

# The Influence of Moral Competence on Abstinence Education For Pre and Early Adolescent Females

**Too Young For Two Program**  
*Girls Incorporated<sup>®</sup> of Rapid City*



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# The Intervention

## *Girls Incorporated of Rapid City*

- **Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy**
  - Growing Together<sup>sm</sup> (ages 9-11)
  - Will Power/Won't Power<sup>sm</sup> (ages 12-14)
  - Baby Think It Over<sup>®</sup> (ages 12-14)
- **Health Connections**
  - Advocacy (abuse, neglect, and legal)
  - Health care (medical, dental, and mental)
  - Parental involvement and support

# Growing Together

## Ages 9-17

- **Five sessions**
  - Parent orientation
  - Cultural beliefs and traditions toward sexuality
  - Puberty pointers
  - **Character development and sexuality**
  - Facts and feelings about sexuality

# Will Power/Won't Power

**Ages 12-14**

- Ten sessions
  - Introduction & orientation
  - Cultural beliefs and traditions toward sexuality
  - Basic assertiveness
  - Identifying pressure
  - Character development (value systems)
  - Baby Think It Over
  - The case for abstinence
  - Resisting sexual pressure
  - Sister support system
  - Putting it all together

## Research Questions

**Q (1): How do girls entering the Too Young For Two (TYFT) program compare to peers in the same school district in regard to risk behaviors?**

**Q(2): Is there a relationship between self-reported inappropriate behaviors such as cheating, lying, and stealing and risky behaviors (e.g., substance use and sexual activity).**

# Research Questions

**Q(3): Is there a relationship between self-reported inappropriate behaviors and moral judgments? [Does moral cognition predict risky behaviors?]**

**Q(4): Does a character education program alter either moral behaviors or moral judgments regarding early sexual initiation or abstinence?**

# Factors Considered In This Study

- **Risk Taking**

- Substance Use
- Sexual Intercourse
- Bad Touch

- **Moral Responsibility**

- Helping others in need
- Honesty
- Reporting wrong doings
- Doing the right thing

- **Moral Behavior**

- Cheating
- Lying
- Destroying property
- Stealing

- **Self-Promotion**

- Cheating & lying to succeed
- Using others to get ahead
- Deception

- **Moral Beliefs**

- Rationalization based “everyone does it”
- Negative consequences for wrong choices

