

TEEN STATISTICS

UPDATED 9/19/07

“A SNAPSHOT OF TEEN SEX”

“Another favorite activity? Sex. A little more than half the 1,000 students in the only high school are sexually active; the average age of initiation: 15 1/2.”

“The map took researchers by surprise. Overall, 573 out of 832 surveyed students reported at least one relationship during the previous 18 months. The majority probably involved an ‘exchange of fluids,’ say the authors. There were 63 couples who had no outside partners, but an astonishing 288 students were linked together in an elaborate network of liaisons. Many students had just one or two romances, but there were at risk of contracting STDs from everyone in the chain. This, wrote the authors, is ‘the worst-case scenario for potential disease diffusion.’”

(Claudia Wallis, “A Snapshot of Teens Sex,” Time (February 2005): 58)

“SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AND LACK OF KNOWLEDGE THREATEN HEALTH OF CANADIAN TEENS”

“Canada’s half million sexually active teens between the ages of 14 and 17 have had three sexual partners on average.”

“And 68% per cent have engaged in oral sex”

“Yet 90 per cent of Canadian teens claim to be very (19 per cent) or somewhat (71 per cent) knowledgeable about sex and sexual health. Not only does this claim run counter to their actual behaviour, considering the increasing prevalence of STIs, it is also undermined by their widespread lack of knowledge of the most common sexually transmitted infection – only 19 per cent have ever heard of HPV, the cause of genital warts and cervical cancer. HIV, on the other hand, is reported most often by teens as a common STI, despite its very low prevalence compared to all the others.”

“Canadian teens also appear to be unaware of the consequences of STIs. For example, only 20 per cent mention cancer as a possible consequence of HPV and only 37 per cent mention infertility as a possible consequence of Chlamydia.”

“Parents will be surprised to learn that THEY are in fact the real teen role models when it comes to sex, not movie, music, sport and TV stars. Parents are also considered a major source of information on sex and sexual health by their teenagers (63 per cent) and nearly half (43 per cent) consider their parents to be the most useful and valuable source of information. Unfortunately, 38 per cent of teens have not discussed sex and sexuality with their mothers.”

““One of the most surprising results of the study was how parents underestimate their importance and the role teens expect them to play when it comes to their sexuality and sexual health,” said Dr. Miriam Kaufman, and CAAH spokesperson and pediatrician at the Adolescent Division at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. “Canadian teens look up to their parents and consider them a valuable source of information. We are hope that by making this information widely knows, parents will feel more comfortable breaking the wall of silence that too often exists when it comes to discussing sexuality with their children.””

“Sexual Behaviour and STIs”

“• Nearly 3 in 10 (27%) Canadian teens between the ages of 14 and 17 report being sexually active. By age 17, nearly one it two (45%) Canadian teens report being sexually active, while it is one in five (20%) at age 15.”

“• On average, teens have had 3 partners since becoming sexually active.”

“• More than 1 in 3 (38%) sexually active teens have engaged in casual sex and 16% admit that their partner had other sexual partners while dating them.”

“• One in 4 sexually active teens did not use any protection against STIs the last time they had sex. And half of those who did use condoms never checked to see if the condom remained intact after use.”

“• Two in 3(68%) sexually active Canadian teens have had oral sex (mean age of 15).”

“• Nearly 1 in 5 (17%) adolescents do not know that STIs can be transmitted by oral sex.”

“○ STIs such as HPV (the cause of genital warts and cervical cancer), syphilis and gonorrhoea can be transmitted by oral sex.”

“○ In Canada, between 1997 and 2004, the reported cases of gonorrhoea increased by 82% and for syphilis the increase is 909%.”

“• While 9 in 10 (90%) teens claim to be very (19%) or somewhat (71%) knowledgeable about sex and sexual health, only 1 in 5 (19%) have heard about HPV, the most common sexually transmitted infection. When asked how common are different STIs, more teens list HIV as opposed to all other STIs.”

“• When asked for the consequences of different STIs, too few knew the major consequence of common STIs. For example, only 1 in 5 (20%) mention cancer as a possible consequence of HPV, 1 in 3 (37%) mention infertility as a possible consequence of Chlamydia, and 1 in 2 (54%) mention pain as a consequence of herpes.”

“• Of those teens who say they have heard of HPV, close to half (45%) don't know any of the potential health consequences.”

“• Of the sexually active female Canadian teens, nearly 3 in 5 (56%) have not had a Pap test in the last 3 years.”

“• One in 4 (24%) mothers have not had a Pap test in the last 2 years.”

“• One in 20 (5%) sexually active teens have been diagnosed with an STI.”

“Barriers and Information Gaps”

“• Two-thirds (62%) of Canadian teens faced obstacles or barriers in getting answers to their questions on sexual health. As an example, one in three (31%) are uncomfortable talking or learning about sexual health information.”

“• Teens regard their parents as an important information source on the subject of sex, but a generation barrier exists. When teens were asked what they felt was missing in their knowledge about sex, one-quarter (25%) cited ‘how to talk about sexual health issues with my parents’. Also, mothers say they are comfortable discussing different issues related to sexual health, but according to teens, half of them are not having these discussion with their parents.”

“• Though 4 in 5 Canadian teens (79%) get sex education in school, only one in four (23%) think that it is very useful.”

“• The meaning of a word can be different for different people, so vocabulary can be a barrier to information. For example, 1 in 5 Canadian teens and 1 in 3 mothers include mutual masturbation in their definition of ‘sexual intercourse’. And when asked to define sexual abstinence, for 1 in 4 teens, it appears that practicing oral sex is compatible with abstinence.”

“• There is significant misinformation related to how STIs can be contracted. 1 in 4 (23%) teens and 1 in 5 (21%) parents believe public toilet seats and poor personal hygiene are sources.”

“• Two in 3 (69%) teens and 3 in 4 (76%) mothers claim not to have found all the information about sex and sexual health they were looking for.”

“○ Missing information most often cited by both groups: Abuse between partners; When to know I am ready to have sex; Date rape; Talking about love; Feelings and emotions.”

“○ Missing for parents only: How to say ‘no’ to sex.”

“○ Missing for teens only: How to talk about sexual health issues with my parents.”

“Parents as Role Model”

“• Three in 4 mothers believe that friends are significant role models when it comes to sex, and more than half mention entertainment industry stars at par with parents. They may be surprised to learn that 45% of teens regard their parents as their role model, far ahead of friends (at 32%) and of entertainment industry stars (at about 15%).”

“• Mothers have misconceptions regarding teen sexuality. As an example, mothers overestimate by 50% the number of teens engaging in sex at any age.”

“• Parents are considered a major source of information on sex and sexual health by their teenagers (63%) and nearly half (43%) consider their parent to be the most useful and valuable source of information.”

“• Although the relationship between mothers and teens is mainly very positive, 38% of teens have not discussed sex sexuality with their mothers.”

(“Sexual Behaviour and Lack of Knowledge Threaten Health of Canadian Teens,” February 2006)

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

“Sexually active young teens”

“Nearly 2 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.”

“Girls are more likely than boys to cite a conscious decision to wait (81% vs. 67%), belief they are too young (82% vs. 67%), fear of pregnancy (77% vs. 71%), STDs (75% vs. 68%), or parents or (71% vs. 59%) friends’ reaction (28% vs. 13%).”

“Fifteen to 16 year-olds are more likely than 13 to 14 year-olds to say they have not had sex because they have not met the right person (62% vs. 47%). Thirteen to 14 year-olds are more likely to say it is because they think they are too young (82% vs. 66%).”

“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.”

“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 15 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.”

“had oral sex for the first time because they wanted to be more popular or to be accepted, 76% said they did 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.”

“SUMMARY TABLE: Reasons teens had oral sex for the first time Major reason
Minor

Reason	Not a reason	The other person wanted to	41%	35%	23%	You met the right person	47%	24%	29%	To satisfy sexual desire	36%	34%	30%	You don’t have to worry about pregnancy	40%	28%	32%	You were curious	35%	29%	36%	You are still a virgin if you have oral sex	24%	25%	50%	You wanted to avoid having sexual intercourse	20%	20%	60%	You don’t think you can get STDs from oral sex	17%	18%	65%	You wanted to avoid being touched or undressed	7%	17%	75%	You wanted to be more popular and accepted	4%	17%	79%
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“• Most 13 and 14 year olds who have had oral sex did so to avoid intercourse at least one.”

“• Boys and girls are equally likely to have opted for oral sex over intercourse.”

“Not a reason Met the right person 62% 20% 18% Were curious 36% 35% 28% To satisfy a sexual desire 34% 34% 31% Hoped it would make relationship closer 28% 28% 44% Pressure from partner 15% 19% 65% Wanted to be more popular and accepted 2% 16% 81%.”

“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%).”

““Friends with Benefits””

“Casual relationships are not uncommon among sexually active teens. Eight percent of 13 to 16 year-olds, which amounts to roughly half of young teens who have had oral sex or sexual intercourse, have been involved in a casual sexual relationship. Girls are as likely to have had a casual relationship as boys. These casual relationships typically involve oral sex (78%) and/or sexual intercourse (79%).”

“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.’”

“SUMMARY TABLE: Reasons For Casual Sexual Relationship”

“To satisfy a sexual desire 67% Wanted to avoid the complications of a serious relationship 48% Didn’t want to get emotionally involved 37% Were curious about this type of relationship 37% Wanted to make relationship closer 34% Too young for serious relationship 33%”

“This disconnect continues when it comes to teens’ actual behavior: while 27% of teens report having been sexually intimate, only about half of their parents (15%) believed their teens had gone beyond kissing.”

