

**What Teens Know
and Don't (But Should)
About Sexually Transmitted
Diseases:**

Kaiser Family Foundation | MTV | Teen People
A National Survey of 15 to 17 Year-olds

MARCH 8, 1999



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS AND METHODOLOGY	4
SUMMARY OF SURVEY FINDINGS	5
DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS	7
AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE	7
ATTITUDES TOWARD STDs	16
TALKING ABOUT SEXUAL ISSUES	20
SEXUAL BEHAVIOR	24
TOPLINES	29

Introduction

Sometimes called the nation's "hidden epidemic," sexually transmitted diseases, or STDs, are frequently silent, exhibiting no symptoms. As a result, many more Americans are estimated to be infected than know they are. In spite of their prevalence -- between one in four and as many as one in two Americans is thought to have an STD at some point in their lifetime -- STDs continue to be one of the least discussed health issues. This "don't ask, don't tell" policy comes at a high price. These very common diseases can have serious health consequences ranging from pain and discomfort to problems with pregnancy and infertility to heightened risk of some cancers and HIV.

Although STDs affect people of all ages, the epidemic disproportionately impacts young people. Approximately four million teens get a STD every year. Experts estimate that as many as one in three sexually-experienced young people will have an STD by the age of 24. The large majority of new cases of STDs in the U.S. annually occur among people 24 years old and younger: a quarter occur among 15-19 year olds, and 42 percent among 20-24 year olds.

The American Medical Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among others, recommend that sexually active teens get *annual* screenings for chlamydia, one of the most common STDs among young people.

To learn more about the issues behind this growing epidemic, the Kaiser Family Foundation, MTV, and *TEEN PEOPLE* surveyed 400 15 to 17 year olds nationwide about their awareness of and attitudes toward sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) -- focusing primarily on STDs other than HIV/AIDS. The nationally-representative random-sample survey was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates (PSRA).

These survey findings are featured in special coverage by MTV and *TEEN PEOPLE* to help inform young people about STDs. As part of an ongoing media campaign on sexual health issues, the Kaiser Family Foundation worked with MTV to help develop public service messages and special programming on STDs. The Foundation is also involved in other public education efforts and media partnerships on a range of health and sexual health topics, including a regional campaign on STDs and young people.

Survey Highlights

In spite of the startling statistics, few 15 to 17 year olds say they worry about getting a STD. In fact, most who are sexually-experienced consider themselves to be at little or no risk, and few have been tested. However, the survey indicates that the problem is more likely to be a lack of knowledge than lack of concern. Many teens assume because they have no symptoms or that their health care provider has never mentioned a problem or that they do not know about any of their partners having been infected that they do not need to be concerned. Only a minority of teens who reported that they *knew* they did not have a STD said this was because they had been tested.

Teens, like many adults, also underestimate the national incidence of STDs, and many are misinformed or uninformed about treatment options and health consequences. Even so, they rate STDs on par with teenage pregnancy and drug use as among the most urgent issues facing young people today; only HIV/AIDS, specifically, is named by more teens.

While they believe people with STDs should not feel ashamed or guilty, many also admit to mixed emotions. Teens say that they do find it more difficult to *talk* about issues like STDs than to actually have sex. Most sexually-experienced teens in fact had not discussed the topic with either their current sexual partner -- many had never talked about STDs with any sexual partner -- or their health care provider. They also admit they would find it extremely difficult to tell their partners, friends, and parents if they found out they were infected.

What teens know about STDs is learned largely in school. In addition to their parents and other general information sources, such as books or health brochures, many turn to the entertainment media. Television shows, movies, and teen magazines all rated high, equal to or above health care providers.

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation / MTV / TEEN PEOPLE National Survey of 15-17 Year Olds: What Teens Know and Don't (But Should) About Sexually Transmitted Diseases is a random-sample national survey of 400 teens, ages 15 to 17 years old. (Approximately a 168 teens in this survey -- or 42 percent of 15-17 year olds -- have had sexual intercourse, a finding consistent with other national statistics.) The survey was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates between March 24-April 14, 1998. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 5 percent for the total sample. The margin of sampling error may be higher for some of the sub-sets in this analysis. Parental permission was obtained prior to interviewing the teens. Comparisons to adults in the report that follows are from a 1998 national survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation and *Glamour*.

Summary of Survey Findings

Knowledge:

- X American teens 15-17, like adults 18-44, *seriously* underestimate the incidence of non-HIV STDs in the United States, and thus perhaps their own risk of infection. AIDS tops the list when teens are asked to name sexually transmitted diseases. Even the more commonplace non-HIV STDs, like gonorrhea and herpes, trail behind AIDS in mentions.
- X Teens' knowledge about non-HIV STDs is uneven. Most know STDs can be spread despite the absence of symptoms and that some STDs may be symptom-free for an extended period. But many are unaware about other transmission facts and most know very little about the prognosis of specific non-HIV STDs.
- X Sexual education courses are teens' number one source of information on STDs. Parents are a distant second. Teens who say they learned "a lot" about STDs in health class are somewhat more knowledgeable than others.
- X Talking with health care professionals is also beneficial. Teens who say they have gotten "a lot" of information about STDs from doctors tend to know a bit more about non-HIV STDs than other teens. Among sexually active teens, those who have talked with a health care professional about STDs are more likely to raise the subject with their sexual partners.

Attitudes:

- X Teens evaluate their personal risk of STD infection in much the same way as adults who have never been married. Just under half feel they are not at risk at all, a third see a slight risk and the remaining fifth see themselves at moderate or great risk. Teenage boys are more likely than teenage girls to believe they are at risk.
- X Teens, like adults, see STDs as a health issue with a moral dimension. If Americans had higher moral standards, according to the majority of teens, STDs would *not* be the problem they are today. But most teens also reject the notion that people with STDs should feel ashamed or guilty.
- X Most teens feel people with STD infections are obligated to tell their partners. However, teens feel less strongly about this than adults, and are less likely to recognize this responsibility if condoms are used or if the infected person only has sex when they are symptom-free.
- X Teens say that talking about sexual issues, like STDs, with friends, family and sexual partners is uncomfortable. And most teens admit if they actually had an STD, telling people close to them, and their parents in particular, would be especially difficult.

Behavior:

- X Half the teenage boys and a third of the girls surveyed say they have had sexual intercourse. Most sexually experienced teens are also sexually active, that is they have had sex in the last 12 months. And many say they are now in a sexual relationship. Though the majority of sexually experienced teens have only had one or two partners, a minority have had three or more.

- X Teens practice safer sex more consistently than never married adults. Eight in ten sexually experienced teens say they used a condom last time they had sex and over half say they *always* use them. Still, a notable minority of teens admit they are not using protection consistently.
- X As a group teens might be more consistent condom users than adults, but they are *not* as consistent in discussing STD risks with partners. Less than half of sexually experienced teens discussed STD risks with their current or most recent partner.
- X One in four sexually experienced teens have had an HIV test and three in ten have been tested for non-HIV STDs. Teenage girls are more likely than teenage boys to have been tested for both HIV and other STDs.
- X Many of those teens who have been tested for non-HIV STDs are unsure what specific diseases they have been tested for. One in five cannot identify any diseases by name and one in four report being tested for "all of them." Only one in ten sexually experienced teens say they have been tested for chlamydia, the most common bacterial STD.
- X Teens believe that both the feeling they are not at risk and the fear of finding out they have an STD keep teenage boys from getting tested for STDs. Few feel the discomfort that may be associated with STD tests discourages testing among teen boys.

Detailed Survey Results

AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE

American teenagers 15-17 *radically* underestimate the incidence of non-HIV STDs in the U.S. today, and thus perhaps their own risk of becoming infected. Having come of age in the era of AIDS, teens often think first and foremost about AIDS when asked about STDs. Teens' familiarity with non-HIV STDs, and their knowledge about how they are spread, whether they are curable and what their potential consequences are is uneven. They know a great deal about some aspects and very little about others.

