



Curtin University

Adolescent attitudes towards contraception and risky sexual behaviour: Findings from an Australian study

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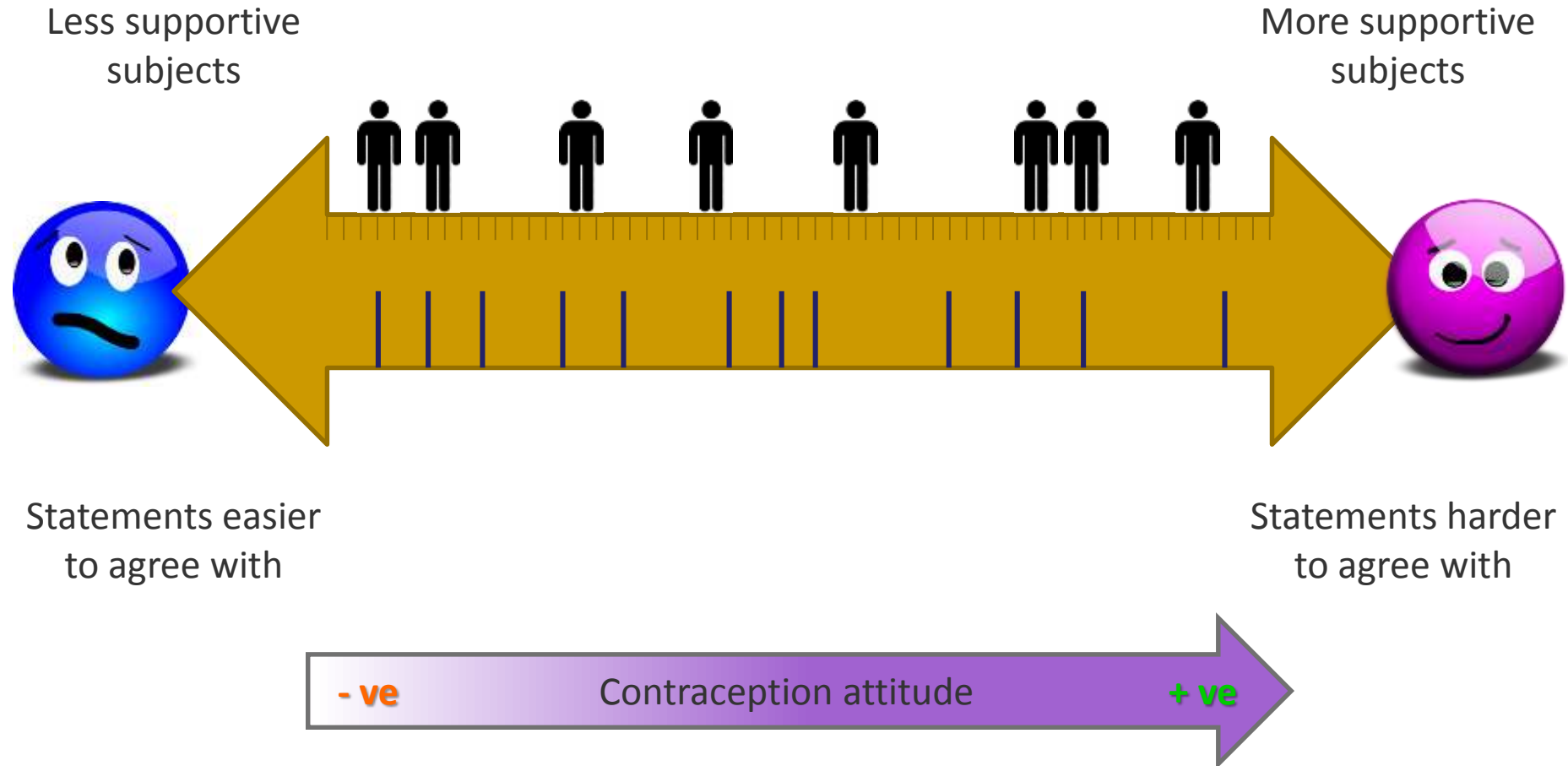
Scale:

