

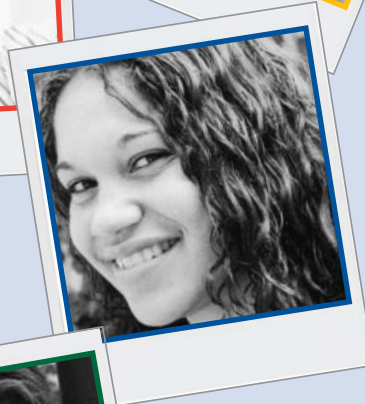
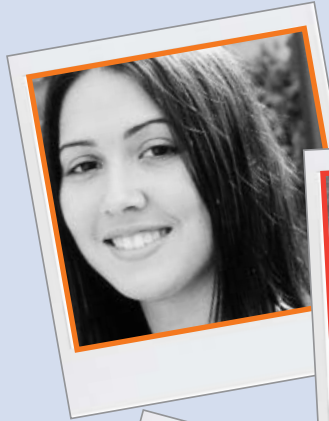
THE  
NATIONAL **10**  
CAMPAIGN TO  
PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF PROGRESS  
IN IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN,  
YOUTH AND FAMILIES

# Freeze Frame:

## *A Snapshot of America's Teens*

September  
2005



PUTTING  
WHAT WORKS TO

**work**

A PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY



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September  
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By

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Laura Lippman, Project Director, Child Trends

Kerry Franzetta, Erum Ikramullah, Julie Dombrowski Keith, Rebecca Shwalb,  
Suzanne Ryan, and Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Child Trends

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## **Freeze Frame: A Snapshot of America's Teens**

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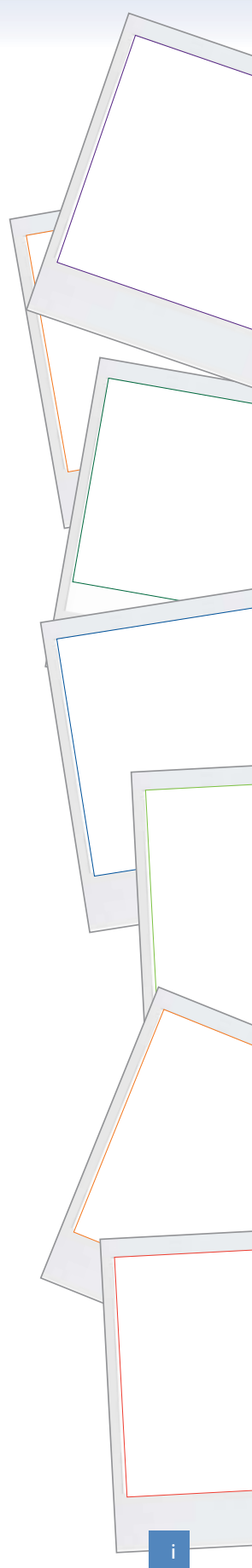
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# Introduction

**A**s a general matter, the public's perception of teens today is not a particularly positive one. Parents tend to think highly of their own children—and their children's friends—but may have a much more negative view of teenagers in general. At worst, the stereotype is that teens are spoiled, sullen, materialistic, and care only about themselves. All of them are having sex, many of them are involved in violent behavior, and those who aren't are probably binge drinking and using drugs.

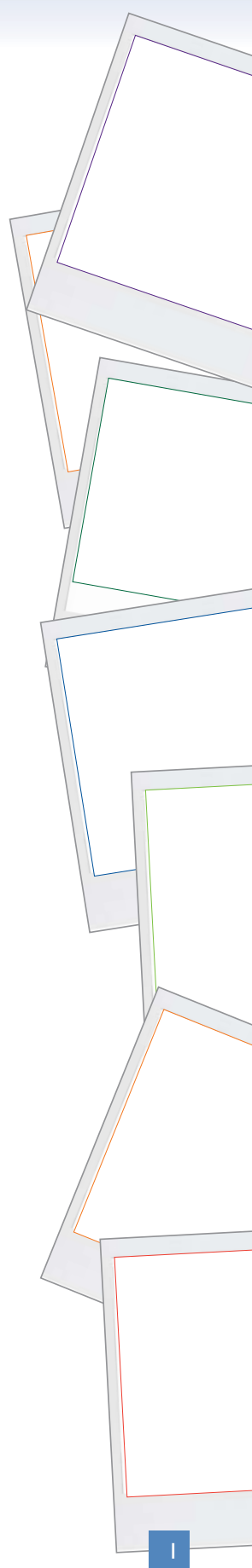
Of course, few adults subscribe to this wholly negative view of teens, but that doesn't mean they always have a fully balanced view either. They may know their children's friends, for example, but have no idea that some get together to gamble many weekends. Certainly they know their children have a TV in their bedroom but do they know what they're watching?

Exactly how accurate are adults' perceptions of teens? It's actually quite confusing. Adults sometimes say that teens are lazy, but teens believe that working hard and helping others is important and a signif-

icant percentage of them do volunteer work. Many adults believe that rates of teen sexual activity and pregnancy are getting worse<sup>1</sup> when, in fact, they have gotten considerably better. Adults consistently cite crime as one of the most important issues facing teens even though crime among youth has actually declined.<sup>2</sup> And teens themselves believe adults exaggerate how bad young people's lives are.<sup>3</sup> In short, it seems that teens are doing better than adults believe. The data presented in this publication suggest that today's teens are doing quite well, thank you, and better in many ways than previous generations. Still—to be sure—this publication also makes quite clear that there are areas of real concern and groups of teens who face deep and serious problems.

*Freeze Frame* presents data on a wide variety of topics, from teens' sexual behavior to their religious beliefs. The data are grouped into seven areas of influence—health, family, peers and partners, school, community, media and consumer behavior, and religious and spiritual beliefs. This publication does not pretend to provide a full portrait of today's teens, just a broad snap-

- 
- 1 National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2001). *With One Voice: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy*. Washington, DC: Author.
  - 2 Guzman, L., Lippman, L. Moore, K. (2003, in press). *Public Perception of Children's Well-Being*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.
  - 3 Poris, M., Casey, G. (2005). *Voices Study: Research Findings*. Alexandria, VA: America's Promise.



# INTRODUCTION

shot of what they are doing and thinking in several important areas.

This publication serves two purposes: First, we hope it will help correct many common misconceptions about teens. Second, we hope it will help adults have a more textured understanding of teens. It has been our experience, for example, that many parents, policymakers, program leaders, and others often misunderstand the broader forces that shape teens' lives and their decisions. Some in the teen pregnancy prevention world, for instance, know quite a bit about sex, pregnancy, contraception and

births, but fail to appreciate such things as the pervasiveness of the media or the role of faith in many young people's lives. What are teens *actually* doing or not doing? What are their interests? How do they spend their time? Are their decisions about sex influenced by their parents at all, or is it all about peers? How engaged are they in the media culture? Are they more religious and spiritual than they used to be? Are things getting better or worse for this generation of teens? This publication sheds light on these and other important questions.

# Summary

**T**aken together, the data presented in this volume paints a complex portrait of teens today. Simply put, teenagers are probably doing better than most adults believe but probably not as well as most parents might wish. And some are not doing well at all. On the positive side—from family to community—teens generally seem to be healthy, happy, and engaged. In fact, the majority of teens describe themselves as friendly, responsible, successful, and confident. Despite a fair amount of good news regarding teens, however, there are areas of considerable concern. Parents, those who work with teens, and other adults have many good reasons to redouble their efforts to create a caring environment for teens full of the guidance and support that they say they want and that research strongly suggests they need.

## Health

Even though many adults don't believe it, rates of teen sexual activity, pregnancy, and birth have all declined quite dramatically since the early 1990s. The progress has been steady and robust—rates of teen pregnancy and birth have declined in all 50 states and among all racial and ethnic groups at the national level. Driving this positive trend is a combination of less sexual activity—especially among teen boys—and increased contraceptive use among teens in general.

Still, not all the news is good. While sexual activity is declining and contraceptive use at *first sex* is improving, most teens have sex by the time they graduate from high school; about one in seven have sex before age 15; less than half of sexually active teens used condoms each time they had sex in the past 12 months; and a small but significant proportion of teens say they did not use them at all. Moreover, very few teens (only 2%) say they are getting enough information about abstinence and contraception. All of this suggests that there is quite a bit of work to be done in convincing teens to delay sexual activity and to underscore the critical importance of sexually active teens using contraception consistently and carefully.

Research has established an association between overall teen health and their sexual behavior. For example, teens who have a healthy lifestyle, including eating well and exercising, tend to delay sex until they are older. Physically, almost all parents report their kids' health is at least good—over half say it is excellent. Yet, few high school students eat as they should and the proportion of teens who are overweight has risen dramatically since the early 1970s.

Given the considerable amount of resources and attention that has been paid to reducing teens' use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, we are a bit puzzled that things in

# SUMMARY

this area have not improved more. Between 1991 and 2003, there has been only a slight increase in the percentage of youth who say they have not used cigarettes, alcohol, or illegal drugs in the past 30 days. In particular, it is alarming to note that the percentage of teens in high school who combine alcohol and/or drugs with sex has risen quite dramatically between 1991 and 2003.

## Family

Families are an important influence on teens' sexual attitudes and behavior. Both family structure and family relationships are strongly associated with teens' attitudes and decisions regarding sex and contraception.

The majority of teens continue to grow up in two-parent households. Most teens say they have a positive relationship with their parents, think highly of them, and want to spend time with them. Nearly all teens believe they have at least one family member in whom they can confide. Large proportions of both younger and older teens eat dinner with their family regularly and say they do something fun with their families at least twice a week.

When it comes to what teens are actually doing, teens report that they share quite a bit of information about their friends, activities, and schools with their parents. At least one-half of teens—and often considerably more—say their parents know everything or most things about these topics.

Sex may be different. Even though teens give their parents a passing grade for understanding the "realities" of teen sex, about one-third of teens—and often much higher percentages—say they have *never* discussed with their parents such topics as how to say no to sex, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), or contraception. Surprisingly, this is the case with *older* teens more so than younger teens. And among parents of sexually experienced 8th-11th graders, fully half are unaware that their children have had sex. Teens' *attitudes* toward sex are also more cautious than many adults perhaps believe—most young people say high school age teens are too young to have sex and believe that sex should occur only in a long-term, committed relationship. The data presented here also make clear that, when it comes to sex, the gender divide clearly still exists—parents tend to tell their daughters to "say no" and their sons to "be careful." They also seem to keep closer tabs on girls than boys (who their close friends are and who they are with when they're not at home). Parental supervision of young teens, in particular, is not as complete as parents believe. Young teens—both boys and girls—are far more likely to break rules (how late they can stay out, who they can hang out with) than their parents realize.

So it seems, in general, that teens admire their parents, want to spend time with them, and let their parents in on what's going on in *parts* of their lives. That's the good news. On the other side of the ledger, many parents seem to be in the dark about their teens' sexual attitudes and

behavior, averse to talking about sex and related issues with their children, and some are not supervising their adolescent children closely enough.

### Peer and Partner Relationships

Research supports the common sense conclusion that teenagers' peers and romantic partners can influence their own sexual behavior. Whether teens are in a relationship, how old their partner is, and whether they belong to the "in-crowd" all play a role in teens' decisions about sex.

While previous research has indicated that much peer influence is positive—we note, for example, that the clear majority of teens say their peers positively influence their decisions about sex—the data presented in this chart book about peer and partner relationships are more cautionary. A significant minority of teens report experiencing violence in dating and sexual relationships and an alarming percentage of sexually experienced teen girls (23% of those aged 12-14 and 12% of those aged 15-17) say their first sexual experience was unwanted. Being forced to do something sexual is one of teen girls' top concerns and fully two-thirds of all sexually experienced teens—boys and girls both—say they wish they had waited longer before having sex.

In addition, fully one-quarter of teens aged 12-14 say they are in an ongoing romantic relationship and about one-third of those aged 12-14 and those aged 15-17

report that they have had a sexual partner three or more years older than they are. This is much more often the case for girls rather than boys. This is of significant concern because steady, one-on-one dating at an early age and young teens with partners three or more years older are far more likely to have sex, to have more sexual partners and to report that sex was unwanted. They are also less likely to use contraception.

### School

The link between school and teens' sexual behavior is quite strong. Simply put, teens who are closely connected to school (those with high academic performance, who are involved in after-school activities and happy to be at school, etc.) are far more likely to delay sexual activity and avoid early pregnancy and parenthood than teens lacking such close connections. In fact, school failure is often the first sign of increased risk for early pregnancy and parenthood. Note that half of teen mothers drop out of school *before* becoming pregnant.<sup>4</sup>

Because the link between academic achievement and teen pregnancy is so strong, this area of influence is of particular concern. The percentage of teens whose parents say they are highly engaged in school has declined since 1997 (especially among boys) and only about half of students in grades 7-12 get along with their teachers, say their teachers treat them fairly,

4 Manlove, Jennifer. (1998). The influence of high school dropout and school disengagement on the risk of school-age pregnancy. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 8(2), 187-220.

# SUMMARY

and believe that their teachers care about them. Reading scores for 12th grade boys have declined since 1992 and very few teens (only 2%) say they are getting enough information about abstinence and contraception. Boys are more likely than girls to drop out of high school and, while dropout rates have fluctuated a bit since the early 1990s, the "drop out gap" between young men and young women widened between 1992 and 2002. We note also that teens spend only about five hours a week studying, *far less* time than they spend, for example, watching television.

On the positive side, high school dropout rates have declined since the late 1990s; the percentage of those skipping school and getting suspended or expelled has stabilized or declined; and about eight in ten teens say they are involved in positive extracurricular activities. Academically, reading and math scores for 8th grade girls and boys and 12th grade girls improved between 1992 and 2002.

## Community

Although individual and family characteristics usually play a more prominent role, community characteristics and involvement in community projects can also influence teen sexual behavior. For example, teens who live in neighborhoods with high rates of poverty, delinquency, and crime, and little neighborhood cohesion are more likely to

engage in risky sexual behavior. Those teens who volunteer in their community and participate in community-sponsored activities have a lower risk of teen pregnancy and childbearing<sup>5</sup> and some service learning programs that combine community service with time to reflect on those experiences have been effective in preventing teen pregnancy.<sup>6</sup>

Many adults may be surprised to learn that about one-quarter to one-third of all students (depending on age) volunteer at least once a month. For those concerned about early sexual activity, pregnancy, and childbearing, this is heartening because teens who volunteer in their community and participate in community-sponsored activities have a lower risk of teen pregnancy and childbearing.

Parents describe the communities they and their teens live in as safe—fully two-thirds believe their neighborhoods are "very safe." Even so, a significant minority of teens (just over one-third of teen boys and one-quarter of teen girls) say they have participated in such delinquent activities as belonging to a gang, damaging property, stealing, or selling drugs.

## Media and Consumer Behavior

Young people are voracious consumers of media—those aged 8-18 spend over 44 hours a week watching TV, listening

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5 Morrissey, K.M., & Wener-Wilson, R.J. (2005). The relationship between out-of-school activities and positive youth development: an investigation of the influences of communities and family. *Adolescence*, 40(157), 67-85.

