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TEEN-SEX SHOCKER

By BILL HOFFMANN

May 20, 2003 -- Girls as young as 14 are becoming pregnant at an alarmingly high rate - as one in six teens says it's no big deal to occasionally have sex without using a condom, according to two shocking new surveys.

A study by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy says one in every seven girls who've had intercourse at the age of 14 have found themselves in the family way.

"For many young people, sex doesn't wait," said Sarah Brown, the group's director.

Just as disturbing, one in five American kids has had sex before their 15th birthday, the report said.

"Parents are usually unaware if their young adolescents have had sex. Only about one-third of parents of sexually experienced 14-year-olds know that their child has had sex," the report says.

"And while the majority of parents say they have spoken to their young adolescent children about sex, far fewer teens report that such conversations actually took place."

The report also found:



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* Kids have ample opportunity to have sex. One-third of 12-year-olds and about half of 14-year-olds have been at a party without any adults in the house.

* Between half and three-quarters of youths aged 12-14 report that they used contraception the first time they had sex.

A second survey, released by the Kaiser Family Foundation, reported that a significant number of teens - about one in six - say they don't sweat it if they occasionally have intercourse without a condom.

One in five readily admitted they had unprotected sex after a night of boozing or doing drugs.

The study also found that one in three teen boys reported feeling increased pressure to have sex.

That's compared with less than a quarter of girls saying they feel the same pressure.

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