

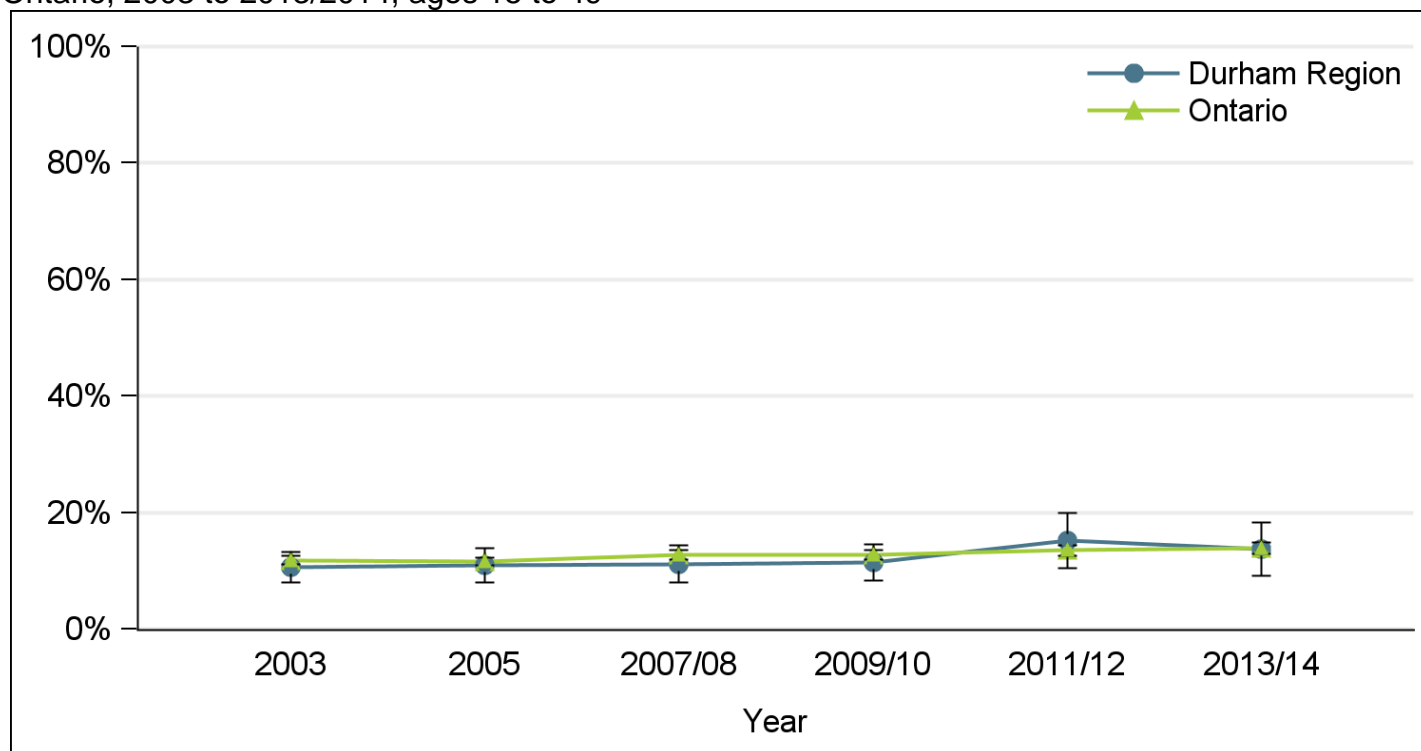
May 2017

### Highlights

- In 2013/2014, 14 per cent of Durham Region residents aged 15 to 49 reported they had two or more sexual partners in the previous year. Rates for both Durham Region and Ontario remained stable between 2003 and 2013/2014.
- Among the 36 Ontario public health units, the proportion of respondents who reported they had multiple sexual partners in the previous year ranged from five to 19 per cent.

