

SEXUAL ACTIVITY

UPDATED 9/19/07

“THE TRUTH ABOUT ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY”

“• 16.3 percent of Black students, 7.6 percent of Hispanic students, and 4.7 percent of White students reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13”

“• Half of adolescents surveyed said that fear of pregnancy and STDs is the main reason why adolescents do not have sex”

“• 26 percent of adolescents said the main reason why adolescents do not have sex is because of religion, morals, and values”

(“The Truth About Adolescent Sexuality,” SIECUS Fact Sheet (Fall 2003):1,7)

“INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH & EVALUATION”

“We will be making a more detailed evaluation of the results over the next several months. However, an initial analysis of the data indicates several suggestions for strengthening the program:

- Consider starting in the 6th grade rather than the 7th grade for higher at-risk populations. For example, sexual activity rates for 7th grade black males (self-reported) was 40%.
- The strength of a multiple-year approach in your program has great value. It is clear that one exposure will not be enough. Consider adding some “booster” sessions during the year so that reinforcement is not delayed until well into the next year.”
- Packaging, program design and teacher training continue to allow public school teachers to obtain roughly similar results to CTB staff teachers. However, a continued emphasis on teacher selection, training and monitoring will help in the over-all impact.”

(Stan E. Weed, submitted to Bruce Cook, June 15, 2004)

“THE CASUAL SEX REVOLUTION”

“‘Friends with benefits’” is a new type of relationship among younger teens. It is when friends get together for sex with no commitment.”

“A ‘hook up’ is more that ‘friends with benefits’ and occurs when teens are sexually active, usually engaging in oral sex, with complete strangers.”

“‘Giving a dome’ refers to the act of performing oral sex on a boy.”

“So how did we get to this point with so many kids engaging in causal sex? There are a number of factors to be considered. Think about each in order to discover what you can do to stem this disturbing tide so that the children and teens you know and love might grow up living a Biblical sexual ethic.”

“Factor one – Of all the information our teens are exposed to – whether it is sex education in school, friends at the lunch table, media mentors or even some parents – moral considerations and parameters are almost non-existent. When it comes to intercourse, the emphasis is placed on social, emotional and physical readiness, not on right and wrong. The media rarely deals with any of the negatives. Rather, the media portrays the principle of pleasure. In a world without boundaries, sexuality for our kids is only limited by their own imaginations and enjoyment. It comes down to whether you ‘fee’ you are ready to have sex. If you are, then go for it! Increasingly, fewer adults and social institutions are willing to stand up and say to our kids, ‘this is wrong,’ ‘this is right’ or ‘you don’t have to do this.’ Kids have been left floundering on their own. As a result, some are severely emotionally, physically and spiritually damaged.”

“Factor two – Their world is filled with hundreds of thousands of sexual messages every year. The Canadian Broadcasting Company recently ran a tween special, ‘Buying into Sexy,’ which looked at the world of 10-12 years olds here in Toronto. One eighth grade girl was bombarded by 262 messages of sexuality in one day. She was encouraged to be sexy, act sexy and dress sexy all in the name of popularity and profitability. Our kids also live in a world where pornography has gone mainstream, fueling the raging hormones of children who are already confused and frightened. The paradox of children being pushed to have sex is best portrayed by an image I recently saw of a 16-year-old girl standing in front of her school while puffing on a cigarette. On her back was her pink Barbie-doll backpack. She was all grown up on the outside, but the backpack reminds us that this is really a little girl who not that long ago was playing with dolls.”

“Factor three – The changing structure of families has left many kids looking for love in all the wrong places. Thirty years ago Johnny Lee penned his country pop classic ‘Lookin’ For Love.’ He sang, ‘I was lookin’ for love in all the wrong places.’ Today, we have a generation of lonely kids living out his son. Two million kids in Canada will go to bed tonight without saying goodnight to their fathers because their dads don’t live at home

anymore. Studies show that girls who don't have loving relationships with their fathers tend to have sex at an earlier age and will have more sexual partners. Other kids growing up in broken homes tend to find the misplaced love of their family in the arms of other kids. When the sexual revolution started in the 1960s, a teen's first sexual experience was normally in a car because that was one of the few places where you could get away from your parents. Today, many parents have run away from home through separation and divorce and left the kids home alone. Child Trends USA report a majority (56 percent) of teens said they had their first sexual experience not in some distant 'love shack,' but under the roof of their family's (22 percent) or their partner's (34 percent) home because it was empty – just like their lives.”

“Factor four – Our young people are also looking for dependable guidance and information in all the wrong places. Health Canada reports that teens' more cherished source of information for all the things sexual is from other teens – not exactly a reliable source. One third of 11th grade girls said they would first go to their friends if they thought they had a sexually transmitted disease, with only 17 percent opting for a doctor. When it comes to information on HIV/AIDS over the last two years, 27 percent of seventh grade students and 14 percent of ninth grade students had not received any information. No wonder cases of Chlamydia and gonorrhea among 15-24 year olds have doubled since 1997. Thirty years ago girls lost their virginity at age 20 and boys at age 18. Today, one in four has had sexual intercourse by age 14.”

“Factor five – There is a growing shift in the values and perceptions of young people when it comes to sex. In today's postmodern youth culture, young people are taught, and most believe – including kids in the church who profess faith in Christ – that there is no such thing as absolute moral truth. If there is no such thing as truth then all life styles become equally valid, including lifestyles of promiscuity and early sexual activity. No one has the right to tell anyone else that what they are doing is 'wrong.' If it's 'wrong,' its only 'wrong' for them. This is the first generations of kids to grow up totally immersed in this postmodern worldview. What we see in terms of behavior is young people simply people simply being true to the only worldview they have ever know. This partially explains why so many kids don't even consider oral sex to be sex.”

“Factor six – We have raised a generation of teens who see sexual activity to be anything but risk. In addition, most teens go through a stage of mental development that makes them believe nothing bad will ever happen to them – never get pregnant, never get a STD and never fall out of love. Because they lack the faculties to really think through these serious life issues, they are vulnerable to activities that can have deadly consequences. For example, a growing number of kids think oral sex is normal, safe and acceptable. Most young people don't even know sexually transmitted infections can be transferred through oral contact.”

“These factors are certainly not all encompassing and there are many other reasons for the current casual sex revolution among teens. As adults, we need to be more aware of the changing traditions and values of today’s youth culture. Our world demand that more than ever before, kids need positive adult role models to prayerfully guide them through this moral maze by communication – through our words and our actions – the life-giving light of God’s Word as it relates to God’s beautiful and wonderful gift of sexuality.”

(Paul Robertson, “The casual sex revolution,” The Center for Parent/Youth Understanding, November 2005, www.cpyu.org/Page_p.aspx?id=96909)

“‘95 PERCENT’ PREMARITAL SEX SURVEY IS CONNECTED TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD”

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released data in 2003 showing that the percentage of teens who reported that they have had sex decreased from 54 percent in the early 1990s, to 46 percent, a significant reversal that coincided with increased federal funding of abstinence programs.”

“A study that same year in Adolescent & Family Health concluded that abstinence was the catalyst for a drop in the teen birth rate from 1991-95 (the latest data available). Researchers found the number of pregnancies per 1,000 teen girls (aged 15-19) decreased from 115.8 in 1991 to 101.1 in 1995, at the same time, the number of unmarried teen girls who were abstinent – defined as never having had sex or not having had sex in the past year – increased from 53 percent to 56 percent. The study credited abstinence as the catalyst in 67 percent of the teen birth rate drop – discrediting a Guttmacher study that claimed contraception was the major factor.”

(Erin Roach, “‘95 percent’ premarital sex survey is connected to Planned Parenthood,” BP News, December 2006, www.bpnews.net/printerfriendly.asp?ID=24661)

“WHAT MOTIVATES TEENS TO HAVE SEX?”

“Teenagers want their relationships to bring them intimacy, social status and sexual pleasure, and they have a strong expectation that these goals will be fulfilled if they have sex, according to “Greater Expectations: Adolescents’ Positive Motivations for Sex,” by Mary A. Ott et al., published in the June 2006 issue of Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health.”

“The researchers asked ninth graders at Northern California high schools about their relationship goals, their expectations of the degree to which sex would satisfy these goals and their sexual experience. Both boys and girls ranked intimacy as the most important relationship goal, followed by social status and sexual pleasure, although females considered intimacy significantly more important and pleasure significantly less so than males. Additionally, teenagers who were sexually experienced had higher expectations that sex would meet their goals for intimacy, sexual pleasure and social status than teens who had not had sex.”

“A second article in the same issue of Perspectives, “Boyfriends, Girlfriends and Teenagers’ Risk of Sexual Involvement,” by Barbara VanOss Marin et al., follows a sample of California youth through middle school, and finds that even small age differences between girls and their boyfriends increases their risk of becoming sexually active. The authors found that young girls who had a boyfriend by seventh grade were more likely to be sexually active in ninth grade, and that those who had an older boyfriend were at greater risk than those whose boyfriend was their own age.”

(Rebecca Wind, “What Motivates Teens To Have Sex?” Guttmacher Institute, June 2006, <http://www.guttmacher.org/media/nr/2006/06/12/index.html>)

“RAUNCHY ROCK AND RASSLIN”

“Rand Corp. researchers found teens (mostly virgins) were nearly twice as likely to start having sex in the next two years if they listened to raunch rock. ‘Songs depicting men as ‘sex-driven studs,’ women as sex objects and with explicit references to sex acts are more likely to trigger early sexual behavior,’ summarized The Associated Press.”

“In the other, a team led by a Wake Forest researcher found that kids who soak up pro-wrestling – where male grapplers routinely beat up not just each other but women, often shown as bimbos- are more prone to violence, including righting while on dates.”

(Dave Clegg, “Raunchy Rock and Rasslin,” Citizen (November 2006): 14)

“WHY DO YOUNG TEENS HAVE SEX?”

“Teens want their relationships to bring them intimacy, social status, and sexual pleasure – and they have a strong expectation these goals will be fulfilled if they have sex, according to a report in the June 2006 issue of Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health.”

“About 57 percent of the kids were girls, 43 percent boys, and most were 14 years old.”

“The researchers found the boys and girls valued relationship goals differently:”

“• Girls Considered intimacy significantly more important than boy did.”

“• Boys reported higher expectations that sex would lead to pleasure and social status.”

(“Why Do Young Teens Have Sex?” CBS NEWS, June 2006,
www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/06/14/health/webmd/printable1711366.shtml.)

“ORAL AND ANAL SEX INCREASING AMONG TEENS”

“During the past decade, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of teenagers and young adults engaging in oral sex and, less commonly, having anal intercourse, according to data from STD clinics in Baltimore, Maryland.”

“In examining the 1994 medical records of 2,598 12- to 25-year olds, and the 2004 medical records of 6,438 subjects of the same age, attending STD clinics in Baltimore, Erbeling and colleagues found that over the 10-year period the prevalence of self-reported oral sex in the previous 90 days doubled among males (from 16 percent to 32 percent) and more than doubled among females (from 14 percent to 38 percent).”

“There was also an increase in rectal sex among young women, ‘but it was a lot less common than oral sex,’ Erbeling said. Among young women, the prevalence of self-reported anal sex over the period rose from 3 percent to 5.5 percent.”

“However, Erbeling emphasized that oral and anal sex may result in the transmission of STDs that will not be detected in urine tests. ‘A urine test is not going to pick up gonorrhea of Chlamydia that might have been acquired through rectal or oral sex, with gonorrhea being the more significant for oral sex.’”

(Megan Rauscher, “Oral and anal sex increasing among teens,” Yahoo News, June 2006,
www.news.yahoo.com)

“WHY DO TEENS HAVE SEX? FOR INTIMACY, SOCIAL STATUS, STUDY SAYS”

“The researchers found the boys and girls valued relationship goes differently.”

“Girls considered intimacy significantly more important than boys did. Boys reported higher expectations that sex would lead to pleasure and social status.”

(Lisa Habib, “Why Do Teens Have Sex? For Intimacy, Social Status, Study Says,” Fox News.com, June 2006, www.foxnews.com/printer_friendly_story/0,3566,199540,00.html)

“DEPRESSED TEENS”

“According to a recent study published in *Pediatrics*, highly depressed girls are 50% more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior, and highly depressed teen boys are 70% more likely to do so. Dr. Jocelyn Lehrer, University of California, speculates adolescents who are emotionally distressed and socially isolated may be more likely to seek or be pressured into sexual activity, in the name of some kind of shared intimacy, or to maintain relationships they value. Depression also may make adolescents more vulnerable to sexual pressures and temptations to use drugs or alcohol. At times it’s a young person’s way of trying to harm themselves. 15-20% of teens experience at least one bout of major depression. Adolescents account for half of all new cases of sexually transmitted diseases.”

(*The Foster Letter: Religious Market Update*, Gary D. Foster Consulting, September 25, 2006 [Agape Press 9/6/06]: 2.

“MORE TEEN GIRLS HAVING SEX AND EARLIER”

“During the last 50 years, the number of sexually active teenage girls almost quadrupled, with the average age of first intercourse now at 15—reasons include less guilt about sex and an increased acceptance of premarital sex.”

“‘The 1960s might have been called the ‘sexual revolution,’ but they were just the beginning,’ says lead researcher Jean Twenge.”

“When *Primetime* and *Seventeen* magazine invited 14 teenage girls to a slumber party to discuss sex, many admitted to engaging in risky behavior, attending sex parties, and letting

boys pressure them and treat them poorly. The girls said they didn't communicate well with their parents about sex but longed to confide in them."

"In a related story, the Food and Drug Administration recently approved a vaccine that protects girls as young as 9 from the human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted disease that can cause cervical cancer. Abstinence advocates oppose mandatory HPV vaccinations."

("More Teen Girls Having Sex and Earlier," (abcnews.com, Newsweek). *Group Magazine* (September-October, 2006): 27)

"MRSA INFECTION SPREADS BY SEX: STUDY DISCOVERS NEW MEANS OF TRANSMISSION"

"A virulent, drug-resistant form of staph bacteria that has spread across the USA since it was identified in 2000 can be spread by sexual activity, a mode of transmission that is 'important and previously unrecognized,' a study shows."

"Scientists at Columbia University Medical Center, reporting in the Feb. 1 issue of *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, identified three cases in which the bacteria known as community-associated MRSA passed between sexual partners."

"The report is the first to document the spread of MRSA through heterosexual activity, says Rachel Gorwitz of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

"MRSA is transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact,' she says, 'so it's not surprising it could be transmitted during sex.'"

"In the study, researchers examined 114 households in Manhattan where MRSA infections had been identified and found three in which the bacteria was spread by sexual activity."

"The spread of MRSA through sexual activity has been seen by emergency room doctors, says James Roberts of Mercy Hospital of Philadelphia."

"In a letter published in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine* in January, he reported treating a lap dancer for MRSA infections on her buttocks."

"She relayed that other lap dancers at her club had similar problems, considered a known occupational hazard by the women,' he wrote."

(Anita Manning, 'MRSA Infection Spreads by Sex,' *USA Today*, 11 January 2007, sec. D, p8)

"GEN NEXT"

"75% of Gen Next Americans (ages 18-25) say today's youth are more likely to have casual sex than were young people 20 years ago. Only 7% say their generation has less casual sex, and 17% say it's about the same. 70% of Nexters resort to violence to solve conflicts more often than the previous generation, and 69% engage more often in binge drinking and illegal drug use (63%) when compared with their predecessors."

(Pew Research Center, 2/23/07)

"TEEN PEOPLE RELEASES RESULTS OF THIRD ANNUAL TEEN SEX SURVEY"

"Teenagers who are sexually active the largest percentage are having sex because they believe they are in love (42%)."

"Of those teenagers not having sex, 42% are waiting to meet the right person; maintaining a good reputation is important to most virgins (61%), and 39% have taken a pledge to remain chaste until marriage. While a small percentage (6%) of virgins responded that they have both given and received oral sex, 34% are not intimate in any way with members of the opposite sex. Thirty-one percent of virgins responded that they have been pressured by a guy to go further."

"While the number of teens who answered the non-virgin questions represented a smaller set, those that have chosen to have sex, did so earlier rather than later. Most of the girls (41%) first had sex at age 13 or 14; 35% started at age 15 or 16; and 23% began at age 17 or 18."

"65% of non-virgins said their parents think they are still virgins."

("Teen People Releases Results of Third Annual Teen Sex Survey," Teen People, September 1, 2005, <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/09-01-2005/0004098609&EDATE=>)

“A TEEN TWIST ON SEX”

“National Center for Health Statistics”

“More than 54% of kids ages 15 to 19 say they have engaged in oral sex at least once. 10.% of teen girls say they have had same-sex partners; for boys, it is just 4.5%. 6.9 % of females and 6.4% of males say they have had no partner in the previous year.”

“Government researchers fanned out across of nation in 2002, surveying 12,571 Americans ages 15 to 44. That included plenty of non-teenagers, of course, but it’s the teens who provided the most provocative talking points. More than half the adolescents surveyed, for example, said they had engaged in oral sex (and their claims are fairly credible, since the questions were posed not face to face by an adult interviewer but through a specially designed computer program). That proportion was about the same among boys and girls. And although you may assume that girls mostly perform and boys receive, the number show the give and take is again about equal.”

“Another surprise: about 11% of girls 15 to 19 say they have had at least one same-sex encounter – the same percentage that was found in women 18 to 44. (The biggest proportion, 14%, was among women 18 to 29). You would expect the numbers to rise steadily, if slowly, as women have more opportunities to have such encounters. That they don’t suggests that same-sex behavior is more acceptable among teenagers than it used to be.”

(Lemonick, Michael D., “A Teen Twist on Sex,” Time Magazine, September 26, 2005)

“IT’S YOUR (SEX) LIFE”

“What Works”

Abstinence	Condom	Female Condom
“With perfect use, abstinence is effective in preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease.”	“With typical use, 15 women in 100 become pregnant in one year. With perfect use, two women in 100 will become pregnant in one year.”	“With typical use, 21 out of 100 women will become pregnant in one year. With perfect use, five out of 100 women will become pregnant in one year.”

“Every year there are more than 15 million new cases of STDs in the United States, including approximately 10 million new cases among people ages 15-24. Put another way: By age 24, at least one in three sexually active people will have contracted an STD. Many of those who are infected don’t know it.”

“The Most Common STDs”

Chlamydia

“About 3 million new cases each year. The highest rates are among women ages 15 to 19.”

Trichomoniasis

“An estimated 7.4 million new cases each year.”

Gonorrhea

“Approximately 700,000 new cases a year. The highest rates are among women aged 15 to 19 and males between the ages of 20 and 24.”

Human Papillomavirus

(HPV or Genital Warts)

“An estimated 6.2 million new cases each year. At least 20 million people already have it.”

Genital Herpes

“About 1 million new cases each year. An estimated 45 million cases already exist.”

(“It’s Your (Sex) Life – Your Guide to Safe & Responsible Sex,” The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation in an ongoing public education partnership with MTV, 2005 MTV Networks)

“U.S. TEEN SEXUAL ACTIVITY”

“Data about teens’ sexual experiences other than intercourse are more limited. In 1995, 53 percent of teen males aged 15-19 said they had been masturbated by a female (an increase from 1988); 49 percent had received oral sex; 39 percent had given oral sex; and 11 percent had engaged in anal sex.” (5)

“The median age at first intercourse is 16.9 years for boys and 17.4 years for girls.” (6)

“In 2003, 66 percent of high school students were currently abstinent, meaning they had not engaged in sexual intercourse over the last 3 months.” (4)

“Among teens ages 15-17 who have never had sexual intercourse, 94 percent said that concern about pregnancy influenced their decision to wait. Similar numbers said that concern about HIV/AIDS (92%), other STDs (92%), and feeling ‘too young’ (91%) contributed to their choice.” (11)

“References”

“(4) CDC, Youth risk behavior surveillance summary – United States, 2003, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, May 2004, 53(2).

(5) Gates GJ and Sonenstein FL, Heterosexual genital activity among adolescent males: 1988 and 1995, Family Planning Perspectives, 2000, 32(6). Data based on NSAM.

(6) The Alan Guttmacher Institute, In Their Own Right, 2002, AGI: New York Data based on unpublished tabulations of the 1995 NSFG and NSAM.

(11) Kaiser Family Foundation and Seventeen, SexSmarts: Virginity and the First Time, 2003.”

(“U.S. Teen Sexual Activity,” Kaiser Family Foundation, January 2005)

“TEEN SEXUAL ACTIVITY ON THE RISE”

“Slightly more than half of American teenagers, ages 15 to 19, have engaged in oral sex, with females and males reporting similar levels of experience, according to the most comprehensive national survey of sexual behaviors ever released by the federal government.”

“The report, released Thursday by the National Center for Health Statistics, shows that the figure increase to about 70 percent of 18- and 19-year-olds.”

“‘Oral sex is far less intimate than intercourse. It’s a different kind of relationship,’ said Claire Brindis, professor of pediatrics at the University of California – San Francisco. ‘At 50 percent, we’re talking about a major social norm. It’s part of kids’ lives.’”

“Oral sex has been associated in clinical studies with gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes and the human papillomavirus, which has been linked to cervical cancer.”

“Bisexual experience numbers up”

“More women – particularly those in their late teens and 20s – are experimenting with bisexuality or at least feel more comfortable reporting same-sex encounters, according to a report Thursday from the Centers for Disease Control. The survey found that 11.5 percent of women, ages 18 to 44, said they’ve had at least one sexual experience with another woman in their lifetimes, compared with about 4 percent of women, ages 18 to 59, who said the same in a survey a decade earlier.”

(Laura Sessions Stepp, “Teen Sexual Activity on the Rise,” The Detroit News, September 16, 2005, www.detroitnews.com/2005/health/0509/16/A04-317228.htm)

"YOUTH ASSETS IN SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOR: THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSETS FOR YOUTH RESIDING IN ONE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS."

“Youth living in one-parent households are more likely to engage in sexual activity and related risk behaviors than are those in two-parent households.”

“For example, compared with youth living in two-parent households, those living in one-parent households are significantly more likely to report sexual experience; young age at first sex; truancy; tobacco, alcohol or drug use; a history of having been arrested or detained by law enforcement; and fighting.” (1: Blum R et al., The effects of race/ethnicity, income, and family structure on adolescent risk behaviors, *American Journal of Health Promotion*, 2000, 90(12): 1879-1884; Flewelling RL and BAUMAN KE, Family structure as a predictor of initial substance use and sexual intercourse in early adolescence, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 1990, 52(1): 171-181; Oman RF et al., An Adolescent age group approach to examining youth risk behaviors, *American Journal of Health Promotion*, 2002, 16(3): 167-176; Santelli JS et al., The association of sexual behaviors with socioeconomic status, family structure, and race/ethnicity among U.S. adolescents, *American Journal of Public Health*, 2000, 90(10): 1582-1588; Upchurch DM et al., Neighborhood and family contexts of adolescent sexual activity, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 1999, 61(4):920-933; and Young EW et al., The effects of

family structure on the sexual behavior of adolescents, *Adolescence*, 1991, 26(104):977-986.)

“These findings are particularly important because the proportion of youth living in one-parent households in the United States has generally increased over the past three decades. For example, the proportion of youth younger than 18 living in one-parent households rose from 12% in 1970 to 28% in 1996 and stabilized at 27-28% from 1997 to 2002. From 1970 to 2002, the proportion of youth living with their mothers only increased from 11% to 23%, and the proportion of youth living with their fathers only increased from 1% to 5%.” (2: Child Trends, *Family Structure*, Washington, DC: Child Trends, 2002; U.S. Census Bureau, *Living arrangements of children under 18 years old: 1960 to present*, 2003, accessed June 29, 2004).

“Still another study found that fathers’ absence from the household was significantly linked to early sexual activity and teenage pregnancy.” (5: Ellis BJ et al., Does father absence place daughters at special risk for early sexual activity and teenage pregnancy? *Child Development*, 2003, 74(3):801-821.)

“Results”

“The study sample of 1,253 youth had a mean age of 15.4 (standard deviation, 1.7), and 52% were female. Forty-nine percent were non-Hispanic white, 23% non-Hispanic black, 19% Hispanic and 10% non-Hispanic Native American. Fifty-two percent of the youth lived in one-parent households, and 79% of single-parent households were mother-only. Sixty-six percent of the youth lived in households with reported income levels of \$35,000 or less, and 12% had parents who had both not graduated from high school.”

“Never Had Intercourse”

“Fifty-five percent of youth in one-parent households reported never having had sexual intercourse, a significantly lower proportion than the 70% in two-parent households. The proportion who had not had sexual intercourse decreased as youth age increased, and this trend was significant in both one-and two-parent households. In two-parent households, the proportion of youth who reported never having had intercourse was significantly higher among those who had at least one parent with a bachelor’s degree than among those with less education parents (79% vs. 67-77%).”

“Delayed First Intercourse”

“The proportion of youth who delayed first sexual intercourse until age 17 or older was significantly lower among those in one-parent households than among those in two-parent households (15% vs. 30%).”

(Roy F. Oman, Sara K. Vesely, Cheryl B. Aspy, "Youth Assets and Sexual Risk Behavior: The Importance of Assets for Youth Residing in One-Parent Households," Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Volume 37, Number 1, March 2005, pp25-31)

"NATIONWIDE SURVEY INCLUDES ON TEENAGE SEX HABITS"

"The data comes from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, a survey of 12,571 men and women ages 15 to 44. The survey contractor was the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, which trained more than 200 women to collect the data by having the subject answer sensitive questions on a computer, without revealing the answers to the interviewer."

"The National Center for Health Statistics released the government's most comprehensive survey of American sexual practices and reproductive health yesterday, delving for the first time into such sensitive areas as the prevalence of oral sex among teenagers and same-sex activity among adults."

"According to the survey, more than half of all teenagers aged 15 to 19 have engaged in oral sex—including nearly a quarter of those who have never had intercourse. Among the findings in the new study, 'Sexual Behaviors and Selected Health Measures,' were the following:"

"About 4 percent of men and women described themselves as homosexual or bisexual, but in a finding that surprised the researchers, 14 percent of the women aged 18 to 29 reported at least one homosexual experience, more than twice the proportion for young men."

"The report offers new information about homosexuality in the United States. Among adults ages 15 to 44, almost 3 percent of men and 4 percent of women reported having a sexual experience with a member of the same sex within the past year, and over their lifetimes, 6 percent of men and 11 percent of women had such experiences. About 1 percent of men and 3 percent of women had had both male and female sexual partners in the previous 12 months."

"The proportion of teenagers who have given or received oral sex was slightly higher than the proportion who have had intercourse, the survey found, with 55 percent of the boys and 54 percent of the girls having given or received oral sex, while 49 percent of the boys and 53 percent of the girls have had intercourse."

(Tamar Lewin, "National Survey Includes Data on Teenage Sex Habits," The New York Time Magazine, September 16, 2005)

“SEX EDUCATION CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE”

“A recent letter to the editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram expressed the anger and disappointment of a mother whose trust had been violated. Her son, who believes in abstinence and is not sexually active, was asked by his high school sex education teacher to write an essay about what he would do if he were caught having sex with his girlfriend by the girl’s parents. The very nature of the question, the mother complained, not only implies, but condones this type of behavior. Later, in an assignment dealing with "family life," the boy was told to imagine he was having an affair, then asked to explain how he would deal with it at home.”

“The mother explained that she was not a prude—she works in the arts community. But she was understandably upset that her teenage son’s "sex education" class was not teaching him sexual responsibility, examining the consequences of premature sexual activity, or the risks of pregnancy and disease. Instead, it was teaching him that a promiscuous lifestyle is okay as long as you know how to deal with it.”

“Sadly, this troubled mother is not alone. All across America young people are being indoctrinated by sexually liberal teachers, pro-sexuality textbooks filled with data, misleading information, and even lurid photos and illustrations that virtually guarantee that students will be exposed to risky behaviors. As a consequence, this country is undergoing an epidemic of sexual experimentation among children as young as 10 and 12 years of age. The implications are disastrous for the future well-being of the nation.”

(“Sex Education Chapter Twenty-One” Issues Tearing Our Nation's Fabric, Leadership U, July 13, 2002, <http://www.leaderu.com/issues/fabric/chap21.html>)

“LIFE AS THEY KNOW IT”

“They say boys think about sex every 15 seconds. I think about it every five seconds. I mean I'm thinking about it right now ... and now ... and now. Man, that's less than five seconds! You see what I'm saying? How are you supposed to go to school when all you can think about is sex? And then they hire teachers like Miss Young. Seriously, why would they hire her? It's too distracting. How am I supposed to read while she's sitting at her desk? All I can think about is doing her on her desk.”

“Those are the words of 16-year-old Ben Conner as he and his two best friends walk into school ogling all the girls in one of the opening scenes of the premier episode of ABC's new teen drama *life as we know it*.” “Accompanying that narrative is a dizzying array of video shots revealing life from a high school guy's perspective: close-ups of female legs, short skirts (front AND back views), bare midriffs, and tight-fitting tops—the testosterone version of Anatomy 101, where you see everything on scantily clad females but their faces. And this is in the halls of a high school.”

(Ken Mueller, “Life As They Know It,” *Center For Parent/Youth Understanding*, http://www.cpyu.org/Page_p.aspx?id=77269)

“STUDY SHOWS FRIGHTENING NETWORKS OF TEEN SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS”

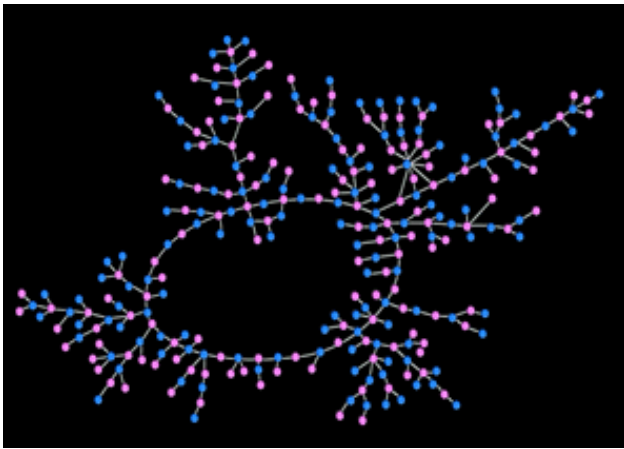
“A recent study of the sexual relationships among high schoolers indicates the potential for the devastating spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) within that segment of the population.”

”The study, titled ‘Chains of Affection: The Structure of Adolescent Romantic and Sexual Networks,’ was published in the July 2004 issue of *American Journal of Sociology*. It was based on interviews conducted with 832 students from a typical Midwestern high school, given the fictional name ‘Jefferson City High.’”

”According to co-researcher Peter S. Bearman of Columbia University, students were asked to name individuals with whom they had had a romantic, sexual relationship in the past 18 months. (This was defined as a relationship in which a teen said they had special feelings of affection for the sexual partner -- in what generally would be considered a ‘dating’ relationship, rather than merely ‘hooking up’ for casual sex.)”

“The results were fairly stunning, providing a ‘spanning tree’ model of the relationship network at Jefferson City High. (See graphic below.) Out of 832 interviewees, 573 students had been involved in at least one ‘romantic and sexual relationship,’ with 288 inside the network.”

“He noted ‘in an 18-month period more than 50% of the [sexually-active] students at Jefferson were chained together through romantic and sexual relationships that could have involved the exchange of fluids.’”



(Compliments of AFA Journal)

Left: A new study shows that, out of 573 sexually-active high schoolers, 288 were linked together in an intricate network of relationships. According to Time magazine, the chart is "the first to map the sexual geography of a U.S. high school." Each circle represents a teen male (blue) or teen female (pink) involved in a sexual encounter (represented by the connecting line). The researchers said the network had grave implications for the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among teens.

“This means that the number of sex partners may not be determinative of a student's risk for getting an STD. Essentially, because of the networking of relationships, a single sexual encounter could expose a teen to an STD that was initially passed on to numerous sex partners up the line.”

““While these adolescents have only had one partner,’ Bearman said, ‘their risk for contracting an STD may be significantly greater than an individual with multiple partners who is embedded in a smaller,’ disjointed network.”

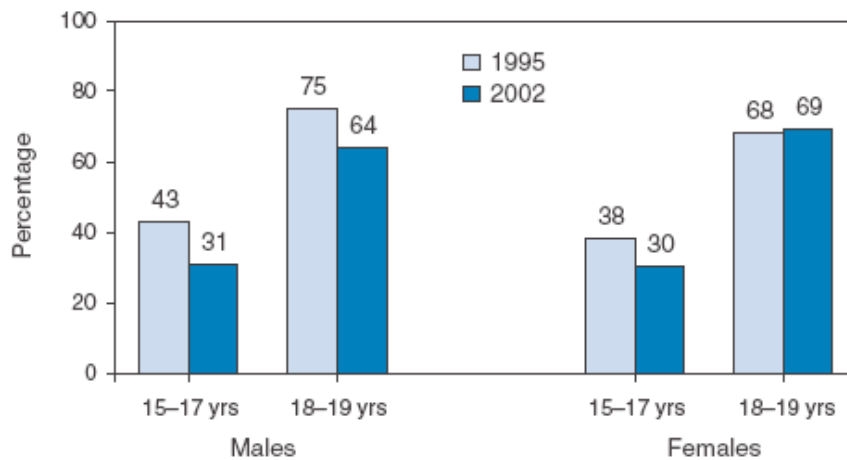
“The potential for the devastation of young lives due to STDs is startling, the report stated. Every year in the U.S. more than 12 million people discover that they have an STD -- many of which are incurable. ‘Adolescent STD acquisition rates outpace those of all other groups, with no change in sight,’ Bearman said.”

“In fact, a new report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that, within the general population, STDs cause almost 30,000 deaths a year.”

(Ed Vitagliano, “Study Shows Frightening Networks of Teen Sexual Relationships,” Crosswalk, April 15, 2005, <http://www.crosswalk.com/news/1324718.html?view=print>)

“QUICKSTATS: PERCENTAGE OF NEVER-MARRIED TEENS AGED 15--19 YEARS WHO REPORTED EVER HAVING SEXUAL INTERCOURSE, BY SEX AND BY AGE GROUP --- UNITED STATES, 1995 AND 2002”

**Percentage of Never-Married Teens Aged 15–19 Years Who Reported
Ever Having Sexual Intercourse, by Sex and by Age Group —
United States, 1995 and 2002**



“The percentage of male teens who reported ever having sexual intercourse decreased significantly for both younger (aged 15--17 years) and older (aged 18--19 years) teens from 1995 to 2002. Among females, the percentage who reported ever having sexual intercourse declined significantly for those aged 15--17 years. Additional information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>.”

