The background of the slide is a spiral-bound notebook with a light-colored, textured cover and a silver metal spiral binding on the left side. The text is centered on the page.

Risk and Protective Factors Associated with Students' Plans to Attend College

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Main question in this study: *What characteristics differentiate students not planning to go to college from those who plan to go to 2- or 4-year colleges?*

The following slide shows the TAP question used to distinguish the two groups and the number of students in the final sample responding in each category.

What do you think you'll do after high school?

Voc-tech school n = 518 (342 males)

2-year college n = 855 (399 males)

**4 year college/university n = 6875
(2963 males)**

full-time job n = 434 (253 males)

military n = 627 (486 males)

marry, be supported by spouse n = 87 (34
males)

public assistance n = 42 (22 males)

don't know n = 1272 (618 males)

other n = 430 (216 males)

School Districts included in analyses: (Surveyed 1999-2000)

Contoocook Valley

Dover

Exeter

Fall Mountain Regional

Gorham

Jaffrey-Rindge

Keene Supervisory Union

Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative

Merrimack

Monadnock Regional

Pemi-Baker

Participants:

Initially 12276 7th-12th graders.

Final sample reduced to 11181 by
eliminating those

< 11 yrs and > 18 yrs of age, and
inconsistent responders,

as in...

How often do you or your partner use a condom x How often do you use birth control?

	never had sex	never	rarely	sometimes	half the time	most of the time	always
never had sex	8017	32	18	5	8	3	16
never	30	308	104	59	14	44	313
rarely	12	49	72	60	25	23	94
sometimes	7	23	26	72	36	38	63
about half the time	2	14	10	12	39	146	112
most of the time	11	50	11	19	11	203	816
always	15	69	20	13	2	22	649

Ever voluntarily had sexual intercourse x How often do you and or your partner use birth control?

	never had sex	never	rarely	sometimes	half the time	most of the time	always
never had sex	8005	61	25	20	8	13	68
used to	35	173	63	58	31	115	582
several times/year	20	67	48	40	21	67	312
about 2-3 times/month	12	32	30	3	21	74	250
about once/week	3	60	28	36	17	85	361
4-5 times/week	4	36	28	21	14	64	270
about every day	14	115	39	34	25	61	215

Final Sample by Grade and Sex

Grade	Male	Female
7th	870	882
8th	860	885
9th	1068	1226
10th	1025	1072
11th	865	992
12th	674	762

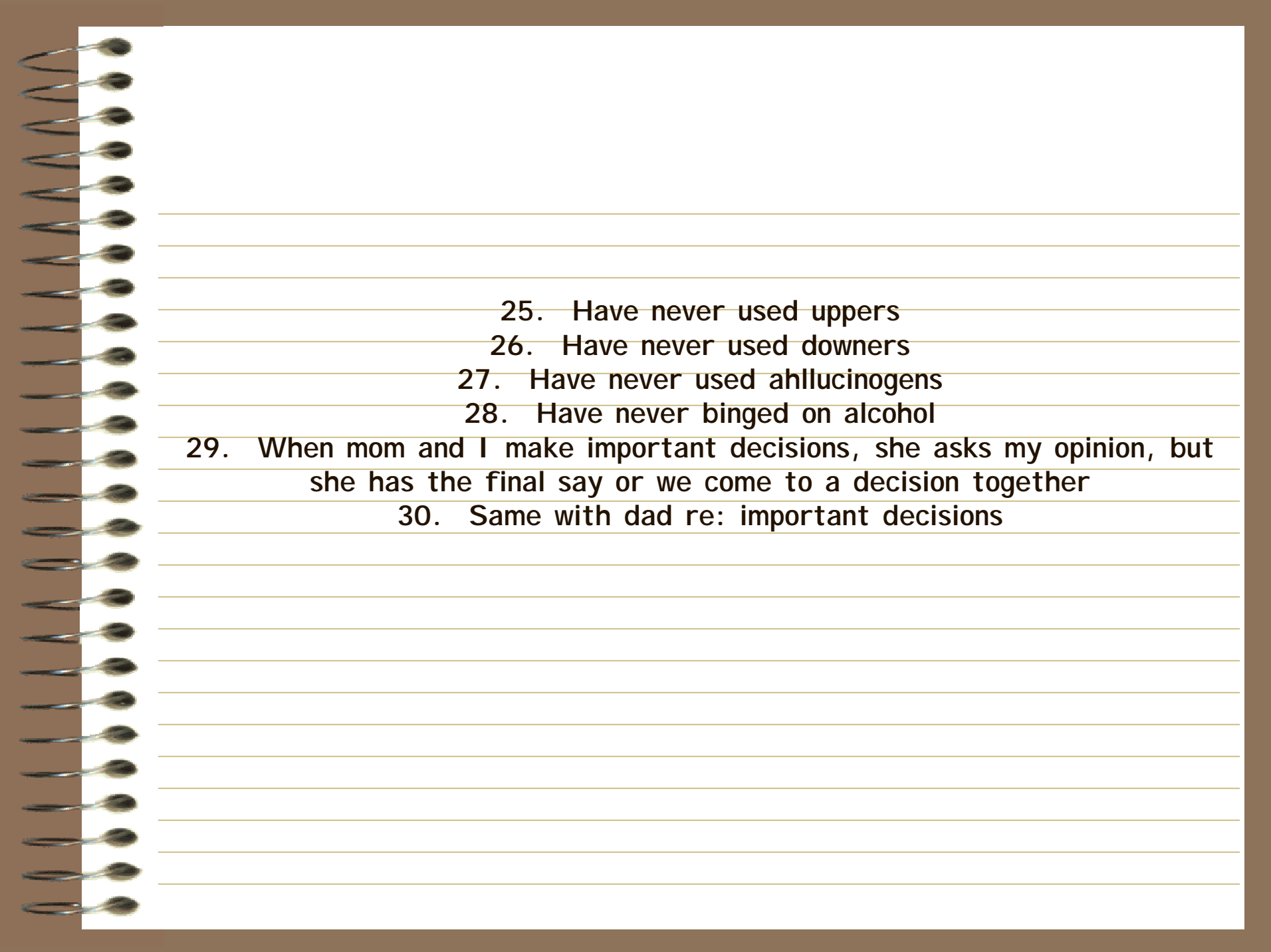
Risk Factors:

