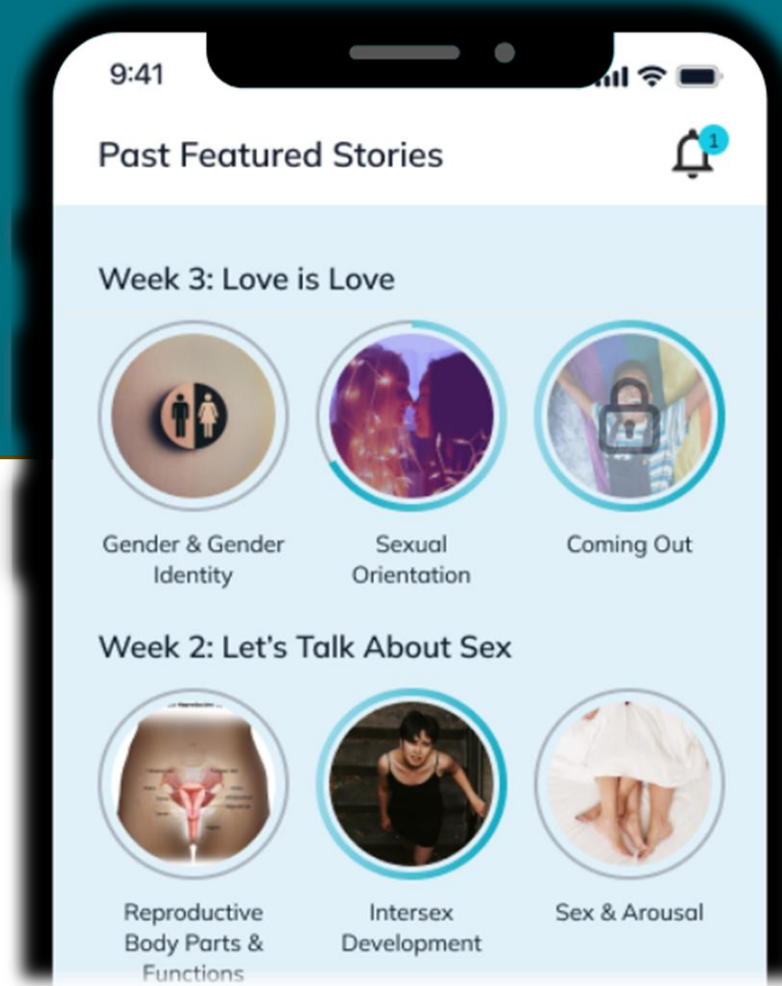


Measuring More Than Penile-Vaginal Sex: Baseline Sexual Behaviors from the SafeSpace Impact Evaluation

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PROGRAM

SafeSpace is an adaptation of MyHealthEd's original iOS mobile app, Real Talk, that uses authentic youth stories and relevant, accurate resources to improve teen health. SafeSpace uses Real Talk's youth-generated stories and resources as the first two components in a larger curriculum. SafeSpace aims to reduce sexual risk factors and increase sexual agency among youth.

A brief look at SafeSpace:

- 10 weeks of content
- Each lesson contains:

- 1 authentic youth story on aligned topics
- 3 key facts written by sexual health experts
- 3 high quality online resources to learn more
- Reflection activity to apply knowledge and skills

- State and national resources
- Bedsider.org clinic finder

EVALUATION DESIGN

Our team is evaluating SafeSpace among youth ages 14-18 who were assigned female or intersex at birth, with a particular focus on youth of color, LGBTQ+ youth, and youth living in rural areas in southeastern U.S. states. The Child Trends evaluation team led the development of LGBTQ+ inclusive survey measures with input and guidance LGBTQ+ equity experts, and LGBTQ+ youth.