Adolescent attitudes towards contraception

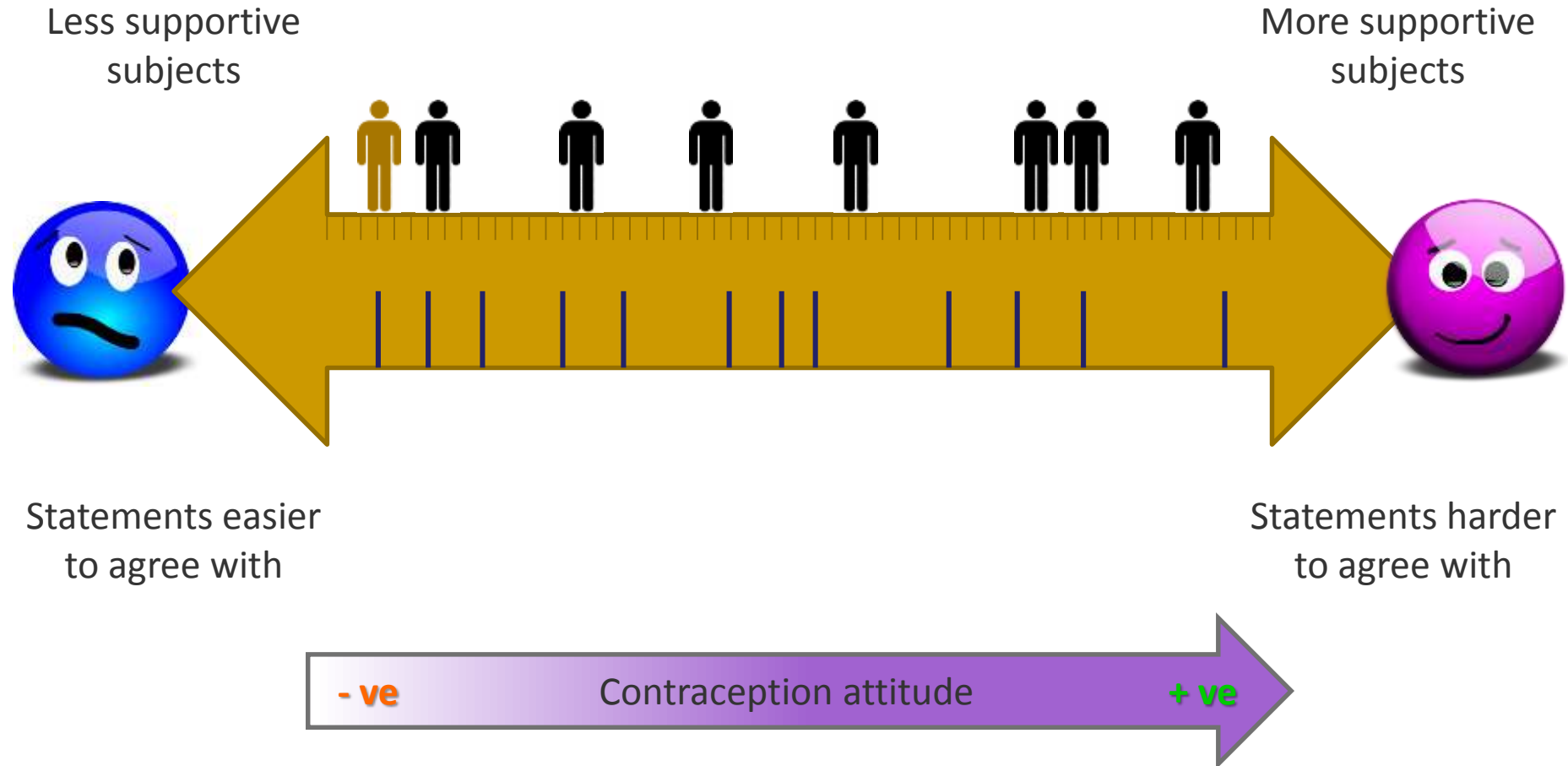
- If you're drunk using a condom is the last thing that's on your mind
- Condoms interrupt the moment
- Contraception is too expensive
- If you've both been tested, condoms aren't such a big deal
- You don't really think about using condoms when you're drinking
- I don't think contraception is a big deal when you've been with someone for a long time
- Sex just seems to happen when you're drunk
- I don't even think about condoms in the heat of the moment
- It's too hard to remember to take the pill every day
- My parents just lecture me when I bring up stuff about girls and sex
- I think it would be hard for me to get a girl pregnant
- It's hard to talk to girls about contraception