### Trend over time

Figure 1. Proportion who had two or more sexual partners in the previous year, Durham Region and Ontario, 2003 to 2013/2014, ages 15 to 49



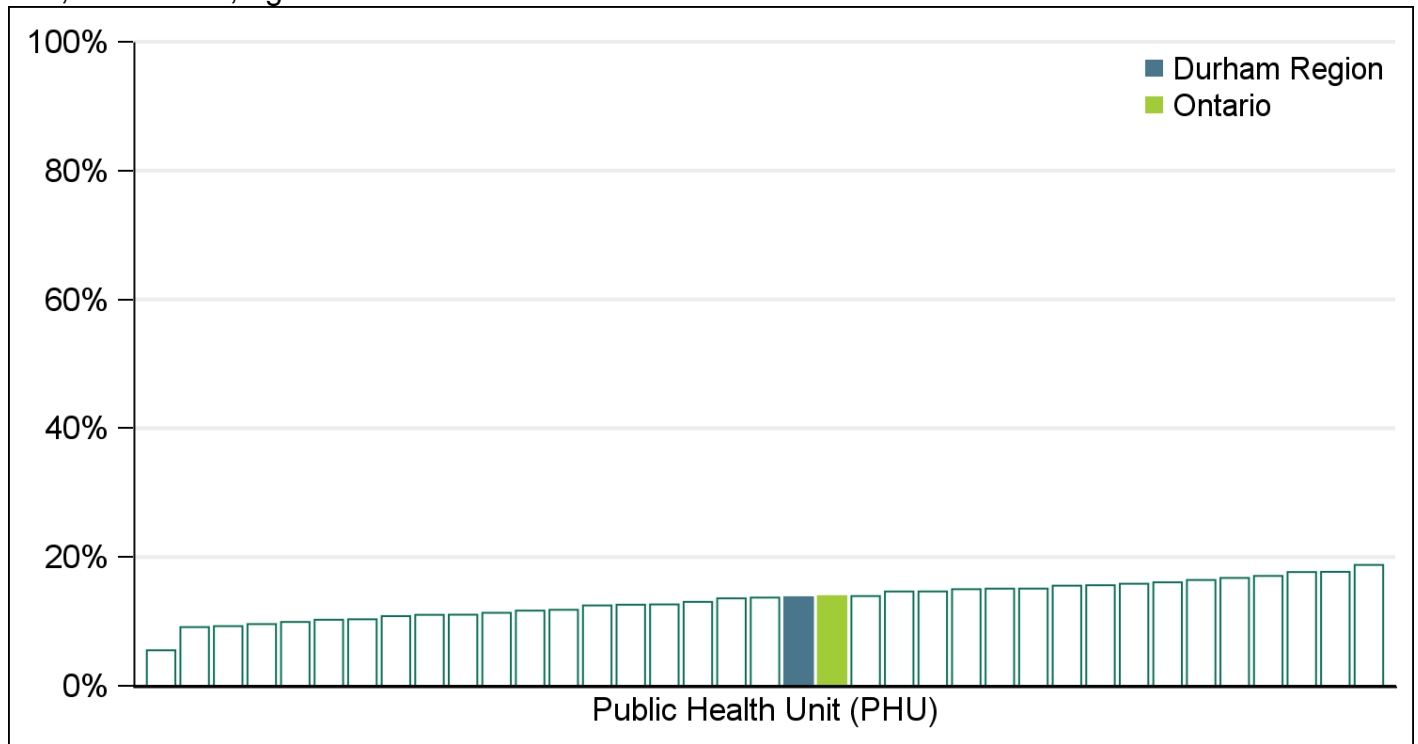
Place of residence	2003	2005	2007/08	2009/10	2011/12	2013/14
Durham	11%	11%	11%	11%	15%	14% <sup>E</sup>
95 per cent CI (Durham)	8-13%	8-14%	8-14%	8-15%	10-20%	9-18%
Ontario	12%	12%	13%	13%	14%	14%
95 per cent CI (Ontario)	11-13%	11-12%	12-14%	12-14%	13-14%	13-15%

E – Use with caution as these data have a coefficient of variation between 16.6 and 33.3 per cent.

In 2013/2014, 14 per cent of Durham Region residents aged 15 to 49 reported they had more than one sexual partner in the previous year. This rate is similar to the rate observed for Ontario of 14 per cent. Figure 1 shows that rates for both Durham Region and Ontario remained stable between 2003 and 2013/2014.

