

Maternal Education, Parenting, and Contraceptive Choices of Young Women



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Background

- Maternal education can be an indicator of family social location¹
 - Higher educational attainment provides access to economic and social stability which may give mothers the space and knowledge for conversations about sex²
- Parent-child relationships are multidimensional and have the power to shape identity development³
- Increased sexual communication between parents and adolescents is associated with positive sexual health outcomes⁴

Methodology and Measures

Analytic Sample: Limited to young women who completed AddHealth survey Waves I and III and reported whether they were sexually active, n=2,437

IV: Maternal Education: reported educational attainment in four categories: < HS degree, HS degree, some college, college degree

Parent-Child Closeness: scale (satisfaction 1-5) constructed based on four questions about general quality of parental relationships in Wave I

Parental Attitudes About Sex: Scale constructed using two questions regarding parental approval of sexual activity and birth control use at Wave I

- Adolescent response, not parent

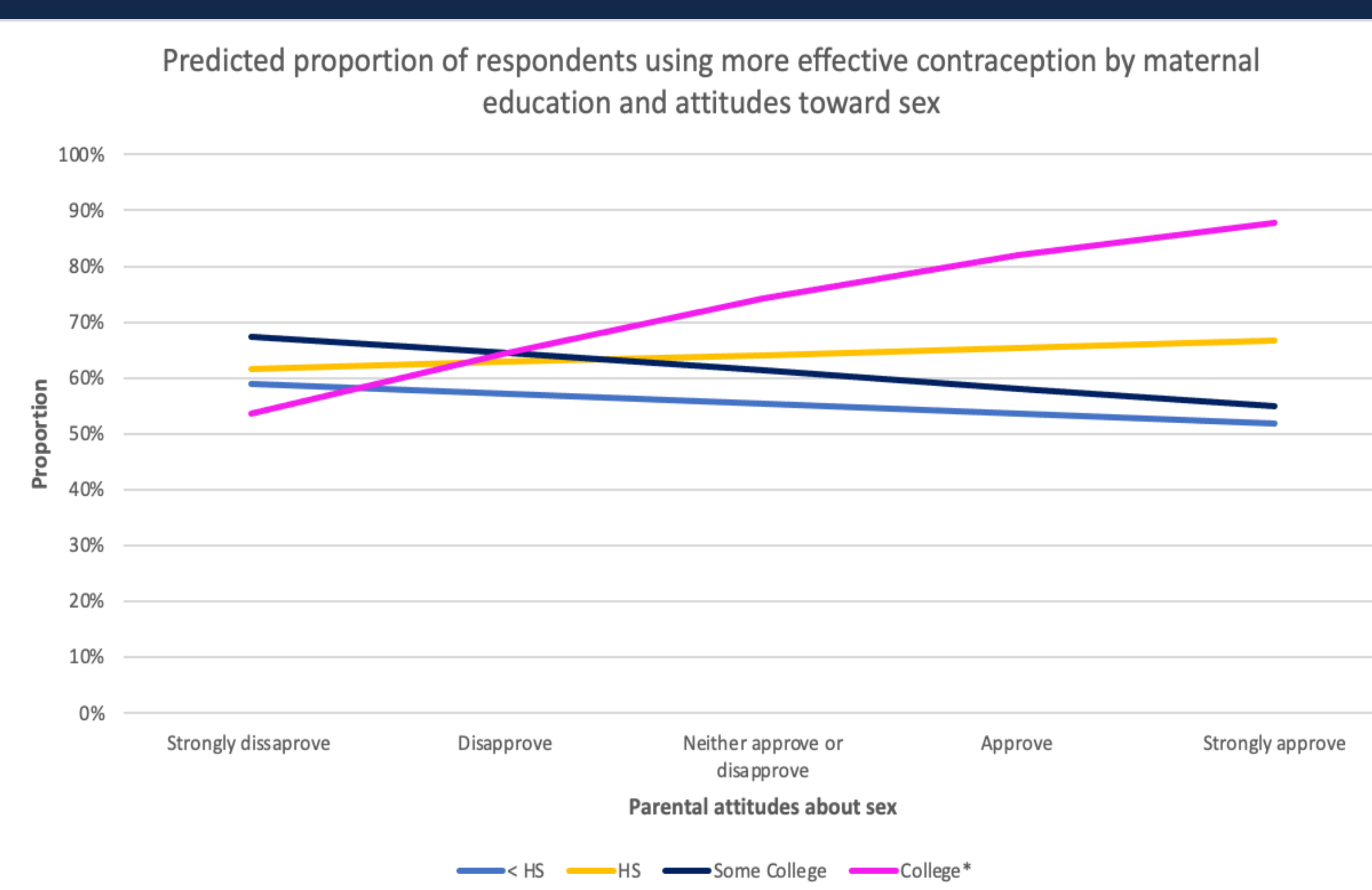
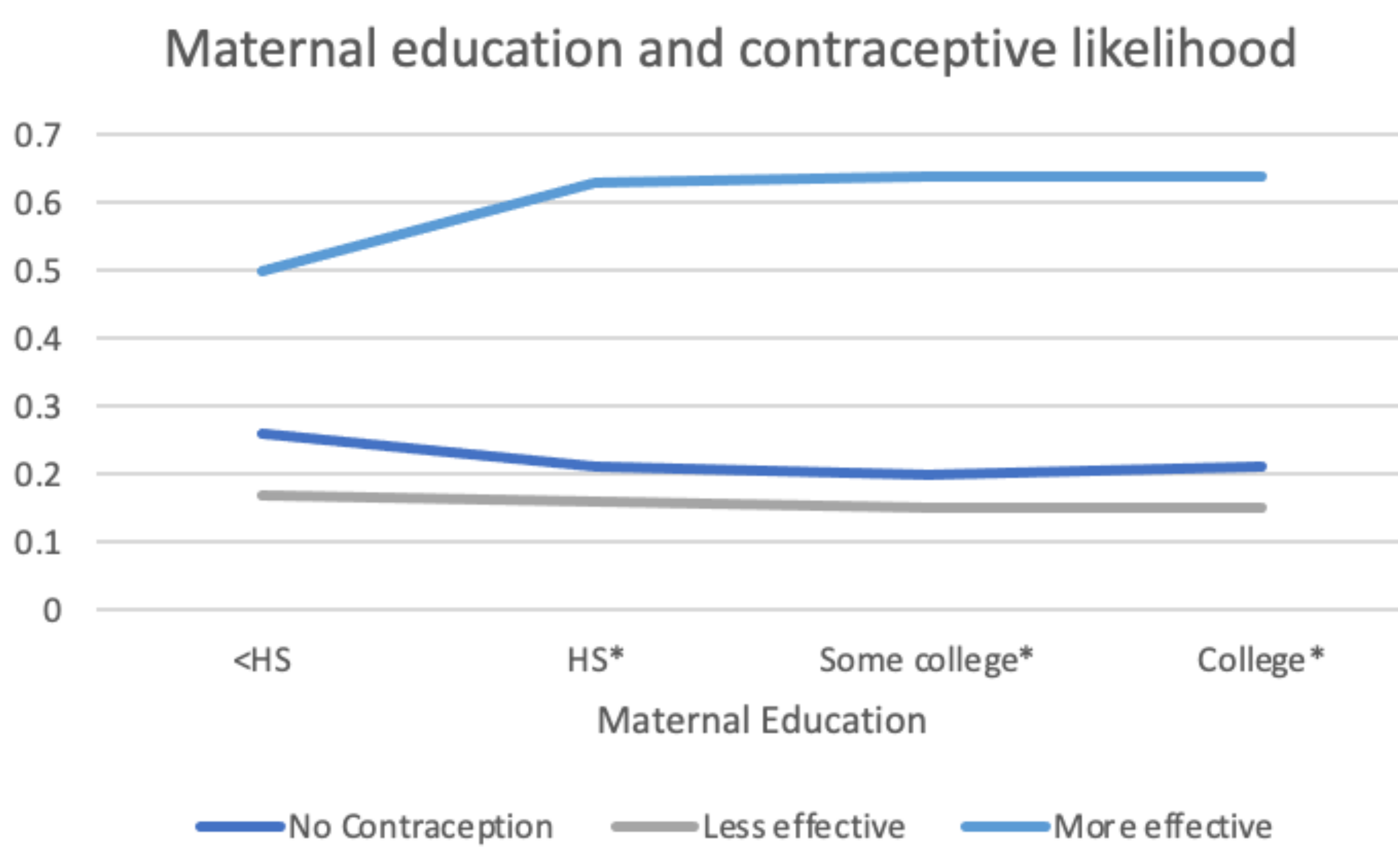
DV: Contraception: contraception choices reported at Wave III