“SOURCES:”

“1995 and 2002 National Survey of Family Growth; 1995 National Survey of Adolescent Males; and Abma JC, Martinez GM, Mosher WD, Dawson BS. Teenagers in the United States: sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2002. Vital Health Stat 2004;23(24). Available at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_23/sr23_024.pdf.”

“A QUARTER OF GIRLS AGED 14 CLAIM TO HAVE HAD SEX WITH SEVERAL PARTNERS”

“Almost a quarter of 14-year old girls claim to have had and say they have had an average of three partners, a survey reports today.”

“Alcohol played a part, with 60 percent of sexually active 14-year-olds saying they had had sexual relations while drunk, half saying they regretted it later and 29 percent saying they ‘did not even like their sexual partner.’”

“Bliss magazine, aimed at teenagers, questioned 2,000 of its readers whose average age was 14.”

“Sixteen percent of those aged 13 or under, 22 per cent of 14-year-olds and 48 percent of those aged 15 or over said they had had sex.”

“Of all the respondents, 75 percent said they felt there was too much pressure on young people to have sex; 57 percent said their parents never talked to them about sex; and 70 percent said they needed more information on sexual intercourse and sexual health.”

(Catriona Davies, “A Quarter of Girls Aged 14 Claim to Have Had Sex with Several Partners”, Telegraph.Co. UK, March 24, 2005)

“SURVEY: TEENS HAVE SEX EARLIER THAN PARENTS THINK”

“The survey of 1,000 teenagers aged 13 to 16 showed 27 percent said they had ‘been with somebody in an intimate or sexual way,’ while 83 percent of 1,000 parents surveyed said they did not think their teenager had gone beyond kissing.”

“Sexual intercourse was as common as oral sex among the teens in the survey released on Wednesday by NBC News and People magazine. Twelve percent said they had engaged in oral sex. Thirteen percent said they had sexual intercourse.”

“The poll had a margin of error of 3.4 percent.”

“Of those who said they had engaged in either sexual intercourse or oral sex, about half had first done so by the age of 14.”

“Eighty-seven percent of teens said they did not think it was OK for 13- and 14-year-olds to be having oral sex.”

“‘It just shows parents that you need to be talking to your kids,’ Dr. Mark Schuster of the UCLA Rand Adolescent Center and an author of a book on the subject told the NBC ‘Today’ show in an interview about the survey findings on Wednesday.”

“You need to be aware that kids are engaging in sex, and if they're not, some of their friends are. They're hearing about it. They're learning about it. They need to hear about it from their parents too.”

“Eighty-five percent of teens who said they know what oral sex is said they considered it somewhat or very important to be in love before doing it.”

“Even more said it was important to be in love before having sexual intercourse -- 68 percent said it was very important, 23 percent said it was quite important.”

“Peer pressure on teenagers appeared to be more of a concern to parents than their children. Eighty-five percent of parents agreed with the statement there is a lot of pressure on teenagers to have sex by a certain age, while only 66 percent of teens agreed with that statement.”

“While the survey showed some teenagers were sexually active at a young age, 41 percent of those polled said they were still waiting for their first romantic kiss.”

(“Teens Have Sex Earlier Than Parents Think” CNN, February 14, 2005,
<http://www.cnn.com/2005/HEALTH/parenting/01/20/teen.sex.reut/index.html>)

“SEX MAP SHOWS CHAIN OF ALMOST 300 HIGH SCHOOL LOVERS”

“The first ‘map’ of teen sexual behavior gives new meaning to the old warning that you don’t just have sex with a person, but with everyone that person ever had sex with, researchers said on Monday.”

“They found a chain of 288 one-to-one sexual relationships at a high school in the U.S. Midwest, meaning the teenager at the end of the chain may have had direct sexual contact with only one person, but indirect contact with 286 others.”

“In one instance, 288 students were linked in a one-to-one chain of sexual that rarely looped back, in other words, one boy had sex with one girl, who had sex with another boy, who had sex with another girl and so on.”

(Maggie Fox, “Sex Map Shows Chain of Almost 300 High School lovers”, Reuters, January 24, 2005)

“NEW STATS ON TEEN SEX AND PREGNANCY”

“Teen Sex”

“More high school 12th grade girls (62%) than boys (61%) now report having had sexual intercourse, according to the 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) RELEASED in May by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) While the data shows a 14% decrease in the overall percentage of high school students (grades 9-12) who have sex

between 1991 and 2003, the report note a slight increase in the percentage of high school girls who have had sex between 2001 (43%) and 2003 (45%). YRBS surveys are conducted every two years.”

(New Stats on Teen Sex and Pregnancy, National Campaign to Prevent Teen pregnancy/Campaign Update Newsletter, Summer 2004)

“LOW SELF-ESTEEM LINKED TO UNSAFE SEX”

““The relationship between self-concept and communication attributes was statistically significant, and the effect was large enough to suggest that self-concept may have considerable influence on African-American adolescent girl’s ability to communicate effectively with their sex partners,’ researcher Laura Salazar from Emory’s School Public Health said in a prepared statement.”

(Robert Preidt, “Low Self-Esteem Linked to Unsafe Sex”, Forbes, September 12, 2004)

“NATIONAL SURVEY OF AMERICAN ATTITUDES ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE IX: TEEN DATING PRACTICES AND SEXUAL ACTIVITY”

“The substance use environment of a 12-to 17-year old has deteriorated over the past year. In this year’s survey:”

- “Thirty-six percent of teens have friends who smoke cigarettes; up from 30 percent last year.”
- “Forty-eight percent have friends who regularly drink; up from 44 percent last year.”
- “Thirty-eight percent have friends who smoke marijuana; up from 32 percent last year.”

“The survey reveals that 28 percent of 12-year olds have sexually active friends, as do 79 percent of 17-year olds. A third of teens have boyfriends and girlfriends, and many of them spend more than 10 hours a week together. A third of 12-to 17-year olds have a computer in their room, 45b percent have friends who regularly use the Internet to view or download pornography, and 61 percent of 17-year olds have friends who do so.”

“Teens want to talk to their parents about dating and drugs. Asked what they wished they could ‘honestly discuss with [their] parents at dinner.’ 42 percent said ‘dating’ and 30 percent said ‘substance use.’”

“Key Findings”

“Time Spent with Boyfriend/Girlfriend”

“The amount of time boyfriends and girlfriends spend together is related to their risk of substance abuse.”

“Compared to teens who spend less than 10 hours a week with their boyfriends/girlfriends, those who spend 25 or more hours a week are:”

- “Two and one-half times likelier to use alcohol (70 percent vs. 28 percent);”
- “Five times likelier to get drunk (35 percent vs. seven percent);”
- “Four and one-half times likelier to have used marijuana (55 percent vs. 12 percent);”
- “More than two and one-half times likelier to have smoked (45 percent vs. 17 percent).”

“Teens who spend more than 10 hours a week with their boyfriends/girlfriend are at more than twice the risk of smoking, drinking or using drugs as those who spend less time together.”

“Sexually Active Friends”

“Fifty-six percent of 12-to 17-year olds surveyed report they have friends who are sexually active. The more sexually active friends a teen has, the likelier that teen is to smoke, drink or use illegal drugs.”

“Compared to teens with no sexually active friends, teens, half or more of whose friends are sexually active, are:”

- “Six and one-half times likelier to drink (66 percent vs. 10 percent);”
- “Thirty-one times likelier to get drunk (31 percent vs. one percent);”
- “Twenty-two and one-half times likelier to have tried marijuana (45 percent vs. two percent);”

- “More than five and one-half times likelier to smoke (45 percent vs. eight percent).”

“Girls Who Date Older Boys”

“The likelihood that a girl will use alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs, or get drunk, increases when her boyfriend is two or more years older.”

“Compare to girls with boyfriends less than two years older (including those without boyfriends). Girls with boyfriends two or more years older are:”

- “More than twice as likely to drink (58 percent vs. 25 percent)”
- “Six times likelier to get drunk (35 percent vs. six percent)”
- “Six times likelier to have tried marijuana (50 percent vs. eight percent)”
- “Four and one-half times likelier to smoke (65 percent vs. 14 percent)”

“Internet Pornography”

“One third (32 percent) of 12- to 17- year olds have a computer in their room. Eleven and one-half million teens ¹ (45 percent) have friends who regularly view and download pornography from the Internet. A teen, half or more of whose friends regularly view and download Internet pornography, is three times likelier to smoke, drink or use illegal drugs than a teen who has no such friends.”

¹Population number in this report are based on the March 2004 Current Population Survey (CPS), conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“Compared to teens with no friends who regularly use the Internet to view or download pornography, teens with friends who engage in this activity are:”

- “Three times likelier to drink (64 percent vs. 19 percent);”
- “Almost seven times as likely to get drunk (27 percent vs. four percent)”
- “Almost four times as likely to have tried marijuana (35 percent vs. nine percent)”
- “Almost two and one-half times likelier to smoke (34 percent vs. nine percent)”

“Drugs Are Number One Concern of Teens”

“Twenty-nine percent of teen report this year that drugs are their greatest concern, up from 23 percent in 2003. Only 12 percent of parents see drugs as a teen’s greatest concern.”

“Family Dinners”

“Most teens (60 percent) report having dinner with their family five to seven days a week (compared to 61 percent in 2003 and 57 percent in 2001). Twenty-three percent of teens eat two or fewer dinners a week with their family (compared to 18 percent in 2003 and 19 percent in 2001).”

“What The Risk Categories Mean”

“High Risk Teens (17 percent of 12- to 17-Year Olds)”

- “Many smoke (41 percent currently smoke)”
- “Most have tried alcohol (87 percent have tried alcohol and 21 percent currently drink alcohol in a typical week)”
- “Most get drunk (60 percent at least once a month)”
- “Most have friends who use marijuana (89 percent)”
- “Many know a friend or classmate using Ecstasy (50 percent)”
- “Most know a friend or classmate using acid, cocaine or heroin (72 percent)”
- “Most could buy marijuana in an hour or less (62 percent)”
- “A large majority have tried marijuana (80 percent)”
- “Almost half say future drug use ‘likely’ (45 percent)”

“Moderate Risk Teens (38 percent of 12- to 17-Year Olds)”

- “Very few smoke (99 percent did not have a cigarette in past 30 days)”
- “Fewer than half have tried alcohol (42 percent)”
- “Few get drunk in a typical month (10 percent)”

- “Most have marijuana-using friend (58 percent)”
- “Nearly one-fifth know a friend or classmate who uses Ecstasy (18 percent)”
- “Half know friend or classmate who uses acid, cocaine or heroin (50 percent)”
- “Many could buy marijuana in a few or less (seven percent)”
- “Few have tried marijuana (seven percent)”
- “Less than half admit the possibility of future illegal drug use (43 percent)”

“Low Risk Teen (45 percent of 12- to 17- Year Olds)”

- “None smoke (100 percent did not have a cigarette in past 30 days)”
- “Few have tried alcohol (six percent, and virtually none drink alcohol currently)”
- “None get drunk in a typical month (100 percent never get drunk)”
- “Very few have friends who smoke marijuana (one percent)”
- “Very few have friends or classmate who smoke marijuana (one percent)”
- “Very few know a friend or classmate who uses Ecstasy (four percent)”
- “Few know use of acid, cocaine, or heroin (9 percent)”
- “More than half would be unable to buy marijuana (68 percent)”
- “None have tried marijuana”
- “A large majority say future drug use ‘will never happen’ (80 percent)”

“Teen Dating Practices and Substance-Abuse Risk”

“Dating is a big part of teen life. Thirty-one percent of 12- to 17- year olds (just under eight million) report they currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend. Twenty-nine percent of boys say they have a girlfriend 33 percent of girls say they have a boyfriend.”

“Compared to teens who spend less than 10 hours a week with their boyfriend/girlfriend, those who spend 25 or more hours a week are:”

- “Two and one-half times likelier to use alcohol (70 percent vs. 28 percent);”
- “Five times likelier to get drunk (35 percent vs. seven percent);”
- “Four and one-half times likelier to have used marijuana (55 percent vs. 12 percent);”
- “More than two and one-half times likelier to have smoke (45 percent vs. 17 percent).”

“Sexually Active Friends”

“Compared to teens with no sexually active friends, teens, half or more of whose friends are sexually active, are:”

- “Six and one-half times likelier to drink (66 percent vs. 10 percent);”
- “Thirty –one times likelier to get drunk (31 percent vs. one percent);”
- “Twenty-two and one-half times likelier to have tried marijuana (45 percent vs. two percent);”
- “More than five and one-half times likelier to smoke (45 percent vs. eight percent).”

“A Dangerous Combinations”

“A teen who possesses all characteristics mentioned above—spending a substantial amount of time per week with a boyfriends or girlfriend having sexually active friends, and if female dating an older boyfriend--is at six times the substance-abuse risk if male and nine times the substance-abuse risk if female, compared with teens who exhibit none of these characteristics.”

“Other Important Risk Indicators”

“Internet Pornography”

“Thirty-two percent of 12- to 17- year olds have a computer in their room. Forty-five percent of teens –11.5 million—have friends who regularly view and download pornography from the Internet.”

“The prevalence of teens with friends who regularly view and download pornography from the Internet increases with age, from nearly one-third of 12-year olds (31 percent) to nearly two-thirds of 17-year olds (61 percent). There is a significant gender differential among all teens: 46 percent of 16- and 17-year old girls say they have friends who regularly view and download Internet pornography, compared to 65 percent of 16- and 17-year old boys; the comparable percentage for 12-and 13-year old girls and boys are 25 percent and 37 percent respectively.”

“Compared to teens with no friends who regularly view or download Internet pornography, teens who report that all of their friends regularly do so are more than five times likelier to smoke, drink or use illegal drugs (0.60 vs. 3.33).”

“Availability of Illegal Drugs”

“Unfortunately, drugs remain a pervasive presence for American teens. A striking feature of our research is the ease with which teens can obtain marijuana.”

“More than one-third of 12- to 17-year olds (40 percent) –10.2 million—can buy marijuana with a day. Twenty-one percent of 12- to 17- year olds –5.4 million—can buy marijuana in an hour or less.”

“In the current survey, marijuana is reported by 27 percent of teens (compared to 34 percent in 2003) to be easier to buy than cigarettes or beer, while 42 percent of teens say cigarettes are easiest to buy (compared to 35 percent in 2003). The proportion of teens who think beer is the easiest to buy has slightly decreased from 18 percent in 2003 to 15 percent in 2004.”

“The proportion of teens who know users of acid, cocaine or heroin (35 percent), or prescription drugs (23 percent) has dropped sharply from last year (40 percent and 52 percent respectively). The percentage of teens who know a user of Ecstasy has remained the same (18 percent in 2004 and 2003). However, the percentage of teens who know a user of methamphetamines has risen slightly, from 12 percent in 2003 to 15 percent in the current survey.”

“The average age of initiation for use of alcohol tobacco and marijuana remains below 14 years of age.”

“Overall, the substance use environment of a 12- to 17-year old has deteriorated over the past year. In this year’s survey:”

- “Thirty-six percent of teens have friends who smoke cigarettes; up from 30 percent last year.”

- “Forty-eight percent have friends who regularly drink; up from 44 percent last year.”
- “Thirty-eight percent have friends who smoke marijuana; up from 32 percent last year.”

“Other Characteristic Related to Teen Risk”

“Religious Activism”

“Religious activism is associated with lower average risk scores. The percentage of teens attending church or religious service on at least a weekly basis remained constant this year at 51 percent. Teens who never attend religious services in a typical month have an average risk score of 1.49—nearly twice the risk of weekly religious service attendee (0.80). Of those teens who report that they do not attend any religious services at all in a typical month, those who were never religious active in the past are at a lower risk for substance abuse than those who were once religiously active. (1.19 vs. 1.62).”

(National Survey of American Attitudes in Substance Abuse IX: Teen Dating Practices and Sexual Activity, CASA –The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University- August 2004)

“TRENDS IN TEEN SEXUAL BEHAVIOR”

“Unfortunately, according to a Kaiser Foundation study, ‘94% of parents want teachers to be the ones to discuss the pressures and consequences of having sex.’ Another 1999 study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation reports that 50% of all teens say ‘they still trust their parents for the most reliable and complete information on sex.’”

(“Trends in Teen Sexual Behavior,” Current Thoughts and Trends online, May 2004)

“REDUCING TEEN STD RISK REQUIRES FOCUS ON BROADER RANGE OF SEXUAL ACTIVITIES”

“The analysis, by Urban Institute researchers Gary Gates and Freya Lund Sonenstein, shows that more teen males have engaged in either vaginal, anal, or oral sex (64 percent) than those who have engaged in vaginal intercourse only (55 percent). These and other findings from the survey suggest the need to expand the traditional markers used to

measure adolescent risk of sexually transmitted diseases.”

“Reducing Teen STD Risk Requires Focus on Broader Range of Sexual Activities,”
Urban Institute, December 19, 2000 www.urban.org)

“SEXUALLY ACTIVE GIRLS LAMENT: WHY DIDN’T I WAIT?”

“Its analysis of thousands of survey responses found that a full quarter of sexually active girls ages 14-17 said they felt depressed a lot or all of the time in the past week, compared with 7.7% of virgins. (Only 8% of sexually active boys reported much depression.) More than 14% of sexually active girls had attempted suicide in the previous year, compared with 5.1% of their non-active peers.”

(Laura Vanderkam, “Sexually Active girls’ Lament: Why Didn’t I Wait?”, *USA TODAY*, June 12, 2003, sec. A, p15.)

“SEXUAL BEHAVIORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO UNINTENDED PREGNANCY AND STDS, INCLUDING HIV INFECTION”

“Nationwide, 46.7% of students had had sexual intercourse during their lifetime.”

“Sexual intercourse was higher among black male (73.8%) and Hispanic male (56.8%) than black female (60.9%) and Hispanic female (46.4%) students, respectively.”

“Overall, the prevalence of having had sexual intercourse was higher among black (67.3%) than white (41.8%) and Hispanic (51.4%) students.”

“Sexual Intercourse Before Age 13 Years”

“Nationwide, 7.4% of students had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13 years.”

“Four Or More Sex Partners”

“Nationwide, 14.4% of students had had sexual intercourse during their lifetime with > 4 sex partners.”

“Currently Sexually Active”

“Approximately one third (34.3%) of students nationwide had had sexual intercourse during the 3 months preceding the survey.”

“Alcohol Or Drug Use Before Last Sexual Intercourse”

“Among the 34.3% of currently sexually active students nationwide, 25.4% had drunk alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse.”

(Jo Anne Grunbaum, Laura Kann, Steve Kinchen, James Ross, Joseph Hawkins, Richard Lowry, William A. Harris, Tim McManus, David Chyen, Janet Collins, “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 53, no. SS-2 (May 21, 2004): 17-20.)

“If you need more proof, check the surveys not just on kids’ sexual behavior but on their attitudes toward sex. Millennials are notably more straitlaced than many of their let’s-spend-the-night-together parents. American Freshman, an annual survey of over a quarter of a million first-year kids at 413 four-year colleges, has found that young people have become less accepting of casual sex in the last 15 years. Between 1987 and 2001, those who agree with the statement “If two people really like each other, it’s all right for them to have sex if they’ve known each other for a very short time” fell from 52 percent to 42 percent. Similarly, a recent National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy survey found that 92 percent of teenagers believe it is important for them “to get strong messages from society that they should not have sex until they are at least out of high school.” Twenty-eight percent say they have become more opposed to teens having sex over the past several years, compared to 11 percent who say they are less opposed. It seems that it is adults who are skittish about abstinence, not kids: almost half of the parents interviewed believe it is embarrassing for teens to admit they are virgins, yet only a quarter of teenagers think so.”

“If Millennials have a problem with authority, it’s that they wish they had *more* of it. Poll after poll depicts a generation that thinks their parents are just grand. A 2003 *American Demographics* survey shows 67 percent of teens ‘give Mom an A.’ They tell interviewers for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy that they want *more* advice about sex from their parents. Summarizing opinion polls, researcher Neil Howe says that this generation is at least as attached to their parents and their values as any generation before. ‘When it comes to ‘Do you get along with your family?’ it’s never been as high. Same thing for ‘Do you believe in the values of your parents?’ When they’re asked ‘Do you trust your parents to help you with important life decisions?’ they don’t see parents as meddling or interfering,’ Howe concludes. ‘They’re grateful.’”

"THE TRUTH ABOUT ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY"

"YRBS Sheds Light on Youth Sexual Behavior"

"The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regularly publishes the *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS)* that measures sexual behaviors, alcohol and other drug use, tobacco use, unhealthy dietary behaviors, physical inactivity, and behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence. The *YRBS* is conducted every two years with students in grades nine through 12 at high schools across the country. It provides the most current information about adolescent sexual behavior, including history of sexual intercourse, number of sexual partners, and contraceptive use. The 2001 *YRBS* found that:¹"

"Sexual Intercourse"

- "45.6 percent of high school students (48.5 percent of males and 42.9 percent of females) reported having had sexual intercourse"
- "60.5 percent of twelfth graders, 51.9 percent of eleventh graders, 40.8 percent of tenth graders, and 34.4 percent of ninth graders reported having had sexual intercourse"
- "60.8 percent of Black students, 48.4 percent of Hispanic students, and 43.2 percent of White students reported having had sexual intercourse"
- "33.4 percent of students reported they were currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months preceding the study)"
- "6.6 percent of students reported initiating sexual intercourse before age 13"
- "16.3 percent of Black students, 7.6 percent of Hispanic students, and 4.7 percent of White students reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13"

"Sexual Partners"

- "14.2 percent of students (17.2 percent of males and 11.4 percent of females) reported having had sexual intercourse with four or more partners"

- “21.6 percent of twelfth graders, 15.2 percent of eleventh graders, 12.6 percent of tenth graders, and 9.6 percent of ninth graders reported having had sexual intercourse with four or more partners”
- “26.6 percent of Black students, 14.9 percent of Hispanic students, and 12 percent of White students reported having had sexual intercourse with four or more partners.”

“Alcohol and Drug Use during Last Intercourse”

- “Among currently sexually active students, 25.6 percent (30.9 percent of males and 20.7 percent of females) reported using drugs or alcohol during last intercourse”
- “Among currently sexually active students, 25.4 percent of twelfth graders, 24.7 percent of eleventh graders, 27.7 percent of tenth graders, and 24 percent of ninth graders reported using drugs or alcohol during last intercourse”
- “Among currently sexually active students, 17.8 percent of Black students, 24.1 percent of Hispanic students, and 27.8 percent of White students reported using alcohol or drugs during last intercourse”

“Comparing The 1991, 1995, And 2001 YRBS”

“The CDC has administered the YRBS biannually since 1991. The results provide a decade of important data on the behaviors of American adolescents. By looking at a sample of results from the 1991, 1995, and 2001 YRBS, educators can gain valuable insight into the sexual behaviors and needs of young people across the country.¹”

“Sexual Intercourse History”

- “45.6 percent of students reported having ever had sexual intercourse in 2001 compared to 53.1 percent in 1995 and 54.1 percent in 1991”
- “26.7 percent of students reported having ever had sexual intercourse but not in the three months preceding the survey in 2001 compared to 28.5 percent in 1995 and 30.7 percent in 1991”
- “6.6 percent of students reported having initiated sexual intercourse before age 13 in 2001 compared to 8.9 percent in 1995 and 10.2 percent in 1991”

“Sexual Partners”

- “14.2 percent of students reported having had sexual intercourse with four or more partners in 2001 compared to 17.8 percent in 1995 and 18.7 percent in 1991”
- “33.4 percent of students reported being "currently sexually active" (defined as having had sexual intercourse with one or more partners in the three months preceding the survey) in 2001 compared to 37.9 percent in 1995 and 37.5 percent in 1991”

“Contraceptive Use and Reported Pregnancies”

- “Among "currently sexually active"* students, 57.9 percent reported having used condoms during last intercourse in 2001 compared to 54.4 percent in 1995 and 46.2 percent in 1991”
- “4.7 percent of students reported having been pregnant or having gotten someone pregnant in 2001 compared to 6.9 percent in 1995 and 6.0 percent in 1991”

“* "Currently sexually active" was defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey.”

“Reference”

1. Jo Anne Grunbaum, Ed. D., et al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance-United States, 2001, Surveillance Summaries," June 28, 2002, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 2002: vol. 51, no. SS-4, pp. 1-64; Laura Kann, Ph.D., et al.,

("Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance- United States, 1995, Surveillance Summaries," September 27, 1996, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 1996, vol. 45, no. SS-4, pp. 1-83; <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash>”)

“NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH (ADD HEALTH)”

“Add Health is a comprehensive national study that examines adolescent health behaviors and other factors that influence their health. A total of 12,118 adolescents in grades 7 through 12 were interviewed. The study found that:2”

- “17 percent of seventh and eighth graders reported having had sexual intercourse”
- “49.3 percent of ninth through twelfth graders reported having had sexual intercourse”

- “39.9 percent of female and 37.3 percent of male adolescents in grades seven through 12 reported having had sexual intercourse”
- “11.8 percent of sexually experienced girls in grades seven and eight and 19.4 percent of sexually experience girls in grades nine to 12 reported having been pregnant”

“National Campaign To Prevent Teen Pregnancy: New Study On Adolescent Sexual Behavior”

“The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy recently released Fourteen and Younger: The Sexual Behavior of Young Adolescents.”

“This comprehensive report contains seven papers based on six different sets of data on young people (three national and three local). It sheds light on sexual relationships and activity among young teens. The report found:(1)”

“Sexual Intercourse”

- “Approximately one in five adolescents has engaged in sexual intercourse before his or her fifteenth birthday”
- “Boys who are 14 or younger are slightly more likely to have had intercourse than girls of the same age”
- “A substantial proportion of teens who are 14 and younger who have had intercourse are not currently sexually active”
- “More than one in 10 girls who first had intercourse before age 15 describe it as non-voluntary and many more describe it as relatively unwanted”

“Contraceptive Use”

- “Between half and three-quarters of young people ages 12 to 14 who reported having had intercourse used contraception the first time they had sex”
- “Slightly more than half of girls ages 12 to 14 and about two-thirds of boys who reported having had intercourse say they used some form of contraception the most recent time they had sex”

(1) Reference: 14 and Younger: The Sexual Behavior of Young Adolescents

(Washington, DC: The National Campaign To Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2003.)

“NEW STUDY PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ADOLESCENT SEXUAL BEHAVIOR”

“The Kaiser Family Foundation recently released the National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults: Sexual Health Knowledge, Attitudes, and Experiences. The survey looks at a nationally representative sample of more than 1,800 young people in three key age groups: young adolescents (ages 13 to 14), adolescents (ages 15 to 17), and young adults (ages 18 to 24). It asked these individuals about their knowledge and attitudes toward sexuality as well as about their sexual experience, including sexual intercourse, oral sex, and intimacy. Questions about personal experiences were only asked of participants ages 15 and older. The survey found that: (3)”

“Sexual Intercourse”

- “37 percent of adolescents ages 15 to 17 (42 percent of males and 33 percent of females) reported having had sexual intercourse”
- “80 percent of young adults ages 18 to 24 (83 percent of males and 78 percent of females) reported having had sexual intercourse”
- “Among adolescents ages 15 to 17 who had engaged in sexual intercourse, 11 percent reported having first had intercourse at 12 or 13, 44 percent at 14 or 15, and 37 percent at 16 or 17”
- “Among young adults ages 18 to 24 who had engaged in sexual intercourse, two percent reported having first had intercourse at 11 or younger, six percent at 12 or 13, 23 percent at 14 or 15, 41 percent at 16 or 17, and 25 percent at 18 or older”
- “Among adolescents ages 15 to 17 who had engaged in sexual intercourse, 42 percent reported one lifetime partner, 39 percent reported two to five lifetime partners, seven percent reported six to nine lifetime partners, and four percent reported 10 or more lifetime partners”
- “Among young adults ages 18 to 24 who had engaged in sexual intercourse, 20 percent reported one lifetime partner, 39 percent reported two to five lifetime partners, 13 percent reported six to nine lifetime partners, and 14 percent reported 10 or more lifetime partners”

“Oral Sex”

- “36 percent of adolescents ages 15 to 17 (40 percent of males and 32 percent of females) reported having had oral sex”
- “66 percent of young adults ages 18 to 24 (73 percent of males and 58 percent of females) reported having had oral sex”
- “61 percent of White adolescents and young adults (ages 15 to 24), 41 percent of African American adolescents and young adults, 47 percent of Latino adolescents and young adults, and 40 percent of Asian adolescents and young adults reported having had oral sex”
- “82 percent of adolescents and young adults (ages 15 to 24) who had engaged in sexual intercourse reported having had oral sex as did 12 percent of adolescents and young adults who had not had sexual intercourse”
- “24 percent of adolescents ages 15 to 17 (18 percent male and 33 percent female) reported having had oral sex to avoid having intercourse”

“Intimacy”

- “56 percent of adolescents ages 15 to 17 (65 percent male and 47 percent female) reported having ‘been with someone in an intimate or sexual way (including but not limited to intercourse)’”
- “85 percent of young adults ages 18 to 24 (87 percent male and 84 percent female) reported having ‘been with someone in an intimate or sexual way (including but not limited to intercourse)’”
- “27 percent of adolescents and young adults (ages 15 to 24) who had not had sexual intercourse reported having “been with someone in an intimate or sexual way (including but not limited to intercourse)”

“What Are They Thinking And Doing?”

“In recent years, a lot of attention has been paid to the topic of young people and oral sex. The media suggests they are engaging in oral sex at an alarming rate. There is also speculation that they do not think oral sex is ‘sex’ and that they view oral sex as a way to avoid the risk of pregnancy and STDs. Some adults have wondered whether the increased focus on “virginity” has led young people to seek behaviors other than vaginal intercourse.”

“According to a recent analysis by The Alan Guttmacher Institute, ‘The reports in the press that oral sex has become widespread among adolescents cannot be confirmed or refuted because the data to do so have never been collected.’” (1)

“A few small surveys, have, however, provided us with some insight into how adolescents view oral sex. For example, one survey of 510 adolescent ages 12 to 17 found that 31 percent of female participants and 44 percent of male participants ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ that oral sex is not as big a deal as sexual intercourse.(2) In another survey of 519 adolescents ages 12 to 17, 21 percent considered oral sex to be ‘safe sex.’(3) In a third survey of 505 adolescents ages 12 to 17, 27 percent of participants reported oral sex as an activity that is ‘almost always’ or ‘most of the time’ part of a more serious dating relationship while 24 percent reported oral sex as an activity that is ‘almost always’ or ‘most of the time’ part of a casual relationship.” (4)

“More research is needed on this topic to help educators and parents understand behaviors and motivation. In the meantime, young people need to understand that oral sex can lead to some STD’s, and they need to know how to protect themselves if they engage in this behavior.”

“References”

1. “L. Remez, "Oral Sex Among Adolescents: Is It Sex or Is It Abstinence?" *Family Planning Perspectives*, November/December 2000, vol. 32, no. 6, p. 2.”
2. “Henry Kaiser Family Foundation and *Seventeen Magazine*, *SexSmarts: Decision-Making*, September 2000.”
3. “*SexSmarts: Safer Sex, Condoms and 'the Pill'*, November, 2000.”
4. “*SexSmarts: Relationships*, October, 2002.”

“Study Examines Where Young People Engage in Sexual Intercourse”

“A study if 2,034 high school students in an urban district examined the link between lack of supervision and adolescent sexual behavior. The study found that:” (5)

- “75.1 percent of males and 59.4 percent of females left unsupervised for five or fewer hours per week reported having had sexual intercourse compared to 87.6 percent of males and 72.5 percent of females left unsupervised 30 or more hours per week”
- “5.7 percent of males and 15.3 percent of females left unsupervised for five or fewer hours per week reported having had an STD compared to 13.6 percent of males and 19.5 percent of females left unsupervised for 30 or more hours per week”
- “43 percent of males and 27.9 percent of females reported last having had sexual intercourse in their own homes”

- “30.4 percent of males and 59 percent of females reported last having had sexual intercourse in their partner's home”
- “17 percent of males and 5.6 percent of females reported last having had sexual intercourse in a friend's home”
- “56 percent of young people who had had intercourse reported that the last time was on a weekday: 18 percent before 3 p.m.; 17 percent between 3 and 6 p.m.; and 21 percent after 6 p.m.”

“Study Examines Sexual Behavior Of Adolescent Males With Same Sex And Opposite Sex Partners”

“Researchers looked at data from surveys of 3,267 sexually experienced high school students in Massachusetts collected in 1995, 1997, and 1999.* The surveys measured the prevalence of risk behaviors among adolescent males who indicated they had had some sexual contact with another person. The study found that:¹”

“Sexual Activity”

- “28 percent of respondents with partners only of the opposite sex reported four or more lifetime sexual intercourse partners”
- “19 percent of respondents with partners only of the same sex reported four or more lifetime sexual intercourse partners”
- “63 percent of respondents with partners of both sexes reported four or more lifetime sexual intercourse partners”
- “7 percent of respondents with partners only of the opposite sex reported four or more sexual intercourse partners in the previous three months”
- “6 percent of respondents with partners only of the same sex reported four or more sexual intercourse partners in the previous three months”
- “43 percent of respondents with partners of both sexes reported four or more sexual intercourse partners in the previous three months”

“**Sexual intercourse was not defined in the surveys.*”

“Reference “

1. “Carol Goodenow, Ph.D., et al., "AIDS-Related Risk among Adolescent Males Who Have Sex with Males, Females, or Both: Evidence from a Statewide Survey," *American Journal of Public Health*, February 2002, vol. 92, no. 2, pp. 203-9.”

