

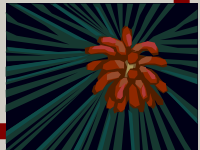
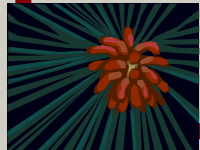
Romantic Relationships, Sexual Behavior, And Externalizing Problems: Age as a Moderator, Individual Differences, and Multidimensional Romantic Experiences

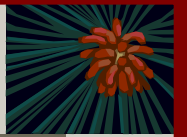
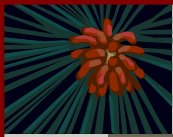


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Manfred H. M. van Dulmen
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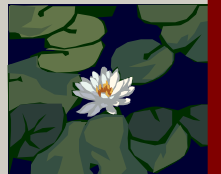
W. Andrew Collins and Byron Egeland
University of Minnesota, Minnesota, USA

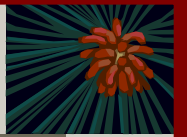
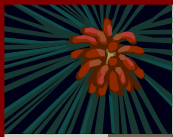




Reference

Zimmer-Gembeck, M. J., Van Dulmen, M., Collins, W. A., & Egeland, B. (July 2006). Romantic relationships, sexual behavior, and externalizing problems: Age as a moderator, individual differences, and multidimensional romantic experiences. In M. Kerr & M. J. Zimmer-Gembeck (organizers). *Romantic and sexual relationships in adolescence: How and why are they linked to adjustment?* Symposium presented at the biennial meeting of the International Society for Behavioral Development, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

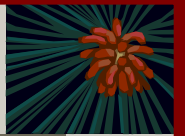
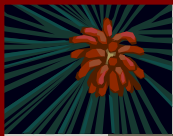




Overview

- ◆ Five studies from the Minnesota longitudinal study of parents and their children
 - ◆ Integrate findings
 - ◆ Illustrate the importance of longitudinal data
 - ◆ Age differences in associations between romance, sex, and other behaviors
 - ◆ Age-related patterns of romance and sex
 - ◆ Diverse aspects of romance and sex





Overview

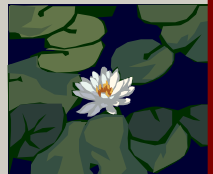
- ◆ Show the importance of considering individual differences at each age.
- ◆ Identify how associations between variables might differ across developmental time -- Age as a moderator.
- ◆ Illustrate the importance of studying age-related patterns over time -- Trajectories

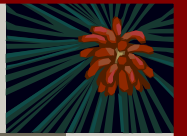
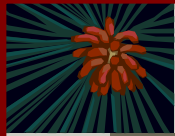




Romance and Sex

- ◆ Are these experiences important to psychosocial functioning and development?
 - ◆ Dating has been associated with some problems (Neeman et al., 1995; Welsh et al., 1999; Zimmer-Gembeck et al., 2001)
 - ◆ Sexual behavior has been associated with problems (Ary et al., 1999; Crockett et al., 1996; Zimmer-Gembeck, under review)
- ◆ Consider the diversity of aspects of dating and sex (Furman & Hand, 2006)
- ◆ Age as a Moderator?
 - ◆ Early dating, early sex
 - ◆ Associations of dating and sex with functioning moderated by (change depending on) age?

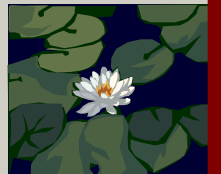




The Minnesota Study: Participants

(Egeland, Sroufe, Collins, Carlson)

- ◆ 267 firstborn children of mothers receiving prenatal care from the Minneapolis public health department (N=197 after age 2).
- ◆ About N = 160 to 190 in most analyses.

