



**Trinidad and Tobago (2009): HIV/AIDS
TRaC Study Evaluating Condom Use
among Sexually Active Youth 16-26
years in Tobago
Round 1**

T h e P S I D a s h b o a r d

**Trinidad and Tobago
August 2009**

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PSI Research Division
Year 2010

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Acknowledgments This TRaC (Tracking Results Continuously) Survey was funded by the World Bank (WB) through the National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC) of Trinidad & Tobago. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the WB or the NACC of Trinidad & Tobago. Our gratitude goes out to PSI Research Consultant Mr. Joel Joseph and PSI/Caribbean Technical/Research Officer Ms. Ava Rampersad for designing the sampling and study and to Ms. Clare Barrington for the construction of the report and analysis findings. Additional gratitude is extended to Mr. Benjamin Nieto-Andrade (PSI Regional Researcher) for reviewing the document at varying stages and to the National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC), the Tobago HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee (THACC), PSI Caribbean Team and Ms. Tamara Chance.

Suggested citation of this work:

PSI Research Division, "Trinidad and Tobago (2009): HIV/AIDS TRaC Study Evaluating Condom Use among Sexually Active Youth 16-26 years in Tobago. Round 1" PSI Social Marketing Research Series, (2009) http://www.psi.org/research/cat_socialresearch_smr.asp.

Summary

Background & Research Objectives The purpose of the Tracking Results Continuously (TRaC) survey is to provide an assessment of key behaviors, behavioral determinants and exposure to a World Bank-funded PSI/SFH HIV prevention program among sexually active 16 to 26 year old youth in Tobago.

Description of Intervention The HIV prevention program promotes safer sexual behaviours through increased condom use among youth 16 to 26 years old using peer education and mass media behavior change communication activities.

Methodology In 2009 time location sampling was used to recruit 407 youth recruited in “hot spots” where youth are known to congregate (i.e. beaches, clubs, bars, shopping areas, sporting events) throughout Tobago. Analyses consisted of logistic regression to ascertain which determinants are correlated with key behaviors and analysis of variance to estimate the adjusted means/proportions of each explanatory variable by condom use (at last sex and consistent with any type of partner in the last month), controlling for socio-demographic characteristics and geographic location.¹

Main Findings

The monitoring table highlights that:

- Only 9.3% of participants reported consistent condom use with any type of partner in the last month, while 32.5% reported using a condom at last sex.
- Less than one quarter of participants (22.9%) had used any kind of lubricant at last sex.
- The mean number of occasional partners in the last month was 1.2 and regular partners 1.0. Having had a commercial partner in the last month was rare among study participants (mean 0.1).
- The majority of participants had seen the “Get it, Got it” (81.5%) or “What’s your position?”(62.2%) campaigns; fewer participants had heard the messages from these campaigns (Get it, Got it 33.8%, What’s your position 43.5%).
- Most participants considered condoms to be available (mean 3.6), although many indicated lower levels of agreement with the statement that they could get condoms at all hours of the night (mean 2.3).
- Overall participants indicated only some agreement with statements regarding pro-condom and HIV prevention social norms among friends (mean 2.3). Open discussion of condoms is not the norm (mean 2.4) while there was slightly more agreement that friends use condoms consistently (mean 2.6).
- There was slightly more agreement than disagreement with statements indicating intentions to use condoms and get tested for HIV (mean 2.4).
- While participants indicated several pro-condom attitudes, for example moderately high levels of agreement with the statement that it is appropriate to use condoms with sexual partner after three months (mean 2.9), there were also barriers including low levels of agreement with the statements that it is not embarrassing to ask partners to use condoms (mean 2.4) and sexual intercourse is pleasurable with a condom (mean 2.0).

The segmentation tables indicate that that condom use is associated with:

- *Lubricant use:* Participants who reported using any type of lubricant at last sex were significantly more likely than non-users of lubricants to report condom use at last sex (36.1% vs. 15.9%, $p<0.001$).

¹ For more details about the methodology and data collection, please contact the first author for a copy of the study design document.

