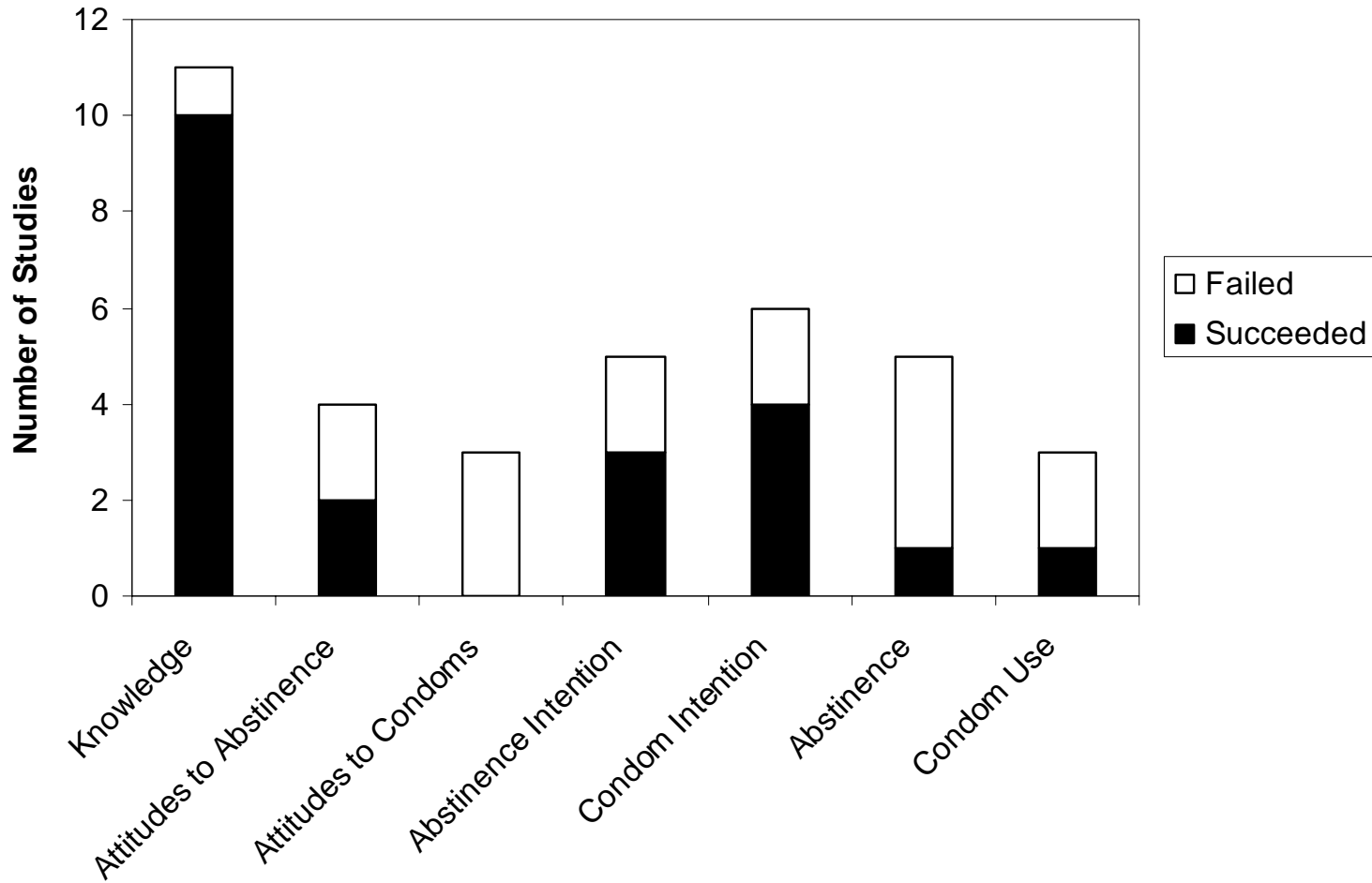


Rationality in Sexual Decision Making

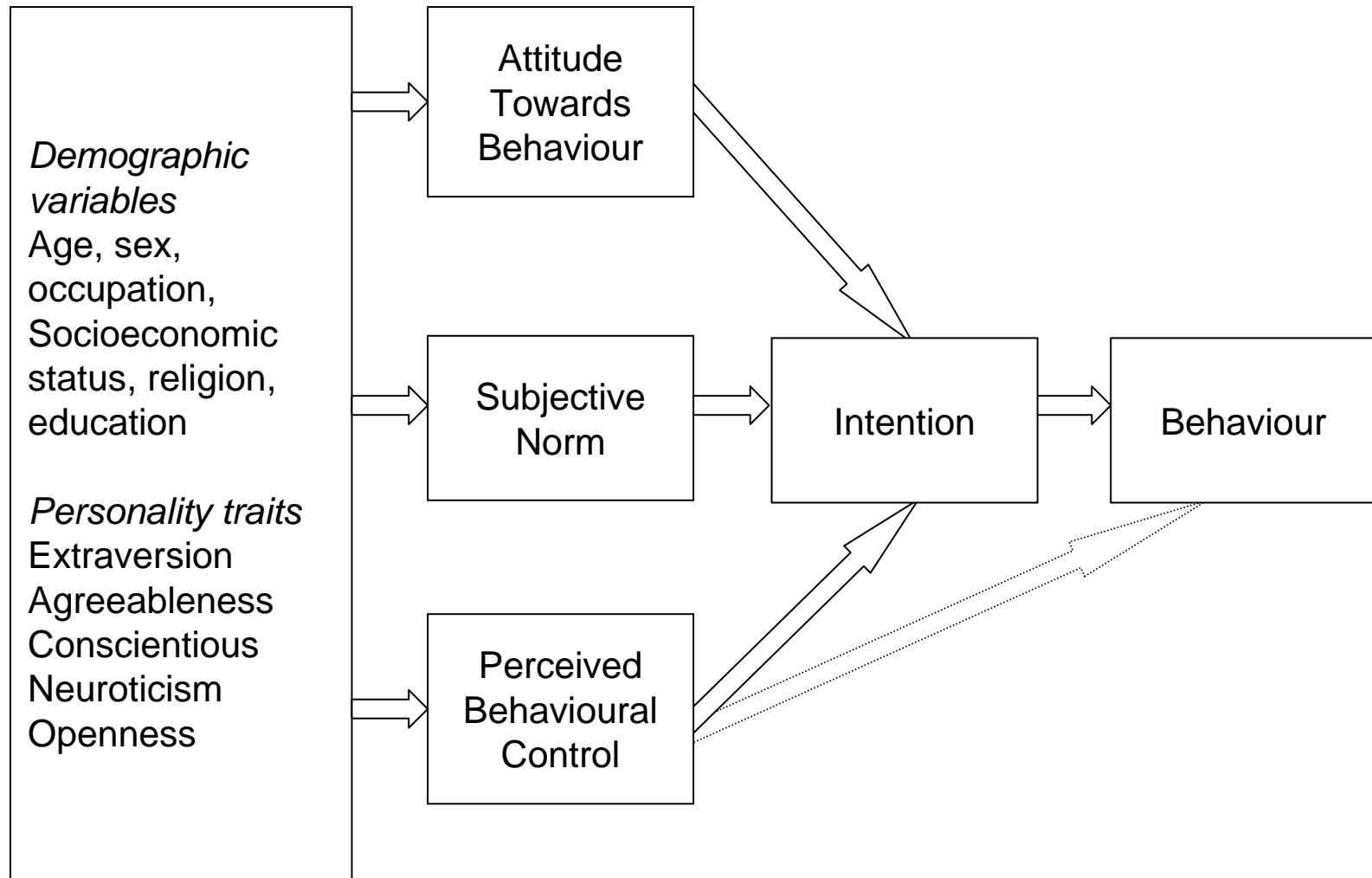
**Evidence from the Kenya Adolescents
Sex Education (KASE) study**

Matthew Jukes,
Partnership for Child Development,
Imperial College London

Success of HIV/AIDS education programs in sub-Saharan African Youth



Theory of Planned Behaviour



e.g. Ajzen (1985). *From intentions to actions. The theory of planned behaviour*

Rationality

- Rational thinking leads to the answer that is most likely to be correct, given the knowledge one has
- A rational action is one that, given the person's knowledge, is most likely to meet the person's goal

Sutherland (1992). *Irrationality: the enemy within*.

Busia









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Background

Boys' comments on self-control

- “If our private parts were destroyed then we would have control.”
– School 9 Class 7 Boys
- “God created me and gave me a penis and it is expected to do some work.”
- School 9 Class 7 Boys
- “If I do not find a girl, after some time I will have to jump on a goat.”
- School 1 Class 7 Boys

Background

Payment for sex

- “If ... your step mother mistreats you and ... [hasn't] cooked, now you will get a boyfriend who will give you money to buy the food you are going to eat.”
- School 1 Class 5 Girls

Background

HIV Causality

- “AIDS is ...sometimes like a devil.... this devil will disturb you every day it will come a time when you will go to that hole and then you will commit that sin and you will get AIDS.”