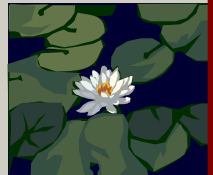


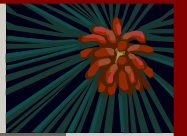
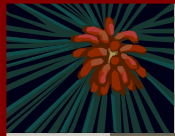


The Minnesota Study: Measures

◆ Data

- ◆ Interviews, parent report, teacher report, self-report
 - ◆ collected multiple times until age 3.
 - ◆ Age 6 (+ home observations)
 - ◆ Age 9
 - ◆ Age 12
 - ◆ Age 13 (+lab parent-adolescent interactions observed)
 - ◆ Age 16
 - ◆ Age 19
 - ◆ Age 20-21 (+lab interactions with romantic partner observed)
 - ◆ Age 23
 - ◆ Age 26
 - ◆ continuing





The Minnesota Study: Measures

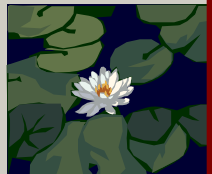
- ◆ Romantic relationships, dating and sex
 - ◆ *Age 16*
 - ◆ *Age 19*
 - ◆ *Age 21*
 - ◆ *Age 23*
 - ◆ *Age 26*





Age as a Moderator and the Many Aspects of Dating Relationships

- 1. Zimmer-Gembeck, M. J., Siebenbruner, J., & Collins, W. A. (2001). Diverse aspects of dating: Associations with psychosocial functioning from early to middle adolescence. *Journal of Adolescence*, 24, 313-336.
- 2. van Dulmen, M. H. M., Goncy, E., Haydon, K. C., & Collins, W. A., (in preparation). Distinctiveness of adolescent and young adulthood romantic relationship features in predicting young adulthood antisocial behavior.



Age as a Moderator and the Many Aspects of Dating Relationships

Zimmer-Gembeck et al., 2001

| <i>Diverse Aspects of Dating/Partnerships and Socioemotional/Behavioral Functioning</i> | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| | | Experience Level | Overinvolvement | Satisfaction / Closeness |
| Age 12 | | | | |
| | Emotional health | 0 | -.18 | 0 |
| | Academics | 0 | -.22 | 0 |
| | Internalizing symptoms | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Externalizing behavior | 0 | .18 | 0 |
| Age 16 | | | | |
| | Emotional health | 0 | -.31 + C | 0 |
| | Academics | 0 | -.36 + C | 0 |
| | Internalizing symptoms | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Externalizing behavior | .22 | .39 + C | 0 |
| | Self: Social Acceptance | .22 | 0 | .28 |
| | Self: Romantic appeal | .35 | 0 | .36 |

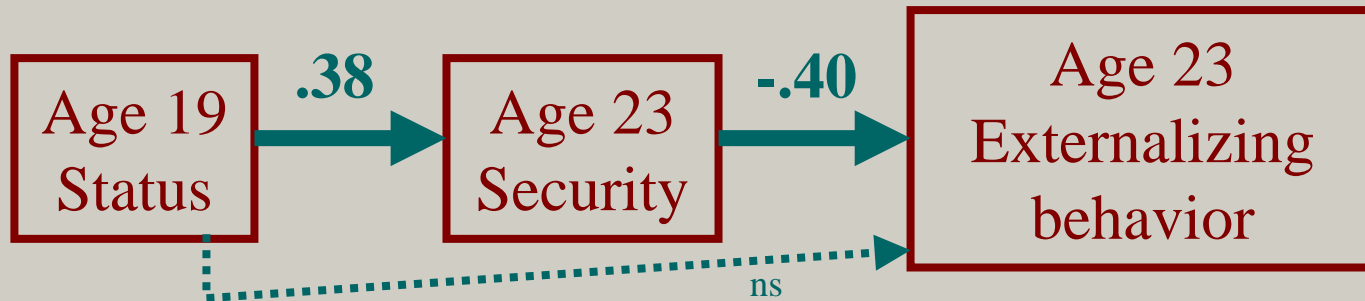
Age as a Moderator and the Many Aspects of Dating Relationships

♦ van Dulmen, M. H. M., Gony, E., Haydon, K. C., & Collins, W. A. (in prep). *Distinctiveness of adolescent and young adulthood romantic relationship features in predicting young adulthood antisocial behavior.*

- ♦ Adolescent (age 16 and 19) and young adult (age 23) relationship status & security associated with externalizing behavior problems?

