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Substitution of Religiosity for Socioeconomic Status and its Correlation with Adolescent Drug Use

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Substitution of Religiosity for Socioeconomic Status and its Correlation with Adolescent Drug Use



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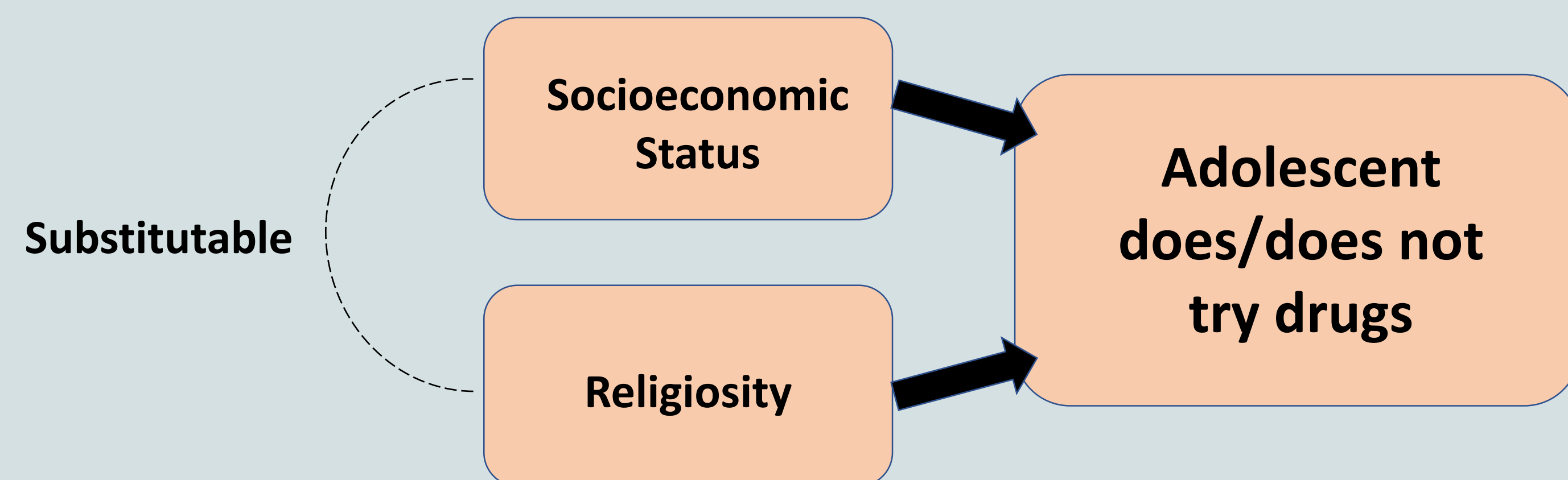
Background

- Adolescents with higher socioeconomic status participate in fewer negative activities
- Religiosity is correlated with more positive activities
- Religiosity can help through socialization: interacting with people who influence prosocial norms