Four in ten teens 15-17 report they have had sexual intercourse, making their lack of knowledge particularly notable. Sexually experienced teens, who arguably have the most immediate need for information about the dangers of unprotected sex, are no better informed about STDs than teens who have not yet had intercourse.

Teens, like Adults, Underestimate the Incidence of STDs

Teens 15-17 *radically* underestimate the incidence of non-HIV STDs, as do adults 18-44. Just one in four teens and the same number of adults know more than one in ten Americans will have an STD at some time in their life. This tendency to misjudge the prevalence of STDs exists across all demographic groups.

Estimating the Incidence of STDs in the US

	-----Teens-----			-----Adults-----		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
About 1 in 1000	7	7	7	8	10	6
About 1 in 100	23	25	20	27	29	25
About 1 in 10	45	45	46	37	35	38
More than 1 in 10	25	22	27	26	23	30

Teens Health Issues: AIDS Tops the List, But There Is a Lot of Competition

Teens today say they face many important health issues. Four in ten say AIDS/HIV is among the *most* important health issues facing teens these days. Substantial minorities of a third feel that non-HIV STDs, drug abuse and teen pregnancy are among the most important concerns. With the exception of AIDS/HIV, teenage girls tend to be slightly more concerned about these issues than teenage boys. But even among boys almost all view these problems as serious and important threats to the health of today's teens.

Health Issues Facing Teenagers Today

	One of the <i>Most</i> <u>Important</u> %	Very <u>Important</u> %	Important (Total) %
AIDS/HIV	44	39	83
Non-HIV STDs	33	49	82
Drugs	35	46	81
Teen Pregnancy	34	43	77
Drinking	26	40	66

For Many Teens STD Means AIDS

Many teens think of AIDS/HIV first, and some think *only* of AIDS, when they talk about STDs. When asked to name specific STDs, teens name AIDS more than any other STD: almost four in ten (37%) name it *first*, and one in ten (11%) can name only AIDS. In comparison adults 18-44, most of whom grew up before the age of AIDS, name gonorrhea, syphilis and herpes more frequently than AIDS, only 15% think of it first, and almost none (2%) name only AIDS.

Naming STDs*

	-----Teens-----			-----Adults-----		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
AIDS/HIV	61	64	58	40	42	39
Gonorrhea	53	49	57	68	66	70
Herpes	52	52	51	45	44	47
Syphilis	29	27	31	53	52	54
Chlamydia	14	10	19	28	22	34
Crabs	11	10	13	6	7	4
HPV	11	11	11	11	8	13

*Those named by more than 10% of teens.

And teens can name *fewer* non-HIV STDs than adults; one in three (35%) teens can name three or more compared with one in two (47%) adults. The non-HIV STDs teens mention most are gonorrhea and herpes. They are less likely than adults to name syphilis and chlamydia.

Among teens no demographic differences exist, with one exception. Teens from lower income homes are more likely to think *only* of HIV when asked to name sexually transmitted diseases.

Incomplete Understanding of Transmission Facts

Teens 15-17 are quite knowledgeable about some aspects of how STDs are spread, but poorly informed about others. Nine in ten teens (90%) know a person can spread an STD even if he or she has no symptoms, and a similar percentage know people with STDs may not display symptoms for months or even years after being infected (91%). Most adults 18-44 also know these basic facts.

Teenage boys and girls are equally knowledgeable about these transmission details, as are teens of different ages. Minority teens and lower-income teens are somewhat less likely to know STDs can be symptomless for long periods of time and can be spread even when symptoms are not evident, though the majority do know these important facts.

What a sizable majority of teens do *not* know is that during intercourse a female has a greater chance of getting an STD from a male than a male has of getting one from a female. Eight in ten teens (80%) incorrectly think it as likely for a male to get an STD from a female as vice versa. Less than two in ten (16%) teens know transmission is more likely from male to female. Adults 18-44 are slightly better informed about this transmission fact; three in ten (29%) know male to female transmission is more likely. Among teens, girls are no more likely than boys to know about their increased infection risk.

Another detail many teens are confused about is whether STD infections increase susceptibility to HIV. A substantial minority (45%) of teens are unaware that STD infections place people at greater risk of becoming infected with HIV or AIDS. Just over half (55%) of teens do know this important fact.

Teens from lower income homes (under \$40,000) are *more* likely than those from wealthier homes to know that STDs increases susceptibility to AIDS (62% vs. 49%).

Uneven Knowledge about STD Transmission

	Teens <u>15-17</u>	Adults <u>18-44</u>
<i>Percent who know . .</i>		
Some people with STDs may not show symptoms for months or years	91	94
A person with an STD can spread it even if he/she has no symptoms	90	93
Having an STD increases a person's risk of getting HIV or AIDS	55	57
STDs are more easily spread from male to female than from female to male	16	29

Admittedly Poor Knowledge about Curable and Chronic STDs

Most American teens (89%), like most adults 18-44 (89%), know AIDS is *not* the only incurable STD. But beyond this basic fact, teen's knowledge about which STDs are chronic is poor. Just under half know herpes is incurable, and only three in ten know HPV is chronic. Even fewer teens know gonorrhea and chlamydia are curable. Adults are better informed about the prognosis of herpes, gonorrhea and chlamydia, but are just as ill-informed as teens about the HPV virus.

Teenage boys and girls are equally ill-informed about the prognosis of these different diseases.

Knowledge about Chronic and Non-Chronic STDs

	Teens <u>15-17</u>	Adults <u>18-44</u>
<i>Percent who know . .</i>		
AIDS is not the only chronic STD	89	89
Genital herpes is <i>not</i> curable	46	63
Genital warts/HPV is <i>not</i> curable	30	30
Gonorrhea is curable	21	48
Chlamydia is curable	15	32

Older teens, those ages 16 and 17, are more likely than 15 year olds to know herpes (51% vs. 37%) is not curable and that gonorrhea is (25% vs. 13%).

Fortunately, many teens recognize their lack of knowledge. A majority admit they do not know whether chlamydia (60%) or gonorrhea (52%) are curable, and substantial minorities admit being unsure about HPV (41%) and herpes (29%).

Limited Awareness of Long Term Health Effects on Women and Men

Teens (60%) are less aware than adults (74%) that STDs can have long term effects on the health of women and teenage girls, and they are less informed about what these effects might be. Here too teens seem willing to acknowledge their lack of awareness; a quarter (25%) say they do not know if women with STDs face long term health consequences. Teenage girls are more likely to know about potential effects than boys (65% vs. 55%), just as women are more aware than men (81% vs. 68%). When asked, in an open-ended format, what these consequences are, teenage girls most often cite fertility problems (35%), pregnancy and childbirth problems (18%) and cancer (7%). Teenage boys name the same problems, but do so less frequently.

Teens are also unsure whether STDs have long-term effects on males. Half of the teen boys (51%) and girls (50%) surveyed say there are such effects, and most of the remaining half (33%) say they are not sure if there are effects or not. Adults are slightly more aware that men with STDs may face future health problems (61%).

Self-Assessed Knowledge: A False Sense of Confidence

American teens 15-17, like adults of reproductive age, are confident they know most of what there is to know about STDs. Eight in ten (79%) boys age 15 to 17, and even more girls (87%) say they know at least a fair amount about STDs. Girls are slightly more likely than boys to say they know “a lot.” Teens from higher income homes also tend to believe they are more knowledgeable.

How Much Do You Know about STDs?

To some extent teen’s confidence in their knowledge about STDs may be justified. Those who say they know at least a fair amount about STDs are somewhat more knowledgeable than those who admit not knowing much at all. They can name more non-HIV STDs, are somewhat more likely to know which are chronic, and are more likely to know about STDs

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
	%	%	%
A lot	35	30	41
A fair amount	47	49	46
Only a little	16	18	13
Nothing at all	2	3	1

long-term health effects. However, they are *not* better informed than others about transmission facts. Those who claim to know a lot are only slightly more knowledgeable than those who say they know only a fair amount.

Most importantly, all teens, those who see themselves as knowledgeable and those who do not, *radically* underestimate the incidence of non-HIV STDs, and thus perhaps their risk of becoming infected.