“Adolescent Sexual Decision-Making--How Do They Decide”

“Survey Examines Motivation”

“Seventeen Magazine and the Henry Kaiser Family Foundation conducted a national survey of 510 adolescents ages 12 to 17. This survey examined the influences that affect young people's decisions about sex and relationships. Questions on personal sexual experience were only asked of participants ages 15 to 17. These participants were asked why they had or had not ‘had sex.’ The survey found that:⁶”

- *“Among participants ages 15 to 17 years of age who had *not* ‘had sex,’ 83 percent said it was because they were ‘worried about pregnancy,’ 74 percent said it was a ‘conscious decision’ they had made to wait, 73 percent said they were ‘worried about STDs,’ 64 percent said it was because they ‘worry about what their parents might think,’ 63 percent said it was because they ‘have not met the right person,’ 63 percent said they felt they are ‘far too young,’ and 52 percent said it was because of their ‘religious beliefs’”*
- *“Among participants ages 15 to 17 who *had* ‘had sex,’ 51 percent said when they had sexual intercourse for the first time it was because they ‘met the right person,’ 45 percent said it was because ‘the other person wanted to,’ 32 percent said it was because they were ‘just curious,’ 28 percent said it was because they ‘hoped it would make the relationship closer,’ and 16 percent said it was because ‘many of their friends already had’”*

“Surveys Ask Teens' Reasons for Not Having Sex”

“The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy compiled a summary of findings from two nationally representative surveys of 1,025 adolescents ages 12 to 17. The summary stated that:⁷”

- *“Half of adolescents surveyed said that fear of pregnancy and STDs is the main reason why adolescents do not have sex”*
- *“26 percent of adolescents said the main reason why adolescents do not have sex is because of religion, morals, and values”*

“Survey Asks Teens about Outside Factors”

“Seventeen Magazine and the Henry Kaiser Family Foundation conducted a national survey of 505 adolescents ages 15 to 17 that examined experiences and attitudes related to sexual relationships. Participants were asked about outside factors that influenced their decisions. The survey found:⁸”

- “90 percent of participants said ‘how well you know the other person’ influenced what they might do sexually with someone, 89 percent said ‘how much you trust your partner,’ 71 percent said ‘what the other person wants to do,’ 69 percent said ‘whether they have been drinking or using drugs,’ 68 percent said ‘what your parents may think,’ 60 percent said ‘what religion says about sex and relationships,’ 44 percent said ‘what your friends might think,’ and 34 percent said ‘what your friends are doing sexually’”

“Survey Asks Teens About the Impact of Alcohol and Drug Use”

“The Kaiser Family Foundation recently released the *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults: Sexual Health Knowledge, Attitudes, and Experiences*. The survey looks at a nationally representative sample of more than 1,800 young people in three key age groups: young adolescents (ages 13 to 14), adolescents (ages 15 to 17), and young adults (ages 18 to 24). Participants were asked about their knowledge and attitudes toward sexuality as well as about their sexual experience, including sexual intercourse, oral sex, and intimacy. Participants were also asked how alcohol and drug use may influence their decisions. Questions about personal experiences were only asked of participants ages 15 and older. The survey found:⁹”

- “35 percent of sexually active participants ages 15 to 24 said ‘alcohol or drugs [had] ever influenced their decision to do something sexual’”
- “28 percent of sexually active participants ages 15 to 24 said they had ‘ever done more sexually than they had planned because they had been drinking or using drugs’”
- “26 percent of sexually active participants ages 15 to 24 said they had ‘ever worried about STDs or pregnancy because of something they did sexually while drinking or using drugs’”
- “22 percent of sexually active participants ages 15 to 24 said they had ‘ever had unprotected sex (not used a condom) because they were drinking or using drugs’”
- “15 percent of sexually active participants ages 15 to 24 said they had ‘ever used alcohol or drugs to help them feel more comfortable with a sexual partner’”
- “11 percent of sexually active participants ages 15 to 24 said they ‘were drinking or using drugs the most recent time they had sexual intercourse’”

- “10 percent of sexually active participants ages 15 to 24 said they ‘were drinking or using drugs the first time they had sexual intercourse’”

“Mothers' Influence: Connections That Promote Postponing Sexual Intercourse”

“The Center for Adolescent Health and Development at the University of Minnesota recently published a monograph examining mother-teen relationships to determine how mothers affect sexual behavior among teens that are not yet sexually active. The monograph was based on two studies that utilized data from the *National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health*. The two studies looked at over 5,000 adolescents and their mothers for one year. Researchers found that caring, connectedness, consistency, and clarity with teens are important-especially for younger teens.* Specifically, they found that:¹”

- “When mothers reported satisfaction with their relationships with their daughters, their daughters were more likely to report that they had not had sexual intercourse. Similarly, high levels of mother-child connectedness are independently related to delays in sexual intercourse among eighth and ninth grade boys and girls as well as among tenth and eleventh grade boys. The effect of connectedness appears to diminish for older girls.”
-
- “Teens who feel that their mothers disapprove of their having sexual intercourse are more likely to delay intercourse. However, simply stating this disapproval is not enough. Parents must clearly explain and reinforce this message.”

“‘Connectedness’ was defined as adolescents’ feeling close to their mothers, knowing that their mothers cared for them, having open communication with their mothers, and feeling satisfied in their relationships with their mothers.”*

“Reference”

1. “R.W. Blum, "Mother's Influence on Teen Sex: Connections that Promote Postponing Sexual Intercourse" (Minneapolis, MN: Center for Adolescent Health, University of Minnesota, 2002).”

“Adolescent Relationships—What Do They Mean?”

“Survey looks at ‘Dating’ vs. ‘Casual Relationships’”

“*Seventeen Magazine* and the Henry Kaiser Family Foundation conducted a national survey of 505 adolescents ages 15 to 17. It examined experiences and attitudes related to sexual relationships. It asked teens about the kinds of sexual activity that might take place

in either *casual* relationships or more serious *dating* relationships. The survey found that:²¹

- “82 percent of participants reported kissing as an activity that is ‘almost always’ or ‘most of the time’ part of a *dating* relationship while 70 percent of adolescents reported kissing as an activity that is ‘almost always’ or ‘most of the time’ part of a *casual* relationship”
- “65 percent of participants reported touching as an activity that is ‘almost always’ or ‘most of the time’ part of a *dating* relationship while 58 percent reported touching as an activity that is ‘almost always’ or ‘most of the time’ part of a *casual* relationship”
- “26 percent of participants reported oral sex as an activity that is ‘almost always’ or ‘most of the time’ part of a *dating* relationship while 23 percent reported oral sex as an activity that is ‘almost always’ or ‘most of the time’ part of a *casual* relationship”
- “27 percent of participants reported sexual intercourse as an activity that is ‘almost always’ or ‘most of the time’ part of a *dating* relationship while 24 percent reported sexual intercourse as an activity that is ‘almost always’ or ‘most of the time’ part of a *casual* relationship”
- “71 percent of participants agree that ‘it is more important to use a condom in a casual sexual relationship than with a boyfriend or girlfriend”
- “3 percent of participants agree that ‘talking about STDs and birth control is harder when the sexual relationship is casual”

“Survey Looks at Impact of Longer Relationships”

“*Seventeen Magazine* and the Henry Kaiser Family Foundation conducted a national survey of 505 adolescents ages 15 to 17. This survey examined experiences and attitudes related to sexual relationships. The survey found that:²²

- “84 percent of participants agree that the longer they are in a relationship the more likely they are to discuss their sexual history”
- “77 percent of participants agree that the longer they are in a relationship the more likely they are to discuss STD testing”
- “69 percent of participants agree that the longer they are in a relationship the more likely they are to use condoms”

“Survey Examines Gender Roles”

“*Seventeen Magazine* and the Henry Kaiser Family Foundation conducted a national survey of 512 adolescents ages 15 to 17. It explored perceptions of gender roles among adolescents. The survey found that:²³”

- “92 percent of female participants and 77 percent of male participants considered it a ‘good thing’ to be a virgin”
- “66 percent of female participants and 69 percent of male participants said it is usually the boy ‘who makes the first move sexually’”
- “62 percent of female participants and 63 percent of male participants said they ‘equally decide whether a relationship will become sexual’”
- “40 percent of female participants and 41 percent of male participants said it is usually the girl ‘who brings up using condoms’”
- “Both female and male participants (63 percent) agree it is usually the boy ‘who provides the condom’”
- “52 percent of female participants and 50 percent of male participants said it is usually the girl ‘who brings up sexually transmitted diseases’”

“Adolescent Sexual Attitudes And Knowledge—What Do They Think?”

“Survey Examines What Teens Worry About”

“The Kaiser Family Foundation recently released the *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults: Sexual Health Knowledge, Attitudes, and Experiences*. The survey looks at a nationally representative sample of more than 1,800 young people in three key age groups: young adolescents (ages 13 to 14), adolescents (ages 15 to 17), and young adults (ages 18 to 24). Participants were asked about their knowledge and attitudes toward sexuality as well as about their sexual experience, including sexual intercourse, oral sex, and intimacy. Participants were also asked what they worried about when it comes to sexual activity. The survey found:²⁴”

- “72 percent of female participants and 69 percent of male participants are ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ concerned about HIV/AIDS”

- “73 percent of female participants and 72 percent of male participants are ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ concerned about other STDs”
- “75 percent of female participants and 64 percent of male participants are ‘very or ‘somewhat’ concerned about unintended pregnancy”

“Surveys Examine Attitudes Toward Sex”

“The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy compiled a summary of findings from two nationally representative surveys of 1,025 adolescents ages 12 to 17. The summary found that:²⁵”

- “64 percent of female participants and 53 percent of male participants said that high school age adolescents should not engage in sexual activity”
- “87 percent of participants do not think it is embarrassing for adolescents to admit they are virgins”

“Survey Asks How Adolescents Feel About Sex”

“The Kaiser Family Foundation recently released the *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults: Sexual Health Knowledge, Attitudes, and Experiences*. The survey looks at a nationally representative sample of more than 1,800 young people in three key age groups: young adolescents (ages 13 to 14), adolescents (ages 15 to 17), and young adults (ages 18 to 24). Participants were asked about their knowledge and attitudes toward sexuality. The survey found:²⁶”

- “60 percent of female participants and 66 percent of male participants ages 15 to 17 ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ that waiting to have sex is a nice idea but nobody really does”
- “58 percent of female participants and 59 percent of male participants ages 15 to 17 ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ there is pressure to have sex by a certain age”
- “47 percent of female participants and 56 percent of male participants ages 15 to 17 ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ once you have had sex it is harder to say no the next time”
- “27 percent of female participants and 50 percent of male participants ages 15 to 17 ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ if you have been seeing someone for a while it is expected that you will have sex “

- “38 percent of female participants and 54 percent of male participants ages 15 to 17 ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ that oral sex is not as big of a deal as sexual intercourse”

“Survey Test Knowledge about STDs”

“The Kaiser Family Foundation has recently released the *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults: Sexual Health Knowledge, Attitudes, and Experiences*. The survey looks at a nationally representative sample of more than 1,800 young people in three key age groups: young adolescents (ages 13 to 14), adolescents (ages 15 to 17), and young adults (ages 18 to 24). It tested participants' knowledge about STDs, condoms and other contraception. The survey found that:²⁷”

- “19 percent of participants ages 15 to 17 do not know STDs can be spread through oral sex and 3 percent of participants do not know STDs can be spread through sexual intercourse”
- “60 percent of participants ages 15 to 17 do not know STDs can cause some kinds of cancer, 33 percent do not know STDs can increase the risk for HIV/AIDS, and 24 percent do not know STDs can cause infertility”
- “25 percent of participants ages 15 to 17 ‘agree’ that if someone they were dating had an STD they would know, 20 percent ‘agree’ that STDs can only be spread when symptoms are present, 12 percent ‘agree’ that ‘unless you have had sex with a lot of people, STDs are not something you have to worry about,’ and 10 percent ‘agree’ that ‘STDs are a nuisance but they do not have any serious health effects’”

“References”

1. “J. Grunbaum, et al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS)-United States, 2001," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 51, no. SS-4, June 28, 2002, pp. 1-64.
2. P. Bearman, *Reducing the Risk: Connections That Make a Difference in the Lives of Youth*, (Bethesda, MD:1997), P. 14.
3. T. Hoff, et al, *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults: Sexual Health Knowledge, Attitudes, and Experiences*, (Menlo Park, CA: Henry Kaiser Family Foundation, 2003), p. 14.
4. *In Their Own Right: Addressing the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of American Men*, (New York, NY: The Alan Guttmacher Institute, 2002), p. 83.
5. D. Cohen, et al. "When and Where Do Youths Have Sex? The Potential Role of Adult Supervision," *Pediatrics*, vol. 110, no. 6 (2002), pp. 2-17.
6. *SexSmarts: Decision-Making*, (Menlo Park, CA: Henry Kaiser Family Foundation and Seventeen Magazine, September 2000).

7. *The Cautious Generation? Teens Tell Us about Sex, Virginity, and "The Talk,"* (Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2003) pp.1- 2.
8. *SexSmarts: Relationships*, (Menlo Park, CA: Henry Kaiser Family Foundation and Seventeen Magazine, October 2002).
9. Hoff, et al, *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults*, p.22.
- 10.Grunbaum, et al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS)-United States, 2001," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.
- 11.Ibid.
- 12.Hoff, et al, *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults*, p. 31
- 13.J.C. Abma, A. Chandra, W.D. Mosher, et al., "Fertility, Family Planning, and Women's Health: New Data from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth," *Vital Health Statistics*, 1997, vol. 23, no. 19, p. 49.
- 14.*In Their Own Right*, p. 23.
- 15.Hoff, et al, *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults*, p. 33.
- 16.Ibid., p. 25.
- 17.Ibid., p. 32.
- 18.*Risky Business: Teens Tell Us What They Really Think of Contraception and Sex*, (Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2000) p.1.
- 19.Ibid.
- 20.Hoff, et al, *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults*, p.35.
- 21.*SexSmarts: Relationships*.
- 22.Ibid.
- 23.*SexSmarts: Gender Roles*, (Menlo Park, CA: Henry Kaiser Family Foundation and Seventeen Magazine, December 2002).
- 24.Hoff, et al, *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults*, p.7.
- 25.*The Cautious Generation?*, pp.1-2.
- 26.Hoff, et al, *National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults*, p. 12
- 27.Ibid., p.24.
- 28.*The Cautious Generation?*, p. 4.
- 29.*Not Just Another Thing to Do: Teens Talk about Sex, Regret, and the Influence of Their Parents*, (Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, June 30, 2000), p.1."

("The Truth About Adolescent Sexuality," SIECUS-the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States,

"NO SEX IS SAFE FOR TEENS IN AMERICA"

"The US National Survey of Family Growth just reported the latest figures, from 2002, showing that 30 per cent of American girls aged 15 to 17 have had sex compared with 38

per cent in 1995 and 31 per cent of boys, compared with 43 per cent in 1995. Teenage pregnancy rates show the US birth rate for 15- to 19-year-olds fell from 62 per 1,000 in 1991 to 43 per 1,000 in 2002. The top five states for teen pregnancy are in the south, with Texas fifth highest at 59 per 1,000.”

“In 2002, the equivalent rate in France was 10 per 1,000 females, in Canada 25 and in Britain, which has the highest rate in western Europe but also has comprehensive sex education, it was 28.”

“Joint research by Columbia and Yale Universities found that 88 per cent of Americans between the ages of 12 and 18 who pledge abstinence do not wait until they get married to have sex, compared with 99 per cent of 'non-pledgers'.”

“Teens who 'pledge' wait around 18 months longer than their peers to have sex and have fewer partners, but once the pledge is broken only 40 per cent of males use condoms compared with 60 per cent of 'non-pledgers'.

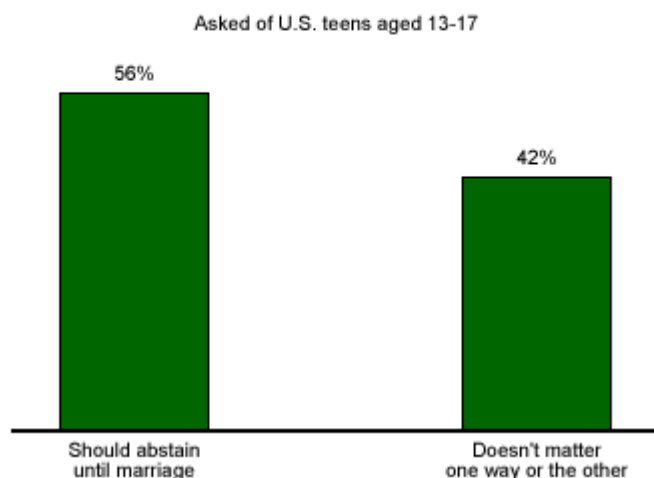
'By 18 to 24 they catch up with their non-pledging peers in sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy rates,' said Professor Peter Bearman of Columbia University.”

(Joanna Walters, “No Sex is Safe Sex for Teens in America,” Observer Guardia, 01/02/05, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,12271,1382189,00.html>)

“TEENS: SEX CAN WAIT”

“Not all teens fit the sex-crazed stereotype -- in fact, a majority of them don't. Raging hormones and stereotypes notwithstanding, 56% of all teens (aged 13 to 17) in a recent Gallup Youth Survey* say young people should abstain from sex until they are married.”

Do you think young people should abstain from sex until marriage, or do you think it doesn't matter one way or the other?



“In 1991, 54% of teens reported having had sexual intercourse; that figure had fallen to 47% in 2003. Furthermore, the teen birth rate has plunged to an all-time low during the same period. Among girls aged 15 to 17, the birth rate fell 38% between 1990 and 2002.”

“In a 2001 Gallup Youth Survey, 90% of teens said that they'd talked about AIDS at school, 81% reported discussing sexually transmitted diseases, 85% had discussed pregnancy, and 77% had discussed abstinence until marriage. So, the decline could stem from teens' awareness of AIDS, STDs, pregnancy, and abstinence.”

(Linda Lyons, “Teens: Sex Can Wait,” The Gallup Organizations, 12/4/04, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/content/default.aspx?ci=14341>)

“TEENS DELAYING SEXUAL ACTIVITY: USING CONTRACEPTION MORE EFFECTIVELY”

“New Date on Contraceptive Use Among Adults”

“The proportion of never-married females 15-17 years of age who had ever had sexual intercourse dropped significantly from 38 percent in 1995 to 30 percent in 2002. At age 18-19, 68 percent had had intercourse in 1995, compared with 69 percent in 2002. For male teens, the percent of those who were sexually experienced dropped significantly in both age groups: from 43 percent to 31 percent at age 15-17, and from 75 percent to 64 percent at age 18-19. These and other data suggest that teenagers are delaying sex until somewhat older ages.”

(“Teen Delaying Sexual Activity: Using Contraception more effectively,” National Center Health Statistics, 12/10/04, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/04news/teens.htm>)

“MORE U.S. TEENS DELAY HAVING SEX, STUDY FINDS”

“The report examining youth behavior found that more young men in particular have postponed sex -- 46 percent were sexually active in 2002, compared with 55 percent in 1995 -- and that 91 percent of those who had sex in the previous three months used contraception.”

“For the first time since the government began the National Survey of Family Growth in 1973, more girls (47 percent) say they have had sex than boys (46 percent). Girls also report a high rate of contraceptive use -- 83 percent.”

“Some of the most dramatic improvement has come in the area of teen pregnancy. In 1991, 62 of every 1,000 American girls ages 15 to 19 gave birth. A decade later, the teen birth rate fell to 43 per 1,000.

Even so, U.S. teen birth rates remain among the highest in the developed world. Canada's teen birth rate in 2002 was 20 per 1,000, and in France it was 8 per 1,000.”

(Ceci Connolly, “More U.S. Teens Delay Having Sex, Study Finds,” Washington Post, December 11, 2004, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55856-2004Dec10.html>)

“MORE SEX, PLEASE”

“Churchgoers want more sermons on sexual issues that pastors think they do”

“If you're unsure what to preach next Sunday, consider something from Song of Solomon. Almost half of churchgoers want to hear more scriptural teaching on sex (44%), twice the number of pastors who feel they should spend more time on the subject (22%). An equal number of parishioners say they're satisfied with the frequency of sermons addressing sex (44%), according to a new survey by *Leadership* publisher, Christianity Today International.”

(“More Sex, Please,” Christianity Today, Pg. 7, Jan/Feb 2005, <http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2005/001/4.7.html>)

"OLDER PARTNERS"

"Many sexually active adolescent girls have sexual partners who are substantially older. In fact, a 1999 study reported that 29 percent of sexually active 15- to 17-year olds had a partner who was three to five years older, and 7 percent had a partner who was at least six years older (Darroch et al 1999) the study also showed that young women who had previously been forced to have sex were twice as likely to have a partner who was three to five years older than those with no history of forced sex."

"These large age differences are accompanied by differences in maturity level and power. Most of these young women would probably say they had consensual sex. Adolescents, however, are vulnerable to sexual manipulation by adults and significantly older adolescents. For this reason, significant age differences can constitute statutory rape in many states."

(Joshua Mann, M.D., M.P.H., Joe S. McIlhaney, Jr., M.D. and Curtis C. Stine, M.D., "A New Generation of Problems," from Building Healthy Futures: Tools for helping adolescents avoid or delay the onset of sexual activity, The Medical Institute for Sexual Health, Austin, TX. 2000)

"INFERTILITY"

- *"More teens have chlamydia-a disease that can cause infertility-than any other age group. Some studies show that as many as 3-% of sexually active teens are infected with this disease."*
- *"Medical evidence suggests that condoms may not give adequate protection from the infertility that can be caused by pelvic inflammatory disease."*
- *"A 15-year-old is up to ten times more likely to develop the infertility-causing pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) than a 24-year-old with the same sexual encounters."*

(Berger & Westrom, 1992.)

“ISCUITY”

“Woman who Title X clinics target (lower income, minorities and young unmarried) have the highest abortion rates.” (p. 7)

“STDs aren’t cheap. Most come with a hefty health-care price tag:”

- “Syphilis (annual cost: \$106 million)”
- “Hepatitis B (\$256 million)”
- “Genital herpes (\$178 million)”
- “Gonorrhea (\$1 billion)”
- “Chlamydia (\$2 billion)”
- “HPV (\$3.8 billion)”

“Last year the Institute of Medicine pegged the annual cost associated with treating major STDs at \$10 billion—not including HIV.” (p. 8)

“70% of births among teens are unplanned.” (p. 17)

“Half of unmarried teen mothers are on welfare within the first year of birth.” (p. 17)

“Three-fourths of teen-age moms are on welfare within five years of giving birth.” (p. 17)

“63% of families headed by an unwed mother are below the poverty line.” (p. 17)

(“Iscuity,” Citizen Magazine, February 1998, Volume 12, Number 2-

sources: Alan Guttmacher Institute, Congressional Budget Office, White House Welfare Reform Talk Force, Center for Population Options)

“SEXUAL HEALTH UPDATE”

“Teenagers are more susceptible to sexually transmitted disease than are adults. For example, of every eight 15-year-old girls who have intercourse, one will develop pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), and as a result 12% to 25% of these girls will be sterile. However, of unmarried 24-year-olds having intercourse only 1 in 80 will develop PID. An adult might say, ‘I’m not married, and I have sex. Therefore, I certainly would not tell a teenager not to have sex.’ But teenagers, because of their susceptibility to STD, need to be shown that they are too susceptible to sexually transmitted diseases to take the risk of having sex before they are married.”

“The STD epidemic is a silent epidemic.”

“Twenty to forty percent of sexually active teenagers are infected with chlamydia, a major cause of sterility. Forty to fifty percent of sexually active teenagers are infected with the human papilloma virus which can cause warts and cancer of the genital organs.”

“All of us here in Austin know that 1 in 100 students at the University of Texas in a non-random survey were found to be infected with the HIV virus.”

“Planned Parenthood reported in its research periodical, ‘Family Planning Perspectives,’ that 7.9 percent of condoms broke during intercourse or withdrawal. Another 7.2 percent slipped off during withdrawal.”

“It is not naïve to expect students to avoid intercourse until they are married. It may be true that sixty percent of Austin’s students have had intercourse, but do you realize that if a young person has ever had intercourse that person is counted as sexually active? Studies show that many students have only experimented with sex a time or two. This makes it very clear that more than half of our students, therefore, are already abstinent. Dr. Howard, who did the study at Emory University, said this, ‘Left on their own to cope with pressures that encouraged sexual involvement, youth that remained abstinent were not even told by adults that they were ‘doing a good job.’ We need to encourage them in their choice. Several studies have shown that the single most important thing young people want to know about sex is how to tell their boy friend or girlfriend, without ruining their friendship, that they do not want to have sex. For those who have had sex, we can encourage them to avoid sex from now until marriage. Limiting the number of lifetime sexual partners can have dramatic benefit on future health.”

(Medical Institute for Sexual Health, Sexual Health Update, February 1993, Number 2. Sources from: J. Trussell, et al, “Condom Slippage and Breakage Rates,” Family Planning Perspectives, 24:20, 1992)

“HERPES”

“Approximately one-third of unmarried sexually active people have contracted herpes by the age of thirty.” (p. 42)

“It is not unusual to be infectious without knowing it. Everyone who has herpes outbreaks can spread the herpes virus between outbreaks because cells of the virus are intermittently shed or discarded by the body, even when an infection has subsided. People who know they have herpes often feel ‘safe’ having sex if they do not at that moment have an outbreak.” (p. 43)

“We are fairly certain now that most people who have been infected with herpes will develop these recurrent outbreaks periodically for many years, perhaps for life.” (p. 45)

(Joe S. McIlhaney Jr. “SEX; What You Don’t Know Can Kill You.” Baker Books 1997)

“TEENS ‘NEED’ VIRGINITY PLEDGES: TIDE OF SEXUAL DISEASES IS ‘ENGULFING’ BRITAIN’S YOUNG”

“Condom use in Uganda is among the lowest in Africa but the number of 13 to 16-year-old boys saying they had sex fell from more than 60% in 1994 to 5% in 2001 and from 25% to 3% among girls.”

“Uganda’s First Lady Museveni last year told the UN child summit, ‘The young person who is trained to be disciplined will, in the final analysis, survive better than the one who has been instructed to wear a piece of rubber and continue with ‘business as usual’.”

(“Teens ‘Need’ Virginity Pledges: Tide of Sexual Diseases is ‘Engulfing’ Britain’s Young,” www.abstinence.net/library/index.php?entryid=290)

“THE SEXUAL SHADOWS – TRENDS”

“Nearly half of all teenagers have had sex by their 18th birthday, but many of those who expected a Titanic-like romantic high got something a lot more disturbing instead.”

- “About a quarter of teenagers who’ve had sex experienced some form of abuse (including pushing, shoving, name-calling, and worse) in their first sexual encounter.”

- “More than half of girls (53%) and a third of guys (35%) say they’d change something about their first sexual experience.”
- “Almost two-thirds of sexually experienced girls (61%) and four out of 10 guys (40%) say they wish they’d waited until they were older to have sex.”
- “About a quarter of guys (27%) and girls (24%) wish they’d lost their virginity to someone else.”

(“The Sexual Shadows – Trends,” Group Magazine, January 2, 2004, pg. 18)

“TEEN PEOPLE SEX SURVEY”

“The October 2004 edition of *Teen People* (pp. 116-119) contains the results of its 2nd annual teen sex survey of 1,000 + 13-19 year old guys. Some of the findings:”

- “72% of teen guys are virgins”
- “70% think about sex at least once a day”
- “63% of guys masturbate”
- “24% of guys have received oral sex (3% of 13-14 years olds and 44% of 17-19 year olds)”

(“Teen People Sex Survey,” Youth Culture e-Update # 65, email from Christy Karashev.)

“DETERMINANTS OF ‘ONE-NIGHT STANDS’ AND SHORT TERM FIRST SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS”

“Length of First Sexual Relationship”

“NSFG”

“78 % More than one month”

“22% One month or less”

“Add Health”

“70% More than one month”

“19% One time only”

“11% One month”

“Status of Relationship at First Sex”

“NSFG”

“77% Going steady/engaged”

“13% Just met or just friends”

“10% Went out once in a while”

“Add Health”

“83% Romantic”

“9% Liked”

“8% Non-romantic”

(Kerry Franzetta, Jennifer Manlove, and Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Determinants of “One-Night Stands” and Short-Term First Sexual Relationships, April 1, 2004, www.childtrends.org)

“BATTLE OF THE TEEN SEX SURVEY”

“But beware of the numbers.”

”Competing magazine polls portray competing pictures of teenagers’ sexual habits and opinions. Both Teen People and Seventeen magazines touted the results of their respective sex surveys of teenage guys in recent issues. Some of the more eye-opening results:”

- “Seventeen found more than half (54%) of teenage guys say they’ve had vaginal sex, but in Teen People’s survey the number was just 28%.”

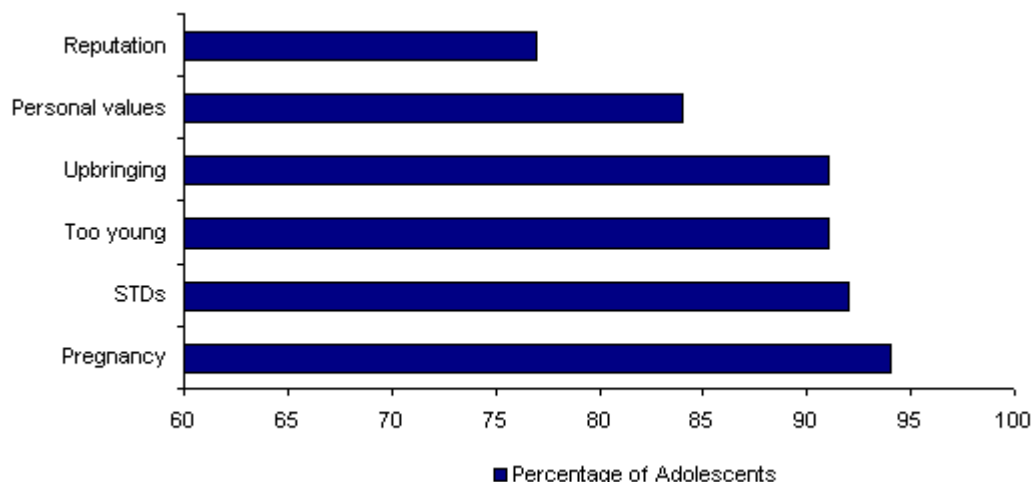
- “Seventeen says almost two-thirds of guys (59%) have received oral sex, while a little over half (52%) have performed it. But Teen People’s numbers in both categories were much lower—24% and 17% respectively.”
- “The Teen People survey found that more than two-thirds of guys (68%) ‘always use condoms’, but 59% of guys who answered Seventeen’s survey said they don’t use condoms.”
- “Four out of 10 guys in the Seventeen survey said they’ve told a girl ‘I love you’ to get her to do something sexual with them. But only 7% of guys in the Teen People survey admitted the same.”

“Other random-but-interesting stuff:”

- “Almost two-thirds of guys (63%) in the Teen People survey said they masturbate.”
- “Almost a third of guys (31%) in the Seventeen survey said they’ve told friends they went further with a girl than they really did. The number in the Teen People survey was similar—28%.”
- “Four out of five teenage guys (81%) say they’d like a steady girlfriend, according to the Teen People survey.”

(“Battle of the Teen Sex Survey”)

“WHY ADOLESCENTS SAY “NO” TO SEX”



“In a survey done by the Kaiser Family Foundation and *SEVENTEEN* magazine, more than 9 in 10 teens agree that being a virgin is a “good thing.” So why are teens waiting to have sex? When asked “What age is appropriate to lose your virginity?”, teens most frequently said 18 or when you are married. Teens report that worries about pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other STIs stop them from sexual activity. What teens have been taught at home and at school, as well as their own personal values (religious or moral), also influences their decision to wait.¹ Virginity pledges also help or encourage adolescents to stay abstinent. In one study, adolescents who signed virginity pledges are less likely to have intercourse than adolescents who do not pledge.”²

1. SexSmarts, Virginity and the first time [Kaiser Family Foundation SEVENTEEN Website]. Available at: http://www.kff.org/mediapartnerships/Seventeen_surveys.cfm. Accessed January 6, 2004.

2 Berman PS, Bruckner H. Promising the future: virginity pledges and first intercourse. *AJS*. 2001;106:859-912.”

(“Why Adolescents Say “No” to Sex”, <http://www.medinstitute.org/whyno.htm>)

“MAJORITY OF TEENS DON’T WANT TO HAVE SEX...SO WHY DOES NBC PUSH THEM TO?”

“In a press release issued this week, NBC announced the results of a survey they recently conducted with help from *PEOPLE* magazine on the sexual experience of adolescents. With remarkably detailed questions, NBC prodded 13 to 16 year olds to discuss graphic intercourse activities, intercourse, and intimate physical contact. The results? The majority of teens don’t want to have sex. Shocking and disappointing to network executives, for sure.”

“When teens were asked why they had engaged in intimate sexual contact, the overwhelming majority of them (76 percent) answered it was only ‘because the other person wanted to.’ Indeed, half of the teens clearly stated that they really “wanted to remain virgins.” Of course, blinded eyes see this survey as proof that teens are sexually active and therefore need contraception. However, the wise will ask, ‘Why are teens feeling forced to have sex when they clearly don’t want to?’”

(April Kurtz, “Majority of Teens Don’t Want to Have Sex...So Why Does NBC Push Them To?”, Abstinence Clearinghouse, January 26, 2005, <http://www.abstinence.net/library/index.php?entryid=1808>)

“NEARLY 3 IN 10 YOUNG TEENS ‘SEXUALLY ACTIVE’”

“NBC News and PEOPLE Magazine commissioned a landmark poll surveying young teenagers about their intimate sexual attitudes and practices. In one of the first surveys of its kind, teenagers as young as 13 reveal how much they know about sex and how much they are doing. The poll, conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International, questioned 13 to 16 year-olds about their sexual behavior, relationships, oral sex, STDs, and casual sexual partners (what's now known as ‘friends with benefits’).”

“Sexually active young teens”

”Nearly 3 in 10 (27%) thirteen to sixteen year-olds are sexually active and ‘have been with someone in an intimate or sexual way.’ Most of these sexually active teens have touched someone else’s genitals and almost half had oral sex and/or had sexual intercourse. Sexual activity is much more common among 15 to 16 year-olds (41%) than 13 to 14 year-olds (14%).”