(“Nearly 3 in 10 young teens ‘sexually active,’” MSNBC, January 2005)

“THE CHANGING DEFINITION OF SEX”

“The National Center for Health Statistics surveyed more than 10,000 teenagers and found that just over 36% of 15- to 17-year-old boys have had sexual intercourse and 49% of all 15- to 17-year-old girls have had no sexual contacts at all. Meanwhile, the Centers for Disease Control released a survey that found more than half of all 15- to 17-year-olds have given or received oral sex.”

(“The changing definition of sex,” youthministry (May 2006):12)

“TRENDS IN PREMARITAL SEX IN THE UNITED STATES, 1954-2003”

“Results. Data from the 2002 survey indicate that by age 20, 77% of respondents had had sex, 75% had had premarital sex, and 12% had married; by age 44, 95% of respondents (94% of women, 96% of men, and 97% of those who had ever had sex) had premarital sex. Even among those who abstained until at least age 20, 81% had had premarital sex by age 44. Among cohorts of women turning 15 between 1964 and 1993, at least 91% had had premarital sex by age 30. Among those turning 15 between 1954 and 1963, 82% had had premarital sex by age 30, and 88% had done so by age 44.”

“By the exact age of 20 years, 77% of individuals had had sex, and 75% had had sex before marriage; 12% had married. By exact age 44, 99% of Americans had had sex, 95% had had sex before marriage, and 85% had married. At that age, 3.3% had abstained until marriage, and 1.3% had neither married nor had sex. Thus, 97% of those who had ever had sex had done so premaritally at some point.”

“males virtually every age; by exact age 44, 96% of males and 94% of females had had premarital sex. Females were more likely to have married by each age, reflecting the fact that women typically marry at a younger age than men.”

“The figure and table show a trend from the 1950s through the 1990s toward a higher proportion experience premarital sex: 48% of the cohort who turned 15 from 1954 to 1963 had done so by exact age 20, while 65% of the 1964-73 cohort, 72% of the 1974-83 cohort, and 76% of the 1984-93 cohort had done so. For the 1994-2003 cohort, 74% had had premarital sex by exact age 20, a figure between that of the 1974-83 and 1984-93 cohorts. The difference between the first cohort and subsequent ones was larger than later differences.”

“Among those born in the 1940s and turning 15 from 1954 to 1963, 82% had had premarital sex by exact age 30, and 88% had done so by exact age 44; for more recent cohorts turning 15 from 1964 to 1993, at least 91% had done so by exact age 30. The youngest cohort had not yet reached age 30 by the time of the most recent survey.”

(Lawrence B. Finer, “Trends in Premarital Sex in the United States, 1954-2003,” The Guttmacher Institute, January-February 2007)

“FACTS ON AMERICAN TEENS’ SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH”

“SEXUAL ACTIVITY”

“• Nearly half (46%) of all 15-19-year-olds in the United States have had sex at least once.”

“• By age 15, only 13% of teens have ever had sex. However, by the time they reach age 19, seven in 10 teens have engaged in sexual intercourse.”

“• Most young people have sex for the first time at about age 17, but do not marry until their middle or late 20s. This means that young adults are at risk of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for nearly a decade.”

“• Teens are waiting longer to have sex than they did in the past. Some 13% of females and 15% of males aged 15-19 in 2002 had had sex before age 15, compared with 19% and 21%, respectively, in 1995.”

“• The majority (59%) of sexually experienced teen females had a first sexual partner who was 1-3 years their senior. Only 8% had first partners who were six or more years older.”

“• More than three-quarters of teen females report that their first sexual experience was with a steady boyfriend, a fiancé, a husband or a cohabiting partner.”

“• Ten percent of young women aged 18-24 who had sex before age 20 reported that their first sex was involuntary. The younger they were at first intercourse, the higher the proportion.”

“• Twelve percent of teen males and 10% of teen females have had heterosexual oral sex but not vaginal intercourse.”

“• The proportion of teens who had ever had sex declined from 40% to 46% among females and from 55% to 46% among males between 1995 and 2002.”

“STIs”

“• Of the 18.9 million new cases of STIs each year, 9.1 million (48%) occur among 15-24-year-olds.”

“• Although 15-24-year-olds represent only one-quarter of the sexually active population, they account for nearly half of all new STIs each year.”

“• Human papillomavirus (HPV) infections account for about half of STIs diagnosed among 15-24-year-olds each year. HPV is extremely common, often asymptomatic and generally harmless. However, certain types, if left undetected and untreated, can lead to cervical cancer.”

“• In June 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the vaccine Gardasil as safe and effective for use among girls and women aged 9-26. The vaccine prevents infection with the types of HPV most likely to lead to cervical cancer.”

“• Half of new HIV infections (about 20,000) each year occur among youth aged 15-24.”

“ABORTION”

“• There were 214,750 abortions among 15-19-year-olds in 2002.”

“• Twenty-nine percent of pregnancies among 15-19-year-olds ended in abortion in 2002, compared with 21% among all women.”

“• The reasons teens give most frequently for having an abortion are concern about how having a baby would change their lives, inability to afford a baby now and feeling insufficiently mature to raise a child.”

(“Facts on American Teens’ Sexual and Reproductive Health,” Guttmacher, September 2006)

“REPORT: FEWER HIGH SCHOOLERS HAVING SEX”

“ATLANTA- Fewer U.S. high school students are having sex, and the ones who do are less likely to have multiple partners, according to a report issued Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

“Some 46.8 percent of students said they engaged in sexual intercourse in a 2005 survey, down from 54.1 percent in 1991, according to the report.”

“At the same time, the number of students who say they used a condom the last time they had intercourse rose to 62.8 percent in 2005 from 46.2 percent in 1991, the survey said.”

(“Report: Fewer high schoolers having sex,” MSNBC.com, August 2006, www.msnbc.msn.com/id/14301821/)

“TRENDS AND RECENT ESTIMATES: SEXUAL ACTIVITY AMONG U.S. TEENS”

“Sexual experience increases with age. In 2002, approximately one-quarter of never-married teenagers had sexual intercourse before the age of 16 (see Figure 1). This proportion increased with age, with more than one-half of females (58 percent) and males (54 percent) having sexual intercourse before the age of 18. Before the age of 19, 70 percent of females and 65 percent of males had had sex.”

“The percentage of teenagers who has ever had sexual intercourse has declined among all age groups. In 2002, 46 percent of never-married male and female teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 had ever had sexual intercourse (see Figure 2). Between 1988 and 2002, male teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 experience (from 60 percent to 46 percent). The proportion of female teenagers who had ever had sexual intercourse also declined during this same time period (51 percent in 1988 to 46 percent in 2002), but the decline was smaller and not statistically significant. Additional analyses indicate that there were declines in sexual experience among almost all age groups:”

“▪ Retrospective reports of sexually experienced teenagers suggest a decline in the proportion of very young teenagers (those under the age of 15) who had had sex. In 2002, 13 percent of never married females between the ages of 15 and 19 reported having had sex before the age of 15, down from 19 percent in 1995. For adolescent males, the proportion reporting having had sex before the age of 15 declined from 21 percent in 1995 to 15 percent in 2002.”

“▪ Male and female teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17 showed a significant decline in sexual experience between 1995 and 2002 (from 43 percent to 31 percent for males and from 38 percent to 30 percent for females).”

“▪ Male teenagers, but not female teenagers, between the ages of 18 and 19 also experienced a decline in the proportion of those who had ever had sex during this time period (from 75 percent in 1995 to 64 percent in 2002).”

“White, black, and Hispanic teenagers all experienced significant declines in sexual experience for at least one gender. Never married Hispanic female teenagers experienced a

29 percent decline in the proportion of those who were sexually experienced between 1995 and 2002 (53 percent to 37 percent) and were the least likely to have ever had sexual intercourse in 2002. In comparison, no significant declines were found in the proportion of never-married white or black teen females who were sexually experienced during this time period. In 2002, 45 percent of white females and 57 percent of black females between the ages of 15 and 19 had ever had sexual intercourse.”

“decline in the proportion of those who were sexually experienced (from 50 percent to 41 percent), and black male teenagers experiences a 21 percent decline (from 80 percent to 63 percent).”

“Among females, however, white and black teenagers were more likely to be sexually active than were Hispanic teenagers (36 percent for white teenagers and 35 percent for black teenagers, compared with 29 percent for Hispanic teenagers).”

“▪ Oral sex. A substantial minority of teenagers, particularly white teenagers, have never had sexual intercourse but have had oral sex, which places them at risk of STIs. Specifically, one in six young teenagers age 15-17 has not engaged in sexual intercourse, but has given or received oral sex, and very few of these teenagers have used a condom.”

(Elizabeth Terry-Humen, M.P.P., Jennifer Manlove, Ph.D., and Sarah Cottingham, “Trends and Recent Estimates: Sexual Activity Among U.S. Teens,” Child Trends, (June 2006):2-4,6)

“AMERICAN YOUTH WANT LOVE MORE THAN SEX VALENTINE’S DAY’S TRUE ESSENCE STILL IN EFFECT”

“In Youthography’s latest national, regionally representative Ping(TM) survey of more than 1,900 Americans aged 14-29, 77.8% and 64.2% of respondents put top box importance (a rating of ‘4’ or ‘5’ on a scale from 1-5, ‘5’ being ‘totally important’) on ‘having a lifelong partner’ and ‘getting married’ respectively. In comparison, ‘having sex’ received top box importance from less than half surveyed (46.1%).”

(“American Youth Want Love More Than Sex Valentine’s Day’s true essence still in effect,” PR Newswire, January 2007, <http://sev.prnewswir.com/publishing-information-services/20070131/CLW17331012007-1.html>)

“CHINA TEENS CASUAL ABOUT ONE-NIGHT STANDS: POLL”

“BEIJING, Jan 11 (Reuters Live!) – More than half of China’s high school students find nothing wrong with one-night stands and an overwhelming majority of girls would not reject a boyfriend’s demands for sex, a poll suggests.”

