

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE  
RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

**Adolescent Sexual Risk Behaviors: Does Sport Type Play a Role?  
Karen Gromer**

Recent data from the CDC and the Department of Health and Human Services indicate that sexually transmitted infections among 15-19 year olds and teenage pregnancies have increased in recent years. This suggests an associated increase in prevalence of sexual risk taking behaviors. Many studies have compared sexual risk behaviors in adolescent athletes and non-athletes, most finding the male athletes are more likely than non-athletes to engage in risky behaviors, while female athletes are less likely than non-athletes to engage in risky behaviors. These studies have considered athletes to be a single homogenous group, failing to distinguish between different sports or sport types. However, sports psychology literature suggests that differences in risk behaviors may exist across sports.

The proposed study aims to determine whether there are differences in adolescent sexual behaviors among team sports participants, individual sports participants, participants in both sport types, and non-athletes using data from Wave I of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health).

Analyses will include full model logistic regressions to determine whether differences exist for the following outcomes: (1) sexual intercourse (ever vs. never); (2) age at first intercourse; (3) number of sexual partners; (4) contraception at most recent intercourse; (5) drug or alcohol use at most recent intercourse; (6) sexually transmitted infections; and (7) pregnancy in females.

This study has practical implications for future research examining behavioral differences of particular groups of athletes and identifying effective interventions for these groups.

**Committee Chair:  
Deborah Ossip, PhD**

**Committee Members:  
Edwin van Wijngaarden, PhD  
Peggy Auinger, MS  
Susan Yussman, MD, MPH**

**Wednesday, December 16, 2009  
12:30PM – 1:00 PM  
Helen Wood Hall, Room 4W301**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME