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The Association Between Religiosity and Alcohol Use in Adolescents

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Introduction

- Research has found that the age and strength of religion directly correlate to the level of alcohol consumption (Mason & Windle, 2002).
- Previous studies show that adult women with stronger religious beliefs consume less alcohol compared to those with weaker religious beliefs (Mattila & et al., 2001).
- There is a gap in investigating the relationship between religiosity and alcohol use in adolescents.
- This study provides insight into the relationship between religiosity and alcohol consumption with adolescents.

Research Questions

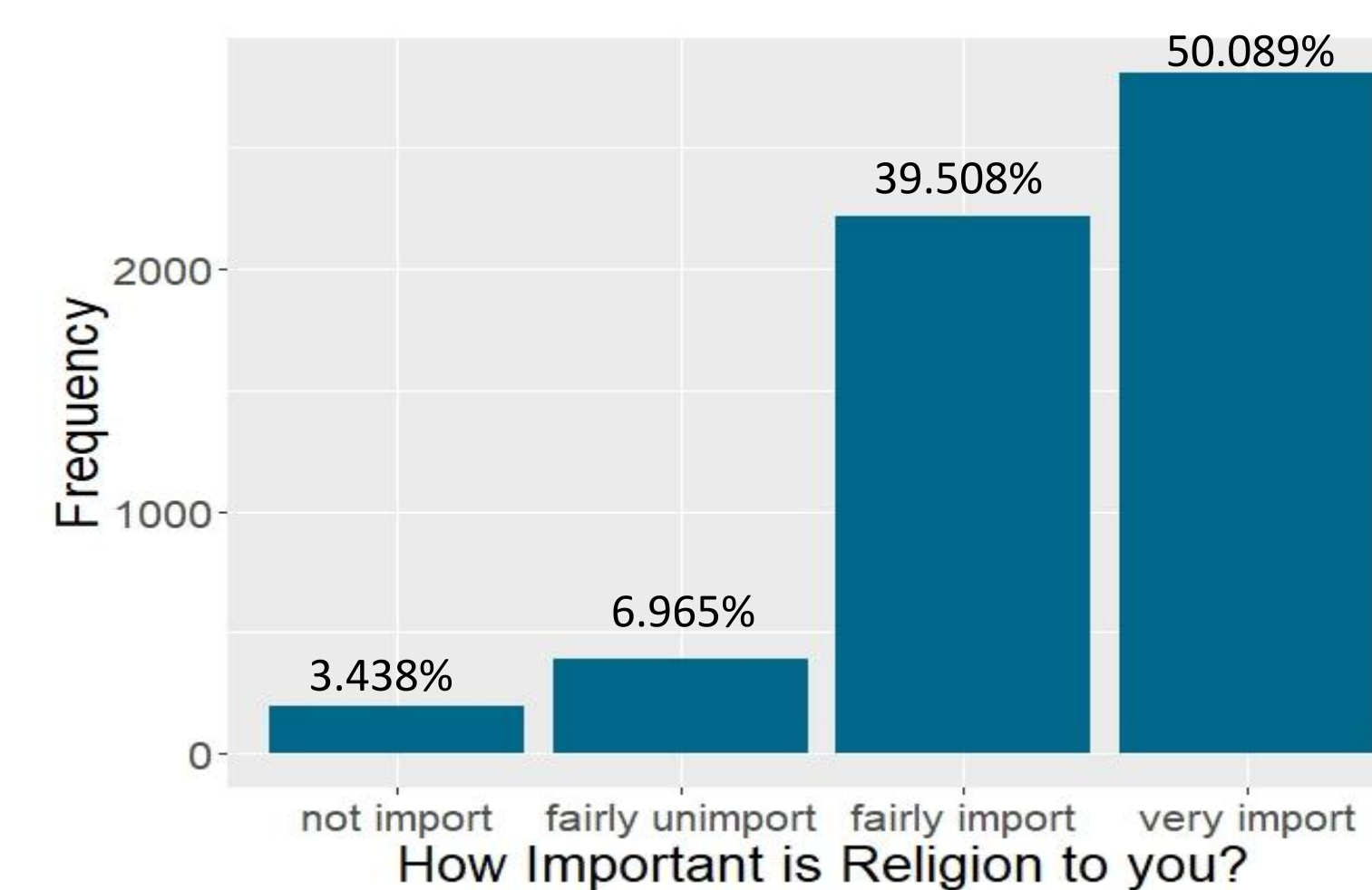
1. Is there a relationship between one's religiosity and their alcohol consumption?
2. Does this relationship change depending on biological sex?