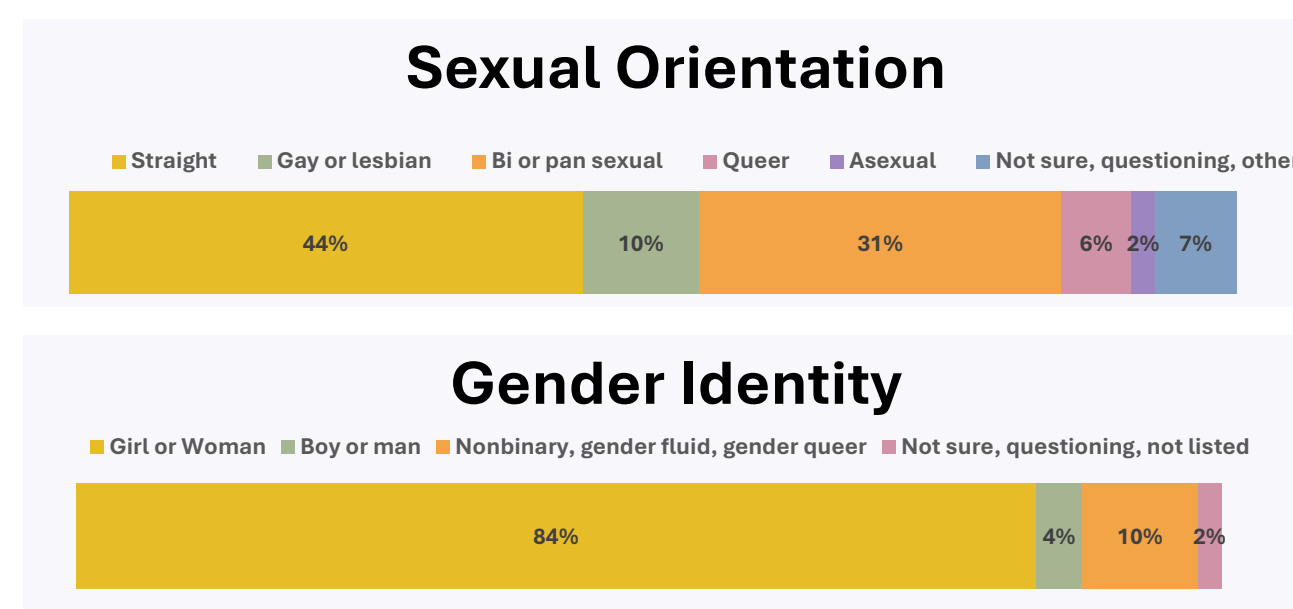
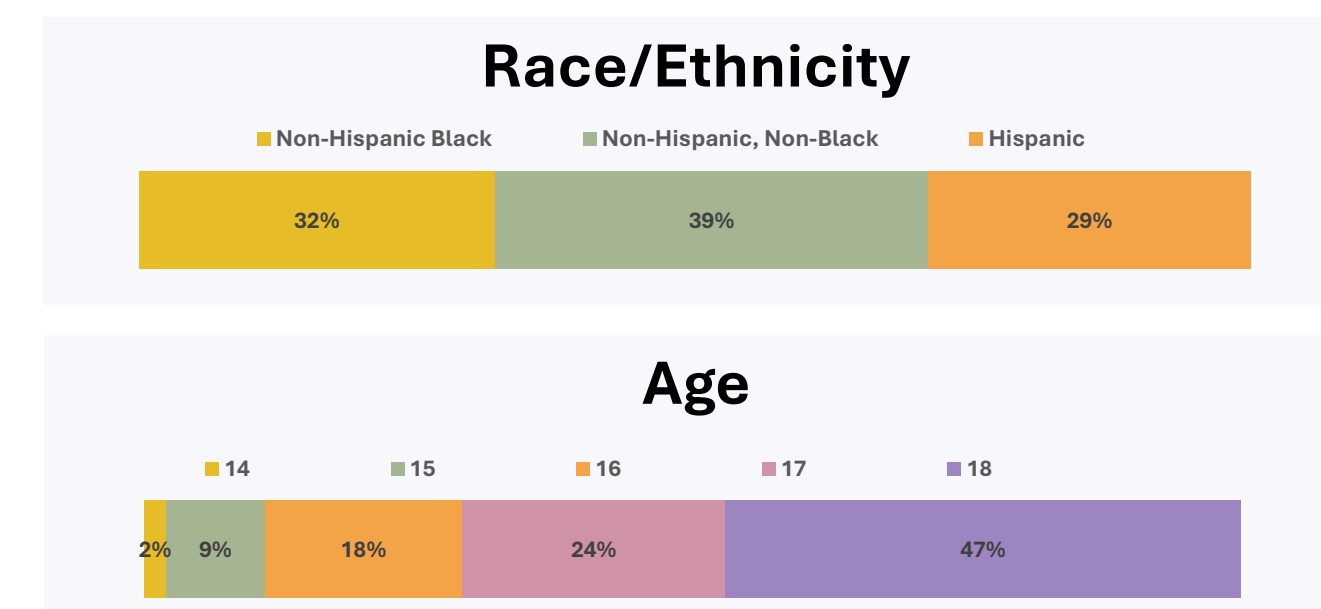
Through May 2024, we have enrolled **526 youth** and plan to recruit 1,000 youth into a two-arm randomized control trial evaluation between June 2023 and March 2025.