# Instrumentation

**Youth Development Survey  
(YDS)**

**31 Items**

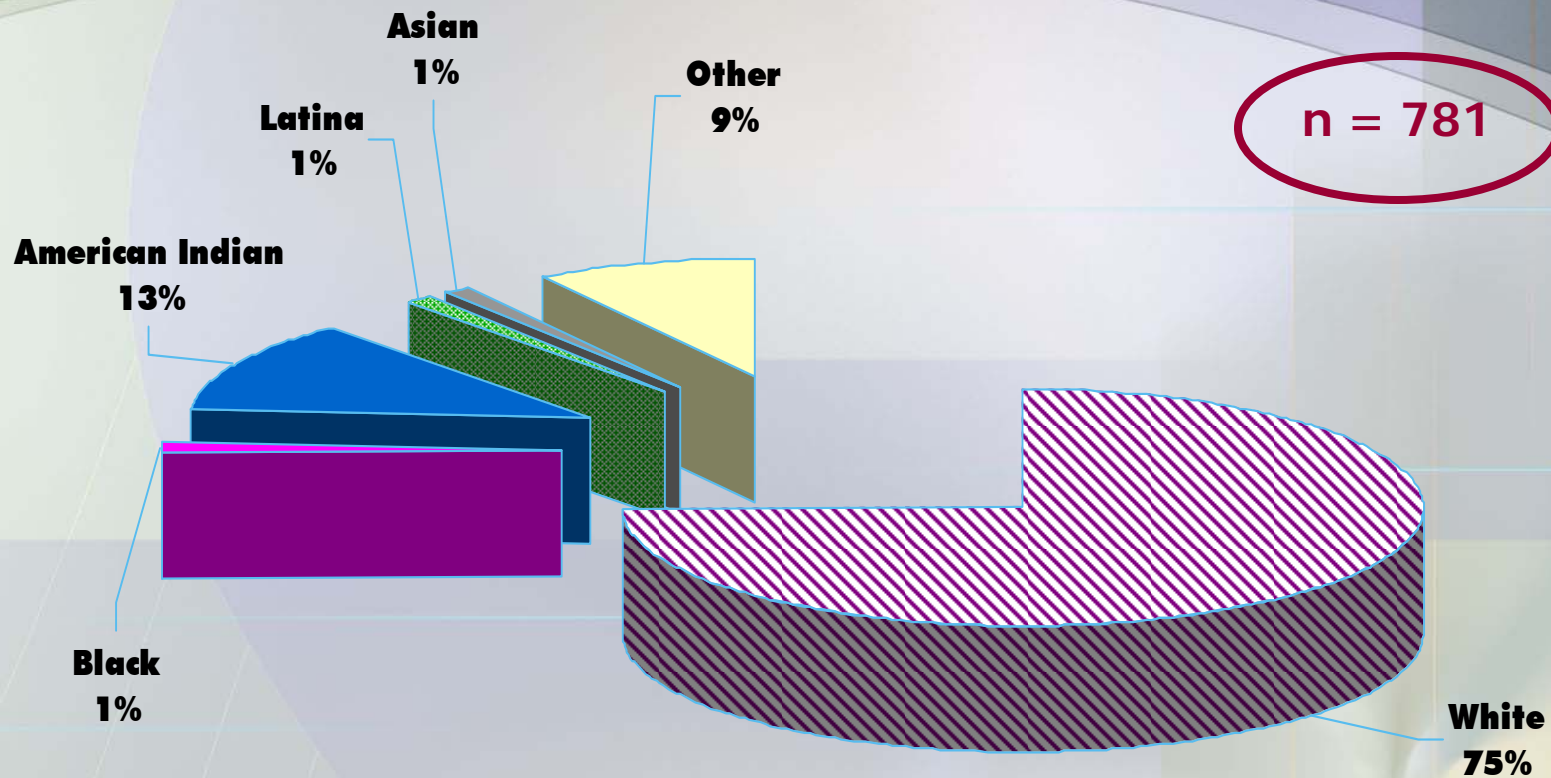
**Cronbach's Alpha = 0.93**

**Character