- *Availability:* Participants who were carrying a condom at the time of the interview were significantly more likely to report having used a condom at last sex (52.8% vs. 11.7%, $p < 0.001$) and using condoms consistently with any partner in the last month (63.6% vs. 21.0%, $p < 0.001$) than those who did not carry condoms.
- *Intention:* Participants with higher mean levels of intent to use condoms consistently with regular and casual partners and to get tested for HIV in the next 3 months were significantly more likely to report condom use at last sex (2.43 vs. 2.12, $p < 0.01$) and consistently with any partner in the last month (2.59 vs. 2.19, $p < 0.01$) than participants with lower levels of intent.
- *Attitudes:* Participants who agreed that it is not embarrassing to ask my sexual partner(s) to use a condom were significantly more likely to report using condoms consistently compared to participants who did not agree as strongly with this statement (2.80 vs. 2.43, $p < 0.05$).
- *Number of partners:* Having fewer regular partners was significantly associated with reporting consistent condom use with any partner in the last month (0.51 vs. 1.00, $p < 0.01$).
- *Population characteristics:* Being a man was associated with lower levels of condom use at last sex. Compared to women, men were significantly more likely to report not having used a condom at last sex (50.2% vs. 38.7%, $p < 0.05$).

Programmatic Recommendations

- Condom use is not widely practiced among sexually active youth in Tobago. Findings highlight the discrepancy between measures of “consistent” and “last sex” condom use. Future programmatic efforts should emphasize the importance of consistent condom use with all partners. Future research efforts should improve understanding of partnership and power dynamics among young people to develop effective strategies for promoting consistent condom use among youth in all types of relationships, in particular regular partnerships characterized by trust and intimacy.
- Intention to use condoms and having a condom were the most consistent predictors of condom use suggesting that those young people who plan to use condoms are the most likely to actually use them. Peer education efforts and mass media messages should promote and reinforce the idea of planning ahead for HIV prevention by having condoms on hand at all times.
- Despite the fact that this was the baseline survey, a large proportion of participants had already been exposed to the “Get it, Got It” and “What’s Your Position” campaigns, which were part of a national mass media campaign implemented before the survey. Future efforts should focus on expanding coverage of the audio aspect of these campaigns, where exposure rates were lower, and directly address the barriers to condom use identified in this study.
- While youth generally felt that condoms were available in their neighborhoods and other commercial venues, the lack of condom availability at night should be addressed in future social marketing strategies.
- While many youth discuss condom use with their friends and perceive normative beliefs and behaviors among their friends that promote HIV prevention, there is still much room to increase and improve communication and perceptions, especially given the salience of peer social network influence among young people.
- Gaps in pro-condom beliefs and attitudes were also documented, in particular with regard to how to experience pleasure while using condoms and embarrassment negotiating condom use with partners. Both of these indicators should be addressed through peer education activities where the topic of pleasure can be addressed in an open and safe environment and skills around condom negotiation can be developed.

Monitoring Table

Levels of condom use, sexual behavior, and indicators of opportunity, ability and motivation, Tobago, 2009

Risk group: Males and Females aged 16 to 26 sexually active in the last month

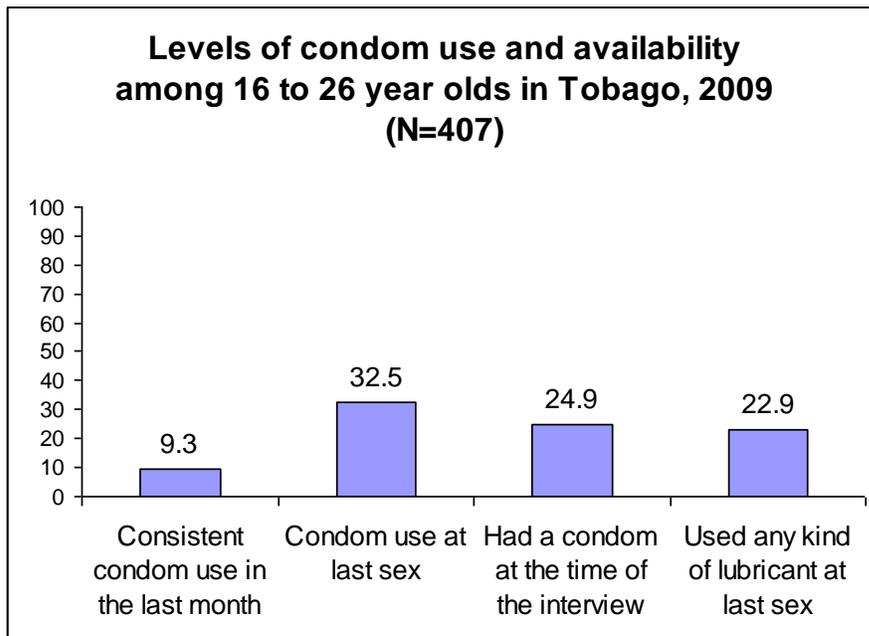
Behavior: Consistent condom use regardless of type of partner