Methodology

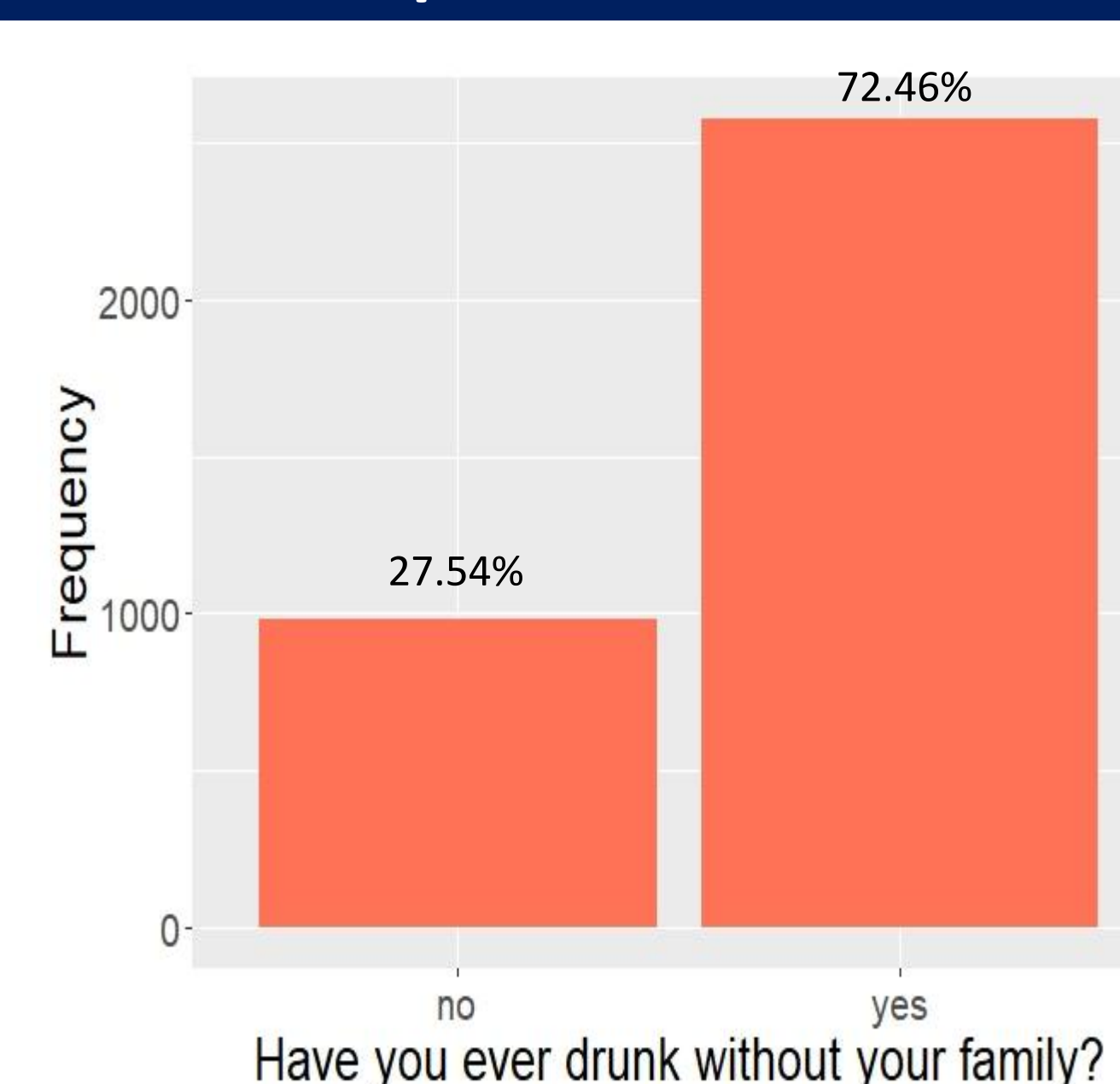
- Sample: Add Health Wave I : 6,504 individuals between the ages 12 and 21; 48.39% male and 51.61% female; 57.56% white, 24.35% African American, 11.42% Hispanic, 3.74% Asian, and 2.08% Native American.
- Procedure: The participants answered surveys in the form of in-home questionnaires.