- School1 Class7 Boys

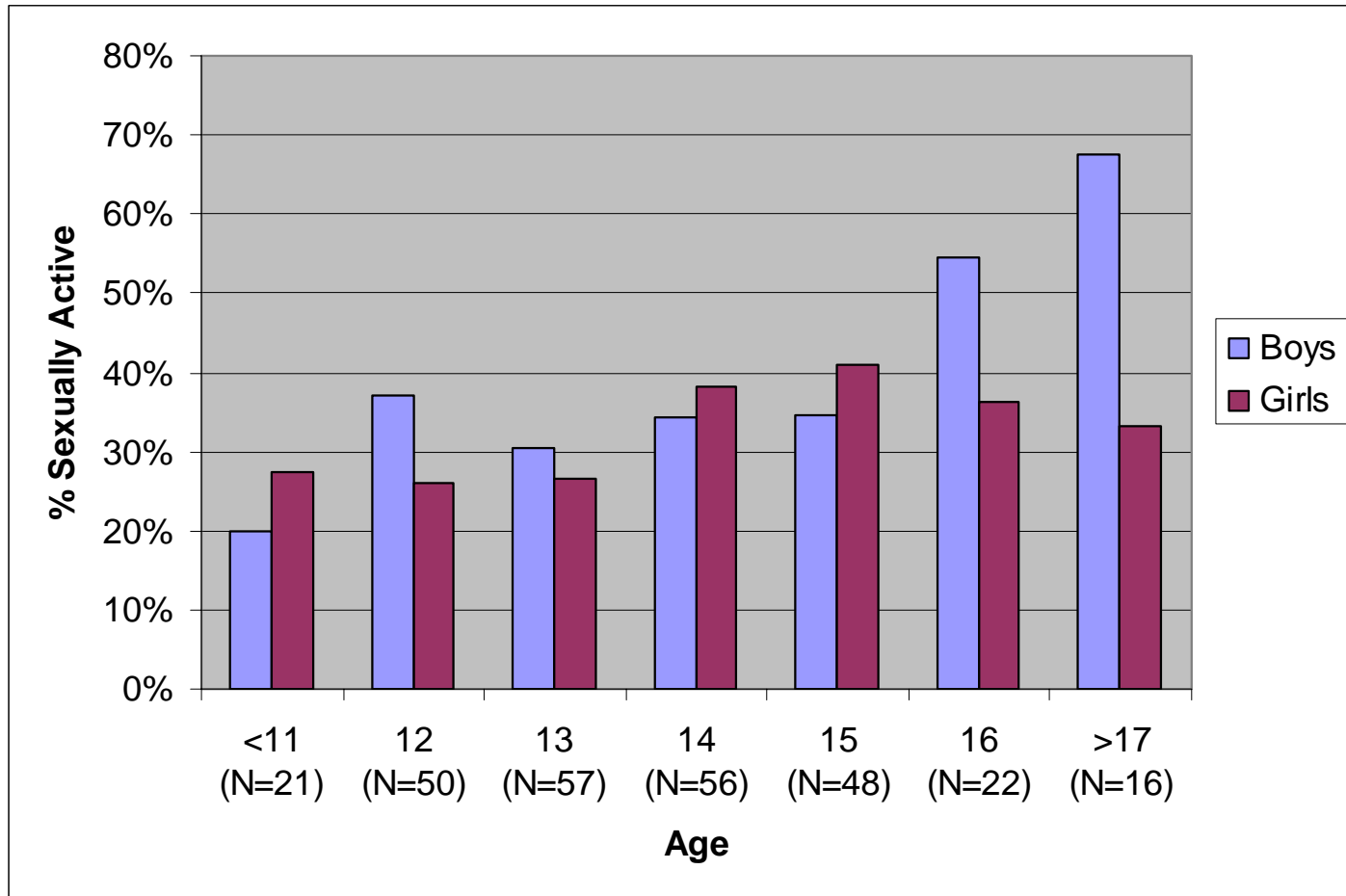
Target Psychological Factors

- *Causal Understanding* of HIV infection
- Belief in control you have over your behaviour (*locus of control*)
- The *life skills* you have to exercise this control
- HIV-relevant *attitudes* to authority, gender, cultural practices

Self-reported sexual behavior

	M	F
I have had sex	50 (36%)	45 (33%)
No sex before marriage	51 (37%)	62 (45%)
No sex at school	16 (12%)	15 (11%)
No sex now but later	22 (16%)	16 (12%)
Always use condom	23 (46%)	14 (31%)
I will never get HIV	73 (53%)	67 (49%)
I would pay / be paid for sex	42 (31%)	53 (35%)