1. Parental monitoring: average of 8 items, parents never to sometimes monitor
 2. I live with almost anyone but mom & dad
3. Parents never married or divorced within last year, last 6-10 years or more than 10 years
 4. Don't know mom's education, or mom has hs diploma or less
 5. Don't know dad's education, or dad has hs diploma or less
 6. Mom cares about me less than always
 7. Mom is never or rarely fair
 8. Mom is never, rarely or sometimes there when I need her
 9. Dad cares about me never, rarely or sometimes
 10. Dad is never or rarely fair
 11. Dad is never, rarely or sometimes there when I need him
12. During the past month I felt depressed most or all of the time
 13. I have made a plan to kill myself
 14. I am now being or have been sexually abused by an adult
 15. I have no one to talk to if I'm having a problem
16. I've voluntarily had sex in the past, several times a year, once a week, 4 or 5 times/week, every day
 17. I've had 4-6 different sexual partners
 18. I never use birth control

19. Less than 4 hrs/week of homework
20. No extracurricular activities
21. No non-school activities
22. Never watch TV or watch more than 20 hrs/wk
23. Spend no time or more than 20 hrs/week alone
24. Spend more than 20 hrs/week at a job
25. Used to smoke or smoke daily
26. Have used cocaine ever
27. Use marijuana 1-2 times/week or more
28. Have ever used uppers
29. Have ever used downers
30. Have ever used hallucinogens
31. Used inhalants before or daily
32. Have had 5 or more alcoholic drinks at one time 1-3 times or more in the past month
33. Important decisions between me and mom: no mom, she tells me what to do, she trusts me to do the right thing, she doesn't care
34. Important decisions between me and dad: no dad, he trusts me to do the right thing, he doesn't care

Protective Factors

1. Parents monitor a lot of the time or always
2. I live with 2 biological or adoptive parents
3. Parents never separated or divorced
4. Mom has 4 year college degree or better
5. Dad has 4 year college degree or better
6. Mom cares about me very often
7. Mom is fair often
8. Mom is there for me very often
9. Dad cares very often
10. Dad is fair often
11. Dad is there for me very often
12. I am depressed once in a while
13. I have never made a plan to kill myself
14. I have never been sexually abused by an adult
15. I have never voluntarily had sex
16. If I've had sex voluntarily, I've had only one partner
17. I always use birth control
18. 5-9 to 16-20 hours of homework/week
19. 1-4 to 16-20 hours of extracurriculars/week
20. Less than 1 to 1-4 hours of non school activities/week
21. Watch 1-4 hours of TV/week
22. Spend 1-4 hours/week at home alone
23. Have never used tobacco
24. Have never used marijuana

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- A spiral-bound notebook with a brown cover and white lined pages. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the page.
25. Have never used uppers
 26. Have never used downers
 27. Have never used ahllucinogens
 28. Have never binged on alcohol
 29. When mom and I make important decisions, she asks my opinion, but she has the final say or we come to a decision together
 30. Same with dad re: important decisions

Factor Analyses

For Risk and Protective factors separately,
yielded 10 factors in each analysis:

Parental Education

Substance use

Maternal Behavior

Paternal Behavior

Parental Decision Making Style

Demographics

Extracurricular Activities

Depression and Abuse

Time Alone

Sexual Behavior

Logistic Regression

With planning college (yes or no) as the DV, and controlling initially for GPA, grade and sex, items in each of the factors were entered in separate steps.