Hypothesis

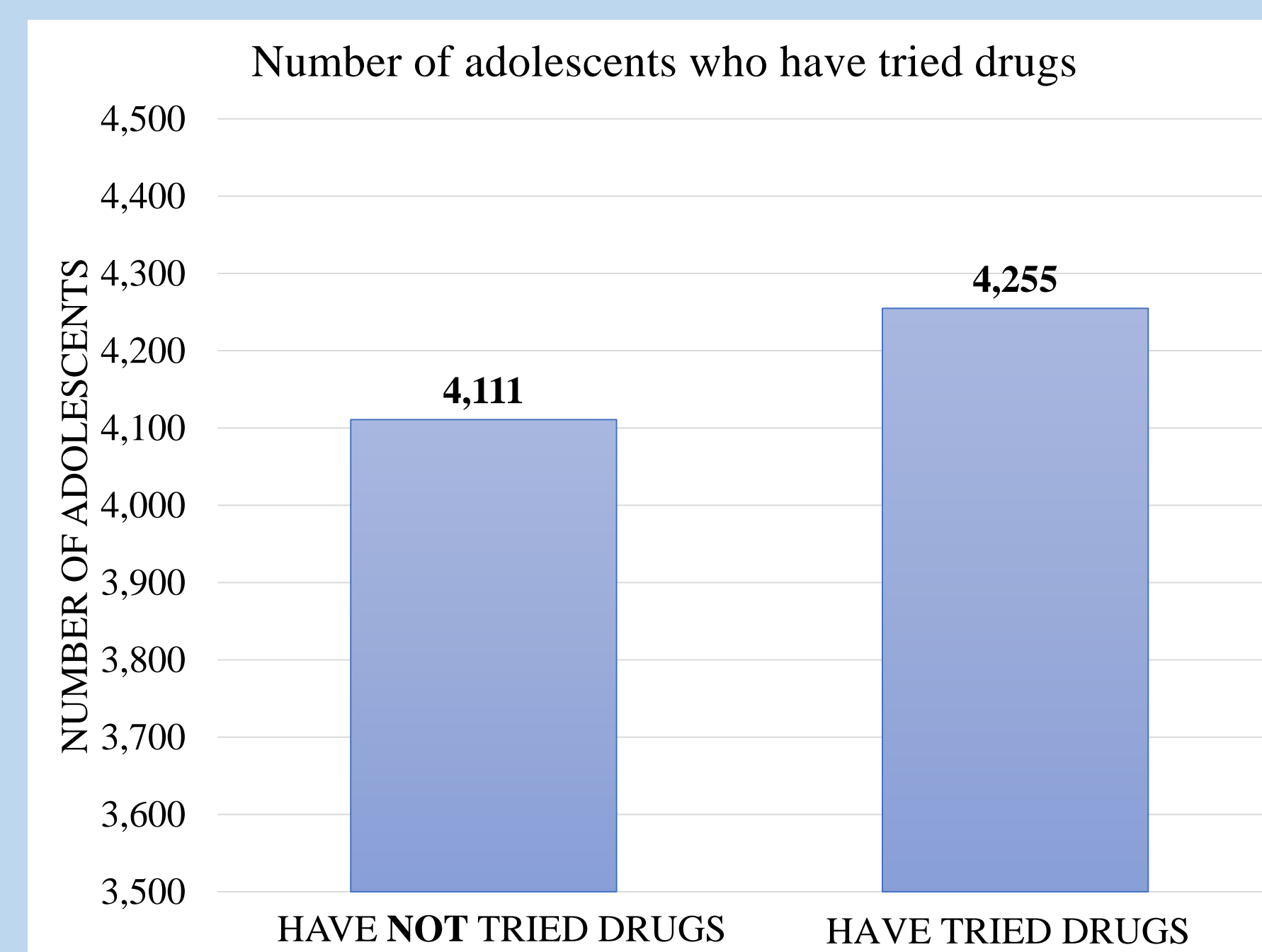
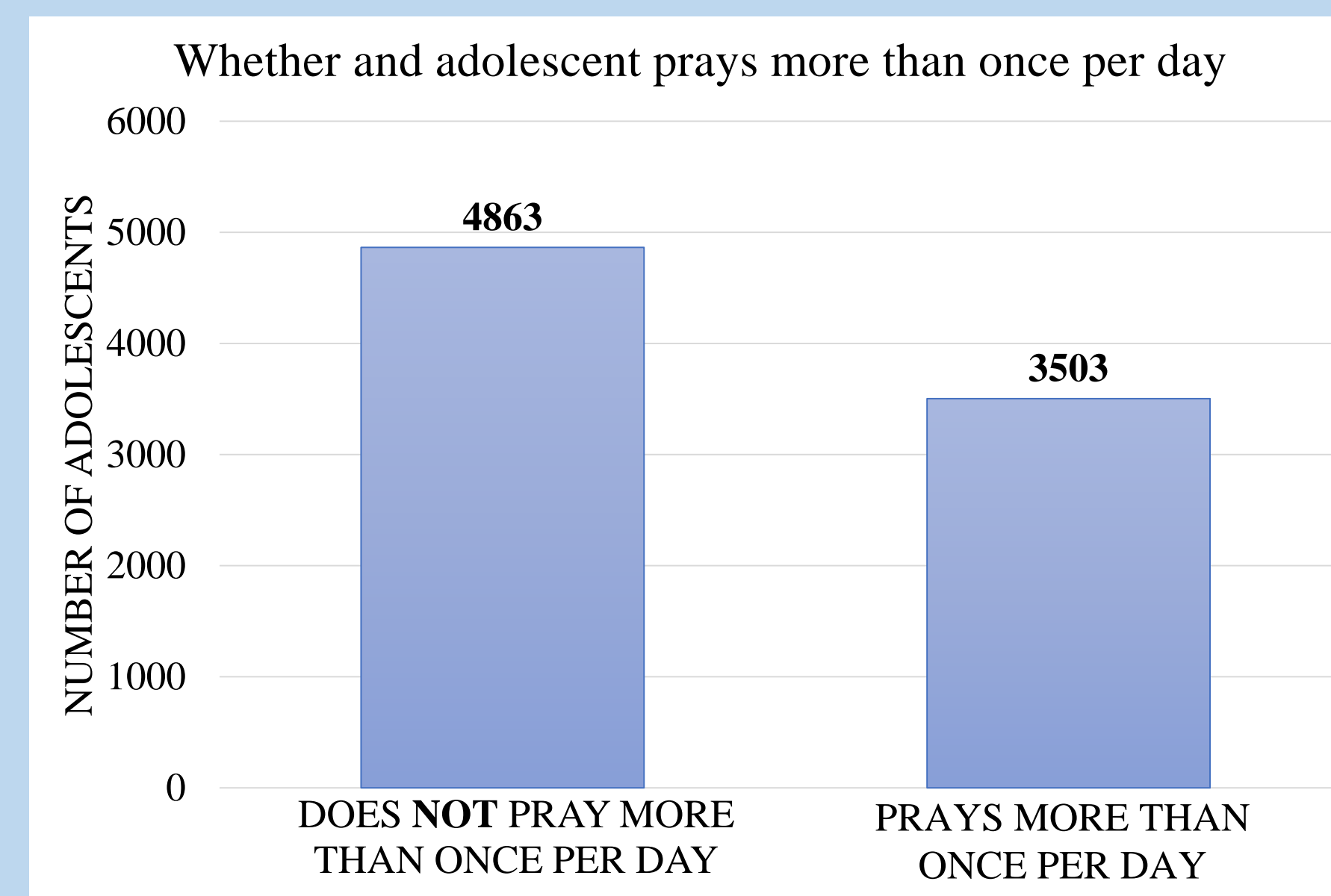
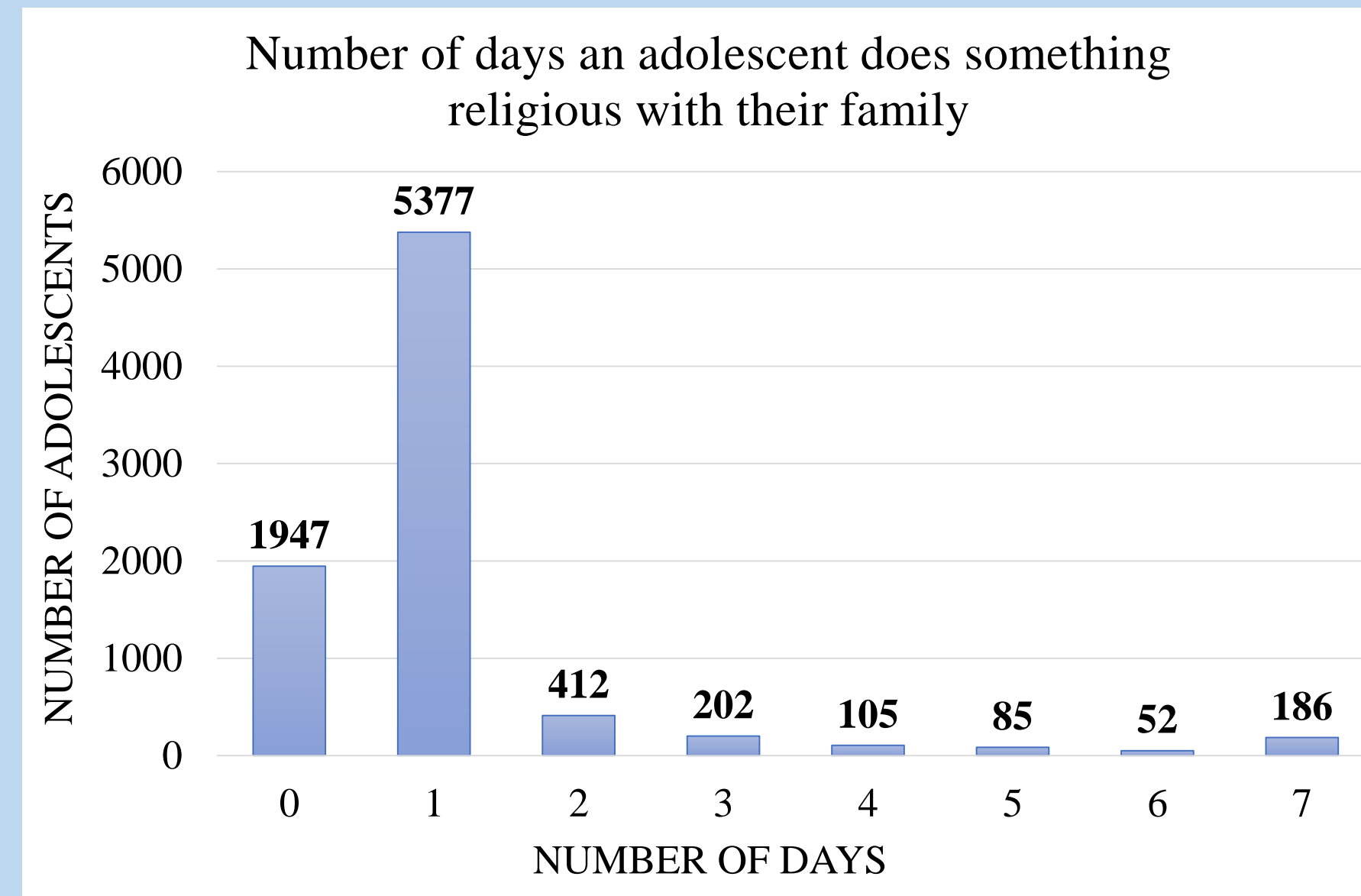
- 1) Religion will have a protective effect against drugs for adolescents with a low socioeconomic status.
- 2) Investing religion in a child will have the same effect as investing finances in a child, because the two factors are substitutable