6 Kirby, D. (2001). *Emerging Answers: Research Findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy*. Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

to music, using the computer, playing video games and the like. Note that this is more time than is spent in school, and more hours than many parents work. About 25% of that time is spent using several types of media simultaneously. This steady diet of media has led many to reasonably conclude that the media contributes to setting the sexual "script" for teens, that is, providing clues about what's normal, how to handle various sexual situations, and what the consequences of different actions are likely to be. For example, teens who watch TV shows or music videos that include sexual content are less likely to disapprove of sex outside of marriage, sexual infidelity, or sexual promiscuity and are more likely to begin having sex at an early age. It is also the case that the majority of teens list TV, movies, and magazines as important sources of information about sex, pregnancy, and contraception. It is worth noting that while the level and impact of sexual content of the media is a frequent topic of discussion and debate, precious little research has been done examining the connection between the media and teen sexual behavior. Even less is known about the potential impact of newer forms of media such as the Internet.

Heavy media use should not come as a surprise to parents given the overwhelming *availability* of media. Consider this: in 2001, three-quarters of homes had a computer; in 2005, two-thirds of those aged 8-18 had a TV in their *bedroom*, almost

two-thirds reported that the TV is usually on during meals, and about half of those aged 8-18 report that there are no rules about watching TV in their house and that the TV is on in their homes most of the time.

This media tidal wave, coupled with the relentless march of new technology, leaves many parents and other adults puzzled, if not alarmed. At the very least, the modern media landscape provides us with some interesting questions to ponder:

- Even though teens devour lots of media on a daily basis, many are engaged in after-school activities (see above) and recent reports suggest that far from becoming couch potatoes, teens are participating in as many athletic and outdoor activities as ever.<sup>7</sup>
- Cell phones are changing the ability of adults to supervise teens. Teens increasingly use cell phones to talk *directly* with their friends, bypassing the shared household phone line that allowed parents to ask such questions as, "Who called?" "What did they want?" "What did you chat about?"
- While the media is often castigat-ed for showing too much sexual content, it is also true that the media can be—and often is—a force for good. For example,

7 Roberts, D., Foehr, U., Rideout, V. (2005). *Generation M: Media in the Lives of 8-18 Year-olds*. Menlo Park, CA: Kaiser Family Foundation.

# SUMMARY

seven in ten parents of teens say that something in the media started a conversation between them and their children or friends about the consequences of sex, and fully three-quarters (76%) of teens believe that TV shows and other media are a good way to start conversations with their parents about sex, love, and relationships.<sup>8</sup>

## Religion

Research has consistently linked teen's religious beliefs and their sexual behavior. Teens who say that religion plays an important role in their life and teens who attend religious services on a regular basis are more likely to postpone sexual activity than teens who are less religious.

Data in this report also show that seven in ten of those aged 13-17 say they feel close to God and six in ten say they attend religious services at least once a month. About one-third of students in grades 8, 10, and 12 say that religion plays a very important role in their lives.

## In sum...

*Freeze Frame* makes clear that teens' decisions about sex are affected by much more than, for example, simple admonitions to delay sexual activity or information about contraception. Teens' families, peers, partners, schools, communities, and media consumption, as well as their ties to religion

and their own physical health can all influence their motivation to avoid risky sexual behavior and can help prevent too-early pregnancy and parenthood.

There is much that is encouraging about teens' lives today. Teen pregnancies and births have declined dramatically, adolescent health is generally good, many young people are involved in their community, and most teens say they are close to their parents, admire them, and let them in on what's going on in their lives.

Yet, there is also much reported here that is discouraging. For example, too many teens are having sex and not using contraception, and a significant minority report that their first sexual experience was unwanted. Pregnancy, birth, and STD rates among young people also remain unacceptably high. Stepping back and examining the broader picture, we note with concern three dimensions of teens' lives that put them at particular risk for early pregnancy and parenthood: risky peer relationships, academic failure, and lack of adult supervision. The data presented here indicate there are reasons for concern and action in all three areas —many teens are dating at an early age and many have partners three or more years older; the proportion of teens who feel disconnected from their schools is on the rise; and parents seem unaware of a fair portion of their children's lives, including just how plugged they are to media culture.

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8 National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2001). *With One Voice: America's Adults and Teens sound Off About Teen Pregnancy*. Washington, DC: Author.

# A Note about Data Sources and how Data Are Presented in this Publication

**M**ost of the information in this volume is based on very large datasets (such as the "Monitoring the Future," which surveys approximately 50,000 students annually) that use the highest scientific standards to gather nationally-representative samples of certain ages. Some of the charts use polling data which are gathered from telephone surveys of randomly dialed phone numbers. These surveys tend to have fewer participants (usually about 1,000) and are not generally seen as being of the same caliber as the larger data sets; even so they provide nationally-representative samples of the groups noted. All sources are clearly noted in each chart—a more lengthy description of each data set used is provided in the Appendix. In addition, we have added a few tidbits of interesting and, perhaps, less conventional data here and there—labeled throughout as "flash facts"—to provoke a new thought or two.

Careful readers might wonder why some of the data presented are not more recent. For example, this publication contains teen pregnancy data from 2000 and teen birth data from 2003. A concerted

effort was made to use the most recent data available for all the charts in this volume. In most cases the data are between one and three years old—in a just a few cases a bit older than that.

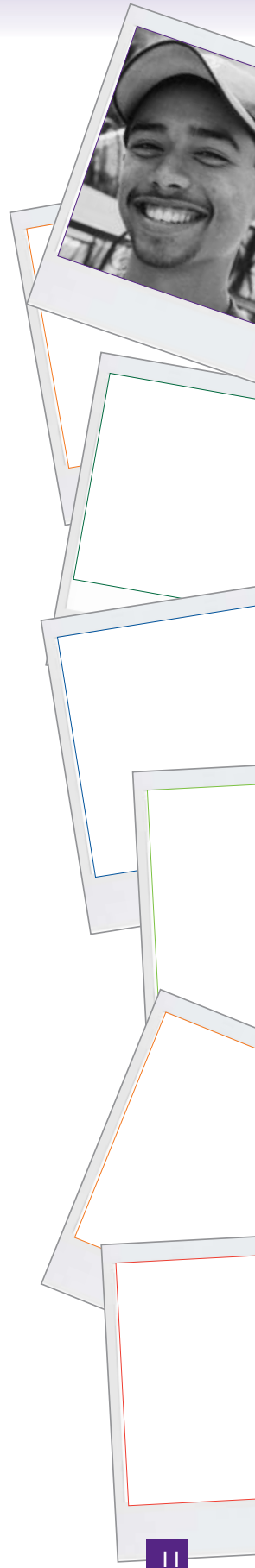
Astute readers may notice that the data on "weekly time use" do not perfectly match some of the data on TV and Internet use in the media/consumer behavior section. This is probably due in part to the data being collected in different years, different age cohorts being examined, and differences in the precise wording of the questions.

Finally, readers will note that with the exception of several charts detailing teen sexual activity, pregnancy and childbearing, racial/ethnic and income breakdowns are absent from this report. The authors opted to present a wide array of data in this publication over detailed subgroup information on a limited number of measures. Of course, some of the findings noted in this publication might be better and some worse when examined by race, ethnicity, or income. We encourage you to dig deeper on any markers of special interest.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7

HEALTH





# Health and Health Behavior

**T**here is good news from the teen sex front—more teens are delaying sex and having fewer partners and those that are sexually active are using contraception more carefully.<sup>1</sup> These changes in behavior have resulted in dramatic declines in rates of teen pregnancy and birth since the early 1990s.

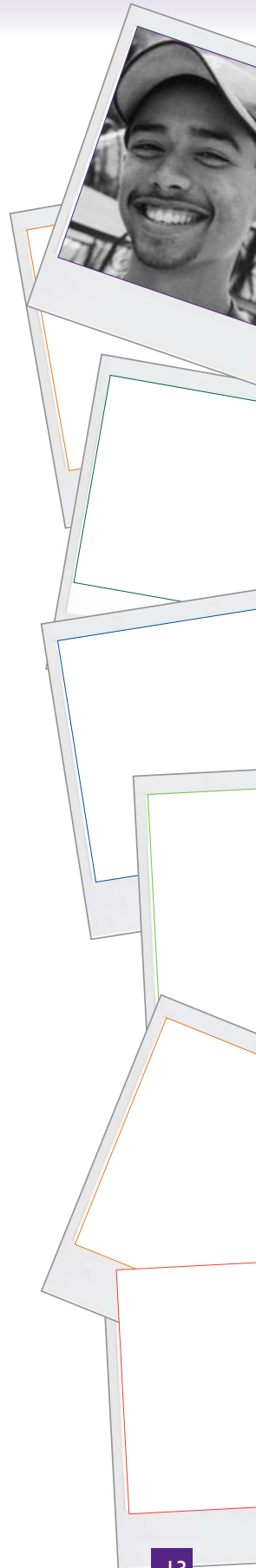
Perhaps not quite as clear is the association between overall teen health and their sexual behavior. Consider the following:

- Teens who have a healthy lifestyle, including, eating well and exercising, tend to delay sex until they are older.<sup>2</sup>
- Teens who avoid such risky behavior as smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, or using drugs, are less like-

ly to have sex, have fewer sexual partners, and are also apt to use contraception more frequently than adolescents who do not avoid such risky behavior.<sup>4</sup>

- Not surprisingly, there is a connection between having sex while under the influence of drugs or alcohol and lower condom use.<sup>5</sup>
- Teen girls who participate in sports are more likely to delay sex, have fewer sexual partners, have sex less frequently, use contraception more consistently, and avoid pregnancy.<sup>3</sup>
- Teen boys are more likely to get their partners pregnant if they smoke, drink, or use drugs and/or alcohol.<sup>4</sup>

- 
- 1 Santelli, J., Abma, J., Ventura, S., Lindberg, L., Morrow, B., Anderson, J., Lyss, S., Hamilton, B. (2004). Can Changes in Sexual Behaviors Among High School Students Explain the Decline in Teen Pregnancy Rates in the 1990s? *Journal of Adolescent Health* 2004; 35:80-90.
  - 2 Miller, K. E., Sabo, D. F., Farrell, M. P., Barnes, G. M., & Melnick, M. J. (1998). Athletic participation and sexual behavior in adolescents: The different worlds of boys and girls. *Journal of Health & Social Behavior*, 39(2), 108-123.
  - 3 Oman, R. F., Vesely, S. K., & Aspy, C. B. (2005). Youth assets and sexual risk behavior: The importance of assets for youth residing in one-parent households. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 37(1), 25-31.
  - 4 Manlove, J., Terry-Humen, E., Papillo, A. R., Franzetta, K., Williams, S., & Ryan, S. (2001). *Background for Community-Level Work on Positive Reproductive Health in Adolescence: Reviewing the Literature on Contributing Factors*. Washington, DC: Child Trends and the Knight Foundation.
  - 5 Santelli, J. S., Robin, L., Brener, N. D., & Lowry, R. (2001). Timing of alcohol and other drug use and sexual risk behaviors among unmarried adolescents and young adults. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 33(5), 200-205.

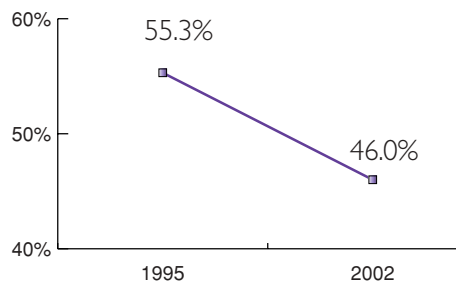


## SEXUAL ACTIVITY

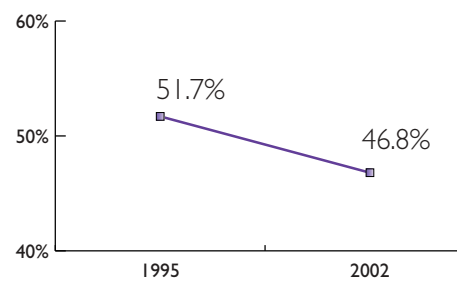
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### Decline in Teen Sexual Experience, (aged 15-19), 1995-2002

**Boys:**



**Girls:**



*Source: National Campaign analysis of the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth*

As these data indicate, teen sexual activity has decreased, although it may be surprising for some to learn that the decline in sexual activity among teen boys has been more pronounced than among teen girls. It is now the case that teen girls (46.8%) are slightly more likely than teen boys (46%) to have had sexual intercourse.

## CONTRACEPTIVE USE

### Teen Contraceptive Use (aged 15-19), 1988-2002

|                                      | Boys  | Girls |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Contraceptive use at first sex, 1988 | 62%   | 65%   |
| Contraceptive use at first sex, 1995 | 74.3% | 70.7% |
| Contraceptive use at first sex, 2002 | 82.0% | 74.5% |

### Teen contraceptive use (aged 15-19), 2002

|                                                           | Boys  | Girls |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Used condoms every time they had sex<br>in past 12 months | 47.8% | 27.5% |
| Used them inconsistently                                  | 43.6% | 54.7% |
| Did not use them at all                                   | 8.6%  | 17.8% |

Rates of teen pregnancy and birth have declined since the early 1990s because of both less sex and better contraceptive use among teens. Both have made significant contributions to the overall decline.<sup>6</sup> As this data indicate, however, while teens are more likely than in the past to use condoms the *first* time they have sex, they are inconsistent users of condoms in the past 12 months. Less than half of boys (47.8%) and just 27.5% of girls used condoms each time they had sex in the past 12 months. Fully 52.2% of boys over two-thirds of girls (72.5%) say they used condoms inconsistently or not at all when having sex over the past 12 months.

Source: *National Surveys of Family Growth, 1988, 1995, and 2002*

6 Flanigan, C. (2000). *What's Behind the Good News: The Decline in Teen Pregnancy During the 1990s*. Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Santelli, J.S., Abma, J., Ventura, S., Lindberg, L., Morrow, B., Anderson, J.E., Lyss, S. & Hamilton, B. (2004). Can changes in sexual behaviors among high school students explain the decline in teen pregnancy rates in the 1990s? *Journal of Adolescent Health* (35), 80-90.

## TEEN PREGNANCY

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### Teen pregnancy rate (pregnancies per 1,000 girls aged 15-19) 1972-2000

1972: 95  
1979: 109  
1988: 111  
1990: 117  
2000: 84

---

### Decline in teen pregnancy rate (aged 15-19), 1990-2000

All teens aged 15-19: Down 28%

---

### Decline in teen pregnancy rate (aged 15-19), by race/ethnicity, 1991-2002

Non-Hispanic Whites: Down 37.3%  
Blacks: Down 31.5%  
Latinos: Down 15%

---

Source: Henshaw, S.K. (2004). U.S. teenage pregnancy statistics with comparative statistics for women aged 20-24. New York: The Alan Guttmacher Institute. The Alan Guttmacher Institute. (2004). U.S. teenage pregnancy statistics: Overall trends, trends by race and ethnicity and state-by-state information. Ventura, S.J., Abma, J.C., Mosher, W. Henshaw, S. (2003). Revised pregnancy rates, 1990-97, and new rates for 1998-99: United States. National Vital Statistics Reports, 52(7).

