

16.0: SEXUAL ACTIVITY:

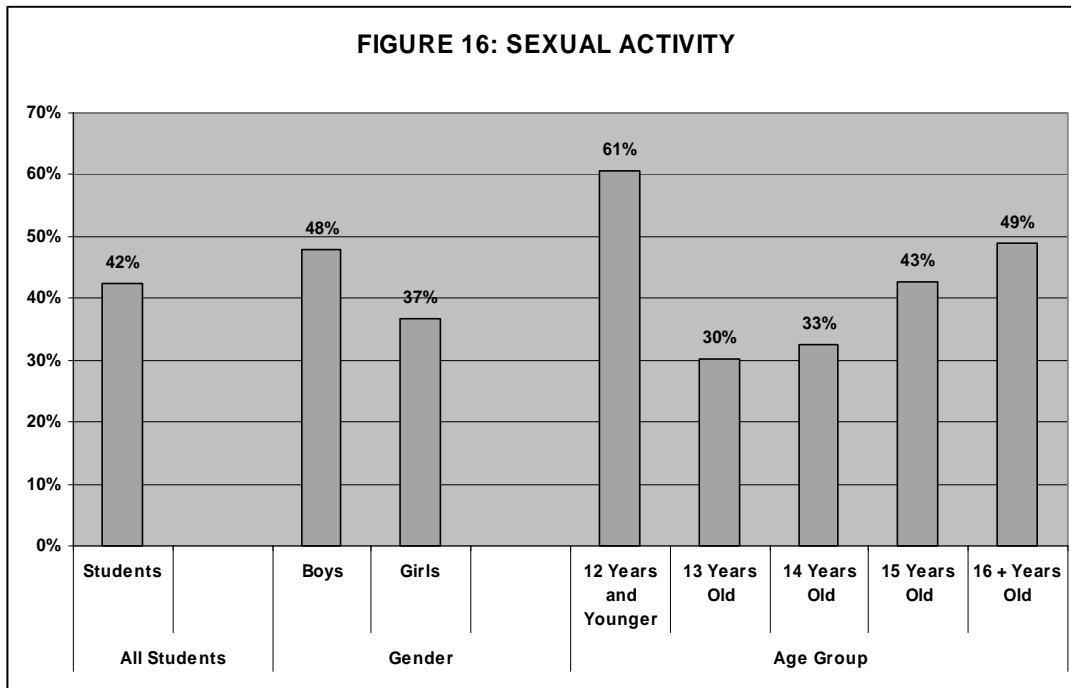


Figure 16 consolidates the information gathered on the extent to which the students in the study were sexually active and this is presented from both the age and gender perspectives. It can be seen that slightly less than half of the students are active and that more boys than girls are active. The single largest group of persons admitting to sexual activity is 12 years old or younger and it should be noted that this statistic is not influenced by the fact that the “12 year” group is larger than the others; indeed this group is similar in size to the other age groups. The implication therefore is that there was either a higher level of honesty, among these students, or there is a higher level of sexual activity among this younger generation. A major limitation of this type of analysis would be the fact that the term “*sexually active*” can be subjected to various interpretations.

Against this background of sexual activity, it is perhaps fortunate that 87% of students have been exposed to sex education classes at either the primary or secondary level and lowest level of exposure was among 13 year old students.

Among the 59% of students making plans to either “*definitely*” or “*probably*” become sexually active are 66% of boys and 51% of girls and here also the 12 year olds are the single largest group planning to become sexually active in the next three years.