Sources of Information about STDs

Sex education classes are teens number one source of STD information. Eight in ten say they learned at least “a fair amount” from such classes, including half (50%) who learned “a lot”. Just over half (55%) say they have learned at least a fair amount about STDs from their parents, placing parents a distant second source of information.

Beyond classes and parents, teenage boys and girls learn about STDs from different sources, and girls make greater use of many sources. Teenage girls list teen magazines as their third source; more than half of the girls (58%), and only a third as many boys (16%), have gotten information about STDs from magazines. Teen girls are also more likely to turn to parents, books or brochures, and health professionals. The only source teenage boys are more likely to turn to is girls themselves -- that is their girlfriends or sexual partners (26% vs. 18%).

Teens who say they learned a lot from these various sources tend to think they know more, but they may have a false sense of confidence. With a few exceptions, this survey provides little evidence that those who say they get a lot of information from any of these various sources are more knowledgeable. In fact, those who say they learned a lot from their parents, perhaps because parents emphasize AIDS prevention or lack knowledge themselves, are *less* likely to know that some other STDs are chronic (79% vs. 92%). Sources like television, friends, and boy or girl friends have little or no effect on teens' knowledge.

The good news is that some teens are evidently listening in sex education classes, and it may have paid off. Teens who say they learned a lot in sex ed. can name more non-HIV STDs than those who learned less, and are more likely to know that people with STDs may not display symptoms for some time (95% vs. 87%), that herpes is chronic (53% vs. 38%), and that gonorrhea is not chronic (30% vs. 18%). Talking with a health care professional also has some benefits. Teens who say they have gotten a lot of information about STDs from doctors can name more non-HIV STDs than those who have learned less from this source and are more likely to know that chlamydia (27% vs. 13%) and gonorrhea are curable (32% vs. 20%).

Where Teens Learn About STDs

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
<i>Percent who learned at least "a fair amount" from. . .</i>			
A sex education class	80	81	79
A parent	55	49	62
A book or brochure	45	40	50
A TV show or movie	41	40	42
A teen magazine	37	16	58
A doctor or other health care provider	37	31	41
A friend, brother or sister	33	30	36
MTV	24	27	22
A (boy/girl)friend or sexual partner	18	26	10

When Does Risk Begin? Some Wishful Thinking

Only one in five teens recognizes that a person puts him or herself at risk for STD infection with just one sexual encounter. One in four thinks risk does not become significant until a person has slept with more than 20 people. Adults are somewhat more likely than teens to recognize that risk starts as soon as one becomes sexually active. But even among adults, 14% think risk does not become significant until 20 partners.

Girls are more likely than boys to recognize the dangers inherent in just one sexual liaison (25% vs. 13%). Conversely, half (51%) of boys contend that significant risk does not begin until a person has had seven or more partners. Girls are less likely to believe this, although more than a third (37%) do.

When Does Significant Risk Begin?

	-----Teens-----			-----Adults-----		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
1 partner	19	13	25	26	19	33
2 partners	11	10	13	15	14	16
3-6 partners	25	26	24	25	24	27
7-20 partners	17	21	14	17	21	11
More than 20 partners	27	30	23	14	18	11

Self-Assessed Risk: Who Me?

Teens rate their own risk in much the same way as never married adults age 18-44. Just under half feel they are not at risk at all (47%), a third see a slight risk (34%) and the remaining fifth see themselves at least at moderate risk (18%). Sexually experienced teens (31%)¹ are more likely than those who have never

Self-Assessed Risk

	-----Teens-----			-----Never Married-----		
				Adults		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Great risk	5	5	6	4	4	4
Moderate risk	13	20	5	15	18	11
Not much of a risk	34	42	26	36	40	30
No risk at all	47	33	62	45	37	54

had sex (8%) to rate their risk as moderate or great. Among sexually experienced teens, those who are now in a sexual relationship are more likely than those who are not to rate their risk moderate or great (39% vs. 25%).

Teenage boys are more likely than girls to see themselves at moderate or great risk (25% vs. 11%). Girls are twice as likely as boys to say they are not at risk *at all*. These gender differences exist even when sexual experience is taken into account. A similar, but less stark, gender difference exists among never married adults. As teen males age, their perception of their own risk increases. Only 18% of 15 and 16 year old boys think they are at moderate or great risk, compared with over a third (36%) of those age 17. Girls' perception of personal risk does not increase substantially with age.

Teens whose sexual behavior puts them in jeopardy seem somewhat aware of their increased risk. Those who have had three or more partners are twice as likely than those who have had only one or two to say their risk is moderate or great (43% vs. 22%). Still, among those who have had three or more partners, one in five (20%) denies any risk at all. Those who have had overlapping liaisons rate their risk as higher than those who have not (57% vs. 28%). And those who do not use condoms *every* time they have sex see their risk as higher than those who are consistent users (40% vs. 24%).

¹ In this report Asexually experienced is defined as having ever had sexual intercourse and Asexually active is defined as having had sex in the last 12 months. Note that these definitions do not take into account other sexual activities, such as oral sex, that teens might be engaged in. For a discussion of teens' sexual behavior see the section starting on page 18.

ATTITUDES TOWARD STDs

Teens, like adults, are conflicted about STDs. While the majority tend to view STDs as a public health issue, they also see an important moral dimension. Teens do not feel as strongly as adults that people with STDs are obligated to tell their partners and teens are somewhat less likely than adults to say they would be angry at a partner who infected them with an STD. Teens, it seems, are more likely than adults to feel people should take responsibility for protecting themselves from STDs and should not rely on the trustworthiness of their sexual partners.

STDs: A Public Health Issue with a Moral Dimension

For many American teens, STDs are a health issue with a moral dimension. If Americans had higher moral standards, according to a large majority of teens (74%), STDs would *not* be the problem they are today. But at the same time, nearly as many teenagers (61%) reject the notion that people with STDs should feel ashamed or guilty.

When these two seemingly conflicting responses are examined together, we find that just three in ten teens (29%) view STDs in largely moral terms -- believing higher moral standards would address the STD problem and that people with STDs should feel ashamed or guilty. For most of the remaining seven in ten teens, higher moral standards would reduce the problem at the societal level, but they oppose the notion that individuals with STDs should feel ashamed or guilty. These teens see STDs as primarily a health issue that should not carry a social stigma.

Adults 18-44 hold similarly ambivalent views about STDs. Most adults (77%) believe if Americans had higher moral standards, STDs would be less widespread, but nearly as many (70%) also believe people with STDs should not feel ashamed or guilty. Just one in four adults (24%) view STDs in largely moral terms.

STDs and Moral Standards

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
<i>Percent who agree that . . .</i>			
People with STDs should not feel at all ashamed or guilty	61	64	57
If people had higher moral standards the country wouldn't have such a problem with STDs today	74	69	78
<i>Percent who . . .</i>			
See STDs in largely moral terms	29	24	34

Teenage girls are more likely than boys to see STDs in a moral light. They are more likely to believe higher moral standards would make STDs less problematic and less apt to believe those with STDs should not feel at all guilty or ashamed.

Sexually experienced teens are more likely than those who have not yet had intercourse to feel those with STDs should *not* feel guilty or ashamed (68% vs. 55%) and they are less likely to feel that a lack of morality underlies the STD problem (65% vs. 80%). Likewise, teens who feel they are personally at risk for an STD infection view STDs in a less moralistic light.

Teens Less Likely than Adults to be Angry Over STD Infection

The majority of teens say if they contracted an STD they would be angry at the person who infected them. Teens, however, feel less strongly about this than adults. Two-thirds of teens say they would be angry (67%), including a third (34%) who feel this way strongly. By comparison, eight in ten adults (80%) would be angry, including fully half (53%) who feel strongly about this.

Among adults, women are more likely than men to say they would be angry at a partner who infected them, and to feel strongly about it. Among teens, girls are slightly more likely than boys to say they would be angry, but those boys who say they would be angry tend to feel more strongly about it than the girls.