Sexual activity by age

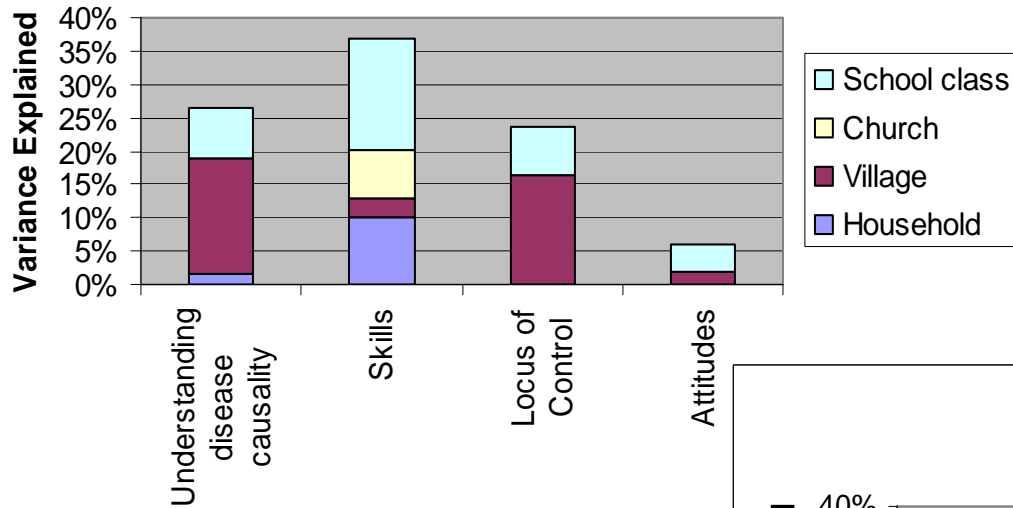


Predictors of abstinence

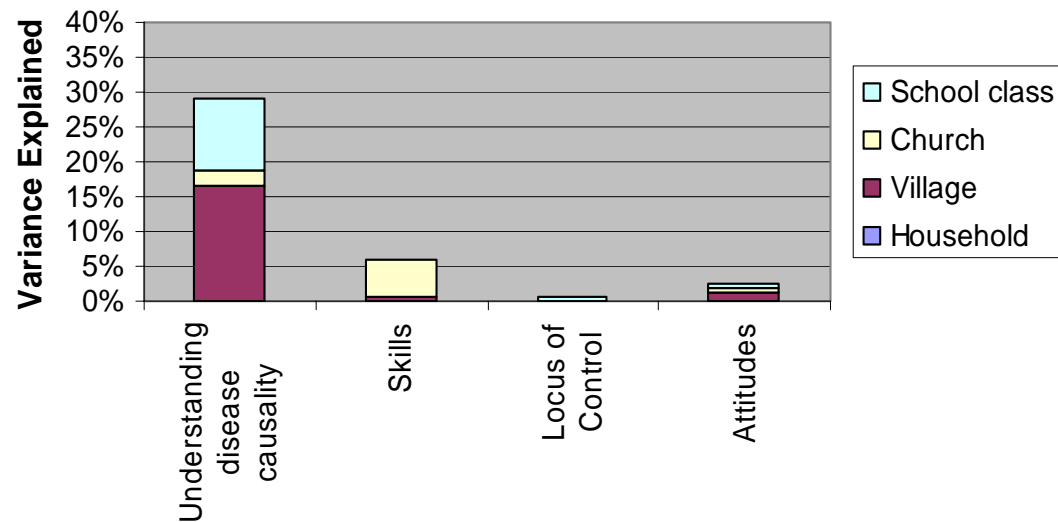


Where do cognitions come from?

Girls

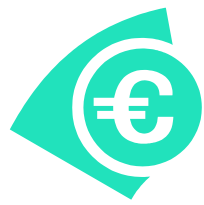


Boys

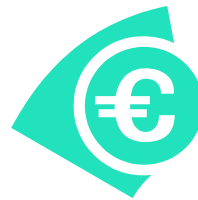
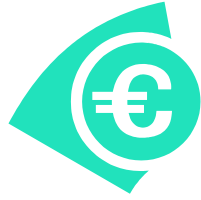


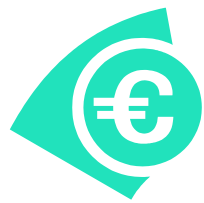
Results Summary

- Cognitions predict girls' behaviour better than boys' behaviour
- The most significant predictor of abstinence for girls is having good skills
- Schools and communities make a difference to cognitions – more so for girls than boys.

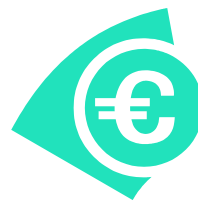
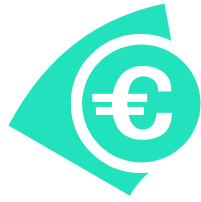