“Some 6.2 percent of the survey’s 2,300 high school students in Xuanwu, a downtown district in the Chinese capital of Beijing, had already had a sexual experience and the average age of students losing their virginity was 15, the China Daily said on Thursday.”

“Of the 1,300 girls asked if they would agree to sex when asked by a boyfriend, only six gave a definite ‘no.’”

““The typical answer: ‘As long as he loves me, it’s OK’,’ the newspaper said.”

“About 200 respondents of both sexes said they would have a one-night stand if the opportunity arose, it added.”

(“China teens casual about one-night stands: poll,” Reuters, January 2007, www.today.reuters.com)

“SURVEY DESCRIBES THE UPS AND DOWNS OF TWEEN LIFE”

“Children between the ages of 8 and 12--their family is critical to their success and satisfaction with life--and is doing well in many areas. Have lifelong repercussions.”

“What Works for Kids”

“Most of today’s children give positive marks to aspects of their family experience. Eight out of ten adolescents (79%) feel safe when they are at home; two out of every three (69%) say their family eats dinner together at least five nights a week; and 65% say they feel they can always trust their parents to do what is right for the child.”

“Nine out of every ten adolescents (91%) get punished by their parents if they are caught using bad language. Three out of four young people (74%) said their parents enforce a strict curfew, and two out of every three (67%) noted that the amount of television they are allowed to watch is limited by their parents.”

“One of the bright spots in the lives of most kids is their friendships. Nine out of ten (94%) said they have good friends whom they can trust.”

“What Doesn’t Work”

“Not fulfilling the needs and hopes of adolescents was the faith arena. Less than four out of every ten young people (38%) said that churches have made a positive difference in their life. 34% said that prayer is very important to them; 43% rejected the notion that they would rather be popular than do what is morally right.”

“A bare majority (56%) believe that they will have a great life. 57% contend that they look forward to spending free time with their family. One out of every three pre-teens (35%) said they find it easy to talk to their parents about everything that is happening in their life these days.”

“One out of every three 8-to-12-year olds (31%) is bothered by bullies who threaten or scare them.”

“Improving the Odds”

“Living in the gap between the early childhood and teenage years.”

“Young people who get mostly ‘A’s’ tended to have a more positive experience and outlook and were less likely to be bothered by bullies. They were also more likely than others to trust their parents’ choices, to expect to have a great life, to look forward to time spent with family, to be comfortable doing what is morally right rather than popular, and to believe their church has positively affected their life.”

“Having both parents in their home also makes a big difference”

- “to regularly eat meals as a family”
- “to feel safe at home”
- “to enjoy spending time together as a family”
- “to find it easy to speak with parents about their life”
- “to choose morality over popularity”
- “to say their church had a positive impact on them.”

“The study underscored the importance of age 12 as a transition time for kids. At that point, young people are notably vulnerable”

- “to losing trust in their parents”
- “losing interest in family activities”
- “lean more toward popularity than morality”
- question their future.”

“Much of the stability and security that tweens experience is a result of their family environment and relationships.’ ‘ Investing themselves in their relationship with their children.”

“The challenge to churches. While most kids in the 8-to-12- age range are involved in a church, relatively few of them consider church experiences to be valuable. So few kids consider prayer to be a critical part of their life. Parents must take the lead in establishing the centrality of faith experiences and practices for their children. That begins with parents modeling the significance of faith in their lives. Families taking the lead in the spiritual development process, rather than expecting or waiting for a church to produce spiritual growth in adolescents.”

“Barna also reinforced the importance of age 12 as a hinge point. ‘During the 11 to 13 age range, most kids undergo huge changes and challenges related to their self-image and their choices concerning morals, beliefs, relationships and life goals. It is one of the most critical times for parents to make sure they stay connected and accessible to their kids.”

(“Survey Describes the Ups and Downs of Tween Life, *The Barna Update*, (September 30, 2006)

“SURVEY: MORE YOUNG PEOPLE GOING ONLINE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION THAN TO SHOP, CHECK SPORT SCORES OR CHAT”

“Nearly All Teens Have Been Online, But Race and Class Still Factors In Access”

“While Internet use among youth is now widespread, differences in access across racial and socio-economic lines still exist. For example, one in four Hispanic youths has never gone online, compared to just 6% of white youth and 13% of African American youth. Eighty percent of all white respondents have Internet access from home, compared to 66% of African Americans and 55% of Hispanics. Socio-economic disparities also persist: 85%

of youth from self-defined working class or lower class backgrounds have been online, compared with 91% of middle class and 93% of upper and upper-middle class youth.”

(“More Young People Going Online for Health Information Than to Shop, Check Sports Scores or Chat”, *The Kaiser Family Foundation*, Publication # 3202, December 11, 2001.)

“ARE YOUR KIDS REAL-WORLD READY?”

“For the vast majority of teenagers, God is irrelevant to their everyday lives. In our exclusive survey of almost 15,000 Christian teenagers, we discovered that almost two-thirds (62 percent) of them watch R-rated films ‘a lot’ or ‘occasionally,’ but only a third of them (34 percent) say they often have ‘real conversations’ at church about the films they watch. Also, just over a third of them (36 percent) say their youth leader knows ‘a lot’ about their ‘real world.’”

(Rick Lawrence, “Are Your Kids Real-World Ready?” *Group Magazine*, January/February 2005, pg. 91, www.groupmag.com)

“SEXY SURVEY”

“Reports the results of an Internet survey of 14,183 13-20 years old youth (94% female) about what is sexy. Some of the findings:”

- “70% of girls have had their first kiss (30% before 13, 47% were 13-15 years old, 18% were 15-17 year old)”
- “70% of girls said they are virgins”
- “4% of non-virgin girls report “losing” their virginity before age 13 (22% between 13-15 years old, 39% between 15-17, and 35% were 18 or older).”
- “19% of girls said they met with someone in person only once whom they chatted with online”
- “49% of girls and 34% of guys think tattoos are sexy”
- “Girls said the sexiest guys on TV were: Adam Brody, Chad Michael Murray, Ashton Kutcher, Gregory Smith, and Xzibit.”

- “Girls said the sexiest guys in music are: Usher, Maroon 5’s Adam Levine, Justin Timberlake, the Strokes, Eminem, and Jay-Z”

(“Sexy Survey” *ElleGirl*, April 2005 edition, pp87-91)

“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 outercourse 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’”

“NEW YORK - 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/>)

“SEXUALLY ACTIVE FRIENDS AND DATING PRACTICES CAN SIGNAL INCREASE IN A TEN’S SUBSTANCE ABUSE RISK”

“Girls Who Date Boys Two or More Years Older Likelier to Smoke, Drink, Get Drunk, and Use Illegal Drugs”

“The more sexually active friends a teen has and the more time a teen spends with a boyfriend or girlfriend, the greater the risk that teen will smoke, drink, get drunk or use illegal drugs, according to the National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse IX: Teen Dating Practices and Sexual Activity, an annual back-to-school survey conducted by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA*) at Columbia University.”

“This ninth annual CASA survey found:”

- “Compared to teens with no sexually active friends, teens who report half or more of their friends are sexually active are more than six and one-half times likelier to drink; 31 times likelier to get drunk; 22.5 times likelier to have tried marijuana; and more than five and one-half times likelier to smoke.”
- “Teens who spend 25 or more hours a week with a boyfriend/girlfriend are two and one-half times likelier to drink; five times likelier to get drunk; 4.5 times likelier to have tried marijuana; and more than 2.5 times likelier to smoke than teens who spend less than 10 hours a week with a boyfriend/girlfriend.”
- “Girls with boyfriends two or more years older are more than twice as likely to drink; almost six times likelier to get drunk; six times likelier to have tried

marijuana; and four and one-half times likelier to smoke than girls whose boyfriends are less than two years older or who do not have a boyfriend.”

“Other striking findings in this year’s survey:”

- “Teens, half or more of whose friends regularly view and download Internet pornography, are more than three times likelier to smoke, drink or use illegal drugs, compared to teens who have no friends who engage in such behavior.”
- “Forty-four percent of high school students think that boys at their school often or sometimes “push girls to drink alcohol or take drugs in order to get the girls to have sex or do other sexual things.””

(Casa 2004 Teen Survey, “Sexually Active Friends and Dating Practices Can Signal Increase in a Teen’s Substance Abuse Risk” The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, August 19, 2004, casacolumbia.org)

“PROTECTING OUR DAUGHTERS”

“Asked to select from a list of items the things that “scare” them most regarding their daughters, dad are most likely to choose:”

- “Physical or sexual assault (33%--especially those with daughters age 12 or under)”
- “She won’t find a good man who take care of her (22%)”
- “She won’t have a loving and equitable relationship (21%)”

(“Protecting Our Daughters, p6, NOP World –United Business Media)

“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:”

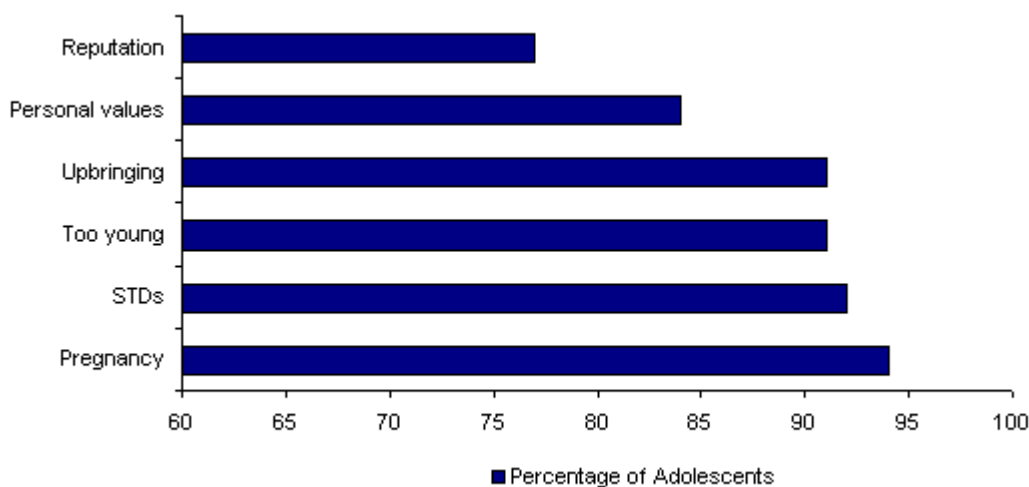
- “Seventeen found more than half (54%) of teenage guys say they’ve had vaginal sex, but in Teen People’s survey the number was just 28%.”