STDs and Anger

	-----Teens-----			-----Adults-----		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>If I had an STD I would be angry at the person who I got it from</i>						
Agree (Total)	67	64	70	80	74	87
Strongly Agree	34	37	31	53	45	61
Somewhat Agree	33	27	39	27	29	26

Teens Have More Lax Expectations About Partner Notification

Most teens 15-17 feel those with STDs are obligated to tell their sexual partners about their infection, no matter what. But teens are not as unanimous in this belief as adults, and teens are more likely to see the obligation to inform decreased under certain circumstances.

Almost nine in ten teens (86%) believe a person with an STD has a *great deal* of responsibility to tell their partners. But only three quarters (77%) see this high level of responsibility if the infected person makes sure condoms are always used, and even fewer (67%) if sex only happens when he or she has no symptoms. Adults feel more strongly that those with STDs have a great deal of responsibility to tell their partners, and are less swayed by mitigating circumstances.

Informing Partners: Teens and Adults		
	Teens 15-17 %	Adults 18-44 %
<i>If a person has a STD, how much responsibility does he/she have to tell sexual partners</i>		
Great deal	86	97
A fair amount	10	2
Not very much/None at all	4	1
<i>If he/she makes sure they always use condoms</i>		
Great deal	77	89
A fair amount	17	9
Not very much/None at all	6	2
<i>If he/she only has intercourse when they don't have symptoms and the chances their partners would contract the disease maybe lower</i>		
Great deal	67	83
A fair amount	22	10
Not very much/None at all	10	7

Older teens (90% of 17 year olds) are slightly more likely than younger teens (80% of 15 year olds) to say people with STDs have a great deal of responsibility to tell, but are just as likely as younger teens to see this responsibility shrink when condoms are used or sex is saved for symptom-free periods. Teens from homes with incomes of \$40,000 or more are more likely than those with lower incomes to say people have a great deal of responsibility to notify partners (84% vs. 70%), even if condoms are used (73% vs. 61%) or if they abstain when they have symptoms (73% vs. 61%). Minority teens see less of a responsibility to notify partners than whites.

Teens who know STDs can be spread *even* when there are no symptoms are more likely than those who are not aware of this to say only having sex during symptom-free times is no excuse for not telling a partner about an STD (70% vs. 44%). Still three in ten (30%) of those who know this feel saving sex for a "safer" time mitigates partner notification responsibility.

Relationships with an STD Infected Partner Unlikely

Although most teens believe people with STDs have an obligation to tell their sexual partner, a large majority of teenage boys (75%) and girls (76%) admit they would be somewhat or very unlikely to continue a new relationship with an infected person. Only about one in five teens (22%) say a person's STD status would have no effect on their likelihood of continuing the relationship. Most adults 18-44 share a similar view; three quarters (75%) would be hesitant to continue a new relationship with an STD infected partner.

Sexually experienced teens are *less* open to the idea of dating someone with an STD than those who have not yet had intercourse. Eight in ten sexually experienced teens say they would be less likely to date someone with an STD (80%), including almost half (45%) who would be a lot less likely.

Dating Someone with a STD

	<u>Total</u> <u>Teens</u> %	<u>Sexually</u> <u>Experienced</u> %	<u>Not</u> <u>Experienced</u> %
<i>Imagine you were dating someone new and you found out they had an STD. How would that effect your likelihood of continuing the relationship. . .</i>			
A lot less likely	39	45	24
Somewhat less likely	36	35	36
No effect	22	17	27

TALKING ABOUT SEXUAL ISSUES

Teens acknowledge that talking about sexual issues, like STDs, with friends, family and sexual partners seems difficult and uncomfortable. And they admit if they actually had an STD telling people close to them would be especially daunting. Teens tend to be less comfortable than adults talking about sexual topics.

For many teen respondents, answers to survey questions about their comfort level in talking about sexual issues are only speculative. Very few have had conversations with sexual partners about STDs (in part because only four in ten have had intercourse). Sexually experienced teens are somewhat more open to the idea of discussing sexual topics than those who have not yet had sex, though many still balk at the idea. Among sexually experienced teens, those who have had conversations about sexual issues tend to benefit from the experience, at least as far as their comfort level with these topics is concerned.

Talking about Sex Can Be More Embarrassing than Having It. . .

A large majority of American teens (70%), both boys and girls, acknowledge that it is sometimes more embarrassing for couples in general to talk about sexual issues, such as STDs, than to have sex. A similar majority of adults 18-44 hold this view (73%). White teens (74%) and teens from homes with incomes over \$40,000 (75%) are more likely to voice this opinion than minority teens (59%) and those from lower income homes (62%).

Experience makes a slight difference in teens' feelings: Three quarters of teens who have never had sex believe talking can sometimes be more embarrassing than having sex (73%). Sexually experienced teens are somewhat less likely to feel this way (66%). Among sexually experienced teens, those who have never had conversations about STDs with partners are more likely to agree with this sentiment than those who have actually had these conversations (74% vs. 60%).

But on a Personal Level Talking about STDs with Partners Sounds Fairly Easy

Teens tend to think differently of themselves than others. When asked how comfortable they would *personally* be talking with a partner about STDs, six in ten teens (61%) say they would be comfortable. A sizable minority (39%) do admit, however, that they would be uncomfortable. Likewise, the majority of adults claim to feel comfortable discussing STDs with their sexual partners (62%) and a third (37%) find it awkward.

Slightly more girls (64%) than boys (57%) say they would be comfortable talking with a partner about STDs. Teens from higher income homes (\$40,000 or more) claim to be more comfortable than those from lower income homes (65% vs. 53%). Experience talking about sexual issues also appears to make a difference. Among sexually active teens, those who have talked with partners are more comfortable with the idea of these conversations than those who have not (66% vs. 55%).

But Telling a Partner You Have an STD More Daunting

When asked how comfortable they would feel telling sexual partners that they in fact *had* an STD, a different picture emerges. Eight in ten (82%) teens 15-17 say they would feel uncomfortable telling a partner, including almost half (45%) who say they would be *very* uncomfortable. Telling *past* sexual partners is an even more upsetting prospect. Eight in ten (82%) teens say they would be uncomfortable telling their past partners, including half (52%) who say they would be *very* uncomfortable. Teens are even more uncomfortable than adults with prospect of telling current and former partners about an STD infection.

Teens of all demographic groups feel informing partners would be uncomfortable. Among sexually experienced teens, having talked about STDs with sexual partners does not make the specter of telling past or present partners they actually *have* an STD any easier.

Telling Friends Also Sounds Tough

Telling friends about an STD infection is also an uncomfortable prospect for most teens, though no more so than the prospect of telling partners. Almost half of teens 15-17 say they would be *very* uncomfortable telling their friends (45%). Adults too are uncomfortable with the notion of telling their friends about an STD.

Telling Parents the Most Uncomfortable

For teens, the most intimidating prospect of all is having to tell their parents about an STD infection. Almost nine in ten (86%) say they would be uncomfortable telling their parents, including seven in ten (70%) who say they would be *very* uncomfortable.

Some teens are especially uncomfortable with the thought of having to tell their parents they have an STD. Girls (77%) and 15 year-olds (78%) are more likely to say they would find telling their parents *very* uncomfortable than boys (63%) and teens 16-17 (66%). This discomfort is undoubtedly magnified by the fact that by telling their parents about an STD, teens would have to acknowledge that they are sexually active, which may be especially difficult for girls and younger teens. Higher income teens are more likely than those from lower income homes to say they would be very uncomfortable in this situation (74% vs. 64%).

Breaking the Bad News

	Teens 15-17 %	Adults 18-44 %
<i>Imagine you had an STD how would you feel about telling. . .</i>		
The sexual partner you had at the time		
Very uncomfortable	45	36
Somewhat uncomfortable	35	40
Not too/ Not at all uncomfortable	20	23
Past sexual partners who may have been infected		
Very uncomfortable	52	41
Somewhat uncomfortable	30	37
Not too/ Not at all uncomfortable	17	21
Your Parents/ Family Members*		
Very uncomfortable	70	50
Somewhat uncomfortable	16	27
Not too/ Not at all uncomfortable	14	22
Friends		
Very uncomfortable	45	45
Somewhat uncomfortable	37	34
Not too/ Not at all uncomfortable	18	20

* Teens were asked about "your parents". Adults were asked about "Family members such as a parent, brother or sister."

