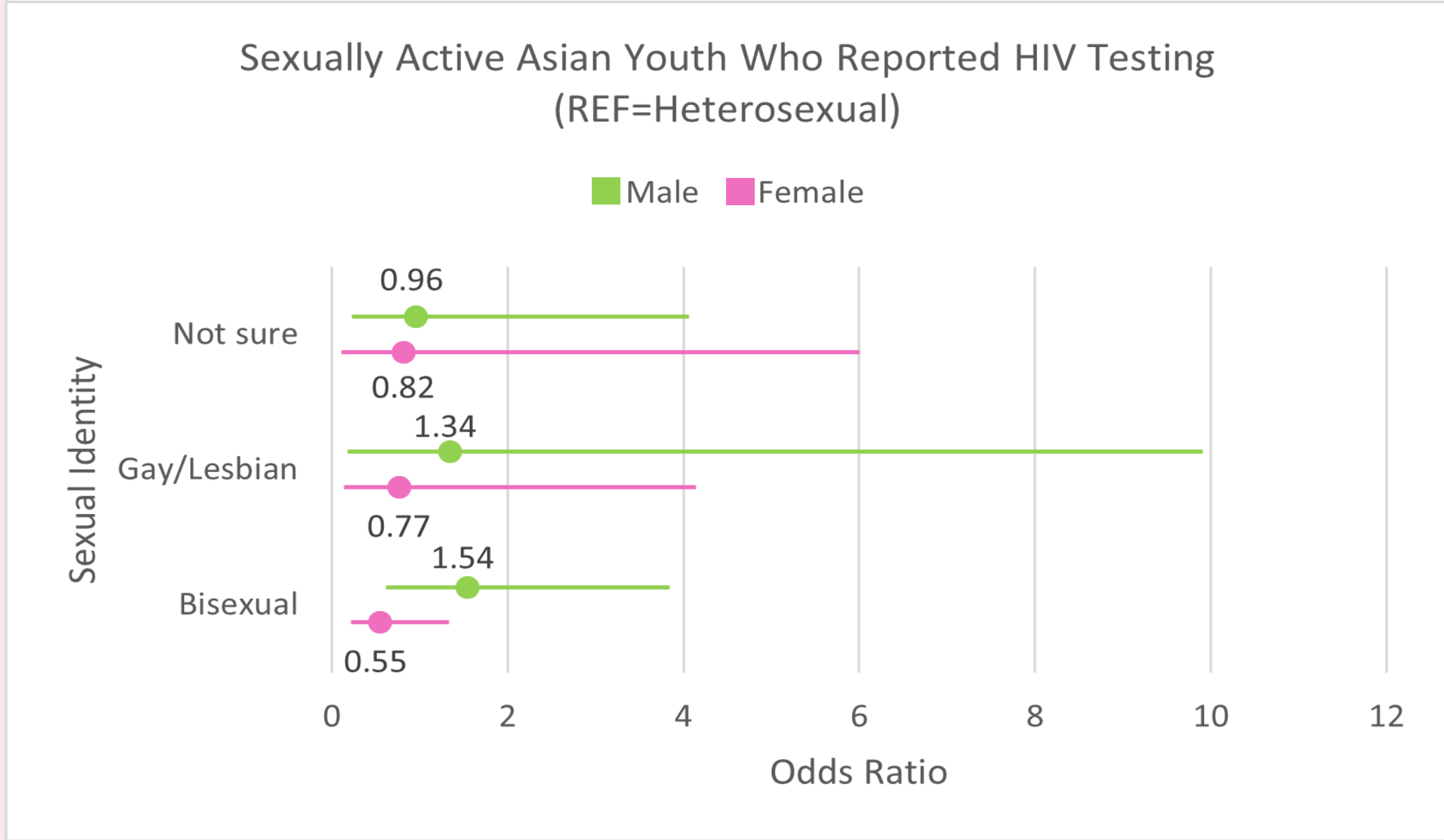
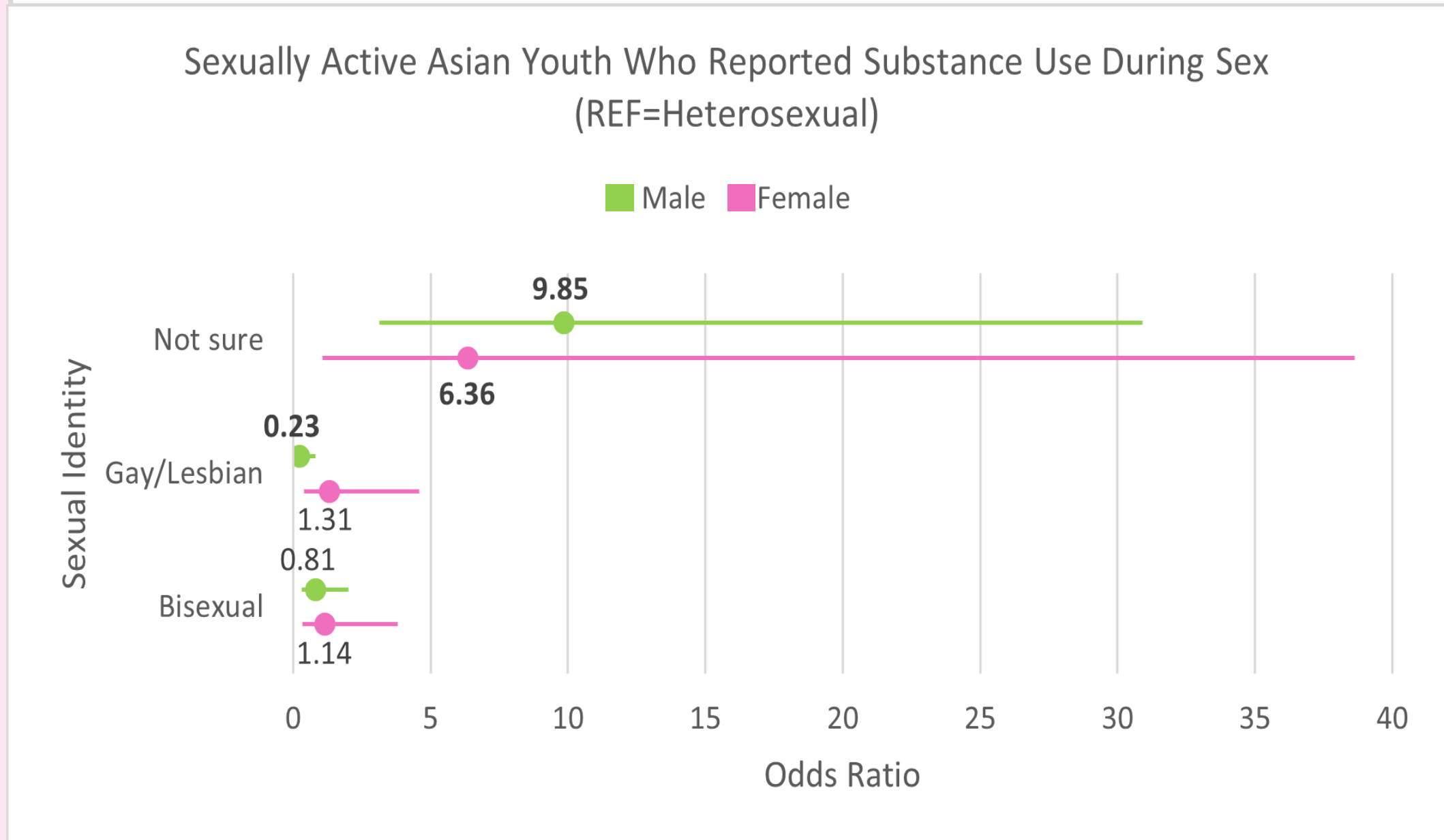