INDICATORS	September/2009 N=407
BEHAVIOR/USE	
	%
- Consistent condom use regardless of partner type in the last month	9.3
- Condom use at last sex from beginning to end of intercourse	32.5
- Used any kind of lubricant at last sex	22.9
	Mean
- Condom demonstration score (0-8)	3.8
- Age at first sex (9 years to 26 years)	14.1
NEED/RISK	
	Mean
-Number of occasional partners in the last month	1.2
-Number of regular partners in the last month	1.0
-Number of commercial partners in the last month	0.1
	%
-Had a condom on his/her person at the time of the interview	24.9
OPPORTUNITY	
<i>Availability</i>	Mean
Availability scale (7 items)	3.6
It's not difficult to always get a condom when I need one (R)	1.7
Condoms are not difficult to find at all times of the night (R)	2.3
<i>Social Norms</i>	
Social norms scale (4 items) (R)	2.3
When lining with my friends/peers condom use is a topic of discussion	2.4
I feel that my male and female friends/peers consistently use condoms with their sexual partners	2.6
ABILITY	
<i>Knowledge</i>	Mean
Knowledge scale (9 items)	5.3
MOTIVATION	
<i>Beliefs and Attitudes</i>	Mean
-It is appropriate to use condoms with a sexual partner/s after 3 months (R)	2.9
-Experiencing pleasure with my sexual partner/s is essential (R)	3.0
-It is not embarrassing to ask my sexual partner/s to use a condom (R)	2.4
-Using condoms makes sex less adventurous (R)	2.7
-My sexual partners are willing to use condoms consistently	2.9
-Sexual intercourse is pleasurable with a partner when a condom is used	2.0
-When engaging in sexual intercourse the female should not always experience pain (R)	2.0
<i>Intention</i>	
-Intention scale (3 items)	2.2
<i>Threat</i>	Mean
-Threat scale (3 items)	2.4
-I am at risk for HIV if I have unprotected sex (R)	3.6
-I am the kind of person who is likely to get HIV (R)	2.2
-I am at risk for another STI if I am already infected with one (R)	2.3

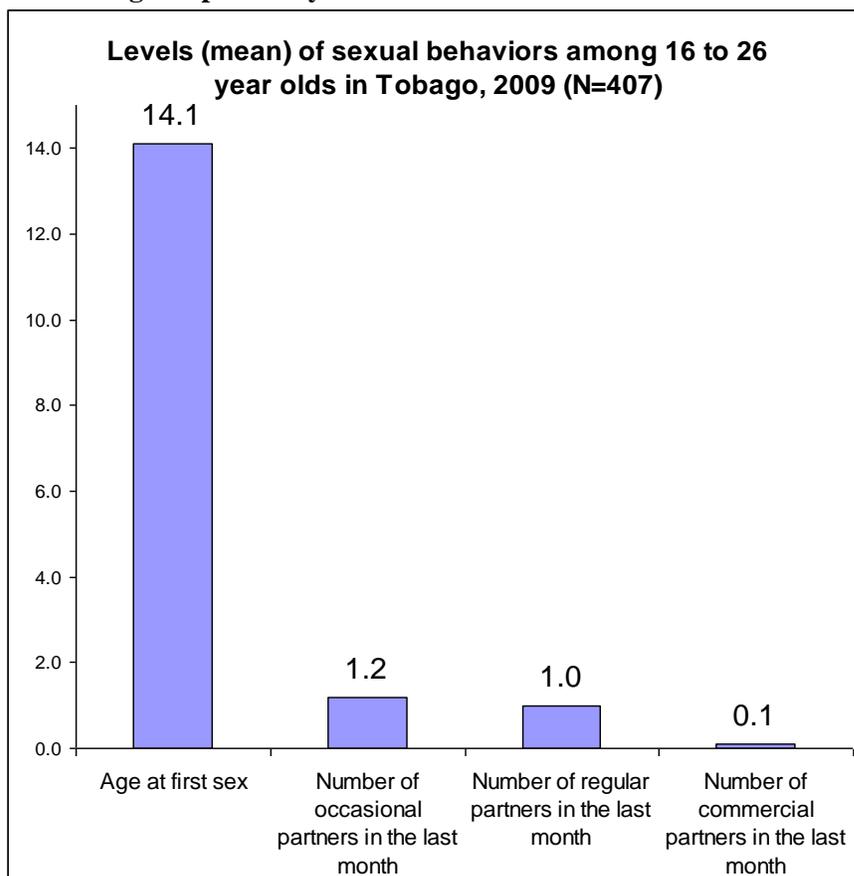
Annex 1: Population Characteristics**Trinidad and Tobago, 2009**