## Provincial comparison

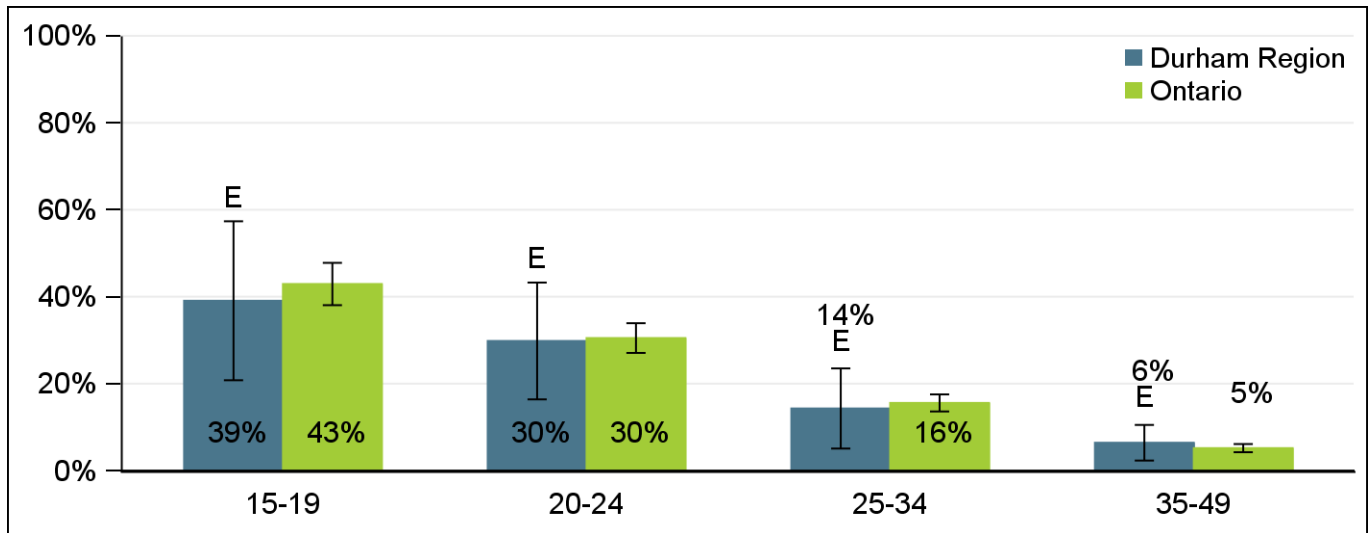
Figure 2. Proportion who had two or more sexual partners in the previous year, by public health unit, 2013/2014, ages 15 to 49



For 2013/2014, the proportion of respondents who had two or more sexual partners in the past 12 months ranged by public health unit from five to 19 per cent. The rate for Durham Region was in the middle of this range at 14 per cent (see Figure 2 above).

## Multiple sexual partners and the determinants of health

Figure 3. Proportion who had two or more sexual partners in the previous year, by age, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 15 to 49

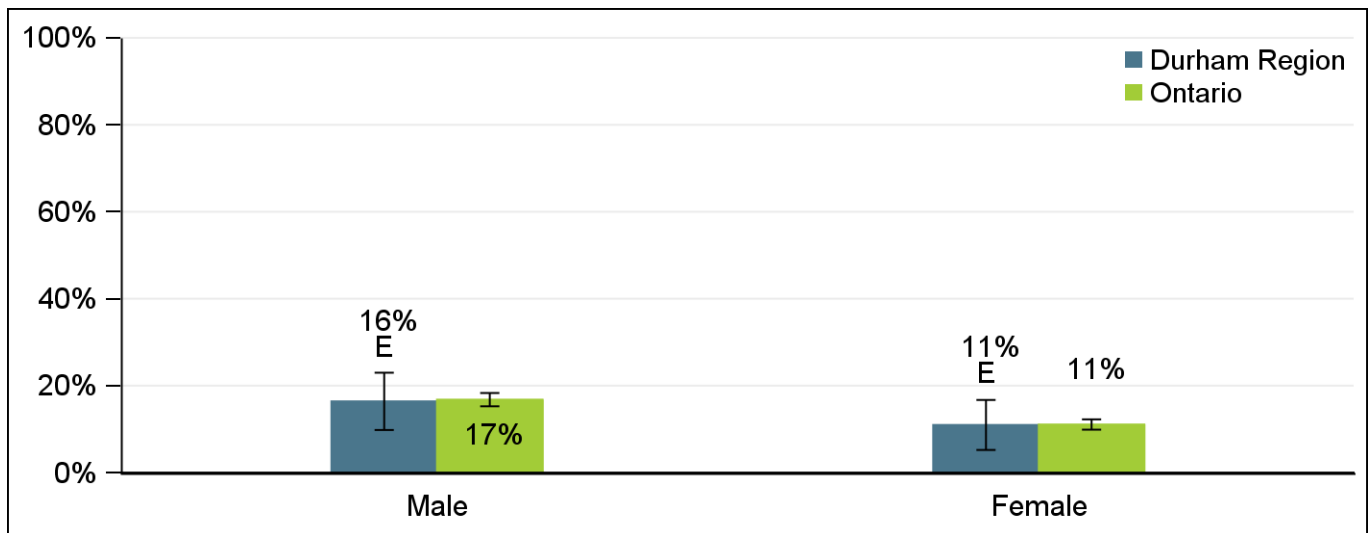


Association between age groups and having two or more sexual partners is significant for Ontario only.