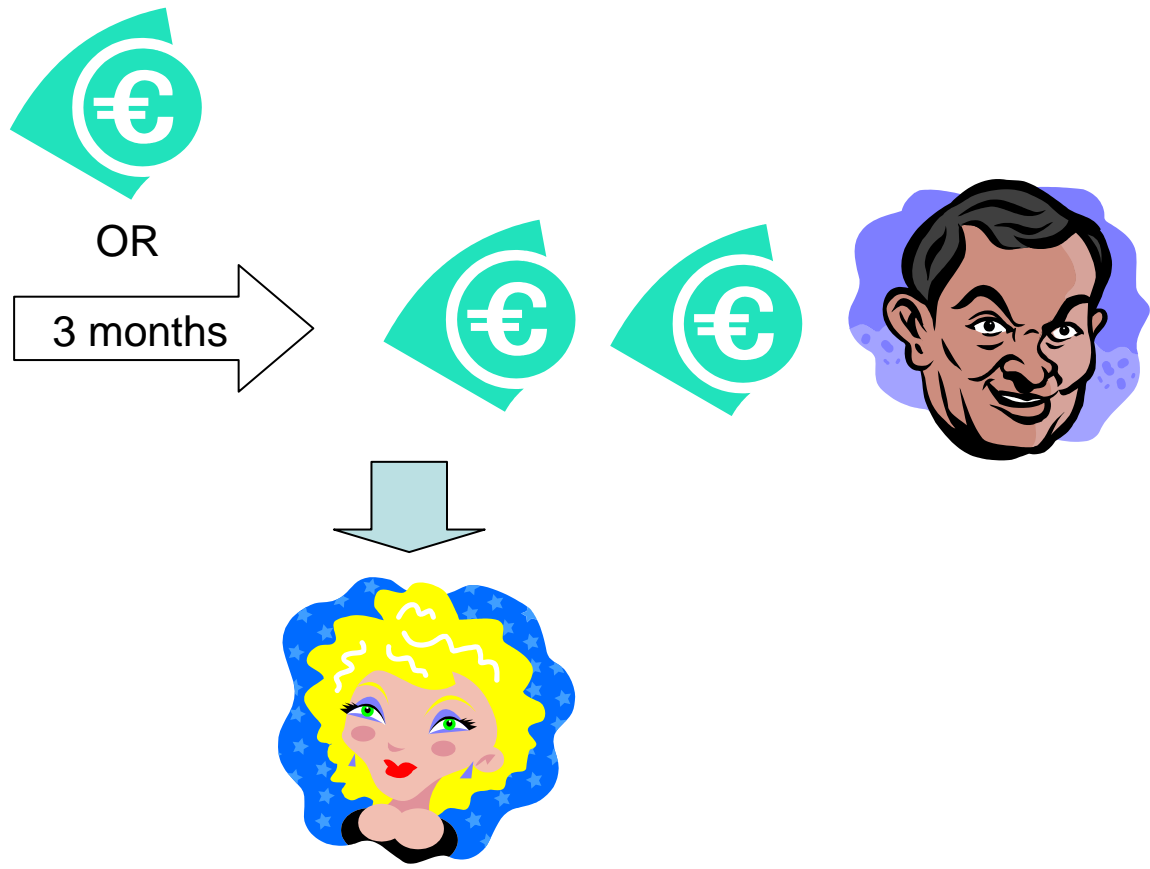
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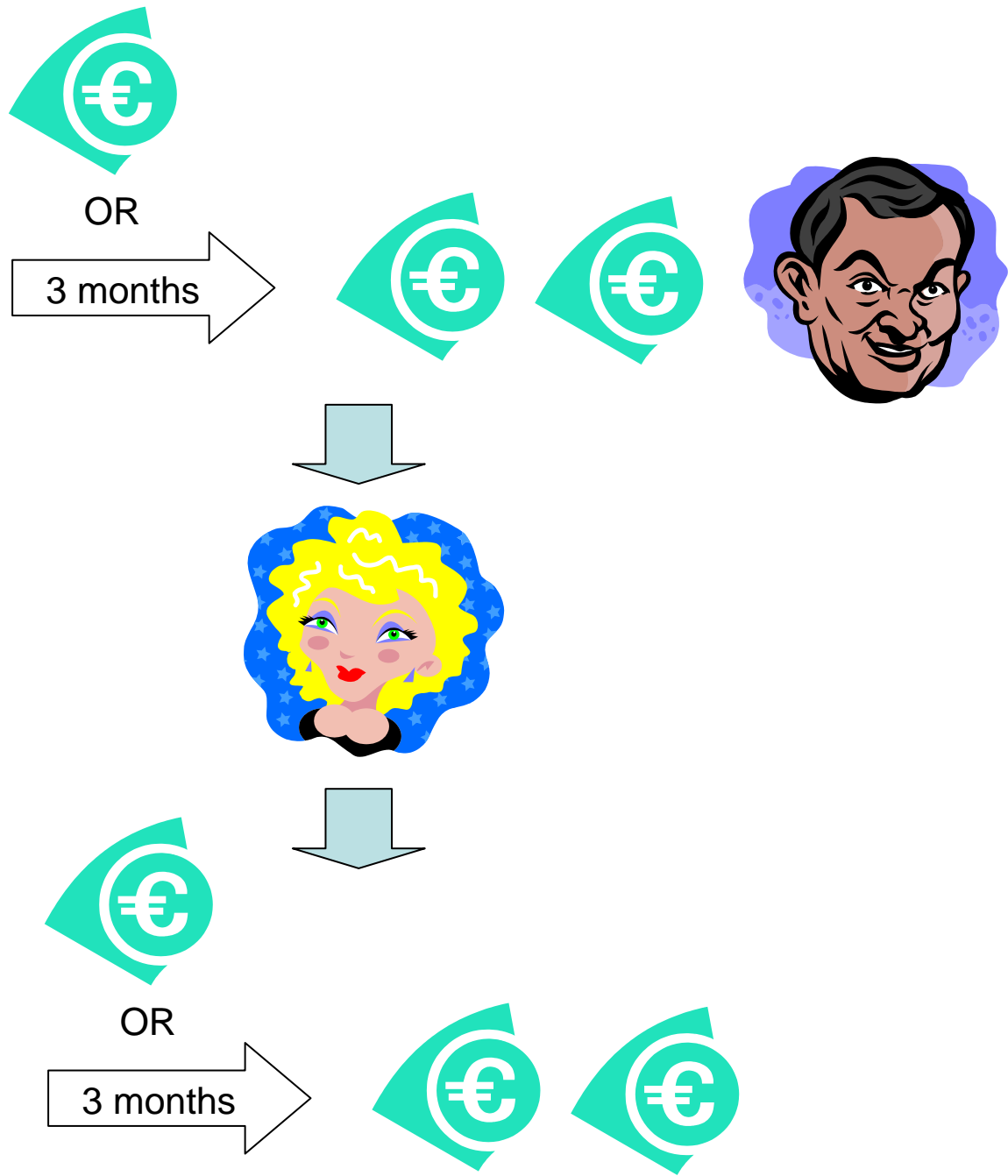