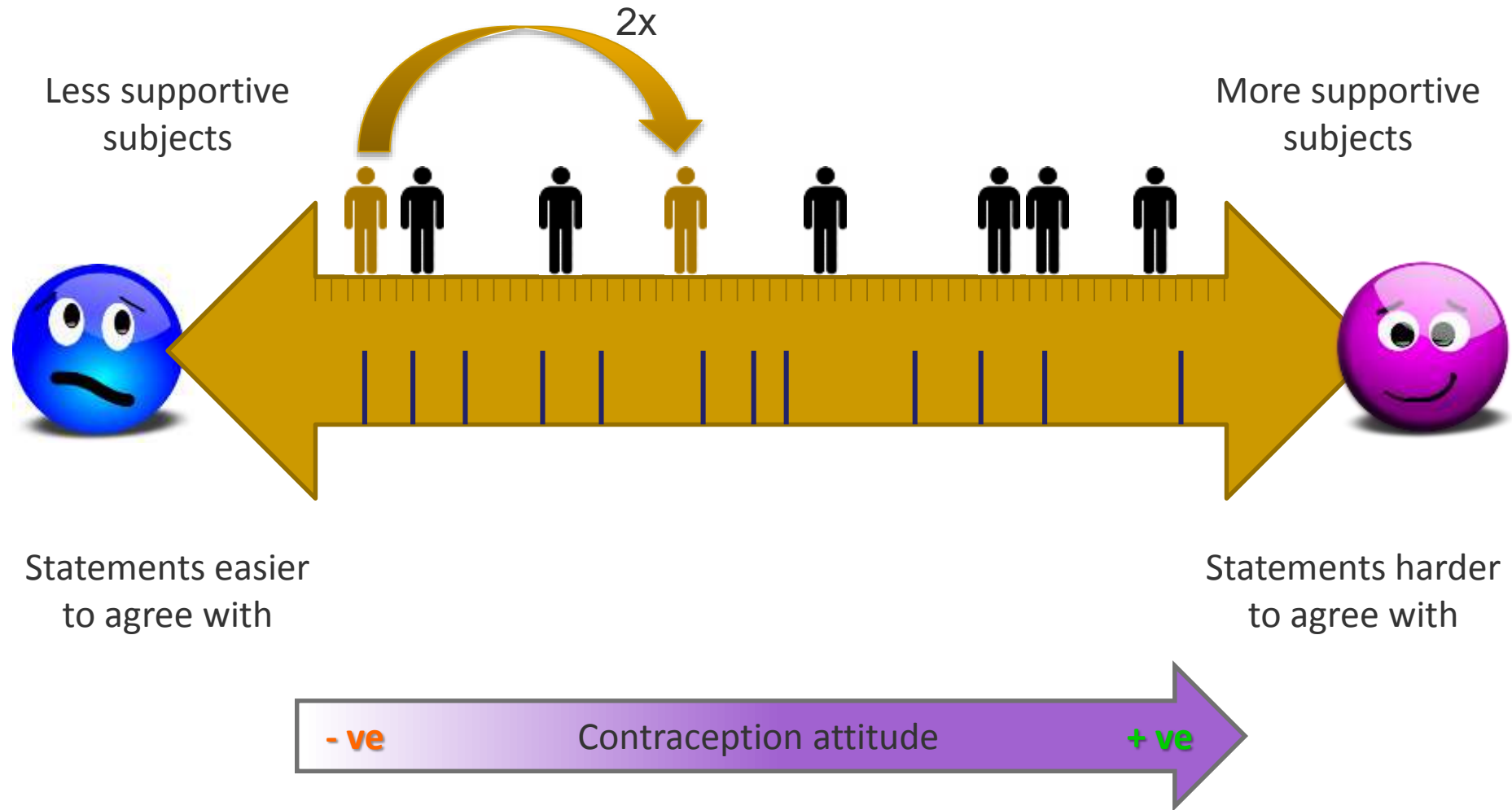
Rasch analysis



Rasch analysis



Rasch analysis



Survey

(n=1409, 12-19years)