Talking with Health Care Professionals about STD Testing

If teens are uncomfortable talking with their parents about STDs, it is important they have other adults to turn to. The majority of teens (58%) say they would feel comfortable asking a doctor about getting an STD test. Still a significant minority (42%) would feel ill-at-ease having such a discussion. Teens are more likely than adults 18-44 to say they would feel uncomfortable discussing STD testing with a doctor (42% vs. 31%). Sexually active teens are more likely than those who have not yet had intercourse to say they would feel comfortable talking with a doctor about testing (66% vs. 54%).

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Sexually experienced teens have a mixed record of responsible sexual behavior -- some say they unfailingly take all the necessary steps to protect themselves and their partners from the dangers of unprotected sex, while others admit being more haphazard. The majority have discussed the risks of STD infection with a partner, but a substantial minority have never had such a conversation. Less than half have talked about STDs with a health care professional.

Sexual Intercourse and Sexual Relationships

Four in ten teens say they have had sexual intercourse. Half the teenage boys claim to be experienced compared with just over a third of teenage girls. Boys aged 17 are twice as likely as 15 year olds boys to have had sex. Most teens who are sexually experienced, are also sexually active, that is they have had sex in the last 12 months (83%, 36% of all teens). And about three in ten boys (29%) and half as many girls (15%) say they are currently in a sexual relationship.

Sexual Behavior of Teens									
		-----Boys-----				-----Girls-----			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sexual intercourse									
Ever	42	49	32	48	63	36	28	35	46
In last 12 months	35	39	24	36	54	31	26	29	41
Currently in sexual relationship	21	20	9	19	32	21	14	18	33

The majority (55%) of sexually experienced teens say they have had one (32%) or two partners (23%), three in ten (30%) have had three to six partners, and the remaining 15% have had seven or more. Girls are more likely than boys to say they have had only one partner (40% vs. 26%), whereas boys are more likely to claim seven or more (21% vs. 8%). One in ten (12%) experienced teens have been sexually involved with more than one partner at the same time.

Condom Use: On the Right Track But Room For Improvement

American teens 15-17 are practicing safer sex more consistently than never married adults. Most sexually experienced teens (79%) say they used a condom last time they had sex, compared with fewer (58%) never married adults. Likewise, teens are more likely to say they always use condoms than never married adults.

But not all teens are being as careful as health professionals recommend. One in five (20%) did not use a condom the last time around, and more than four in ten (43%) admit they do not use condoms every time they have sex.

Teenage boys and girls are equally consistent in their condom use. But there is some evidence that older teens are less consistent than younger teens; half (49%) of sexually experienced 17 year olds say they use a condom every time they have sex, compared with almost two-thirds (64%) of 15 and 16 year olds.

Condom Use Among Sexually Experienced Teens and Adults:

	<u>Total Teens</u> %	<u>Never Married Adults</u> %	<u>Total Adults</u> %
Used a condom last intercourse	79	58	29
Use condoms:			
All of the time	57	38	19
Most of the time	25	26	13
Only sometimes	11	20	16
Never	7	15	51

Talking with Partners

Teens use condoms more consistently than adults, but they are *less* consistent about discussing STD risks with partners.² Six in ten (60%) sexually experienced teens say they have talked with a sexual partner about the risks of STD infection; four in ten (40%) never have. Teens are just as likely as adults in general (64%) to have talked about STD risks with partners, but *less* likely to have done so than never married adults, three-fourths (76%) of whom have had this talk. Furthermore, teens are less likely to have discussed STDs with their current or most recent partner (45%) than adults (53%), and never married adults (60%) in particular.

² It is important to recognize that teens= more consistent use of condoms may be the results of pregnancy prevention, not solely, or even predominately disease prevention.

Teenage boys and girls disagree about who usually initiates conversations about STD infection risks. The plurality of boys who have discussed STDs with partners say the last time they had a such a conversation they broached the topic (48%), but almost as many (42%) say their partner introduced the topic. Among girls, three-quarters (75%) say they first brought it up, whereas only 18% say their partners did. Similar gender difference exist between men and women.

Three-quarters (77%) of teens who have talked with partners say the last time they had this conversation it took place before the first time they had intercourse with that partner.

Teenage Girls More Likely to Have Talked with Health Care Professionals Than Boys

Among sexually active teens, the majority of the teenage girls (58%), but only a third of the boys (32%) have talked about STDs with a health care provider.³ In most cases (72%) it was the health care provider who started this conversation.

Sexually experienced teens who have talked about STDs with health care professionals feel more confident about their STD knowledge, but they may have a false sense of security. While they are slightly more familiar with and knowledgeable about some non-HIV STDs, those who have talked with a health care professionals do not appear to be substantially better informed about the incidence of STDs in the U.S. or about details of transmission.

Nor does the sexual behavior of those who have discussed STDs with a health care professional differ from those who have not, with one notable exception. Those who have discussed STDs with health care professional are more likely than others to have had a conversation with a sexual partner about infection risks (77% vs. 47%) and to have had this conversation with their current or most recent partner (59% vs. 34%).

³ Only sexually experienced teens were asked about STD conversations with health care professionals. Therefore, we do not know how many teens who are not sexually experienced have discussed STDs with health care professionals or what they learned from these conversations.

Limited HIV and STD Testing

Sexually experienced teens 15-17⁴ are less likely to have been tested for HIV/AIDS and other STDs than their adult counterparts. One in four teens have had an HIV test and one in five have had one in the last 12 months. In contrast, over half of adults 18-44 have had an HIV test and three in ten have had one recently. A similar, but less dramatic generational difference exists in terms of testing for non-HIV STDs. Sexually experienced teens are less likely to have been tested than adults, though they are just as likely to have been tested recently. Unlike adults, who are more likely to have HIV tests than test for other STDs, teens are equally likely to have been tested for HIV and other STDs.

Sexually experienced teen girls are more likely than boys to have been tested, and tested recently, for HIV and for other STDs. Among adults, women are more likely than men to have been tested for non-HIV STDs but are no more likely to get tested for HIV than men.

Testing Among Sexually Experienced Teens and Adults

	-----Teens-----			-----Adults-----		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
AIDS/HIV Test						
Ever	25	16	39	59	59	59
In last 12 months	20	12	32	31	31	32
Non-HIV STDs Test						
Ever	29	17	45	44	37	51
In last 12 months	24	12	40	21	14	28

Many of those teens who have been tested for non-HIV STDs are unsure what specific diseases they have been tested for. When asked, one in five (19%) cannot identify any diseases by name and even more report being tested for "all of them" (27%). Teens who can say which STDs they have been tested for most often name gonorrhea (31%), syphilis (21%) and herpes (10%). Only one in ten (10%) say they have been tested for chlamydia, the most common bacterial STD.

Most of those sexually experienced teens who say they have been tested for non-HIV STDs say they were tested in a doctor's office (61%) and most say testing was part of their routine care (63%).

⁴ Only teens who reported that they were sexually experienced were asked about testing.

Fear and Denial Keep Boys from Getting Tested

When teens are asked what keeps men and boys from getting tested for STDs,⁵ teenage boys and girls, and men and women, all give the same answers: the feeling that they are not at risk, and the fear of finding out they have an STD. Fewer feel the pain that may be associated with STD tests is a barrier to testing.

Among teens, girls are even more likely than boys to say fear and skepticism about personal risk are deterrents to testing. Among adults, women, more than men, feel fear and denial keep a lot of men out of the doctor's office, although among adults gender differences are not as pronounced.

What Keeps Men and Teenage Boys from Getting Tested?