## TEEN BIRTHS

### Births per 1,000 girls (aged 15-19), selected years, 1940-2003

|       |      |
|-------|------|
| 1940: | 54.1 |
| 1950: | 81.6 |
| 1960: | 89.1 |
| 1970: | 68.3 |
| 1980: | 53   |
| 1991: | 61.8 |
| 2003: | 41.7 |

### Decline in teen birth rate (aged 15-19), 1991-2003

All teens (aged 15-19): Down 32.5%

### Decline in teen birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19), by race/ethnicity, 1991-2002

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| All teens aged 15-19: | 30.4% |
| Non-Hispanic Whites:  | 34.3% |
| Blacks:               | 42%   |
| Latinos:              | 20.3% |

Sources: Martin, J.A., Park, M.M., & Sutton, P.D. (2002). *Births: Preliminary Data for 2001*. National Vital Statistics Reports 50(10). Hamilton, B.E., Martin, J.A., & Sutton, P.D. (2003). *Births: Preliminary Data for 2002*. National Vital Statistics Reports 51(11). Hamilton, B.E., Sutton, P.D., & Ventura, S.J. (2003). *Revised Birth and Fertility Rates for the 1990s and New Rates for Hispanic Populations, 2000 and 2001: United States*. National Vital Statistics Reports 51(12). Hamilton, B.E., Martin, J.A., & Sutton, P.D. (2004). *Births: Preliminary Data for 2003*. National Vital Statistics Reports 53(9).

As the preceding four charts make clear, declining teen pregnancy rates have been a true success story in this country. Teen sexual activity, pregnancy, and births have all been declining since the early 1990s. The proportion of teens—boys, in particular—who have had sexual intercourse is down. Pregnancy and birth rates are down in all 50 states. On the national level, the teen pregnancy rate for teens of all race/ethnicities is also declining—overall the teen pregnancy rate has declined 28% between 1990 and 2000 (the most recent data available). The teen birth rate has plummeted one-third between 1991 and 2003.

## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STDs)

### Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Rate per 100,000 population by age and gender, 1999 and 2003

| 2003             | Chlamydia | Gonorrhea |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Girls Aged 10-14 | 134.3     | 40.8      |
| Girls Aged 15-19 | 2687.3    | 634.7     |
| Boys Aged 10-14  | 9.8       | 6.7       |
| Boys Aged 15-19  | 423.4     | 262.4     |

| 1999             | Chlamydia | Gonorrhea |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Girls Aged 10-14 | 132.4     | 52        |
| Girls Aged 15-19 | 2329.3    | 718.4     |
| Boys Aged 10-14  | 8         | 8         |
| Boys Aged 15-19  | 313.5     | 332.2     |

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2003.



#### Flash Fact: STDs and Teens

ABOUT 18.9 MILLION NEW CASES OF STDs OCCURRED IN 2000, ABOUT 9.1 MILLION (OR 48%) WERE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15-19.

Source: The Alan Guttmacher Institute, Sexually Transmitted Disease Among American Youth: Incidence and Prevalence Estimates, 2000.

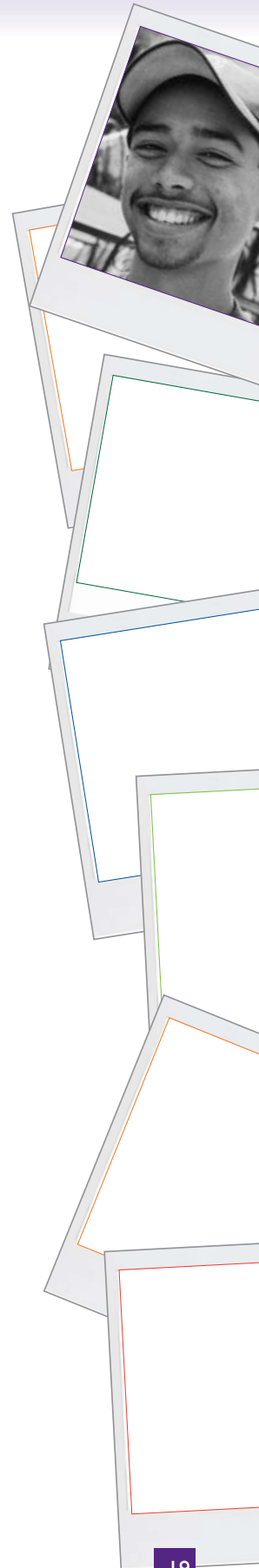
## INFORMATION ABOUT ABSTINENCE AND CONTRACEPTION

### Few think teens are getting enough information about abstinence and contraception, 2004

|                                                                      | Adults (aged 20 and over) | Teens (aged 12-19) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| More information about both:                                         | 75%                       | 81%                |
| More information about abstinence                                    | 14%                       | 9%                 |
| More information about contraception                                 | 6%                        | 8%                 |
| Teens get enough information about both abstinence and contraception | 1%                        | 2%                 |

Source: With One Voice 2004: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Very few adults (1%) or teens (2%) believe that teens are getting enough information about abstinence and contraception. In fact, the overwhelming majority of both adults and teens say they want more information about both, rather than either/or.



## TEENS' OVERALL HEALTH

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**Adolescents (aged 12-17) according to their health status as assessed by their parents, 2002.**



*Source: Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Children: National Health Interview Survey, 2002. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Vital and Health Statistics 10(221), Table VIII, March 2004.*

Almost all parents (98%) report that their child (aged 12-17) is in good health or better. Most parents of teens report that their teen's health is excellent (53%) or very good (29%). An additional 16% report that the teen's health is good and only 2% report that it is fair or poor.

## TEENS' SENSE OF SELF

### High School Students Who Describe Themselves as Happy Everyday or Almost Everyday, 2004

65%

### How High School Students Describe Themselves, Mean Score on a 1 (least favorable) - 7 (most favorable) Scale, 2004

|                                 |                                                                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friendly: 6.06                  | Successful: 5.61                                                |
| Responsible: 5.87               | Confident: 5.49                                                 |
| Respected by your parents: 5.80 | Not easily influenced by friends<br>to make bad decisions: 5.38 |
| Honest: 5.74                    | Optimistic: 5.19                                                |
| Happy: 5.68                     |                                                                 |
| Well-liked by others: 5.65      |                                                                 |

Source: SADD/Liberty Mutual Group, Atlantic Research and Consulting, Inc.

The image of the sullen, unhappy teenager seems to be the minority case. The findings from this survey clearly indicate that, on balance, high school teens hold a positive sense of self, rating themselves above the middle of the scale on a number of measures including being friendly, responsible, respected, honest, and happy.

### ★ **FLASH FACT: Breast Augmentation**

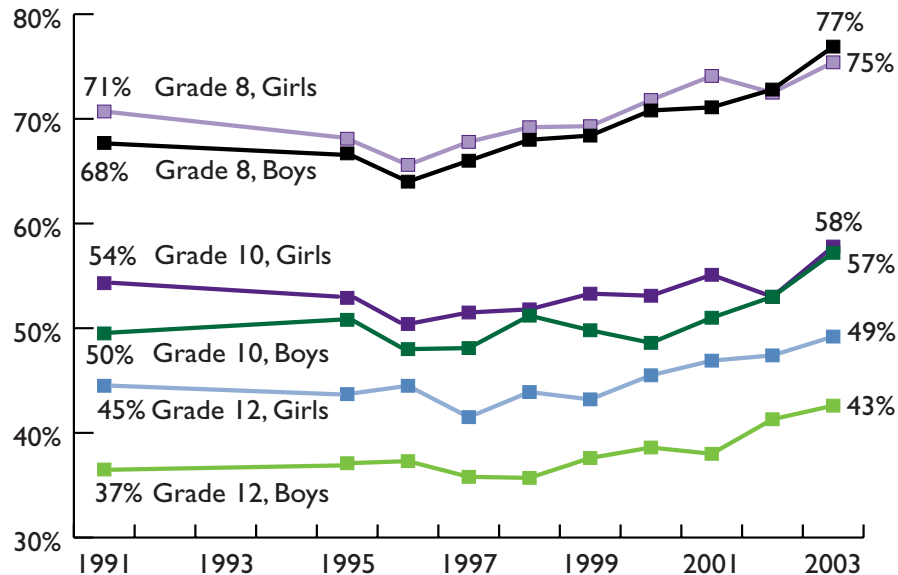
ALTHOUGH A TINY PORTION OF THE OVERALL  
TEEN POPULATION, THE NUMBER OF GIRLS 18 AND  
YOUNGER WHO HAVE GOTTEN BREAST IMPLANTS  
NEARLY TRIPLED BETWEEN 2002 AND 2003.

2002 = 3,872  
2003 = 11,326

Source: American Society of Plastic Surgeons, cited in  
The Washington Post, October 26, 2004

## DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO

**Students in grades 8, 10, and 12 who reported being substance free<sup>7</sup> in the last 30 days, 1991-2003.**



Source: Child Trends analysis of Monitoring the Future survey data from years 1991-2003.

Between 1991 and 2003, there has been a slight increase in the percentage of youth who say they have *not* used cigarettes, alcohol, or illegal drugs in the past 30 days. For example, there was a 10% increase in non-use among boys in grade 8 and an 14% increase in non-use among boys in grade 10. Younger adolescents were more likely to report being substance free than their older peers.

Among boys in 2003, 77% of eighth graders, 57% of tenth graders, and 43% of twelfth graders reported not using cigarettes, alcohol, or illegal drugs in the past 30 days. Girls and boys were equally as likely to say they have avoided using these substances in eighth (75%) and tenth (58%) grades, but by twelfth grade girls were slightly more likely than boys (49% and 43% respectively) to say they have not used cigarettes, alcohol, or illegal drugs in the past 30 days. This pattern by gender has been fairly consistent from 1991 to 2003.

<sup>7</sup> No use of cigarettes, alcohol, or illicit drugs in the past 30 days.

## DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE AND SEX

### Students (grades 9-12) who used alcohol/drugs the last time they had sex, 1991-2003

All teens 1991: 21.6%

All teens 2003: 25.4%

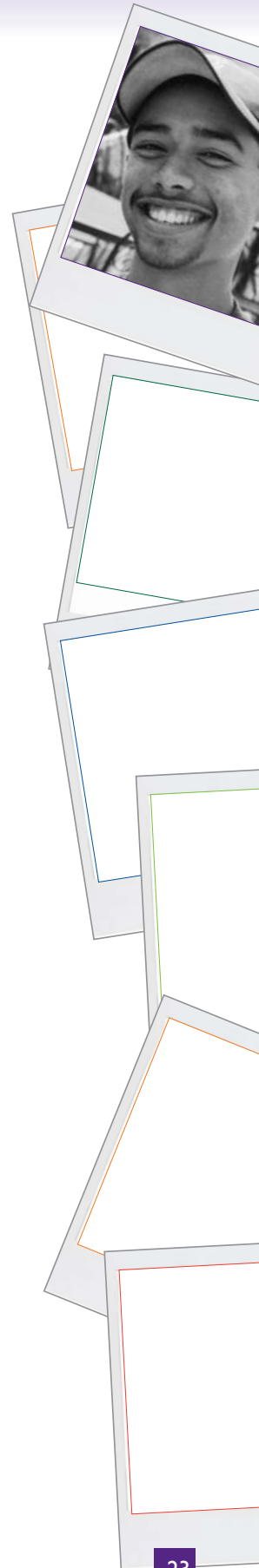
All teens: Increased 17.6%

Boys: Increased 13.3%

Girls: Increased 25%

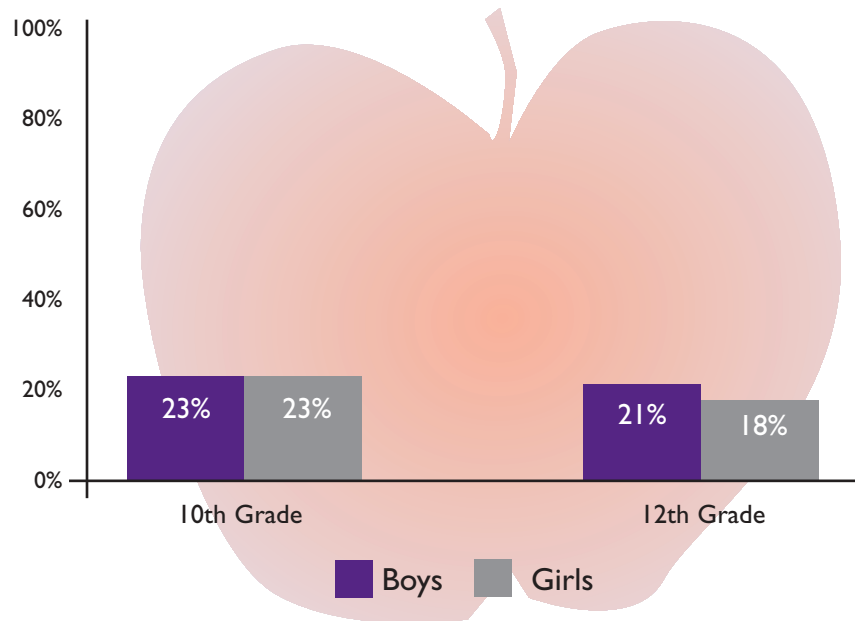
The proportion of high school teens who said they used alcohol and/or illegal drugs the last time they had sex increased significantly between 1991 and 2003. Fully one in four (25.4%) teens in grades 9-12 say they used alcohol/drugs the last time they had sex.

*Source: National Campaign analysis of 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*



## EATING HABITS

**Students in grades 10 and 12 who report eating five or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day during the past seven days, 2003.**



*Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Adolescent and School Health. Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2003.*

Only about one in five high school students eats the recommended number of servings of fruits and vegetables each day. Students in the twelfth grade are even less likely than students in the tenth grade to eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily. Only 23% of tenth grade teens eat adequate amounts of fruits and vegetables. By twelfth grade, only 21% of boys and 18% of girls eat the suggested amounts of fruits and vegetables.

## WEIGHT

## Overweight adolescents (aged 12-19), 1971-2002

|              | 1971-1974 | 1988-1994 | 1999-2002 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Boys</b>  | 6.1%      | 11.3%     | 16.7%     |
| <b>Girls</b> | 6.2%      | 9.7%      | 15.4%     |


**Mean weight of 15-year-olds,  
1966 and 2002**
**15-year-old girl:**

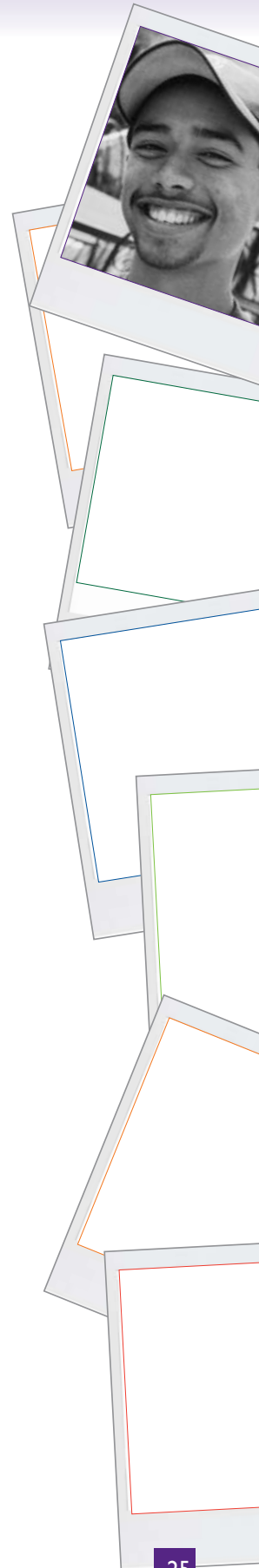
1966: 124.2 lbs  
2002: 134.4 lbs

**15-year-old boy:**

1966: 135.5 lbs  
2002: 150.3 lbs

Source: The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES).