Education Survey (CES)**

**26 Items**

**Cronbach's Alpha = 0.87**

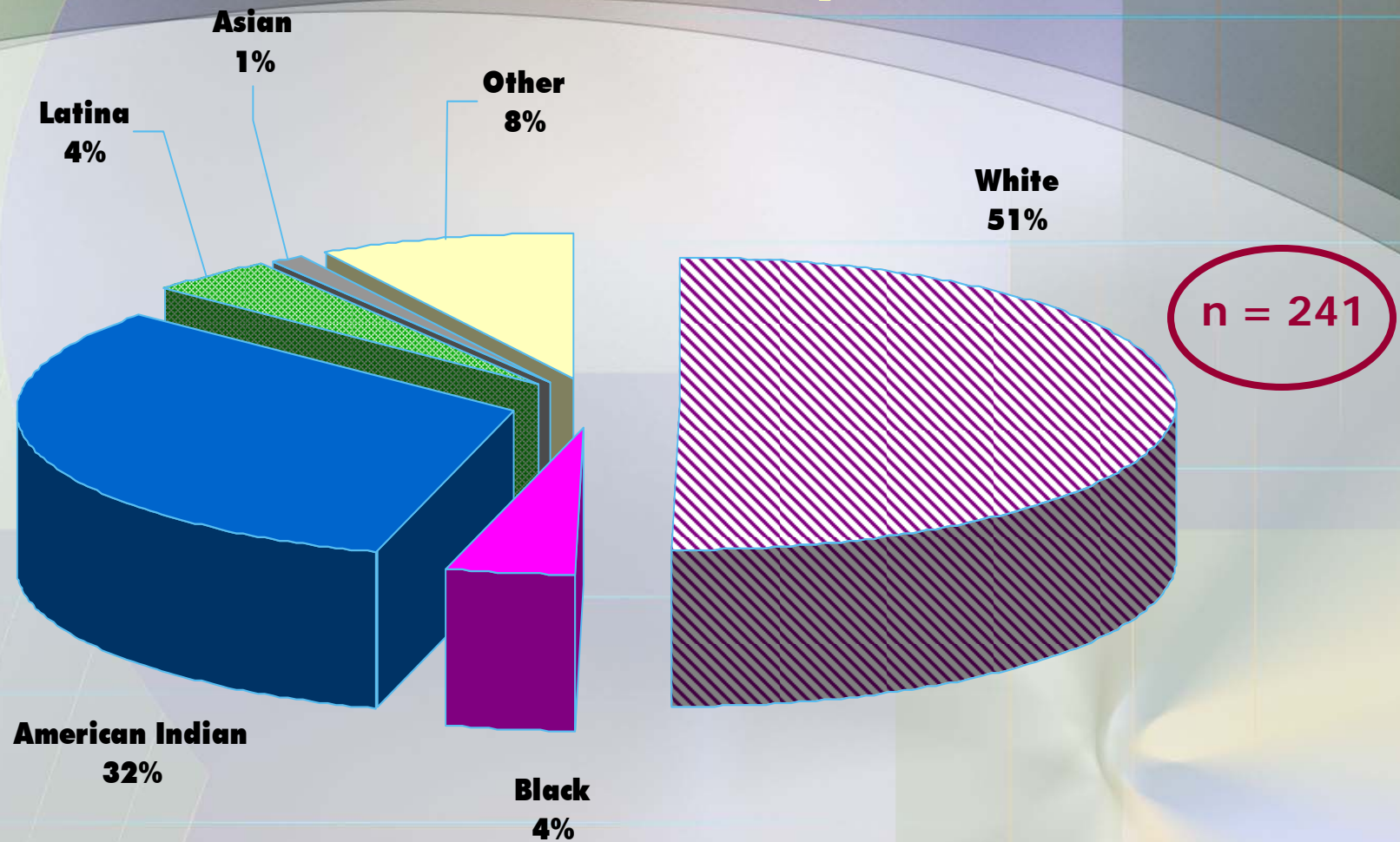
# Comparison (RC) Sample



Females (Ages 9-14)