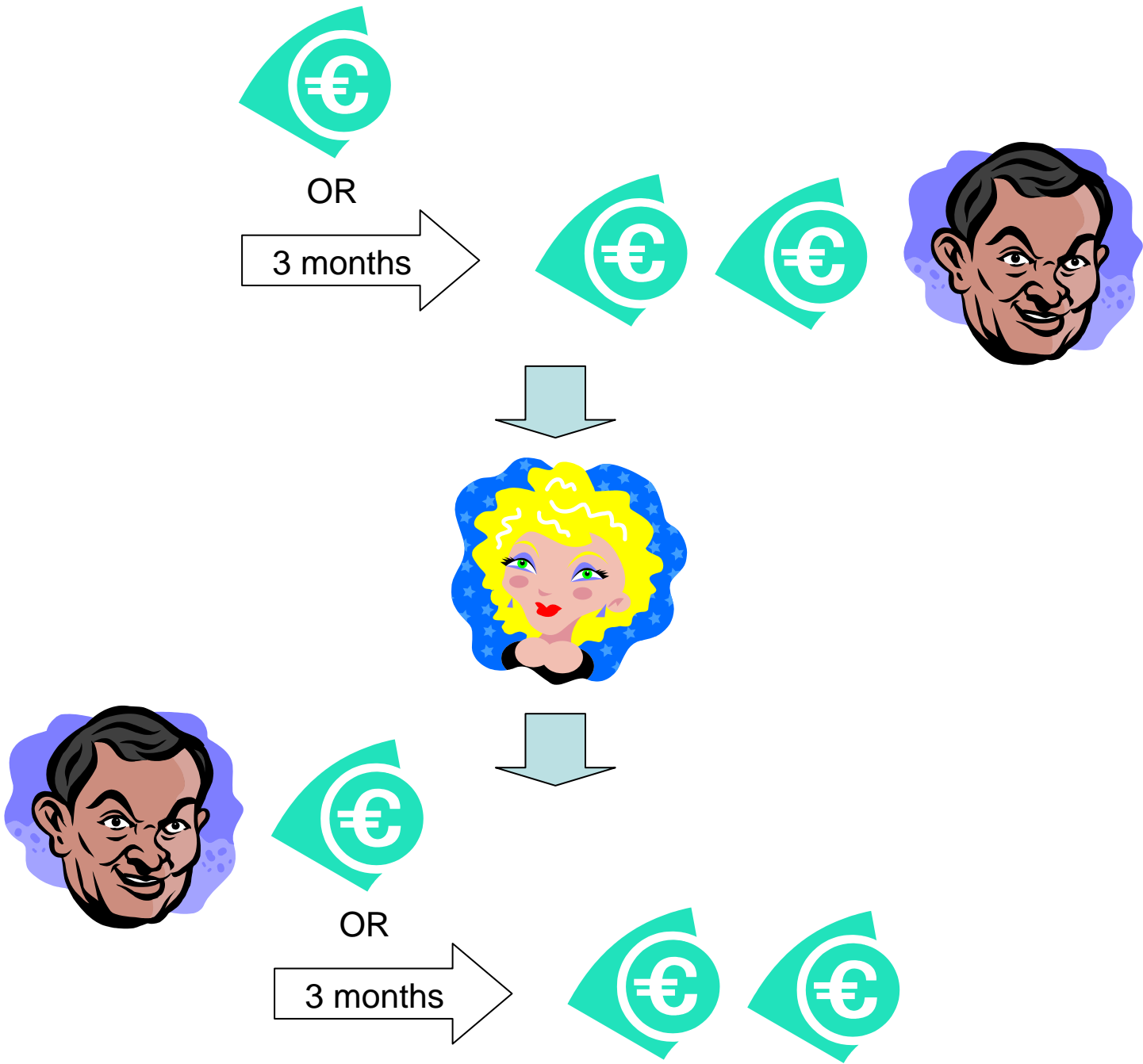


OR







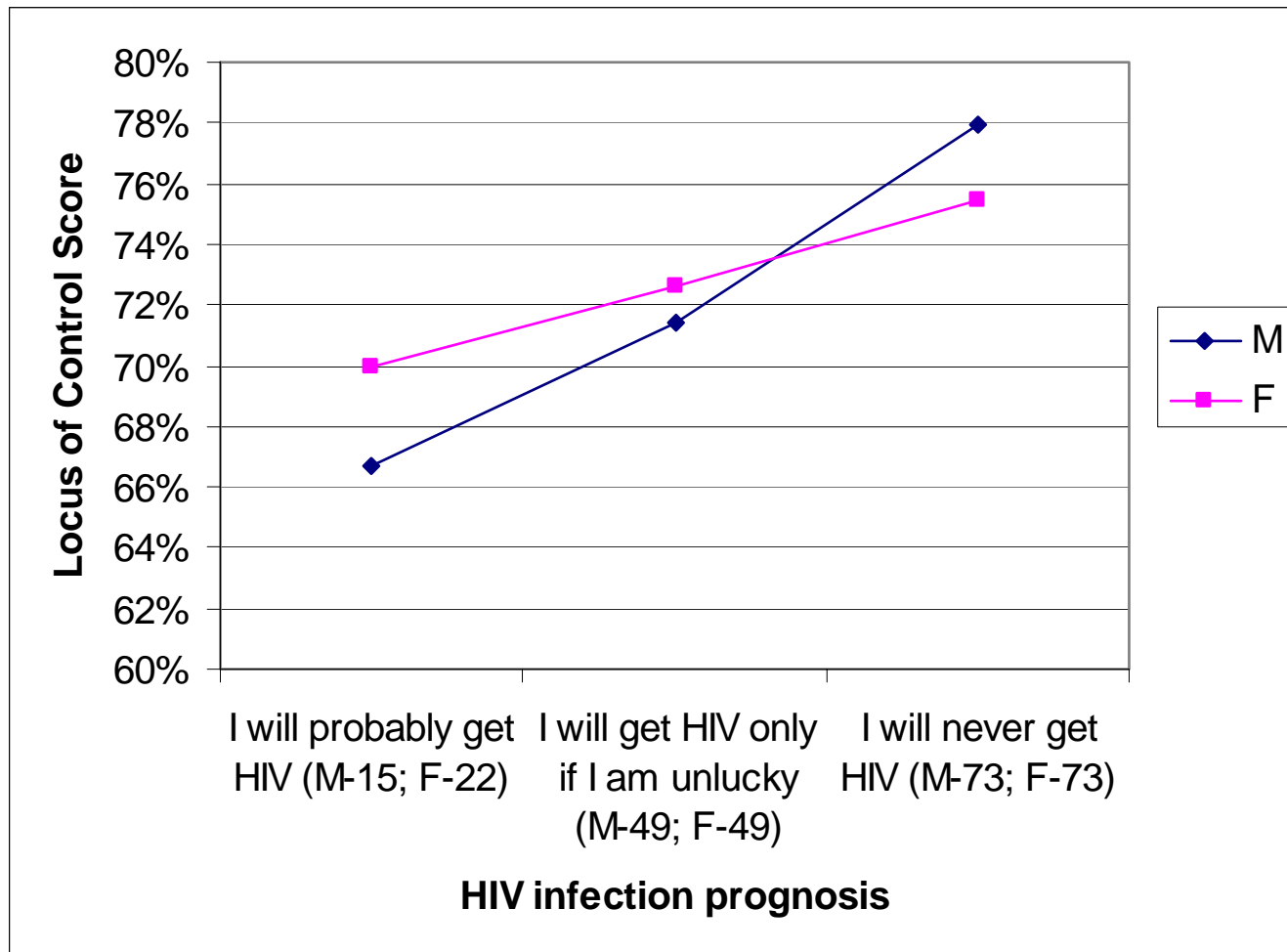


Implications