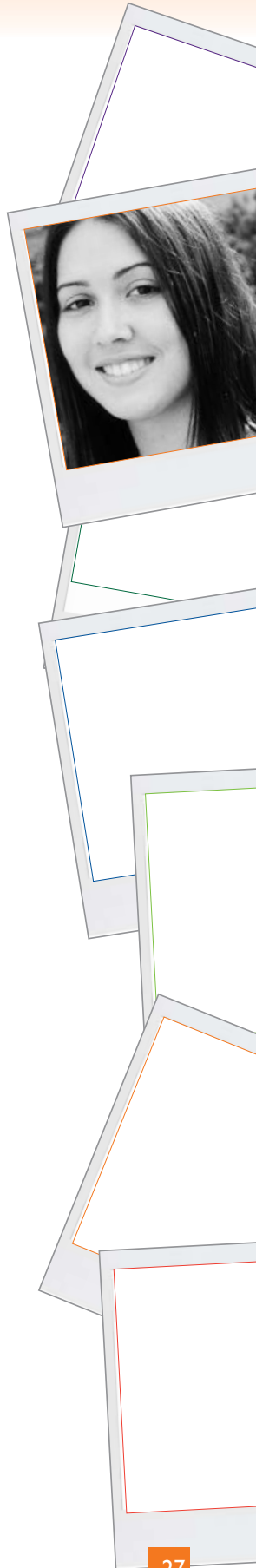
The percentage of adolescents who are overweight and their average weight have both increased dramatically in the last 40 years. The percentage of teens who are overweight has more than doubled since the early 1970s. The mean weight among boys and girls aged 12-17 has increased between 12 and 15 pounds between the 1960s and 2002.





1 2 3 4 5 6 7

FAMILY





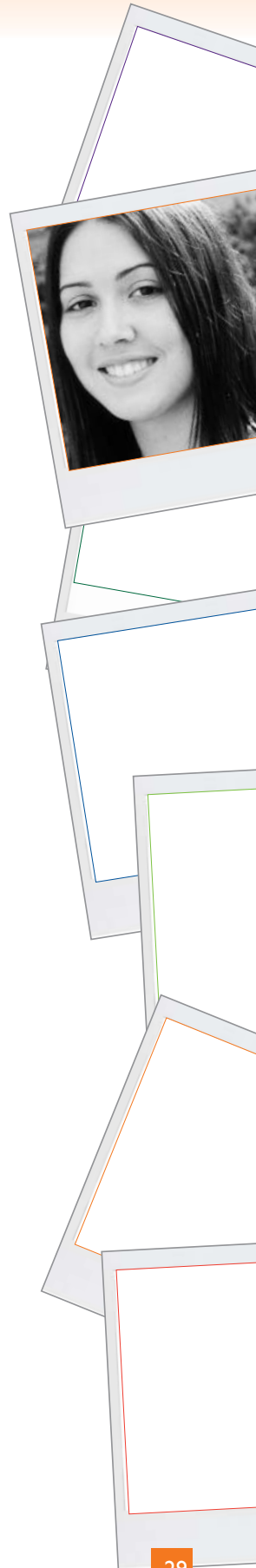
# Family

**F**amilies are an important influence on teens' sexual attitudes and behavior. Both family structure and family relationships are strongly associated with teens' attitudes and decisions regarding sex and contraception.

Teens who grow up in families with two biological parents are more likely to begin having sex at an older age, use contraception more effectively, and avoid teen parenthood than teens who grow up in other family structures.<sup>1</sup> Strong parent-teen relationships and parental monitoring also are a vital influence.<sup>1</sup> Teens who have close relationships with parents—characterized by strong emotional bonds, shared activities, and open communication about sex and related issues—are less likely to engage in

risky sexual behavior. Parental monitoring of children may also help teens delay sexual initiation and make healthy decisions about sex, pregnancy, and childbearing.

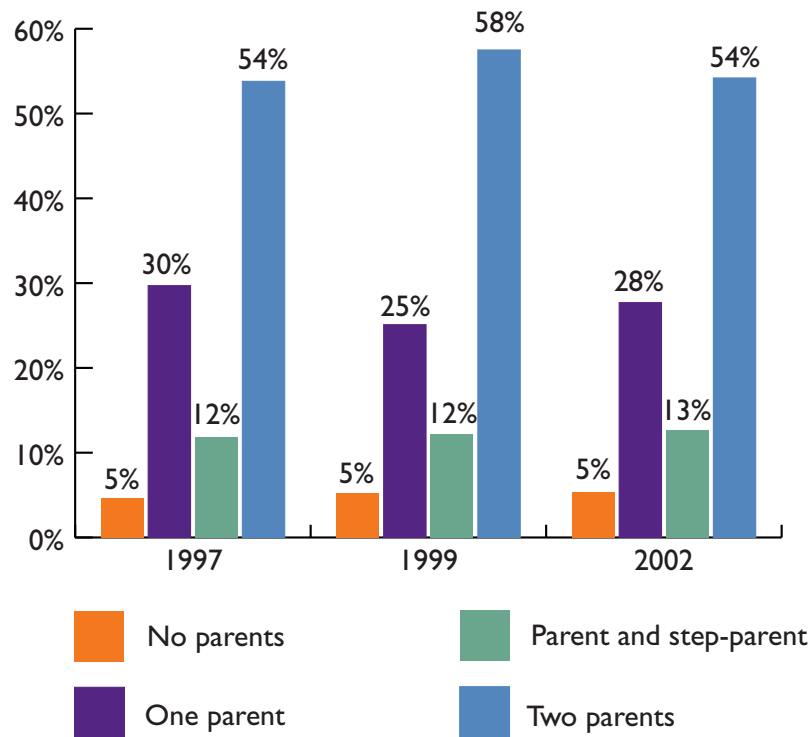
As one might expect, teens' attitudes toward sex are closely linked to their sexual behavior. The majority of teens believe high-schoolers are too young to have sexual intercourse and believe that sex should occur only in committed, long-term relationships.<sup>2</sup> Teens who hold cautious attitudes towards teenage sex and nonmarital childbearing are more likely to wait until they are older to begin having sex and are less likely to become pregnant than their peers who have more liberal beliefs about such topics.<sup>3,4</sup>



- 
- 1 Miller, B. C. (1998). *Families matter: A research synthesis of family influences on adolescent pregnancy*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy.
  - 2 Abma, J. C., Martinez, G. M., Mosher, W. D., & Dawson, B. S. (2004). *Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2002*. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.
  - 3 Carvajal, S. C., Parcel, G. S., Basen-Engquist, K., Banspach, S. W., Coyle, K. K., Kirby, D., et al. (1999). Psychosocial predictors of delay of first sexual intercourse by adolescents. *Health Psychology, 18*(5), 443-452.
  - 4 Resnick, M. D., Bearman, P. S., Blum, R. W., Bauman, K. E., Harris, K. M., Jones, J., et al. (1997). Protecting adolescents from harm: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health. *Jama: Journal of the American Medical Association, 278*(10), 823-832.

## FAMILY STRUCTURE

Adolescents (aged 12-17) according to their family structure,<sup>8</sup> 1997-2002.



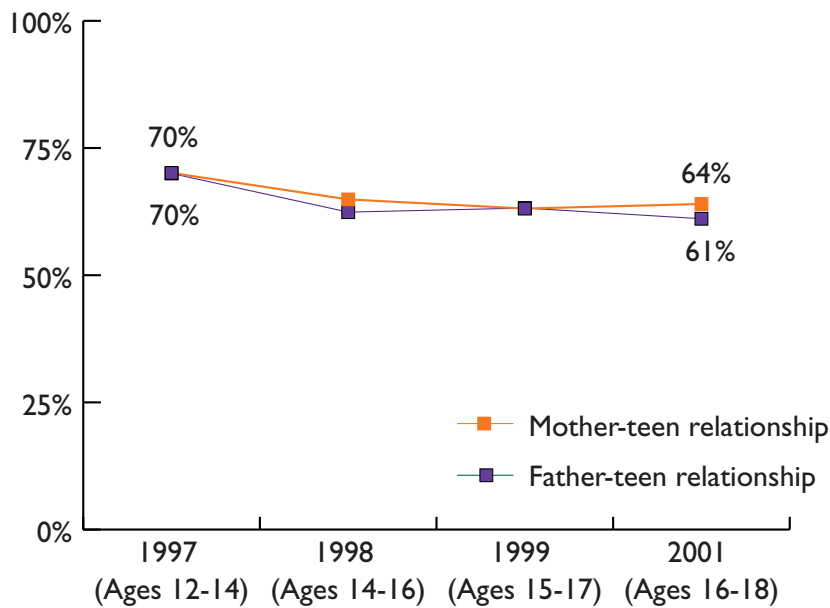
Source: Original analysis by Child Trends of data from the National Survey of America's Families, 1997-2002, based on reports by most knowledgeable adult in household.

In 2002, slightly more than half (54%) of adolescents aged 12-17 lived with two biological or adoptive parents, and 28% live with one biological parent. Thirteen percent lived in a family which includes a biological parent and a step-parent. Five percent of adolescents lived with relatives other than parents or with unrelated adults. The proportion of adolescents living in each family type has remained fairly stable between 1997 and 2002.

<sup>8</sup> Family structure is defined as follows: "No parents" measures children living with unrelated adults or with relatives other than parents. "One parent" measures children living with a single biological parent (the household may contain this parent's unmarried partner). "Blended" measures children living with one biological or adoptive parent and one step parent (parents must be married). "Two parents" measures children living with two biological or adoptive parents (married or unmarried).

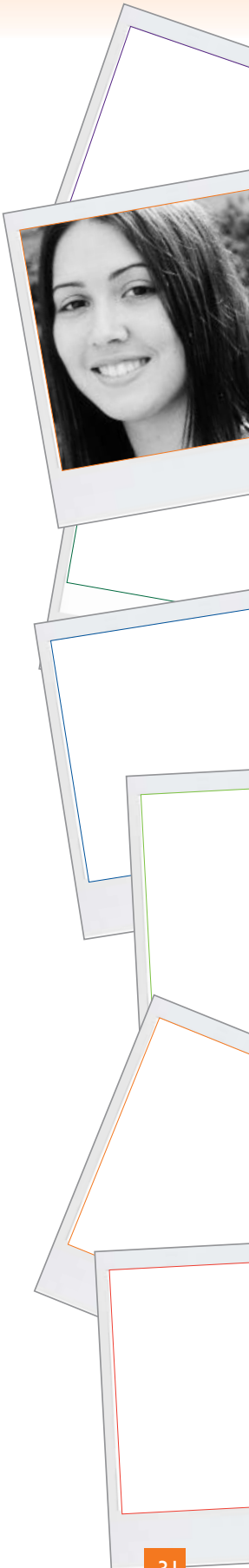
RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARENTS

Adolescents (aged 12-18) who report they have a positive relationship<sup>9</sup> with their residential parents, 1997-2001.



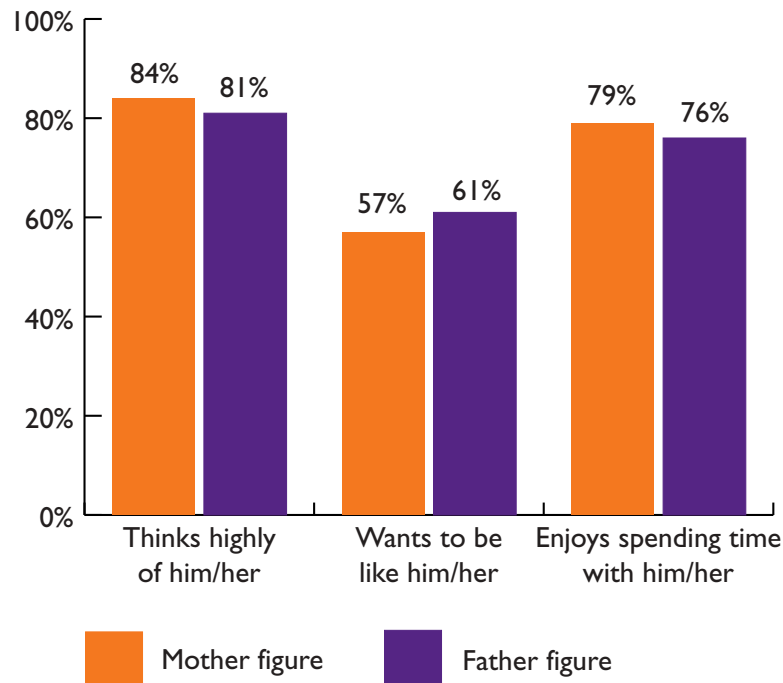
Source: Original analysis by Child Trends of adolescent-report data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, Rounds 1 through 4.

9 A positive relationship is defined by a 3-item scale that consists of the statements "I think highly of him/her", "She/He is a person I want to be like", and "I really enjoy spending time with him/her". Adolescents who reported a score of nine or more out of 12 on the 3-item scale were characterized as having a positive relationship with their parent. Residential parents include biological, adoptive, step- and other parent-figures.



## RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARENTS

Teens (aged 15-17) who strongly agree or agree with the following statements describing their relationships with each of their parents, 1999.



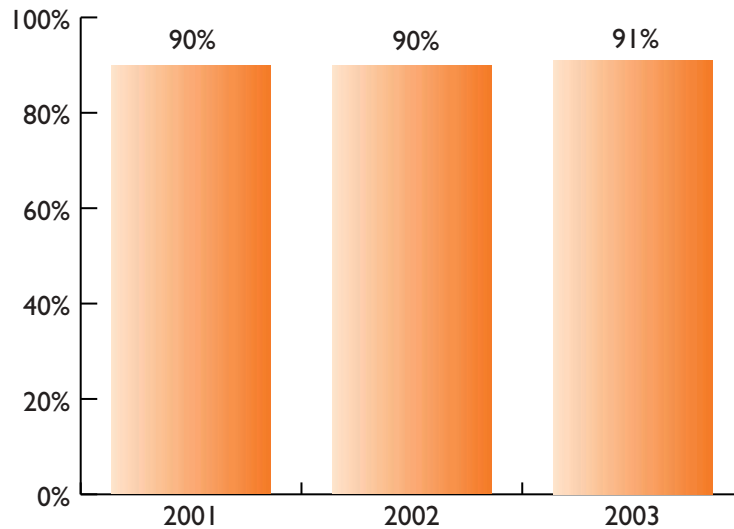
Source: Original analysis by Child Trends of adolescent-report data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, Rounds 1 through 4.

Parents may be surprised to learn that most teens describe the relationship they have with their mothers and fathers as positive. Seven in ten young teens aged 12-14 report a positive relationship with their parents or parent figures who reside with them. Specifically, teens say they admire their parents, enjoy spending time with them, and want to be like them. This positive assessment declines slightly as teens get older. By ages 16-18, 64% of teens report a positive relationship with their mother and 61% report a positive relationship with their father.