Expansive Set of Sexual Behavior Measures

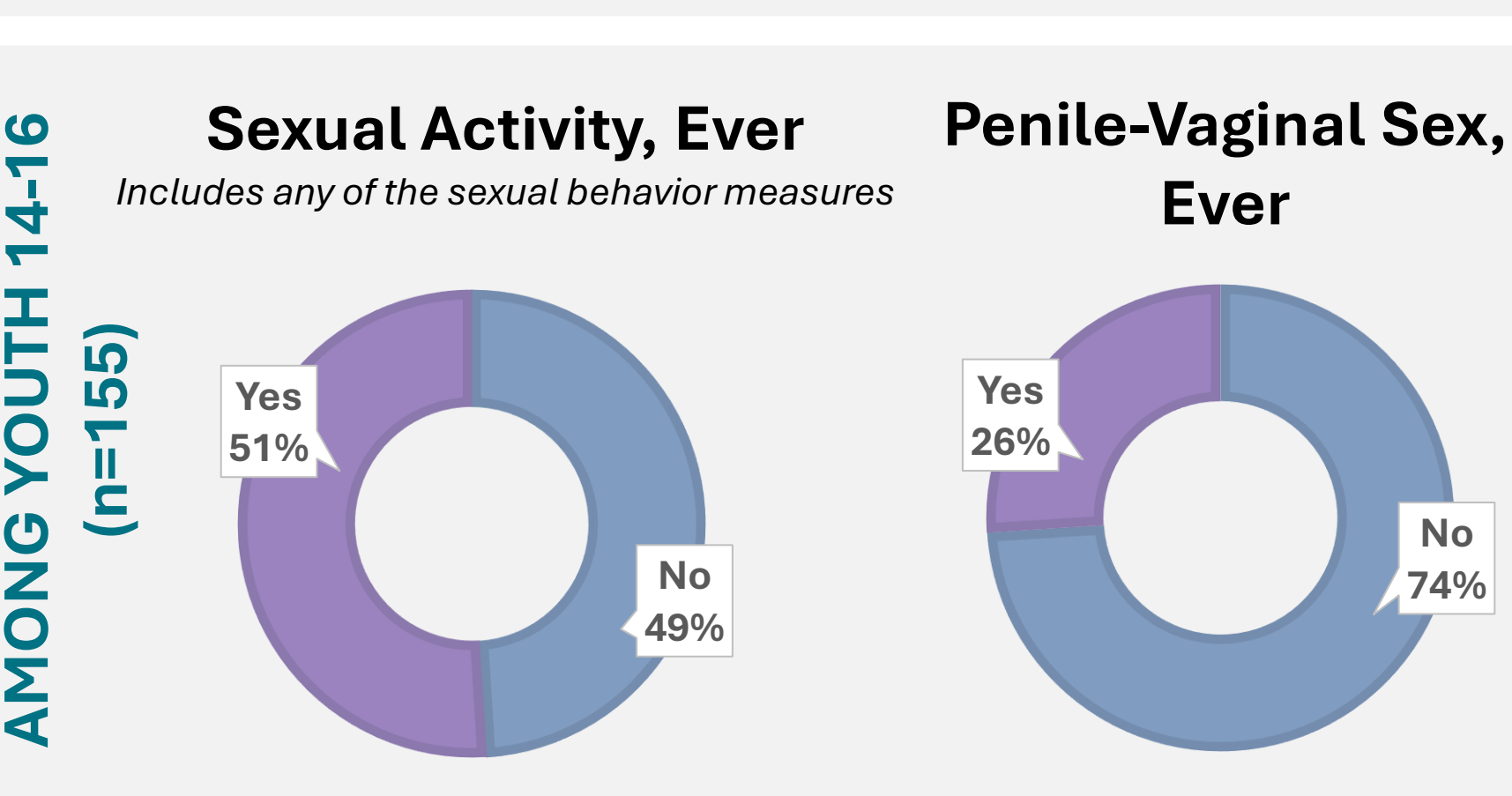
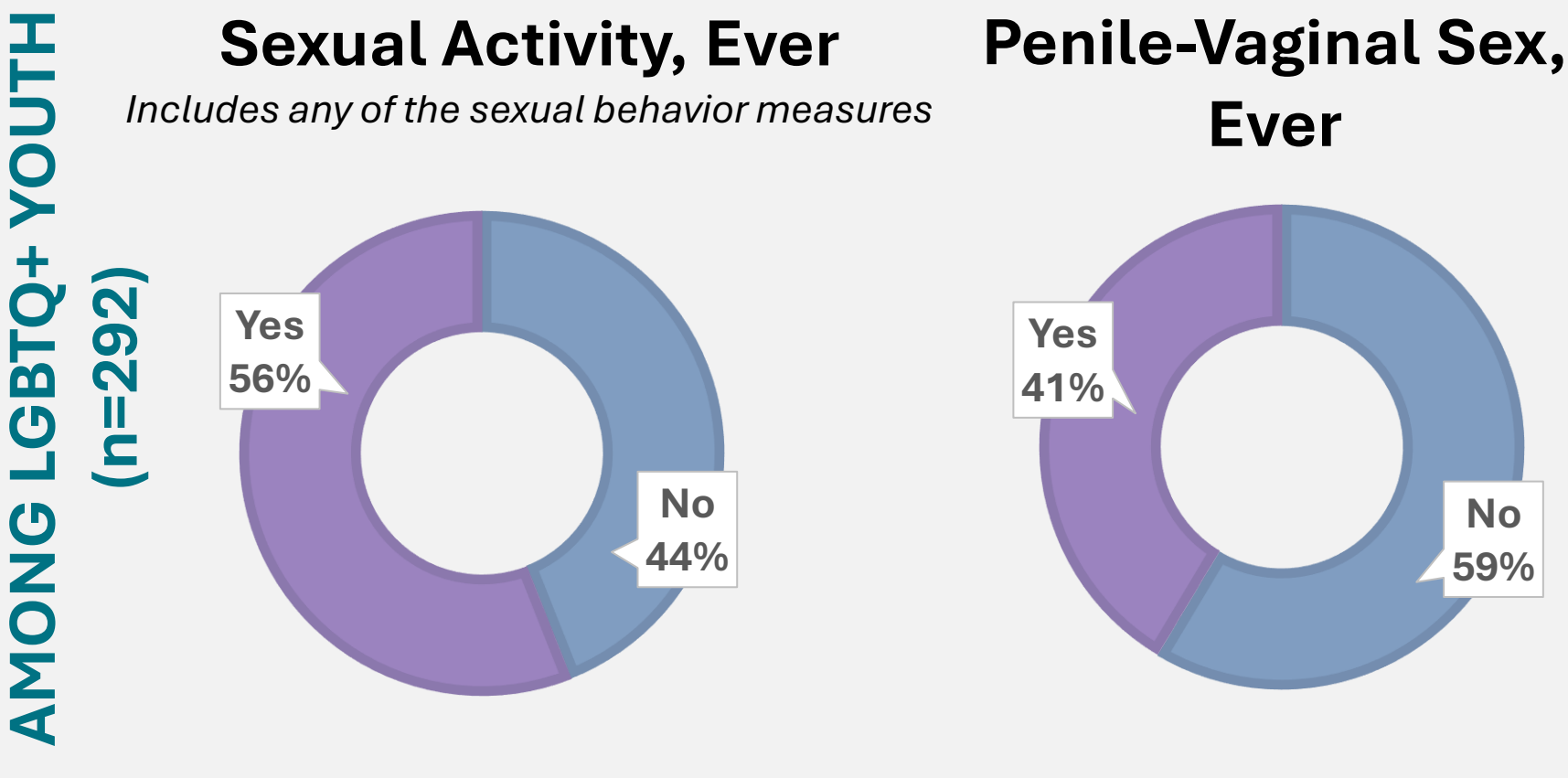
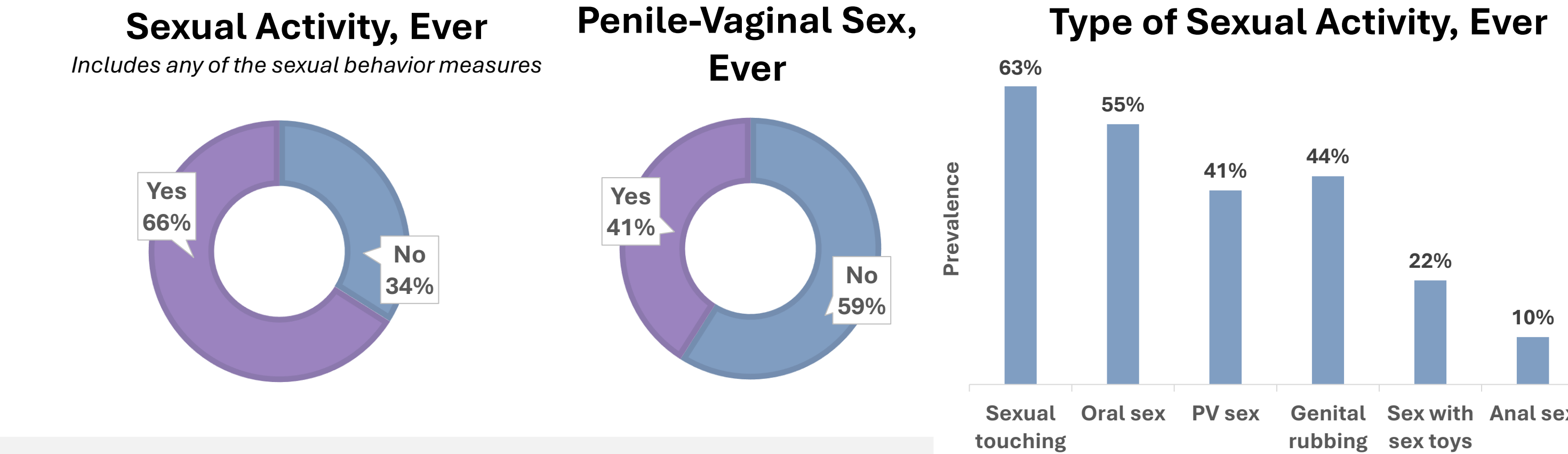
- ❖ Have you and another person **ever touched each other's private parts** for your or their pleasure? *This includes fingering, hand jobs, or touching breasts.*
- ❖ Have you **ever** given or received **oral sex**? *By oral sex we mean a person's mouth touching another person's vagina, penis, or anus (butthole) for their own or their partners' pleasure.*
- ❖ Have you **ever** had **penis-in-vagina sex**? *By penis-vagina sex, we mean a penis goes inside a vagina.*
- ❖ Have you **ever rubbed your genitals or anus against another person's genitals or anus** without penetration?
- ❖ Have you **ever** had **sex using sex toys** with another person? *By sex using sex toys, we mean using vibrators, dildos, or butt plugs with another person for your or their pleasure.*
- ❖ Have you **ever** had **anal sex**? *By anal sex, we mean a penis goes in an anus (butthole).*