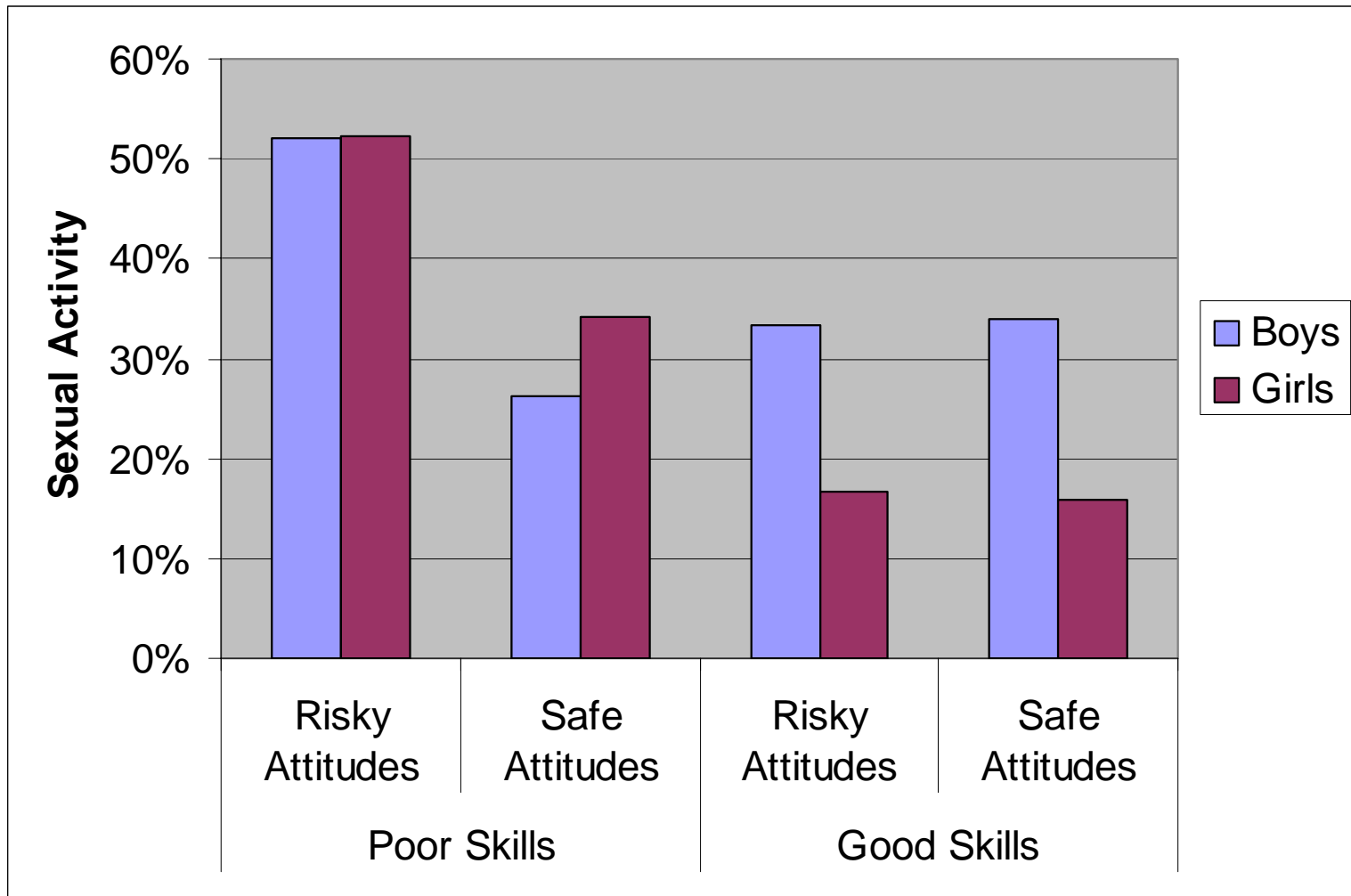
If girls are more rational than boys in their sexual decision making ...