♦ ROMANTIC SECURITY

- ♦ No concurrent association at age 16.
- ♦ Stronger association at age 23 compared to age 16, $z = 2.11, p < .05$.
 - Age 16 predicted lower ext at age 23, $r = -.21$.
 - Age 23 predicted lower ext at age 23, $r = -.40$.

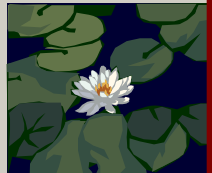




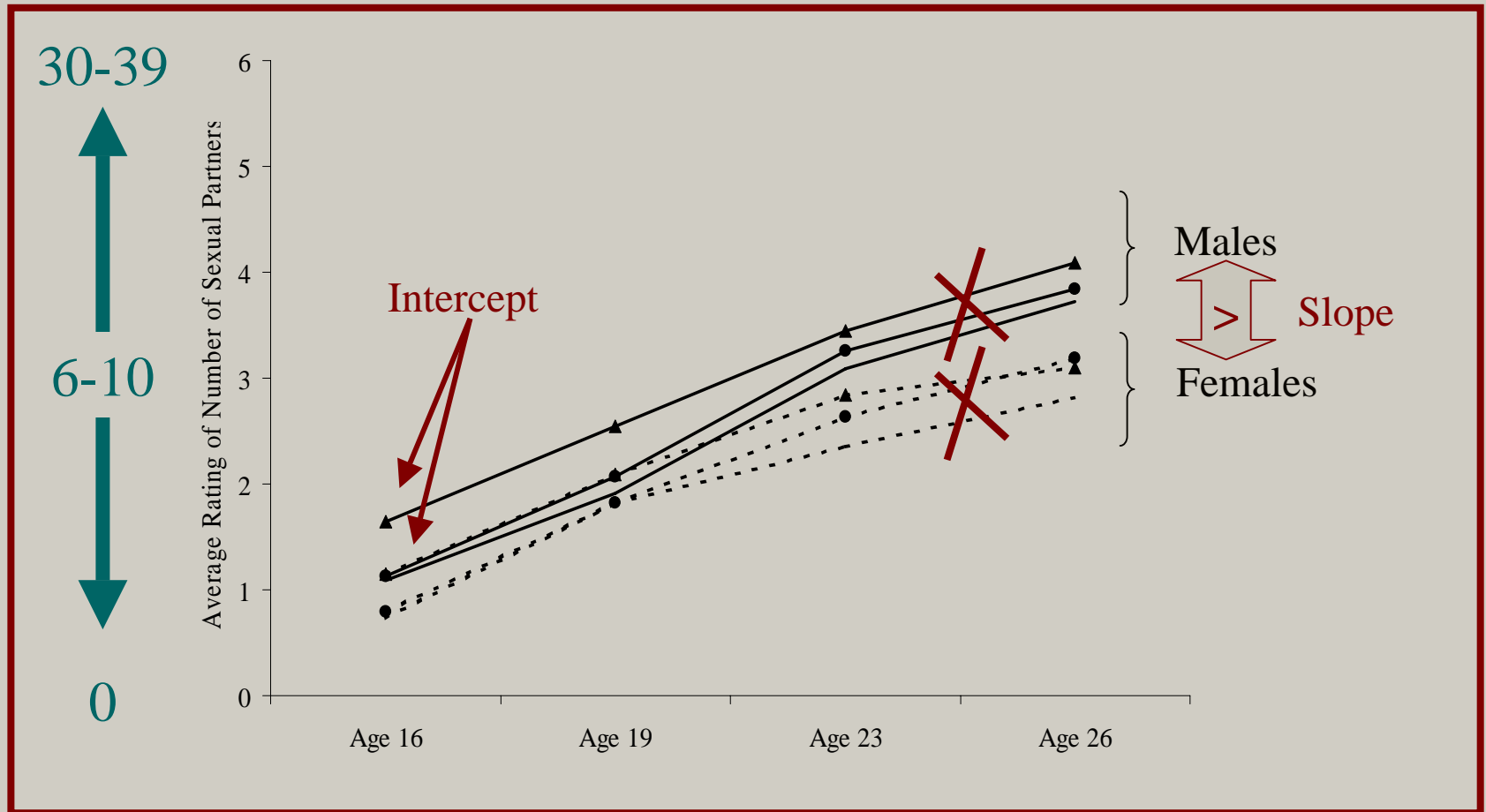
Age-related Patterns

◆ Patterns and models of sexual behavior

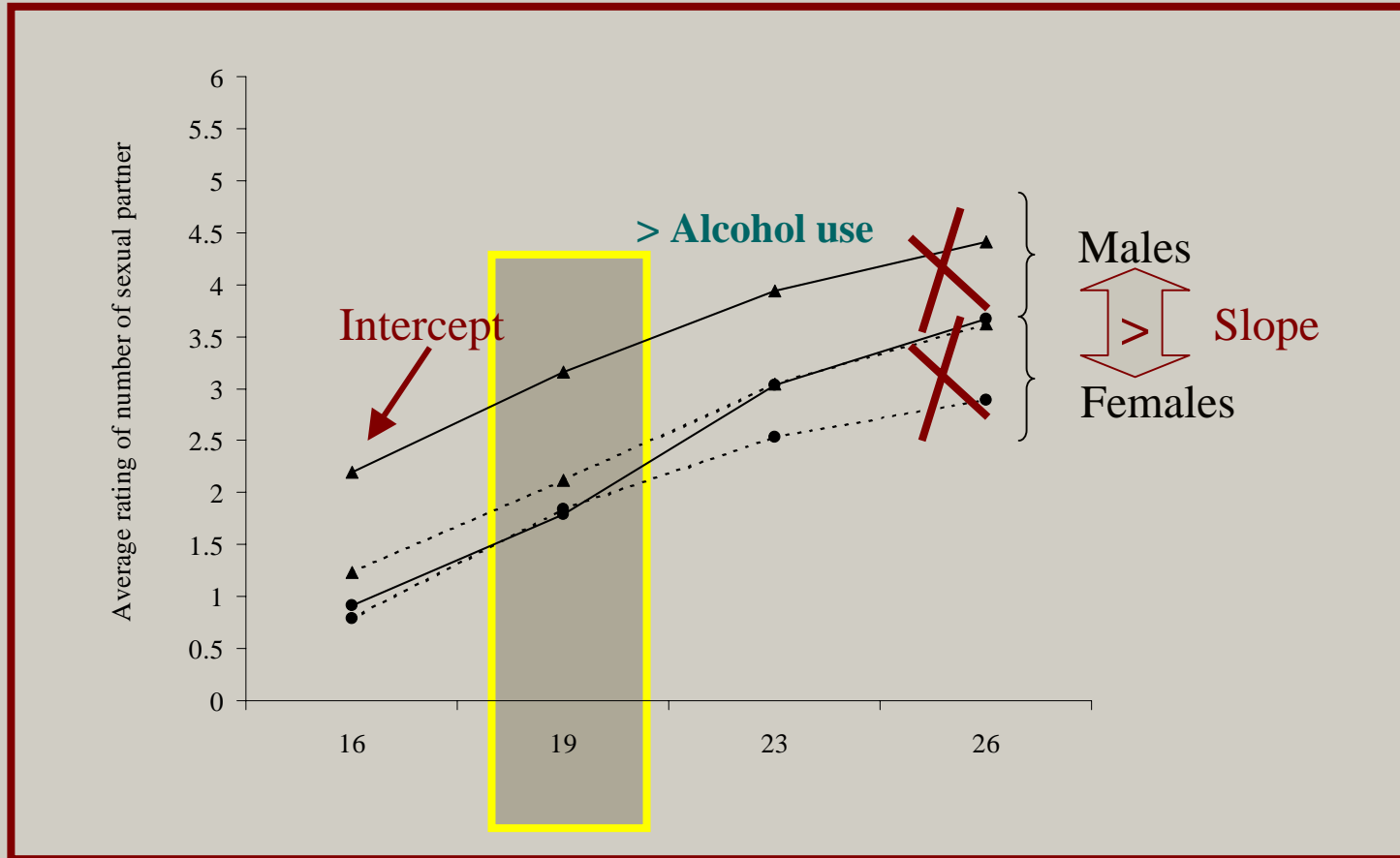
- ◆ Birth to Age 16: Siebenbruner, J., Zimmer-Gembeck, M. J., & Egeland, B. (2006, in press). Sexual partners and contraceptive use: A 16-year prospective study predicting abstinence and risk behavior. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*.
- ◆ 30 Months to Age 19: Zimmer-Gembeck, M. J., Siebenbruner, J., & Collins, W. A. (2004). A prospective study of intraindividual and peer influences on adolescents' heterosexual romantic and sexual behavior. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 33, 381-394.
- ◆ Age 16 to Age 26: Zimmer-Gembeck, M. J., & Collins, W. A. (in prep). *Trajectories of sexual partners from adolescence to emerging adulthood*.