- “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.”

“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 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.

2.2 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>)

“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)

“STUDY LAUDS ABSTINENCE PROGRAMS”

“Data on teen girls' sexual behavior came from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which shows the number of teens ages 15 to 17 who were sexually active decreased from 50.6 percent in 1991 to 42.7 percent in 2001.”

“Teen pregnancy data came from the National Center for Health Statistics, whose numbers show a decrease in pregnancy among girls ages 15 to 17 by almost one-third between 1991 and 2000, the latest year for which data was available.”

“The study “Can Changes in Sexual Behaviors Among High School Students Explain the Decline in Teen Pregnancy Rates in the 1990s?” was published in the Journal of Adolescent Health.”

(Deb McCown, “Study Lauds Abstinence Programs,” The Washington Times, July 16, 2004, <http://www.washtimes.com/national/20040716-120131-6632r.htm>)

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 Karassev.)

“Unmarried teens who initiate sexual activity have more partners over their lifetime. Seventy-five percent of teens initiating sex before age 18 will have two or more partners. Forty-five percent will have four or more partners. Twenty percent who wait until 19 will have two or more partners. Only one percent will have four or more partners.”

(Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report-MMWR, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, September 27, 1996, p21)

“WEAVING CHARACTER INTO SEX EDUCATION

- “1,000 unwed teenage girls become mothers”
- “1,106 teenage girls get abortions”
- “4,219 teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases”
- “500 adolescents begin using drugs”
- “1,000 adolescents begin drinking alcohol”
- “135,000 kids bring guns or other weapons to school”
- “3,610 teens are assaulted; 80 are raped”
- “2,200 teens drop out of high school”
- “6 teens commit suicide” (p. 3)

“The 24th Annual Survey of High Achievers (McDowell, 1995), a recent survey of high school honor roll students, found these alarming facts:”

- “1 in 5 girls say they have been victims of sexual assault”
- “1 in 3 knew someone who had brought a weapon to school”
- “1 in 3 had contemplated suicide”
- “4 out of 5 admitted to cheating” (p. 4)

“Part of our moral crisis, we are coming to realize, has been the breakdown of sexual morality. The evidence continues to mount that our society suffers from a plague of sex-related problems:”

1. “promiscuity”
2. “rape (increasing four times as fast as any other violent crime)”
3. “teen pregnancy”
4. “nonmarital births (up from 5% in 1960 to more than 30% today)”
5. “a million and a half abortions each year (a third of them performed on teenagers)”
6. “an explosion of sexually transmitted diseases”

“Edwin J. Delattre, Boston University School of Education, puts it succinctly: ‘Some programs, such as values clarification, are based on a mindless reduction of morality to a matter of personal and arbitrary taste. Students are taught that whether you like genocide or bigotry is roughly the same as whether you like broccoli.’”

“‘We cannot hold adolescents responsible for wrong actions if we have not taught them right and wrong.’” (Delattre, 1997, p. 18)

“Before he died, Maslow changed his mind about his system and wrote in his journal as early as 1968 that he had ‘been in continuous conflict for a long time over this.’ (Hoffman, 1998) A little later he wrote:”

“...on self-actualization. I have removed one source of confusion by confining the concept very definitely to older people. By the criteria I used, self-actualization does not occur in young people...nor have they generally become knowledgeable and

educated enough to open themselves to the possibility of becoming wise; nor have they generally acquired enough courage to be unpopular, to be unashamed about being openly virtuous...”(Maslow, 1970, p. 18)

“We didn’t know nature was saying ‘no.’ Adults are free to make their own decisions about sex. Children need direction. They need shaping. They must be given a map. To give direction is not to have a heavy hand. It’s to give children freedom.” (Coulson, 1998, p. 18)

“In the end, Kohlberg also backtracked and wrote in 1978: ‘Some years of active involvement with the practice of moral education...has led me to realize that my notion ...was mistaken...the educator must be a socializer teaching value content and behavior, and not only a Socratic or Rogerian process-facilitator of development. I no longer hold these negative views of indoctrinate moral education.’”

“Values drive behavior; information reinforces the values. Teens need help first in forming good values, then in reinforcing their decisions with common knowledge about the consequences of premarital sexual activity.”

(Pat Socia, “Weaving Character Into Sex Education,” figures from the Children's Defense Fund, and the book *13th Generation* by Neil Howe and Bill Strauss, show that every day in America: Weed, Tanas, 1992, p. 19)

“INTRODUCTION: THE NEW GENERATIONS”

“At 1.05 billion, today’s is the biggest-ever generation of young people between 15 and 24, and this age group is rapidly expanding in many countries.”

(The State of World Population 1998)

“TRAIN UP A CHILD”

“One in five high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by a date.

“Nine times more likely to have tried suicide in the past year.”

“Three times more likely to use cocaine.”

“Boys have grown to feel entitled to control their dates physically.”

“We can’t accept that boys will be boys. We need to intervene with boys, to hold them accountable for what they are doing.”

(U.S. News & World Report, August 13)

“ON THE RUN: YOUNG AND HOMELESS”

“Numbers are hard to come by, but the last federal count found that there are between 1 million and 1.3 million youths living on the streets in the United States.”

“One out of seven children will run away at some point in their lives. The National Runaway Switchboard, a hotline based in Chicago, Illinois, fields hundreds of calls a day from distraught parents and frightened runaways.”

“On the Run: Young and Homeless,”
www.cnn.com/2002/HEALTH/10/04/yh.cov.runaways/index.html

“SEXY SURVEY”

“Reports the results of an Internet survey of 14,183 13-20 years old youth (94% female) about what is sexy. Some of the findings:”

- “70% of girls have had their first kiss (30% before 13, 47% were 13-15 years old, 18% were 15-17 year old)”
- “70% of girls said they are virgins”
- “4% of non-virgin girls report “losing” their virginity before age 13 (22% between 13-15 years old, 39% between 15-17, and 35% were 18 or older).”

- “19% of girls said they met with someone in person only once whom they chatted with online”
- “49% of girls and 34% of guys think tattoos are sexy”
- “Girls said the sexiest guys on TV were: Adam Brody, Chad Michael Murray, Ashton Kutcher, Gregory Smith, and Xzibit.”
- “Girls said the sexiest guys in music are: Usher, Maroon 5’s Adam Levine, Justin Timberlake, the Strokes, Eminem, and Jay-Z”

(“Sexy Survey” Elle Girl, April 2005 edition, pp87-91)

“THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM”

“What do you think is the most important problem facing people your age?”

- “Drugs/Smoking/Alcohol – 20%”
- “Peer Pressure/Fitting in/Looks/ Popularity – 17%”
- “Education – 13%”
- “Career/Employment/Economy/Money/Future – 10%”
- “Sexual issues (teen pregnancy, abortion, disease) – 5%”
- “Morals/Attitude – 5%”
- “Lack of respect/Treatment from society – 3%”
- “Violence/Gangs – 2%”
- “People don’t listen to us – 1%”
- “War/Draft/Terrorism – 1%”
- “Parents – 1%”
- “Safety – 1%”

- “World Politics – 1%”

(Raksha Arora, “Youth Poll: The Issues Weighing on Teens’ Minds,” The Gallup Organization, May 4, 2004; www.gallup.com/content/print.aspx?ci=11644)

“OVERLOOKED & UNDER X-PLOITED”

- “49.3 million people are in Generation X, ages 28 to 39.” (Current Population Survey (CPS))
- “35% less people in Gen X than in the Baby Boom, and Gen X is 32 percent smaller than Generation Y or the Echo Boom Generation.” (CPS)
- “62% of Gen Xers are married. U.S. Census Bureau” (USCB)
- “37% of Gen X is in a minority group.” (USCB)
- “16.7% of Gen X will be Hispanic in 2005, the largest of any minority group. Blacks will be the second largest group, accounting for 12.9 percent of Gen X’s population.” (The U.S. Market for Young Adults: Generation X Grows Up, published by packaged Facts (PF))
- “29.7 million members of Gen X are parents.” (CPS)
- “\$36,139 the average individual income of a person in Gen X in 2002.” (USCB)
- “\$1.4 trillion the buying power of Gen X as a whole.” (Calculation from USCB and Packaged Facts data)
- “\$13 billion the net worth of 39-year-old Michael Dell, founder of Dell Computer, college dropout and highest ranked member of Gen X on Forbes list of ‘World’s Richest People.’” (Forbes.com)
- “81% of people in Generation X are employed full or part-time.” (PF)
- “36% of Gen Xers invest in stocks or stock options.” (Scarborough Research (SR))
- “31% of Gen Xers used the services of an investment planner last year.” (SR)