White Black American Indian Latina Asian Other

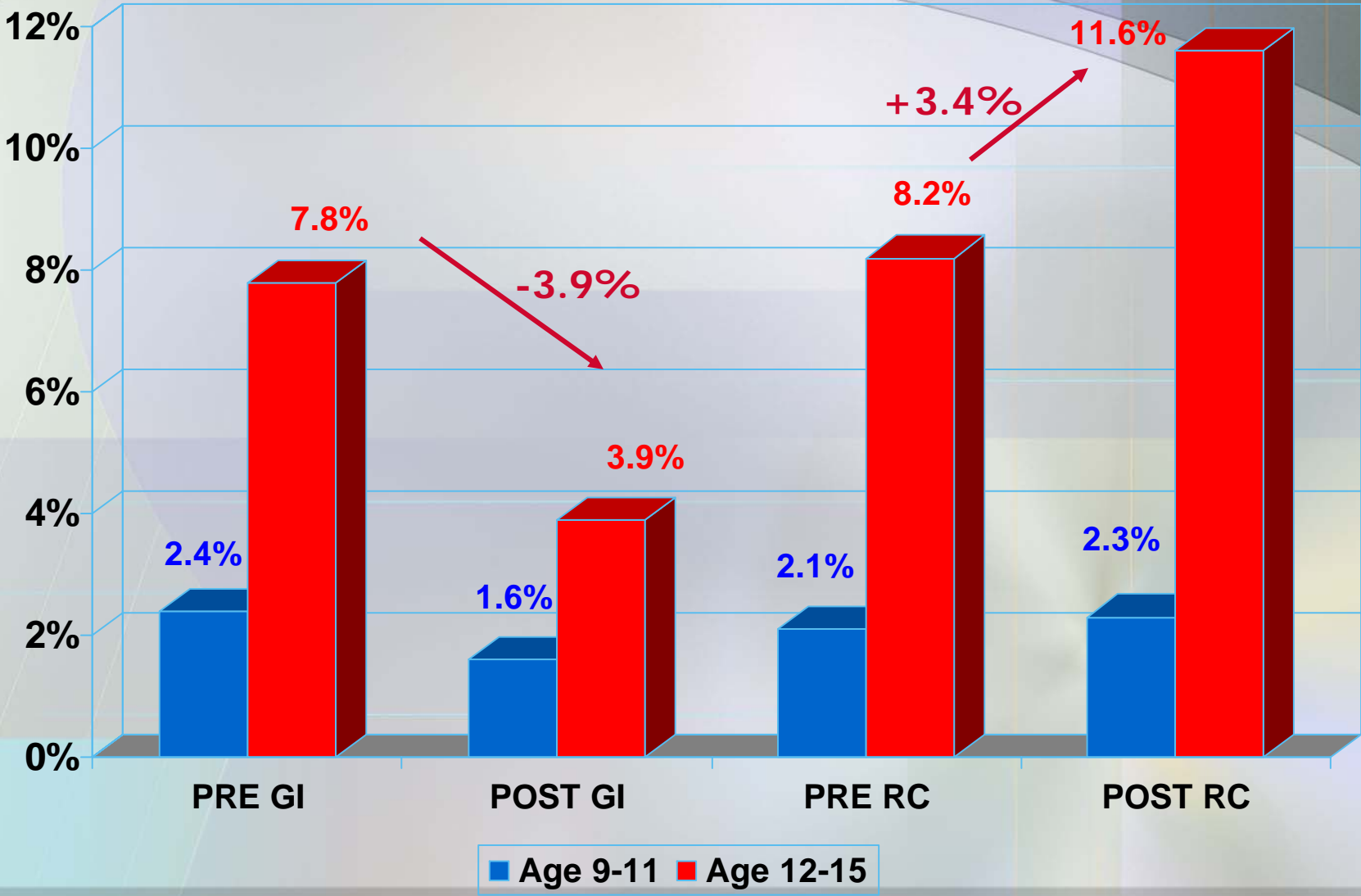
# Intervention Sample (Fall)