Question	Response Variable
How important is your religion to you?	Range: not important - very important
Do you think of yourself as a Born-Again Christian?	0=no 1=yes
In the past 12 months, how often did you attend religious services?	Range: never-once a week or more
In the past 12 months, how often did you attend youth activities?	Range: never-once a week or more
Do you ever drink beer,wine,or liquor when you are not with parents or other adults in your family?	0=no 1=yes
Have you ever drunk beer,wine,or liquor more than 2 or 3 times in your life?	Range: never to within the last three months
How old were you when you had your first drink?	Range: 10 years - 19 years or older
During the past 12 months, on how many days did you drink alcohol?	Range: never-every day

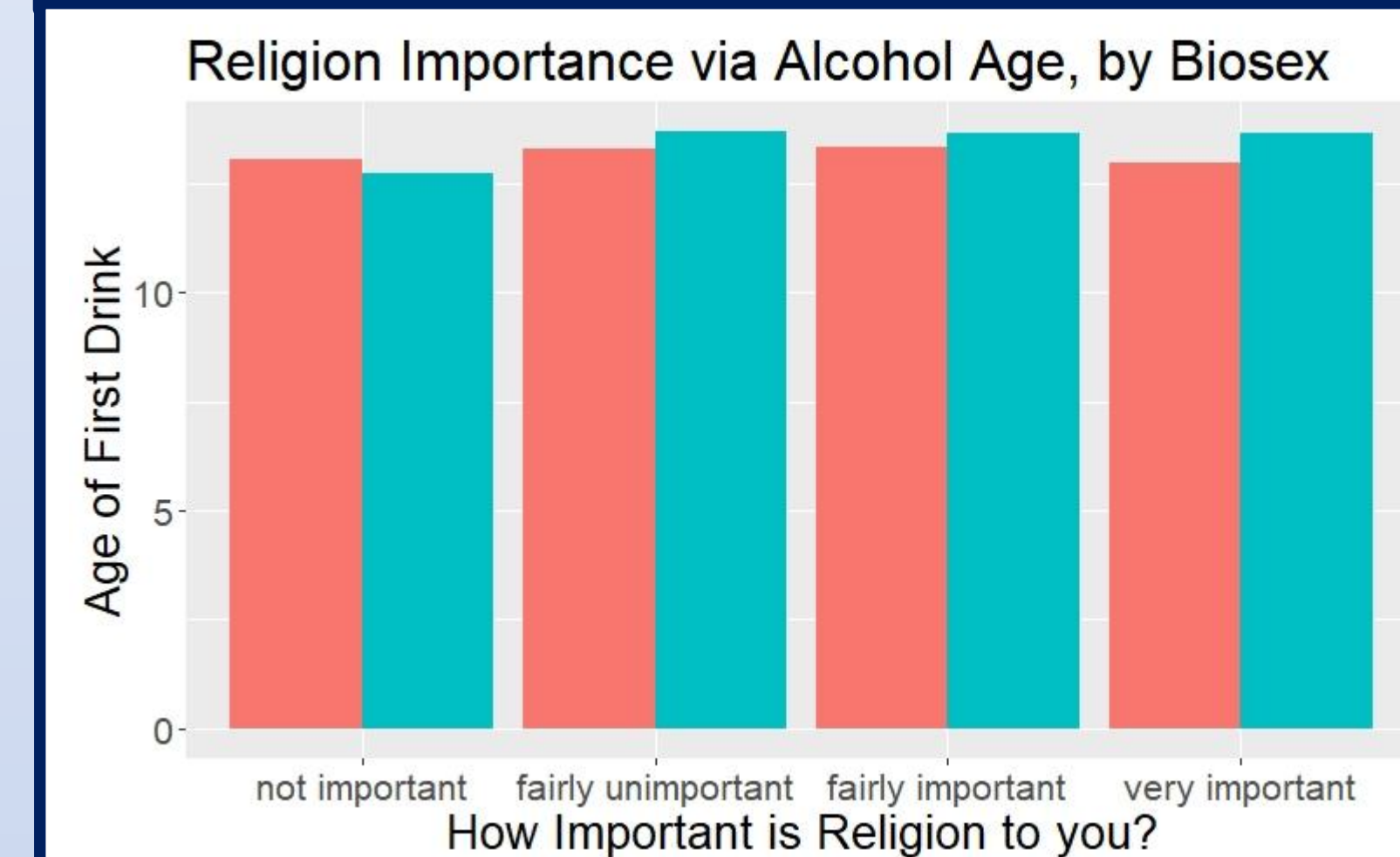
How important is religion to you?