- “2/3 of Gen X’s parents are Baby Boomers, and the other 1/3 are in the War Baby generation and were born between 1940 and 1945.” (James Chung of Reach Advisors (RA))
- “21% of men in Gen X have never been married, 16 percent of women in Gen X have never been married, and 8 percent of all Gen Xers are divorced.” (USCB)
- 51% of children under 18 living at home are in households headed by someone from Gen X. (RA)
- 47% of Gen Xers’ mothers had a full-time job outside of the home when they were growing up.
- “31% of Gen Xers have earned some form of college degree.” (USCB)
- “9% on average, the percentage more that a Gen X consumer spent on food than the typical American consumer in 2002.” (Consumer Expenditure Survey (CEX))
- “20.5% of Gen X is obese.” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- “35% of Gen X belongs to a church, temple or synagogue.” (Simmons Market Research Bureau (SMRB))
- “‘One Hundred Punks’ was a song released in 1978 by the band Generation X which was started by Billy Idol.”
- “12% is the average amount more that a Gen X consumer spends on entertainment compared with the typical American consumer.” (CEX)

(Christopher Reynolds, “Overlooked & Under X-Ploited” American Demographics (May 2004): 48 www.demographics.com)

“YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE”

“Results and interpretation: In the United States, 70.8% of all deaths among persons aged 10-24 years result from only four causes: motor-vehicle crashes, other unintentional injuries, homicide, and suicide. Results from the 2003 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey demonstrated that, during the 30 days preceding the survey, numerous high school students engage in behaviors that increase their likelihood of death from these four causes: 30.2% had ridden with a driver who had been dinking alcohol; 17.1% had carried a

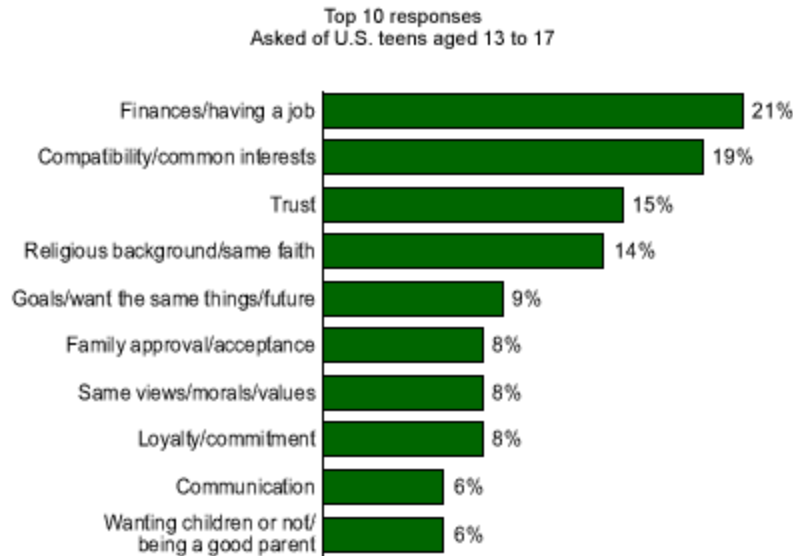
weapon; 44.9% had drunk alcohol; and 22.4% had used marijuana. In addition, during the 12 months preceding the survey, 33.0% of high school students had been in a physical fight, and 8.5% had attempted suicide. Substantial morbidity and social problems among young persons also result from unintended pregnancies and STDs, including HIV infection. In 2003, 46.7% of high school students had ever had sexual intercourse; 37% of sexually active students had not used a condom at last sexual intercourse; and 3.2% had ever injected an illegal drug. Among adults aged >25 years, 62.9% of all deaths results from two causes: cardiovascular diseases and cancer. Results from the 2003 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey demonstrate that the majority of risk behaviors associated with these two causes of death are initiated during adolescence. In 2003, a total of 21.9% of high school students had smoked cigarettes during the 30 day preceding the survey; 78% had not eaten >5 servings/day of fruits and vegetables during the 7 days preceding the survey; 33.4% had participated in an insufficient amount of physical activity; and 13.5% were overweight.”

(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—United States, 2003,” *Surveillance Summaries* 53, no. ss-2 (2003): 1.)

“TEENS: SOMETIMES LOVE JUST AIN’T ENOUGH”

“The most recent Gallup Youth Survey* shows that teenagers tend to believe that it takes more than love to make a marriage. Gallup asked 13- to 17-year-olds whether they think that, when it comes to marriage, ‘love should be the only consideration.’ Only 25% agreed, while 74% believe other things should be considered in addition to love.”

What other things should be considered?



*The Gallup Youth Survey is conducted via an Internet methodology provided by Knowledge Networks, using an online research panel that is designed to be representative of the entire U.S. population. The current questionnaire was completed by 439 respondents, aged 13 to 17, August 8-19, 2004. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 5 percentage points.

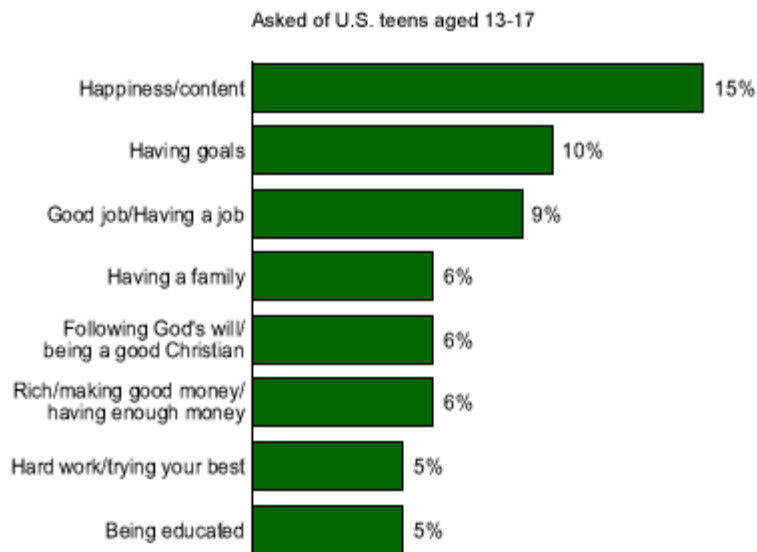
("Teens: Sometimes Just Ain't Enough," Heather Mason, September 28, 2004, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/content/default.aspx?ci=13198>)

"HOW DO 21st-CENTURY TEENS SPELL SUCCESS?"

"But according to a recent Gallup Youth Survey*, American teenagers don't necessarily equate fame and fortune with success."

"Teens were asked in an open-ended question to define what makes someone successful in life. Fifteen percent of all teens surveyed say happiness and contentment. 'A person is successful when they are happy with their life and who they are,' one 13-year-old girl says. 'It doesn't matter how much money they make, where they live, or what kind of car they drive.'"

How would you define success in life -- that is, what do you think it is that makes a person successful?



“*The Gallup Youth Survey is conducted via an Internet methodology provided by Knowledge Networks, using an online research panel that is designed to be representative of the entire U.S. population. The current questionnaire was completed by 439 respondents, aged 13 to 17, August 8-19, 2004. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 5 percentage points.”

(Raksha Arora, “How Do 21st-Century Teens Spell Success?” The Gallup Organization, October 19, 2004, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/content/default.aspx?ci=13684>)

“TEENAGERS”

“Family”

- “57% of teens live in the same home with both of their natural parents. (1999)”
- “43% talk to family or friends about religious matters in a typical day. (1998)”
- “41% talk to family or friends about politics in a typical day. (1998)”
- “70% of teens have daily conversations with their mothers about an important issue in their life, compared to the 53% of teens who have a similar type of conversation with their fathers. (1998)”

“Adults and Teens”

- “Teens describe themselves as ‘happy’ (92%); ‘responsible’ (91%); ‘self reliant’ (86%); ‘optimistic about my future’ (82%); ‘trusting of other people’ (80%); ‘very intelligent’ (79%); and ‘physically attractive’ (74%). (1998)”
- “Teens believe adults would describe young people as ‘lazy’ (84%); ‘rude’ (91%); ‘sloppy’ (70%); ‘dishonest’ (65%); and violent (57%). ‘Friendly’ (63%) and ‘intelligent’ (58%) also were chosen by a majority of teens. (1998)”
- “47% say their parents have the greatest influence on their spiritual development; 16% listed their church; 8% named peers; 4% said relatives (1998)”
- “85% say their parents approve of all or most of their close friends (1998)”
- “82% say their parents have been good role models of how to be a person of strong and meaningful faith. (2000)”

“The Future”

“Desires teens hold for their future: (1998)”

- “having a college degree (88%)”
- “having a comfortable lifestyle (83%)”
- “having one marriage partner for life (82%)”
- “having close personal friendships (84%)”
- “having good physical health (87%)”
- “having a clear purpose for living (77%)”
- “living with a high degree of integrity (71%)”
- “having a close relationship with God (66%)”
- “influencing other people's lives (56%)”
- “making a difference in the world (56%)”

- “having a satisfying sex life with their marriage partner (55%)”
- “working in a high paying job (55%)”
- “having children (54%)”
- “being deeply committed to the Christian faith (50%)”
- “living close to family and relatives (49%)”
- “being personally active in a church (43%)”
- “owning a large home (28%)”
- “owning the latest household technology and electronic equipment (27%)”
- “achieving fame or public recognition (18%)”

“Spirituality”

- “One-third of all teenagers (34%) as born again – unchanged in several years. (2000)”
- “The most common church affiliations among teenagers were Catholic (22%), Baptist (16%), and mainline Protestant (19%). Only 4% usually attend a charismatic or Pentecostal church. (2000)”
- “In 1997, 88% of teens say they are Christian. This number dropped to 82% in 1999.”
- “Of those who call themselves Christians, 26% said they are ‘absolutely committed’ and 57% said that they were ‘moderately committed’ to the Christian faith. (1999)”
- “Almost two-thirds of teens (62%) believe that the Bible is totally accurate in all of its teachings. (2000)”
- “Almost two-thirds describe themselves as ‘religious’ (64%). (1999)”
- “Three out of every five call themselves ‘spiritual’ (60%). (1999)”
- “Three out of five say they are ‘committed Christians’ (60%). (1999)”
- “One out of every three teens (33%) is born again. (1999)”