**Females (Ages 9-14)**



# Sexual Intercourse



# Period of Data Collection Intervention Group

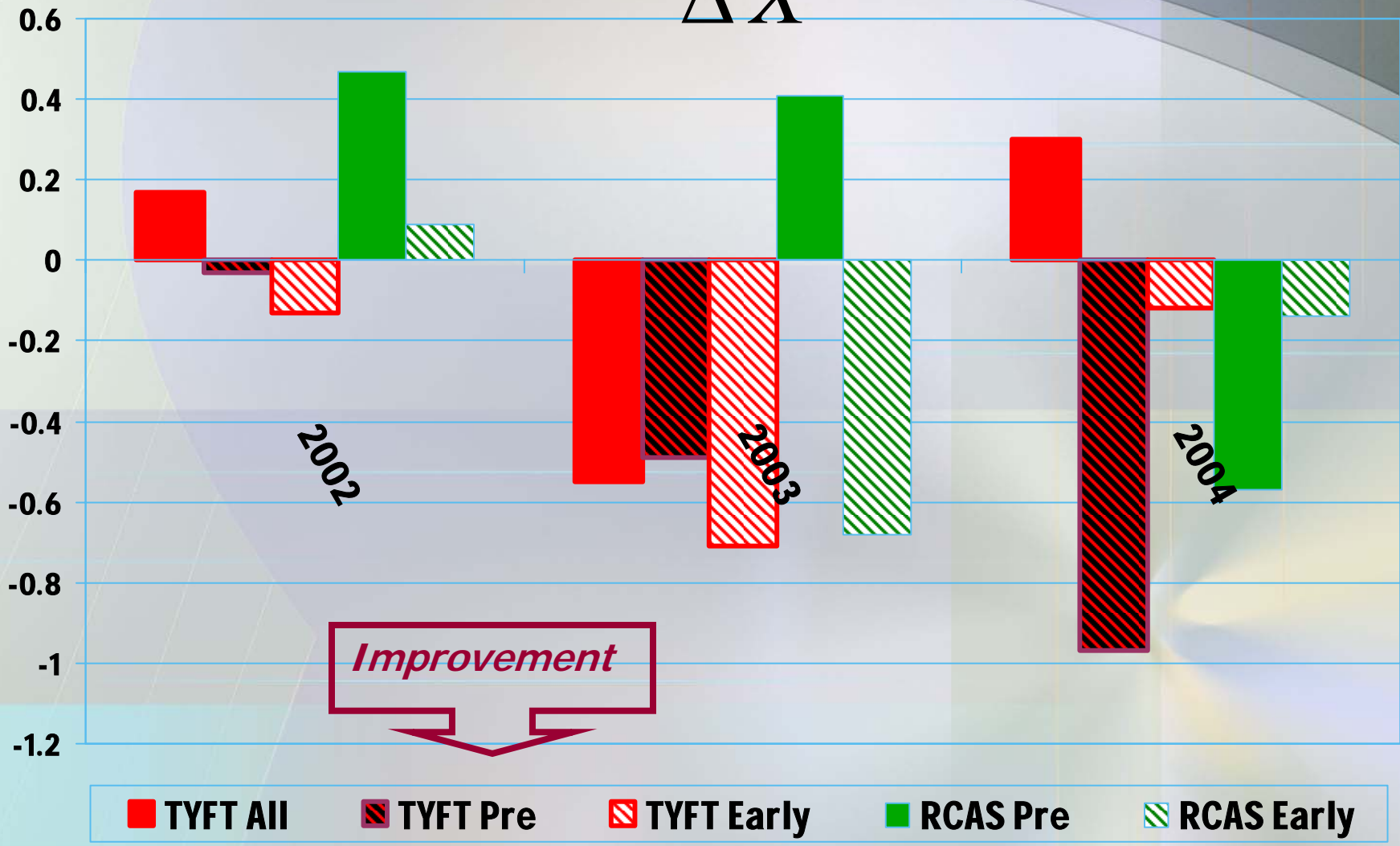
Date of Intervention (School Year)	Pre (Fall)		Post (Spring)	
	n	M Years	n	M Years
2001-2002	69	10.6	56	11.0
2002-2003	65	11.1	65	11.0
2003-2004	104	10.7	69	11.1
Totals (Unduplicated)	241		190	

# Period of Data Collection Comparison Group

Date of Intervention (School Year)	Pre (Fall)		Post (Fall)	
	n	M Years	n	M Years
2001-2002	801	10.8	976	11.0
2002-2003	976	11.0	719	10.8
2003-2004	719	10.8	778	11.0
Totals (duplicated)	2,496		2,473	

