# Potentially Important Risk and Protective Factors That May Affect Adolescent Sexual Behavior, Use of Condoms & Contraception, STD and Pregnancy

## Community

**Community disadvantage and disorganization**
- High level of education
- High unemployment rate
- High income level
- High crime rate

## Family

**Structure and economic advantage of the teenagers’ families**
- Two (vs. one) parents
- Changes in parental marital status
- High level of parents’ education
- High parental income level

**Positive family dynamics and attachment**
- Parental support and family connectedness
- Sufficient parental supervision and monitoring

**Family attitudes about and modeling of sexual risk taking and early childbearing**
- Mother’s early age at first sex and first birth
- Single mother’s dating and cohabitation behaviors
- Conservative parental attitudes about premarital sex or teen sex
- Positive parental attitudes about contraception
- Older sibling’s early sexual behavior and age of first birth

## Teen

**Biological antecedents**
- Older age and greater physical maturity
- Higher hormone levels

**Attachment to and success in school**
- Good school performance
- Educational aspirations and plans for the future

**Attachment to religious institutions**
- Frequent religious attendance

**Problem or risk-taking behaviors**
- Alcohol, or drug use
- Problem behaviors or delinquency
- Other risk behaviors

**Emotional distress**
- Higher level of stress
- Depression
- Suicide ideation

**Characteristics of relationship with partners**
- Early and frequent dating
- Going steady, having a close relationship
- Greater number of romantic partners
- Having a partner 3 or more years older

**Sexual abuse**
- History of prior sexual coercion or abuse

**Sexual beliefs, attitudes and skills**
- Conservative attitudes toward premarital sex
- Greater perceived susceptibility to pregnancy, STD/HIV
- Importance of avoiding pregnancy, childbearing & STD
- Greater knowledge about condoms & contraception
- Positive attitudes about condoms & contraception
- Higher perceived costs & barriers to using condoms
- Greater perceived self-efficacy in using condoms or contraception

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1 “+” denotes a protective factor; “-” denotes a risk factor. Factors in italics are factors that interventions may have a greater chance of actually changing.