- “Only 4% of U.S. teens are evangelicals (1999)”
- “28% of teens feel a personal responsibility to tell others about their religious beliefs (56% of born again Christian teens feel this way). (1999)”
- “56% of teens feel that their religious faith is very important in their life. (1999)”
- “Two out of three teens (65%) say that the devil, or Satan, is not a living being but is a symbol of evil. (2000)”
- “Three out of five teens (61%) agree that ‘if a person is generally good, or does enough good things for others during their life, they will earn a place in Heaven.’ (2000)”
- “Slightly more than half (53%) say that Jesus committed sins while He was on earth. (2000)”
- “30% of teens believe that all religions are really praying to the same God, they are just using different names for God. (1999)”
- “In total, 83% of teens maintain that moral truth depends on the circumstances, and only 6% believe that moral truth is absolute. (2001)”
- “When it comes to believing in absolute truth, only 9% of born again teens believe in moral absolutes and just 4% of the non-born again teens believe that there are moral absolutes. (2001)” *(For more information about the held perspectives on moral truth, see the February 12, 2002 Press Release article titled "Americans Are Most Likely to Base Truth on Feelings." You can access this article on this site, by clicking the respective link on the right-hand side of this page.)*

“Religious Activities”

- “Nearly 9 out of 10 (89%) teens pray weekly. (1999)”
- “Over half of teens (56%) attend church on a given Sunday. (1999)”
- “38% of teens donate some of their own money to a church in a given week.” (1999)”
- “35% of teens attend Sunday school in a given week. (1999)”

- “35% of teens read the Bible each week, not including when they are in church. (1999)”
- “More than seven out of ten teens are engaged in some church-related effort in a typical week: attending worship services, Sunday school, a church youth group or a small group. (1999)”
- “32% of teens attend youth group, other than a small group or Sunday school, each week. (1999)”
- “29% of teens attend a small group each week that meets regularly for Bible study, prayer or Christian fellowship, not including Sunday school or a 12-step group. (1999)”
- “18% read from a sacred text other than the Bible in a given week. (1999)”

(“Teenagers,” Barna Research Online, www.barna.org/cgi-bin/PageCategoryID=37)

“MOST TEENS FIND MOTIVATION WITHIN THEMSELVES,”

“A recent Gallup Youth Survey asked teens (aged 13 to 17) to choose a statement that describes them very well: ‘I need someone to motivate me,’ or ‘My motivation mostly comes from within.’ A majority of American teens, 67%, said they are mostly self-motivated, while 32% said they need someone else to motivate them.”

(Linda Lyons, “Most Teens Find Motivation Within Themselves,” Gallup Poll Tuesday Briefing, February 10, 2004, www.gallup.com/content/print.asp?ci=10561)

“THE STATE OF OUR NATION’S YOUTH 2003-2004”

“A survey of young people between the ages of 13 and 19 to ascertain the issues and feeling of American youth. “At A Glance:”

“Students Are Tech, Media Savvy”

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>No Effect</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>
<i>Effects of media on values and morals</i>	12%	34%	49%	5%

“Social Pressures Are Still Strong”

	<u>Major Problem</u>	<u>Minor Problem</u>
<i>Pressure to get good grades</i>	42%	38%
<i>Pressure to look a certain way</i>	16%	37%
<i>Family pressures</i>	15%	38%
<i>Financial pressure</i>	12%	40%
<i>Loneliness or feeling left out</i>	9%	28%
<i>Pressure to do drugs or drink</i>	8%	27%
<i>Pressure to have sex</i>	7%	24%

<i>Percentage of Students Who Say At Least Half Of Those They Know Engage in Activity</i>	
<i>Cheat on tests</i>	50%
<i>Smoke cigarettes</i>	42%

“Looking Ahead”

	<u><i>Critical</i></u>	<u><i>Very Important</i></u>	<u><i>Somewhat Important</i></u>	<u><i>Not At All Important</i></u>
<i>Importance of college for success</i>	40%	48%	11%	1%

	<u><i>Very Important For Success</i></u>
<i>Feeling personally satisfied</i>	90%
<i>Having close family relationships</i>	81%
<i>Having a close group of friends</i>	69%
<i>Active religious or spiritual life</i>	50%
<i>Making a contribution to society</i>	48%
<i>Making a lot of money</i>	32%
<i>Being famous and respected</i>	23%
<i>Being attractive and popular</i>	8%

“Students Show Optimism, Action”

“This year’s survey findings offer compelling evidence that students refuse to let negative events dishearten their world perspective. Fully three-quarters of students say that their outlook for the future is hopeful and optimistic, whereas just one in five say that they look ahead with worry and pessimism.”

“Social Pressures Are Still Strong”

“Again this year, students report feeling pressure about their grades and the proportion who feel this pressure is rising. Two in five students say that the pressure to get good grades creates a major problem for them – an increase of 16 points in the past two years.”

“It is interesting to note that across the board, students who say that they do get along with their parents say that these pressures create more problems for them.”

“Families Remain At The Forefront Of Students’ Lives”

“This year’s *State of Our Nation’s Youth* survey findings offer compelling proof refuting the traditional belief that high school students do not get along will with their parents. When asked to pick one or two areas of their life in which they would like to spend more time, half of students say they would like to spend more time with their family. Fully three-quarters of students say that they get along with their parents either extremely or

very well. Not surprisingly, students who get along well with their family also get better report card grades and are more involved with their school.”

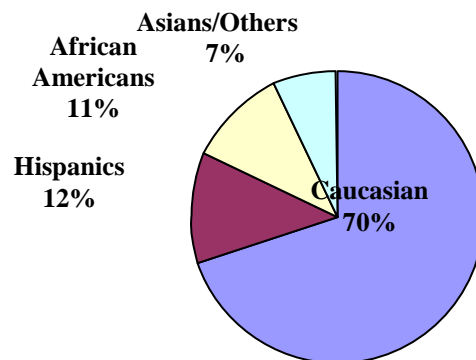
“For the most part, however, students report having remarkably positive relationships with their family.”

“Looking Ahead”

“Whatever their influences, students clearly feel that attending college is important to their success. Nearly nine in ten students say that attending college is either critical or very important to being successful in life. Indeed, nearly all students say that they are planning to pursue some form of higher education.”

“A Portrait of Diversity”

“Ethnic Diversity”



“In keeping with national trends, students report coming from increasingly diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. Seven in ten American high school students are Caucasian, but the remaining 30% identify with some other racial or ethnic group. The United States Census Bureau recently reported that Hispanics are outpacing African Americans in this country, and indeed, with the *State of Our Nation’s Youth* survey, 12% of students are Hispanic and 11% are African Americans. Three percent of students identify themselves as Asian, and an additional 3% identify themselves with some other racial or ethnic group.”

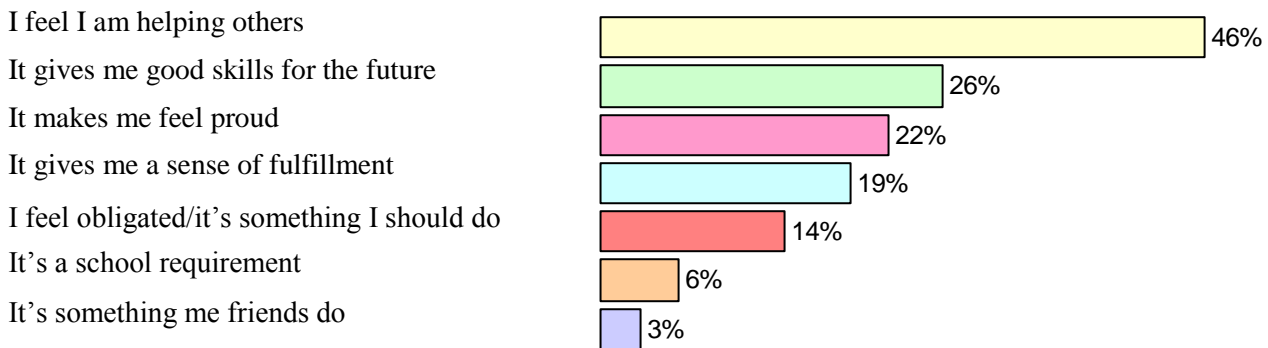
“FINDINGS”

“Students Also Are More Involved In Their Schools”

“In addition to spending more time on their homework, African-American students also report being more involved with their school than do Caucasians or Hispanics. Eighty-six percent of African-American teenagers say that they are very or fairly involved with their school, compared with 81% of Caucasians and just 70% of Hispanics.”