Among teens aged 15-17, 84% think highly of their mother and 81% think highly of their father. More than three out of four teens say that they enjoy spending time with their mother or father (79% for mother; 76% for father). The majority of teens also want to emulate their parents, with 57% reporting they want to be like their mother and 61% reporting they want to be like their father.

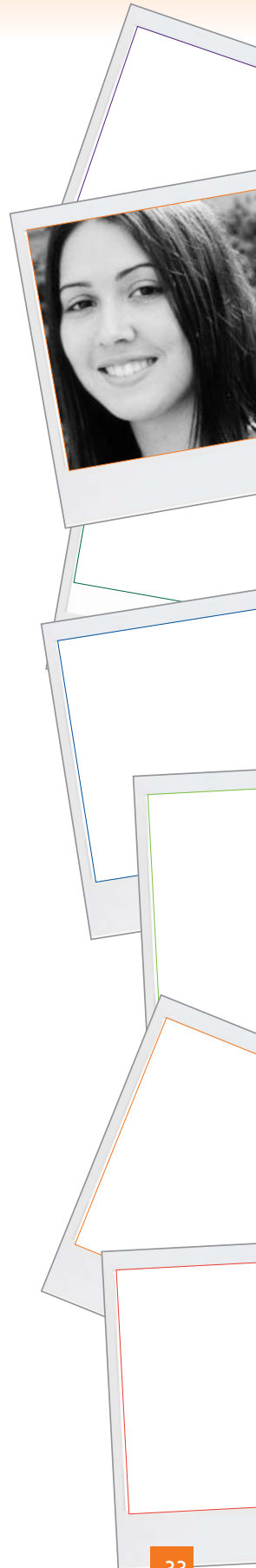
## FAMILY COMMUNICATION

**High school students who report they have at least one family member in whom they can confide and talk to about things, 2001-2003.**



*Source: The State of Our Nation's Youth, Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc., 2003. Based on polling data from 2001-2003.*

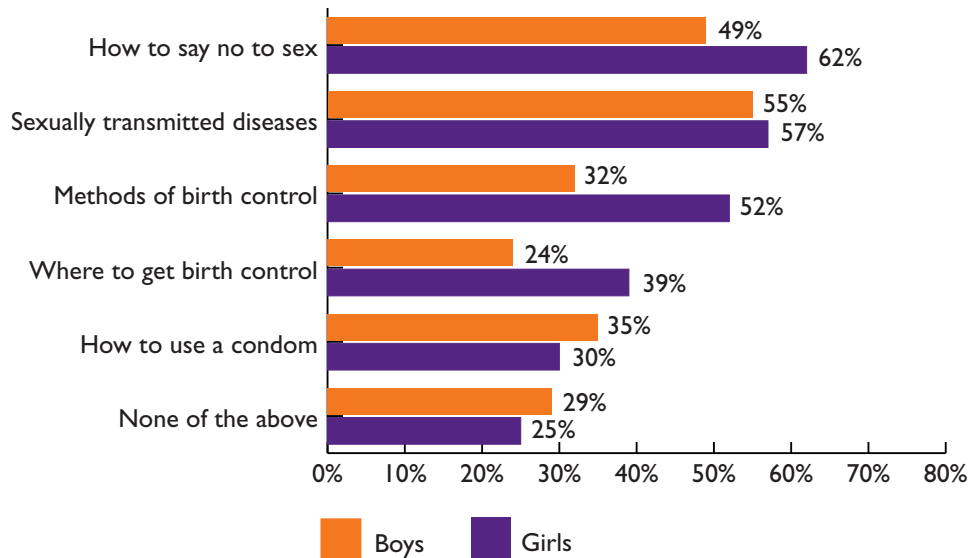
The vast majority (90%) of high school students have at least one family member in whom they can confide and with whom they can talk about things. This percentage has remained stable over the past several years.



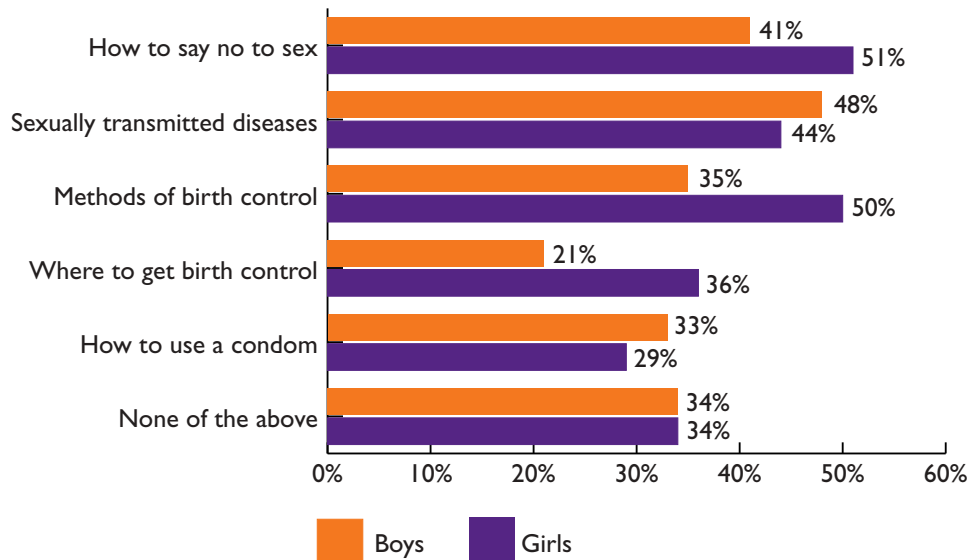
## DISCUSSIONS WITH PARENTS ABOUT SEX

Teens (aged 15-19) who report that they have ever had discussions with their parents about sex and related issues, 2002

### Ages 15-17



### Ages 18-19



Source: Child Trends analysis of National Survey of Family Growth data, 2002. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.

## DISCUSSIONS WITH PARENTS ABOUT SEX

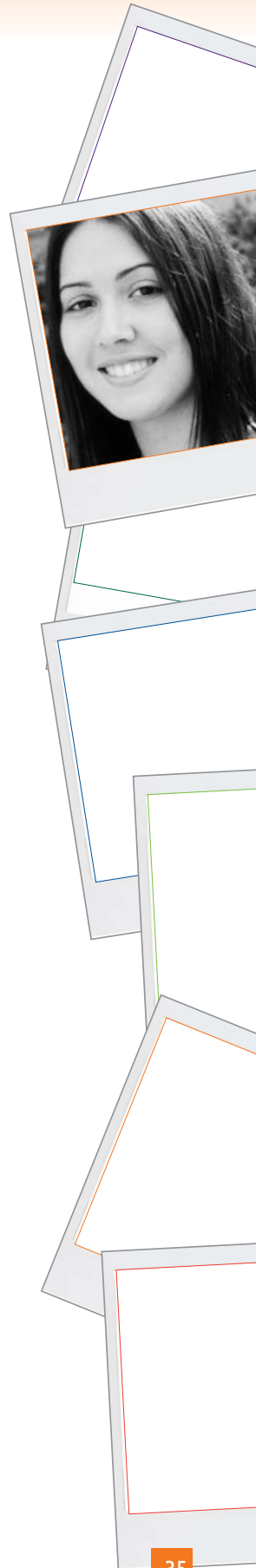
At least one-third of teens (aged 15-19)—and often significantly higher percentages—say they have *not* discussed a variety of sexual issues with their parents, including how to say no to sex, STDs, and contraception. Surprisingly, older teens (aged 18-19) are more likely than younger teens (aged 15-17) to say they have not discussed these issues with their parents. About one-third of 18-19 year old boys and girls (34% each) report that they have not had a single discussion with their parents on any of the topics listed above, while 29% of 15-17 year old boys and 25% of 15-17 year old girls say they have not discussed these issues with their parents.

The topics parents discuss with their children vary by gender. Girls are more likely than boys in both age groups to have talked with their parents about how to say no to sex. Similarly, about half of girls in both age groups report discussions with their parents about methods of birth control, compared with only about one-third of boys, and close to 40% of girls have discussed where to get birth control, compared to less than one-quarter of boys. On the other hand, boys in both age groups are more likely than girls to have had discussions with their parents about how to use a condom, and among older teens, boys are more likely than girls to have discussed STDs.

### ★ **FLASH FACT: Parents versus peers**

TEENS REPORT THAT PARENTS **MOST** INFLUENCE THEIR DECISIONS ABOUT SEX. ADULTS, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT FRIENDS—NOT PARENTS—MOST INFLUENCE TEENS DECISIONS.

Source: With One Voice: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy. Published by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2004.



**PARENTAL AWARENESS  
OF TEEN SEXUAL ACTIVITY**

---

**Do Parents Know If Their Teen Children Have Had Sex?**

**Mother Believes Sexually Experienced Teen (8th-11th grade) Has Had Sexual Intercourse, 1996**

| No  | Yes |
|-----|-----|
| 49% | 51% |

Many parents are not aware that their children have had sex. For example, only about one-third of parents of sexually experienced 14-year-olds believe that their child has had sex.<sup>10</sup> As noted above, about half of parents of sexually experienced 8th – 11th graders were unaware that their sons and daughters had started to have sex.

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10 Brückner H., & Bearman, P. (2003). Dating behavior and sexual activity of young adolescents: Analyses of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. In Albert, B., Brown, S., and Fanigan, C. (Eds.), *14 and younger: the sexual behavior of young adolescents* (pp 31-56). Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

**GRADING PARENTS**

**Grade adolescents (aged 12-19) give parents for understanding the "realities of teen sex," 2005**

|    | 1999  | 2003  | 2005  |
|----|-------|-------|-------|
| A: | 15.9% | 17.8% | 20.1% |
| B: | 17.1% | 20.5% | 23.1% |
| C: | 29.5% | 25.7% | 24.3% |
| D: | 19.6% | 18.6% | 18%   |
| F: | 17.8% | 17.4% | 14.6% |

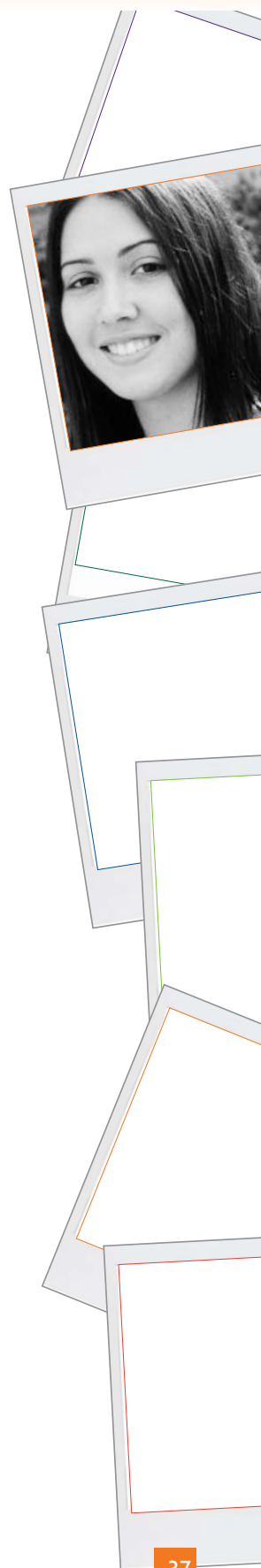
Source: The 2005 UCAN Teen Report Card.

Two-thirds of teens aged 12-19 give adults a passing grade for understanding the "realities of teen sex" while nearly one-third (32.6%) give parents a below average or failing grade. The percentage of teens who give their parents a passing grade increased between 1999 and 2005.

**★ Flash Fact**

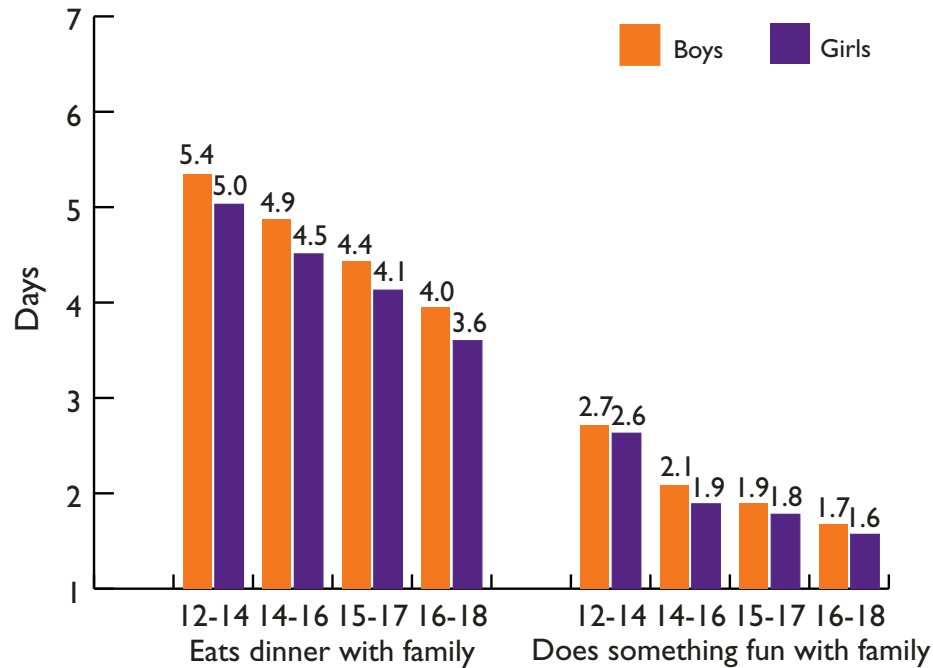
TEENS AGED 12-19 SPEND AN AVERAGE OF \$91 PER WEEK IN 2004. THIS FIGURE INCLUDES TEENS'S OWN MONEY AND MONEY THEY RECEIVE AS ALLOWANCES, GIFTS, AND OTHER SPENDING MONEY FROM PARENTS. TEEN SPENDING INCREASED AN AVERAGE OF 5% PER YEAR BETWEEN 1998 AND 2004.

Source: Teen Research Unlimited Press Release December 1, 2004



**FAMILY ROUTINES**

**Number of days adolescents (aged 12-18) report that they spend in a typical week eating dinner with their family and doing something fun as a family,<sup>11</sup> 1997-2001<sup>12</sup>**



Source: Child Trends analysis of National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Surveys.

