

A Look at Latinos



Voices Heard: Highlights from National Polling Data

To better understand the attitudes and beliefs of the Latino community, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy commissioned a nationally-representative survey of Latino adults (aged 20 and above) and teens (aged 12-19). This fact sheet summarizes some of the key findings from *Voices Heard: Latino Adults and Teens Speak Up About Teen Pregnancy*.¹

Latino and Latina Teens

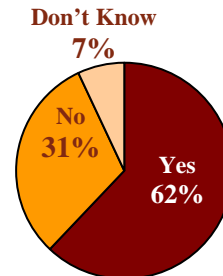
- Latina teens* are less likely than other teen girls to share their parents' values about sex (58% and 68%, respectively).
- More than six in 10 Latino teen boys and girls (63%) agree that teen boys often receive the message that they are expected to have sex.
- More than half of Latinas (54%) say that they receive the message that attracting boys and looking sexy is one of the most important things they can do.
- More than half of Latina teens (53%) think it is okay to date someone three or more years older.
- Nearly seven in ten (69%) Latino teen boys and girls who have had sex regret doing it too soon (see figure).
- More than half of Latinas (51%) have never thought about what it would be like if they got pregnant as a teen.
- Latino teens are less likely than boys generally (50% and 57%, respectively) to have thought about the risk of getting someone pregnant.
- Four in 10 Latino teens (42%) agree that teen pregnancy in their community is "no big deal."

Latino Parents

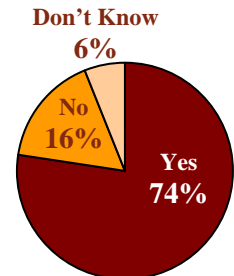
- Three-quarters of Latino adults (76%) and Latino teen boys and girls (78%) agree that Latino parents don't know what to say when it comes to talking about sex.
- Although 80% of Latino parents say they have had a helpful conversation with their teen about delaying sex and avoiding pregnancy, fewer Latino teen boys and girls agree (69% and 63%, respectively).
- Three-quarters of Latino adults (73%) and Latino teen boys and girls (75%) believe that parents are sending inconsistent messages about sex to their sons and daughters.

* "Latino teens" refers to Hispanic boys; "Latina teens" refers to Hispanic girls.

If you have had sexual intercourse, do you wish you had waited longer?



Latino Teens



Latina Teens

Note: Only sexually experienced teens are included in the chart.

Abstinence and Contraception

- Latino teen boys and girls (70%) are far more likely than their white peers (49%) to say they want more information about both abstinence and contraception.

Faith

- More than eight in ten (82%) Latino teen boys and girls agree that religious leaders and groups should be doing more to prevent teen pregnancy. This is a considerably higher rate than white teens (74%) and slightly higher than black teens (78%).

Media

- Latino teen boys and girls (88%) are considerably more interested than white (73%) or black (76%) teens in the media showing or talking more about the consequences of sex.

SOURCES

¹ Vexler, E. (2007). *Voices Heard: Latino Adults and Teens Speak Up About Teen Pregnancy*. Washington, DC: the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

To view the full report, as well as all of the National Campaign's polling, please visit

<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/reports.aspx>

To learn more about the

National Campaign's Latino Initiative, go to

http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/espanol/default_eng.aspx

This publication made possible by the Candie's Foundation, based on research supported by the Turner Foundation.

July 2008