“Community Service: For the Right Reasons”

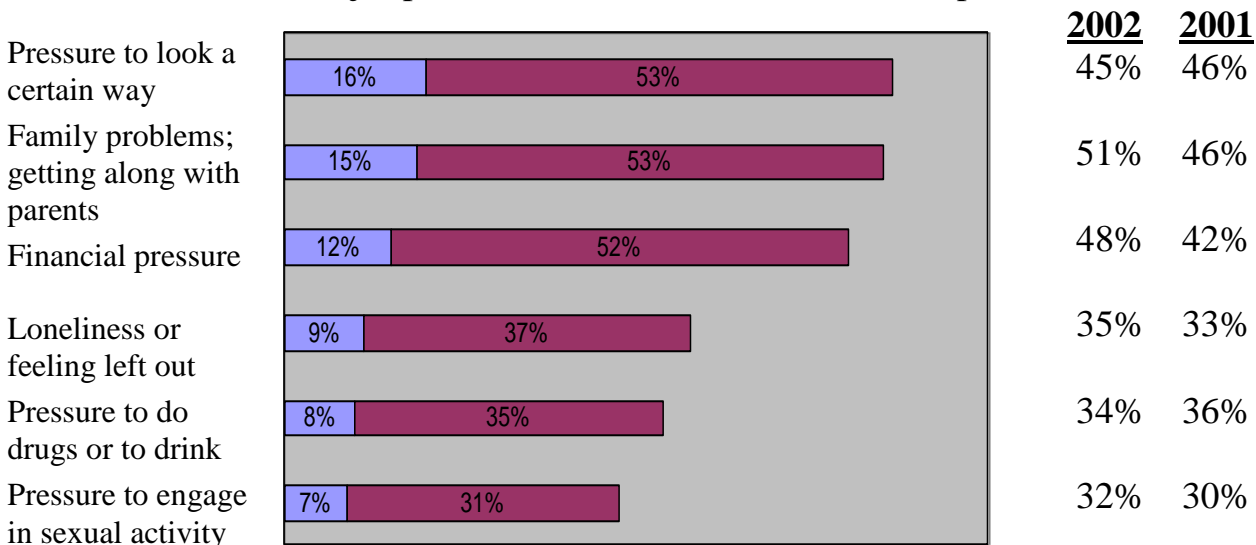
“I do community service or volunteer because:”



“Other Pressures”

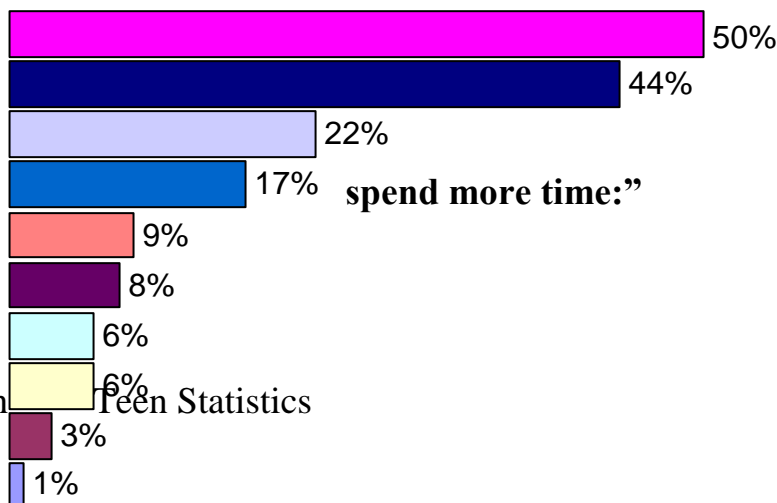
“Other Pressures”

Major problem for me (dark blue) Minor problem for me (maroon)



Choose to Spend Family”

“If I could, I would



“Student Time With

spend more time:”

“I hang out/spend most of my time with:”

	2003	2002	2001
Family	8%	16%	7%
Group of friends	69%	54%	69%
One-two close friends	20%	22%	16%
Alone	3%	7%	3%

“Just 3% of students say that they spend most of their time alone. Seven in ten (69%) say that they spend most of their time with a group of friends, one in five (20%) spend it with one or two close friends, and 8% say that they spend most of their time with their family. While those 8% may be in the minority, it is a remarkably high number considering the fact that according to popular conceptions, students are not supposed to get along with their parents.”

“Students Get Along With Parents”

“Perhaps not surprisingly, students who say that they get good grades and are involved with their school are the most likely to say that they get along extremely or very well with their parents. Seventy-seven percent of students who get As and Bs say that they get along at least very well with their parents, compared with 66% of students who get Cs or below. Likewise, 79% students who say they are very involved with their school also say they get along with their parents, compared with 64% of students who say they are not involved.”

“Nearly All See College In Their Future”

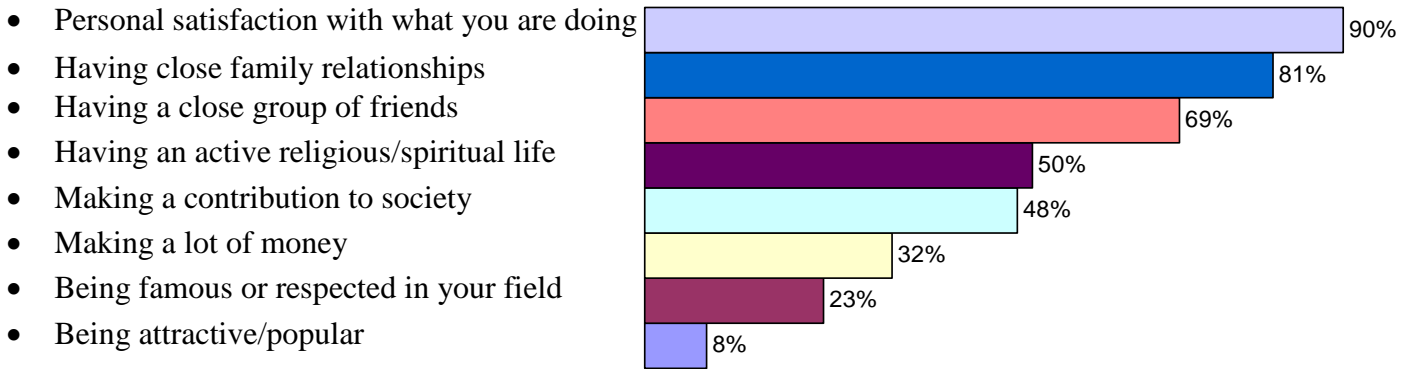
“Fewer Looking to Alternative Schools”

“Do you plan to go to college sometime after high school?”

2003	2002	2001
-------------	-------------	-------------

Four-year college	80%	66%	68%
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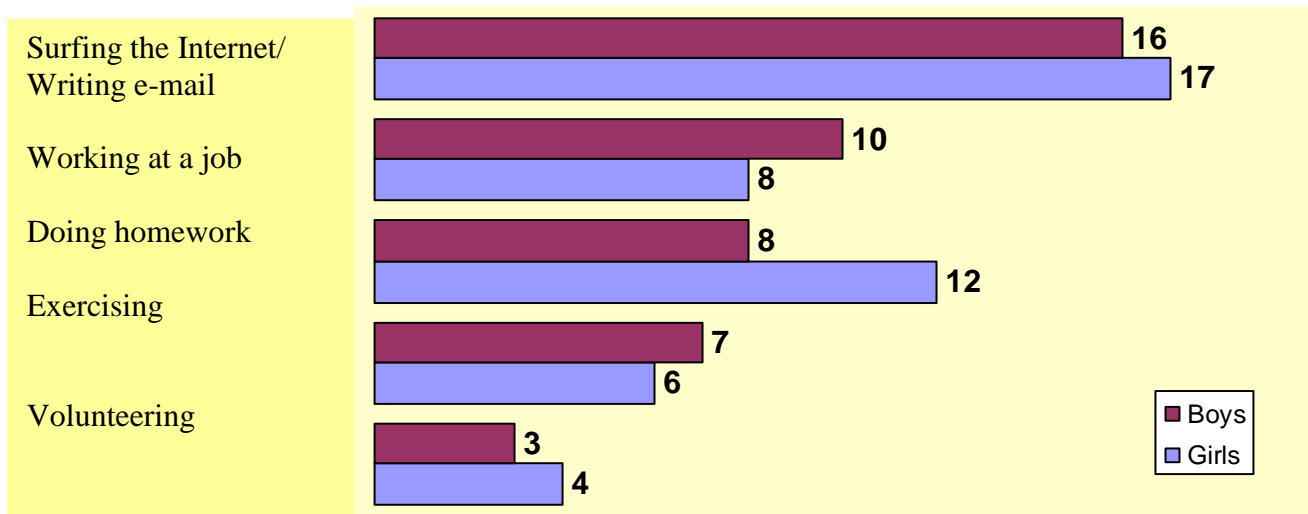
“Strong Relationships Still Define Success In Life”
(% saying each is very important in their definition of success)



(“The State Of Our Nation’s Youth 2003-2004,” Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc, 2003, www.horatioalger.org)

“WHERE TEENS SPEND THEIR TIME”

“Average number of hours per week boys and girls say they spend:”



Source: BuzzBack Market Research

(“Where Teens Spend Their Time,” USA Today, October 9, 2003, pD1)

“WHY ARE KIDS SO ANGRY?”

“According to a study in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*:”

- “Almost 1 in 3 children live in a single-parent household.”
- “1 out of every 3 births in 1996 was to an unmarried mother.”
- “Parents spend 40% less time with their children today than a generation ago. (9) (John P. Robinson, “Caring for Kids,” *American Demographics* (July 1989): 52).”

(Why Are Kids So Angry? H. Chris Slane III, M.A. – Director of Research 1999 - Family First)(p. 7)

“2000 REPORT CARD OF THE ETHICS OF AMERICAN YOUTH”

“More than one in three students (39% of middle schoolers and 36% of high schoolers) say they don't feel safe at school and they may have good reason.

43% of high school and 37% of middle school boys believe it is OK to hit or threaten a person who makes them angry. Nearly one in five (19%) of the girls agree.”

“An even higher percentage actually resorts to violence: 75% of all boys and over 60% of girls surveyed said they hit someone in the past 12 months because they were angry.”

“More than one in five (21%) high school boys and 15% of middle school males took a weapon to school at least once in the past year.”

“60% of high school and 31% middle school boys said they could get a gun if they wanted to.”

“69% of high school and 27% of middle school boys said they could get drugs if they wanted to.”