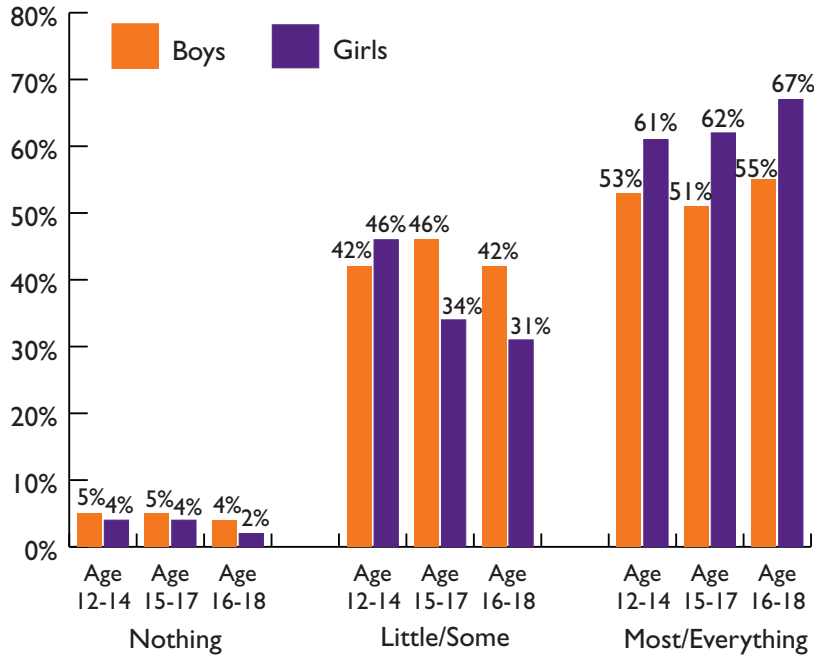
On average, teens aged 12-14 eat dinner with their families about five nights a week and do something fun together with their families about three times a week. These activities happen less frequently as teens age. Nevertheless, teens aged 16-18 eat dinner with their families four days a week, on average, and do something fun with their families about twice a week. Boys are slightly more likely to report eating dinner with their families and doing something fun with their families than girls at every age.

<sup>11</sup> Something fun as a family such as playing a game, going to a sporting event, going swimming, and so forth.  
<sup>12</sup> Data come from the first four rounds of a cohort study, the National Longitudinal Study of Youth 1997. Round 1 was completed in 1997 with youth between the ages of 12-14. Round 2 was completed in 1998-1999 with youth between the ages of 14-16. Round 3 was completed in 1999-2000 with youth between the ages of 15-17. Round 4 was completed in 2000-2001 with youth between the ages of 16-18.

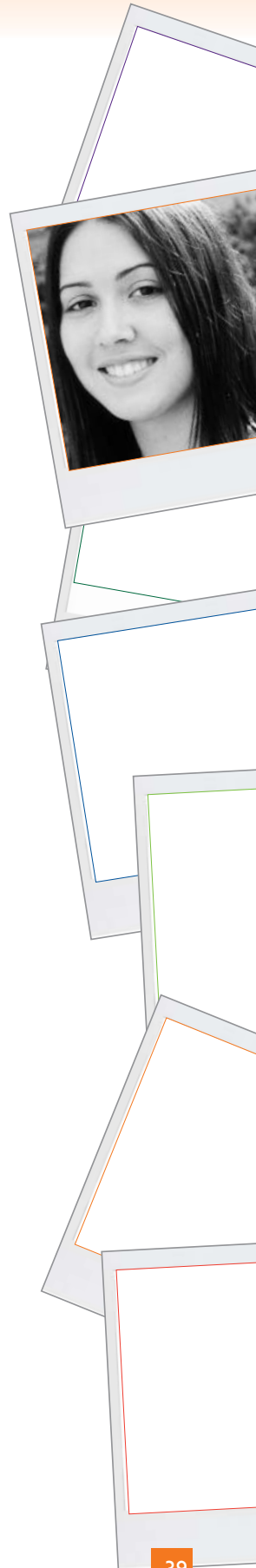
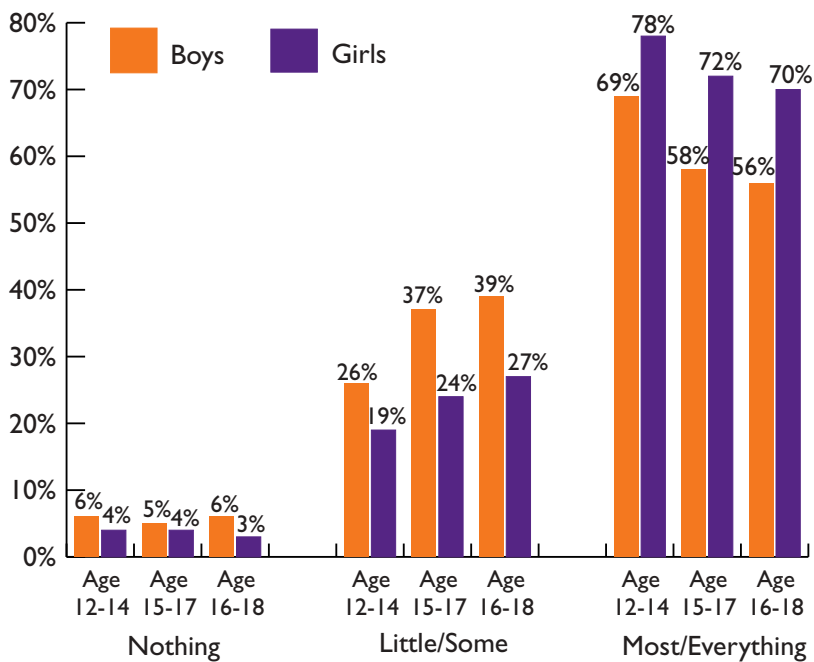
PARENTAL MONITORING

Adolescent opinion (aged 12-19):  
How much do your parents know about...

Your close friends



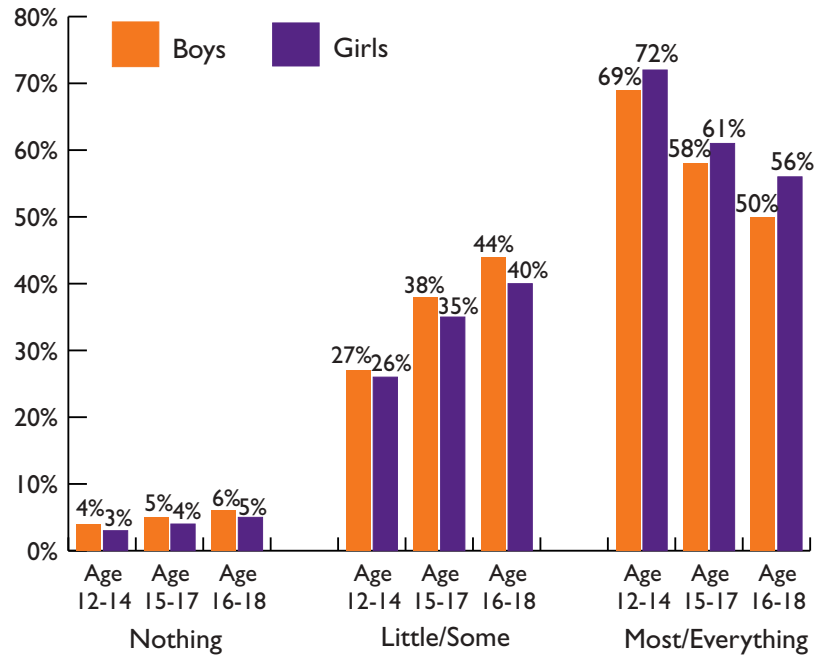
Who you are with when you're not at home



## PARENTAL MONITORING

### Adolescent opinion (aged 12-19): How much do your parents know about...

#### Your teachers and school



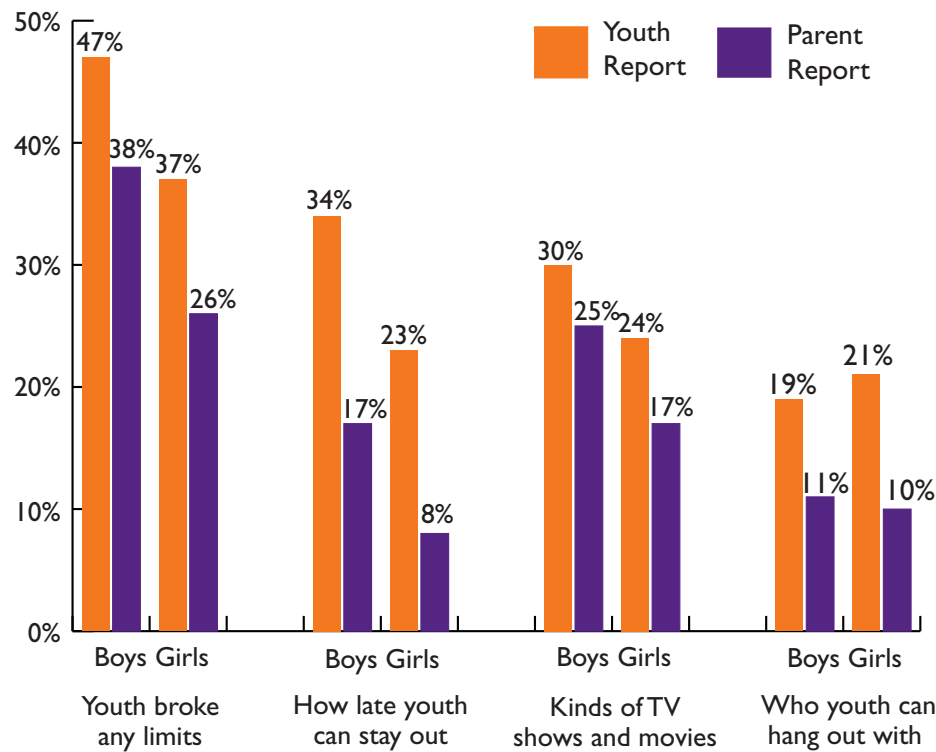
Source: Child Trends analysis of National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Surveys.

Adolescents apparently share a lot of information about their friends, their activities, and their teachers and schools with their parents. At least one-half of teens of all ages—and often significantly more—report that their parents know everything or most things<sup>13</sup> about their close friends, who they are with when they're not at home, and their teachers and school. A small but significant proportion of teens say their parents know only a little about these topics, and a very small proportion (6% or less) of teens say that their parents know nothing about these topics. Girls are far more likely than boys (approximately 10% in each age group) to report that their parents know everything or most things about their close friends and who they are with when not at home, and are slightly more likely than boys to say their parents know most everything about their teachers and school. As teens age, they are less likely to report that their parents know everything or most things about who they are with when not at home and their teachers and school.

<sup>13</sup> The category "Nothing" is comprised of the response category "Knows nothing". The category "Little/Some" is comprised of the response categories "Knows just a little" and "Knows some things". The category "Most/Everything" is comprised of the response categories "Knows most things" and "Knows everything".

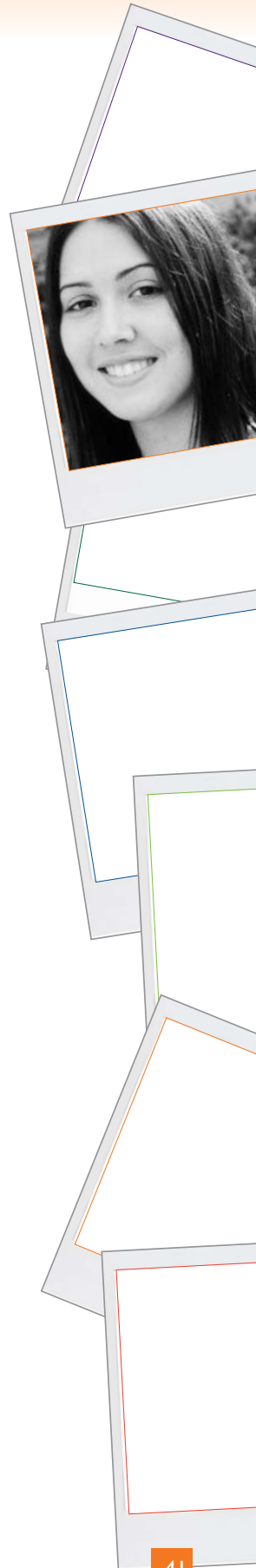
**BREAKING RULES**

**Adolescents (aged 12-13) who broke selected rules in the past month, as reported by youth and their parents, 1997.**



Source: Child Trends analysis of National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, Round 1, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Surveys.

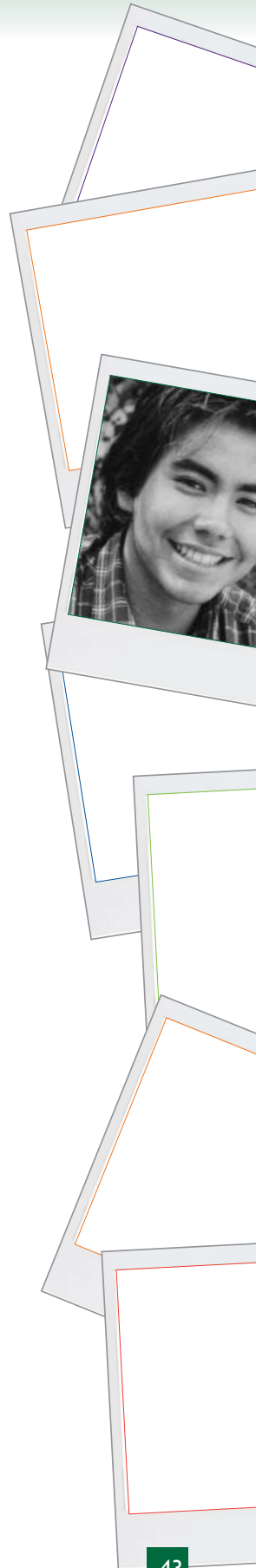
Young teens are breaking more rules than their parents realize. These rules include, how late teens can stay out and who they can hang out with, as well as the kind of TV shows and movies teens can view. Teens aged 12-13 say that they break behavioral rules set by their parents more often than their parents say they break these rules. Almost half of boys (47%) aged 12-13 say that they have broken any of the rules set by their parents, but only 38% of their parents believe their children have broken their rules. The same pattern is true for girls—37% say that they have broken the rules set by their parents but only 26% of their parents believe they have done so. Boys are more likely than girls to break rules on how late they can stay out and what kinds of TV and movies they can watch, while girls are slightly more likely than boys to go against the limits set by their parents on who they can hang out with.