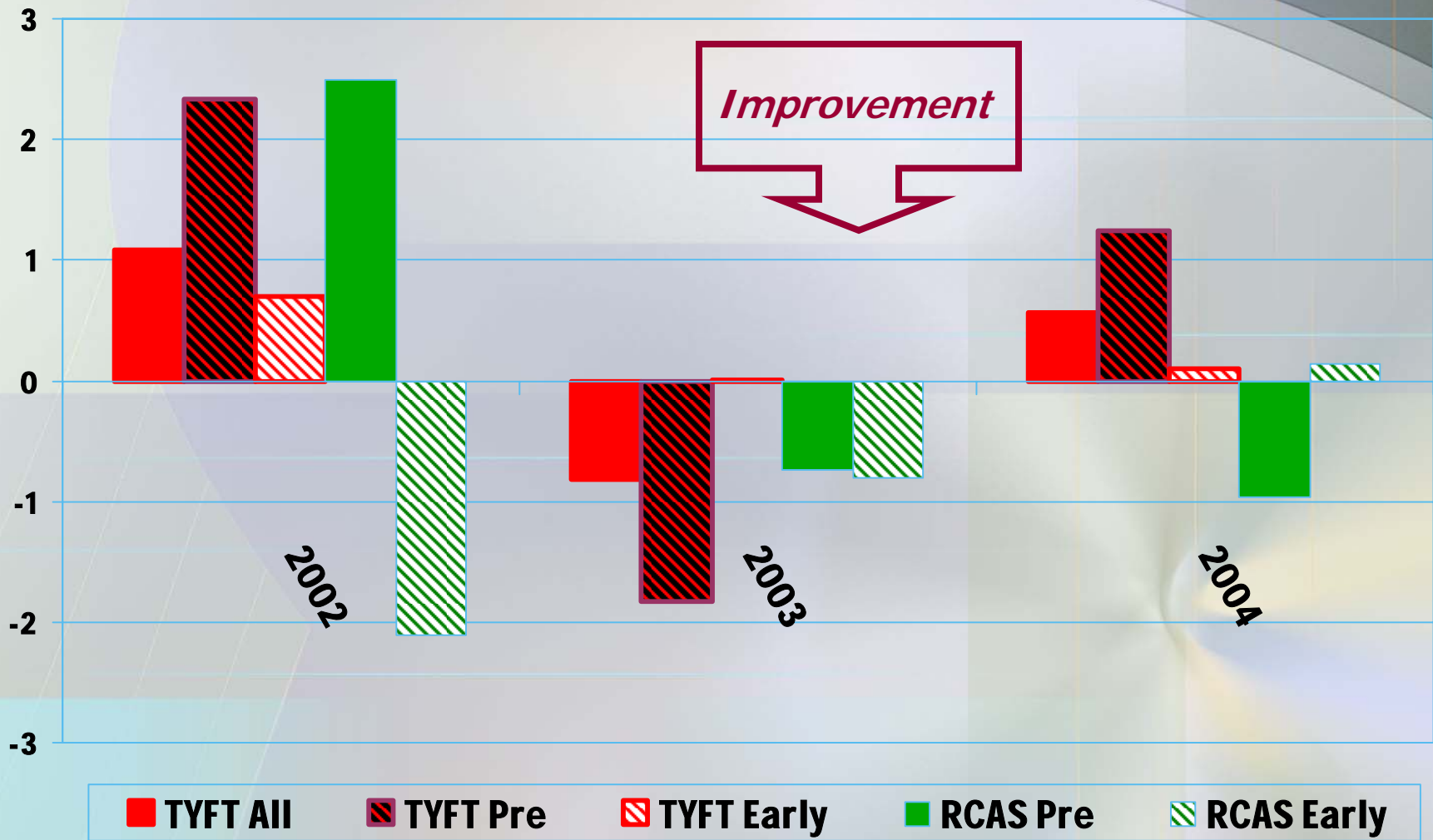
# Moral Responsibility

$$\Delta \bar{X}$$

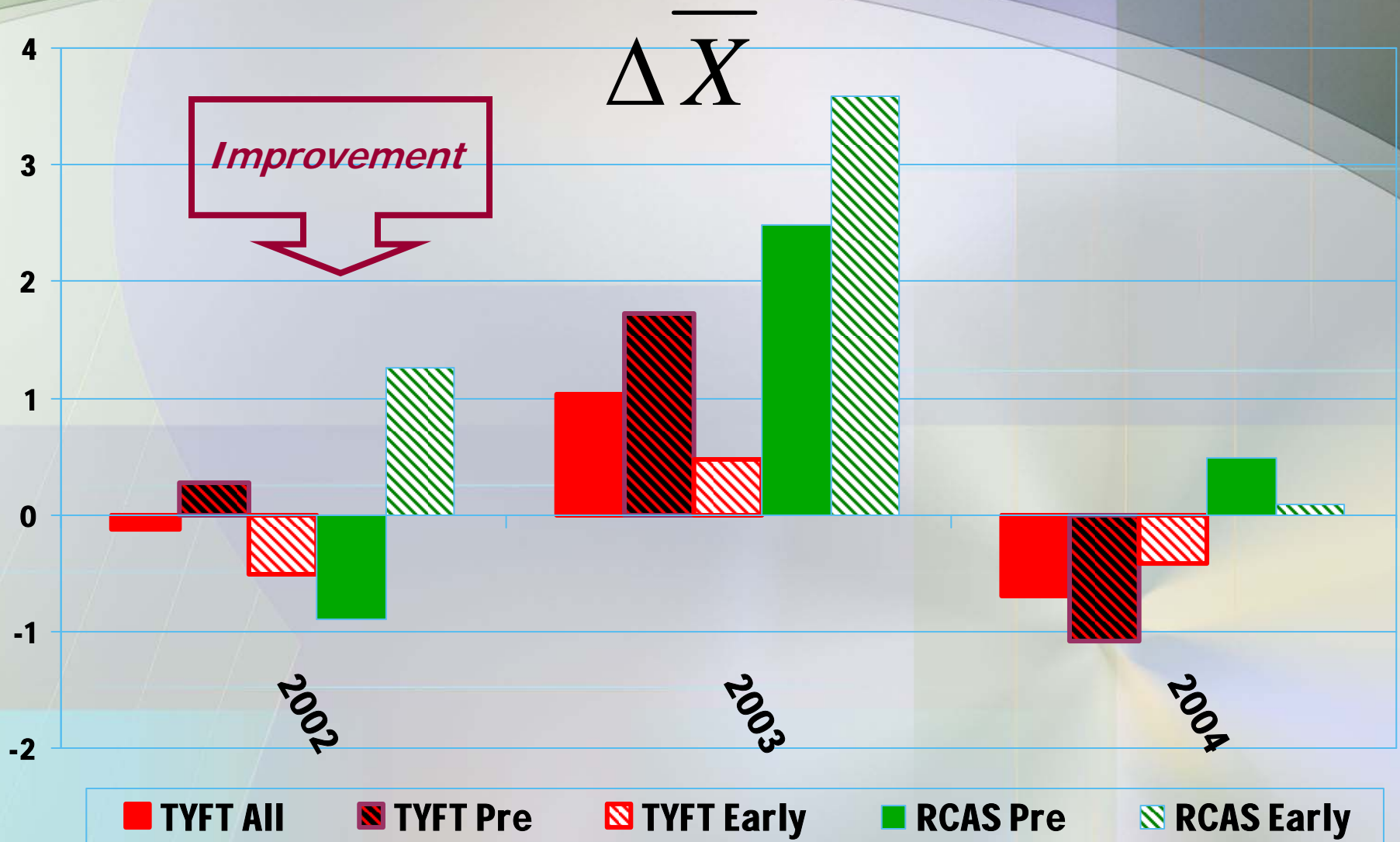


# Moral Behavior

$$\Delta \bar{X}$$

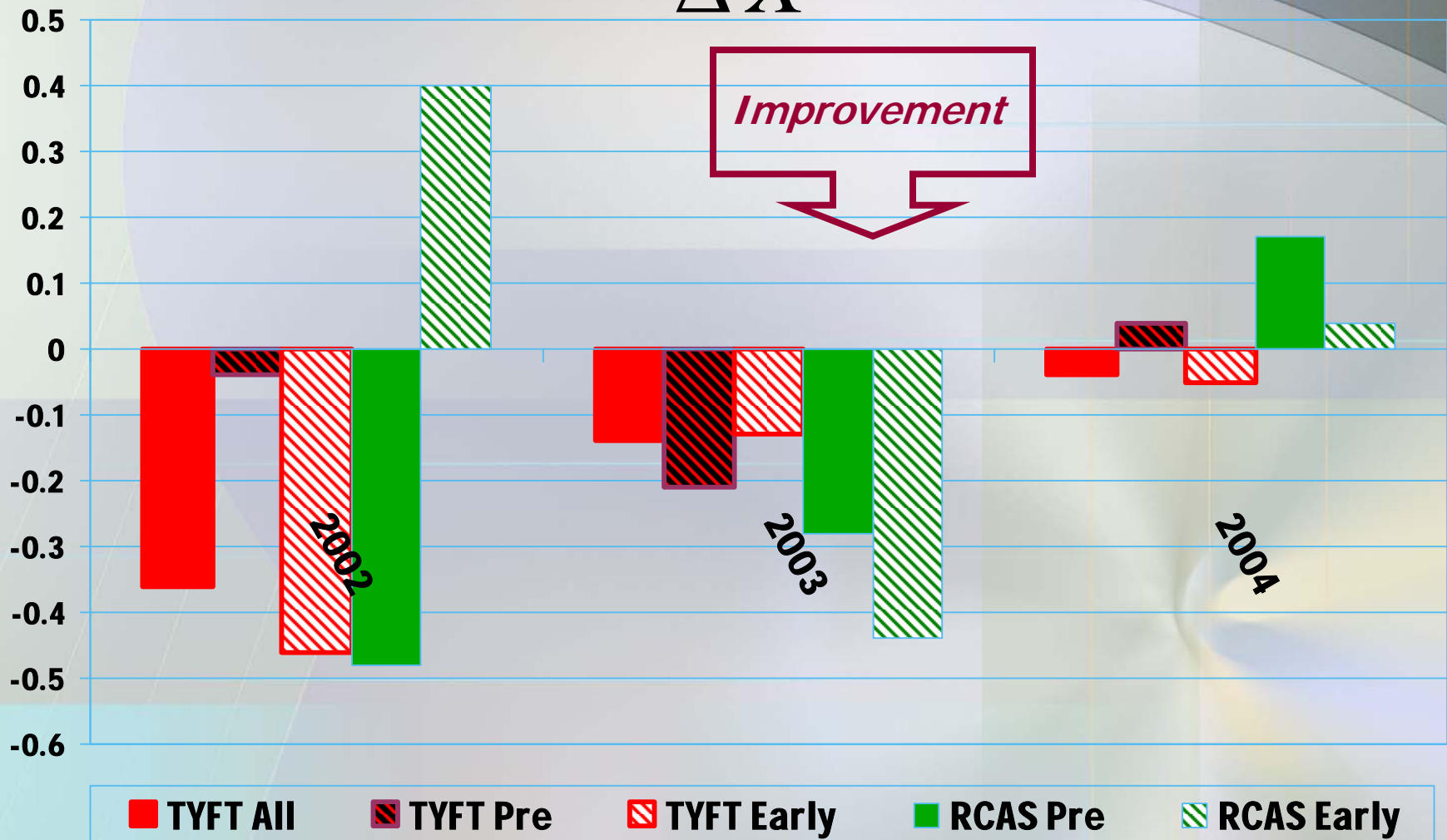


# Self-Promotion



# Moral Beliefs

$$\Delta \bar{X}$$



# Predicting Sexual Behaviors

Data Collection	Intervention Group <i>Stepwise Regression Analysis</i>				
	Factor	t	p	R <sup>2</sup>	F <sub>all</sub>
Fall 2001	Moral Beliefs	2.23	0.029	0.0791	1.54
Fall 2002	Moral Behavior	1.91	0.062	0.0599	1.49
Spring 2003	Moral Behavior	1.72	0.091	0.0454	1.26
Fall 2003	Moral Behavior	5.78	0.0001	0.251	9.55

# Self-Promotion (Pre-Intervention)

	Step	B	$\beta$	SE B	R <sup>2</sup>	F
Cheat to succeed	1	-0.177	-0.389			
Okay to lie	2	0.114	0.258	0.440	0.077	7.16 (p<0.01)