- personal details
- school and education
- work and income
- family and household
- male parent/carer
- female parent/carer
- general wellbeing
- neighbourhood
- general behaviour
- friendships
- romantic relationships
- attitudes
- sexual behaviour
- pregnancy



Sample

(n=1409, 12-19years)

Site	Gender	% NOT sexually active	% sexually active
Secondary schools	445 males	75%	25%
	964 females	53%	47%**
Antenatal clinics	76 females	-	100%
Termination clinics	187 females	-	100%

** 3 females terminated a pregnancy

Analysis

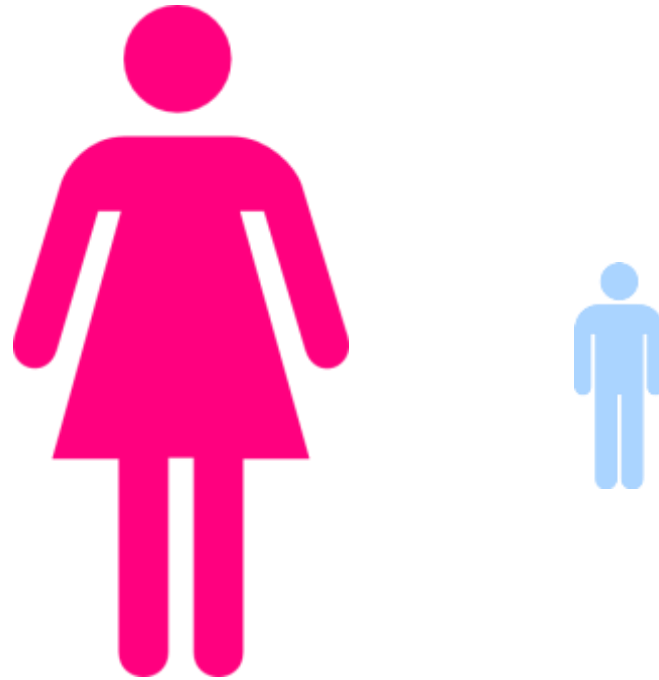
- Mean difference between groups:
 - gender, age, sexual experience, pregnancy experience

sexually active...

- Attitude and risky sexual behaviour [RSB]:
 - early sexual debut (<16 years)
 - failure to consistently and correctly use condoms and/or other contraceptives
 - multiple sex partners (3+ in previous year)
 - sexual activity whilst under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
 - unwanted sexual encounter

Results: Support for contraception

Mean difference between groups



$P < 0.05$



Results: Support for contraception

Mean difference between groups

Females <16 Females ≥ 16

not SA Females SA Females

Recently SA SA for ≥ 1 yr



$P < 0.05$

Results: Support for contraception

Mean difference between groups

- For sexually active females, pregnancy history had no influence on attitude towards contraception.