1 2 3 4 5 6 7

PEER AND  
PARTNER  
RELATIONSHIPS



# PEER AND PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

## Peer and Partner Relationships

Research supports the common sense conclusion that teenagers' peers and romantic partners can influence their own sexual behavior. It will surprise no one that research indicates that teen girls who are popular or belong to the "in-crowd" at school are more likely to have had sex than those teens who are not as popular or part of the in-crowd peer group.<sup>1</sup> Teen girls who have older friends tend to have sex at an earlier age than those with younger or same-age friends,<sup>1</sup> and teens in a romantic relationship are, not surprisingly, more likely to have sex than those not romantically involved with someone.<sup>1</sup>

Teens in a romantic relationship with an older partner are more likely to have sex at an early age and to not use contraception or use it inconsistently as compared to teens with a partner the same age or slightly older. Consequently, teens with older partners are more likely to get pregnant.<sup>2-4</sup>

Also, *non-voluntary* sexual experiences in childhood and dating violence may increase the risk of young women having sex *voluntarily* at an early age, having multiple sexual partners, not using contraception, and getting pregnant as a teen.<sup>5,6</sup>

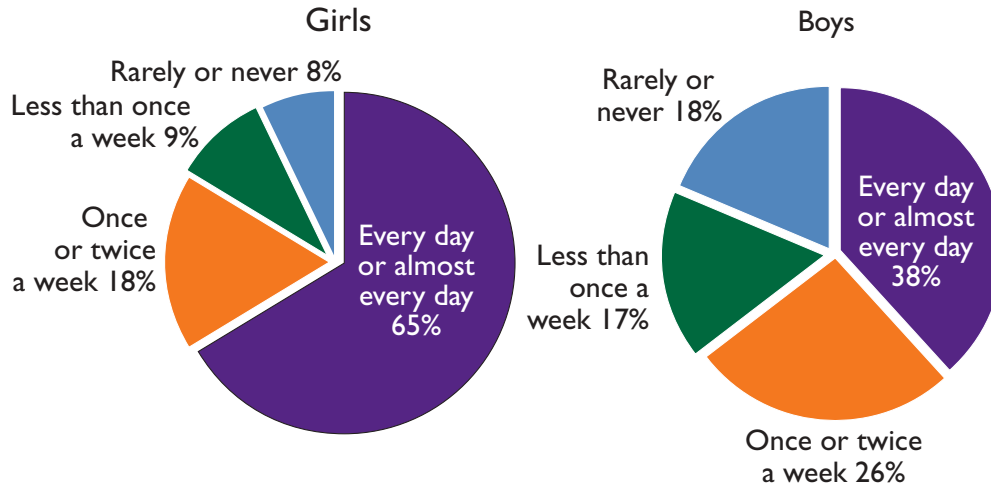


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- 1 Bearman, P., & Brückner, H. (1999). *Power in numbers: Peer effects on adolescent girls' sexual debut and pregnancy*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
  - 2 Darroch, J. E., Landry, D. J., & Oslak, S. (1999). Age differences between sexual partners in the United States. *Family Planning Perspectives, 31*(4), 160-167.
  - 3 Zavodny, M. (2001). The effect of partners' characteristics on teenage pregnancy and its resolution. *Family Planning Perspectives, 33*(5), 192-199, 205.
  - 4 Manlove, Ryan, S., & Franzetta, K. (2003). Contraceptive Use Patterns within Teens' First Sexual Relationships. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, 35*(6), 246-255.
  - 5 Stock, J., L., Bell, M. A., Boyer, D. K., & Connell, F. A. (1997). Adolescent pregnancy and sexual risk-taking among sexually abused girls. *Family Planning Perspectives, 29*(5), 200-203, 227.
  - 6 Valois, R. F., Oeltmann, J. E., Waller, J., & Hussey, J. R. (1999). Relationship between number of sexual intercourse partners and selected health risk behaviors among public high school adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 25*(5), 328-335.

# PEER AND PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

## TALKING ON THE TELEPHONE

### How often 10th grade students talk on the telephone with friends, 2002



Source: Child Trends analysis of the 2002 Education Longitudinal Study of the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

Even though teens are increasingly communicating via instant messaging and emails, using the telephone to talk to friends is still quite common. Tenth grade girls are much more likely to talk on the phone with friends than tenth grade boys are. The majority of girls (65%) report that they talk on the phone with friends every day or almost every day, compared with just 38% of boys. At the other end of the spectrum, one out of five boys say that they rarely or never talk on the phone with friends, compared with only 8% of girls.

### ★ FLASH FACTS: Cell Phones

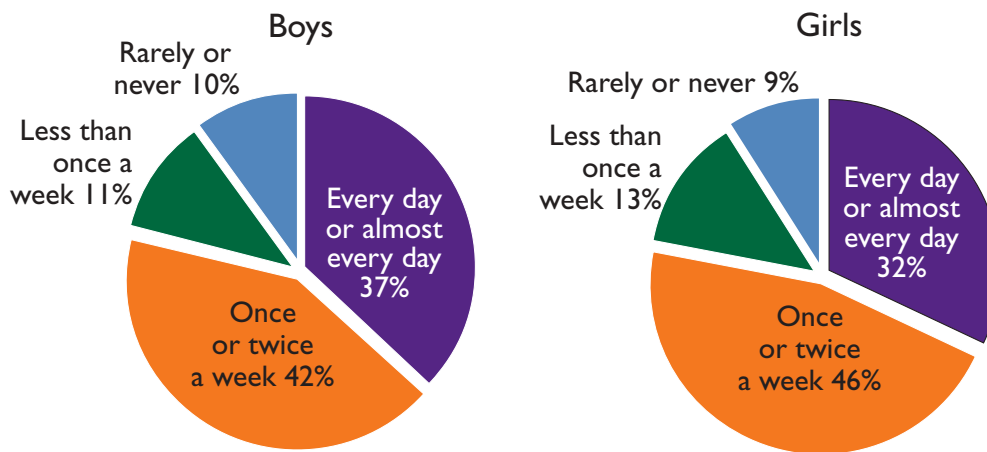
ALMOST HALF (45%) OF ADOLESCENTS AGED 12-17 HAVE THEIR OWN CELL PHONE. ALMOST SIX IN TEN (57%) OF OLDER TEENS (AGED 15-17) HAVE A CELL PHONE.

Source: Teens and Technology. Published by the Pew Internet and American Life Project, July 2005.

# PEER AND PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

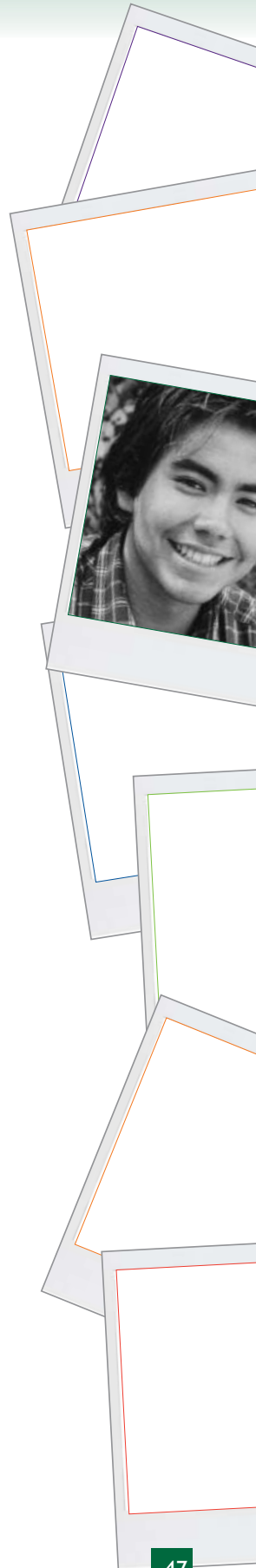
## HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS

**How often 10th grade students visit with friends at local hangouts, 2002.**



Source: Child Trends analysis of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Education Longitudinal Study, 2002.

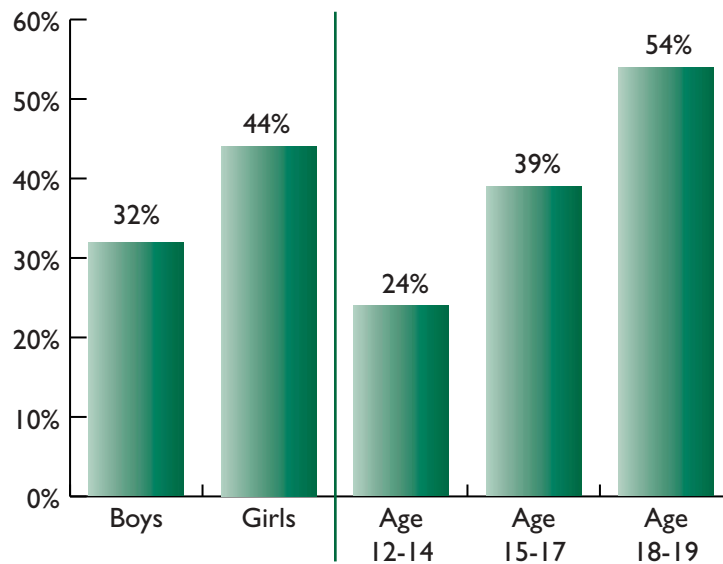
Most tenth grade students report that they hang out with friends frequently. Over 30% visit with friends every day or almost every day (37% of boys and 32% of girls) and another 40% hang out with friends once or twice a week (46% of girls and 42% of boys). Only 11% of boys and 13% of girls see their friends less than once a week, and 10% of boys and 9% of girls see their friends rarely or never.



# PEER AND PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

## ON-GOING ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

**Adolescents (aged 12-19) who are currently in an on-going romantic relationship, 1995-1996.**



*Source: Child Trends analysis of National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, 1995-1996.*

Teen girls (aged 12-19) are more likely than teen boys (aged 12-19) to be in an on-going romantic relationship. More than two in five teen girls (44%) say they are in an on-going romantic relationship, compared with approximately one in three teen boys (32%). Fully one-quarter (24%) of teens aged 12-14 are in an on-going romantic relationship, while over one-half (54%) of teens aged 18-19 are in such a relationship.

# PEER AND PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

## PEER INFLUENCE

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### When it comes to decisions about sex, what influence do teens have on each other, 1999

#### Teens (aged 12-17)

Very positive: 13.5%

Somewhat positive: 45.4%

No influence at all: 9.7%

Somewhat negative: 21.8%

Very negative: 3.8%

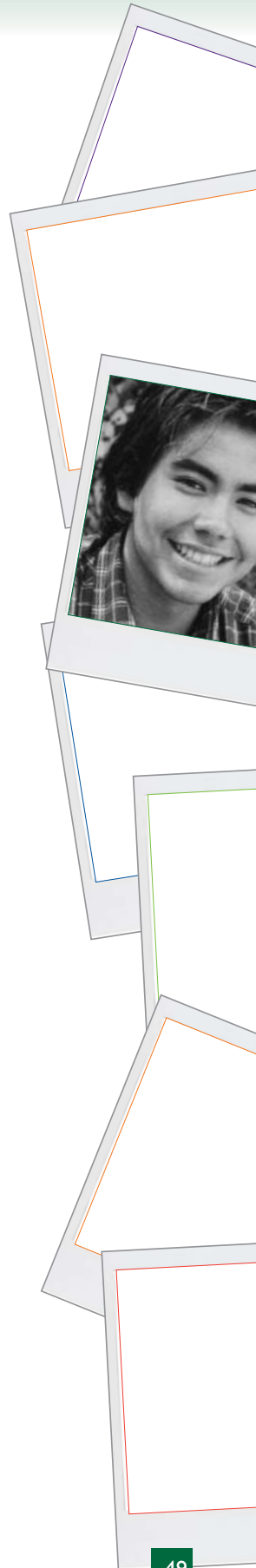
Don't know: 5.3%

Source: *Are Peers Getting a Bad Rap?*, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 1999.

When it comes to peer influence over teens' decisions about sex, most adults tend to focus on negative "peer pressure." Social science suggests, however, that peer influence is both more diffuse (operating at multiple levels, including best friends, close friends, and a larger group of peers) and more positive than is generally believed.<sup>14</sup> Despite conventional wisdom about peer pressure, the clear majority of teens (58.9%) say that, when it comes to decisions about sex, teens exert a positive influence on each other. Only about one-quarter (25.6%) say that teens are a negative influence on each other.

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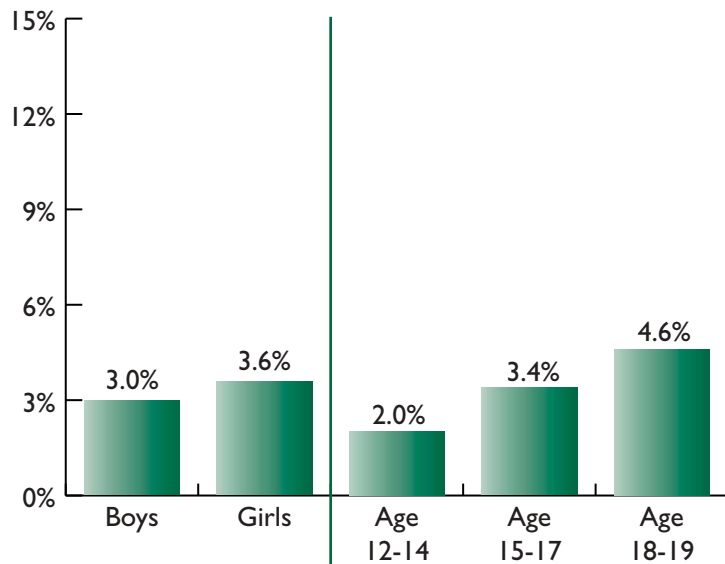
14 Bearman, P. Brückner, H., Brown, B., Theobald, W., & Philliber, S. (1999). *Peer Potential: Making the Most of How Teens Influence Each Other*. Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.



# PEER AND PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

## SAME-SEX DATING RELATIONSHIPS

**Adolescents (aged 12-19) who have had a same-sex dating relationship,<sup>15</sup> 1995-1996.**



Source: Child Trends analysis of National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, 1995-1996.

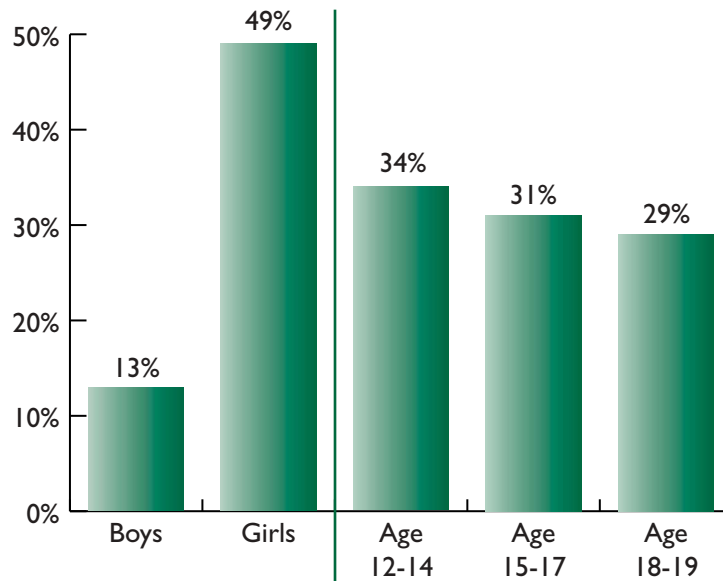
A small percentage of adolescents aged 12-19 (3% of boys and about 4% of girls) have had a dating relationship with someone of the same sex. Older teens are more likely than younger teens to have had this type of relationship. Two percent of teens aged 12-14 have ever had a same-sex dating relationship, compared with about 3% of teens aged 15-17 and about 5% of teens aged 18-19.

<sup>15</sup> A same-sex dating relationship is a romantic or sexual relationship with a partner of the same sex.