Accumulation of New Sexual Partners by Biological Sex and Observed Mature Appearance Level

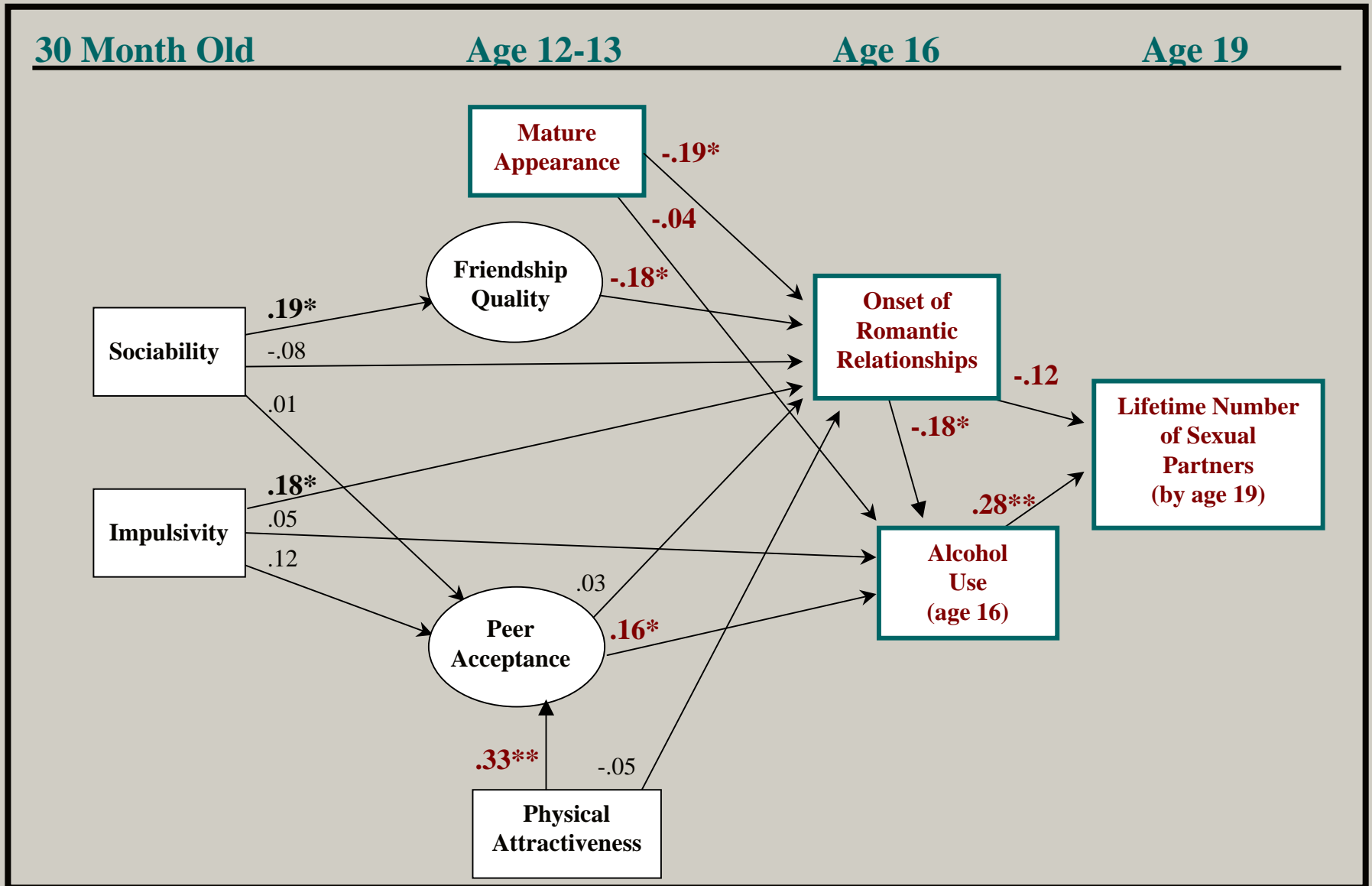


Trajectories of Sexual Partners by Biological Sex and Alcohol Use (age 16)



Pathway to Numbers of Sexual Partners by Age 19

(Zimmer-Gembeck et al., 2004)





Developmental Histories of Sexual Behavior at Age 16

Siebenbruner et al., in press

- ◆ Group Identification at Age 16
 - ◆ High risk: more than 5 partners or less than always contraceptive use (27%)
 - ◆ Low risk: less than 5 partners and always contraceptive use (29%)
 - ◆ Sexually abstinent (44%)
- ◆ Correlates from 3 developmental periods
 - ◆ < Age 12: Maternal demographics, emotional climate at home, grade 3 externalizing behavior and academic perseverance
 - ◆ Age 12-13: Involvement in structured activities, observed parent-child interactions, physical maturation, grade 6 externalizing behavior and academic perseverance
 - ◆ Age 16: externalizing behavior, alcohol use, other drug use, romantic involvement, religiosity, parental control/monitoring, quality of family relationships

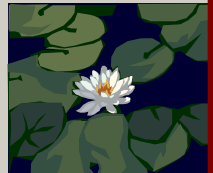


