

Adapted from: Girden, E. R. (2001). *Evaluating Research Articles from Start to Finish* (2nd Edition). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

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<b>Background and Introduction</b>	
<b>Purpose:</b>	<p>What is the purpose of the study? What are the focusing questions? Is the purpose primarily theoretical, practical or personal?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify protective factors associated with adolescents' health related behaviors, with specific interest on modifiable factors influencing sexual behavior of American Indian youth</li> <li>• Behaviors included delay of sexual debut, not having had intercourse in the past 3 months, birth control use among sexually active youth in the past 3 months, and condom use in the past 3 months</li> <li>• Identify salient characteristics of students and their perceptions of family, school, and friends which could be incorporated or supported in future program planning for adolescents</li> <li>• The primary purpose is practical</li> </ul>
<b>Methods</b>	
<b>Participants &amp; Setting:</b>	<p>Where does the study take place, and who are the participants? Describe the general physical and social context of the setting and salient characteristics of the main actors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants were 484 American Indian students in grades 6-12</li> <li>• Midwestern rural schools with two high schools and three middle schools</li> <li>• Four of the five schools were on Indian reservations, while the fifth was located in a border town</li> <li>• Only American Indian students were selected, even though the border school included a majority of whites</li> <li>• Participation rate overall of all eligible students was 85%</li> </ul>
<b>Data Collection:</b>	<p>How were data collected?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 144 item written survey was administered in the classrooms by trained surveyors</li> <li>• Based on teacher advise, the survey was read aloud to sixth grade students due to a small number of students whose reading level would hamper completion, but other grades completed the survey by reading on their own and answering questions</li> </ul>
<b>Intervention Procedures:</b>	<p>Was the intervention developed and delivered in such a way that we are confident that it is relevant?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was not an intervention, but instead was a data gathering exercise to identify salient features that act as protective factors for American Indian adolescents in relation to certain sexual</li> </ul>

	behaviors
<b>Results</b>	
<b>Data Analyses:</b>	<p>What procedures were used for analysis of data?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cronbach’s alpha was used to assess the internal consistency of the scales</li> <li>• Logistic regression was used to provide response probabilities for the outcome variables</li> <li>• Gender was used as a control variable</li> <li>• Bivariate analysis was used to test the association between each of the independent variables separately with each of the dependent variables</li> <li>• A multivariate model was done for each dependent variable using stepwise regression to identify the best subset of predictors based on optimizing the Akaike Information Criterion, with boys and girls done separately</li> <li>• There was little missing data, with the greatest percentage for any question missing data at 2.6%</li> <li>• Response consistency was checked by comparing the questions for those reporting having had sex in the last 3 months with those reporting never having had sex, with only 1 of 241 providing a contradictory answer</li> <li>• Moderate to high alpha values for internal consistency were observed on all scales except religion and self-esteem, which lacked enough variables</li> </ul>
<b>Results:</b>	<p>What were the results? In general terms, what is the answer to the question, “What is going on there”?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valuing school achievement was highly predictive of never having sex and not having sex in the last 3 months</li> <li>• Parental knowledge of adolescents’ whereabouts and friends was significantly related to sexually active students not having sex in the last 3 months</li> <li>• The extent to which parents discussed sexual issues with their children in the past year was negatively associated with sexual activity, which does not indicate a cause and effect since it may be that parents talked about sex because they were aware of the existing activity</li> <li>• Perception of friends abstaining from sex and drugs were significantly associated with abstinence and contraception use</li> <li>• Self-efficacy was significantly associated for abstinence and for not for consistent condom use for young men</li> <li>• Self-esteem and cultural-connectedness did not have significant associations with adolescents’ sexual behavior, which may have been due to measurement error</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	
<b>Experimental</b>	How are design or research methods used to enhance the credibility

<p><b>Design &amp; Methods:</b></p>	<p>(trustworthiness and believability) of the study?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The survey design used Problem Behavior Theory as a framework, focusing on the primary domains of social environment, perceived environment, personality, and other behavior</li> <li>• Four self-reported dependent measures asked about sexual behavior</li> <li>• Several validated scales measuring independent variables related to Problem Behavior Theory were included: maternal support, paternal support, parental monitoring, parent communication regarding sexual issues, perception of friends not being sexually active, perception of friends not using drugs, value on scholastic achievement and religious involvement</li> <li>• Four items on self-esteem from the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale were included</li> <li>• Three items were included on self-efficacy from a scale with high reliability for sexual behaviors developed specifically for American Indian populations</li> <li>• Six items measured cultural connectedness through interest, knowledge and efforts to increase knowledge</li> <li>• Demographic information asked about gender, age, grade school attended, and who the student lived with</li> <li>• Scales used were based on theory and existing scales with proven reliability</li> <li>• Generalizability even to other American Indian groups is limited due to the cultural diversity of these communities and the rural location of the study</li> </ul>
<p><b>Additional Insight:</b></p>	<p>What parts of the study did you find powerful or particularly instructive? What was moving or striking, and what provided new insight?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the overall findings were not specifically surprising, what was striking was the emphasis on the adolescent American Indian population as an important study group. The article points out that the American Indian population comprises only 0.8% of the U.S. population, but emphasizes the composition of it as particularly young, with 35.6% under 18 as opposed to the general U.S. population with 25.7% according to the 1990 census</li> <li>• The authors emphasize the focus in these communities on resiliency and what youth and their families are doing well, rather than focusing on problems and risk behavior</li> </ul>