Have you ever drunk without your family present?



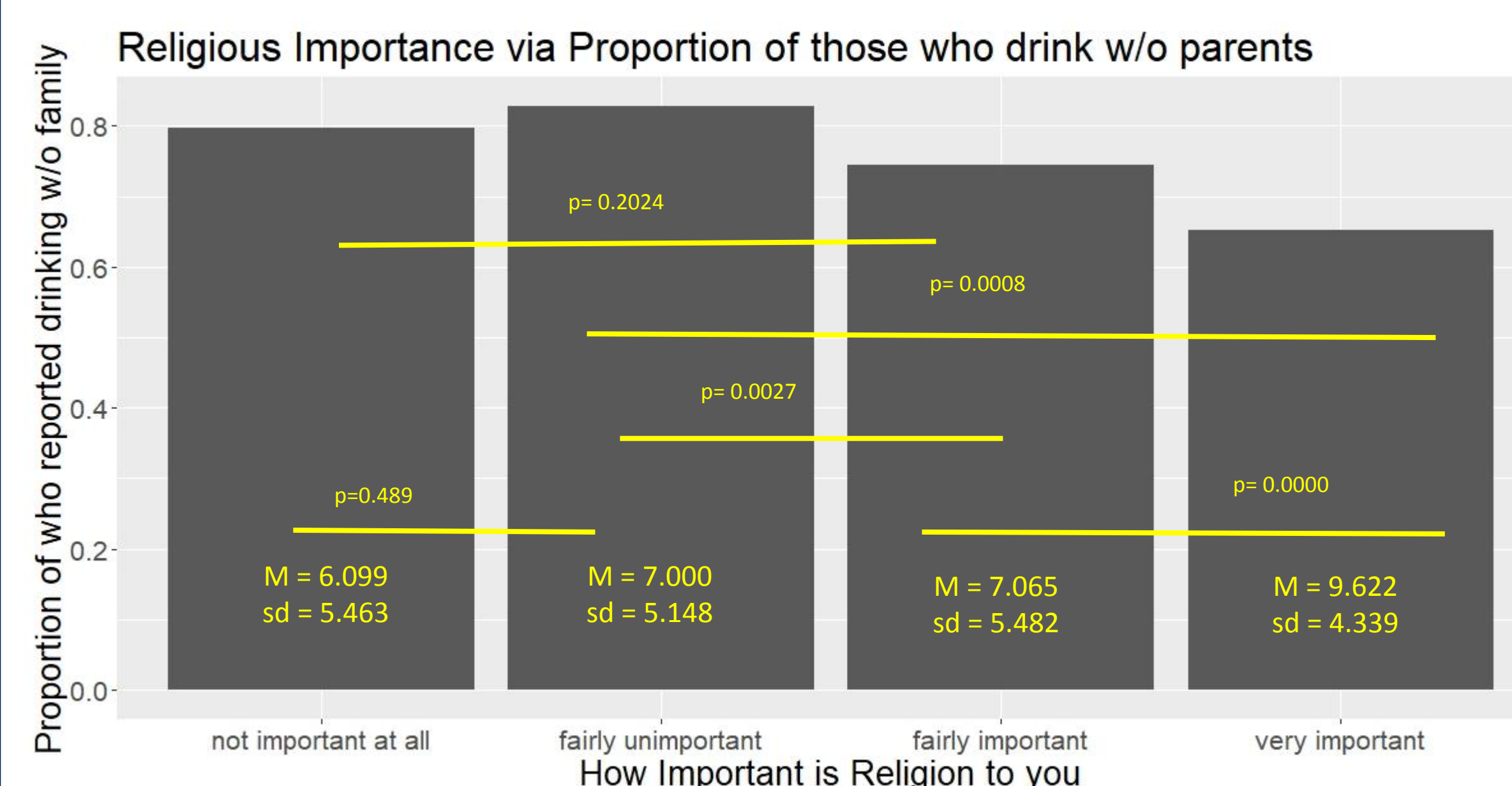
Is there a relationship between religious importance and alcohol consumption per biological sex?



