



A Series of National Surveys of Teens About Sex: Virginity and the First Time (10/03)

Q1. What percentage of teens in high school do you think are sexually active?

	_	Gen	der	Sexuall	y Active
	Total 15-17	Boys	Girls	Yes	No
a. 10%	3	5	2		5
b. 20%	21	26	16	10	27
c. 50%	41	40	42	34	44
d. 80%	34	29	39	56	23

Q2. In your opinion, are teens in high school today more or less likely to have sex than they were 10 years ago or has it remained the same?

	_	Gen	ıder	Sexuall	y Active
	Total 15-17	Boys	Girls	Yes	No
a. More likely	72	66	77	76	69
b. Less likely	3	4	2	2	3
c. No change	24	28	21	20	26

Q3. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. Would you say you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

Percent responding strongly or somewhat agree

		Gender		Sexuall	y Active		
		Total 15-17	Boys	Girls	Yes	No	
a.	If you have had oral sex you are still a virgin.	50	48	52	59	46	_

Q4. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. Would you say you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

Percent responding strongly or somewhat agree

			Gender		Sexuall	y Active
		Total 15-17	Boys	Girls	Yes	No
a.	I think being a virgin in high school is a good thing.	92	89	95	88	94
b.	Choosing not to have sex can be a difficult decision.	75	79	72	79	73
с.	Teens are supported if they choose to wait to	74	72	76	69	76

Q5. Would you say it is easier for a girl to be a virgin in high school, easier for a boy to be a virgin in high school, or it makes no difference?

		Ger	ıder	Sexuall	y Active
	Total 15-17	Boys	Girls	Yes	No
Girl	29	20	38	35	26
Boy	9	13	6	11	9
Makes no difference	61	67	56	53	65

Q6. At what age do you personally think it is OK for someone to lose his or her virginity?

		Gender			Active
	Total 15-17	Boys	Girls	Yes	No
15 or less	2	4	1	6	1
16	10	11	8	23	3
17	11	13	9	15	9
18	26	27	24	21	28
19	3	3	4	1	4
20	5	3	8	3	7
More than 20	9	9	9	4	11
When you are married (volunteered)	24	20	27	17	27
When you are in a committed relationship (volunteered)	2	2	2	2	2

Q7. Which statement do you agree with—It is more common for teens' first sexual experience to be -A--a planned decision or B--unplanned sex that is sex that just happens?

		Gender			Sexually Active		
	Total 15-17	Boys	Girls	Yes	No		
A—Planned decision	41	40	42	43	40		
B-Unplanned	57	59	56	56	58		

Q8. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. Would you say you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

Percent responding strongly or somewhat agree

		Gender			Active	
	Total 15-17	Boys	Girls	Yes	No	
a. Alcohol or drugs are part of many teens' first sexual experience.	80	80	81	82	79	
b. Girls are often pressured to have sex before they are ready.	87	83	91	88	86	
c. Boys are often pressured to have sex before they are ready.	57	52	63	46	63	

Qo. Next, I'm going to read you some statements about the benefits of waiting to have sex. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. The first is (INSERT ITEM)? Would you say you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that this is a benefit of waiting to have sex?

Percent responding strongly or somewhat agree

		Gender			Sexually Active	
		Total 15-17	Boys	Girls	Yes	No
a.	Respect from friends	84	79	90	82	85
b.	Respect from parents	91	87	96	87	93
с.	Don't have to worry about pregnancy or STDs	79	84	75	79	80
d.	Stay in control of your relationship	91	89	94	90	92
e.	One less thing to worry about	78	76	80	78	78
f.	Respect for yourself	93	92	95	92	94
g.	Keeping true to your religion or moral values	91	87	96	84	95

Q10. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. The first is (INSERT ITEM)? Would you say you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

Percent responding strongly or somewhat agree

	Gender		Sexually Active		
	Total 15-17	Boys	Girls	Yes	No
a. The first time you have sex you just want to get it over with.	38	31	44	42	36
b. The first time you have sex you don't have to worry about protection or contraception.	17	20	13	19	16
c. The first time you have sex you aren't thinking about STDs or HIV/AIDS.	54	60	48	54	54

Q11. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?