“Most 13 to 16-year-olds waiting to have sex”

“The vast majority (87%) of teens aged 13 to 16, have not had sexual intercourse. Most (73%) have not been sexually intimate at all. Seventy-four percent say they have not had sex because they made a conscious decision not to. As many (75%) have not because they believe they are too young. Many say they abstain because they fear the potential consequences—pregnancy (74%), STDs (71%), parents’ reaction (65%). While just more than half say it is because they haven’t met the right person yet (54%), few say it is because of a lack of opportunity (21%). Four in 10 (42%) say they have not because of religious or moral beliefs.”

“Is Oral Sex Really Not A Big Deal?”

“Most Teens Know What Oral Sex Is”

“Today, 70% of teens, ages 13 to 16, know the definition of oral sex. Knowledge about oral sex is lower among the youngest teens but that knowledge increases with age. While only six in 10 (58%) 13 and 14 year-olds knew what oral sex is a solid majority of 15 and 16 year-olds (82%) know what oral sex is.”

“Is Oral Sex A Big Deal?”

“For many teens (43%), oral sex is not seen as being as big a deal as sexual intercourse. Boys and girls see this somewhat differently. While almost half of boys (47%) think that oral sex is not as big of a deal as sexual intercourse, fewer girls feel that way (38%).”

“Are Teens Who Have Oral Sex Still Virgins?”

“While a majority of teens do feel that oral sex is as big a deal as intercourse, it seems oral sex is taken somewhat more lightly than intercourse. More than half (54%) of American teens maintain that teens who only engage in oral sex are still virgins. However, the way in which virginity is defined varies by both their age and where they live:”

- “Older teens, 15 to 16-year-olds, are more likely to say teens having oral sex are still virgins than are 13 to 14-year-olds (60% vs. 46%).”
- “Suburban teens (60%) are more likely to say teens who have oral sex are still virgins than teens who live in an urban environment (45%).”

“Do Teens Approve of Teens Having Oral Sex?”

“Our survey found teens who know what oral sex is are more likely to accept older teens having oral sex. Most teens don’t think it is okay for 13 to 14 year-olds to be having it (87%). Seven in 10 (70%) also don’t approve of 15 to 16 year-olds having oral sex. However, fewer are disapproving of older teens - only a little more than third of teens (35%) think 17 to 18 year-olds shouldn’t engage in oral sex. Girls are more likely than boys to disapprove of teens in each age group—13 to 14, 15 to 16, 17 to 18—engaging in oral sex or sexual intercourse.”

“How Many Teens Have Had Oral Sex?”

- “One in 10 (12%) teens have had oral sex. Almost 9 out 10 (88%) teens have not.”
- “Girls are as likely as boys to have had oral sex, but it seems there’s a discrepancy when it comes to willingness to perform oral sex. 22% of sexually active girls say their partner never performs oral sex on them, while only 5% of boys say their partner never does.”
- “Engaging in oral sex is more common among 15 to 16 year-olds (19%) than 13 to 14 year-olds (4%).”
- “Four percent of teens have had oral sex in a casual relationship.”

- “A statistically insignificant *less* than one-half of a percentage of teens said they had ever been to the now mythological oral sex party.”

“Why Are Teens Having Oral Sex?”

“Pressure, love, lust and pragmatism all figure into why teens decide to have oral sex. While few teens (21%) say they had oral sex for the first time because they wanted to be more popular or to be accepted, 76% said they did so because the other person wanted to. Teens also say they had oral sex for the first time because they met the right person (71%), to satisfy a sexual desire (70%), so they didn’t have to worry about pregnancy (68%), or because they were curious (64%). Half (49%) say the first time they had oral sex they did so because they wanted to remain virgins.”

“Sexual Intercourse”

“Young teens are as likely to have had sexual intercourse as oral sex. But their reasons for doing so are somewhat different. Among the 13 percent of young teens who have had sexual intercourse, a solid majority says a principal reason they did so for the first time was because they met the right person (62%). This is consistent with the majority’s view that it is very important to be in love before having intercourse (68%).”

“Curiosity (36%) or sexual desire (34%) played a major role in why young teens had sexual intercourse for the first time. More than a quarter (28%) did so in hopes of making the relationship with the other person closer. Fewer said they were pressured (15%) or did so to be accepted or popular (2%). In addition, boys are more likely than girls to have had sex the first time to satisfy a sexual desire (49% vs. 15%).”

“While nearly all young teens (90%) know they can get an STD from having sexual intercourse, they’re not always acting on that knowledge. Only two in three (67%) say they use protection such as condoms every time they have sex.”

“Young teens frown on those their age having sexual intercourse - an overwhelming majority (91%) say it is not okay for 13 to 14 year-olds to have sex. Somewhat fewer, but still a majority, (78%) object to 15 to 16 year-olds having intercourse. As with oral sex, opinions dramatically shift regarding older teens. Fewer than half (42%) say it is not okay for 17 to 18 year-olds to have sexual intercourse. Girls are more likely than boys to disapprove of teens in each age group—13 to 14, 15 to 16, 17 to 18—engaging in sexual intercourse.”

“Young teens who engage in casual relationships often do so ‘to satisfy a sexual desire’ (67%). Nearly half (48%) have had a casual sexual relationship because they wanted to ‘avoid the complications of a serious relationship.’”

“Talking About Sex”

“Teens are most likely to say they talk often to their friends about sex and sexual relationships (62%). Four in 10 (41%) also say they talk with their parents often. Teens are much less likely to speak with school and religious leaders. Older teens (15 and 16 year olds) talk about sex with their parents more than younger teens, as do girls more than boys. Teens who are having intercourse are somewhat more likely to speak with their parents about sex. However teens who are engaging in oral sex are more likely to speak with their friends about sex.”

“NBC News and People Magazine commissioned Princeton Survey Research Associates International to conduct a nationally representative telephone survey of young teenagers and their parents.”

“1,000 interviews were conducted with parents and 1000 interviews were conducted with teenagers aged 13-16 during the period of September 4, 2004 and November 7, 2004. The margin of error for results based on the full sample of teens is $\pm 3.4\%$. For teens aged 13-14 the margin of error $\pm 5.0\%$ and for 15 and 16 year-olds the margin of error is $\pm 4.6\%$. The margin of error for results based on the full sample of parents is $\pm 3.4\%$.”

(Ana Maria Arumi, “Nearly 3 in 10 Young Teens ‘Sexually Active’”, MSNBC, January 31, 2005, <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/6839072/>)

Sexual Behavior and Selected Health Measures: Men and Women 15-44 Years of Age, United States, 2003

By William D. Mosher, Ph.D.; Anjani Chandra, Ph.D.; and Jo Jones, Ph.D., Division of Vital Statistics

“At the ages 15-17, about 13 percent of males and 11 percent of females had had heterosexual oral sex but not vaginal intercourse.”

“At ages 18-19, about 11 percent of males and 9 percent of females had had oral sex but not vaginal intercourse.”

“Among adult males 25-44 years of age, 97 percent have had sexual contact with an opposite-sex partner in their lives; 97 percent have had vaginal intercourse, 90 percent have had oral sex with a female, and 40 percent have had anal sex with the female.”

“Among males 15-44 years of age, 5.7 percent have had oral sex with another male at some time in their lives, and 3.7 percent have had anal sex with another male; overall, 6.0 percent have had oral or anal sex with another male. The proportion of men who had a male sexual partner in the last 12 months was 2.9 percent, or approximately 1.77 million men. The proportion of men who had only male sexual partners in the last 12 months was 1.6 percent).”

“Among women 15-44 years of age in 2002, 11 percent answered yes when asked ‘Have you ever had any sexual experience of any kind with another female?’ (The wording of this questions was less restrictive and less specific than the questions about men having oral or anal sex with men.) The proportion of women who had a female sexual partner in the last 12 months was 4.4 percent, or approximately 2.71 million women, and the proportion who had only female sexual partners in the last 12 months was 1.3 percent.”

“In response to a question that asked, ‘Do you think of yourself as heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or something else?’ 90 percent of men 18-44 years of age responded that they think of themselves as heterosexual. About 2.3 percent of men answered homosexual, 1.8 percent bisexual, 3.9 percent ‘something else,’ and 1.8 percent did not give an answer.”

“Among women 18-44 years of age, 90 percent said they think of themselves as heterosexual, 1.3 percent homosexual, 2.8 percent bisexual, 3.8 percent ‘something else,’ and 1.8 percent did not answer the question.”

“The percentage of men and women who reported that they think of themselves as homosexual or bisexual are roughly equal at 4.1 percent. This represents about 2.27 million men and 2.29 million women 18-44 years of age.”

“Another question was asked about whether the respondent was sexually attracted to males, to females, or to both. Among men 18-44 years of age, 92 percent said they were attracted only to females, and 3.9 percent, ‘mostly’ to females. About 3.2 percent said they were attracted only or mostly to males or to both males and females equally; this is equivalent to 1.8 million men 18-44 years of age.”

“Among women 18-44 years of age, 86 percent said they were attracted only to males, 10 percent said ‘mostly to males,’ and 3.4 percent said only or mostly to females or equally to males and females. This 3.4 percent is equivalent to an estimated 1.9 million women 18-44 years of age.”

“Among sexually experienced men 15-44 years of age, 7 percent reported having been treated for a sexually transmitted infection (STI) other than HIV . About 17 percent of

those who ever had same-sex sexual contact had been treated for a non-HIV STI, compared with 7 percent of those who had never had same-sex sexual contact.”

“CDC estimates that about 18.9 million new cases of STI occurred in the year 2000. About one-half of all STI occur to persons 15-24-year-olds alone was estimated at \$6.5 billion in the year 2000.”

“Thirty-six percent of 15-17-year-old males had had vaginal intercourse with the female; 28 percent had given oral sex to a female, and 40 percent had received it; 8.1 percent had had anal sex with a female, and 46 percent of 15-17-year-old males had had no sexual contact with another person.”

“Among males 18-19 years of age, 66 percent had had vaginal intercourse with a female, while 66 percent had had vaginal intercourse with a female, while 52 percent had given oral sex to a female, 66 percent had received it, and 15 percent had had anal sex with a female. About 22 percent of 18-19-year-old males had not had sexual contact with another person.”

“On the proportion of females 15-24 years of age with these same types of sexual contact among 15-17-year-old females, 39 percent had had vaginal intercourse at least once, 30 percent had given oral sex to a male, and 38 percent had received it from a male. Nearly one-half (49 percent) of 15-17-year-old females had not had any sexual contact with another person. At ages 18-21, the proportions of females who had had vaginal intercourse were about the same as the proportions who had had oral sex. At age 18-19, 17 percent of females had not had any sexual contact with another person, compared with about 22 percent of 18-19-year-old males.”

“The proportion of females 15-17 years of age who had had vaginal intercourse was 39 percent; another 11 percent had had oral sex but not vaginal intercourse; the proportion that had had other sexual contact but not vaginal or oral sex was close to zero. About 66 percent of 15-year-old girls had not had any sexual contact with an opposite-sex partner. At 18-19 years of age, 74 percent of females had had vaginal intercourse, another 9.3 percent of females had had oral sex but not vaginal intercourse, and 17 percent had not had any sexual contact with a male.”

“Unprotected anal sex is a common means of transmission of some diseases, including HIV. In the National Survey of Men (NSM), conducted in 1991 with 3,321 males 20-39 years of age, 20 percent of men reported that they had had anal sex with a female in the last 10 years (13). In the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey (NHSLS), 26 percent of men 18-59 years of age reported ever having anal sex with a female (16) and in the 2002 NSFG, that figure was 38 percent. The higher proportion reporting heterosexual anal sex in the NSFG than in the NHSLS may be related to the fact that the NHSLS

included cohorts (45 years and over in 1992) that were less likely to have had anal sex . The difference in the percentages reporting anal sex between the 2002 NSFG and the 1991 NSM may be related to the 11-year difference between the surveys, or the fact that the NSM estimate is based on a question covering ‘the last 10 years,’ rather than the entire lifetime to date.”

“Finally, these surveys also asked men whether they had ever had oral or anal sexual contact with another man. In the 1991 NSM, 2.3 percent reported having had sex with another man in the last 10 years. In the 1992 NHSLs, 4.9 percent of men reported same-gender sexual activity since age 18. In the 2002 NSFG, 6.2 percent of men 18-44 years of age reported ever having had oral or anal sex with another male up to this point in their lives. For women, 4.1 percent reported oral sex with another woman in the NHSLs (18-59 years of age in 1992). In the 2002 NSFG, 11.5 percent of women 18-44 years of age reported a ‘sexual experience’ with another woman.”

“In the NHSLs in 1992, 97 percent of men reported that they were heterosexual, 2.0 percent called themselves homosexual, and about 1 percent bisexual or something else. The General Social Survey did not collect data on sexual orientation.”

“In the 2002 NSFG, which was conducted 10 years later on a younger population (15-44 years of age rather than 18-59 years of age), 90 percent of males 18-44 years of age reported that they were heterosexual, 2.3 percent homosexual, 1.8 percent bisexual, and 3.9 percent something else; 1.8 percent did not answer the question. It appears that while the NSFG’s findings are generally similar to the other surveys, the NSFG has somewhat higher proportions reporting that their sexual orientation is ‘something else.’”

“NSFG data from 2002 indicate that 11 percent of women 15-44 years of age ever had a sexual experience with another woman (6.9 million); 4.4 percent of women (2.7 million) have had a same-sex partner in the last 12 months, and just 1.3 percent (800,000) had only had female partners in the last 12 months.”

“Looking at sexual orientation among women, based on the 2002 NSFG, about 90 percent answered heterosexual. The proportion of women who answered that they are homosexual was 1.3 percent, while 2.8 percent answered bisexual. The total of these two figures was 4.1 percent or about 2.3 million women 15-44 years of age. As with men, nearly 4 percent answered something else. The proportion of women who reported that they were attracted only or mostly to women was 1.5 percent; 1.9 percent of women said they were attracted to both sexes; and 10.2 percent of women said they were attracted ‘mostly’ (but not only) to males.”

“In each of the surveys, the proportion who answered heterosexual is at least 90 percent; the proportion who answered homosexual is about 1-2 percent of men and 1 percent of women; and the proportion bisexual ranges from about 1-3 percent.”

William D. Mosher, Anjani Chandra, and Jo Jones, “Sexual Behavior and Selected Health Measures: Men and Women 15-44 Years of Age, United States, 2002” U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

“A TEEN TWIST ON SEX”

“A new survey says many U.S. teens have engaged in oral sex—and it’s not just boys on the receiving end.”

“More than half the adolescents surveyed, for example, said they had engaged in oral sex. That proportion was about the same among boys and girls. And although you may assume that girls mostly perform and boys receive, the numbers show the give and take is again about equal.”

“Another surprise: about 11% of girls 15 to 19 say they have had at least one same-sex encounter—the same percentage that was found in women 18 to 44.”

Michael D. Lemonick, Time, September 19, 2005.

“ABORTION RESEARCHER CONFOUNDED BY STUDY”

“In the emotionally charged debate over abortion, no one could accuse Professor David Fergusson of ideological bias.”

“He is ‘pro-choice’ personally, but he admits his latest research - which suggests a strong link between abortion and mental illness - is liable to be used and misused as ammunition by the pro-life brigade.”

“Researchers found that at age 25, 42 per cent of women in the study group who had had an abortion also experienced major depression at some stage during the past four years.”

“This was nearly double the rate of those who had never been pregnant and 35 per cent higher than those who had chosen to continue a pregnancy.”

"Those having an abortion had elevated rates of subsequent mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, suicidal behaviours and substance use disorders,' said the researchers, whose study has been published in the *Journal of Child Psychiatry and Psychology*."

"The study - the largest of its kind internationally - is the latest analysis to come out of the Canterbury Health and Development Study, which has followed the progress of 1265 children born in Christchurch from mid-1977."

"Professor Fergusson, who leads the project, said the paper was declined by a number of journals, he suspects because of the 'controversial' nature of the topic."

"We went to four journals, which is very unusual for us - we normally get accepted the first time."

"It verges on scandalous that a surgical procedure that is performed on over one in 10 women has been so poorly researched and evaluated, given the debates about the psychological consequences of abortion."

In his letter to the committee, Professor Fergusson goes even further, saying his reading of the literature on abortion suggested it was 'one of the most methodologically flawed and illiterate' research areas he had ever encountered.

"The scientists working in the area mainly came from a 'pro-life' perspective, and they were often accused of making conclusions based on 'weak evidence and strong faith.'"

"But 'no one can accuse me of that,' he said this week with a laugh."

"I'm pro-choice but I've produced results which, if anything, favour a pro-life viewpoint."

"It's obvious I'm not acting out of any agenda except to do reasonable science about a difficult problem."

"The study has already been criticised for 'not being completely conclusive,' which he finds irritating."

"Because it's not 'completely conclusive', then they say we know nothing."

"But no science is completely conclusive - it's cumulative."

"Our study is strongly suggestive of a link between abortion and developing mental illness."

"What people should be saying is, 'This is interesting ... we need to invest more to answer this important question'."

"The researchers expected to find no evidence of harmful effects of abortion. But they found the opposite."

(Ruth Hill, "Abortion Researcher Confounded by Study," The New Zealand Herald, January 05, 2006.)

THE ELEPHANT IN THE LIVING ROOM

"Professor David Fergusson, director of the Christchurch Health and Development Study in New Zealand, is firmly pro-choice. But I suspect the good professor might understand if I point out that, lately, he's been getting a little taste of what it's like to be pro-life."

"Fergusson and two colleagues, L. John Horwood and Elizabeth Ridder, conducted a study on abortion and mental health. And they didn't find what they expected to find. Their report states, 'Those having an abortion [under age 25] had elevated rates of subsequent mental health problems including depression, anxiety, suicidal behaviours and substance use disorders.' Their report goes on to say, 'The findings suggest that abortion in young women may be associated with increased risks of mental health problems.'"

"Talk about irony. We're used to hearing about the 'mental health' aspects of abortion, of course—but usually, we're being told that a woman's mental health is in danger if she *doesn't* have an abortion. At the very least, this new study forces pro-choicers to question the all-too-common assumption, an assumption that now is putting young women in danger."

"My hat is off to Dr. Fergusson. Despite the controversy, and despite the fact that his results disagreed with his own beliefs, Fergusson was determined to publish them anyway. And he told the *Herald*, 'It verges on the scandalous that a surgical procedure this is performed on over one in 10 women has been so poorly researched and evaluated, given the debates about the psychological consequences of abortion.'"

("The Elephant in the Living Room," The New Zealand Abortion Study, February 24, 2006)

"STATE OF LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S PROGRAM ON ABSTINENCE"

“Health Crisis Fact Sheet”

“2003 “

- “In 1970 there were two major sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Today there are 25 major STDs.¹”
- “The U.S. population in 1970 was 205 million.² The number of STDs reported to public health was 692,8703 or about one out of every 300 Americans. The STDs were bacterial and curable.”
- “The U.S. population in 2000 was 275 million.² 70 million Americans had a viral, incurable STD⁴ --- 45 million with herpes⁵ and 25 million with HPV⁴ --- or about one out of every four Americans.”
- “The term "safe sex" first appeared in America in the 1980's in an attempt to alleviate the widespread fear of AIDS.⁶”
- “For every unwed teenager who gets pregnant this year, 10 teenagers will get an STD.⁷”
- “The estimated number of new cases each year for the four leading STDs are: HPV (5.5 million); Trichomoniasis (5 million); Chlamydia (3 million) and Genital Herpes (1 million).⁴”
- “There is no clinical proof that condoms, or other contraceptives, prevent HPV, Trichomoniasis, Chlamydia, and Genital Herpes.⁸”
- “One in ten teenage girls has chlamydia.⁹”
- “Nearly 50% of African-American teenagers have genital herpes.¹⁰”
- “85% of people with genital herpes have no clinical signs of infection.¹¹”
- “Today the most prevalent STD is the human papilloma virus (HPV). There will be 5.5 million new cases of HPV in America this year.⁴”
- “HPV can be spread by skin-to-skin contact. Condoms cannot protect against infection from HPV.¹²”

- “99.7% of all cervical cancer worldwide is caused by HPV.¹³ 5,000 American women will die this year from cervical cancer.^{1”}
- “Most cases of cervical cancer occur in women before the age of 25.^{14”}
- “More women die each year from HPV/cervical cancer than from HIV/AIDS.^{8”}
- “The number of high schoolers that have engaged in sex has decreased by 15% since 1990.^{5”}
- “For every \$1 spent on STD prevention, \$43 are spent on treatment.^{15”}
- “Sexually transmitted HIV represents just 0.13% (20,000) of all projected annual cases (15.3 million) of STDs.^{4,8”}
- “In 2001, 22.5% of white births, 68.6% of black births and 42.5% of Hispanic births were out of wedlock.^{16”}

-
1. “Thomas R. Eng and William T. Butler. "The Hidden Epidemic - Confronting Sexually Transmitted Disease." Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press 1997.”
 2. “U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2000. No. 2. Population: 1980 to 2000.”
 3. “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Summary of Notifiable Diseases, United States, 1997. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report; 46 (53). Atlanta, Georgia.”
 4. “‘STDs in America: How Many Cases and at What Cost?’ 1998, Menlo Park, CA. Kaiser Family Foundation and American Social Health Association.”
 5. “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. MMWR. Surveillance Summaries. June 28, 2002/51 (ss04)/ 1-64.”
 6. “‘Safe Sex’ – sexual activity in which precautions are taken to ensure that the risk of spreading sexually transmitted diseases (Especially AIDS) is minimized. The Oxford Dictionary of New Words. Oxford, New York, 1997, Oxford University Press.”

7. "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics Report, Vol.; 48 No. 18 Hyattsville, MD: 1999."
 8. "National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. Workshop Summary: Scientific Evidence on Condom Effectiveness for Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Prevention. July 20, 2001."
 9. "National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 'Tracking the Hidden Epidemics.' <http://www.cdc.gov>, 2000."
 10. "D.T. Fleming et al., "Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 in the United States, 1976 to 1994." New England Journal of Medicine 337 (1997): 1105-1160."
 11. "Lawrence Corey and H Hunter Handsfield, "Genital Herpes and Public Health." Journal of the American Medical Association 283 (2000): 7-33."
 12. "American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2000."
 13. "Journal of Pathology, 189 12-19 (1999)."
 14. "Robert Greenlee, Taylor Murray, Sherry Bolden, and Phyllis A. Wingo, 'Cancer Statistics, 2000.' CA : A Cancer Journal for Clinicians 50 (2000): 7-33."
 15. "Confronting a Hidden Epidemic: The Institute of Medicine's Report on Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Family Planning Perspectives, Alan Guttmacher Institute, March/ April 1997."
 16. "National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 'Births: Final Data for 2001.' <http://www.cdc.gov.nchs/releases/02news/prepare.html>"
- (State of Louisiana Governor's Program on Abstinence, Health Crisis Fact Sheet 2003, www.abstinencedu.com/explore.cfm/healthcrisisfact)

"ORAL SEX LINKED TO THROAT CANCER"

“HPV infection was found to be a much stronger risk factor than tobacco or alcohol use, the Johns Hopkins University study of 300 people found.”

“The New England Journal of Medicine study said the risk was almost nine times higher for people who reported oral sex with more than six partners.”

“HPV infections is the cause of the majority of cervical cancers, and 80 % of sexually active women can expect to have an HPV infection at some point in their lives.”

“Those who had evidence of prior oral HPV infection had a 32-fold increased risk of throat cancer.”

“Oral sex was said to be the main mode of transmission of HPV but the researchers said mouth-to-mouth transmission, for example through kissing, could not be ruled out.”

“Most HPV infections clear with little or no symptoms.”

(“Oral Sex Linked to Throat Cancer,” BBC News, May 10, 2007;
<http://bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/health/6639461.stm>).

“MORE TEENAGERS SAY NO TO SEX, AND EXPERTS AREN’T SURE WHY”

“Last week, CDC’s annually tally of birth statistics showed that the teen birthrate has declined 30 percent over 10 years to a historic low of 43 per 1,000. African-American teenagers showed the sharpest drop, down more than 40 percent since 1991. For black teens ages 15-17, the rate dropped by half – 40 births per 1,000 in 2002 versus 83.6 per 1,000 in 1991.”

(Linda Villarosa, “More Teenagers Say No to Sex, and Experts Aren’t Sure Why,” CDC HIV/STD/TB Prevention News Update, December 23, 2003,
www.ncsddc.org/stdnews.htm)

“CHANGING ATTITUDES FUELING DROP IN TEEN PREGNANCY”

“Sex education, family experience likely shape views”

“More than half of all male high school students reported in 2001 that they were virgins, up from 39 percent in 1990. Among the sexually active, condom use has soared to 65 percent for all male students.”

(Nina Bernstein, “Changing attitudes fueling drop in teen pregnancy,” Chicago Tribune, March 7, 2004, pg. 17)

“TEEN GIRLS TRYING CASUAL SEX, EXPERTS SAY”

“Abstinence on rise, but bold behavior also increasing”

“The percentage of high-schoolers who have had sex fell from 54 percent in 1991 to 45 percent in 2001, says the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

“The percentage of high school students who say they have had four or more sex partners dropped from 18 to 14 percent over that time.”

“Among them are teen girls who are having sex with boys they barely know or have no interest in dating seriously.”

“They call it ‘hooking up.’ Or having a ‘sex buddy.’”

“‘Some people call it ‘friends with benefits,’ said one 16-year-old student at Olympic High in southwest Charlotte. ‘It’s like, you’re not emotionally attached, you’re physically attached,’ said the teen, who didn’t want her name revealed.”

“Charlotte parent Bruce Yelton said he has heard teenagers describe such encounters in emotionless terms. He works for an educational research firm that occasionally uses surveys and focus groups to gather information on various subjects, including teen attitudes toward sex.”

“‘When these kids were talking about what they had done, it was just so cold,’ he said. ‘It was like, ‘We stripped,’ or ‘We had oral sex.’ It was like it has no more significance than blowing your nose or going to the bathroom. It’s sex devoid of emotional content.’”

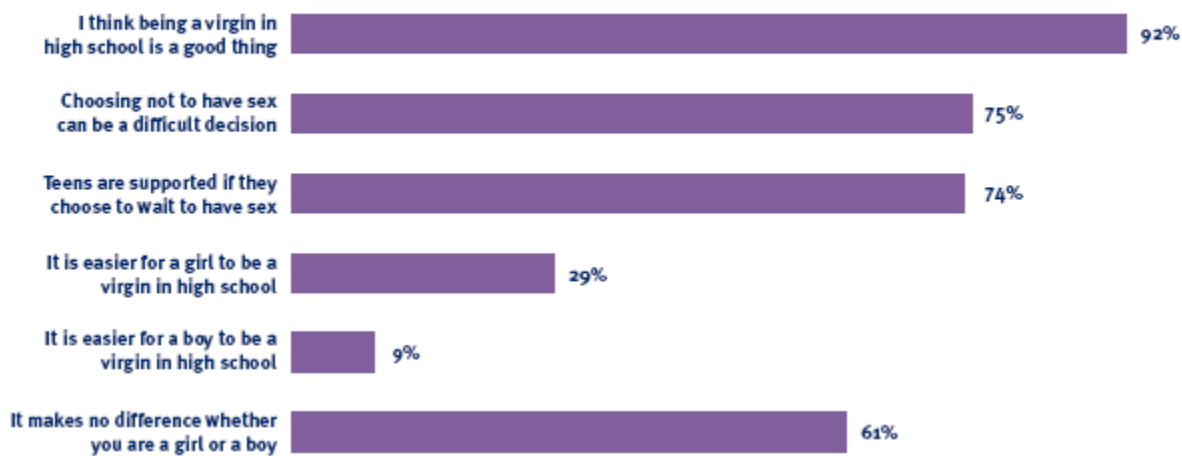
“10 Tips For Parents”

- “Be clear about your values. Talk with your children early and often about sex, and be specific.”
- “Supervise and monitor your children’s whereabouts.”
- “Know your children’s friends and their families.”

- “Discourage early and frequent dating.”
 - “Don’t let your daughter date significantly older boys; don’t let your son date significantly younger girls.”
 - “Help your child develop options for the future that are more attractive than early pregnancy and parenthood.”
 - “Let your kids know you highly value education.”
 - “Know what your kids are watching, reading, and listening to.”
 - Build strong, close relationships with your children from an early age.”
- (Source: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (www.teenpregnancy.org))

(Eric Frazier, “Teen girls trying casual sex, experts say,” Colorado Springs Gazette, June 21, 2003)

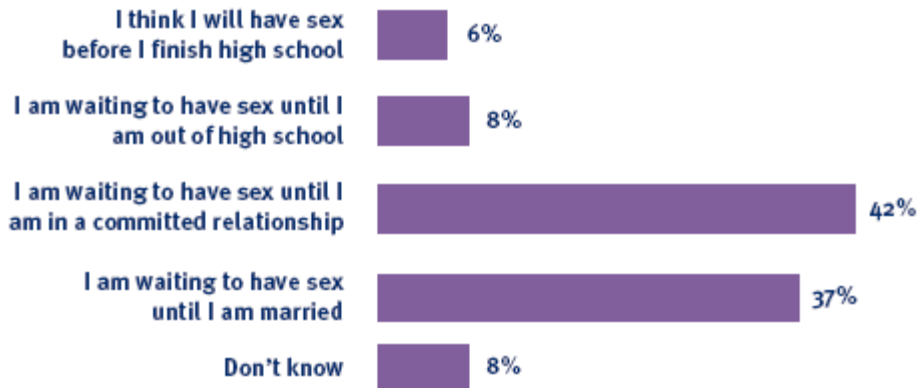
FIGURE 1. Attitudes About Virginit
Percent of all teens 15-17 who agree with the following statements:



“VIRGINITY AND THE FIRST TIME”

FIGURE 2. Waiting, But How Long?

Percent of teens 15-17 who have not had sex who said the following best matches their *personal* decision about sex:



“Contributing to these varied perceptions about sex may be that young people often have differing views about what constitutes sex. When it comes to defining virginity, teens are evenly divided on whether or not oral sex is ‘sex.’ Half say no (50%), half say yes (48%).”

“Virginity and Waiting”

“Teens overwhelmingly value virginity and waiting, regardless of their personal decision. More than nine in 10 agree that being a virgin is a ‘good thing.’ (Figure 1).

“Why Wait?”

“So what are they waiting for? Generally, teens agree that monogamy and maturity are central to their decision-making. When asked what age is it appropriate to lose your virginity, teens most frequently said 18 or when you are married. Among teens surveyed *who had not had sex*, over three-fourths agreed that they were waiting to have sex when they are in a committed relationship or married.” (Figure 2).

“Teens agree that delaying sex has a variety of personal benefits, ranging from respect to personal control. More than nine in 10 note that abstaining from sexual activity in high school results in having respect for yourself and enjoying the respect of your family. (Figure 3). Waiting also leads teens to feel like they are in control of their relationships,

and are behaving consistently with their moral or religious beliefs. Lower on the list, but still significant, is respect from friends. General worry or concern about sexual health risks were also considerable.”

FIGURE 3. Why Wait?