	-----Teens-----			-----Adults-----		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>At least "a fair number" of men/teenage boys do not get tested because of . .</i>						
The fear of finding out they have an STD	75	72	78	74	71	78
The feeling they are not at risk	74	70	80	73	71	76
The pain that may be associated with STD tests	61	61	63	45	41	49

⁵ Respondents in both the teen and adult surveys were asked to what extent certain factors keep men from getting tested for STDs. No parallel question was asked about factors that may inhibit testing for women.

National Toplines

N= 400 teenagers, age 15-17
200 boys
200 girls

Margins of Error: Plus or minus 5 percentage points for total sample
Plus or minus 7 percentage points for
Plus or minus 7 percentage points for

Dates of Telephone Interviewing: March 24 - April 14, 1998

INTRODUCTION TO TEEN INTERVIEW: Hello, my name is _____ calling for Princeton Survey Research of Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a national opinion survey about some important health issues.

1. First, I have some questions about some health issues facing teenagers today. As I read the following list please tell me whether you think each is one of the MOST important health issues facing teenagers, a very important issue, a somewhat important issue, or a not too important issue facing teenagers today . . .

		One of the Most Important <u>Issues</u>	Very <u>Important</u>	Somewhat <u>Important</u>	Not too <u>Important</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>	
a.	AIDS, and HIV the virus that causes AIDS						
	Total	44	39	12	5	0	=100
	Boys	44	38	11	7	0	=100
	Girls	44	41	12	3	0	=100
b.	Sexually transmitted diseases other than AIDS						
	Total	33	49	15	3	0	=100
	Boys	30	48	18	4	0	=100
	Girls	35	50	13	2	0	=100
c.	Drinking						
	Total	26	40	25	9	0	=100
	Boys	23	38	26	13	0	=100
	Girls	29	42	24	5	0	=100
d.	Drugs						
	Total	35	46	15	4	0	=100
	Boys	31	46	19	4	0	=100
	Girls	39	47	11	3	0	=100
e.	Teen Pregnancy						
	Total	34	43	18	5	*	=100
	Boys	30	42	18	9	1	=100
	Girls	37	44	17	2	0	=100

* = *Less than 1.0%*

2. How much do you know about sexually transmitted diseases or ASTDs², which also used to be called V.D. or venereal disease? Would you say you know a lot about STDs, how they're spread, and their health consequences, a fair amount, only a little, or nothing at all?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
35	30	40	A lot
47	49	46	A fair amount
16	18	13	Only a little
2	3	1	Nothing at all
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

3. Next I am going to read a list of ways some teenagers learn about sexually transmitted diseases, for each please tell me how much, if anything you've learned from this source. (First/Next) have you learned a lot about STDs from (INSERT), a fair amount, only a little, OR nothing at all?

		<u>A Lot</u>	<u>A Fair Amount</u>	<u>Only a Little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a.	A (boy/girl)friend or sexual partner					
	Total	5	13	25	57	0 =100
	Boys	8	18	27	47	0 =100
	Girls	2	8	23	67	0 =100
b.	A friend, brother or sister					
	Total	13	20	29	38	0 =100
	Boys	12	18	29	41	0 =100
	Girls	15	21	29	35	0 =100
c.	A parent					
	Total	21	34	28	17	0 =100
	Boys	17	32	32	19	0 =100
	Girls	26	36	23	15	0 =100
d.	A sex or health education class at school					
	Total	50	30	13	7	0 =100
	Boys	49	32	13	6	0 =100
	Girls	51	28	13	8	0 =100
e.	A doctor or other health care provider					
	Total	13	24	27	36	0 =100
	Boys	9	23	27	41	0 =100
	Girls	17	24	27	32	0 =100

		<u>A Lot</u>	<u>A Fair Amount</u>	<u>Only a Little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
f.	A TV show or movie					
	Total	11	30	39	20	0 =100
	Boys	12	28	42	18	0 =100
	Girls	11	31	36	22	0 =100
g.	A book or brochure					
	Total	17	28	34	21	0 =100
	Boys	13	27	36	24	0 =100
	Girls	22	28	31	19	0 =100
h.	A magazine like YM or Seventeen					
	Total	14	23	22	41	* =100
	Boys	3	13	18	65	1 =100
	Girls	24	34	26	16	0 =100
i.	MTV					
	Total	6	18	24	52	0 =100
	Boys	8	19	28	45	0 =100
	Girls	4	18	20	58	0 =100

4. Can you tell me the names of any sexually transmitted diseases or STDs? What others can you name?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
61	64	58	AIDS or HIV or human immunodeficiency virus
53	49	57	Gonorrhea or Clap or Drip
52	52	51	Genital herpes or herpes or herpes simplex virus or HSV
29	27	31	Syphilis
14	10	19	Chlamydia
11	10	13	Crabs
11	11	11	Genital warts or warts or human papilloma viruses or HPVs
8	9	8	Hepatitis-B virus or HBV
1	3	0	Scabies
1	2	0	Pubic Lice
1	0	2	Trick or Trichomoniasis
1	1	0	BV or bacterial vaginosis
1	0	2	Chancroid
1	1	*	Yeast Infections
0	0	0	Pelvic inflammatory disease or PID
0	0	0	CMV or cytomegalovirus
1	2	1	Other
11	11	12	Named <u>ONLY</u> HIV/AIDS
12	13	11	Could <u>NOT</u> name any STDs/Refused

Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses

READ: For the rest of the questions I=d like you to think ONLY about STDs OTHER than AIDS or HIV, that is things like Gonorrhea, Genital herpes, and Syphilis . . .

5. How much of a risk do you think you, personally, have of getting a sexually transmitted disease? Would you say you are at . . .

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
5	5	6	Great risk,
13	20	5	At moderate risk,
34	42	26	Not much of a risk, OR
47	33	62	No risk at all?
<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

6. How many people in this country do you think will become infected with a sexually transmitted disease, other than HIV or AIDS, at some point in their lives . . .

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
7	7	7	About 1 person out of every 1000 people,
23	25	20	About 1 out of every 100,
45	45	46	About 1 out of every 10, OR
25	22	27	More than 1 out of every 10 people?
<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

7. In general, when people have sexual intercourse is it more likely that A- a GIRL would get a STD from an infected guy, OR B- more likely that a GUY would get a STD from an infected girl, OR C- the likelihood about the same?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
16	14	19	More likely for girl to get from a guy
4	6	1	More likely for guy to get from a girl
80	80	80	Likelihood about the same
0	0	0	Depends (VOL.)
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>*</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

8. In general, when do you think a person starts to put him or her self at SIGNIFICANT risk for contracting a STD? When a person has had, over his or her lifetime, 1 sexual partner, 2 partners, 3 to 6 partners, 7 to 10 partners, 11 to 20 partners, or more than 20 sexual partners?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
19	13	25	1
11	10	13	2
25	26	24	3-6
11	15	7	7-10
6	6	7	11-20
27	30	23	More than 20
0	0	0	Depends (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

9. Please tell me whether each of the following statements is true or false.

	<u>True</u>	<u>False</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Ref.</u>	
a. A person with a STD can spread the STD to a sexual partner EVEN if he or she has no symptoms				
Total	90	9	1	=100
Boys	87	13	0	=100
Girls	92	6	2	=100
b. Some people with an STD may not display symptoms for months or even years after being infected				
Total	91	8	1	=100
Boys	90	8	2	=100
Girls	92	8	0	=100
c. Having a sexually transmitted disease increases a person's risk of becoming infected with HIV or AIDS				
Total	55	41	4	=100
Boys	57	40	3	=100
Girls	53	42	5	=100
d. AIDS is the only STD that you have for life				
Total	11	89	*	=100
Boys	12	88	0	=100
Girls	10	90	*	=100

10. Do you know whether (INSERT) is curable or not, (by curable I mean it can be completely cured, not just that the symptoms can be controlled.), or are you not sure whether it=s curable?