- Girls are easier targets for HIV prevention education
- Improving the rationality of boys' decision making may be crucial

Locus of control and perceived HIV susceptibility



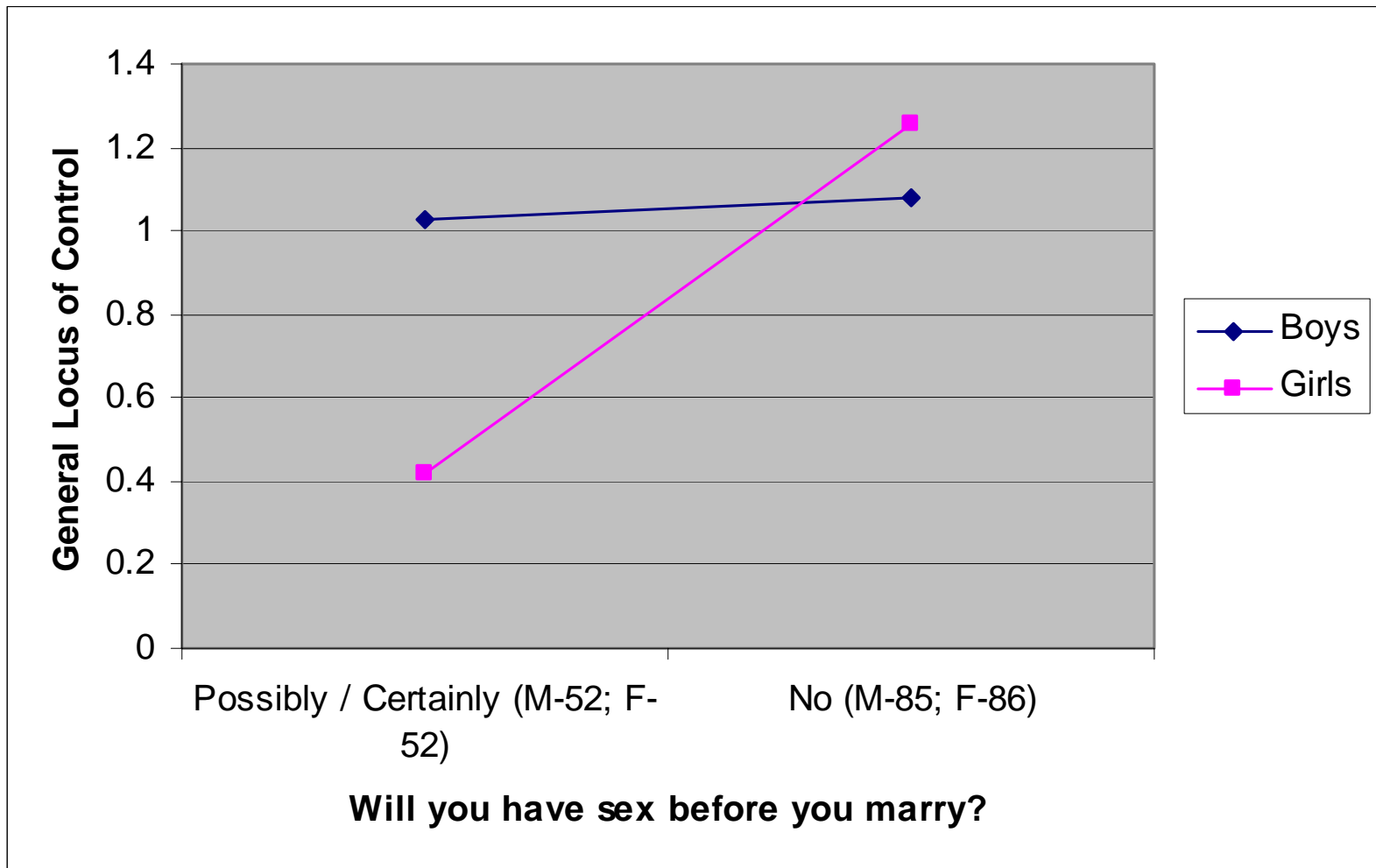
Predictors of abstinence



Where do cognitions come from?

- Locus of Control –
 - Parental Attitudes; teacher age
- Attitudes
 - Teacher knowledge
- Knowledge
 - Teacher knowledge
- Skills
 - Teacher knowledge

Predictors of abstinence intentions



Correlations amongst scales

	Understanding	Skills	Attitudes	Spiritual control	General control
Skills	0.40***				
Attitudes	0.22***	0.18**			
Spiritual control	0.17*	0.14*	0.11		
General control	0.13*	0.14*	0.08	-0.08	
Exam score	0.45***	0.33***	0.17**	0.09	0.15*

• $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$
 Controlling for age, sex, standard