- Three categories: no contraception, less effective, more effective

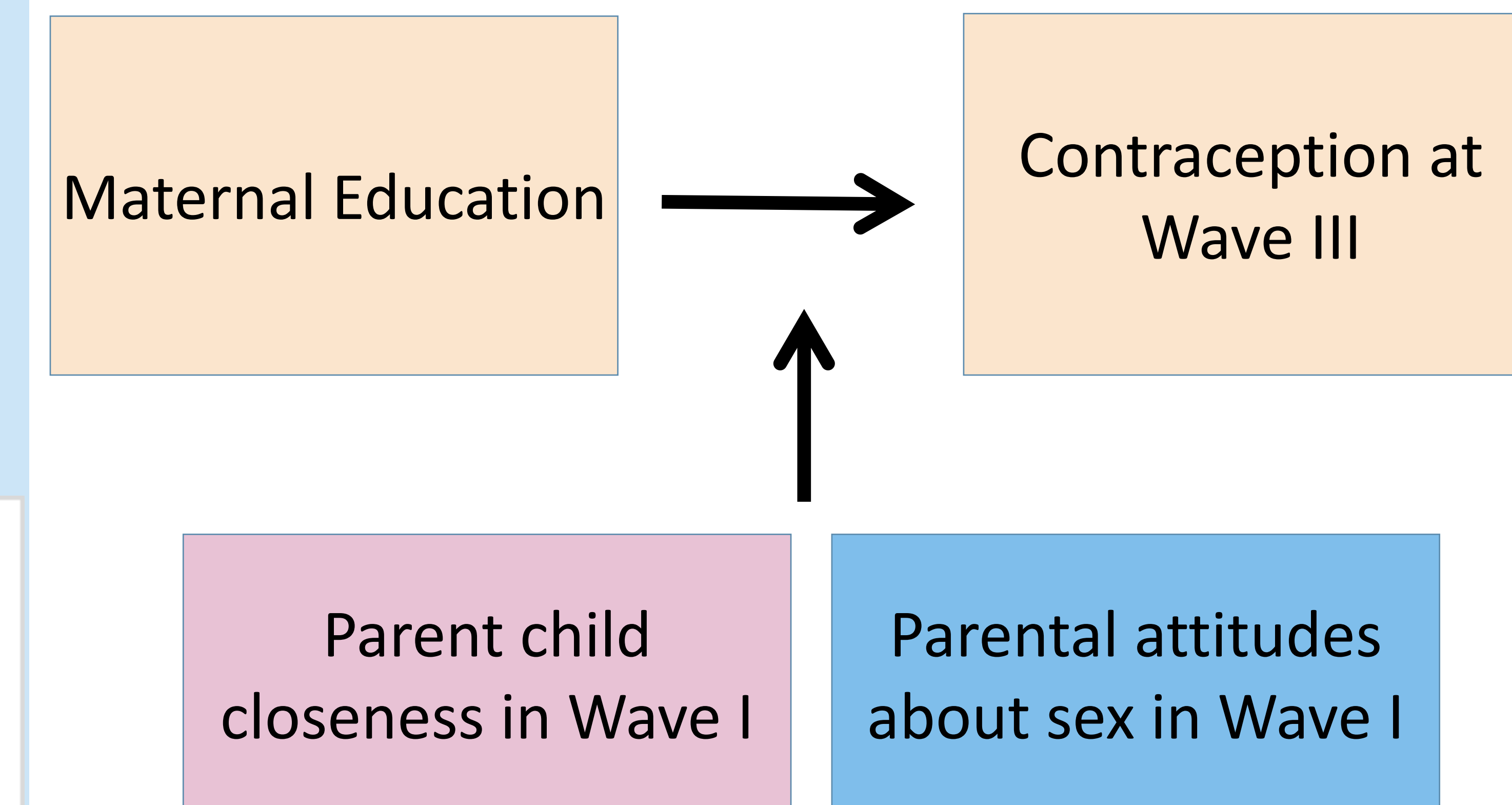
Research Questions

- How does maternal education effect young adult contraceptive choice?
- Do parenting measures in adolescence mediate or moderate that relationship?

Results



Conceptual Model



Conclusions

- **Higher maternal educational attainment is associated with more effective contraceptive use in young adulthood**
- Parent-child closeness and parental attitudes about sex are **two different measures of the parent-child relationship**
- A mother with a college degree and practicing sex positive parenting is **significantly more likely** to have a daughter using “more effective” contraception as a young adult
- **Sex positive parenting strengthens the benefits of maternal education**

References

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- (3) Hoskins, D. H. (2014). Consequences of Parenting on Adolescent Outcomes. *Societies*, 4(3), Article 3. <https://doi.org/10.3390/soc4030506>
- (4) Commendador, K. A. (2010). Parental Influences on Adolescent Decision Making and Contraceptive Use. *Pediatric Nursing*, 36(3), 147–157.