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_	Total 15-17	Boys	Girls
Yes	32	36	28
No	67	63	70

Q12. Please tell me which of the following statements best matches your personal decision about sex. You can just give me the letter. (Asked of those who have not had sexual intercourse)

		Ger	nder
	Total 15-17	Boys	Girls
a. I think I will have sex before I finish high school.	6	10	3
b. I am waiting to have sex until I am out of high school.	8	7	9
c. I am waiting to have sex until I am in a committed relationship.	42	40	43
d. I am waiting to have sex until I am married.	37	37	36

Q13. For each of the following please tell me how much influence each of the following have had on your decision to not have sexual intercourse. How about (INSERT). Has this had a lot, some, not much, or no influence over YOUR decision to not have sexual intercourse at this time? (Asked of those who have not had sexual intercourse)

	Total 15-17	Gender	
		Boys	Girls
a. You haven't met the right person yet	83	89	76
b. You are worried about pregnancy	94	94	93
c. You are worried about HIV/AIDS	92	90	93
d. You are worried about other STDs	92	94	90
e. You feel you are too young	91	87	94
f. Because of what your parents have taught you	91	90	92
g. Your reputation	77	76	78
h. You have not had the opportunity	54	65	44
i. Your religion or moral beliefs	84	79	88
j. Your (boyfriend/girlfriend) is not ready	66	73	60
k. None of your friends are doing it	54	53	56
l. You don't have access to birth control or condoms	59	59	59
m. Because of what you learned in sex education	89	90	88

Q14. Thinking about the first time you had sex, for each of the following please tell me how much influence had in your decision to have sex. First would you say that (INSERT) has a lot, some, not much, or no influence in your decision to have sex? (Asked of those who have had sexual intercourse)

Percent responding a lot, some or a little influence

Gender

		Gender	
		Boys	Girls
a. You were curious	85	84	85
b. You met the right person	76	78	74
c. You hoped it would make your relationship closer	70	74	64
d. The other person wanted to	84	91	75
e. Many of your friends had already done it	62	66	58
f. You were drinking or using drugs at the time	18	22	13
g. You were ready to lose your virginity	80	80	80
h. You were in love with the person	69	62	78
i. You felt like it was the right time in your life	82	81	83
j. You had been with the person for a long time	74	71	78
k. You are going to marry the person	53	46	62
l. You wanted to get it over with	58	52	65

Q15. Thinking about the first time you had sex, for each of the following please tell me whether each of the following was true for you or not. You can just say yes or no. (Asked of those who have had sexual intercourse)

	Total 15-17	Gender	
_		Boys	Girls
a. I regret my decision to have sex.			
Yes	28	23	36
No	72	77	64
 b. I was in a serious or committed relationship with the person I had sex with. 			
Yes	65	61	70
No	35	39	30
c. I used a condom.			
Yes	83	88	76
No	17	12	24
d. I used birth control pills.			
Yes	24	18	31
No	74	78	69
 e. I used some other form of birth control or protection. 			
Yes	24	25	23
No	73	71	77

Q16. Still thinking about the first time you had sex—please tell me if you would change anything about it if you could. (Asked of those who have had sexual intercourse)

		Gender	
	Total 15-17	Boys	Girls
a. I would wait until I was older.			
Yes	49	40	61
No	51	60	39
 I would change the person I had sex with the first time. 			
Yes	25	27	24
No	75	73	76
c. I would change something about the circumstances of the first time.			
Yes	43	35	53
No	57	64	47

Methodology

This Kaiser Family Foundation and seventeen magazine National Survey of Teens: Virginity and the First Time is a random-sample survey of 508 teens, ages 15-17. The survey was designed by the Foundation and seventeen and conducted by telephone by International Communications Research (ICR) between June 4 - 9, 2003 as part of their monthly teen Omnibus survey. The margin of error is plus or minus 5% for the total sample and may be larger for certain subsets presented in this analysis.

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