

## seventeen

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?
a. $10 \%$
b. $20 \%$
c. $50 \%$
d. $80 \%$

|  | Gender |  | Sexually Active |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total 15-17 | Boys | Girls | Yes | No |
| 3 | 5 | 2 | - | 5 |
| 21 | 26 | 16 | 10 | 27 |
| 41 | 40 | 42 | 34 | 44 |
| 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?
a. More likely
b. Less likely
c. No change

|  | Gender |  | Sexually Active |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total 15-17 | Boys | Girls | Yes | No |
| 72 | 66 | 77 | 76 | 69 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 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
a. If you have had oral sex you are still a virgin.

|  | Gender |  | Sexually Active |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total 15-17 | Boys | Girls | Yes | No |
| 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
a. I think being a virgin in high school is a good thing.
b. Choosing not to have sex can be a difficult decision.
c. Teens are supported if they choose to wait to have sex.

|  | Gender |  | Sexually Active |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total 15-17 | Boys | Girls | Yes | No |
| 92 | 89 | 95 | 88 | 94 |
| 75 | 79 | 72 | 79 | 73 |
| 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?
Girl
Boy
Makes no difference

|  | Gender |  | Sexually Active |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total 15-17 | Boys | Girls | Yes | No |
| 29 | 20 | 38 | 35 | 26 |
| 9 | 13 | 6 | 11 | 9 |
| 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 |  | Sexually 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?
a. Alcohol or drugs are part of many teens' first sexual experience.
b. Girls are often pressured to have sex before they are ready.
c. Boys are often pressured to have sex before they are ready.

|  | Gender |  | Sexually Active |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total 15-17 | Boys | Girls | Yes | No |
| 80 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 79 |
| 87 | 83 | 91 | 88 | 86 |
| 57 | 52 | 63 | 46 | 63 |

Q9. 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
a. Respect from friends
b. Respect from parents
c. Don't have to worry about pregnancy or STDs
d. Stay in control of your relationship
e. One less thing to worry about
f. Respect for yourself
g. Keeping true to your religion or moral values

|  | Gender |  | Sexually Active |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total 15-17 | Boys | Girls | Yes | No |
| 84 | 79 | 90 | 82 | 85 |
| 91 | 87 | 96 | 87 | 93 |
| 79 | 84 | 75 | 79 | 80 |
| 91 | 89 | 94 | 90 | 92 |
| 78 | 76 | 80 | 78 | 78 |
| 93 | 92 | 95 | 92 | 94 |
| 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?
a. The first time you have sex you just want to get it over with.
b. The first time you have sex you don't have to worry about protection or contraception.
c. The first time you have sex you aren't thinking about STDs or HIV/AIDS.

Percent responding strongly or somewhat agree

|  | Gender |  | Sexually Active |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total $15-17$ | Boys | Girls | Yes | No |
| 38 | 31 | 44 | 42 | 36 |
| 17 | 20 | 13 | 19 | 16 |
| 54 | 60 | 48 | 54 | 54 |

## Q11. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?

|  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 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)
a. I think I will have sex before I finish high school.

|  | Gender |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total 15-17 | Boys | Girls |
| 6 | 10 | 3 |
| 8 | 7 | 9 |
| 42 | 40 | 43 |
| 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)
a. You haven't met the right person yet
b. You are worried about pregnancy
c. You are worried about HIV/AIDS
d. You are worried about other STDs
e. You feel you are too young
f. Because of what your parents have taught you
g. Your reputation

|  | Gender |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total 15-17 | Boys | Girls |
| 83 | 89 | 76 |
| 94 | 94 | 93 |
| 92 | 90 | 93 |
| 92 | 94 | 90 |
| 91 | 87 | 94 |
| 91 | 90 | 92 |
| 77 | 76 | 78 |
| 54 | 65 | 44 |
| 84 | 79 | 88 |
| 66 | 73 | 60 |
| 54 | 53 | 56 |
| 59 | 59 | 59 |
| 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)
a. You were curious
b. You met the right person
c. You hoped it would make your relationship closer
d. The other person wanted to

|  | Gender |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total $\mathbf{1 5 - 1 7}$ | Boys | Girls |
| 85 | 84 | 85 |
| 76 | 78 | 74 |
| 70 | 74 | 64 |
| 84 | 91 | 75 |
| 62 | 66 | 58 |
| 18 | 22 | 13 |
| 80 | 80 | 80 |
| 69 | 62 | 78 |
| 82 | 81 | 83 |
| 74 | 71 | 78 |
| 53 | 46 | 62 |
| 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 |
| b. I would change the person I had sex with the |  |  |  |
| $\quad$ first time. | 25 | 27 | 24 |
| Yes | 75 | 73 | 76 |
| No |  |  |  |
| c. I would change something about the circum- |  | 35 | 53 |
| $\quad$ stances of the first time. | 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.

For more information about
SexSmarts, visit our website: www.seventeen.com/sexsmarts. To receive additional copies of this publication or other SexSmarts survey snapshots, please visit the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at www.kff.org. This is publication \#3368.