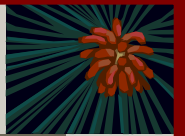
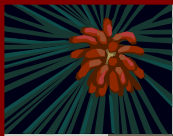


Developmental Histories of Sexual Behavior at Age 16

Siebenbruner et al., in press

- ◆ **Findings** (ordinal logistic regression using group membership as the DV)
 - ◆ **Compared to Sexual Abstainers at age 16 (44%)**
 - ◆ **High Sexual Risk-Takers at age 16 (27%)**
 - ◆ Symptom of more general problems prior to adolescence
 - Problems in grade 3 and 6
 - ◆ More relationship progression at age 16
 - ◆ Drug use at age 16
 - ◆ **Low Sexual Risk-Takers at age 16 (29%)**
 - ◆ No problems prior to adolescence (compared to sexual abstainers)
 - ◆ More normative or common during adolescence
 - Similar to Sexual Abstainers prior to age 16
 - More physically mature at age 13
 - More relationship progression at age 16
 - More alcohol use (but not other drug use)





Why Study Dating and Sexual Behavior?

- ◆ Dating and sexuality are developmental tasks of adolescence / emerging adulthood
- ◆ Nucleus
 - ◆ Brings together other developmental tasks
 - ◆ Identity
 - ◆ Autonomy
 - ◆ Intimacy
- ◆ Entire field of adolescent development will benefit