-I am more at risk for getting pregnant/someone pregnant than contracting an STI (R)	2.1
EXPOSURE	
	%
-Have you heard the "Got it Get it" campaign?	33.8
-Have you seen the "Got it Get it" campaign?	81.5
-Have you seen any outlet (e.g. pharmacy, bar etc...) with the "Got it Get it" sticker or poster?	79.7
-Have you participated in any activity that the WYP logo?	17.2
-Have you heard the "What's Your Position" campaign?	43.5
-Have you seen the "What's Your Position" campaign?	62.2
-Have you seen/heard about the THACC?	37.5

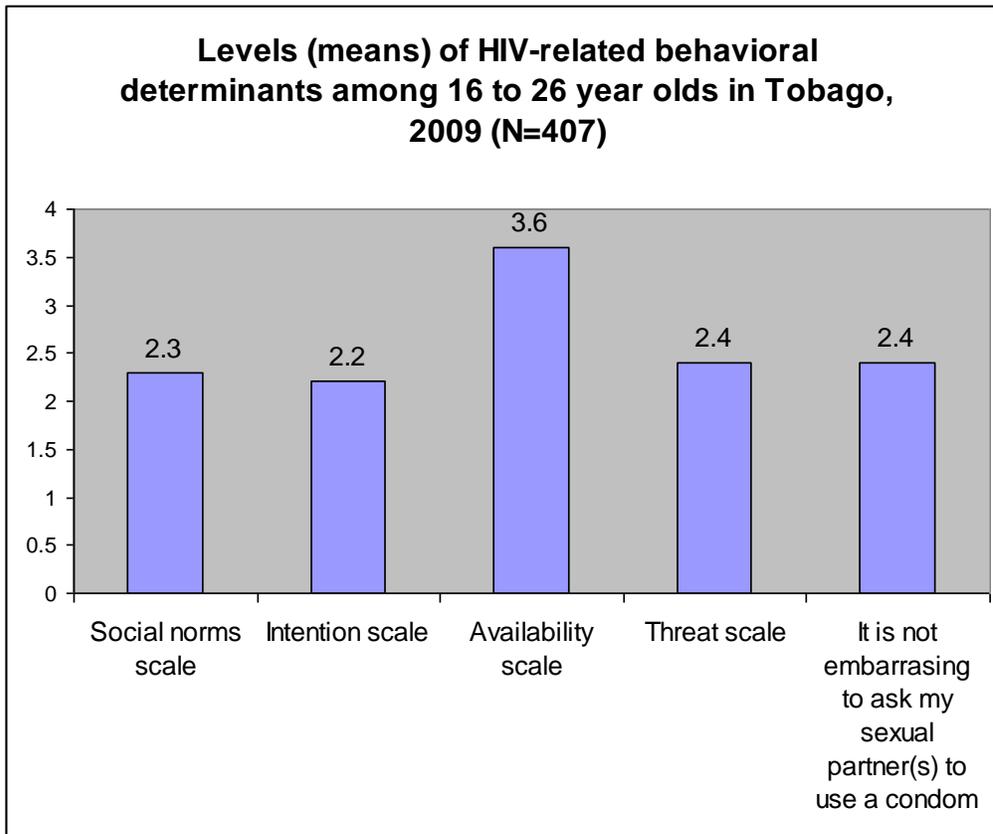
Monitoring Graph 1: Key Behavioral Percentage Results