		All non-HIV STDs are curable (from Q9d)	Yes, <u>Curable</u>	Depends (VOL.)	No, Not <u>Curable</u>	Not Sure/ DK/ <u>Ref.</u>	
a.	Chlamydia						
	Total	11	15	0	14	60	=100
	Boys	12	12	0	13	63	=100
	Girls	10	17	0	15	58	=100
b.	Genital herpes						
	Total	11	14	*	46	29	=100
	Boys	12	12	0	45	31	=100
	Girls	10	16	*	48	26	=100
c.	Gonorrhea						
	Total	11	21	0	16	52	=100
	Boys	12	20	0	19	49	=100
	Girls	10	22	0	12	56	=100
d.	Genital warts or HPV						
	Total	11	18	*	30	41	=100
	Boys	12	19	0	25	44	=100
	Girls	10	18	*	34	38	=100

READ: Still thinking ONLY about STDs OTHER than AIDS or HIV

11. As far as you know, are there any long-term health problems a GIRL might experience later in life if she has had a sexually transmitted disease, or not?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
60	55	65	Yes, are some
15	16	14	No aren't any
<u>25</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>21</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

12. Can you tell me what some of these long-term health problems are? Can you name any others?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
60	55	65	Yes, there are effects
19	15	23	Infertility/sterility/difficulty getting pregnant
10	7	12	Pregnancy and birth-related complications
4	2	7	Increased risk of cervical cancer or other genital cancers
2	3	2	Death
2	1	3	Life-long recurrence of symptoms
2	1	3	Mental illness; Brain damage; Neurological damage
1	1	2	Pelvic Inflammatory disease or PID
1	1	1	Having the disease forever/Always having to take medication
1	2	1	Scarring (of reproductive organs)
1	1	1	Blindness
*	0	1	Increased risk of HIV infection
6	5	6	Other
12	14	10	Can't name symptoms but know there are some/Don't know
15	16	13	No, there are not effects
<u>25</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>21</u>	Don't know if there are any long term effects/Refused
100	100	100	

Internal total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses

13. And, as far as you know, are there any long-term health problems a GUY might experience later in life if he has had a sexually transmitted disease, or not?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
51	51	50	Yes, are some
16	16	16	No aren't any
<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>34</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

READ: Now I have some questions about getting tested for STDs. . .

14. In general, for guys, do you think (INSERT) keeps a lot of GUYS from getting tested for STDs, a fair number of guys from getting tested, very few guys, or it doesn't keep any guys from getting tested for STDs?

		<u>A Lot</u>	<u>A Fair Number</u>	<u>Very Few</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>	
a.	The fear of finding out they have a STD						
	Total	39	36	21	4	*	=100
	Boys	38	34	23	4	1	=100
	Girls	41	37	19	3	0	=100
b.	The feeling that they are not at risk for getting a STD						
	Total	41	33	19	6	1	=100
	Boys	34	36	21	7	2	=100
	Girls	49	31	15	4	1	=100
c.	The pain that may be associated with STD tests						
	Total	20	41	25	9	5	=100
	Boys	19	42	25	9	5	=100
	Girls	22	41	25	7	5	=100

READ: Still thinking ONLY about STDs OTHER than AIDS or HIV

15. There are many ways people might feel about STDs. As I read the following list please tell me if you strongly agree with this statement, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Disagree</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Ref.</u>	
a. People with STDs should NOT feel at all ashamed or guilty						
Total	27	34	27	12	*	=100
Boys	27	37	25	11	0	=100
Girls	26	31	29	14	*	=100
b. If I had a STD, I would be angry at the person who I got it from						
Total	34	33	17	15	1	=100
Boys	37	27	18	18	*	=100
Girls	31	39	17	12	1	=100
c. It is often more embarrassing for couples to talk about sexual issues, like STDs, than to have sex						
Total	31	39	16	13	1	=100
Boys	31	39	17	13	*	=100
Girls	32	38	15	13	2	=100
d. I would be uncomfortable talking with a doctor about getting an STD test						
Total	12	30	24	34	*	=100
Boys	10	30	26	34	0	=100
Girls	13	29	22	35	1	=100
e. I would be uncomfortable discussing STDs with a sexual partner						
Total	16	23	24	37	*	=100
Boys	16	26	23	34	1	=100
Girls	15	21	25	39	0	=100
f. If people had higher moral standards, the country wouldn't have such a problem with STDs today						
Total	43	31	15	10	1	=100
Boys	42	27	17	13	1	=100
Girls	44	34	14	8	*	=100

READ: Still thinking ONLY about STDs OTHER than AIDS or HIV . . .

16. If a person has a STD, how much of a responsibility do you think this person has to tell their sexual partners -- a great deal of responsibility, a fair amount, not very much or no responsibility at all?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
86	84	87	A great deal
10	11	8	A fair amount
2	3	2	Not very much
2	2	3	No responsibility at all
*	*	*	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

17. What if the person with the STD makes sure that they and their partners ALWAYS use condoms? Does this person have a great deal of responsibility, a fair amount, not very much or no responsibility at all to tell their partners about the STD?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
77	75	80	A great deal
17	19	14	A fair amount
4	4	4	Not very much
2	2	2	No responsibility at all
0	0	0	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

18. What if the person ONLY has intercourse when they don=t have any visible symptoms and the chances that their partners would contract the disease maybe lower. Does the person have a great deal of responsibility, a fair amount, not very much or no responsibility at all to tell their partners about the STD?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
67	67	66	A great deal
22	19	26	A fair amount
4	6	3	Not very much
6	7	5	No responsibility at all
1	1	0	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

READ: Still thinking ONLY about STDs OTHER than AIDS or HIV

19. Just imagine for a moment that you began seeing someone new and they told you they had a STD. Would that make you less likely to continue that relationship, or wouldn't it affect your likelihood of continuing the relationship? IF LESS LIKELY: Would it make you a lot less likely to continue the relationship or somewhat less likely?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
39	36	42	A lot less likely
36	39	32	Somewhat less likely
22	22	24	No effect
2	1	2	It depends (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

20. Now, imagine you found out you had a STD, how do you think you would feel about telling (INSERT)? Would you feel . . .

		<u>Very</u> <u>Uncomfortable</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>Uncomfortable</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>Uncomfortable</u>	<u>Not at all</u> <u>Uncomfortable</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Ref.</u>
a.	The sexual partner you had at the time					
	Total	45	35	8	12	* =100
	Boys	48	30	7	15	* =100
	Girls	42	40	9	9	0 =100
b.	Past sexual partners who may have been infected					
	Total	52	30	9	8	1 =100
	Boys	51	31	9	8	1 =100
	Girls	53	30	9	7	1 =100
c.	Your parents					
	Total	70	16	5	9	* =100
	Boys	63	20	5	11	1 =100
	Girls	77	12	5	6	0 =100
d.	Friends					
	Total	45	37	10	8	* =100
	Boys	45	32	12	10	1 =100
	Girls	44	43	8	5	0 =100

21. These next few questions are about your sexual health and behavior. Please keep in mind that all of your answers are private. First, have you had sexual intercourse within the last TWELVE months?

22. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
42	49	36	Have had intercourse
35	39	31	In last 12 months
7	10	5	Not in last 12 months
57	50	64	Never had intercourse
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

23. Are you currently involved in a sexual relationship?

Based on those who have had intercourse; n=161

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
48	42	58	Yes
52	58	42	No
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

CURRENT RELATIONSHIP STATUS (Based on Q21, Q22, Q23)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
20	20	21	Currently in Sexual Relationship
22	29	15	Not Currently in Sexual Relationships (But have had sex)
<u>58</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>64</u>	Never had sex/DK/Ref.
100	100	100	

24. The last time you had sexual intercourse did you use a condom?

Based on those who have had intercourse; n=161

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
79	78	80	Yes
20	22	19	No
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

25. In general, when you have sexual intercourse, how often do you use condoms? Would you say..

Based on those who have had intercourse; n=161

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
57	58	57	All of the time,
25	27	24	Most of the time,
11	11	11	Only sometimes, or
6	4	7	Never?
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

READ: Still thinking ONLY about STDs OTHER than AIDS or HIV

26. (Have you and your current sexual partner ever had/Did you and your most recent sexual partner ever have) a conversation about your risk of infecting each other with a sexually transmitted disease?