E – Use with caution as these data have a coefficient of variation between 16.6 and 33.3 per cent.

In Ontario, the proportion of those who had two or more sexual partners declined with age, from 43 per cent of Ontarians aged 15 to 19 to five per cent of those aged 35 to 49 (see figure 3). No association between age and having two or more sexual partners was observed for Durham Region.

Figure 4. Proportion who had two or more sexual partners in the previous year, by sex, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 15 to 49

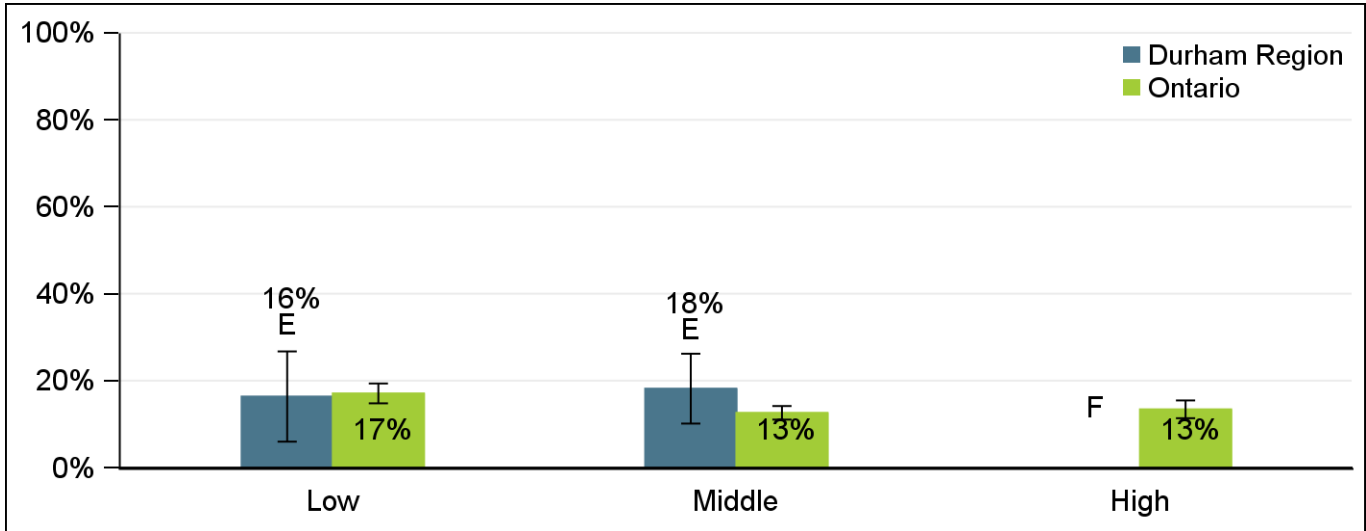


Association between sex and having two or more sexual partners is significant for Ontario only.

E – Use with caution as these data have a coefficient of variation between 16.6 and 33.3 per cent.

As shown in figure 4, in Ontario, males were more likely than females to report having multiple sexual partners in the past year. No association between sex and having two or more sexual partners was observed for Durham Region.