Monitoring Graph 2: Key Behavioral Mean Results



Monitoring Graph 3: Key Behavioral Determinants Mean Results



Segmentation Table

Determinants of condom use at last sex, Tobago, 2009

Risk: Sexually active males and females, 16-26 years old**Behavior:** Used a condom at the last sexual encounter

INDICATORS	Behavior N= 126 33.3%	Non- Behavior N=252 66.7%	OR	Sig.
BEHAVIOR				
	%	%		
- Used any type of lubricant at last sex	36.1	15.9	4.69	***
- Had a condom at the time of the interview	52.8	11.7	28.07	***
MOTIVATION				
	Mean	Mean		
Intention				
- Intention to use condoms consistently score (1-3)	2.43	2.12	1.792	**
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS				
	%	%		
- Sex of participant (Male vs. Female)	38.7	50.2	0.43	*

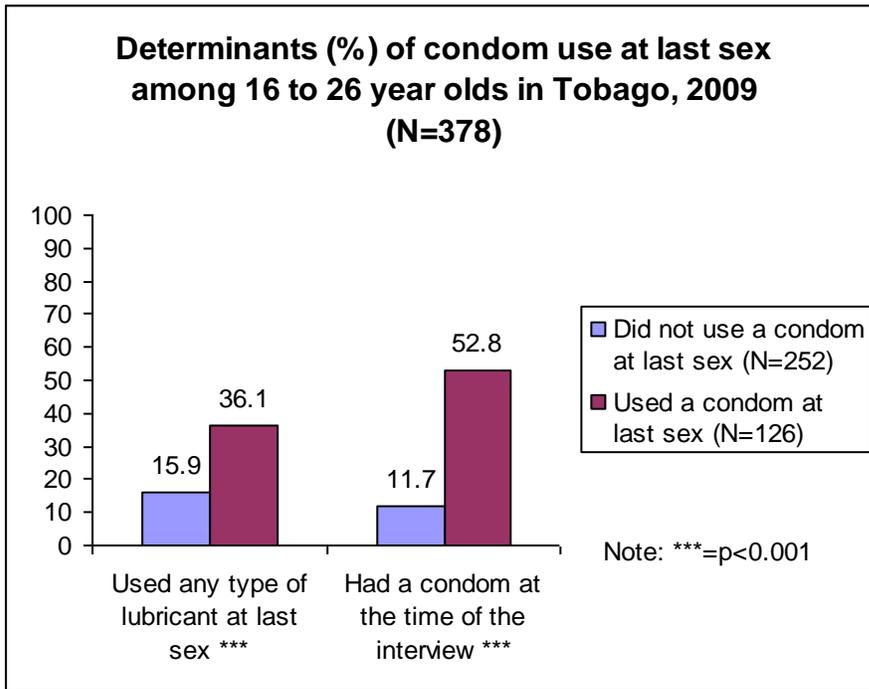
*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

Omnibus Chi-square: 212.962; 41 df; p<0.000.

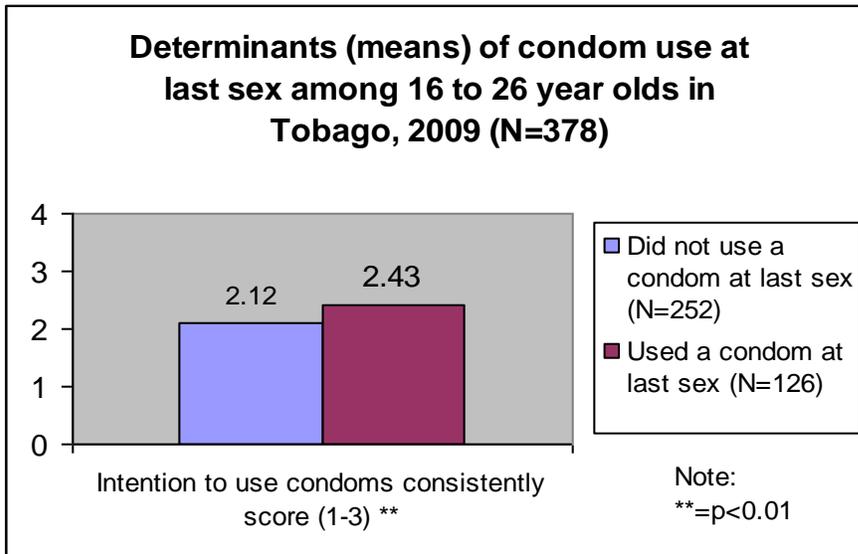
R2 (Cox Snell): .431.