*Criterion variable = Frequency of sexual intercourse*

# Moral Beliefs [Post Intervention]

	Step	B	$\beta$	SE B	R <sup>2</sup>	F
People cheat	1	-0.064	-0.154	0.449	0.019	5.49 (p<0.05)

*Criterion variable = Frequency of sexual intercourse*

# Moral Behavior (Post-Intervention)

	Step	B	$\beta$	SE B	R <sup>2</sup>	F
Lied about being late	1	0.140	0.293			
Destroy property	2	-0.210	-0.216			
Cheating	3	0.131	0.246	0.402	0.120	7.21 (p<0.01)

*Criterion variable = Frequency of sexual intercourse*

## Implications of Intervention

- **Pre adolescent girls participating in Too Young For Two programming did not show a significant improvement in their risky behaviors, but compared to the comparison group stabilized their behaviors.**
- **Self-promotion factor was more indicative of success in character education. This factor was a predictor of the level of sexual activity for pre-intervention girls.**

## Implications of Intervention

- **Early adolescent girls participating in Too Young For Two programming did show an improvement in their risky behaviors which was significantly different from the comparison group**
- **Predictors of the level of sexual behaviors for post intervention girls include the factors of moral behaviors and moral beliefs.**



**2007**

# **Abstinence Education Evaluation Conference**

**"Strengthening Programs through Scientific Evaluation"**

**March 19 - 20, 2007**

**Baltimore, Maryland**

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