Figure 5. Proportion who had two or more sexual partners in the previous year, by household income, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 15 to 49

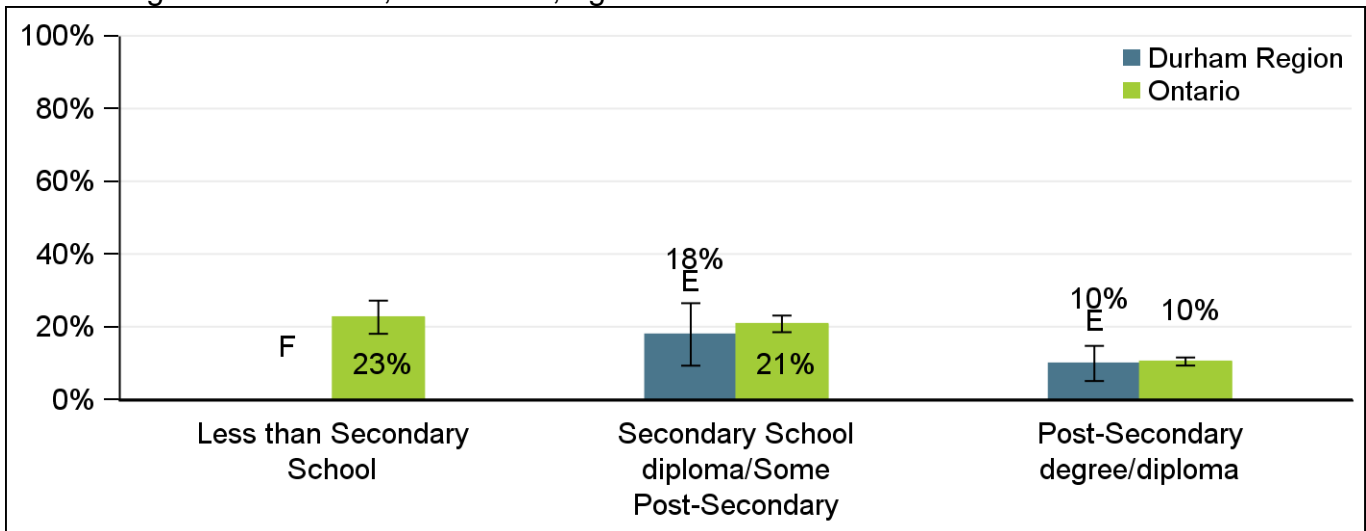


E – Use with caution these data have a coefficient of variation between 16.6 and 33.3 per cent.

F – These data have a coefficient of variation greater than 33.3 per cent and have been suppressed.

No association was observed between having two or more sexual partners in the last year and household income for Durham Region or Ontario.

Figure 6. Proportion who had two or more sexual partners in the previous year, by education level, Durham Region and Ontario, 2013/2014, ages 15 to 49



Association between education level and having two or more sexual partners is significant for Ontario only.

E – Use with caution as these data have a coefficient of variation between 16.6 and 33.3 per cent.

Figure 6 shows that in Ontario, the proportion who reported having multiple sexual partners in the previous year declined with increasing education level, from 23 per cent among those with less than secondary school education to ten per cent among those with a post-secondary degree or diploma. No association was observed between having two or more sexual partners in the last year and education level in Durham Region.

## Data notes

**Data Source: The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)** is a cross-sectional survey that collects information related to health status, health care utilization and health determinants for the Canadian population. It surveys a large sample of respondents and is designed to provide reliable estimates at the health region level. Since 2007, data are collected on an ongoing basis with annual releases, rather than every two years as was the case prior to 2007. The CCHS data are collected from persons aged 12 and over living in private dwellings, excluding individuals living on Indian Reserves and on Crown Lands, institutional residents, full-time members of the Canadian Forces, and residents of certain remote regions. Interviews are conducted using computer assisted interviewing, either in person or over the telephone.

**Definitions and Survey Questions:** Proportion of the population aged 15 to 49 that reported having two or more sexual partners in the 12 months prior to the survey.

**Data Analysis:** The CCHS share file obtained from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care was used for analysis. Data were analyzed using SAS version 9.4. Estimates were weighted using the final CCHS sampling weight. Error bars in the graphs represent the 95% confidence interval (CI) around the estimate. The true or actual estimate falls within the range of values 95 out of 100 times. For all analyses, response options of “refusal”, “don't know”, “not stated” and “not applicable” were excluded, unless otherwise stated.

The CCHS 2013/2014 dataset was used for the multiple sexual partners and the determinants of health analysis. Statistical significance was assessed based on a chi-square test with a p-value less than 0.05. A statistically significant difference between groups means that the association is not likely due to chance.

The income categories of low, middle and high were based on a CCHS derived variable which distributed residents according to the adjusted ratio of their total household income to the low income cut-off corresponding to their household and community size. The ten categories in this variable were grouped with “low” income corresponding to the lowest 30 per cent, “middle” including the middle 40 per cent, and “high” corresponding to highest 30 per cent of earners.