

Questionnaire and Detailed Results

A Series of National Surveys of Teens About Sex



seventeen

sexsmarts
a public information partnership

A Series of National Surveys of Teens About Sex: Decision Making (9/00)

Q1. How much pressure do you think teens today face when it comes to sex and relationships?

	Overall	Male	Female	12-14	15-17
<i>A lot or Some</i>	86%	83%	89%	81%	90%

Q2. How much pressure do you personally face when it comes to sex and relationships?

	Overall	Male	Female	12-14	15-17
<i>A lot or Some</i>	36%	41%	31%	32%	41%

Q3. There are many things that might influence teens' decisions about relationships and becoming sexually active. For each of the following please tell me whether this has had a lot, some, not much, or not influence over your decisions about relationships and becoming sexually active.

	Percent responding <i>a lot or some</i>				
	Overall	Male	Female	12-14	15-17
a. What your parents might think	79%	70%	88%	80%	78%
b. What your friends might think	46%	47%	44%	47%	44%
c. What your friends have done sexually	37%	39%	36%	32%	42%
d. What your boyfriend/girlfriend has done sexually	40%	47%	33%	31%	49%
e. What you've done already sexually	39%	42%	36%	26%	51%
f. What a boyfriend/girlfriend wants to do	54%	67%	40%	48%	60%
g. What your religion says about sex and relationships	58%	51%	64%	56%	59%
h. What you have learned in sex education classes	74%	71%	78%	78%	70%
i. What your parents have told you about sex	80%	73%	87%	85%	75%
j. Worry about getting/getting someone pregnant	80%	80%	81%	74%	87%
k. Worrying about getting a STD	84%	83%	85%	79%	89%

Q4. Would you say that you and your friends talk about what is going on in each other's love lives—that is what they do sexually with a boy or girlfriend—a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	Overall	Male	Female	12-14	15-17
<i>A lot or Some</i>	55%	49%	62%	43%	67%

Q5. As far as you know, have any of your friends, that is the people you hang out with most often, made a conscious decision not to have sex until some later time, like when they are married or when they are older?

	Overall	Male	Female	12-14	15-17
Yes	72%	62%	83%	72%	72%

Q6. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following:

	Percent responding <i>strongly or somewhat agree</i>				
	Overall	Male	Female	12-14	15-17
a. Sex is something that just happens	24%	31%	17%	21%	27%
b. My parents would be disappointed if they found out I was having sex	84%	77%	91%	90%	78%
c. Once you have had sex, it is harder to say <i>no</i> the next time	49%	52%	46%	48%	50%
d. If you are in a relationship it is expected that you will have sex	26%	33%	19%	24%	28%
e. There is a lot of pressure to have sex by a certain age	67%	71%	64%	68%	66%
f. Oral sex is not as big a deal as sexual intercourse	38%	44%	31%	34%	41%
g. Teens should wait to have sex until they are older	89%	84%	94%	94%	84%
h. Waiting to have sex is a nice idea but nobody really does	58%	60%	56%	58%	58%
i. Alcohol makes having sex easier	39%	44%	35%	38%	41%
j. Girls feel more pressure to have sex than boys do	61%	56%	67%	59%	64%

Q7. I'm going to read you a list of people you might discuss sex and relationships with. For each, please tell me if you would feel very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, not too comfortable, or not at all comfortable talking with them about sex and relationships.

	Percent responding <i>strongly or somewhat agree</i>				
	Overall	Male	Female	12-14	15-17
a. Your mother	67%	55%	80%	68%	67%
b. Your father	45%	61%	27%	45%	44%
c. Your friends	87%	83%	92%	81%	94%
d. A boyfriend/girlfriend	78%	84%	73%	67%	89%
e. A brother or sister	65%	64%	66%	64%	66%
f. A teacher or school guidance counselor	37%	36%	38%	41%	34%
g. A coach or club leader	44%	48%	40%	43%	45%
h. A doctor or other health care provider	69%	65%	74%	61%	77%
i. A religious advisor	44%	42%	45%	48%	39%

Q8. Do you feel you already know enough, or would you like to know more about each of the following:

	Percent responding <i>would like to know more</i>				
	Overall	Male	Female	12-14	15-17
a. How STDs, like HIV and herpes, are spread	25%	20%	31%	26%	25%
b. The consequences of STDs	34%	28%	40%	38%	29%
c. Where to go to get tested for STDs	43%	40%	46%	48%	38%
d. The different kinds of birth control that are available	42%	42%	43%	42%	43%
e. Where to get birth control	31%	32%	29%	34%	28%
f. How to talk to a girl/boyfriend about what you feel comfortable doing sexually	32%	28%	37%	29%	36%
g. How to bring up STDs and birth control	43%	41%	46%	44%	42%

Q11bb. (Asked of respondents 15-17 years of age n=263) Have you ever had sexual intercourse?

	Overall
Yes	37%
No	63%
Don't know or Refused	<1%

Q12. (Asked of respondents 15-17 who have *not* had sexual intercourse n=166) For each of the following please tell me whether this is a major reason, minor reason, or not a reason why you have not had sexual intercourse. (For those who mentioned more than one major reason) If you had to choose, which one would you say is the main reason?

	Major Reason	Minor Reason	Main Reason
	(15-17)	(15-17)	(15-17)
a. You made a conscious decision to wait	74%	20%	15%
b. You haven't met the right person yet	63%	16%	14%
c. You are worried about getting/getting someone pregnant	83%	12%	17%
d. You are worried about sexually transmitted diseases	73%	21%	13%
e. You feel you are too young	63%	23%	6%
f. You worry about what your parents will think	64%	23%	6%
g. You worry about what your friends will think	15%	40%	1%
h. You have not had the opportunity	15%	37%	1%
i. Your religion or moral beliefs	52%	23%	21%
j. Your boyfriend/girlfriend is not ready	44%	22%	2%
k. None of your friends are doing it	10%	33%	—
No main/major reason given	N/A	N/A	4%

Q13. (Asked of respondents 15-17 who have had sexual intercourse n=97) Thinking about the first time you had sex, for each of the following please tell me whether this was a major reason, minor reason, or not a reason why you decided to have sex at the time.

	Major Reason	Minor Reason	Main Reason
	(15-17)	(15-17)	(15-17)
a. You were just curious	32%	37%	15%
b. You met the right person	51%	24%	31%
c. You hoped it would make your relationship with the person closer	28%	26%	14%
d. The other person wanted to	45%	35%	16%
e. Many of your friends had already done it	16%	27%	4%
f. You were drinking at the time	5%	17%	3%
No main/ major reason given	N/A	N/A	17%

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation and *Seventeen* National Survey of Teens: Decision Making About Sex is a random-sample national survey of 510 teens, ages 12-17. Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, questions on personal sexual experience were only asked of respondents between the ages of 15-17. The survey was conducted by telephone by International Communications Research (ICR) between June 22-28 2000 as part of their monthly teen Omnibus survey. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4.3% for the total sample, 6.2% for males, 6.1% for females, 6.2 for 12-14 year olds, 6.1 for 15-17 year olds and may be larger for certain subsets presented in this analysis.