

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS REPORT

The objective of this analysis was to describe the distribution of the number of sex partners (in the past month) reported by a sample of college students. Data were collected from thirty students (n=30). Measures of central tendency (mean, median and mode), measures of dispersion (standard deviation, variance, and range) along with a bar chart were generated.

The mean, median, and mode were 3, 1 and 0 sex partner(s) respectively (**see table below**). The difference among these values indicated a non-normal distribution, and at least 50% of the students reported 1 or more sex partner(s)¹. This observation of non-normality was consistent with the standard deviation of 3 sex partners, which in this context is relatively high. Moreover, the bar chart (**see graph below**) revealed a multimodal distribution with a considerable degree of positive skewness. Also, it must be noted that the coefficient of skewness (**see “skewness” in table below**) is approximately 2, and generally, a coefficient greater than 1 indicates marked positive skewness.

In conclusion (and from a practical perspective) this distribution consists of three subgroups; students who reported **0**, **1** and **multiple** sex partner(s) in the past month. The positive skewness observed can be accounted for by the value 15, which in this context can be considered an outlier. It is recommended that this outlier (15) be removed and the data reanalyzed in order to obtain more reliable and representative descriptive statistics.

¹ Also, at least 50% of the students reported 1 or no sex partner.

Descriptive Statistics for the Number of Sex Partners Reported by College Students^a

| | |
|----------------|----|
| N | 30 |
| Mean | 3 |
| Median | 1 |
| Mode | 0 |
| Std. Deviation | 3 |
| Variance | 10 |
| Skewness | 2 |
| Range | 15 |

a. Refers to the number of sex partners in the past month.