27. Have you EVER had a conversation with a sexual partner about your risk of infecting each other with a sexually transmitted disease?

Based on those who have had intercourse; n=161

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
60	54	67	Yes, ever
45	40	50	Current Partner
15	14	17	Not with current partner
40	46	33	No, never
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

28. The last time you had a conversation like this, who first brought up this topic, you or your partner?

Based on those who (have had intercourse and) have had a conversation with a partner about the risk of infecting each other with a sexually transmitted disease; n=91

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
61	48	76	Respondent
31	42	18	Partner
5	5	6	Both/Neither (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

29. And, the last time you had a conversation like this did this conversation take place before or after the FIRST time you had sexual intercourse with this person?

Based on those who (have had intercourse and) have had a conversation with a partner about the risk of infecting each other with a sexually transmitted disease; n=91

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
77	79	76	Before
23	21	24	After
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

30. Have you ever discussed STDs with a health care provider like a doctor, nurse or clinic counselor?

Based on those who have had intercourse; n=161

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
43	32	58	Yes
57	68	42	No
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

31. As far as you remember, the last time you had a conversation like this did you bring up this subject or did the health care provider bring it up?

Based on those who (have had intercourse and) have discussed STDs with a health professional; n=67

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
27	-	-	Respondent
72	-	-	Health Care Provider
1	-	-	Both/Neither (VOL.)
<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

- = *Sample too small to report*

READ: This next question is about HIV or AIDS . . .

32. In the last 12 months, have you been tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS?
33. Have you EVER been tested for HIV?

Based on those who have had intercourse; n=161

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
25	16	39	Yes, have been tested ⁶
20	12	32	In last 12 months
5	4	7	Not in last 12 months
75	84	61	No, never tested
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Don't know /Refused
100	100	100	

⁶ Includes those who said they got tested as part of donating blood.

34. And, in the last 12 months, have you been tested for any sexually transmitted diseases OTHER than HIV or AIDS?
35. Have you EVER been tested for any sexually transmitted diseases OTHER than HIV or AIDS?

Based on those who have had intercourse; n=161

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
29	17	45	Yes
24	12	40	In last 12 months
5	5	5	Not in last 12 months
70	82	54	No
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

36. What STDs, OTHER than HIV or AIDS, have you been tested for IF NECESSARY ADD: Do you know the names of any of the STDs you=ve been tested for?

Based on those who (have had intercourse and) have been tested for STDs other than HIV/AIDS; n=44

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
19	-	-	Can't name any specific STDs -- just know tested for some
27	-	-	All of them
31	-	-	Gonorrhea, clap or drip
21	-	-	Syphilis
19	-	-	Genital herpes or herpes or herpes simplex virus or HSV
10	-	-	Chlamydia
5	-	-	Genital warts or human papilloma viruses or HPVs
2	-	-	Scabies
2	-	-	Hepatitis-B virus or HBV
4	-	-	Other
4	-	-	Refused

Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses

37. Thinking about the most recent time you were tested for STDs other than AIDS or HIV, What was the MAIN reason you got tested. Was it because . . .

Based on those who (have had intercourse and) have been tested for STDs other than HIV/AIDS; n=44

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
12	-	-	A - You had symptoms,
5	-	-	B - A sexual partner at the time told you (he/she) had one,
2	-	-	C - You were seeing a health care provider for something else and he or she noticed a problem,
63	-	-	D - It was part of your routine care,
3	-	-	Because of pregnancy (VOL.)
12	-	-	Was there some other reason?
<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

38. And, where did you get tested? Was it at. . .

Based on those who (have had intercourse and) have been tested for STDs other than HIV/AIDS; n=44

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
61	-	-	A - A doctor's office where you usually go for health care,
14	-	-	B - A family planning clinic like Planned Parenthood
6	-	-	C - A public STD clinic
15	-	-	D - A school clinic or health center,
3	-	-	A hospital (VOL.)
1	-	-	Someplace else?
<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

READ: Thinking again ONLY about STDs OTHER than AIDS or HIV

39. Have you ever had a STD?

Based on those who have had intercourse; n=161

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
4	2	6	Yes
95	98	91	No
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

40. How do you know you have never had a STD? Is the MAIN reason because. . .

Based on those who (have had intercourse and) say they have never had an STD; n=152

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
29	34	20	A - You haven=t had any symptoms,
18	14	24	B - You have been tested,
23	22	25	C - None of your sexual partners have ever had a STD
23	22	24	D - Your health care provider never mentioned anything wrong
1	2	0	Monogamous/Have only had one partner (VOL.)
2	2	2	Is there some other reason?
2	1	3	I=m not really sure I don=t have one (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

41. (Does your/Did your most recent) sexual partner have a STD?

Based on those who (have had intercourse and) say they have never had an STD; n=152

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
0	0	0	Yes
93	93	94	No
<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	Don=t know/Refused
100	100	100	

Questions 42 through 48 were asked of teens who reported having an STD. The results are based on the answers of only 7 respondents (2 males and 5 females). The results are not reported here due to the small sample size. The results are available in the tabs.

42. What STDs have you had or do you have now?
43. (Thinking about your most recent experience with a STD,) Once you suspected you had a STD how long was it before you saw a health care provider? Was it . . .
44. (Does your current/Did your most recent) sexual partner have a STD?
45. Some people who have had or currently have STDs always tell their sexual partners about it, others sometimes don't because they don't feel it is necessary or they know how to keep their partner from being infected. (Does your current/Did your most recent) sexual partner know you have or have had a STD?
46. Did you tell your (current/most recent) partner about the STD before the first time you had sexual intercourse?
47. In general, has having had this STD . . .
48. Do you know how or from whom you contracted (your most recent/this) STD?

READ: Now I have just a few more questions so we can learn more about the people who took part in our survey . . .

49. Since you become sexually active, about how many sexual partners have you had? Would you say more than twenty, eleven to twenty, seven to ten, three to six, two or one?

Based on those who have had intercourse; n=161

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
1	1	2	More than 20
7	9	3	11 to 20
7	11	3	7 to 10
30	30	29	3 to 6
23	23	23	Two
32	26	40	One
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

50. Have you ever dated and been involved sexually with more than one person during the same time period?

Based on those who have had intercourse; n=161

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
12	14	10	Yes
88	86	90	No
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

D.1 RESPONDENT=S GENDER

51	Male
<u>49</u>	Female
100	

D.2 What is your age?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
34	32	36	15
33	31	36	16
<u>33</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>28</u>	17
100	100	100	

D.3 Are you currently attending school, or not?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
97	96	98	Yes
3	4	2	No
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	DK/Ref
100	100	100	

D.4. What year of school are you currently in?

Based on those who are currently in school; n=389

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
4	7	1	8th grade or lower
21	24	18	9th Grade/Freshman in High School
34	28	40	10th Grade /Sophomore in High School
31	33	28	11th Grade/Junior in High School
10	7	12	12th Grade/Senior in High School
*	1	*	Business, technical, or vocational school
*	0	1	1st /Freshman year in college or higher
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	100	100	

D.5 What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?

Too small to report; n=11

D.6 Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
10	9	10	Yes
90	91	90	No
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

D.7 What is your race?

(IF HISPANIC) Are you white Hispanic, black Hispanic, or some other race?

(ELSE) Are you white, black or African American, Asian or some other race?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
80	79	80	White
15	17	14	Black
1	*	2	Asian
3	3	4	Other or Mixed race
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	

HOUSEHOLD INCOME (from Parent Interview)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	
5	4	5	Less than \$10,000
9	8	10	\$10,000 to under \$20,000
12	11	14	\$20,000 to under \$30,000
16	14	17	\$30,000 to under \$40,000
18	20	16	\$40,000 to under \$60,000
19	22	17	\$60,000 to under \$100,000
10	9	11	\$100,000 or more
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	Not asked/Don't know/Refused
100	100	100	