Hosmer-Lemeshow: Chi square 3.263; 8df; p<0.917.

Segmentation Graph 1: Key Percentage Results Condom Use at Last Sex



Segmentation Graph 2: Key Mean Results Condom Use at Last Sex



Segmentation Table

Determinants of consistent condom use, Tobago, 2009

Risk: Sexually active males and females, 16-26 years old**Behavior:** Always used condoms with all partners (regular, occasional, commercial) in the last month

INDICATORS	Behavior N= 33 9.9%	Non- Behavior N=299 90.1%	OR	Sig.
BEHAVIOR				
	Mean	Mean		
- Number of regular sex partners in the last month	0.51	1.00	0.15	**
	%	%		
- Had a condom at the time of the interview	63.6	21.0	15.34	***
MOTIVATION				
	Mean	Mean		
Attitudes				
- It is not embarrassing to ask my sexual partner(s) to use a condom (R)	2.80	2.43	2.07	*
Intention				
- Intention to use condoms consistently score (1-3)	2.59	2.19	3.80	**

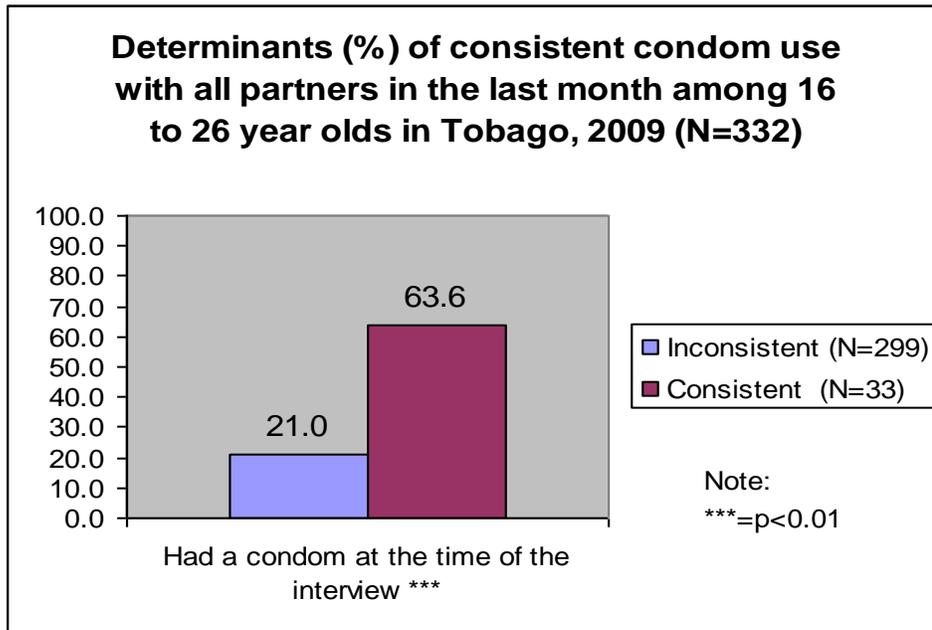
*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

Omnibus Chi-square: 117.293; 41 df; p<0.000.