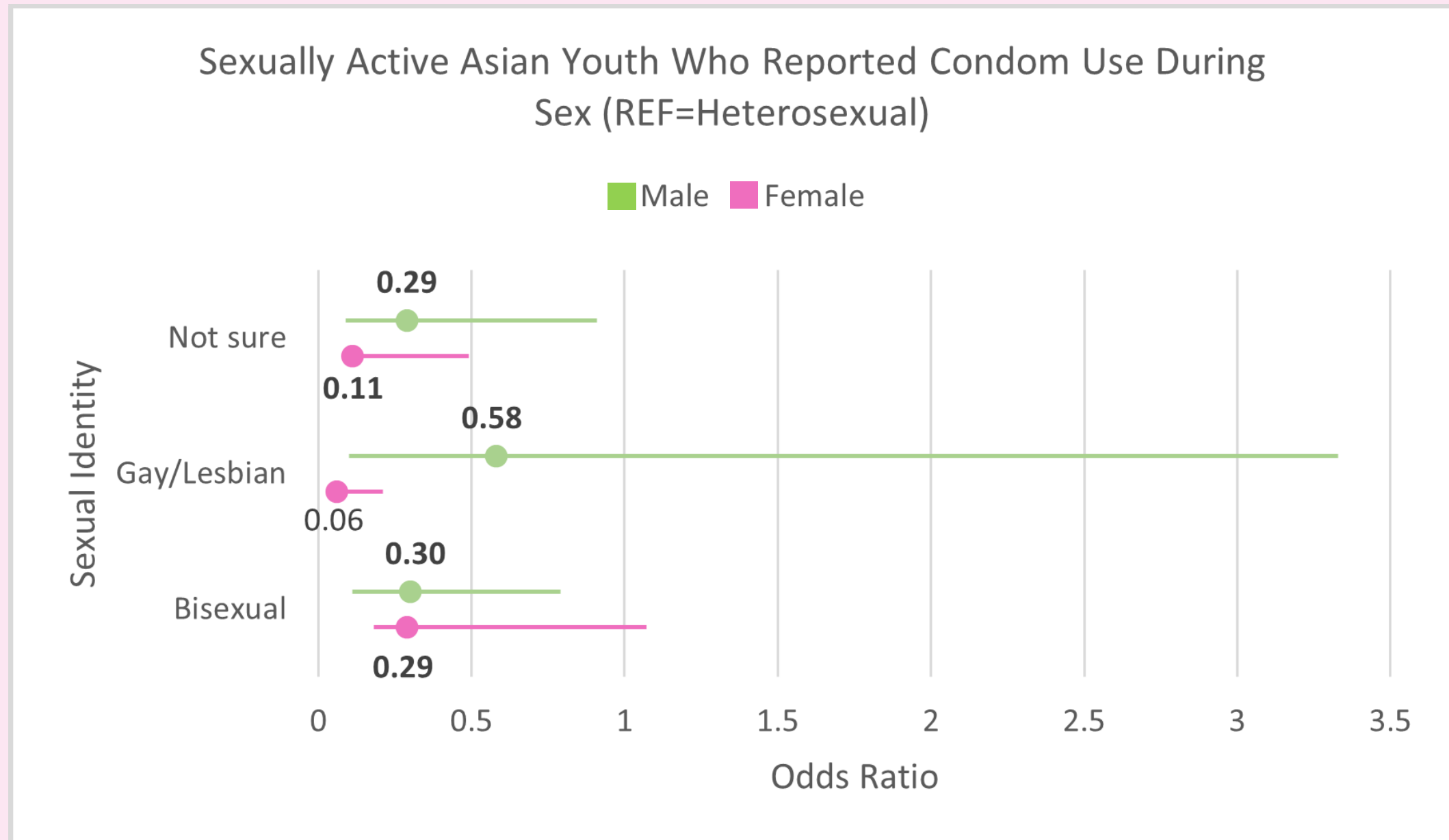
## DESIGN/METHODOLOGY