Percent of all teens 15-17 who agree with the following statements about the benefits of waiting to have sex:

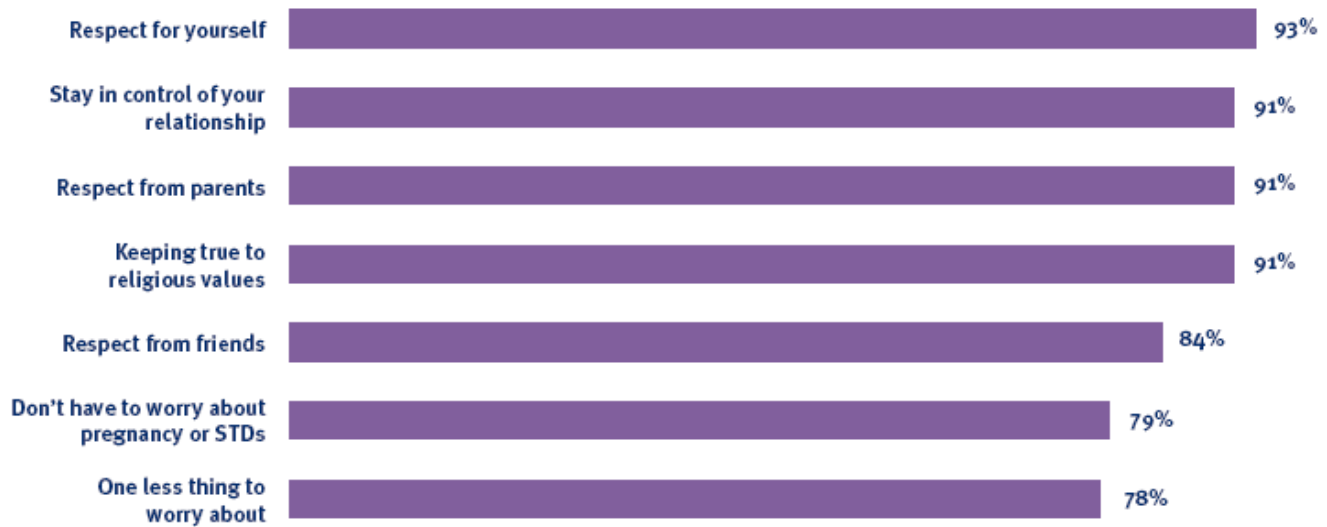


FIGURE 4. The Right Time

Percent of all teens 15-17 who personally agree that the following is the age when it is OK to lose (your) virginity:

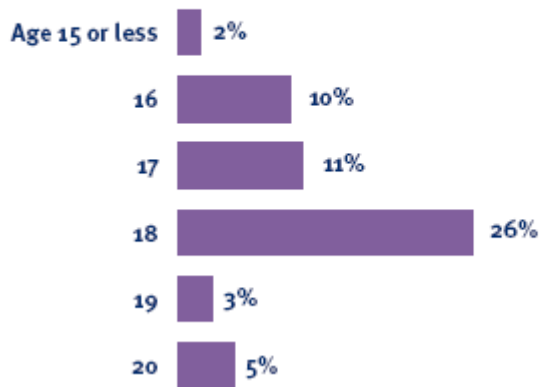


FIGURE 5. Decision-Making: Saying No

Percent of teens 15-17 who have not had sex who personally agree that the following has influenced their decision not to have sex:

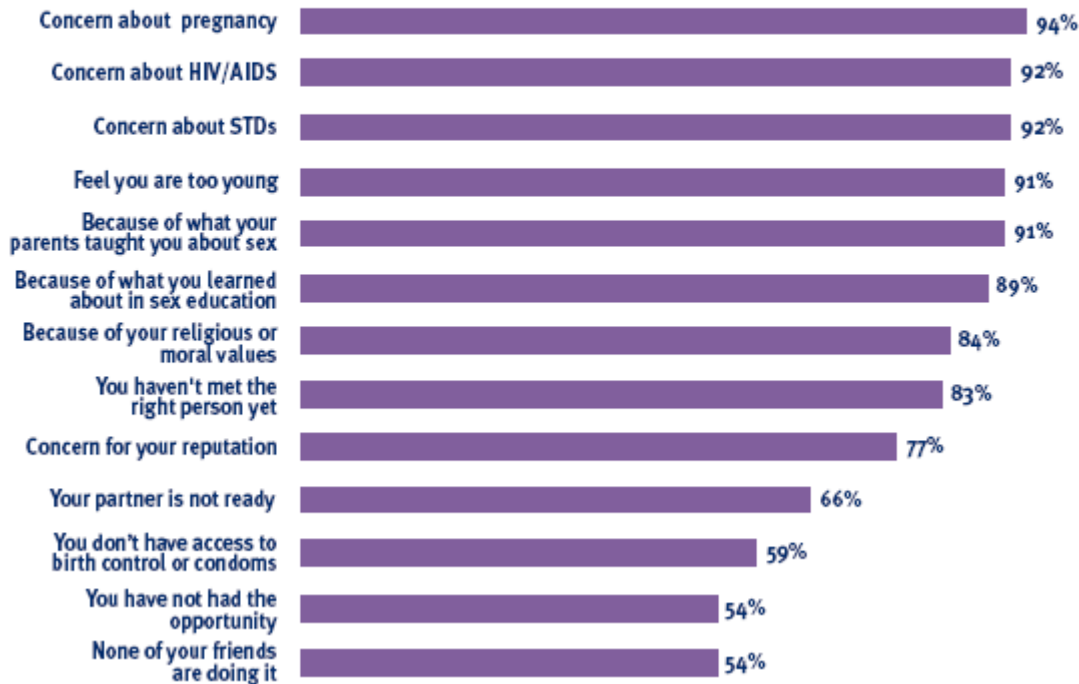
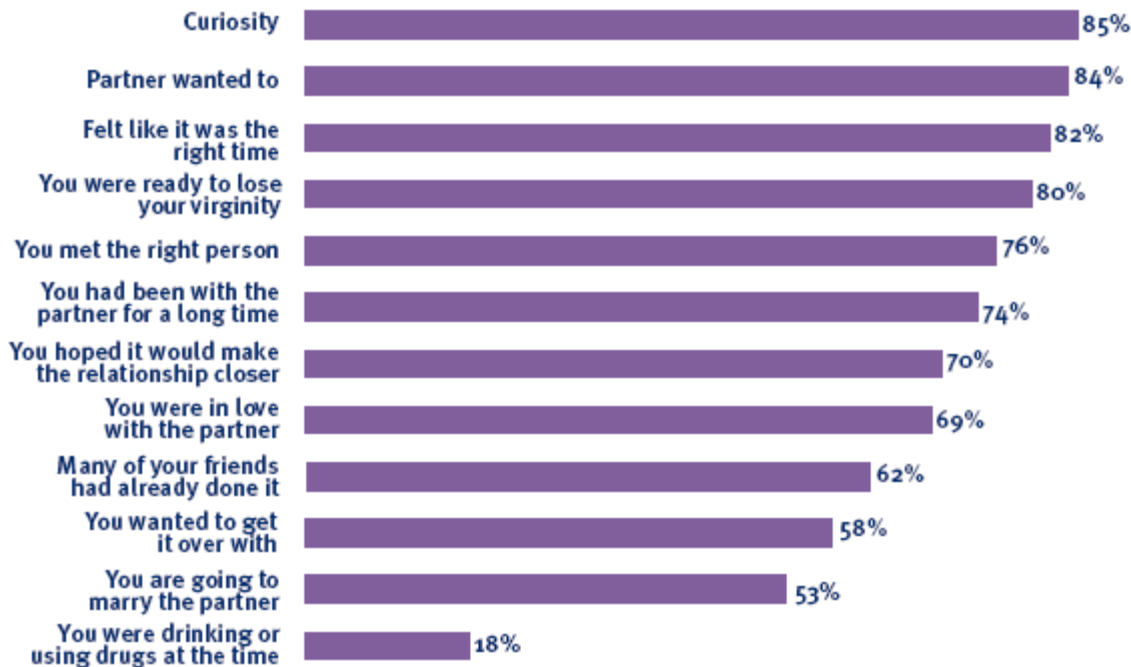


FIGURE 6. Decision-Making: Saying Yes

Percent of teens 15-17 who have had sex who personally agree that the following has influenced their decision to have sex:



“Over sixty percent said their friends’ sexual activity had influenced them, and nearly one in five were using drugs or drinking at the time. Nearly six in 10 ‘wanted to get it over

with.’ And, substantial numbers had mixed feelings about their decision. Half of teens who were sexually active (49%) wish they had waited until they were older to have sex. About one in four would change their first partner (25%) if they could, and a similar number (28%) regrets the decision to have sex altogether.”

(“Virginity and The First Time: A Series of National Surveys of Teens About Sex,” The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Seventeen Magazine, October 2003, www.kff.org)

“TEENS VIEWS ON HAVING SEX SEEN AS ‘HUGELY HELPFUL”

“The study analyzed data on 1,909 sexually active teens in grades 7 through 12 tracked in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health...”

“Looking back on the first time they had intercourse, 85% of sexually active teens viewed their relationship as a ‘romantic’ involvement rather than a casual fling, says a new study from Child Trends, a group that researches children and families.”

“More than half (61%) of those who claimed a romantic relationship had intercourse within three months. ‘The important message to parents is these romantic relationships transition to sex early on, and they have a small window of opportunity’ to influence teens’ behavior, says study co-author Suzanne Ryan.”

“The study raises some alarms: About 25% experienced some form of abuse in their first sexual relationship. Verbal abuse included some name-calling and insults; physical abuse included pushing, shoving, throwing objects. Hispanics (17%) were the most likely to experience physical abuse.”

(www.usatoday.com/news/health/2003-08-06-teen-sex-survey_x.htm)

“MANY YOUNG PEOPLE REGRET EARLY SEXUAL ACTIVITY”

“In a 1994 Roper Starch study of more than 500 high schoolers, 62 percent of the sexually-experienced girls (and 54 percent of all teens who have had sex at least once) said that they ‘should have waited.’ The Roper Starch study, which also reported a significant decline in sexual experience among teens, was conducted in association with SIECUS, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States. (Roper Starch Organization, ‘Teens Talk About Sex: Adolescent Sexuality in the ‘90s’ April 11-25, pg. 25.)”

“When a recent Emory University survey asked 1,000 sexually-experienced teen girls what they would like to learn to reduce teen pregnancy, nearly 85 percent said, ‘How to say no without hurting the other person’s feelings.’ (M. Howard and J.B. McCabe, ‘Helping Teenagers Postpone Sexual Involvement,’ Family Planning Perspectives, Vol. 22, No. 1, 1990, pp. 21-26.).

“A 1994 survey of 500 women conducted by EDK Associates and Redbook magazine found that roughly two-thirds (64 percent) of the 500 women surveyed ‘would want to be a virgin if they were getting married today.’ Thirty-one percent took the opposite view. Of the women who participated in the survey, 42 percent were virgins at marriage, 41 percent were sexually experienced at marriage, and the rest had not yet married. Thus, some of those who now say virginity at marriage is best were sexually experience prior to marriage. Whether these women came to regret their premarital sexual experience before or after their wedding day is not known. (Drew Reid Kerr, ‘Celibacy is Sexier than Sex: Two Out of Three Women Would Rather Be a Virgin if Married Today,’ Redbook press release, August, 1994).”

(www.abstinence.net/library/index.php?entryid=146, March 28, 2003)

“RURAL BLACK TEENS HAVE RISKIER SEX THAN URBAN COUNTERPARTS”

“A new nationwide study of black teens concludes that those living in rural areas engage in more risky sexual behaviors than their counterparts in urban areas.”

(www.cfah.org/hbns/news/rural07-28-03.cfm, July 28, 2003)

“DEPRESSING DECISION”

“Does premarital sex depress teenagers? A Heritage Foundation study, released last week, found a strong correlation between sexual activity and teenage depression. The study, based on data in the 1996 National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health, found that:”

- “25.3 percent of sexually active teenage girls said they were often depressed, compared to 7.7 percent of girls who had not had sexual intercourse.”

- “14.3 percent of sexually active girls had attempted suicide, compared to 5.1 percent of sexually inactive girls. Six percent of sexually active boys had attempted suicide versus only 0.7 percent of boys who had not had sexual intercourse.”

“Correlation doesn’t always equal causation: Lead researcher Rober Rector told USA Today that it’s ‘really impossible to prove’ that the sexual activity caused the depression. But the study certainly casts doubt on the idea that premarital sex is a path to happiness and fulfillment.”

(World, June 14, 2003, p16)

"TEENS SEXUALLY ACTIVE"

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that approximately 10,000,000 teens are sexually active in the U.S.”

“Almost 1-in-3 of sexually active teens get a new sexually transmitted disease each year.”

(The Medical Institute for Sexual Health, letter from June 1997)

“Minors who have sex in their parents’ homes—even when their parents object to it—have a right to privacy that supersedes Mom and Dad’s authority, the Georgia Supreme Court has ruled.”

In a unanimous decision in January, the court said a 16-year-old girl and her 17-year-old boyfriend had a ‘fundamental constitutional right to be ‘let alone’’ in the girl’s bedroom. The two were having sex when the girl’s mother entered the room; charges were filed under Georgia’s 130-year-old fornication statute, a little-enforced law that prohibits sex between unmarried people.”

““Courts have described Georgia’s right to privacy as, among other things, ‘the protection of the individual from unnecessary public scrutiny’...and ‘the right to define one’s circle of intimacy,’ Chief Justice Norman S. Fletcher wrote in his majority opinion.”

“The girl was clearly trying to keep the tryst private, Fletcher added, because she propped a stool against the door in an unsuccessful attempt to keep her mother out.”

“‘To say that a 16-year-old, by putting a chair under the door, is entitled to have sex in her parent’s home, is ludicrous,’ said Sadie Fields, state chairman of the Christian Coalition of Georgia. ‘Parental rights are becoming less and less supported than the state’s decision on how our children can behave and how we can raise them.’”

“To stem that tide, Fields said when the Peach State holds its next Supreme Court election in 2004, the Christian Coalition will produce a guide letting voters know where justices and justice hopefuls stand on family issues. She encouraged activists in other states to do the same.”

“‘It’s our understanding [that legally] we can ask questions based on previous decisions, not anything that might be coming up,’ Fields said. ‘Anything that helps voters not go into the voting booths blind will be a benefit.’”

(Citizen Magazine, April, 2003, p7)

“SURVEY: TEENS FEEL PRESSURED TO HAVE SEX”

“Separate study: 1 in 5 have sex before 15”

“Waiting to have sex is a nice idea, teenagers say, but they believe hardly anyone does it.”

“Surveys have found that nearly two in three teens will have had sex by the time they graduate from high school. The Kaiser survey shows that many have intimate relationships before that, with more than half of 15-to-17-year-olds saying they have been with someone in a sexual way. Among teens who have not yet had sex, nearly a third say they have been ‘intimate’ with a partner.”

“The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy found that about in five teens report having sex before they turn 15 years old. That report, a compilation of data from earlier surveys, also found that younger teen girls who are sexually experienced were more likely than older teens to say they wished they had waited to have sex.”

“One in three boys ages 15-17 say they feel pressure to have sex, compared with 23 percent of girls. The pressure to drink alcohol was greater for both boys and girls’ pressure to use drugs was about even with pressure to have sex.”

“Overall, 63 percent of all 15-17-year-olds agreed either strongly or somewhat that ‘waiting to have sex is a nice idea but nobody really it,’ with boys 6 percentage points more likely to say so.”

“The survey also found:”

- “More than eight in 10 teens say that a lot or some people their age drink or use drugs before having sex.”
- “About a quarter said that alcohol or drugs had influenced their decision to do something sexual at least once.”
- “More than half of teens believe oral sex is not as big a deal as sexual intercourse, with boys more likely to believe this. Four in 10 consider oral sex ‘safer sex,’ although some diseases can be transmitted this way.”

(“Survey: Teens feel pressured to have sex,” CNN.com, May 21, 2003)

“SEXUAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES”

“Introduction”

“This good news is off-set by the fact that 10 percent of girls between 15 and 19 become pregnant, nearly two-thirds of high school seniors have had sex, and an alarming percentage of sexually active adolescents and young adults engage in unsafe sexual behaviors. (1) Nearly one in four sexually active young people contract a sexually transmitted disease (STD) every year (2), and one-half of all new HIV infections in this country occur among people under the age of 25.”(3)

“The survey builds on a nationally representative sample of more than 1,800 young people in three key age groups – **young adolescents** (ages 13-14), **adolescents** (ages 15-17), and **young adults** (ages 18-24) – representative oversamples of racial and ethnic subgroups.”

“The report’s key findings reveal that young people are more concerned about sex and sexual health than any other health issues in their lives. Young people also feel great pressure to have sex, with a majority saying that while putting off sex may be a ‘nice idea, nobody really does.’”

“While three-fourths of sexually active adolescents engage in oral sex, one-fifth of adolescents are unaware that STDs can be transmitted through this activity.”

“Summary of Key Findings”

“Sexual issues dominate the concerns of young people”

“More young people say that sexual health issues – namely STDs, HIV/AIDS, and unintended pregnancy – are ‘big concerns’ for people their age than any other issue. And perhaps more importantly, four in five adolescents and young adults – including 79 percent of those who are not sexually active – say they are personally concerned about how sexual health issues may affect them.”

“Young people report considerable pressure to have sex”

“Across the age spectrum, young people report considerable pressure to have sex. For both adolescents and young adults pressure to have sex is exceeded only by pressure to drink, and nearly a third of adolescents say that they have experienced pressure to have sex. These pressures are even greater among those who are sexually active, and adolescent males report experiencing more pressure to have sex than their female peers.”

“The pressures that young people feel in regard to sex may be reflected in the attitudes they hold toward sexual activity, what they report about their own sexual behavior, and the health risks they take. Three in five adolescents and young adults state that while delaying sex may be a ‘nice idea, nobody really does,’ and 9 percent of sexually active adolescents say that they were 13 or younger when they first had sexual intercourse.”

“A third of adolescents have engaged in oral sex, but one in five are unaware that oral sex can transmit STDs”

“The survey also indicates that oral sex plays an important role in the sexual lives of America’s young people and suggests that many adolescents and young adults are unaware of the serious health risks associated with this type of sexual contact. While a third of adolescents (including three-fourths of sexually active adolescents) say they have engaged in oral sex, one in five does not know that STD transmission can occur through oral sex and two in five considers oral sex to be ‘safer sex.’ About a quarter of sexually active adolescents also report engaging in oral sex as a strategy to avoid sexual intercourse. And more than two in five do not consider it to be as big of a deal as sexual intercourse.”

“Pregnancy remains a serious concern for young people and many have faced pregnancy scares or been pregnant themselves.”

“The survey data show that seven in 10 sexually active young adults and four in 10 sexually active adolescents have had a pregnancy test or have had a partner who took a

pregnancy test, and nearly two in five young adults and 8 percent of adolescents report that they or a partner have been pregnant.”

“Young people report alcohol and drugs often play a dangerous role in their sex lives”

“Another significant challenge to communication and decision-making in regard to sex is the strong role that alcohol and drugs play in sexual activity. This report shows that four out of five adolescents believe that people their age usually drink or use drugs before having sex. It also reveals that almost a third of young adults have ‘done more’ sexually under the influence of alcohol and drugs than they planned while sober and more than one in five sexually active young people report having engaged in unprotected sex while intoxicated.”

“Many young people have serious misconceptions about STDs and HIV/AIDS”

“While three-quarters of adolescents and young adults say they know at least ‘something’ about STDs and HIV/AIDS and one-quarter say they know ‘a lot,’ half of those surveyed did not know that 25 percent of sexually active young people contract an STD, and one-third were unaware that people their age account for 50 percent of all new HIV infections. And while most adolescents and young adults are aware that STDs can cause serious health problems, between one-fifth and three-fifths of those surveyed do not know the specific complications of certain diseases. There are also dangerous gaps in young people’s knowledge of STD transmission; one-fifth of young people believe they would simply ‘know’ if someone else had an STD even if they were not tested, and one-sixth believe that STD transmission can only occur when obvious symptoms are present.”

“Many young people are misinformed about the relative protection that condoms and other birth-control measures provide”

“One in five young people believe that birth control pills offer protection from STDs and HIV/AIDS.”

“When it comes to sex and relationships young people say they get their information from a variety of places including their parents, sex education, friends, and the media.”

“Among adolescents, the top three sources of information are sex education in school, friends, and parents. These sources are followed closely by media sources like television, the movies, magazines, and the Internet. Young adults also stress the importance of friends, the media, and boyfriends and girlfriends as their most important sources of information.”

“Young people express a strong desire for more information about sex and sexual health.”

“More than three-quarters of adolescents and young adults express a need for more information about sexual health topics. They are especially concerned with how to recognize STDs and HIV/AIDS infection, what STD and HIV testing involves, and where they can go to get tested.”

“While young adolescents (13- to 14-year-olds) are less sexually active, they are deeply concerned about relationships and sexual health issues.”

“The survey found that even among 13- and 14-year-olds – the majority of whom are not yet sexually active – there is strong concern about sex and relationships. Four in five say they are personally concerned about sexual health issues, and three-quarters say they have concerns about sexual violence or other physical violence in relationships.”

I. “SEXUAL HEALTH: GENERAL ATTITUDES, CONCERNS AND PRESSURES”

“Issues Facing Adolescents and Young Adults”

“It is estimated that a quarter of Americans living with HIV/AIDS became infected before they turned 20 years old. (4) And more than 4 million new cases of STDs occur among young people each year. (5)”

“Significantly more young people report being personally worried about a sexual health issue than report concern about any other issue, including being the victim of violence, being the victim of discrimination, and the health risks of smoking. Young African Americans, Asians, and Latinos report being more *personally concerned* about these issues than their white counterparts.”

“Among adolescents, only pressure to drink is named by more, and pressure to have sex is comparable to pressure to use drugs or smoke cigarettes. Among young adults, pressure around sex is second only to pressure related to drugs or smoking.”

“Attitudes and Expectations About Sex and Relationships”

“A majority of young people say that there is pressure to have sex by a certain age. And they say that if you have been ‘seeing someone for a while,’ sex is generally expected. Nearly two-thirds of adolescents and young adults think delaying sex may be a ‘nice idea,

but nobody really does.’ And over half agree that once you do have sex it is harder to say ‘no’ the next time.”

“Young African Americans and Latinos are more likely to than other groups to say abstinence is not a realistic option for young people today compared to whites and Asians. Compared to whites, African Americans, Latinos, and Asians say they are less likely to feel pressure to have sex again once a relationship has become sexual.”

“Sexual Activity”

“More than half of adolescents report having been with someone in what they would describe as ‘an intimate or sexual way,’ including – but not limited to – sexual intercourse. In fact, among adolescents who have not yet had intercourse nearly one-third report having been ‘intimate’ with a partner.”

“More than a third of adolescents surveyed report having had sexual intercourse, including more than 40 percent of boys and one-third of girls. One in 10 sexually active adolescents report they first had sex when they were 13 or younger. Two in five sexually active adolescents report having had one sexual partner. One in 10 report having had six or more partners.”

“Four in five young adults [18 – 24 years old] have had intercourse or are currently married or living as married, and 70 percent of young adults report currently being in a sexual relationship. One in five sexually active young adults have had one partner, two in five have had between two and five partners, and one in four have had six or more sexual partners. Eight percent of sexually active young adults report first having sex when they were 13 or younger, one-quarter between the ages of 14 and 15, 41 percent when they were ages 16 to 17, and one-quarter when they were 18 or older.”

“Adolescents and Oral Sex”

“Overall, more than one-third of adolescents report having had oral sex. Among sexually active adolescents three-fourths also report having engaged in oral sex, while 13 percent of adolescents who have not had intercourse report having oral sex.”

“Sexually active girls are twice as likely as sexually active boys to report having had oral sex to avoid intercourse.”

“It is noteworthy that close to half of adolescents believe oral sex is ‘not as big a deal’ as sexual intercourse, a view held by more males than females. The widely held opinion that oral sex is somehow less important or intimate than intercourse, may suggest that the behavior is going on more frequently than survey respondents are reporting.”

“Sexual Activity Trends”

“According to the **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)** about half of all 9 – 12th grade students have had sexual intercourse, reflecting a *decline* during the last decade from 54.1 percent in 1991 to 45.6 percent in 2001. Males are slightly *more likely* than females to report having had sex. (8) The percentage of high school students who have had sexual intercourse increases by grade: In 2001, 60.5 percent of 12th graders had had sexual intercourse, compared with 39 percent of 9th graders.” (9)

“By the time they reach their early 20’s, roughly nine in ten people report having had sexual intercourse (90% of men and 89% of women aged 20 to 24).” (10)

“The median age at first intercourse is 16.5 years. There is little difference between the age of first intercourse reported by females (16.5) and males (16.4).” (11)

“The percentage of 9 – 12th grade students who had initiated *sexual intercourse before age 13* has fluctuated in recent years, from 10.2 percent in 1991 to 7.2 percent in 1997 to 6.6 percent in 2001. (12) Males (9.3%) are *more likely* than females (4%) to report having sex at early ages.” (13)

“Close to one in four sexually active young people say they have done something sexual they didn’t really want to at some point and a third report having ever been in a situation where things were moving faster sexually than they felt ready for. Females are *more likely* to report having had these experiences as compared with males. One in five report having used oral sex to put off sexual intercourse at some point. Sexually active adolescents females are more likely than their male counter parts to report this experience.”

“Substance Use and Risky Sexual Behavior”

“Young people say that alcohol and drugs often go hand in hand with sexual activity. More than four out of five adolescents say ‘people their age drink or use drugs before having sex’ at least ‘sometimes,’ including 40 percent who say this happens ‘a lot.’ Young adults are even *more likely* to say this is the case. In spite of the risks, about one in five still say it is ‘not that big a deal’ if sex and substance use are mixed.”

“HIV/AIDS and other STDs: Attitudes, knowledge and Behavior”

“HIV/AIDS and other STDs have a disproportionate impact on young people. Two-thirds of STDs occur among people 25 and younger, and about a quarter of all new STD cases occur in young people 15- to 19-years old. (20) As many as half of all new HIV infections

are estimated to occur among young people under the age of 25 – and more than a quarter of Americans living with HIV/AIDS became infected during their teen years.” (21)

“Misinformation and Misperceptions”

“While more than 90 percent of young people are aware that STDs have some serious health effects, many know little about the specifics. Although millions of men, women, and adolescents are affected by long-term complications of STDs, including a variety of cancers, infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and miscarriage, other chronic diseases, and increased susceptibility to HIV, (22) between one in five and three in five young people are unaware of these consequences. Three in five say they ‘do not know’ STDs can cause cancer or believe that they do not. More are aware of the potential impact on their fertility and that it increases one’s risk for HIV infection.”

“Young Adolescents”

“Young adolescents (those aged 13 to 14) are also worrying about relationships and sexual health. Seven in 10 say that sexual violence or other physical violence is a concern for their peers as well as sexual health issues such as HIV/AIDS, STDs, and pregnancy.”

“When it comes to sex and relationships, more than half of young adolescents say that while waiting to have sex is a nice idea, nobody really does. About the same number also say that once you have had sex it is harder to say no the next time and that there is pressure to have sex by a certain age. Almost one-quarter of young adolescents also say that it is expected that you will have sex if you have been seeing someone for a while.”

“References”

- (1) “Kaiser Family Foundation *Fact Sheet* Teen Sexual Activity, January 2003.
- (2) Kaiser Family Foundation *Fact Sheet* Teen Sexual Activity, January 2003.
- (3) Kaiser Family Foundation *Fact Sheet* Teen Sexual Activity, January 2003.
- (4) Kaiser Family Foundation *HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet* The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the United States, July 2002.
- (5) American Social Health Association and Kaiser Family Foundation, Sexually Transmitted Diseases in America: How Many Cases and at What Cost? December 1998.
- (8) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001.
- (9) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States 2001 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 51(4) June 2002, Atlanta, Georgia.
- (10) Darroch J. Landry D. and Oslak S., Pregnancy rates among U.S. women and their

- partners in 1994. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 1999, 31:122-126 and 136.
- (11) Warren, C.W., Santelli, J.S., Everett, S.A., Kann, L., Collins, J.L., Cassell, C., Morris, L., Kolbe, L.J. Sexual behavior among U.S. high school students, 1990-1995 *Family Planning Perspectives*, 30(4) July/August 1998.
- (12) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1999, 2001.
- (13) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 2001 *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 51 (4) June 2002, Atlanta, Georgia.
- (20) American Social Health Association and Kaiser Family Foundation, Sexually Transmitted Diseases in America: How Many Cases and at What Cost? December 1998.
- (21) Kaiser Family Foundation. *HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet* The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the United States. July 2002.
- (22) National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. *Whatever Happened to Childhood? The Problem of Teen Pregnancy in the United States*. Washington, D.C. 1997”
- (2003 National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults: “Sexual Health Knowledge, Attitudes and Experiences,” The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, publication #3218, www.kff.org)

“14 AND YOUNGER: THE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR OF YOUNG ADOLESCENTS”

“SUMMARY “

“Why Care About Sexual Activity Among Young Teenagers?”

- “While the proportion of unmarried teen girls age 15-19 who have had sexual intercourse decreased between 1988 and 1995, the proportion of unmarried teen girls who have had sexual intercourse at 14 and younger increased appreciably during the same time period (Terry & Manlove, 2000).”
- “A recent national survey found that the younger a girl was the first time she had sex, the more likely it was to have been unwanted (Moore, Driscoll, & Lindberg, 1998).”

- “A 2002 public opinion poll found that 81% of sexually experienced youth age 12-14 wish they had waited longer to have sex, compared to 55% of sexually experienced 15- to 19-year-olds (The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2002).”
- “Based on data collected (1996-1997) in seven cities as part of an evaluation of the Children’s Aid Society (CAS)-Carrera program. It is one of the few surveys that have asked youth in this age group about oral and anal sex. Such data are important because there is some concern – and some evidence – that adolescents are increasingly engaged in such behaviors (Remez, 2000).”

“Results”

“Nearly one in five adolescents has had sex before his or her 15th birthday.”

“The National Picture”

“Estimates from the three nationally representative data sets of the proportion of youth who have had sex at age 14 or younger are remarkably similar. Overall, these data indicate that 18-19% of youth have had sexual intercourse at age 14 or younger. Percentages increase with age – at age 12, 4-5% have had sex, increasing to 10% at age 13, and 18-19% at age 14. Boys are more likely than girls to have had sex at an early age. At age 12, 2-4% of girls and 6-8% of boys were sexually experienced. At age 14, 14-20% of girls and 20-22% of boys were sexually experienced.”

“Results in a Box”

“Sexual Experience”

- “Approximately one in five adolescents has had sexual intercourse before his or her 15th birthday.”
- “Boys age 14 and younger are slightly more likely to have had sex than girls the same age.”

“Frequency of Sex”

- “A substantial proportion of teens age 14 and younger who have had sex are not currently sexually active.”

- “According to one of the national surveys (NLSY), approximately half of sexually experienced 14-year-olds have had sex 0-2 times in the past 12 months.”

“Pregnancy”

- “Approximately one in seven sexually experienced 14-year-old girls reports having been pregnant.”

“Dating”

- “A significant proportion of those age 12-14 report having been on a date (two-fifths in the NLSY survey) or having a romantic relationship in the past 18 months (half in Add Health).
- “Significant minorities of youth age 14 and under report a romantic relationship with someone three or more years older (girls far more than boys).”
- “Relationships with a significantly older partner – compared with those with someone only slightly older, the same age, or younger – are much more likely to be sexual.”

“Pressure”

- “More than one in ten girls who first have had sex before age 15 describe it as non-voluntary and many more describe it as relatively unwanted.”

“Other Risky Behavior”

- “Sexually experienced youth age 14 and younger are much more likely to smoke, use drugs and alcohol, and participate in delinquent activities than youth who have not had sex.”

“Parents”

- “In general, parents report talking a moderate amount with their children age 12-14 about sex and related issues, although their children recall less communication than the parents claim.”
- “Parents are more likely to have spoken with their daughters than with their sons about sex and related issues.”

- “Parents tend to be unaware of what their children are actually doing sexually – only about a third of parents of sexually experienced 14-year-olds know that their child has had sex.”

“Romantic relationship with older partners were much more likely to include intercourse – 13% of relationships between same age partners included intercourse, compared to 26% of relationships with a partner who was 2 years older, 33% of relationships with a partner who was 3 years older, and 47% of relationships with a partner who was 4 or more years older. In the NSFG, only 8% of girls who first had voluntary sex at age 14 or younger did so with a partner who was the same age or younger, compared to 24% of girls who first had sex at age 15 or older. One in six girls who had voluntary sex at age 14 or younger reported that her first partner was 5 or more years older.”

“Add Health also makes clear that, overall, the romantic relationships of young adolescents are of relatively short duration. For example, 25% of relationships among youth age 12-14 ended after 3 months, 50% ended after 6 months, and 75% ended after 15 months. On the other hand, *sexual* romantic relationships in this age group tended to be of longer durations than non-sexual ones; a quarter lasted two years or longer. Over a quarter of sexually experienced youth age 12-14 (27%) also reported multiple recent sexual partners in the past 18 months, which implies, among other things, an increased risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).”

“Additional Information from Local Data”

“Among 14-year-olds, 30% of girls and 73% of boys whose oldest ‘serious boyfriend or girlfriend’ was 2 or more years older were sexually experienced, compared to 13% of girls and 29% of boys whose oldest partner was no more than one year older.”

“Many young adolescents experience pressure to have sex.”

“Thirteen percent of girls in the NSFG who first had sex at age 14 or younger described it as nonvoluntary, clearly a cause for concern. Even among those who classified their first sexual experience as voluntary, girls who had sex at age 14 or younger were significantly more likely to say that it was relatively unwanted, compared to girls who had sex for the first time at age 15 or older.”

“Additional Information from Local Data”

“The questions in Draw the Line about the acceptability of sexual pressure found that a substantial proportion of youth feel it’s ‘okay’ for someone to pressure a partner for sex if the couple has had sex before. Boys were much more likely to think so than girls: for example, 34% of boys thought it would be okay for a boy to pressure a girl to have sex if they had had sex before, while only 14% of girls thought that such pressure would be

okay. Boys were more likely to agree that it is okay for a girl to pressure for sex than for a boy to pressure (34% agreed that it is okay for boys to pressure vs. 42% who agreed that it is okay for girls to pressure). Girls, on the other hand, were equally as likely to agree that either boys or girls can pressure a partner for sex (14% said it is okay for boys to pressure and 15% said it is okay for girls to pressure).”

“Sexually experienced young adolescents are also engaging in other risky behavior.”

“Seven percent of youth used alcohol the first time they had sex, and 6% used alcohol the most recent time they had sex.”

“17% of girls and 11% of boys age 14 and younger said that, because of alcohol, they had been in a sexual situation they later regretted.”

“These data sets do no shed much light on the extent to which young adolescents are engaging in oral sex and other sexual behavior.”

“The National Picture”

“In the Add Health survey, 12% of virgins age 12-14 reported that a relationship in the past 18 months included ‘touching under clothes,’ and 6% of virgins age 12-14 reported that touching genital occurred within at least one of their recent romantic relationships. But neither Add Health nor the other two nationally representative surveys included questions *specifically* asking youth age 14 and under about oral and anal sex.”

“Numerous recent media reports have suggested that teens – including young adolescents – are increasingly having oral and/or anal sex, perhaps as a substitute for vaginal intercourse.”

“Young adolescents don’t seem to know a lot about sex.”

“Additional Information from Local Data”

“The Draw the Line survey confirmed that young teens are often poorly informed about sex. For example, about half of 14-year-olds (boys and girls) believed it is illegal for youth under 16 to buy condoms (it is not). About 20% of youth age 12-14 erroneously believed that ‘you could tell if a person has HIV/AIDS by looking at him/her.’ Nearly four out of ten (39%) 14-year-old boys and half (51%) of 14-year-old girls agreed with the statement, ‘most teens your age are having sex,’ even though, as noted earlier, only a minority are.”

“Parents and youth give mixed reports about family communication about sex, and seem to have misperceptions about each other’s attitudes and behaviors.”
“The National Picture”

“Parents in the Add Health survey generally rejected numerous reasons thought to explain why they might *not* speak with their child about sex, such as feeling that they don’t know enough, that the child would be embarrassed, that it would only encourage the child to have sex, or that parents don’t need to talk to their children because the children will get the information they need elsewhere.”

“Parents surveyed by Add Health also tended to be unaware of what their children were actually doing sexually – only 30% of the parents of sexually experienced 14-year-olds believed their child had had sexual intercourse. This percentage was slightly higher for parents of girls (36%) than it was for parents of boys (25%).”

“One local data set suggests that many young adolescents have ample opportunities to have sex, and many report willingness to have sex.”

“A third of 12-year-olds reported that they had attended a party in the previous three months where no adults were in the house. By age 14, this percentage increased to 51% of boys and 42% for girls. Thirty-eight percent of 14-year-old boys and 30% of 14-year-olds girls said that in the past three months they had been alone lying on a couch or bed with ‘someone they liked.’”

“Many boys, and some girls, in the Draw the Line data set expressed interest in having sex ‘at this time in their lives.’ The proportion of boys who said they would have sex with someone they like very much if they had the opportunity increased from 19% at age 12 to 42% at age 14 (comparable statistics for girls were 5% at age 12 and 8% at age 14). Thirty-six percent of 14-year-old boys and 18% of 14-year-old girls said they would consider having sex if they had a boyfriend or girlfriend they loved. About one-third of 14-year-old boys said they would have sex because of curiosity and an equal proportion said they would do so to ‘satisfy my sexual desires.’ Of those girls who would have sex if the opportunity arose, the top three reasons (of seven offered) that they would consider having sex were similar to the boys – 18% would do so with a boyfriend they loved, 12% would do so to satisfy curiosity, and 12% would do so because of sexual desire.”