The final R^2 was .304, $p < .001$, with the following significant predictors:

Parents' education (risk & protective; 4 variables)

Mom cares about me less than often

Mom cares about me very often

Mom is democratic

Dad is authoritarian/uninvolved

I've considered suicide

I haven't considered suicide

I'm not depressed

I haven't been sexually abused

I have homework

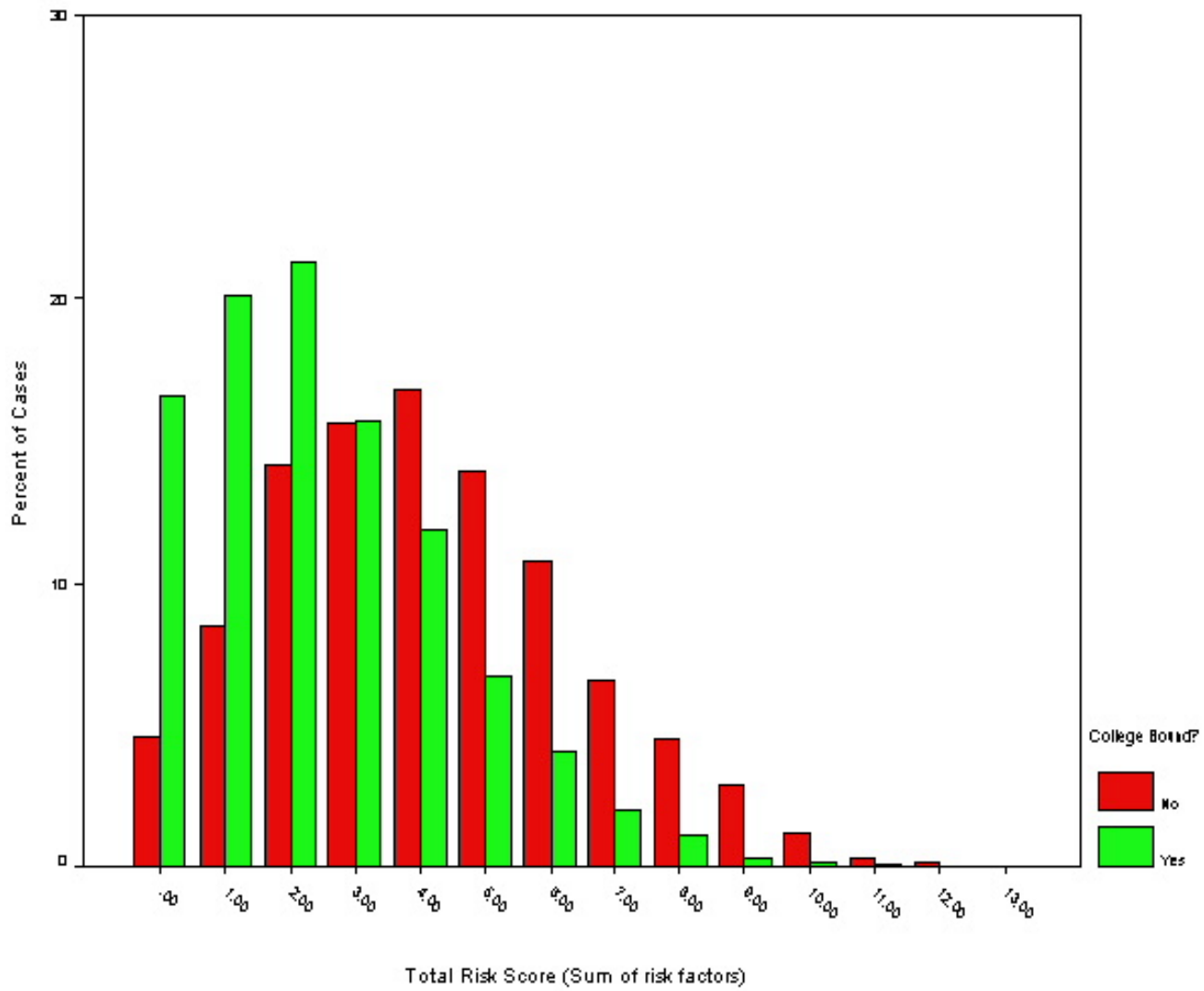
I do extracurricular activities

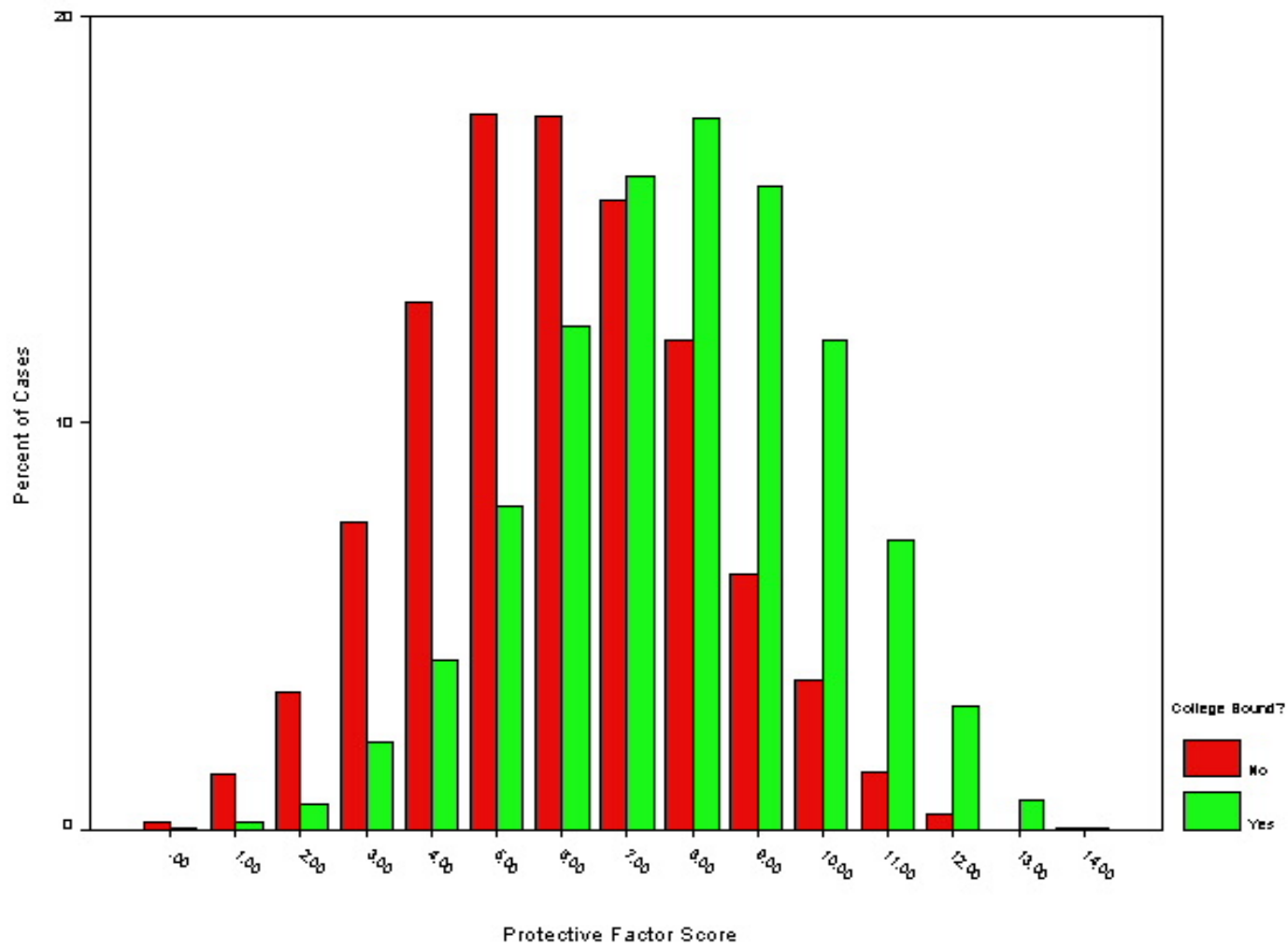
I don't do extracurricular activities

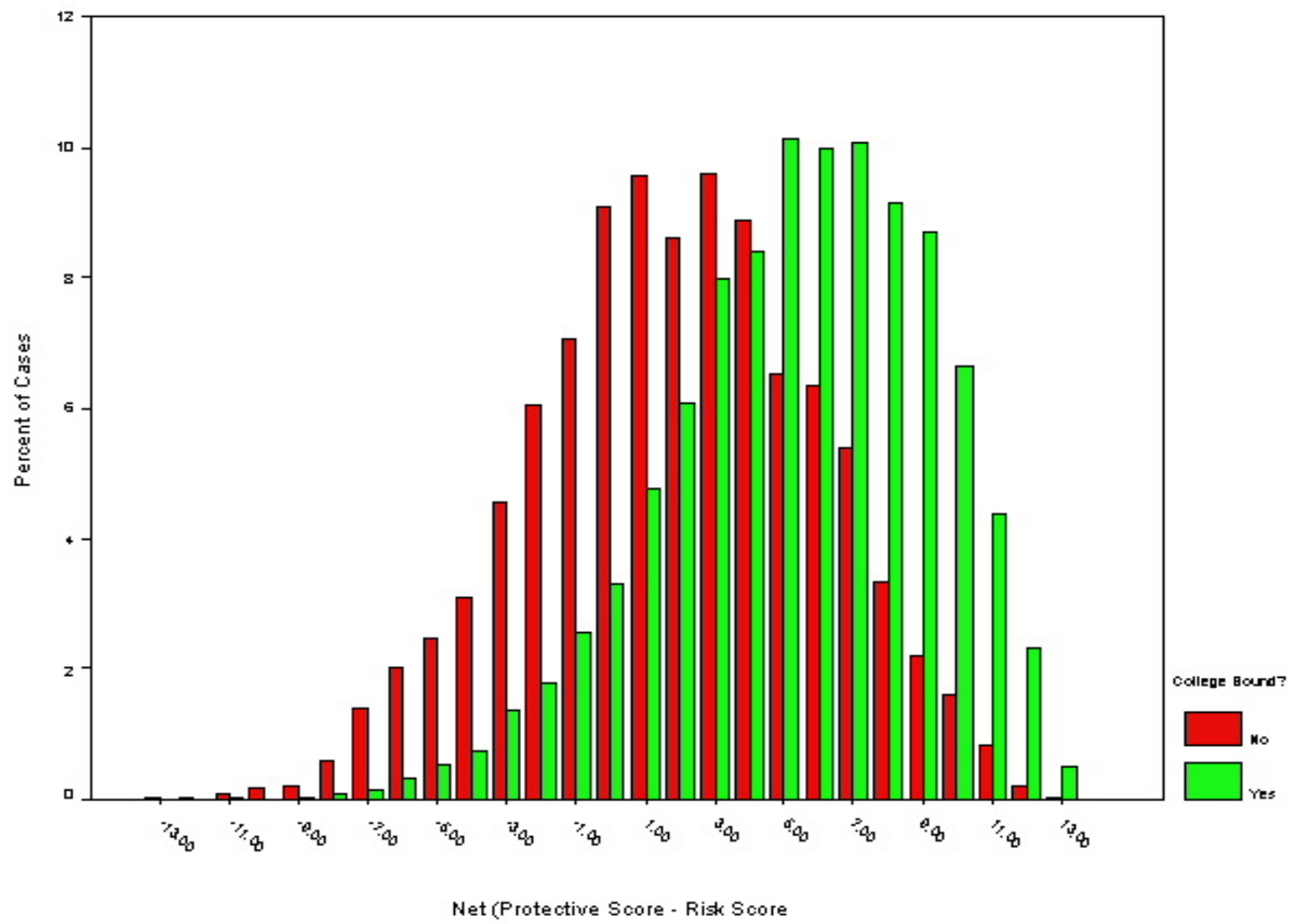
- I spend no time in nonschool activities
- I spend some time in nonschool activities
- I watch no or too much TV
- I watch 4 hours of TV/week
- I spend a little time at home alone
- I work more than 20 hours/week
- I have no one to talk to about my problems
- I use cocaine
- I use marijuana pretty regularly
- I've never used hallucinogens
- I binge drink often
- I have sex frequently
- I have had only one sexual partner

These 14 Risk Factors and 14 Protective Factors were then summed to produce a risk score, a protective score and a net (protective-risk) score.

The following figures show the relation between these scores and college-boundness.







Several conclusions can be drawn from these analyses:

1. Risk and protective factors are not simply two sides of single coins, e.g., for this sample, no TV and more than 20 hrs/week of TV were risks; 1-4 hrs/week of TV was protective

2. The individual risk and protective factors all correlated with the dependent variable at about the same level, so weighting them individually is not very useful.

3. A simple composite of protective-risk might be a useful tool for identifying adolescents in need of services; individuals in greatest need may not be those with the most risk factors, but those with risks uncompensated for by protective factors.