- The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a biennial survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention examining youth health behaviors on a national and local (e.g., state and territorial) level.
- Data from 87 jurisdictions were pooled (2005-2019), creating an initial sample of 82,306 Asian, high school-aged youth (6,619/8.04% sexually active Asian SMY who reported sexual identity, 2,767/3.36% who reported sexual behavior)
- Weighted logistic regressions assessed associations between sexual orientation and three outcomes: condom use, sex with substance use, and HIV testing.
- Odds ratios were calculated to compare the likelihood of each measure, using heterosexual and different-sex sexual behavior as reference groups.

## KEY FINDINGS



	Condom Use (N)	Substance Use During Sex (N)	HIV Testing (N)
Sexual Identity			
	Female (N = 3,620)		Male (N = 3,853)
Heterosexual	7,482	7,518	26,586
Gay/Lesbian	228	232	558
Bisexual	720	708	1,533
Not Sure	386	393	1,861
Total	8,816	8,851	30,538
Sexual Behavior			
	Female (N = 3,044)		Male (N = 3,132)
Same Sex	413	402	496
Different Sex	6,479	6,482	6,158
Both Sex	496	497	463
Total	7,388	7,381	7,117



## NEXT STEPS / IMPLICATIONS

- With Asian SMY being more likely to be sexually active and participate in condomless sex than their heterosexual counterparts, better support and education is needed. High rates of substance use during sex among "not sure" youth, indicate a need for additional support for youth who may be questioning their sexuality (although the “not sure” answer option is ambiguous', so further analysis is needed).
- The Model Minority Myth and aggregation of Asian identities into an “other races” or an “Asian” umbrella category create inadequate data. This approach fails to share the diverse experiences of different Asian ethnic communities. This study’s findings also imply that use of White youth as a comparison group is not necessary.
- As Asian SMY face unique stressors (e.g., homophobia within their communities, generational cultural differences), there is a critical need for culturally responsive LGBTQ+ supports, comprehensive sexual health education, and targeted studies to better address the specific needs of Asian SMY.