“Significant proportions of youth surveyed as part of the Draw the Line/Respect the Line evaluation perceived that people in their lives would be accepting, if not approving, of their having sex. Half of boys and a third of girls age 14 said that the majority of their friends think it’s acceptable for people their age to have sex with a serious boyfriend or girlfriend. About half of 14-year-olds (boys and girls) agreed that *boys* are more popular if

they have sex; 36% of boys and 20% of girls age 14 thought that *girls* are also more popular if they have sex. Virtually no girls thought their parents would approved of them having sex at this time in their lives, but by age 14, 21% of boys thought their fathers would think it was okay and 15% thought that their mothers would think it was okay.”

“Implications”

“There is good reason to be concerned about youth who begin having sex at an early age. Youth who have sex at an early age seem to be different from those who do not, both in their sexual behavior and in other areas as well. Early first sexual experiences for girls are more likely to be unwanted, compared to girls who have sex at age 15 or older, and these first sexual relationships end more quickly. Youth age 14 and younger who are sexually experienced are much more likely than peers who have not had sex to use drugs and alcohol and to engage in delinquent behavior; that is, such behaviors often occur together. Over the longer term, girls who begin having sex at age 14 or younger will likely have more sexual partners and an increased risk of teen pregnancy, contracting an STD, and dropping out of school. Although early sexual activity in and of itself may not ‘cause’ these outcomes, it does appear to be an early and important warning sign of risk.”

“Parents should be concerned about their young teenagers dating, in general, and very cautious about letting their children date someone much older, in particular. One of the most striking and clear findings from this collected research is the great risk inherent in young teens dating older partners. Parents clearly need to discourage early dating, in general, as well as dating older partners specifically, both of which greatly increase the chances of having sex. Although most sexual activity among young teens is voluntary, there is evidence from small area studies that some young teens, like older teens, can get into situations where they feel sexual pressure or coercion. By virtue of their young age, however, they may be less able to handle these situations effectively than older teens. Such data suggest that teaching middle school youth about how to resist and manage sexual pressure is appropriate. Another clear message is that supervising the social behavior of young teens remains important. Parents and other responsible adults need to know where their children are, what they are doing, and with whom. As noted earlier, one small area study found that fully one-third of 12-year-olds and almost half of 14-year-olds (51% of boys and 42% of girls) report that they have been at a party where there were no adults in the house.”

“It’s important to add that simple communication between parents and children about sex does not necessarily reduce the chances of early sexual activity. For example, recent research has highlighted the importance of overall closeness between parents and teens, more than specific discussion of sex, as being especially protective (Blum, 2002).”

“PART ONE: PAPERS FROM NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE DATA SETS”

“CHAPTER ONE: DATING AND SEXUAL EXPERIENCES AMONG MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH: ANALYSES OF THE NLSY97”

“What is typical dating behavior among early adolescents?”

“Forty-two percent of teens reported that they had ever gone on an unsupervised date with a person of the opposite sex at the time of the 1997 survey.”

“Black youth were the least likely to report having ever dated (34% compared with 41-44% for other racial/ethnic groups). Non-Hispanic Whites who had ever dated were more likely to date relatively frequently – 28% dated once a month or more, compared to 22% of Blacks and 18% of Hispanics. However, age at first date did not differ significantly by race/ethnicity.”

“What proportion of 12-14-year-olds had sex before age 15?”

“Among adolescents whose mothers had higher educational attainment (defined as greater than high school), 15% had sexual intercourse before age 15, compared with 24% of adolescents whose mothers completed only a high school education or less.”

“Among boys with mothers who had a high school education or less, Black males were most likely to be sexually experienced before age 15 (50%), followed by Hispanic males (29%), and Non-Hispanic White males (22%).”

“CHAPTER TWO: DATING BEHAVIOR AND SEXUAL ACTIVITY OF YOUNG ADOLESCENTS: ANALYSES OF THE NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH”

“Sexual experience, contraceptive use, and pregnancy – this survey finds that:”

- “20% of boys, 14% of girls, and 18% of the entire sample report that they became sexually experienced at age 14 or younger.”
- “60% of boys, 54% of girls, and 57% of the entire sample of 12-14-year-olds reported that they used contraception at first sex.”
- “9% of sexually experienced girls under 15 reported having been pregnant.”

“What is typical dating behavior among young adolescents?”

“Overall, about half of the teens in this age group reported a dating relationship (romantic or casual) in the 18 months preceding the first round of in-home interviews. The proportion increased with age. At age 12, 39% of teens reported such a relationship, increasing to 56% at age 14. Girls were less likely to report such a relationship than boys, especially at younger ages; at age 12, 46% of boys but only 35% of girls reported a dating relationship. By age 14, boys and girls were equally likely to do so (56%). Virgins were somewhat less likely to report a relationship (44%). Differences between virgins and sexually experienced teens in a dating experience were more pronounced among boys – only 40% of male virgins reported a dating relationship at age 12, compared to 46% of all males. The difference was smaller for girls (32% compared to 35% at age 12).”

“The greater the age difference between the partners, the more likely that sex occurred in the relationship. Only 13% of relationships between same-age partners were sexual. By contrast, 26% of the relationships in which an adolescent’s partner was 2 years older were sexual. The proportion increased to 33% for partners who were 3 years older. Where partners of young adolescents were 4 or more years older, almost half of all relationships were sexual.”

“What proportion of 12- to 14-year-olds have had sex?”

“Overall, 18% of adolescents reported having had sex at age 14 or younger, boys (at 20%) somewhat more than girls (at 14%). Sexual experience increased with age: 14-year-old boys were more than twice as likely to be sexually experienced as 12-year-old boys (8% compared to 20%); 14-year-old girls were seven times more likely to be sexually experienced as 12-year-old girls (14% compared to 2%). At age 12, boys were four times more likely to report intercourse than girls (8% compared to 2%). After age 13, though, girls began to catch up with the behavior of boys their same age.”

“One third (34%) of Black adolescents age 12-14 were sexually experienced, compared to 14% of Whites the same age. Black males were three times more likely to be sexually experienced than White males (45% compared to 15%). Nineteen percent of all Hispanics 12-14 reported that they had had sex and 9% of Asian teens (boys and girls) reported sexual experience in this age group.”

“How often do parents talk to their children about sex?”

“What *are* parents’ reasons for not talking about sex more with their children?”

“You really don’t know enough about

sex and birth control talk about them
with {NAME}.”

“It would embarrass {NAME} to talk to
you about sex and birth control.”

“It would be difficult for you to explain
things if you talked with {NAME}
about sex and birth control.”

“{NAME} will get the information
somewhere else, so you don’t really
need to talk to (him/her) about sex and
birth control.”

“Talking about birth control with
{NAME} would only encourage
(him/her) to have sex.”

“You disapprove of {NAME}’s having
sexual intercourse at this time in
(his/her) life.”

**“CHAPTER
ACTIVITY
UNDER AGE 15:
THE NATIONAL
FAMILY**

**THREE: SEXUAL
AMONG GIRLS
FINDINGS FROM
SURVEY OF
GROWTH”**

“Sexual experience, contraceptive use, and pregnancy – this study finds:”

- “20% of girls report that they became sexually experienced at age 14 or younger.”
- “72% of girls who had voluntary sex at age 14 or younger report that they used contraceptives at first sex.”
- “15% of girls who had voluntary sex at age 14 or younger report being pregnant before turning 15.”

“How common is sexual activity among girls age 14 and younger?”

“One in five teen girls (20%) report having had sex at age 14 or younger. Of those who first had sex at age 14 or younger, about half did so when 14 years old, the other half when 13 or younger.”

“Among the three largest racial/ethnic groups, sex at age 14 or younger is most common among non-Hispanic Black adolescents (31%) and least common among non-Hispanic White adolescents (17%). Twenty four percent of Hispanics report having sex at age 14 or younger.”

“What adverse outcomes are associated with becoming sexually active at an early age?”

“First, teens who have sex at an early age are significantly more likely to have reported ever being pregnant (41%) or to have given birth by the time of the NSFG interview (21%), compared to teens who have sex at an older age (27% and 14%, respectively. It is not clear, however, whether having sex at an early age in and of itself increases the risk of teen pregnancy or if the two outcomes are correlated because early sex and early pregnancy are both influenced by the same underlying risk factors, perhaps family dysfunction or a propensity to choose ‘risky’ romantic partners.”

“Girls whose first voluntary sex was at 14 or younger had more lifetime sexual partners, on average, than girls whose first voluntary sex was at age 15 or older (4.7 versus 2.5), were less likely to have had only one partner (20% versus 46%) and more likely to have had between 3 and 5 partners (36% versus 21%) or 6 or more partners (25% versus 9%). Because the two groups of teens had the same average number of partners per year of sexual activity (1.3), it appears that the increased average number of lifetime sexual partners lies solely in beginning sexual activity at an early age.”

“Finally, girls who had first sex at age 14 or younger had worse educational outcomes by the time of the interview. They were twice as likely to have dropped out of school – 20% of girls whose first voluntary sex was before age 15 had dropped out of school by the interview, versus 10% of girls who had sex for the first time at age 15 or older.”

“PART TWO: PAPERS FROM SMALL AREA DATA SETS”

“CHAPTER FOUR: THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEX-RELATED KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, PERCEIVED NORMS, AND BEHAVIORS IN A LONGITUDINAL COHORT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL CHILDREN”

“What do youth believe their peers are doing?”

“Nearly half of the 14-year-old boys and three-fourths of the 14-year-old girls thought that most teen who have sex wish they had waited until they were older.”

“What reasons do youth endorse for *not* having sex?”

“Given that youth seem to have opportunities that could lead to sex, it is important to assess what might stop them from having sex. Students were given a list of reasons for not having sex and asked to respond whether each reason was true for them or not. Fewer boys than girls endorsed each reason regardless of their age, but ‘not wanting to get AIDS or other diseases you can get from sex’ remained the most commonly noted reason for most youth across all ages. Other major reasons included: not wanting a baby, parental anger, and being too young to have sex.”

“As boys grew older, not wanting to get diseases, not wanting a baby, parental anger, and being too young to have sex remained the primary reasons for not having sex. However, by age 14, disease and pregnancy prevention seemed the most important, while less than two-thirds were concerned about parental anger and less than half believed they were too young to have sex.”

“Girls showed a similar pattern in terms of the most important reasons not to have sex, but in higher proportion. Nearly nine out of every ten 12-year-old girls selected: not wanting to get AIDS or other diseases, not wanting a baby, parental anger and being too young as reasons not to have sex.”

“By age 14, 94% of girls reported not wanting to get sexually transmitted diseases and 93% reported not wanting a baby as reasons for not having sex. Parental anger (77%) and being too young (72%) also continued to be important reasons not to have sex as girls aged.”

“What reasons do youth say motivate them to have sex?”

“The top three reasons that most motivated youth to have sex were love, curiosity, and desire.”

“Reasons to have sex, particularly among boys, included curiosity, love, and desire.”

“CHAPTER FIVE: YOUTH WITH OLDER BOYFRIENDS AND GIRLFRIENDS: ASSOCIATIONS WITH SEXUAL RISK”

“Are youth with an older boyfriend or girlfriend more likely to ever have had sex?”

“More than 40% of 13-year-old boys and 70% of 14-year-old boys with a girlfriend two or more years older reported being sexually experienced, compared to less than 18% of 13-year-olds and 29% of 14-year-olds with a same-age girlfriend. Among 14-year-old boys, those with older girlfriends were more than 14 times more likely to have had sex than those boys with no girlfriend. The same pattern holds for girls: One-fifth to one-third of girls 12-14 year old with an older boyfriend reported having had sex, compared to 6% to 13% of girls with a ‘same age’ boyfriend. For each age group, girls with older boyfriends were roughly ten times more likely to have had sex than girls with no boyfriend. Although boys are less likely to have an older partner than girls, if they do, they are more likely to have had sex.”

“Why are youth with an older boyfriend or girlfriend more likely to have had sex?”

“It may be because the power differential between an older partner and a younger one can be quite large. Older partners generally have more resources, ‘maturity,’ and status (Phillips, no date; Raymond & Associates, 1996). Also, a young person is at a social and developmental disadvantage when dating someone several years older, making it more difficult to refuse sexual advances. The older partner is more likely to be sexually experienced than the younger one, and some research suggests that older males may seek out younger partners precisely because they are more able to control the younger partner and their interaction with her (Phillips, n.d.; Raymond & Associates, 1996). Finally, older boyfriends or girlfriends, especially if they have access to automobiles, may provide more opportunities for privacy and, thus, for sexual activity. On the other hand, even if the young person did not have sex with the older boyfriend or girlfriend, by associating with an older boyfriend or girlfriend, a youth is likely to be exposed to his/her partner's friends, who are likely to be older. Older youth; in general, are more likely to have had sex and to express positive attitudes toward sex.”

“References”

“Blum, R.W. (2002). *Mothers’ influence on teen sex: Connections that promote postponing sexual intercourse*. Center for Adolescent Health and Development. University of Minnesota.”

“Moore, K.A., Driscoll, A.K., & Lindberg, L.D. (1998). *A statistical portrait of adolescent sex, contraception, and childbearing*. Washington: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.”

“The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2002). *With one voice 2002: America’s adults and teens sound off about teen pregnancy*. [Online]. Available: www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/pdf/teenwant.pdf. Washington DC: Author”

“Remez, L. (2000). Oral sex among adolescents: Is it sex or is it abstinence? *Family Planning Perspectives*, 32(6), 298-304.”

“Terry, E., & Manlove, J. (2000). *Trends in sexual activity and contraceptive use among teens*. Washington: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.”

“Phillips, L.M. (n.d.). *Unequal partners: Exploring power and consent in adult-teen relationships (Report from phase one of the New Findings, New Approaches: Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy Project)*. Morristown, NJ: Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey.”

“Raymond & Associates, Inc. (August, 1996). *Teen Partners Study (Final Report)*. Rochester, NY: Monroe County.”

(Albert, Bill, Brown, Sarah, Flanigan, Christine M., “14 and Younger: The Sexual Behavior of Young Adolescents,” The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, May 2003)

“ANALYSIS: NEW STUDY FOCUSES ON THE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR OF YOUNGER ADOLESCENTS WHO ARE 14 AND YOUNGER”

“BOB EDWARDS, host: This is MORNING EDITION from NPR News. I'm Bob Edwards.”

“Adults don't know much about the sexual behavior of younger adolescents, those who are 14 and younger. Typically, researchers have surveyed only older teen-agers. A new study focuses specifically on these youngest teen-agers and their parents. NPR's Michelle Trudeau has the first of three reports.”

“MICHELLE TRUDEAU reporting:”

“This report gives a wealth of information about the sex lives of young adolescents, their sexual relationships, their knowledge about sex, their contraceptive use, pregnancy rates--information gathered by the most recent federally funded surveys of more than 30,000 young teens and some parents from across the country. Adolescent health experts and researchers brought together by a non-profit group called the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy analyzed the responses. The headline of their report is the proportion of young adolescents, 12-, 13- and 14-year-olds who have already had sexual intercourse. Study director Sarah Brown.”

“Ms. SARAH BROWN (Study Director): The most important finding is that about one in five young people, both boys and girls, have had sex by the time they reach their 15th birthday.”

“TRUDEAU: And because sexually active sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders do not dependably use contraception, they increase their risk for sexually transmitted diseases, for HIV-AIDS and, of course, pregnancy. One out of seven sexually experienced 14-year-olds reports having been pregnant.”

“Ms. BROWN: That means among these very young girls 14 and under, we see about 20,000 pregnancies each year and about 8,000 births.”

“Ms. BROWN: The difference between a 13-year-old girl and, say, a 17- or 18-year-old boy is enormous; not just developmentally, biologically, but in terms of power, authority, money, persuasiveness. Young girls are much in the control of older boys.”

“TRUDEAU: These sexually active young teens are also much more likely to engage in other risky behaviors, says Brown; more likely to smoke, drink, use drugs, drop out of school.”

“Ms. SUSAN PHILLIBER (Adolescent health Researcher): Most parents do not know that their children are sexually active.”

“TRUDEAU: Susan Philliber is an adolescent health researcher and a co-author of this report. She says that parents of sexually active young teens are very often in the dark about what’s going on. Over two-thirds did not know their 12-, 13- or 14-year-old had had sexual intercourse. And parents seemed out of touch when it comes to communicating about sex, too. Philliber says most parents think they’ve had important conversations about sex with their children, but the young teens recall something quite different.”

“Ms. PHILLIBER: So you’ll have a parent saying, ‘Oh, yes, I’ve talked to him or her about all these kinds of things,’ and the teen-ager’s saying, ‘Nah, she didn’t say anything about that.’ So ships passing in the night here about communication.”

“TRUDEAU: And if young teens don’t get that information from their parents, they often get it from less reliable sources. The eighth-grade students we talked with describe the sources of their information.”

“Unidentified Student #3: We get a lot from, like, our friends. Some of them seem to know a lot more than others, and so they’ll tell one person, and it just seems to spread to everyone, so...”

“Unidentified Student #4: Like I’ll hear something from one friend about like STD or whatever, and then I’ll hear something from someone else, and it’s totally different. Like it’ll be about the same thing, but one’s just so different from the other. It’s like telephone, you know, like you’ll play, and it’s just so warped and bogus.”

“Unidentified Student #5: I get most—like my older sister and like older friends and my parents kin of, but mostly like my sister and her friends.”

“Unidentified Student #6: I think it’s older people, like my brother isn’t that much older than me, but mostly just older friends, and also media is a big influence.”

“Unidentified Student #7: Media’s definitely one of them.”

“TRUDEAU: But as researcher Susan Philliber notes, studies show teens want to know a lot more from their parents.”

“TRUDEAU: Research has shown that a strong connection with parents and feeling connected and successful at school are the primary factors that protect the 80 percent of young teens who have not had sexual intercourse and who will delay first sex until much later. The eighth-graders we talked to saw the school connection clearly.”

(“Analysis: New study focuses on the sexual behavior of younger adolescents who are 14 and younger,” Morning Edition from NPR News, May 20, 2003, www.npr.org/news/2003/05/20030520nlsearchwe)

“ANALYSIS: YOUNG TEENS AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOR”

“Ms. BROWN: Well, parents often don’t understand what you just said, Neal. They often think that by the time they’re—I don’t know—11 or 12 that they’re lost to popular culture in the mall, and you know, just unsupervised time. But public opinion polls, interviews with teens that we’ve done and many others, have shown that teen-agers, even these very young ones—or particularly these very young ones—really do want to hear from the parents in their lives.”

“Ms. BROWN: Once in a while. That’s right. But the issue of ‘How do I manage myself in a middle school or maybe even in my first year of high school when I think everybody’s having sex and I’m not?’ Now there’s the kind of question that is not fact-based. ‘How do I keep my girlfriend without having sex with her and feeling a lot of pressure?’ So although we certainly need to talk with young people about facts—there are a lot of them—I think that we should talk as much, if not even more, about what the complexity of their lives are

like, what their friends are doing, how they feel about it, the pressures on them. How do you know what to do in difficult situations? Parents don't have to have the answer, but they have to be askable. They have to be willing to engage in those topics with their young people. And you know what? If you don't know a particular fact, we can always look that up. That's the easy part."

"Ms. BROWN: Well, we do know that amongst young teens, and indeed, amongst older ones as well, that alcohol can play a role in sort of unplanned sex as well as unintended sex and unprotected and so forth. What we don't know is sort of the sequence and how they relate precisely. We know—as a psychologist, you know this phrase—they co-occur; these behaviors cluster."

"Ms. BROWN: But we don't know exactly the order. What teen-agers tell us, including young teen-agers, is that it is not at all uncommon for there to be an unsupervised party where alcohol is present and possibly marijuana, and 'things happen.' That's the sort of phrase they'll use. And for some it's that, you know, kids hook up, maybe not have sex, maybe do. So we know these things occur often in the same setting and same time. But we don't understand the precise relationship. I mean, just for example, a lot of federal surveys just talk about drugs and alcohol. They don't separate alcohol from drugs, and they don't often specify which drug. That's just one example of how we need to know more."

"But I thought it was interesting, for example, that in one of the surveys that we reported, which was just from a small area—it's not nationally representative—about half of 14-year-olds reported that they'd been at a party without any adults in the house. And we know and you know that that is an opportunity—not assurance—but opportunity for there to be alcohol present as well."

"CONAN: "A new report on young teens and sex. It's called 14 and Younger: The Sexual Behavior of Young Adolescents. It was released today by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen-age Pregnancy."

"LIZ: Yeah, 14—for me, it was 14. For most of my friends, it was 13, 14. And, you know, the big common denominator for us, which is—that was the fact that our parents were not around. That—you know, they were—we all went through divorce around sixth, seventh and eighth grade and one of the things that's so appealing about sex when you're an adolescent is that it creates this kind of faux feeling of family, of belonging, of making—you know, it takes it to that heightened level of feeling like you mattered. And you know, as a 35-year-old now mom, though my child is much younger, it's something that my friends and I all talk about a lot, about how to combat that."

Ms. BROWN: Well, there are two things that you raise that I'd kind of underscore. The first is the simple issue of useful supervised things to do. You know, it sounds so old-fashioned.

But if young people are left alone for hours and hours and hours just kind of on the lam, in the malls, AWOL, we should not be surprised, particularly in this cultural environment, that life is going to happen. Sex is going to happen, drugs are going to happen, and so forth. So one of the first things we tell parents is that, you know, the kids need useful places to go where there are adults around, engage in interesting things that give them something to say yes to, give them a—things that are more engaging and enticing than early sex and pregnancy. So some of these old-fashioned ideas of useful things to do and not copious amounts of idle time is very important. It sounds so old-fashioned, so boring, but there's a lot of data to back that up, and of course, your story is very compelling.”

“Ms. BROWN: So the point, though, is that from a very early age, way before 10, families can and should be talking about relationships. What is a respectful relationship between boys and girls? If someone grabs you on the playground, you don't like it, what do you think about that? What are you going to do? How do we say things to people that maybe might hurt their feelings but we think it's the right thing to do? Those issues are timeless, in a sense. They're important to talk with young people about.”

“BESS: Hi. I am a mother of three daughters: 14, 13, and 11. And recently, this last school year—my daughter's a freshman in high school—a boy broke up with her because she would not have oral sex with him. And she feels—we've talked about that, and I've told her that oral sex is sex and that it's, you know, how she should view it. And this boy vehemently disagreed with her, and they had many discussions that she shared with me about that subject. And I just wondered what your survey found out about how young kids think about oral sex.”

“Ms BROWN: So one of the tips to parents, for example, is to the extent you can, to try and encourage group activities and not the sort of one-on-one romantic things. I mean, I don't understand, for example, why a 12-year-old or a 13-year-old should have or needs to have a real boyfriend.”

(“Analysis: Young teens and sexual behavior,” Talk of the Nation, NPR News, May 20, 2003, www.nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we)

“PROFILE: PREVENTING RISK-TAKING BEHAVIOR OF YOUNG TEENS” (May 21, 2003)

“QUE: The new study found that young teens have plenty of opportunity to do risky things. Researchers analyzed three major national surveys and several smaller local surveys because they asked questions the bigger ones did not. One found that about half of 14-year-olds have attended a party with no adult supervision and about a third of young teens said they had

lain on a bed or couch alone with someone they liked. The study also found sexually active young teens are three times more likely to be regular smokers, four times more likely to have tried marijuana and six times more likely to drink alcohol once a week or more. Psychologist Laurence Steinberg says these findings aren't surprising. Young teens can be very compulsive and research shows they're more likely than older teens to be influenced by their friends."

"Dr. STEINBERG: We know developmentally that kids at this age are very susceptible to peer pressure and that even very well behaved children will do things when they are with their friends that they wouldn't do when they're supervised by adults or even when they're unsupervised and by themselves."

("Profile: Preventing risk-taking behavior of young teens," Morning Edition from NPR News, May 21, 2003, www.npr.newsbank.com/nl-search/we

"PROFILE: SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN YOUNG ADOLESCENTS"

"In most parents' minds, sexual education is a matter of telling children how babies are made, and later on in high school providing information about contraception. In either case, Dr. Justin Richardson, a psychiatrist, author and professor at Columbia University, says it's a conversation most parents approach with dread."

"Dr. JUSTIN RICHARDSON (Columbia University): They'll say that they're waiting until their child asks, because if the child asks, well, then they feel that they haven't exposed the child to something before they should have. It's an unusual approach to teaching children. You know, we don't tend to think, 'I'll explain long division to him when he asks, but I don't want to explain it to him before he's ready to hear.'"

"Unidentified Girl #2: OK, subject of sex in the middle school. A lot of us—well, not necessarily—most of us what? Most of us, it's new to us, at least in the sixth grade, because they're just coming up and they're being given sex ed and, you know, little packets of, like, deodorant, because they're just starting puberty and just starting to perspire and all that stuff."

"WILSON: By sixth grade, experts say teen-agers should already have enough information to help them make good judgments, and the information should be fairly explicit, as they become more absorbed into their own world, trying to determine who they are. Watching all this, however, parents have a tendency to back off, to pull away. Ancient taboos, Richardson

says, make it increasingly uncomfortable for parents to show too much interest in their child's sexuality."

"WILSON: In fact, most child development specialists, say young people at this age not only need but crave special face-to-face time with some adult—an aunt, a grandmother, a dad, most often it's a busy working mother."

("Profile: Sexual behavior in young adolescents," Morning Edition from NPR News, May 22, 2003, www.nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives)

"AN ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF THE DECLINE IN NON-MARITAL BIRTH AND PREGNANCY RATES FOR TEENS FROM 1991 TO 1995"

"The factors making the greatest contribution to the decline in overall 15-19 year-old birth and pregnancy rates were an increase in abstinence and a decrease in the percentage of married teens."

"Christine Flanigan, in a report released by the Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, credited 50% to 80% of the decrease in teen pregnancies to improved contraceptive use and 20% to 50% of the decline to abstinence (Flanigan, 2001)."

"The authors define teens 'at risk for pregnancy' as being those who had ever had sex, not just those who were sexually active during the year in question."

"The debate over the causality of the birthrate decline has significant implications for the direction of social policy."

(Mohn, Joanna K., Tingle, Lynne R., Finger, Riginald, "An Analysis of the Causes of the Decline in Non-Marital Birth and Pregnancy Rates for Teens from 1991 to 1995," Adolescent & Family Health, Volume 3, Number 1, pp39-40)

"SEX ED AND THE DESTRUCTION OF AMERICAN MORALITY"

"In 1953, Planned Parenthood staffer Lena Levine wrote, '[Our goal] is to be ready as educators and parents to help young people obtain sex satisfaction before marriage. By sanctioning sex before marriage, we will prevent fear and guilt...we must be ready to provide young boys and girls with the best contraception measure available so they will

have the necessary means to achieve sexual satisfaction without having to risk possible pregnancy.”

(Blumenfeld, Samuel, “Sex ed and the destruction of American morality,” World Net Daily, January 18, 2003, www.worldnetdaily.com/news/printer-friendly.asp?ARTICLE_ID=30561)

“SAVING YOUR TEENS FROM THE SILENT EPIDEMIC”

“For decades, the message of sexual abstinence has not been treated as an option in America. But cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are rising rapidly among teens, and so-called ‘safe sex’ does not seem to be working. CBN News Anchor Lee Webb spoke with author Dr. Meg Meeker for information and solutions on how parents can help protect their children.”

“Lee Webb: Now many physicians realize there is an epidemic and have started to promote abstinence. Among them is Dr. Meg Meeker. For the past 20 years, Dr. Meeker has been practicing pediatric and adolescent medicine; she’s also counseled teens and parents. After seeing her young patients contracting STDs in record numbers, she wrote a book called *Epidemic: How Teen Sex Is Killing Our Kids*.”

“Webb: Why do you label it an epidemic? You say that teens make up one quarter of the 15 million STD cases in America. Is that percentage abnormal, was that the percentage 10 or 20 years ago?”

“Meeker: No, absolutely not. And the shocking thing is, if we raise the age from 18 to actually about 25, that number jumps from about a quarter to two-thirds. Because, actually of the 15 million STD’s a year, two-thirds occur in people under 25. The epidemic is very prevalent in our young kids. This is a young kids, teen-age, and young adult problem. It’s not necessarily a problem of people my age. But the public doesn’t know that, and it’s time we did know that.”

“Webb: Dr. Meeker, obviously you have seen the physical toll that these STD’s can take on young people. But tell us about the emotional toll that it has as well.”

“Meeker: Well actually I’m so glad you brought that up, because what I was seeing in my own patients, in addition to the explosion of sexually transmitted diseases, was a huge rise in depression among my teenagers. And I see kids, not in the inner city, but I take care of nice suburban kids, you know, my friend’s kids. And I’ve seen a huge rise in depression, and I believe that a lot of the depression that we’re seeing in our teens—and *Time* magazine just

did a cover story—is directly related to the explosive sexual activity among our teenagers. I wrote the book with the mind of a doctor and the heart of a mom, and you [the world] hurt my kids and you hurt my patients and I’m gonna stand up and say something about it. I would just ask all teachers and parents to please read the book and see what’s going on with our kids.”

“Webb: You’re obviously very passionate about this issue. It’s interesting to note that you once described yourself as a feminist.”

“Meeker: I did. I came out of the 70’s, I went to an all women’s college, I gave out birth control, I gave out more shots of Depo-Provera than you can imagine. I was doing what other physicians in the country were doing. But 10 years ago when I saw the kids coming back into my office with cervical cancer and herpes, and these were young 14-year-old kids, I thought, ‘Wait a minute, maybe what I am doing is wrong.’ I looked to the medical literature and found that condoms are not cutting it. In the past year, the NIH [National Institutes of Health] has come out and said condoms are not good enough for our kids. And so I faced the music and said, ‘I did it the wrong way, I’m gonna change course.’ And you better believe that I am telling my patients and my kids, hold off on having sex. And I ask every physician across the country, please tell your patients the same things.”

“Meeker: Exactly. You know, if we think about cigarettes. If we advertised cigarettes to our kids across the country and saw lung disease cropping up by the millions, we would never look at our kids and say, ‘You know we’ll just give you filtered cigarettes because I know you’re just going to smoke anyway.’ And that’s really what we’re doing with condoms, isn’t it? ‘Kids, you’re out of control, you’re not going to stop having sex, we’ll just give you a condom and send you on your way.’ It’s no longer good enough, and the best scientific evidence in the medical culture is telling us it’s not working. We’ve got to rethink the whole sex education for our kids in medical offices and in our schools.”

(“Saving Your Teens from the Silent STD Epidemic,” CBN News Interview, April 25, 2003, www.cbn.org/CBNNews/News/021018f.asp?option=print)

“DOCTOR: TEEN SEX IS KILLING OUR CHILDREN”

“Dr. Meeker, author of the new book ‘Epidemic’: ‘In 2003 we are living in the midst of a public health epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases amongst 12- to 18-year-old children, and an epidemic of depression related to much of the promiscuous sexual activity amongst our youth.’”

“What I have seen in my beautiful quiet and suburban northern Michigan practice is occurring nationwide, and when I turned to the medical literature two years ago to see if what I was experiencing was unique I found that the Center for Disease Control talks about the hidden epidemic of 15 million Americans getting a new sexually transmitted disease every year and two thirds of them being in people under 25, my patients, your children, the kids on your kids’ basketball teams and soccer teams and ballet recitals.”

- “According to the New England Journal of Medicine, one in five Americans 12 years and older test positive for genital herpes.”
- “Forty-six percent of young teen-age girls after just one episode of intercourse contracts human papilloma virus (HPV), and 14 percent of them will go on to develop signs of cervical cancer, and more women’s lives are given over to cervical cancer every year than to HIV and AIDS.”

“This, she warns ‘is not a time for mothers and fathers and doctors and teachers and politicians to be silent about the sanctity of the life of our teen-agers.’”

“What has been our answer to this out-of-control scourge, she asked. Condoms. ‘We have taught 14-, 13-, 12-year-old kids to put condoms on bananas. We have done this for 15 or 20 years.’”

“In 1960 there were just two sexually transmitted diseases, syphilis and gonorrhea. After 20 years of teaching our kids how to use condoms, we now boast 30 or more sexually transmitted diseases among 12- to 18-year-old children. Condoms have failed as an answer.”

“A little over a year ago the National Institutes for Health reviewed all the best condom literature available in the world. They found that condoms, if used 100 percent of the time correctly, may reduce the risk of HIV by 87 percent in men and women, and it may reduce the risk of gonorrhea in men, but for all of the other sexually transmitted diseases which infect beautiful heterosexual children across the country there is insufficient evidence that condoms work at all.”

“Yet we are still teaching condoms and more condoms in our schools. As a physician I consider it malpractice to hand one of my patients a condom and tell them that they will be safe when the NIH doesn't say so.”

“We have the answer. It is abstinence education. Many opponents of abstinence say it doesn't work—it does work—all the time. The kids are willing to learn it. Are we willing to teach it?”

“Sex among girls is leading to an epidemic of cancer, she revealed. ‘The 14-, 15-year-old girl's cervix cannot handle bacteria and viruses. They flourish and turn into cancer much more quickly than in a 25-year-old.’”

“All of this promiscuous sexual activity among youngsters is having another deadly effect: serious depression and sometimes suicide.”

“‘We are living in an epidemic of depression, where one out of three American teen-agers have thought of killing themselves, much of this related to sexual activity.’”

“‘Are we willing to tell teen-agers that sexual health trumps sexual freedom?’ she asked, adding that we'd better be.”

(Brenna, Phil, “Doctor: Teen Sex Is Killing Our Children,” NewsMax.com, February 3, 2003, www.newsmax.com/cgi-bin/printer_friendly.pl?page=)

“TEEN SEX: MOST BELIEVE PEERS ARE HAVING SEX, BUT ONLY 40% ARE”

“While 75% of teenagers believe that most of their peers are having sex, only 40% of teens are actually engaging in sex, according to a new survey by Seventeen magazine. The survey, administered to more than 1,000 teenagers ages 13-19 at shopping malls nationwide, also found that 45% of boys ages 15 and older said that having sex makes them feel like a ‘normal’ teenager, but only 18% of girls said the same. More boys than girls said that peer pressure was the main motivation for having sex, outnumbering girls in that category 19% - 9%. But 26% of girls who had had sex said they had at least once been pressured into having sex, compared with 15% of boys (Brounstein/Raymond, Seventeen survey, 4/00 issue).”