Model



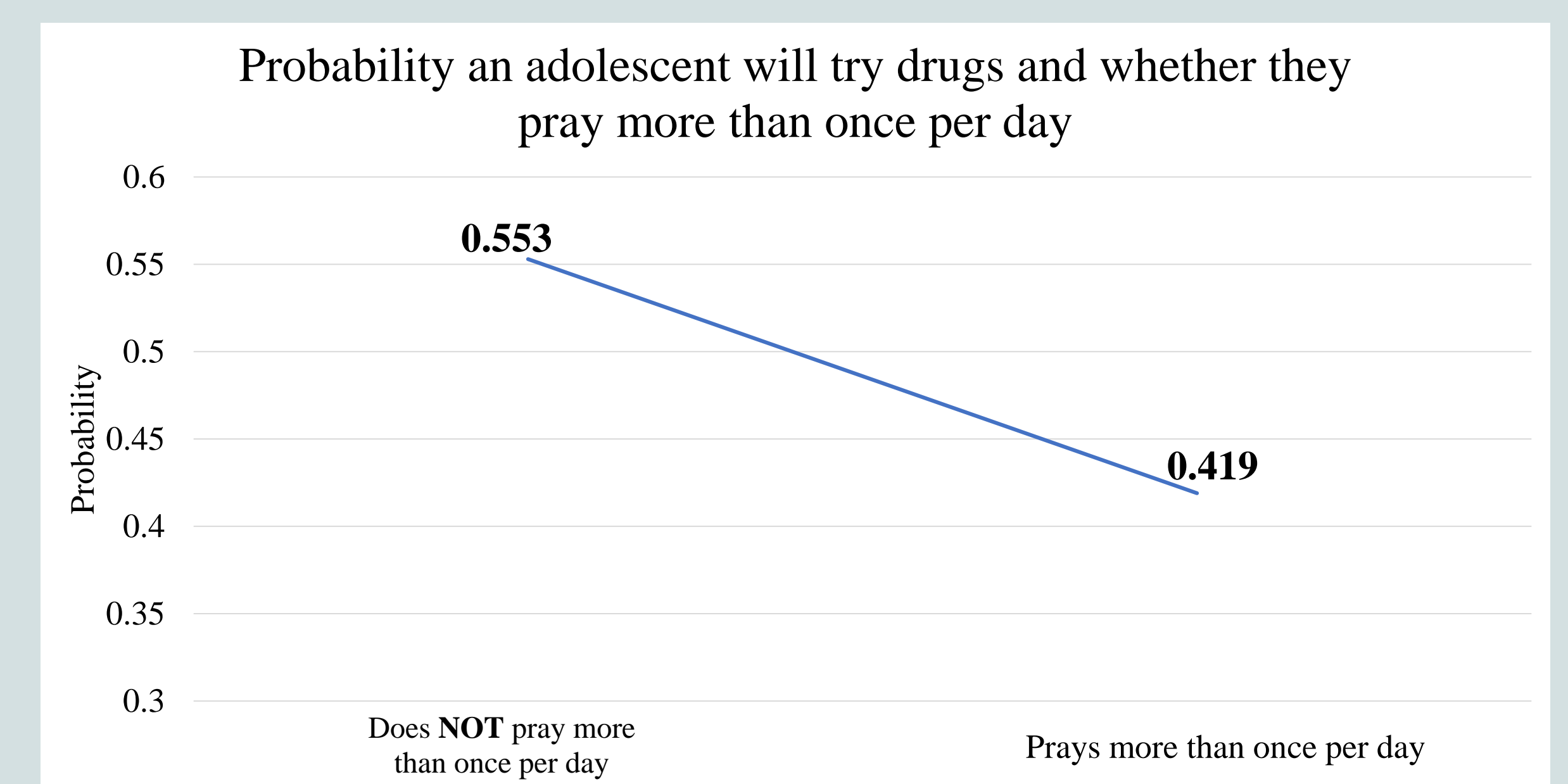
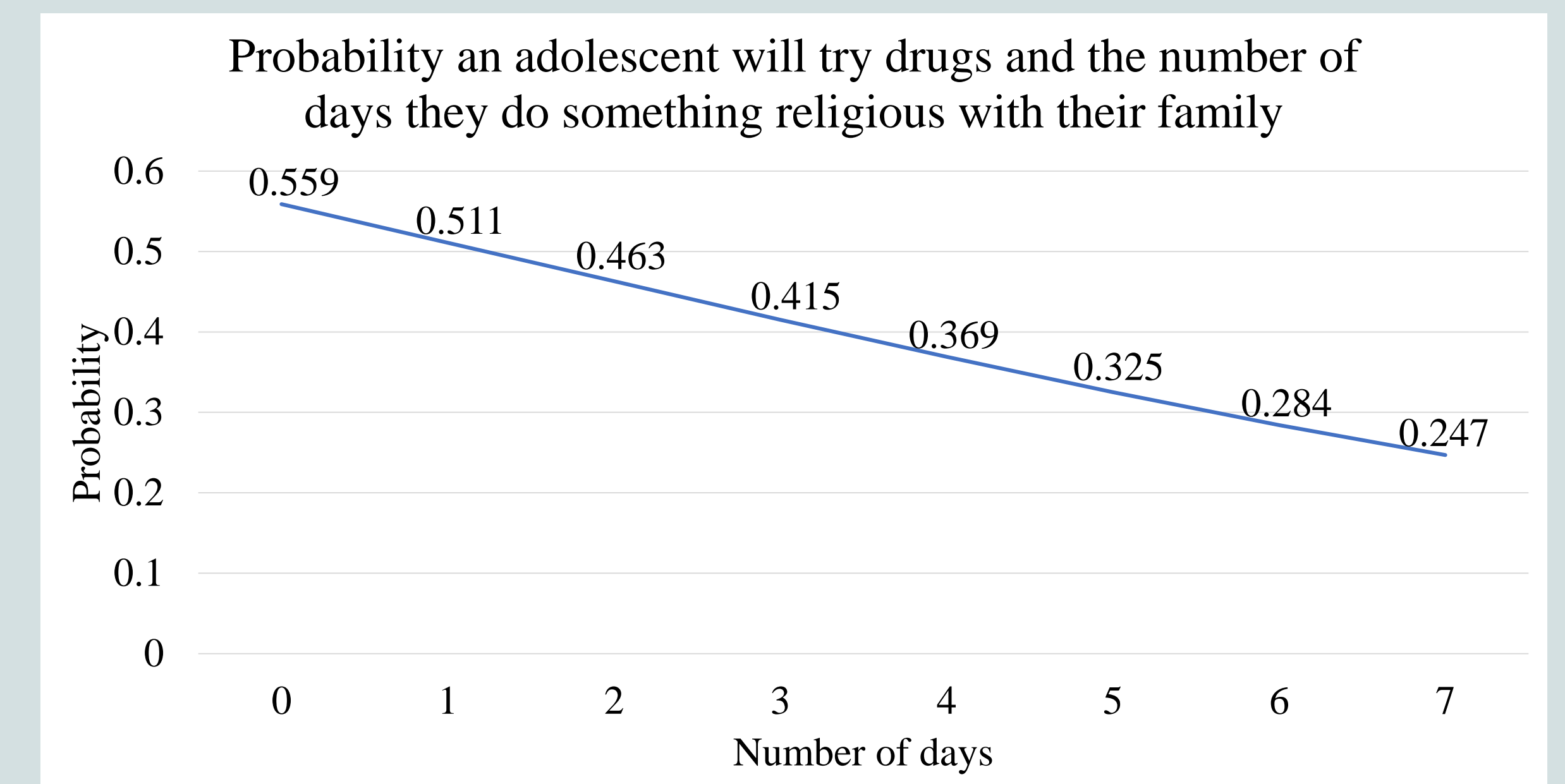
Data and Sample

- The National Longitudinal Study of Youth (NLSY97)
- All non-missing adolescents (N=8366)



Results

- Socioeconomic status did NOT have a significant impact on drug use
- As the number of days an adolescent does something religious with their family goes up by one, the odds that they will try drugs are 18% lower
- As an adolescent goes from not praying more than once per day to praying more than once per day, the odds that they will try drugs are 42% lower



Conclusion

- Investing in religious capital can be valuable for all adolescents
- Parents don't have to think that because they are poor that their children will be involved in negative activities
- Find other barriers against negative choices for all adolescents