Religious Importance: $F(6,504)=1.824$, $p=0.141$
Biological Sex: $F(6,504)=15.296$, $p<0.001$
Insignificant interaction: $F(6,504)=1.612$, $p=0.185$

The analysis did not show a relationship between religious importance and the age at which alcohol was first consumed. When including gender as a third variable, there was no interaction with all three variables involved. But there was a slight significance in biological sex. Females are less likely to consume alcohol at a younger age compared to males. This means that the relationship between religious importance and the age at which alcohol was first consumed did not significantly differ between males and females.

Is there a relationship between one's religiosity and their alcohol consumption?



Chi Square

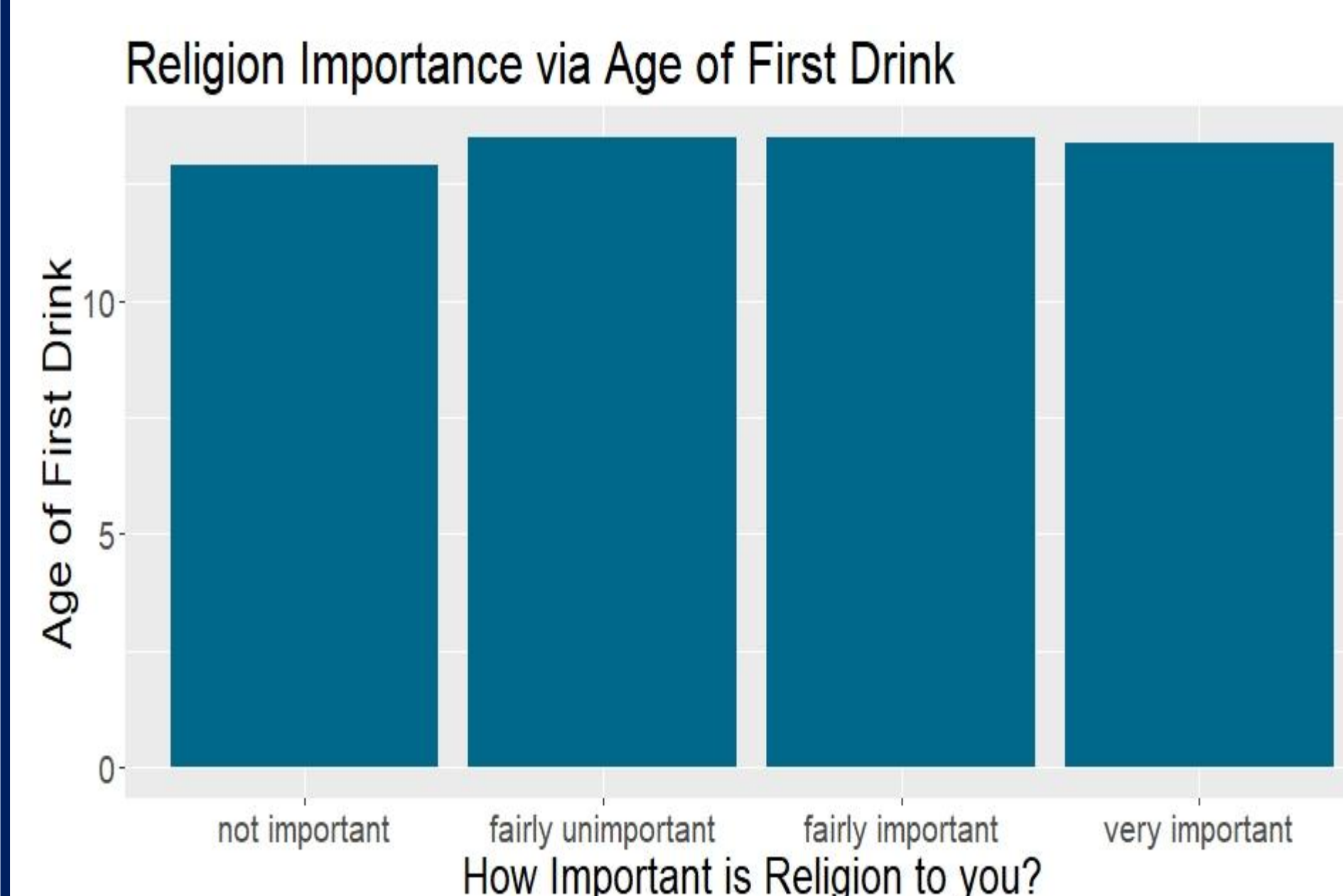
$$X^2(3) = 52.616, p < 0.001$$

In general, those who think religion is important don't drink without their family.

Take Home Message

- 1) There is evidence that shows that those who think religion is important do not drink at all or do not drink without their family.
- 2) Biological sex does impact whether or not adolescents drink without the presence of their family.

Is there a relationship between religious importance and the age at which one drinks for the first time?



ANOVA

$$F(2,147) = 1.81, p = 0.143$$

In general, adolescents are likely to drink alcohol at a young age despite their religious importance. This is due to lack of evidence

Discussion

- An adolescents religious importance has implications in determining the degree to which they participate in alcohol consumption.
- Adolescents with a higher importance in religion are more likely to participate in alcohol consumption in their later years.
- Future research could focus on the alcohol consumption of an adolescent into their adult years .

References

- Mason, W. A., & Windle, M. (2002). A longitudinal study of the effects of religiosity on adolescent alcohol use and alcohol-related problems. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 17(4), 346–363.
- Mattila, A. S., Apostolopoulos, Y., Sonmez, S., Yu, L., & Sasidharan, V. (2001). The impact of gender and religion ... - journals.sagepub.com. *The Impact of Gender and Religion on College Students' Spring Break Behavior*. Retrieved February 11, 2022, from