“However, one-third of survey participants said that they do not feel they are getting enough information about birth control or on the biological and emotional aspects of sex (Seventeen survey, 4/00 issue). The Kaiser Family Foundation collaborated with Seventeen on the sex survey, which was conducted by Audits and Surveys Worldwide (Mozes, Reuters Health, 3/1).

(This article is reprinted with permission from the Kaiser Daily Reproductive Health Report. The Daily Report is published for The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation by National Journal Group Inc. Copyright 2000).

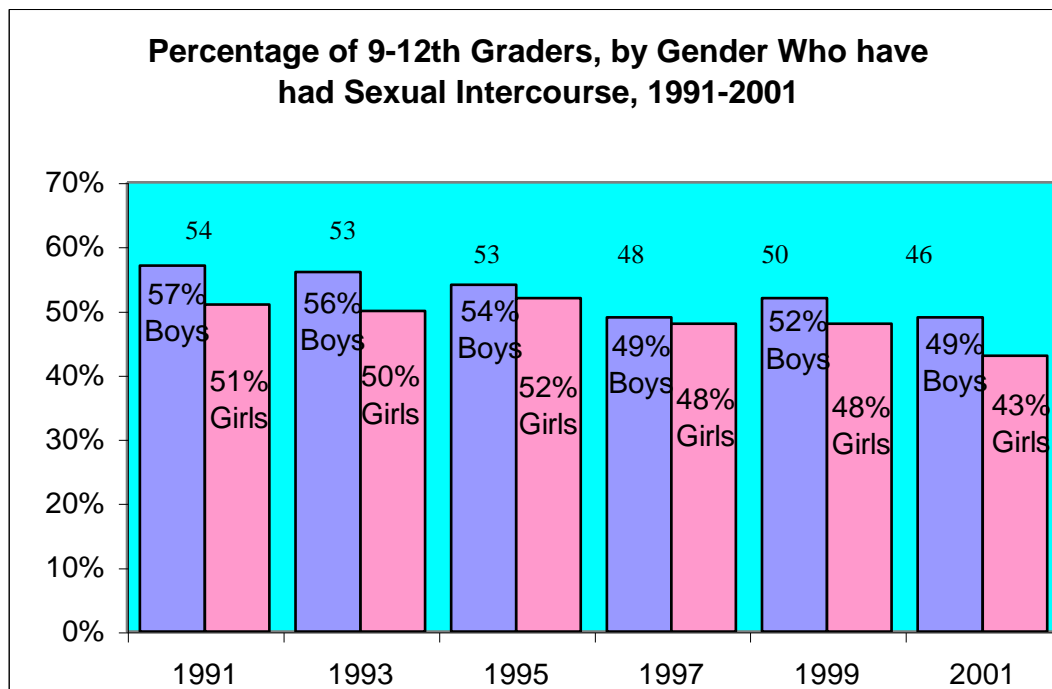
(“Teen Sex: Most believe peers are having sex, but only 40% are,” Population Connection, www.populationconnection.org/Reports_Publications/Reports/report94.html)

“TEEN SEXUAL ACTIVITY”

“The percentage of all high school students (9-12th grade) who report ever having had sexual intercourse has declined over the last decade. At the same time, among teens who are sexually active, rates of contraceptive use—including condom use—have increased. Both factors help to account for the decrease in teen pregnancy rates in recent years. Yet, despite these trends, approximately 895,600 teen girls became pregnant in the U.S. in 1997, (1) and approximately four million teens will get a sexually transmitted disease (STD) each year.” (2)

“General Sexual Activity”

- “Fewer than half of all 9-12th grade students have had sexual intercourse, reflecting a decline during the last decade from 54 percent in 1991 to 46 percent in 2001. Males are more likely than females to report having had sex.” (3,4)



- “The percentage of high school students who have had sexual intercourse increases by grade: In 2001, 61 percent of 12th graders had had sexual intercourse, compared with 35 percent of 9th graders.” (4)

- “Data about teens’ sexual experiences other than intercourse is more limited. However, in 1995, 53 percent of teen males aged 15-19 said they had been masturbated by a female (an increase from 1988); 49 percent had received oral sex; 39 percent had given oral sex; and 11 percent had engaged in anal sex.” (5)

“First Sexual Intercourse”

- “The median age at first intercourse is 16.5 years.” (6)
- “The percentage of 9-12th grade students who had initiated sexual intercourse before age 13 has fluctuated in recent years, from a high of 9 percent in 1995 (the first year data was collected) to a low of 6.6 percent in 2001. Males (9%) are more likely than females (4%) to report having sex at these early ages.” (3,4)
- “Among teen girls aged 15-19 who have had sexual intercourse, 69 percent described their first time as ‘voluntary and wanted,’ 24 percent as ‘voluntary but unwanted,’ and 7 percent as ‘non-voluntary.’ The younger the age at first intercourse, the greater the likelihood the experience was unwanted and/or non-voluntary.” (7)

“Sexual Partners and Relationships”

- “Most teen girls aged 15-19 who describe their first sexual experience as voluntary knew their partners fairly well—73 percent say their first sexual partner was someone they were going steady with, while 20 percent say their first encounter was with a friend or someone they dated occasionally.” (8)
- “The percentage of 9-12th grade students who report having had four or more sexual partners has declined in recent years from 19 percent in 1991 to 14 percent in 2001. Males (17%) are more likely than females (11%) to report having had four or more sexual partners.” (3,4)
- “Sixty-three percent (63%) of sexually active females aged 15-19 have partners who are within two years (older or younger) of their age; 28 percent have partners who are three to five years older. (9) The younger a girl is when she has sex for the first time, the greater the average age difference is likely to be between her and her partner.” (8)

“Abstinence”

- “In 1999, more than one in four (27%) 9-12th grade students who had had sexual intercourse said they were currently abstinent. Males (31%) were more likely than females (24%) to report being currently abstinent.”

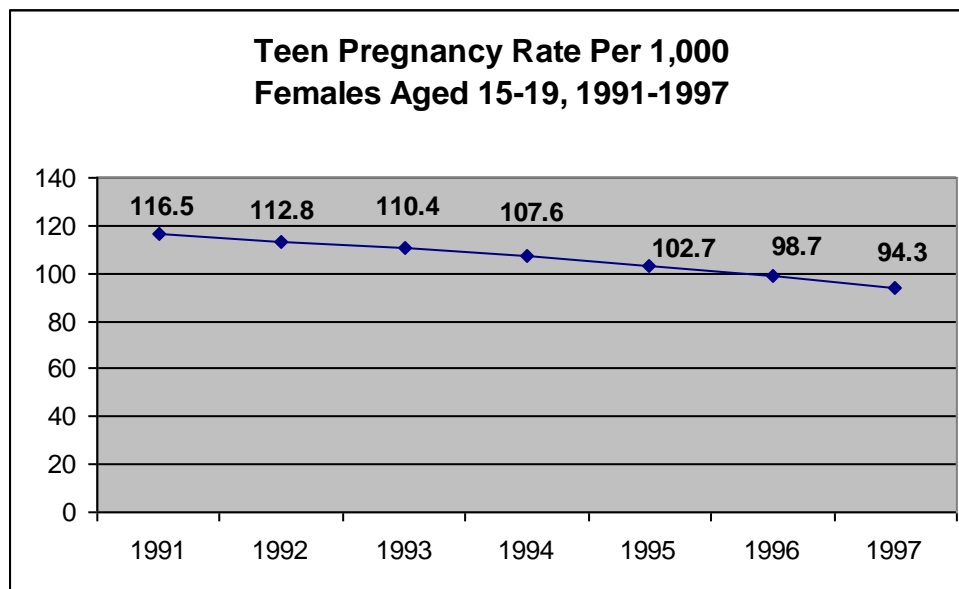
- “Among teens aged 15-17 who have not had sexual intercourse, 83 percent say the ‘worry about getting/getting someone pregnant’ was the main reason they had not had sex. Another 74 percent said they ‘made a conscious decision to wait,’ and 73 percent said they were ‘worried about STDs.’” (10)

“Contraceptive Use”

- “About two out of three sexually active females aged 15-19 use contraception, but not every time they have sex.” (11)
- “The proportion of women who used any contraceptive method at first intercourse increased from 50 percent for those who first had sex before 1980 to 76 percent for those who first had sex between 1990 and 1995.” (12)
- “Condom use among 9-12th grade students increased over the last decade: In 1991, 46 percent reported using a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse, compared with 58 percent who did so in 2001. However, in recent years, the rate of increase in condom use has leveled off.” (3,4)
- “Among sexually active 15-17-year-olds, 95 percent say that ‘how well it prevents pregnancy’ is ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ important when choosing a method of contraception; 88 percent say ‘what their partner wants to use,’ and 86 percent say ‘how well it protects against HIV and other STDs’ is important.” (13)

“Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)”

- “In 1995, 10 percent of all females aged 15-19—or 19 percent of those who have had sexual intercourse—become pregnant.”
- “The teen pregnancy rate (the number of pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-19) has declined in recent years, from 116.5 in 1991 to 94.3 in 1997. (15) The recent decrease can be explained by more effective use of contraception and decreased sexual activity.” (16)



- “Since many teen girls have not had sex and therefore are not at risk for pregnancy, a more accurate measure of teen pregnancy rates may be the number of pregnancies among sexually active teen girls aged 15-19. This rate has also declined (from 211.8 per 1,000 in 1998 to 197.1 per 1,000 in 1995).” (16)
- “The teen abortion rate (the number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-19) has declined in recent years, from 34 in 1994 to 25 in 2000; the biggest abortion rate decline occurred among 15-17-year-olds, from 24 in 1994 to 15 in 2000.” (17)
- “Approximately one in four sexually active teens get an STD every year; (18) and approximately half of all new HIV infections occur in people under age 25.” (19)

“Sex and Substance Abuse”

- “One-quarter of sexually active 9-12th grade students report using alcohol or drugs during their most recent sexual encounter. Males (31%) are more likely than females (21%) to report having done so.” (4)
- “Among 15-17-year-olds, 51 percent say that they are personally concerned that they might do more sexually than they planned to because they were drinking or using drugs.” (20)

“Sexual Pressure, Assault and Dating Violence”

- “Nearly half of 12-17-year-olds (48%) say teens today face ‘a lot’ of pressure when it comes to sex and relationships, another 38 percent say they face ‘some’ pressures. Two in five teens admit to feeling personally pressured (11% ‘a lot’ and 26% ‘some’) about sex and relationships.” (10)
- “About 8 percent of 9-12th grade students report having ever been forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to. Females (10%) are more likely than males (5%) to have been forced to do so.” (4)
- “More than a third (36%) of teens aged 13-18 say they have done something sexual of felt pressure to do something sexual, that they did not feel ready to do.” (21)

“References”

- (1) “Henshaw S, U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics, March 2001, The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI); New York. Data based on reports from National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), AGI, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Bureau of the Census.
- (2) American Social Health Association/Kaiser Family Foundation, STDs in America: How Many Cased and at What Cost?, 1998.
- (3) CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999; and CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Trends, from Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1999.
- (4) CDC, Youth risk behavior surveillance—United States, 2001, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, June 2002, 51(4)
- (5) Gates GJ and Sonenstein FL, Heterosexual genital activity among adolescent males: 1988 and 1995, Family Planning Perspectives, 2000, 32(6). Data based on NSAM.
- (6) Warren CW, et al., Sexual behavior among U.S. high school students, 1990-1995, Family Planning Perspectives, July/August 1998, 30(4). Data based on the 1995 YRBS.
- (7) Moore KA, et al., A Statistical Portrait of Adolescent Sex, Contraception and Childbearing, March 1998, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (NCTPTP): Washington, D.C. Data based on the 1995 NSFG.
- (8) Moore KA and A Driscoll, Partners, Predators, Peers, Protectors: Males and Teen Pregnancy: New Data Analyses of the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth, NCTPTP: Washington, D.C.
- (9) Darroch JE, et al., Age differences between sexual partners in the United States, Family Planning Perspectives, July/August 1999, 31(4). Data based on the 1995 NSFG.
- (10) Kaiser Family Foundation and Seventeen, National Survey of Teens about Sex: Decision Making, 2000.
- (11) Gleit D, Measuring contraceptive use patterns among teenage and adult women, Family Planning Perspectives, March/April 1999, 31(2). Data based on the 1995 NSFG.

- (12) Abma JC, et al., Fertility, Family Planning, and Women's Health: New Data From the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth, 1995, 23(19), CDC: Atlanta, GA.
- (13) Kaiser Family Foundation and Seventeen, National Survey of Teens About Sex: Safer Sex, Condoms, and "the Pill," 2000.
- (14) The Alan Guttmacher Institute, Teenage Pregnancy: Overall Trends and State-by-State Information, 1999, AGI: New York; and Henshaw SK, U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics with Comparative Statistics for Women aged 20-24, 1999, AGI: New York.
- (15) Ventura SJ, et al., Trends in pregnancy rates for the United States, 1976-97: An update, National Vital Statistics Reports, June 2001, 49(4), National Center for Health Statistics: Hyattsville, Maryland.
- (16) Darroch JE and S Singh, Occasional Report: Why is Teenage Pregnancy Declining? The Roles of Abstinence, Sexual Activity, and Contraceptive Use, 1999, AGI: New York. Data based on the 1988 and 1995 NSFGs.
- (17) Jones RK, et al., Patterns in the Socioeconomic Characteristics of Women Obtaining Abortions in 2000-2001, Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Sept/Oct 2002, 34(5).
- (18) The Alan Guttmacher Institute, Sex and America's Teenagers, 1994, AGI: New York.
- (19) CDC, HIV Prevention Strategic Plan Through 2005, Jan. 2001.
- (20) Kaiser Family Foundation and MTV, National Survey: The Sexual Health of Adolescents and Young Adults, 2002.
- (21) Kaiser Family Foundation and YM, National Survey of Teens; Teens Talk About Dating, Intimacy and Their Sexual Experiences, 1997."

(Fact Sheet, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, January 2003)

"AN ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF THE DECLINE IN NON-MARITAL BIRTH AND PREGNANCY RATES FOR TEENS FROM 1991 TO 1995"

"Introduction"

"Births to single teens represent a significant cost to the mother, to the child, and to society (Maynard, 1997). Mothers under age 17, nearly all of whom are single, are 40% less likely to graduate from high school by age 30 (Maynard, 1997), and ultimately earn less income than their counterparts who did not bear children before age 17. Children of these mothers weigh less at birth, have more health problems, suffer more physical abuse and neglect, and perform at a lower level in school than children born to mothers over age 20 (Maynard, 1997). Historically, 77% of single teen mothers have required welfare assistance within five years after giving birth (Adams & Williams, 1990)."

“The National Center for Health Statistics documented a significant rise in teen pregnancies and births in the United States during the 1970s and 1980s. However, since 1991, single and overall teen pregnancy and birth rates have decline steadily (Venture, Mosher, Curin, Abma & Henshaw, 2000).”

“Authors at the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) attribute 80% of the decrease between 1988 and 1995 to increased use of contraceptives and the remaining 20% to increased teen abstinence (Saul, 1999). Christine Flanigan, in a report released by the Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, credited 50% to 80% of the decrease in teen pregnancies to improved contraceptive use and 20% to 50% of the decline to abstinence (Flanigan, 2001). However, both of these studies are compromised by the fact that the peak year for the teen birthrate (1991) occurs in the middle of the study time frame. In addition, the authors define teens ‘at risk for pregnancy’ as being those who had ever had sex, not just those who were sexually active during the year in question. They also treat the sexually active population as a homogenous group, in spite of the fact that single and married teens have very different birth and pregnancy rates, and experience different educational and financial consequences.”

“Abstract”

“In the United States, the birth and pregnancy rates for single 15- to 19-year-old females declined by 0.4 births and 9 pregnancies per 1000 females from 1991 to 1995. The current study utilized data from the National Vital Statistics Records, National Survey of Family Growth (NFSG-95), and the Alan Guttmacher Institute to determine the contribution of abstinence to the decline. In addition, the birthrate and population changes among the married teen population were evaluated for their contribution to the overall decline in teen birth and pregnancy rates.”

“The percentage of single teens that were abstinent increased from 53 to 56% from 1991 to 1995 reducing the total teen birthrate by 2.8 births and the pregnancy rate by 6.1 pregnancies per 1000 females. For sexually active single teens, the birth rate increased by 5.5 births/1000, increasing the single teen birth rate by 2.6 births/1000 females while the pregnancy rate decreased by 6.8 pregnancies/1000, reducing the single teen pregnancy rate by 3.2 pregnancies/1000 females. The number of married teens declined from 4.7 to 3.9%, reducing the overall birth and pregnancy rates by 3.0 births and 3.5 pregnancies per 1000 females. Among single 15-19 year-old females, the decline in the proportion engaging in sexual activity accounts for the entire decrease in birthrate and 67% of the decline in pregnancy rate.”

“The factors making the greatest contribution to the decline in overall 15-19 year-old birth and pregnancy rates were an increase in abstinence and a decrease in the percentage of married teens.”

(Mohn, Joanna K MD, Tingle, Lynne R. PhD, Finger, Reginald MD, MPH, “An Analysis of the Causes of the Decline in Non-marital Birth and Pregnancy Rates for Teens from 1991 to 1995,” Adolescent and Family Health, Volume 3, Number 1, pp39-40, www.afhjournal.org)

“FRIENDSHIPS AND EARLY RELATIONSHIPS: LINKS TO SEXUAL INITIATION AMONG AMERICAN ADOLESCENT BORN TO YOUNG MOTHERS”

“Between ages 11-12 and 13-14, the proportion of youth who ever had had sex increased from 3% to 10%. Although the proportion initiating sex between those ages was essentially identical for males and females, young adolescent males were significantly more likely than their female counterparts to ever have had sex (12% vs. 8%), because they had already reported higher levels of sexual activity at ages 11-12. The racial difference is larger still: Eighteen percent of black youth were sexually experienced at ages 13-14, compared with 8% of nonblacks.”

(“Friendships and Early Relationship: Links to Sexual Initiation Among American Adolescents Born to Young Mothers,” Elizabeth C. Cooksey, Frank L. Mott, and Stefanie A. Neubauer, Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Volume 34, Number 3, May/June 2002)

“TEENS VALUE VIRGINITY”

“While a majority of girls and guys say their peers have felt pressured to have sex (89% and 67% respectively), a study by *Seventeen* magazine and the Kaiser Family Foundation also shows that teens don’t necessarily view virginity as undesirable. Of those surveyed, 92% said it’s generally a good thing for a girl to be a virgin. Only 19% considered it a *bad* thing for a guy to remain abstinent.”

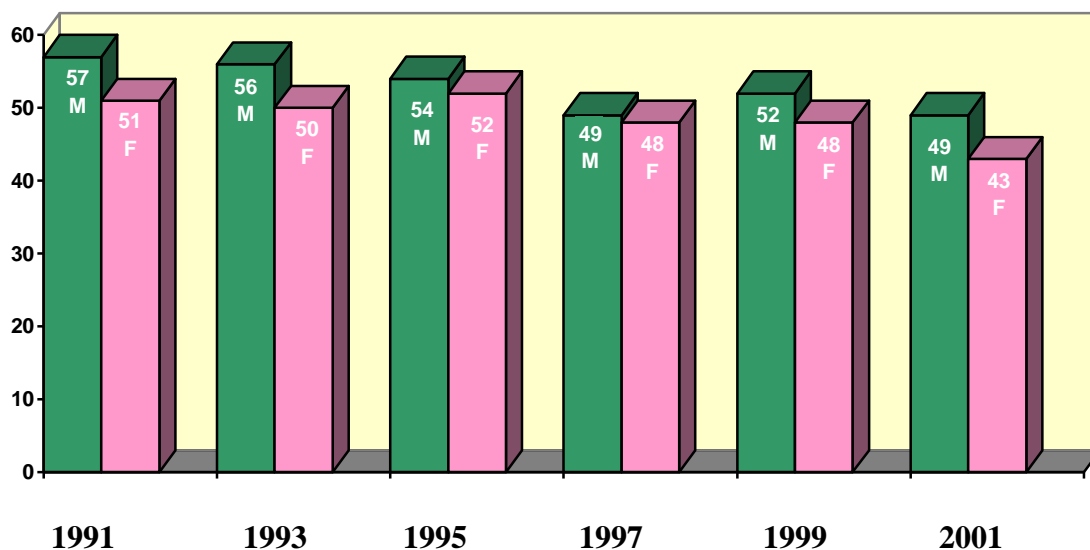
(“Teens Value Virginity,” Plugged In, February, 2003, pp2)

“TEEN SEXUAL ACTIVITY”

“General Sexual Activity”

- “Fewer than half of all 9-12th grade students have had sexual intercourse, reflecting a decline during the last decade from 54 percent in 1991 to 46 percent in 2001. Males are more likely than females to report having had sex.” (3,4)

**Percentage of 9-12th Graders, by Gender
Who have had Sexual Intercourse, 1991-2001**



(Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, Youth Risk Behavior Survey.)

- “The percentage of high school students who have had sexual intercourse increase by grade: In 2001, 61 percent of 12th graders had had sexual intercourse, compared with 35 percent of 9th graders.”
- “Data about teens’ sexual experiences other than intercourse is more limited. However, in 1995, 53 percent of teen males ages 15-19 said they had been masturbated by a female (an increase from 1988); 49 percent had received oral sex; 39 percent had given oral sex; and 11 percent had engaged in anal sex. (5)”

“First Sexual Intercourse”

- “The median age at first intercourse is 16.5 years. (6)”

- “The percentage of 9-12th grade students who had initiated sexual intercourse before age 13 has fluctuated in recent years, from a high of 9 percent in 1995 (the first year data was collected) to a low of 6.6 percent in 2001. Males (9%) are more likely than females (4%) to report having sex at these early ages. (3,4)”
- “Among teen girls aged 15-19 who have had sexual intercourse, 69 percent described their first time as ‘voluntary and wanted;’ 24 percent as ‘voluntary but unwanted;’ and 7 percent as ‘non-voluntary.’ The younger the age at first intercourse, the greater the likelihood the experience was unwanted and/or non-voluntary. (7)”

“Sexual Partner and Relationships”

- “Most teen girls aged 15-19 who describe their first sexual experience as voluntary knew their partners fairly well—73 percent say their first sexual partner was someone they were going steady with, while 20 percent say their first encounter was with a friend or someone they dated occasionally. (8)”
- “The percentage of 9-12th grade students who report having had four or more sexual partners has declined in recent years from 19 percent in 1991 to 14 percent in 2001. Males (17%) are more likely than females (11%) to report having had four or more sexual partners. (3,4)”
- “Sixty-three percent (63%) of sexually active females aged 15-19 have partners who are within two years (older or younger) of their age; 28 percent have partners who are three to five years older. (9) The younger a girl is when she has sex for the first time, the greater the average age difference is likely to be between her and her partner. (8)”

“Abstinence”

- “In 1999, more than one in four (27%) 9-12th grade students who had had sexual intercourse said they were currently abstinent. Males (31%) were more likely than females (24%) to report being currently abstinent. (3)”
- “Among teens aged 15-17 who have not had sexual intercourse, 83 percent say that ‘worry about getting/getting someone pregnant’ was the main reason they had not had sex. Another 74 percent said they ‘made a conscious decision to wait,’ and 73 percent said they were ‘worried about STDs.’ (10)”

“Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)”

- “The teen abortion rate (the number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-19) has declined in recent years, from 34 in 1994 to 25 in 2000; the biggest abortion rate decline occurred among 15-17-year-olds, from 24 in 1994 to 15 in 2000. (17)”
- “Approximately one in four sexually active teens gets an STD every year; (18) and approximately half of all new HIV infections occur in people under age 25. (19)”

“Sexual Pressure, Assault and Dating Violence”

- “Nearly half of 12-17-year-olds (48%) say teens today face ‘a lot’ of pressure when it comes to sex and relationships, and another 38 percent say they face ‘some’ pressure. Two in five teens admit to feeling personally pressured (11% ‘a lot’ and 26% ‘some’) about sex and relationships. (10)”
- “About 8 percent of 9-12th grade students report having ever been forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to. Females (10%) are more likely than males (5%) to have been forced to do so. (4)”
- “More than a third (36%) of teens aged 13-18 say they have done something sexual, or felt pressure to do something sexual, that they did not feel ready to do. (21)”

“References”

- “(3) CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999; and CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Trends, from Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1999.
- (4) CDC, Youth risk behavior surveillance—United States, 2001, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, June 2002, 51(4).
- (5) Gates GJ and Sonenstein FL, Heterosexual genital activity among adolescent males: 1988 and 1995 Family Planning Perspectives, 2000, 32(6). Data based on NSAM.
- (7) Moore KA, et al., A Statistical Portrait of Adolescent Sex, Contraception and Childbearing, March 1998, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (NCTPTP): Washington, D.C. Data based on the 1995 NSFG.
- (8) Moore KA and A Driscoll, Partners, Predators, Peers, Protectors: Males and Teen Pregnancy: New Data Analyses of the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth, NCTPTP: Washington, D.C.
- (10) Kaiser Family Foundation and Seventeen, National Survey of Teens about Sex: Decision Making 2000.
- (17) Jones RK, et al., Patterns in the Socioeconomic Characteristics of Women Obtaining Abortions in 2000-2001, Perspective on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Sept/Oct 2002, 34(5).
- (18) The Alan Guttmacher Institute, Sex and America’s Teenagers, 1994, AGI: New York.

(19) CDC, HIV Prevention Strategic Plan Through 2005, Jan. 2001.

(21) Kaiser Family Foundation and YM, National Survey of Teens: Teens Talk About Dating, Intimacy and Their Sexual Experiences, 1997.”

(NO. DOC)

“WHERE AND WHEN DO TEENS FIRST HAVE SEX?”

It’s Not What You Think”

“Are teens most likely to have their first experience with sex in the back seat of a car? Or in their own home? Between the time school gets out and a parent gets home from work? Or during night and evening hours?”

“The answers may surprise you. New data from a national survey of teens indicate that most report their ‘first time’ occurred in their own or their partner's family home during the night or evening hours – places and times when many parents are likely to be around.”

“The U.S. teen birth rate has fallen for 10 consecutive years (reaching 45.9 births per 1,000 females 15-19 in 2001).”

“Time and Place of First Sex. 42 percent of teens reported that their first sexual encounter occurred between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. Another 28 percent reported first having sex between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. More than half of all sexually experienced teens reported that their first sexual encounter occurred in their family’s home (22 percent) or their partner’s family home (34 percent).”

(“Where and When Do Teens First Have Sex?” www.childtrends.org/n_faag2002.asp)

“SUBSTANCE USE AND RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR: ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS”

“Summary of Findings”

“Many young people report that they themselves have engaged in risky behaviors because of substance use. More than a third of sexually active young people report that alcohol or drugs have influenced their decisions about sex. Almost as many have ‘done more’ sexually than they had planned while under the influence. Because of decisions they made

while drinking or using drugs, young people also report having unprotected sex and worrying about STDs and pregnancy.”

“Perceptions of Risk and Personal Concern”

“Young people say that alcohol and drugs often go hand- in-hand with sexual activity among their peers. Almost nine out of ten (88%) 15- to 24-year-olds say that people their age drink or use drugs before having sex at least ‘sometimes’ – including 50 percent who say this happens ‘a lot.’”

“In spite of the risks, one in five (21 %) young people 15 to 24 say it is not a big deal if their peers make decisions about sex while drinking or using drugs.”

“When it comes to *their own* decision-making, many young people are worried about the influence of substance use. Forty-three percent of young people 15 to 24 say they are *personally* concerned that they ‘might do more sexually than [they] had planned because of alcohol or drugs.’ Teens are more likely than young adults to express personal concern—almost half (49%) of teens 15 to 17 compared to 40 percent of young adults 18 to 24.”

(Survey Snapshot, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, February 2002)

“SUBSTANCE USE AND SEXUAL HEALTH AMONG TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS IN THE U.S.”

“Sexual activity and substance use are not uncommon among youth today. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 79 percent of high-school students report having experimented with alcohol at least once, and a quarter report frequent drug use. (1,2) Half of all 9 -12 graders have had sexual intercourse, and 65 percent will by the time they graduate. (3) While it has been difficult to show a direct causal relationship, there is some evidence that alcohol and drug use by young people is associated with risky sexual activity.”

“Sexual Initiation”

- “Up to 18 percent of young people aged 13 to 19 report that they were drinking at the time of first intercourse. (7) Among teens aged 14 to 18 who reported having used alcohol before age fourteen, 20 percent said they had sex at age fourteen or earlier, compared with seven percent of other teens.” (8)

- “One-quarter of sexually active 9-12th grade students report using alcohol or drugs during their last sexual encounter, with males more likely than females to have done so (31% vs. 19%).” (3)
- “For a significant proportion of adults aged 18 to 30, having sex and heavy drinking occur together in a single episode. Among men, 35 percent said they had sex when consuming five to eight drinks, compared with 17 percent of those who had one or two drinks. Among women aged 18 to 30, 39 percent had sex while consuming five to eight drinks, compared with 14 percent of women who had one or two drinks.”

“Multiple Partners”

- “Thirty-nine percent (39%) of sexually active students in 9th - 12th grades who report ever using alcohol have had sex with four or more partners, compared with 29 percent of students who never drink.” (6)
- “Forty-four percent (44%) of sexually active students in 9th - 12th grades who report ever using drugs have had sex with four or more partners, compared with 24 percent of student use drugs.” (6)

“Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)”

- “There are approximately fifteen million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) annually in the United States. About two-thirds of new cases occur among adolescents and young adults under 25, (12,13) a group that is also more likely to engage in both risky sexual activity and alcohol and drug use.”
- “Young women may be biologically more susceptible to chlamydia, gonorrhea, and HIV than older women.” (13)
- “In a single act of unprotected sex with an infected partner, a teenage woman has a one percent risk of acquiring HIV, a 30 percent risk of getting genital herpes, and a 50 percent chance of contracting gonorrhea.” (14)

“Unintended Pregnancy”

- “Almost one million adolescents – or 19 percent of those who have had sexual intercourse – become pregnant each year. (16) Among women aged 15 to 19, 78

percent of pregnancies are believed to be unintended, accounting for about one-quarter of all accidental pregnancies each year.” (17)

“Sexual Assault and Violence”

- “Estimates of substance use during instances of sexual violence and rape in the general population range from 30 to 90 percent for alcohol use, and from 13 to 42 percent for the use of illicit substances.” (1)
- “Alcohol use by the victim, perpetrator, or both, has been implicated in 46 to 75 percent of date rapes among college student.” (1)
- “One survey of college students found that 78 percent of women had experienced sexual aggression (any type of sexual activity, including kissing, unwanted by the woman.). Dates on which sexual aggression occurred were more likely to include heavy drinking or drug use than those dates that were marked by sexually aggressive activity.” (1)

“References”

- “(1) The National Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University. (1999). “Dangerous Liaisons: Substance Abuse and Sex.” New York, The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University.
- (2) “Frequent drug use” was defined as occurring when a substance was used more than 20 times in one's lifetime.
- (3) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 1999,” Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, June 2000, vol. 49.
- (6) Analysis of 1997 YRBS data, reported in CASA, “Dangerous Liaisons: Substance Abuse and Sex.”
- (7) Analysis of a random telephone survey in Buffalo, NY, reported in CASA, “Dangerous Liaisons: Substance Abuse and Sex.”
- (8) Analysis of National Longitudinal Survey of Youth Labor Market Experience, reported in CASA, “Dangerous Liaisons: Substance Abuse and Sex.”
- (9) Graves KL, “Risky Sexual Behavior and Alcohol Use Among Young Adults: Results From a National Survey,” American Journal of Health Promotion, 1995, vol. 10.
- (12) American Social Health Association/Kaiser Family Foundation, “Sexually Transmitted Diseases in America: How Many Cases and At What Cost?” Menlo Park, CA: The Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation, 1998.
- (13) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “Tracking the Hidden Epidemics: Trends in STDs in the United States 2000,” Atlanta, GA: CDC, 2001.

(14) The Alan Guttmacher Institute, “Sex and America's Teenagers,” New York: AGI, 1994.”

“(17) Henshaw SK, “Unintended Pregnancy in the United States,” Family Planning Perspectives, 1998, vol. 30.”

“(18) Moore KA et al., “A Statistical Portrait of Adolescent Sex, Contraception, and Childbearing,” Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 1998.”

(NO. DOC)

“SUBSTANCE USE AND RISKY SEXUAL ACTIVITY”

“Sex, Drinking, and Drug Use: How Common?”

“Fifty-two percent of boys and 48 percent of girls in 9th – 12th grades report having ever had sex and 36 percent of high school students say they have had sex recently. (3) Seventy-nine percent of high school students say they have tried alcohol and more than half of all high school students in 1997 reported having used at least one illicit drug and a quarter reported frequent drug use.” (4,5)

“Researching the Links: Substance Use and Risky Sexual Activity”

“Drinking and Sex”

“Increased alcohol use seems to be associated with an increased likelihood of sexual activity. When men aged 18 to 30 were asked to report their episode of heaviest drinking in the last year, 35 percent said that they had sex after consuming five to eight drinks and 45 percent had sex after consuming eight or more drinks, compared with 17 percent of those who had one or two drinks. Among women aged 18 to 30, 39 percent had sex while consuming five to eight drinks and 57 percent had sex when consuming eight or more drinks, compared with 14 percent of men who had one or two drinks.” (6)

“Unintended Consequences”

“Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)”

“Approximately fifteen million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) occur annually in the United states. (14) By age 24, one in three sexually active people will have contracted an STD –and many may not realize when they become infected. (14) Of the 900,000 people currently living with HIV in the U.S., up to a third remain unaware of their HIV status. (15) STDs and substance use are associated in several ways.”