“19% of high school and 9% of middle school boys admit they were drunk at school at least once in the past year.”

(“2000 Report Card of the Ethics of American Youth,” Josephson Institute)

“Teen Sex”

- “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.”
- “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.”

(Kaiser Family)

“WEAVING CHARACTER INTO SEX EDUCATION – BY PAT SOCIA”

“Figures from the Children's Defense Fund, and the book *13th Generation* by Neil Howe and Bill Strauss, show that every day in America:”

- “1,000 unwed teenage girls become mothers”
- “1,106 teenage girls get abortions”
- “4,219 teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases”
- “500 adolescents begin using drugs”
- “1,000 adolescents begin drinking alcohol”
- “135,000 kids bring guns or other weapons to school”
- “3,610 teens are assaulted; 80 are raped”
- “2,200 teens drop out of high school”
- “6 teens commit suicide” (p. 3)

-
1. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Nearly three-fourths of juveniles in state custody did not live with both parents growing up.” (CWA Family Voice, www.cfa.org, Nov/Dec. 1999)
 2. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “There are more boys living without their fathers here than in any country in the world.” (“No Dad at Home” ABC 20/20, Charles Gibson and Lynn Sherr, Wed. Nov. 17, 1999)
 3. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 15% of all violent deaths in America’s schools are child suicides.”
 4. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “More than 2000 school aged children - 19 and younger - take their own lives each year.
 5. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “At least 300 children ages 10-14 kill themselves each year.”
 6. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Suicides among adolescents have nearly tripled over the last 40 years.”
 7. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “For those ages 15-24 suicide is the third-leading cause of death, behind accidents and homicide.” (USA Today, “Devastation lingers around school”)
 8. **We are in trouble when:** “72% of adolescent murders are from fatherless homes.”
 9. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “70% of long term prison inmates came from fatherless homes.” (Life Without Father, p. 63)
 10. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Over 25 million children under the age of 18 are growing up in a home without their dad.” (Fathering in America)
 11. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “The Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services found just 12% of the delinquents in state custody were from a two-parent family. A study of female delinquents in the California Youth Authority found just 7% came from intact families.” (10) (The Heart of a Father, p. 19)
 12. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “50% said their fathers were emotionally absent from them growing up.” (7) (The Heart of a Father)

13. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Only 34% of adult males could say that they considered their own father to be a role model.” (7) (The Heart of a Father)
14. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “More than 40% of American adults have no weekly contact with their children.” (8) (The Heart of a Father)
15. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “Broken homes contribute to as many as 3 out of 4 teen suicides.” (14) (The Heart of a Father)
16. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “4 out of 5 psychiatric admissions comes from fatherless homes.” (14) (The Heart of a Father)
17. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “We are more concerned with the rights and personal fulfillment of adults than the emotional health of our children.”
18. **We are in trouble...WHEN:** “The average mother spends less than 17 minutes a day in meaningful interaction with any of their teenage children and the father spend less than 7 minutes per day.”

“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.”

(www.gallup.com/poll/tb/educaYouth/20020129b.asp?Version=p)

“TEEN RATE FUTURE IMPACT OF TERRORISTS, FANATICS”

“Eighty-nine percent of teens** say that political terrorists will have ‘a lot’ or ‘some’ influence on their futures – similar to that given for changes in the environment (91%), the Internet (88%), and the federal budget deficit (86%). A majority, 52% of American teens say political terrorists will have ‘a lot’ of influence on their futures, the highest score for any item.”

**The Gallup Youth Survey was still in the field when the terror alert was raised to orange status on Feb. 7. However, a comparison of data collected before and after Feb. 7 show no difference in results.

(www.gallup.com/poll/tb/educaYouth/20030325.asp?Version)

“TOO HEAVY, TOO YOUNG:”

“Percentage of American children ages 6 to 11 are over weight:”

“1970: 4%.”

“1999: 13%.”

(Time January 21 from Youthworker, March/April 2002, pg. 11)

“TEEN DRIVERS:”

- “Crash rate for 16-year-old boys: 210.3 per 1,000 drivers.”
- “Crash rate for 16-year-old girls: 175.2 per 1,000 drivers (160.1 in 1990)”
- “Increase in the number of girls licensed to drive since 1975: 70%.”
- “Increase in fatality rate for girls from 1990: 4%.”

(Time, January 21 from Youthworker, March/April 2002, pg. 11)

“MOST TEENS SEE MARRIAGE AND KIDS IN THEIR FUTURE”

“Nearly all teens (93 percent) expect that they will get married some day, rather than remain single. And nine out of ten teens (91 percent) say that if they get married, they would like to have children.”

“Where marriage is concerned, older teens (16 and 17) may be slightly more ready to take on the idea. 95 percent of teens 16 and 17 years old say they think they will marry some day, compared to 91 percent of younger teens (13 to 15 years old).”

“Plans to have children after marriage, however, do not appear affected by age (91 percent of older teens).”

(“Most Teens See Marriage and Kids in Their Future,” Youthviews; The Newsletter of the Gallup Youth Survey. Volume 8, Number 10, June 2001, page 2.)

“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)

“American adolescents stand a better chance of avoiding risky behavior when they experience and express strong connections to their school.” (p.20)

“Of all the measures of school environment examined, only two make a difference for adolescents’ mental health:”

- “Feeling connected to school; and”
- “Believing students at school to be prejudiced.” (p. 22)

“Both older and younger students who feel connected to their school report lower levels of emotional distress; they are less likely to think about, or attempt, suicide. Students who perceive other students to be prejudiced report higher levels of emotional distress.” (p. 22)

“A feeling of connectedness to school also protects youth from cigarette, alcohol, and marijuana use. For all three, when youth report high levels of connectedness to their school, they also report less frequent use.” (p. 22-23)

“Feeling a high level of connectedness to school also is associated with a delay in first sexual intercourse. Other factors associated with a modest delay in sexual debut include attending a parochial school and attending a school with high overall average daily attendance.” (p. 23)

“Measures of classroom size, teacher training, and parent involvement with school appear unrelated to adolescents’ health behaviors and emotional well-being.” (p. 24)

“School policies appear to have little or no relationship to the behavior of teenagers who attend the school.” (p. 24)

“What seems to matter most for adolescent health is that school foster an atmosphere in which students feel fairly treated, close to others, and a part of the school. Our adolescent children, both younger and older, stand a better chance of being protected from health risks when they feel connected to their school.” (p. 24)

“Teens who have high self-esteem are more likely to be protected from emotional distress. Having a good grade point average is also associated with less emotional distress. Some factors increase the risk of emotional distress regardless of grade level.”

- “Being held back one or more grades in school; and”
- “Perceiving a risk of early death.” (p. 27)

“Older adolescents (those in grades 9-12) who report feeling attracted to someone of the same sex have greater emotional distress than their peers who do not. Older adolescents who work at a paid job for 20 or more hours a week and those who say they look older than their peers are also at greater risk for emotional distress.” (p. 27)

(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.)

“HUNTING DOWN THE COOL”

“College freshmen lookin’ liberal; Alex P. Keaton must be rolling over in the cancelled-TV-show graveyard. As the wider culture tips toward patriotic conservatism, incoming college freshmen have countered with a decidedly liberal lean. In fact, more of them have embraced the political positions of the ‘far left’ than at any time since 1975, according to the results of a massive annual survey by the Higher Education Research Institute.”

“The survey of almost 300,000 incoming freshmen found that nearly a third (30%) say they’re liberals, compared with only a fifth (21%) just two decades ago. Half of those responding (49%) say they’re “middle-of-the-road,” and only a fifth (21%) label themselves ‘conservative’ or ‘far right’.”

“Examples of their liberal brainwaves:”

- “More than half of incoming college freshmen (58%) think gay couples should be granted legal marital status, the largest percentage in history.” (According to a recent Gallup Poll, almost two-thirds [62%] of young adults consider homosexuality acceptable.)
- “A third of them (32%) say they oppose the death penalty, the highest percentage since 1980.”

“Four in 10 (37%) say they’d like marijuana possession legalized, also the highest number since 1980.”

“Why is youth culture listing to port? According to a report in USA Today:”

- “Their Boomer Parents are socially and politically liberal. ‘We know parents definitely have an influence on social and political attitudes,’ says Angela Aimals, Columbia University sociologist.”
- “MTV is shaping their belief systems. If the popular media is liberal-learning, MTV is the Tower of Pisa. This electronic watering hold for teenagers doesn’t hide its lefty opinion on sex, drugs, and homosexuality.”

“Today’s college students are also liberal in their spending habits. According to the student loan agency Nellie Mae, the average student credit-card debt rose from \$1,879 in 1998 to \$2,748 in 2000—a whooping two-year increase of 46%.”

(“Hunting down the cool.” Trendwatch; youth and culture. Group Magazines. May 6, 2002.)

“TIME MAGAZINE FOR THE RECORD”

“1,400 Estimated number of U.S. college students who die from alcohol-related accidents each year.”

“70,000 Number of sex assaults and date rapes attributed to campus drinking.”

“81% Percentage of teens who say they are more willing now, three years after Columbine, to report students who pose a threat to school safety”

(“For the Record,” Time Magazine, April 22, 2002)

“YOUTHS FEEL PRESSURE, NEED SUPPORT”

“Another recent study found that, “39 percent of girls in grades five to eight said they were on a diet; 13 percent of those girls said they had already binged and purged, symptoms of bulimia.” (Newsweek, October 18, 1999 p. 69)

“One mother in Colorado rightly put it when she exclaimed, “Today’s youth have more resources, better education and more leisure activities than any generation, yet the amount of depression and dissatisfaction seems to be much greater.”

(The Coloradan, Ft. Collins, Mon. Sept. 27, 1999, “Youths Feel Pressure, Need Support” pA1)