BACKGROUND: Sex partner concurrency is an important risk factor for sexually transmitted infection transmission. Understanding how adolescents conceptualize the length of their relationships when they break up and get back together is essential to the assessment of concurrency. METHODS: A prospective cohort of 392 late adolescents and emerging adults, aged 14 to 19 years at baseline, were recruited from 2 clinics in Baltimore, MD and interviewed semi-annually for 3 years. At each interview, participants were asked to report on all of their sexual partners in the previous 6 months, the length of relationship, and whether they thought their partner had other sex partners. For relationships that had broken up and gotten back together, reports of length of the relationship were compared before and after the breakup. Random effects logistic regression was used to examine the association between length of relationship and both breakup and partner concurrency. RESULTS: For relationships that ended and subsequently got back together, participants considered the length of relationship to include the period when they were broken up. Longer relationships were at increased odds of both having broken up and gotten back together (odds ratio [OR] = 1.04, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.02, 1.05) and of partner concurrency (OR = 1.03, 95% CI: 1.02, 1.04). The magnitude of the odds of concurrency was greater for relationships that had broken up and gotten back together (OR = 1.07, 95% CI: 1.02, 1.11). CONCLUSIONS: Findings from this study emphasize the need for an improved understanding of the association between the temporal dynamics of late adolescent and emerging adult romantic relationships and concurrency. 

Median sex partners 6. over 3 y follow up an additional 4. Median 7 months. For each month there was a 3% greater change of concurrency. [so for median, a 28% chance]. This is only those with a sexual partner.

[The point of these statistics is that adolescent sexual relationships are mostly short, 7 months, and not very faithful. The yearly calculated change of “concurrency” at 36% is higher than the 10-30% for adults, and only one sixth the rate of concurrency for adult gays.]

Adverse childhood experiences and substance use have been identified as potential causal risk factors for early-onset sexual intercourse. While it is possible that exposure to these risk factors directly increases the likelihood of engaging in early intercourse, an alternative explanation is that observed associations between these variables are due to shared familial confounds. These unmeasured confounds may increase the likelihood of being exposed to these risk factors and of engaging in early intercourse. Participants drawn from a population-based study of Swedish adult twins (ages 19-47 years; N = 12,126) reported on their history of exposure to early physical and sexual trauma, cigarette use, and cannabis use. We investigated the nature of the association between these risk factors and young age at first intercourse, using a comparison of twins.
differentially exposed to each risk factor. When compared to non-exposed, unrelated individuals, participants who reported adverse childhood experiences or who engaged in early cigarette use or cannabis use were more likely to engage in early intercourse. However, co-twin comparisons indicated that observed associations between these risk factors and early intercourse may be due to familial factors shared within twin pairs, and risk factor exposure may not lead directly to early intercourse. Our results suggest that preventing trauma exposure or preventing or delaying adolescents’ cigarette smoking or cannabis use may not effectively delay intercourse onset; instead, other aspects of the adolescent’s environment should be addressed.

[The main value of the paper lies in the very large sample, and the emphasis on family factors]


PURPOSE: This study investigated the association between sexual orientation, victimization, and suicide risk-related outcomes among youth attending public high schools in San Francisco.

METHODS: Data from the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey were analyzed using bivariate and logistic regression methods for complex samples to examine the relationship between sexual orientation, victimization, and three suicide risk-related outcomes (sadness/depression, suicide planning, and attempting suicide) while controlling for demographics and substance use. RESULTS: Lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) youth reported significantly higher rates of substance use, victimization, and suicide risk-related outcomes than heterosexual youth. However, in the controlled regression models, victimization was a significant predictor of sadness/depression and suicide attempts, regardless of sexual orientation. There was a significant interaction effect between sexual orientation and victimization on suicide planning, with heterosexual youth more affected than LGB youth.

CONCLUSIONS: Results underscore the deleterious effect of victimization on suicide risk-related outcomes, regardless of sexual orientation. As LGB youth continue to report higher rates of victimization, effective violence prevention approaches must focus on reducing violence among youth, specifically LGB youth. Additional research should focus on identification of other factors that may help further explain elevated suicide risk among LGB youth. This was self-ID. Questioners excluded. OR ranged from 3-6. Victimisation seemed more significant than sexual orientation. No interaction between the last two. They are not apparently victimised because they are GLB. Sexual orientation and victimisation are independent predictors. This is for attempts, but there is an association for plans. But that association is only for hets who have an OR of 3.0. 2154 students. If not victimised LGB OR was 4.4, but NS for het.

[This is an important paper which adds to the existing strand in the literature which argues LGB sexual orientation itself is a risk factor for suicide. This paper showed that both victimisation and sexual orientation were independent factors, of somewhat comparable strength. Remarkable is the way victimised heterosexual youth became suicidal.]