“Sexual Assault and Violence”

“Substance use, particularly drinking alcohol, appears to play a role in a significant number of crimes of sexual violence – whether it is the victim or the perpetrator who uses. Substance use during instances of sexual violence and rape is estimated to range from 30 to 90 percent for alcohol use, and from 13 to 42 percent for the use of illicit substances. (4) These statistics, however, are difficult to gather and track. A study of arrested sex offenders found that 42 percent of them tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrest.” (4)

“When it comes to date rapes among college students, alcohol use by the victim, perpetrator, or both, has been implicated in 46 to 75 percent of the incidents.” (4)

“References:”

“(3) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, 1999.” “Recently” was defined as having intercourse in the three months prior to being surveyed.

(4) The National Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University. (1999). “Dangerous liaisons: Substance Abuse and Sex.” New York, The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University.

(5) “Heavy drug use” was defined as using any drug at least 20 times in one's lifetime.

(6) Graves KL, “Risky Sexual Behavior and Alcohol Use Among Young Adults: Results From a National Survey,” American Journal of Health Promotion, 1995, vol. 10.”

(NO. DOC)

“HHS STUDY REPORTS ON ‘RISKY’ BEHAVIORS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING SEXUAL ACTIVITY, CONTRACEPTIVE USE”

- “Sexual intercourse: Nationwide, 45.6% of students reported having had sexual intercourse at least once during their lifetimes, including 60.8% of black students, 48.4% of Hispanic students and 43.2% of white students. The prevalence of sexual activity increased by grade level, with 34.4% of students in grade 9, 40.8% of students in grade 10, 51.9% of students in grade 11 and 60.5% of students in grade 12 reporting having had sexual intercourse.”
- “Early initiation of intercourse: The survey found that 6.6% of all students—including 9.3% of males and 4% of females—reported having initiated sexual intercourse before

age 13. Within every racial/ethnic and grade subgroup, male students were significantly more likely than female students to have had sex before age 13.”

- “Number of sexual partners: Overall, 14.2% of students, including 17.2% of boys and 11.4% of girls, reported having had intercourse with four or more sexual partners.”
- “Current sexual activity: One-third (33.4%) of students surveyed reported being ‘currently sexually active,’ meaning that they had had sexual intercourse at least once in the three months prior to the survey.”

www.kaisernet.org/daily_reports/print_report.cfm?DR_ID=11987&dr_cat=2

“SEX AND DRUGS OR ALCOHOL: ARE TEENS USING ONE TO GET THE OTHER?”

“Key Facts:”

- **“How prevalent is drinking and drug use among teens?”**

“According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most students (78%) in grades 9-12 report having experimented with alcohol at least once; 42 percent report having experimented with marijuana at least one time. Use of other drugs is not as common among high school students, but is still significant—9 percent report having used cocaine, 15 percent report use of inhalants, 3 percent report heroin use, and 10 percent report using methamphetamines at least once.”

“More details about alcohol and drug use among 9-12th graders – and other risky behaviors – can be found in the ‘CDC’s 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.’”

- **“How many teens are sexually active?”**

“Teen sexual activity has declined in the last decade. According to the CDC, fewer than half (46%) of all 9-12th graders have had sexual intercourse (down from 54% in 1991). Males (49%) are more likely than females (43%) to report having had sexual intercourse, and 12th graders (61%) are more likely than 9th graders (35%) to have done so.”

“For more details about teen sexual activity, see the ‘Kaiser Family Foundation’s Fact Sheet, Teen Sexual Activity’ (download PDF) and the complete 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.”

- “How many teens report using drugs and alcohol during sex? And does use of drugs and alcohol influence sexual decision making?”

“According to the CDC, one-quarter of sexually active 9-12th grade students report using alcohol or drugs during their most recent sexual encounter. Males (31%) are more likely than females (21%) to report having done so.”

“More than a third (36%) of sexually active young people aged 15 to 24 say that alcohol or drugs have influenced their decisions about sex, including more than a quarter (29%) who say they have ‘done more’ sexually than they had planned to while drinking or using drugs.”

“For more information, see the summary of the “Kaiser Family Foundation Survey on Substance Use and Risky Sexual Behavior; Attitudes and Practices Among Adolescents and Young Adults” (download PDF).”

- “Are teens and young adults concerned about sex, drugs, and alcohol?”

“Concern about sexual health, drugs, and alcohol ranks high for teens and young adults. Most 15 to 24-year-olds – 88 percent—say that sexual health, including HIV/AIDS, STDs, and pregnancy are ‘big concerns’ for people their age, and 67 percent are personally concerned. Another 76 percent say that violence, including sexual and other physical violence is a big concern, and 71 percent are personally concerned about it. When it comes to drugs and alcohol, 70 percent of teens and young adults say that drug use and 66 percent say that drinking too much are very big concerns for people their age; 44 percent are worried that they might do more sexually than they planned because they were drinking or using drugs; and 38 percent want more information about how alcohol and drugs might affect their decisions about having sex.”

“For more information, see the summary of the ‘Kaiser Family Foundation’s Survey, Substance Use and Risky Sexual Behavior; Attitudes and Practices Among Adolescents and Young Adults’ (download PDF).”

- “Do teens feel pressure when it comes to sex and relationships—and do alcohol and drugs play a role in it?”

“Nearly half of 12-17-year-olds (48%) say teens today face ‘a lot’ of pressure when it comes to sex and relationships, and another 38 percent say they face ‘some’ pressure. Two in five teens admit to feeling personally pressured (11% ‘a lot’ and 26% ‘some’) about sex and relationships. Among teens aged 15-17 who have had sex, 5 percent say

that the major reason they had sex the first time was because they were drinking at the time; 41 percent also agree that alcohol makes having sex easier.”

“For more information, see the summary of findings from the Kaiser Family Foundation/seventeen magazine ‘Sex Smarts Survey on Decisive Decision Making’ (download PDF).”

“SEXSMARTS – DECISION MAKING – A Series of National Surveys of Teens About Sex”

“Decision Making About Sex”

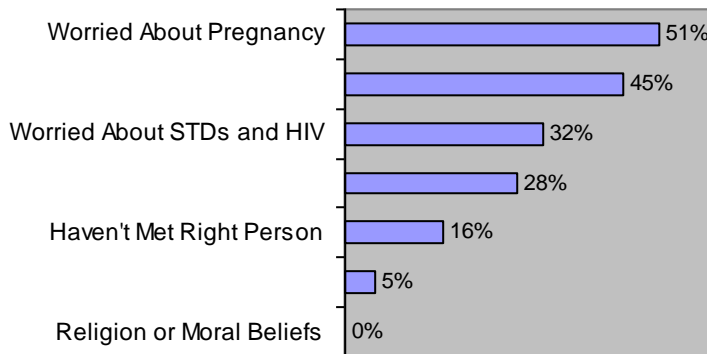
“Whether to have sex? What kind of contraception to use? How to protect against sexually transmitted diseases? Teens are making decisions about sex everyday, and often young people say they feel pressure from many sources in trying to decide what is right for them. (See Figure 1). There are many factors—from peers, to parents, to the media, to what they have learned in sex education—that influence the choices they ultimately make.”

“This national survey examines the influences that teens say affect their decisions about sex and relationships. It was conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Seventeen magazine as part of an ongoing public information partnership to provide teens with information and resources on sexual health.”

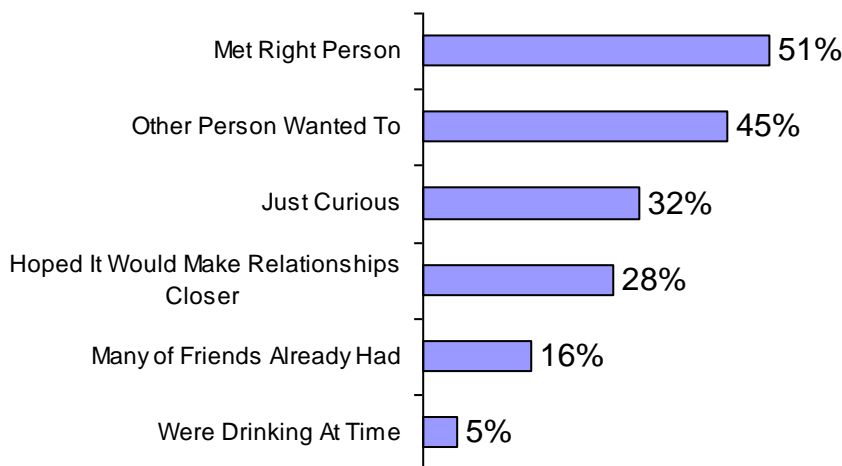
Figure 1. Peers and Pressure...
 Eighty-six percent of teens say young people today face pressure when it comes to sex and relationships"



Figure 2. To Have Sex...Or Not?
 Among 15-17 year olds who have NOT had sex, the percent who say each was a "major reason" for their decision to wait to have sex...



Among 15-17 year olds who HAVE had sex, the percent who say each was a 'major reason' for their decision to have sex for the first time...



“Teen boys feel as much if not more pressure than girls when it comes to sex and relationships. Boys and girls report different types of concerns when it comes to talking about pressures and factors that influence decisions about becoming sexually active. Girls

feel more pressure from family, religion and friends regarding sexual activity and relationships. Boys, on the other hand, feel more pressure to ‘have sex’ by a certain age, and they are twice as likely as girls to say that sex ‘is expected in a relationship.’ Relatedly, a boy’s partner prior sexual experience influences his decisions about sex.”

Figure 5. Influences in Decision Making About Sex and Relationships.

Percent of teens who say their decision about sex and relationships are influenced by...

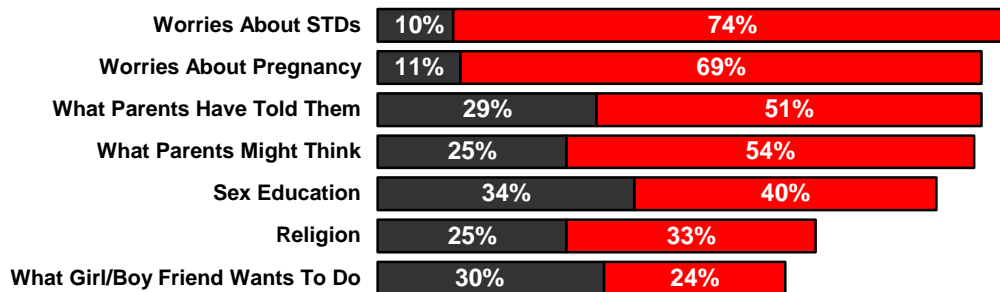


Figure 6. Virginity and Waiting...

The Ideal vs. The Real

Nine in ten teens agree young people **SHOULD** wait to have sexual intercourse until they are older



Yet, 57 percent believe few will actually wait



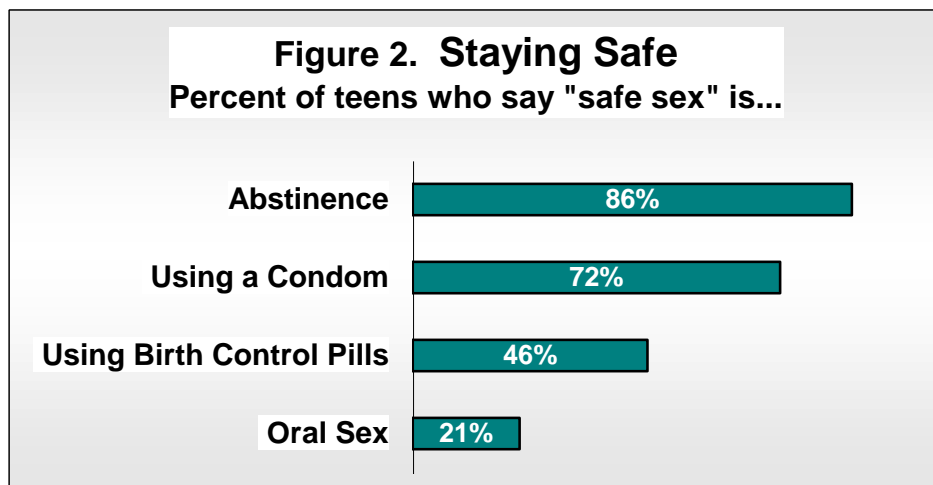
(“Decision Making – A Series of National Surveys of Teens About Sex”, SexSmarts, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation & Seventeen, September 2000)

‘SEXSMARTS – SAFER SEX, CONDOMS AND ‘THE PILL’”

“Teens on Safer Sex, Condoms and ‘the Pill’”

“Teens today are coming of age at a time when HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are a constant consideration for anyone who is sexually active. It is

estimated that a quarter of Americans living with HIV/AIDS became infected before they turned 20 years old. And, more than 4 million new cases of STDs among teens will be diagnosed this year alone.”



(“Safer Sex, Condoms and ‘the Pill’”, SexSmarts – a Public Information Partnership, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation & Seventeen, November, 2000)

“MILLIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE MIX SEX WITH ALCOHOL OR DRUGS—WITH DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES”

“15- to 24-year-olds nationally”

“Twenty-nine percent say that because of alcohol and drug use, they did ‘more sexually than they had planned,’ according to a new national survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation and released at a conference, ‘Dangerous Liaisons: Substance Abuse and Sexual Behavior,’ sponsored by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA*) at Columbia University.”

*The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University is neither affiliated with, nor sponsored by, the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (also known as “CASA”) or any of its member organizations, or any other organization with the name of “CASA.”

(“Millions of Young People Mix Sex With Alcohol Or Drugs – With Dangerous Consequences”, The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, February 6, 2002)

“FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING”

“Between 100 million and 180 million women around the world have undergone female genital cutting (FGC), also known as female circumcision and female genital mutilation, in which parts of the female genitalia are cut away. Some 600 girls are at risk every day. FGC is a serious health issue, with effects including hemorrhage, shock, pain, and various infections and other complications that can significantly damage a girl’s health over her lifetime. Because FGC violates a woman’s right to good health and bodily integrity, it is also a human rights issue. FGC occurs primarily in Africa, but is also practiced by minority groups and African immigrants in other regions.”

([www.prb.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Measure_Com.../The Worlds_Youth_2000.ht](http://www.prb.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Measure_Com.../The_Worlds_Youth_2000.ht))

“EDITORIAL: PARENTS AND ADOLESCENT ATTITUDES”

“A poll conducted by Time and Nickelodeon found that 76 percent of young teenagers (ages 12 to 14) say it’s ‘somewhat or very important’ to delay the initiation of sexual intercourse until marriage. Older teens are getting on the same page, as well. The University of California at Los Angeles conducts an annual survey of college freshman. This past year, 60 percent – the highest in the history of the survey – said they believe it’s not okay for two people to have sex even if they ‘really like each other.’”

“According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the percentage of high school students who have ever had sex dropped below 50 percent in 1999, down from 54 percent in 1991.”

“Unfortunately, there remains a striking disconnect between the attitudes of today’s teens about sex and the attitudes of lots of parents. The Time/Nickelodeon poll asked the minority of 12 to 14 year-olds who do believe premarital sex can be okay, how old somebody should be before first intercourse. They set the age at 23. When the pollsters asked their parents the same question, the parents said 18.”

“There are 25 STDs today, as opposed to two in 1960. In the 1970s, one adolescent in 47 contracted a STD. Today, that figure is one in four. And the STDs are much more dangerous. At least one can kill. Others have been linked to cancer.”

(Joe S. McIlhaney, Jr., M.D., “Parents and Adolescents Attitudes,”
www.medinstitute.org/media/Attitudes.htm)

“MORAL ISSUES”

“There is a lot if discussion about the way morals and sexual attitudes are changing in this country. What is your opinion about this? Do you think it is wrong for a man and a woman to have sexual relations before marriage, or not?”

[Based on –491—National Adults in Form A; ± 5 pct. pts.]

	Yes, wrong	No, not wrong	No opinion
2001 May 10-14	38	60	2
1998 Nov 20-22	40	56	4
1996 May 28-29	40	55	6
1991 August 29-September 3	40	54	6
1987 July 10-13	46	48	6
1985 April 12-15	39	52	9
1973 July 6-9	47	43	9
1969 July 24-29	68	21	11

(www.gallup.com/poll/indicators/indmoral.asp)

“WHERE AND WHEN DO TEENS FIRST HAVE SEX?”

“While the U.S. teen birth rate has fallen for 10 consecutive years (reaching 45.9 births per 1,000 females 15-19 in 2001), other statistics examined by Child Trends present a compelling case for continued public attention to teen sexual behavior, pregnancy, and childbearing. For example:”

- **“Time and Place of First Sex.** 42 percent of teens reported that their first sexual encounter occurred between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. Another 28 percent reported first having sex between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. More than half of all sexually experienced teens reported that their first sexual encounter occurred in their family's home (22 percent) or their partner's family home (34 percent).”
- **“Increases in Some Critical Sexually Transmitted Infections.** Adolescents and young adult females had higher rates of Chlamydia and gonorrhea than any other age group in the U.S. Rates of Chlamydia have increased for both male and female adolescents and young adults between 1996 and 2000.”

- **“Hispanic Teens at Greatest Risk of Teen Birth.** Teen birth rates have fallen for all racial and ethnic groups, but remain much higher for Hispanics (92 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19) than either non-Hispanic blacks (82) or non-Hispanic whites (30). Moreover, while the rate of teen births among Hispanics has been falling, the number of teen births has actually been increasing.”
- **“Repeat Teen Births.** About one in five teen births are births to teens who have already borne a child.”

(News Room, "Where and When Do Teens First Have Sex?," Child Trends News Room, September 26, 2002, http://www.childtrends.org/n_FAAG2002.asp)

"UNHEALTHY ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO TEEN SEXUAL ACTIVITY"

“The following problems may lead to teenage sex:”

- “Sexual Abuse”
- “Alcohol and drugs”
- “Desire for pregnancy”
- “Loneliness”
- “Peer pressure”
- “Older partner”
- “Absent mother or father”

(“Unhealthy Environmental Factors That Contribute to Teen Sexual Activity,” Medical Institute for Sexual Health, P. 111-Slide 70)

"Among girls, the high risk group was twice as likely as the low risk group and 6 times as likely as the sexually abstaining group to have suffered sexual abuse. Forty percent of the high-risk girls had been physically abused—four times the rate of those who abstained. Among boys in the high risk category, 20 percent had experienced sexual abuse compared with only 1 to 2 percent of their peers in the low-risk and sexually abstaining categories."

(Medical Institute for Sexual Health, P. 112)

"Recent preliminary findings from our research indicate that risk-taking and deviant behaviors are more prevalent among sexually abused adolescents than among non-abused adolescents."

(Medical Institute for Sexual Health, P. 112)

"Adolescents who are sexually experienced are more than three times as likely as those who are not sexually experienced to have been sexually abused."

(Medical Institute for Sexual Health, P. 112)

"Alcohol and drugs are also major factors in sexual activity for teens. A 1994 study by the Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at New York's Columbia University in 1994 revealed:"

- "Sixty percent of college women who acquire sexually transmitted diseases, including herpes and AIDS, were drunk at the time of infection."
- "Ninety percent of rapes that occur on campus happen when alcohol is used by the perpetrator, the victim or both parties."
- "This study also pointed out the extent of heavy alcohol consumption when it showed that 43 percent of all college students engage in binge drinking; 5 or more drinks in one sitting."

(Medical Institute for Sexual Health, P. 112-1994 study by the Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at New York's Columbia University)

"DESIRE FOR PREGNANCY:"

"Sex and America's Teenagers pointed out:"

- "Among unmarried women age 19 and younger, in 1988, 7 percent of pregnancies that occurred were intended."

(Medical Institute for Sexual Health, p112, Sex and America's Teenagers)

“LONELINESS, PEER PRESSURE, AND OLDER PARTNERS:”

“Each of these factors impact the decision of a teenager to have sexual intercourse.”

- “Children living in a home after divorce are impacted by that divorce.””

“For example, Judith Wallerstein, author of the best-selling book, ‘Second Chances: Men, Women, and Children A Decade After Divorce,’ said that she sees many girls terrified of being abandoned or betrayed.”

(Medical Institute for Sexual Health, P. 112)

- "Peer pressure is a powerful mechanism." A number of studies have shown that adolescents whose friends engage in problem behaviors are more likely to participate in these behaviors than are adolescents who do not associate with such peers."

(Medical Institute for Sexual Health, P. 112)

"SEXUAL INTERCOURSE"

"Nationwide, 86.1% of college students had had sexual intercourse during their lifetime (i.e., sexual experience)" (pg. 15)

"Nationwide, 2.8% of college students first had sexual intercourse at age before 13 years...black (6.3%) and Hispanic (5.9%) students were significantly more likely than white students (1.7%)" (pg. 15)

"More than one third (34.5%) of college students nationwide had had sexual intercourse during their lifetime with six or more sex partners." (pg.16)

"More than two-thirds (68.2%) of college students nationwide had had sexual intercourse during the 3 months preceding the survey (i.e., current sexual activity) (pg.16)

"Nationwide, 62.4% of college students reported having had sexual intercourse during the 30 days preceding the survey (i.e., recent sexual activity) Female students (66.1%) were significantly more likely than male students (57.5%)"(pg.16)

"ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE AT LAST SEXUAL INTERCOURSE"

“Among sexually active college students, 16.6% reported they had drunk alcohol or used drugs at last sexual intercourse.” (pg. 18)

"SEX AND SELF-ESTEEM"

"More proof of society's double standards on sex: an Indiana University study found that 40% of girls who had low self-esteem in the seventh grade were having sex by the ninth grade, compared with 18% of girls with a stronger ego. It worked just the other way for boys. Half the boys with high self-esteem were sexually active, vs. just 29% of those with low self-confidence."

(Personal Time: Your Family, Time Magazine, May 13, 2002, .90)

"RISKY BUSINESS"

"Kids from all walks of life are having sex at younger and younger ages—nearly 1 in 10 reports losing his or her virginity before the age of 13, a 15 percent increase since 1997, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Some 16 percent of high school sophomores have had four or more sexual partners. One in four sexually active teens will contract a sexually transmitted disease, or STD, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute. And despite a solid 20 percent decrease in the teen birthrate between 1991 and 1999, 20 percent of sexually active girls 15 to 19 get pregnant each year, according to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation." (p. 44)

“Across the country, clinicians report rising diagnoses of herpes and human papillomavirus, or HPV (which can cause genital warts), which are now thought to affect 15 percent of the teen population. Girls 15 to 19 have higher rates of gonorrhea than any other age group. One quarter of all new HIV cases occur in those under the age of 21. ‘It’s a serious epidemic,’ says Lloyd Kolbe, director of the CDC’s Adolescent and School Health program. ‘We’re worried.’”

"At the Health Interested Teens Own Program on Sexuality (HiTOPS) clinic in Princeton, the only adolescent health clinic in the state of New Jersey, Monday is the busiest day of

Josh McDowell Research Sexual Activity

the week, as teens flock in after coed sleepovers and weekend trysts. Fortunately, says Claire Lindberg, a nurse at the clinic, her most common diagnosis is 'nothing to worry about.' That's what Kate was told when she recently went to the clinic, afraid she might have contracted an STD from her boyfriend, whom she suspected of cheating. But running a close second at HiTOPS are chlamydia and herpes. Lindberg has also seen 'lots and lots' of abnormal Pap smears, most often caused by HPV and increasingly common among adolescents."

"According to several surveys, as many as half of teens ages 13 to 19 say they have had oral sex. 'I don't think many people would quarrel with the suggestion that oral sex among young people is much higher than it was 10 years ago,' says Kolbe. And most often, Kushner adds, the kids are convinced that their choices are risk free."

"Increasingly, kids are turning to sexual behaviors that were once considered taboo in order to maintain their 'technical virginity,' says Kushner. They're getting the message that abstinence is the goal—indeed, they're placing a premium on it. More kids are reporting having less sexual intercourse. In 1999, the most recent year for which statistics are available, two-thirds of graduating seniors, and 50 percent of all high schoolers reported having engaged in intercourse, down overall from 54 percent of all high schoolers in 1991. But what's becoming clear is that their efforts often amount to a letter rather than the spirit-of-the-law approach. Health workers say that kids don't seem to view many sexual behaviors as real sex. For example, some 24 percent of teens consider anal sex abstinent behavior, according to a recent North Carolina State University study. And half of all teens don't consider oral sex sex. 'There has been a shift in this idea of what constitutes sex,' says Claude Allen, who, as deputy secretary of health and human services, is in charge of the Bush administration's abstinence initiative. 'When we ask young people, 'Have you engaged in sexual activity?' we often hear, 'Well, what do you mean by that?'"

"At Promiseland church in Austin, youth pastor Ricky Poe is regularly consulted by his kids in the manner of, say, a revered referee: Is holding hands out of bounds? How about kissing? Nearly 120 of Promiseland's teens took a pledge of abstinence in February, but Poe thought it might be a good idea to have a recommitment ceremony last month. Some of the teens, he felt, were not quite getting the point of the earlier abstinence pledge. 'They were beginning to ask if oral sex is sex, things like that.' So like leaders of many pledge groups across the country, Poe has shifted his focus from 'abstinence' to 'purity.' 'It's not just about not having intercourse,'

he told the teens who gathered at the front of the altar on recommitment day. 'It's about saying that you're not going to play around.'"

"TEENS AND SEX"

"40% of ninth-graders say they have already had sexual intercourse."

*"(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
("Teens and Sex," statistics provided by the Medical Institute for Sexual Health, and the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)"*

"TEEN-AGE POLL FINDS SUPPORT FOR TRADITION"

"On sexual matters too, they display a notable conservatism. Almost half say sex before marriage is 'always wrong' (53 percent of girls agree, and 41 percent of boys). Fifty-eight percent of boys and 47 percent of girls say homosexuality is 'always wrong.'"

"Fewer than one in four say they have ever had sex, but 71 percent say 'a lot' or 'some' of the other students are having sex."

"When asked to name the biggest problem faced by teen-agers today, 39 percent said drugs."

"The poll, of 1,048 teen-agers, was conducted by telephone from April 2 through April 7."

"Only 13 percent of 13-to-15-year olds said they had ever had sex, for example as against 38 percent of 16- and 17-year olds."

*(Laurie Goodstein and Marjorie Connelly, "Teen-Age Poll finds Support For Tradition,"
New York Times Late Edition, p A20)*

“REDUCING THE RISK: CONNECTIONS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUTH”

“90,000 students in grades 7 through 12 attending 145 schools around the United States answered brief questionnaires about their lives, including their health, friendships, self-esteem, and expectations for the future. 20,000 in-home interviews of students were conducted between April and December of 1995. A follow-up (Wave II) of 15,000 adolescents, interviewed again at home, was conducted between April and August 1996.” (p.7)

“Among adolescents in high school, the figure is almost three times as high (49.3 percent). Males and females in the 7th-12th grade report having had intercourse just about equally: 39.9 percent of boys, 37.3 percent of girls. Teens living in the South and in rural areas, and teens whose parents receive welfare were most likely to have experienced sexual intercourse.” (p. 14)

“Of girls who are sexually experienced, 11.8 percent of younger teens and 19.4 percent of older teens report having been pregnant.” (p. 14)

(Blum, R.W. Rinehart, P.M. “Reducing the risk: Connection that make a difference in the lives of youth.” Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health, University of Minnesota, Box 721, 420 Delaware St., S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455. Preparation of this report was assisted by a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey. Printed by the University of Minnesota Printing Services.)

"A NEW GENERATION OF PROBLEMS"

"Meanwhile, the proportion of 15- to 19-year old females who are married decreased from 16.5 percent in 1955 to 4.6 percent in 1992 (DHHS 1995)." (p. 3)

"The Medical Institute defines sexual abstinence as 'the calculated decision and deliberate action to refrain from sexual activity.' Sexual activity is 'any activity that involves intentional contact for the purpose of sexual arousal.' Sexual activity, then, includes sexual intercourse, oral sex, anal sex, mutual masturbation, and other purposeful sexual touching." (p. 16-17)

"Recent increases in the numbers of young people who are virginal indicate that sexual abstinence is not just healthy—it is achievable. Abstaining from sexual activity is more than a moral or religious issue—it is an issue of personal and public health." (p. 17)

"Today, over 75 percent of teen births (Ventura, et al 1998) and 32.8 percent of
Josh McDowell Research Sexual Activity

all US births are out-of-wedlock births (Martin, et al 1999)" (p. 4)

"Nearly 53 percent of first births to women aged 15-29 during 1990-1994 were conceived prior to marriage." (p. 4)

"In 15- to 19-year olds who deliver their first child, the likelihood that the child was conceived outside marriage has increased...to 89 percent in 1990-1994. Among African-American women 15- to 19-year olds in 1990-1994, 91.8 percent of first births occurred out-of-wedlock." (p. 4)

"Vaginal sex (Dillion 2000). Calling risky sexual activities 'safe' gives the impression that even oral sex and anal sex can be participated in without risk or consequence." (p. 15)

(Joshua Mann, M.D., M.P.H., Joe S. McIlhaney, Jr., M.D. and Curtis C. Stine, M.D., "A New Generation of Problems", from Building Healthy Futures: Tools for helping adolescents avoid or delay the onset of sexual activity, The Medical Institute for Sexual Health, Austin TX. 2000)

“TEEN ATTITUDES CONTRADICT SEX-CRAZED STEREOTYPE”

“Adults’ views about premarital sex have moved in the opposite direction. When Gallup first asked about this in 1969, 68% of adults 18 and older agreed that it was wrong for a man and a woman to have sexual relations before marriage. In 2001, that figure had dropped to 38%.”

“The stereotype belies Gallup Youth Survey findings that teens appear to be moving toward a more conservative view of premarital sex. When Gallup asked teens in 1977 if it was morally wrong for a man and a woman to have sexual relations before marriage, just 30% agreed. Last year, that figure had risen to 42%.”

“Younger teens’ views may be a barometer of future mores. In 1977, there was little difference between the views of younger and older teens—32% of 13 to 15 year olds felt it was wrong to have sexual relations before marriage, and 28% of 16 to 17 year olds agreed. The difference is broader today: About half (49%) of teens in the 13 to 15 age category feel that sex before marriage is morally wrong, while just 32 % of 16 to 17 year olds hold that view.”

“As possible further evidence that youth are more conservative than generally thought, more than half (57%) of all teens today say it is wrong for a couple to have a baby before marriage. Only 40% of adults agree.”

“* Results are based on telephone interviews with 454 teens, ages 13 to 17, conducted June - September 2001. For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of sampling error is +/- 5 percentage points.”

(Linda Lyons, “Teens Attitudes Contradict Sex-Crazed Stereotype.” Education & Youth, Gallup Tuesday Briefing; January 29, 2002

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/tb/educaYouth/20020129b.asp?Version=p>)

“TEENAGE GIRLS SETTING BOUNDARIES IN RELATIONSHIPS, SEX”

“It seems that girls have a little more control of relationships now.”

“A given relationship may last only a few weeks and involve anything from no sex to oral sex — which today's teens often say doesn't count — to full intercourse. But no matter how ephemeral the matchup may be or the degree of sexual activity, girls are feeling more comfortable about setting sexual boundaries, say sociologists Barbara Risman of North Carolina State University and Pepper Schwartz of the University of Washington-Seattle.”

“Risman and Schwartz are both specialists with the Council on Contemporary Families, a non-profit group of family researchers. The good-news statistics they refer to, culled from various sources.”

- “Teens 15 to 17 who have had intercourse dropped from 54.1% in 1991 to 48.4% in 1997.”
- “Teen pregnancy rates dropped 17% from 1990 to 1996.”
- “Teen abortion rates dropped 16% from 1990 to 1995.”

“The sociologists have taken a new look at statistics from a government-sponsored, long-term study of 10,000 teens under 18, analyzing the results by gender. Sexual activity is becoming more equal, they find. While the number of high school girls who had intercourse declined slightly from 1991 (51%) to 1997 (48%), the number of boys who had intercourse dropped significantly, from 57% to 49%.”

(Karen S. Peterson, “Teenage girls setting boundaries in relationships, sex” USA TODAY; April 12, 2002 <http://www.usatoday.com/news/healthscience/health/child/2002-04-23-teen-sex.htm>)

“TEEN BIRTHS AT ALL-TIME LOW”

“The Department of National Vital Statistics reports that in the year 2000, the teen birth rate for 15-19 years olds dropped to a record low of 48.5 per 1,000. This represents a 2% drop from the 49.6 figure in 2000, and a 22% drop since 1991. New Hampshire had the lowest rate of 23.4, while Mississippi had the highest at 72.0, excluding Washing DC’s 80.7. The number of births to 10-14 year-olds dropped 6% to 8,519.”

(CDC press release, February 12/Youthworker, May/June 2002, pg. 12-13)

“There is clear indication that children are becoming “sexually active at an alarming early age.” (Newsweek, October 18, 1999 p. 69)

“A Center for Disease Control 1997 study showed that, ‘6.5 percent of ninth grade girls—compared with only 2.9 percent of 12th graders—said they had had sex before the age of 13. Boys showed similar increase: 14.7 percent of ninth graders said they’d already been sexually active, while only 6.0 percent of 12th graders said they’d had sex before the age of 13.’” (Newsweek, October 18, 1999 pg. 69)

“WHERE AND WHEN DO TEENS FIRST HAVE SEX?”

“While the U.S. teen birth rate has fallen for 10 consecutive years (reaching 45.9 births per 1,000 females 15-19 in 2001), other statistics examined by Child Trends present a compelling case for continued public attention to teen sexual behavior, pregnancy, and childbearing. For example:”

- **“Time and Place of First Sex.** 42 percent of teens reported that their first sexual encounter occurred between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. Another 28 percent reported first having sex between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. More than half of all sexually experienced teens reported that their first sexual encounter occurred in their family's home (22 percent) or their partner's family home (34 percent).”
- **“Increases in Some Critical Sexually Transmitted Infections.** Adolescents and young adult females had higher rates of Chlamydia and gonorrhea than any other age group in the U.S. Rates of Chlamydia have increased for both male and female adolescents and young adults between 1996 and 2000.”
- **“Hispanic Teens at Greatest Risk of Teen Birth.** Teen birth rates have fallen for all racial and ethnic groups, but remain much higher for Hispanics (92 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19) than either non-Hispanic blacks (82) or non-Hispanic whites (30). Moreover, while the rate of teen births among Hispanics has been falling, the number of teen births has actually been increasing.”

- **“Repeat Teen Births.** About one in five teen births are births to teens who have already borne a child.”

(News Room, "Where and When Do Teens First Have Sex?," Child Trends News Room, September 26, 2002, http://www.childtrends.org/n_FAAG2002.asp)