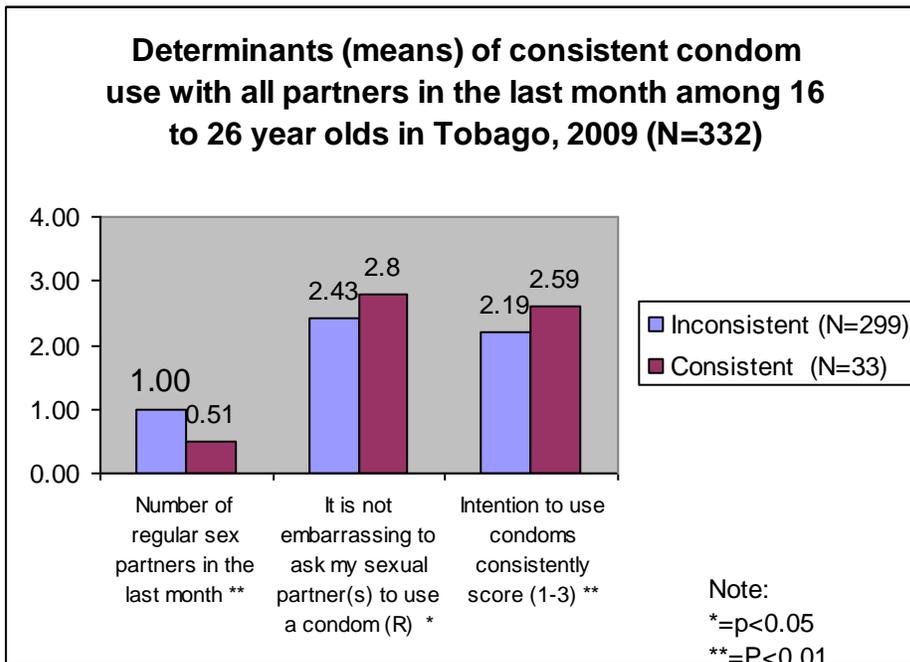
R2 (Cox Snell): .282.

Hosmer-Lemeshow: Chi square 2.017; 8df; p<0.980

Segmentation Graph 3: Key Percentage Results Consistent Condom Use



Segmentation Graph 4: Key Mean Results Consistent Condom Use



Population Characteristics

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	N=407 % or mean
Age	%
16	14.8
17	9.6
18	5.9
19	10.3
20	6.4
21	7.9
22	10.3
23	4.7
24	8.1
25	12.3
26	9.6
	Mean 20.8
Marital Status	%
Unmarried living with sex partner	16.2
Single	68.7
Married living with spouse/sex partner	11.7
Married not living with spouse/sex partner	2.5
Other	1.0
Education	%
Never attended school	0.2
Did not finish primary school	3.2
Primary school	8.4
Secondary/high school	59.5
Tertiary school	8.4
Technical/vocational	18.4
University	2.0
Currently employed	%
No	35.3
Yes	64.2
Average monthly income/allowance (over last year)	%
No income	28.1
\$1-249	0.8
\$250-499	0.8
\$500-999	1.3
\$1000-1499	1.8
\$1500-1999	5.2
\$2000-2999	14.2
\$3000-3999	18.4
\$4000-4999	12.3
\$5000-5999	7.3
\$6000-6999	4.2
\$7000-7999	1.6
\$8000-8999	0.8

Annex 1: Population Characteristics**Trinidad and Tobago, 2009**

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	N=407 % or mean
\$9000 or above	1.0
Ethnic descent	%
African	89.2
Indian	3.4
Mixed	7.1
Other	0.2
Religion	%
Anglican	9.6
Methodist	10.3
Moravian	4.4
Pentecostal	20.6
Roman Catholic	12.8
Seventh Day Adventist	17.7
Muslim	1.7
Rastafarian	3.7
Spiritual Baptist	15.2
Orisha	0.5
Other	2.9

Reliability Analysis

Composite Variables	Year (N=407)
	Cronbach's Alpha
OPPORTUNITY	
Social Norm: 1. <i>My friends/peers do not like to use condoms with their sexual partners (R)</i> 2. <i>It is common for young males and/or females who I hang out with to have more than one sexual partner(R)</i> 3. <i>My friends generally think that it is okay to have more than one sexual partner(R)</i> 4. <i>Young males or females like myself are less likely to use condoms with their sexual partners (R)</i>	0.7733
MOTIVATION	
Intention: 1. <i>I plan to get tested for HIV within the next 3 months</i> 2. <i>I plan to use condoms consistently with my regular partners</i> 3. <i>I plan to use condoms consistently with my casual partners</i>	0.7173