Each of the sexual behavior questions were followed by the following statement:
Remember, only answer about times you willingly chose to participate.

Participant Demographics



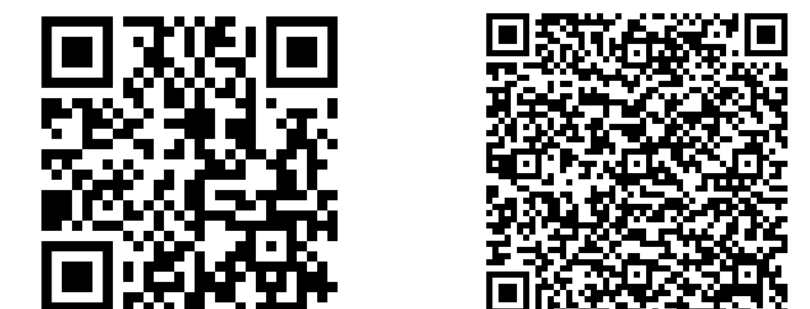
BASELINE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR FINDINGS: INITIAL COHORT (n=526)



Using an expansive set of sexual behavior measures:

- ❖ Ensures that evaluations are inclusive of all teens and capture the diversity of adolescent sexual experiences
- ❖ Can capture higher rates of sexual activity, which has implications for the number of youth who could benefit from programming

More on LGBTQ+ Inclusive Evaluation:



2024WARD: Building Brighter Futures for Today's Youth Leaders | June 25-27, 2024
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program Grantee Conference

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