never pregnant = continuing = terminating



$P < 0.05$

Results: Support for contraception

Mean difference between groups

Males <16 **Males ≥ 16**

not SA Males **SA Males**

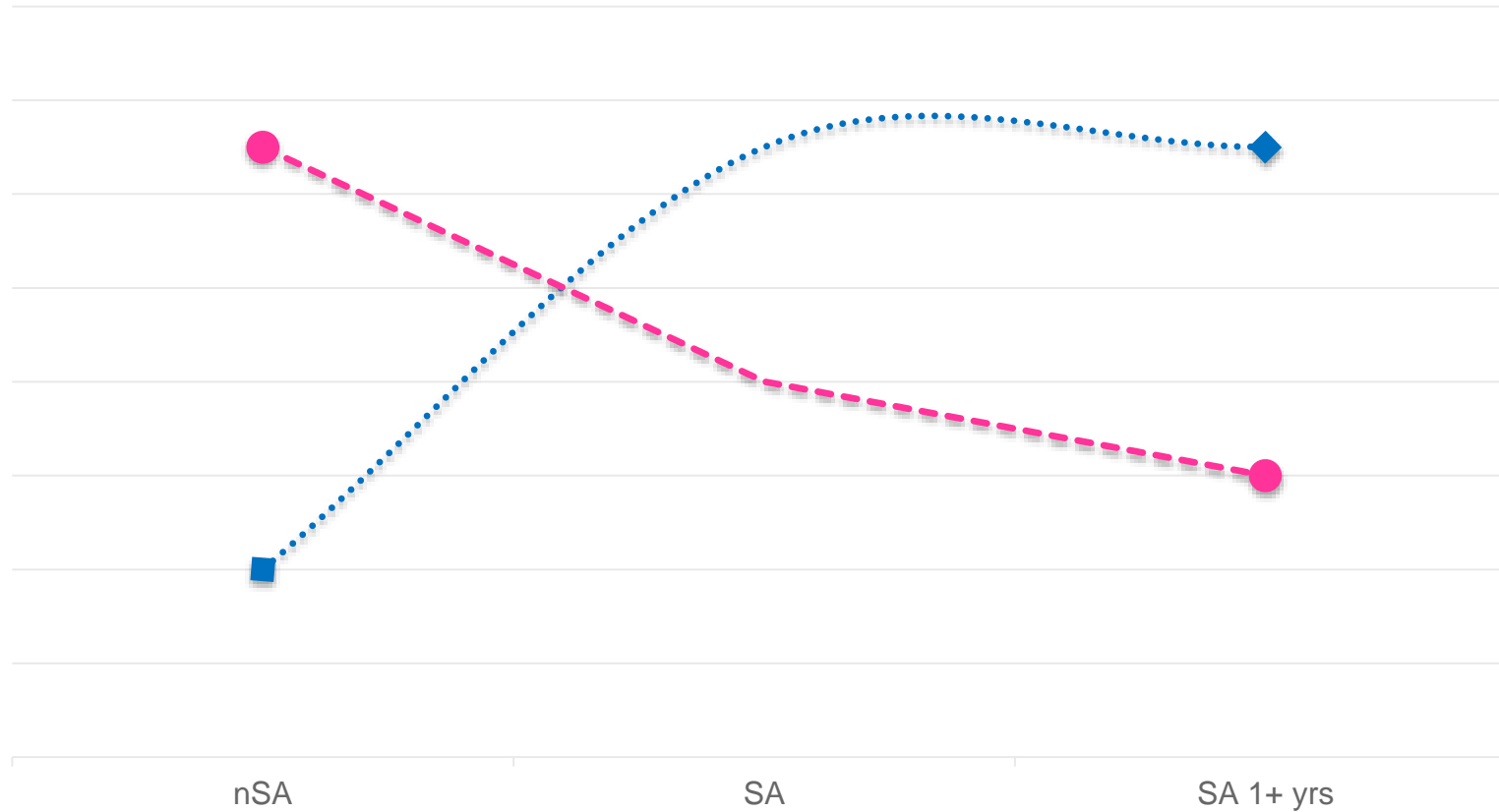
- Duration of SA not important



$P < 0.05$

Results: Support for contraception

Mean difference between groups – graphical representation



Results: Support for contraception

Attitude and RSB

- SA participants only (n=565)
- A **NEGATIVE** attitude towards contraception was associated with:
 - inconsistent use of condoms and contraception ✓
 - multiple sexual partners !!!
 - unwanted sexual encounter !!!

So what?!?!

- Overall – attitudes are pretty positive
- Interaction between attitudes and SA
 - keep reinforcing our message (yearly)
 - address reasons why support diminishes
- No interaction between attitudes and pregnancy experience
 - pregnancy does not appear to be an effective scare tactic!
- *Future considerations...*
 - assess trends over time
 - long-acting reversible contraception



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