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affect is related to the sexual behaviors mentioned earlier in the paper. The strategies for reducing negative affect, first sex and then alcohol, will be discussed. Finally, methodological issues will be presented regarding measuring these constructs.

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Defining Risky Sexual Behaviors

Research claiming to examine risky sexual behaviors (RSB) often includes the previously mentioned behaviors, specifically one-night stands, multiple partners, and not using condoms or contraceptives. However, because of the variety of different behaviors included in the construct of RSB across studies, a difficult task in research thus far has been defining what behaviors constitute risky sexual behavior. The literature in the area examining sexual behaviors defines RSB as behaviors related to sexuality that present an immediate physical or psychological health risk and may compromise future health outcomes as well as educational and occupational achievements (Sarigiani, Lenoraann, & Petersen, 1999). In short, behaviors are risky if they are putting someone “at risk” for negative outcomes such as sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, unwanted pregnancy, or sexual assault. A sexual behavior is considered risky if that behavior increases the likelihood that something negative will happen to the person engaging in that behavior. Research regarding risky sexual behavior is atypical in that a behavior is defined as what can happen after engaging in that behavior. For example, having intercourse with a poorly known partner is considered risky because after engaging in that behavior the person may be at increased risk of contracting an STD (Brown & Johnson, 2003).

Most of the literature indicates that parental support plays a role in the sexual risk-taking behaviors of adolescents. Girls who have an open and supportive relationship with their mother

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