# PEER AND PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

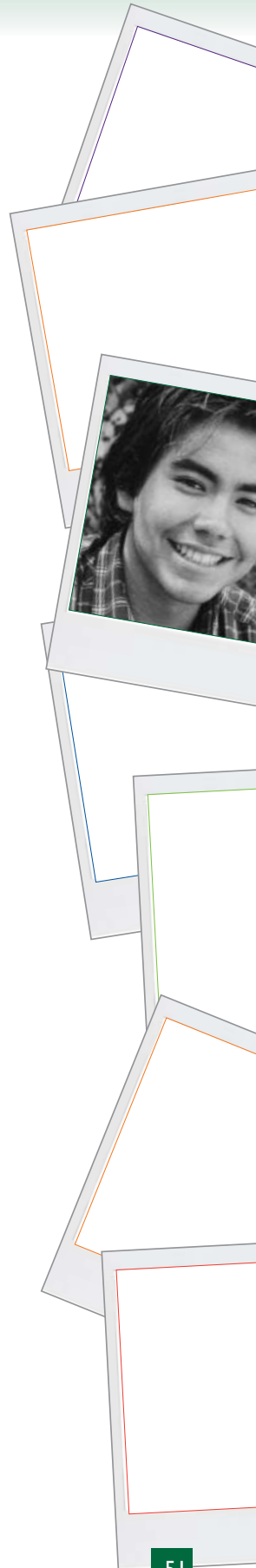
## SEX WITH OLDER PARTNERS

**Sexually experienced adolescents (aged 12-19) who have had a sexual partner three or more years older than themselves, 1995-1996.**



*Source: Child Trends analysis of National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, 1995-1996.*

Sexually experienced girls are *far* more likely than sexually experienced boys to report that they have had a sexual partner three or more years older than themselves. Almost one-half (49%) of sexually experienced teen girls compared to 13% of sexually experienced teen boys have had a sexual partner at least three years older than themselves. It is worth noting that one-third of young teens (aged 12-14) say they have had a partner three or more years older.



# PEER AND PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

## SEX AND REGRET

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### **Sexually experienced adolescents (aged 12-19) who say they wish they had waited longer before having sex, 2004**

All sexually experienced teens: 66%

Sexually experienced teen boys: 63%

Sexually experienced teen girls: 69%

Sexually experienced teens aged 12-14: 71%

Sexually experienced teens aged 15-19: 63%

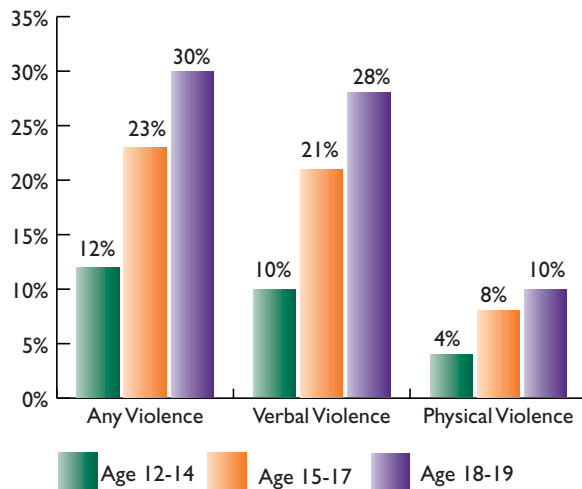
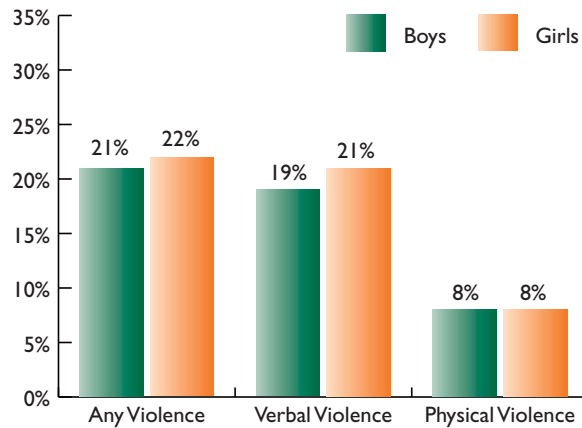
*Source: With One Voice 2004: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy*

Two-thirds of sexually experienced teens—both boys and girls and both older and younger teens— say they wish they had waited longer before having sex. It is worth noting that this particular finding has remained quite consistent between 2002 and 2004.

# PEER AND PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

## VIOLENCE IN DATING RELATIONSHIPS

Adolescents (aged 12-19) who report experiencing violence<sup>16</sup> in a dating relationship, 1995-1996.



Source: Child Trends analysis of National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, 1995-1996.

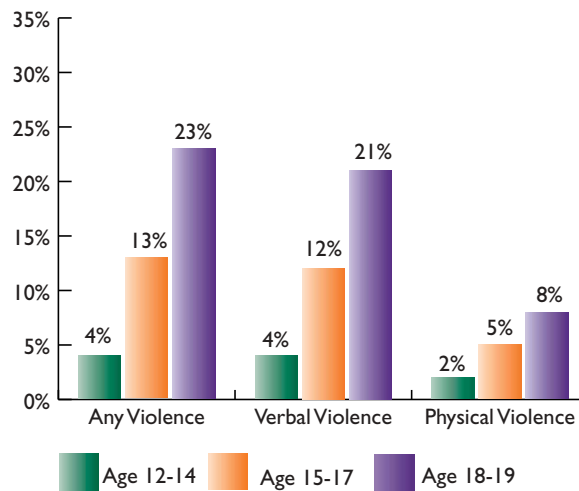
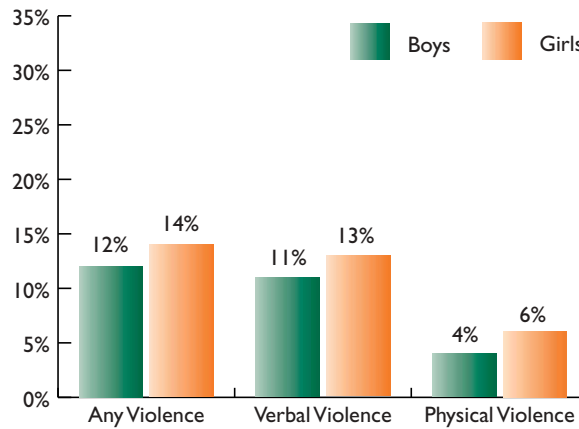
One in five teens aged 12-19 (21% of boys and 22% of girls) report that they have experienced some form of violence in a dating relationship—older teens more than younger teens. Approximately 20% of both boys and girls have experienced verbal violence and 8% have experienced physical violence in a dating relationship. About one in ten teens aged 12-14 report dating violence (12% report any violence, 10% report verbal violence, and 4% report physical violence) while teens aged 18-19 report the highest levels of dating violence (30% report any violence, 28% report verbal violence, and 10% report physical violence).

<sup>16</sup> Verbal violence involves a partner calling names, insulting, treating disrespectfully, swearing, or threatening with violence. Physical violence involves pushing, shoving, or throwing something that could cause injury.

# PEER AND PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

## VIOLENCE IN SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

### Adolescents (aged 12-19) who report experiencing violence<sup>17</sup> in a sexual relationship, 1995-1996.



Source: Child Trends analysis of National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, 1995-1996.

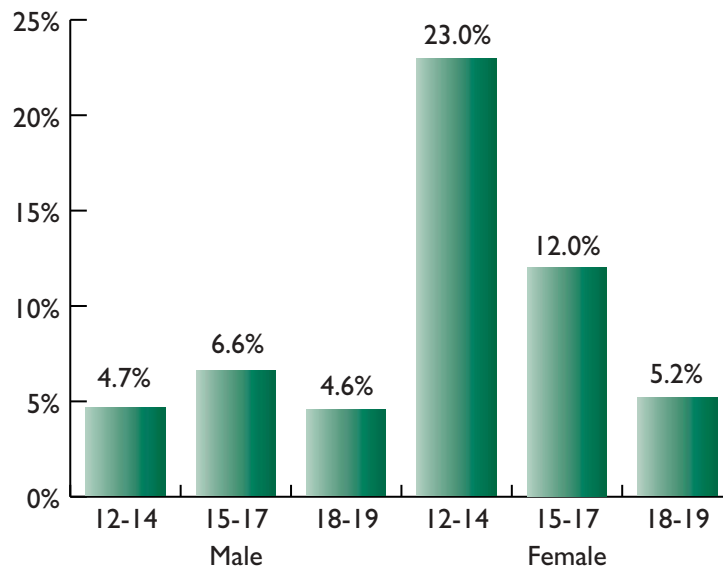
Girls (14%) are slightly more likely than boys (12%) to report violence in a sexual relationship, and older teens are more likely than younger teens to experience violence in a sexual relationship. Thirteen percent of girls and 11% of boys report verbal violence, and 6% of girls and 4% of boys report physical violence. Teens aged 12-14 report the lowest levels of violence in sexual relationships (4% report both any violence and verbal violence, and 2% report physical violence), while teens aged 18-19 report the highest levels of violence in sexual relationships (23% report any violence, 21% report verbal violence, and 8% report physical violence).

<sup>17</sup> Verbal violence involves a partner calling names, insulting, treating disrespectfully, swearing, or threatening with violence. Physical violence involves pushing, shoving, or throwing something that could cause injury.

# PEER AND PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

## UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCE

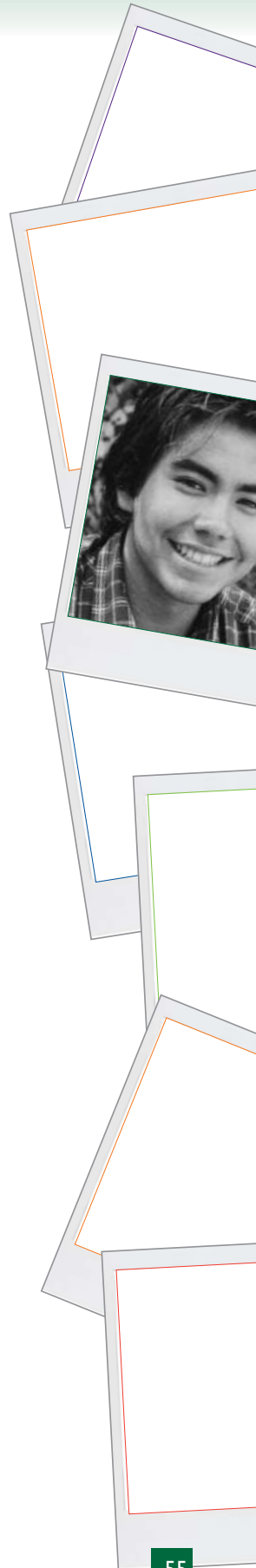
**Percent of first sexual experiences that were unwanted, by gender and age at first sex.**



Source: *Child Trends analysis of National Survey of Family Growth data, 2002. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.*

Young sexually experienced adolescent girls are more likely to have had an unwanted first sexual experience when compared with girls who were older the first time they had sex. Close to one-fourth of girls who first had sex between the ages of 12-14, report that their first sexual experience was unwanted (23%), compared to 12% of those who first had sex at ages 15-17, and 5% of girls who first had sex at ages 18-19.

On the other hand, fewer boys report that the first time they had sexual intercourse that it was unwanted (5-7%) and boys of all ages at first sex are equally as likely to report such experiences.



# PEER AND PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS

## WHAT CONCERNS TEEN GIRLS MOST (AGED 13-17), 2003

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|                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|
| Being attacked with a weapon = 35%        |
| Being forced to do something sexual = 34% |
| Getting a disease = 32%                   |
| Getting into a car accident = 29%         |
| Being gossiped about = 25%                |
| Being teased or made fun of = 22%         |
| Being kidnapped = 20%                     |
| War = 16%                                 |
| Terrorist attacks = 15%                   |
| Natural disasters = 13%                   |
| Being called names = 9%                   |

*Source: Feeling Safe: What Girls Say, a report from the Girl Scout Research Institute.*

Fully one-third of girls say they are concerned with being forced to do something sexual. (Please note, respondents could choose more than one response.)

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7

SCHOOL



# SCHOOL

# School

**T**here is a strong link between teens' decisions about sex and their connection to school. Teens' academic performance and engagement,\* perceptions of school supportiveness and connectedness,\*\* and involvement in after-school activities are all related to the risk of early sexual activity, pregnancy and childbearing.

Teens who feel connected to their schools and report a high level of engagement with school are less likely to have sex at an early age and are less likely to get pregnant.<sup>1,2</sup> Teens who receive good grades in school tend to delay sexual activity until they are older. They are also less likely to have a child out-of-wedlock as a teen.<sup>2,3</sup> Students who attend a school with

low rates of absenteeism are also more likely to delay sexual activity.<sup>2</sup> By contrast, high school dropouts are more likely to get pregnant as a teen.<sup>1</sup>

The ways in which teens spend their after-school time are also important— involvement in constructive extracurricular activities seems to promote responsible sexual behavior. Teen girls who spend time in school clubs and religious organizations are less likely to become teen parents<sup>3</sup> and their participation in sports is related to delayed sexual initiation and fewer sexual partners.<sup>4</sup> By contrast, teen boys who are involved in delinquent behavior are more likely to have sex at an early age at first sex and to get someone pregnant as a teen.<sup>5,6</sup>

- 
- 1 Manlove, J. (1998). The influence of high school dropout and school disengagement on the risk of school-age pregnancy. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 8(2), 187-220.
  - 2 Resnick, M. D., Bearman, P. S., Blum, R. W., Bauman, K. E., Harris, K. M., Jones, J., et al. (1997). Protecting adolescents from harm: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health. *Jama: Journal of the American Medical Association*, 278(10), 823-832.
  - 3 Moore, K. A., Manlove, J., Gleib, D. A., & Morrison, D. R. (1998). Nonmarital school-age motherhood: Family, individual, and school characteristics. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 13(4), 433-457.
  - 4 Miller, K. E., Sabo, D. F., Farrell, M. P., Barnes, G. M., & Melnick, M. J. (1998). Athletic participation and sexual behavior in adolescents: The different worlds of boys and girls. *Journal of Health & Social Behavior*, 39(2), 108-123.
  - 5 Miller, B. C., Norton, M. C., Curtis, T., Hill, E. J., Schvaneveldt, P., & Young, M. H. (1997). The timing of sexual intercourse among adolescents: Family, peer, and other antecedents. *Youth & Society*, 29(1), 54-83.
  - 6 Spingarn, R. W., & DuRant, R. H. (1996). Male adolescents involved in pregnancy: Associated health risk and problem behaviors. *Pediatrics*, 98(2), 262-268.
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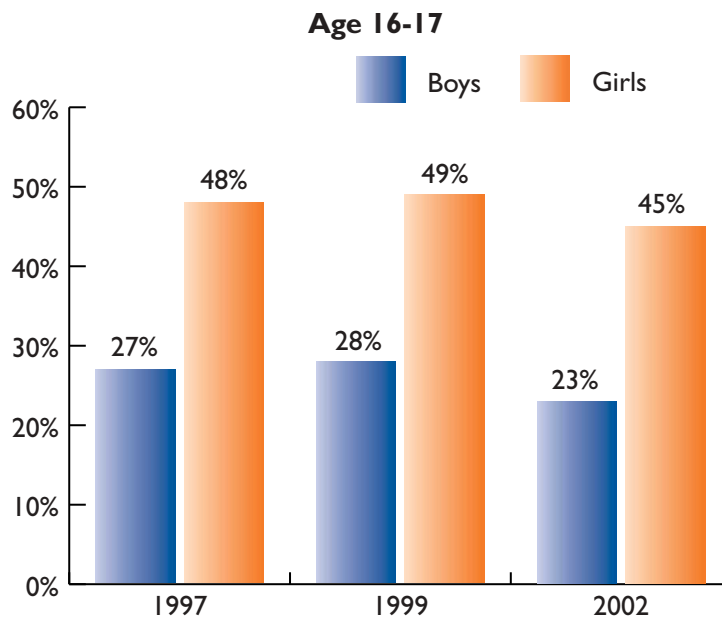
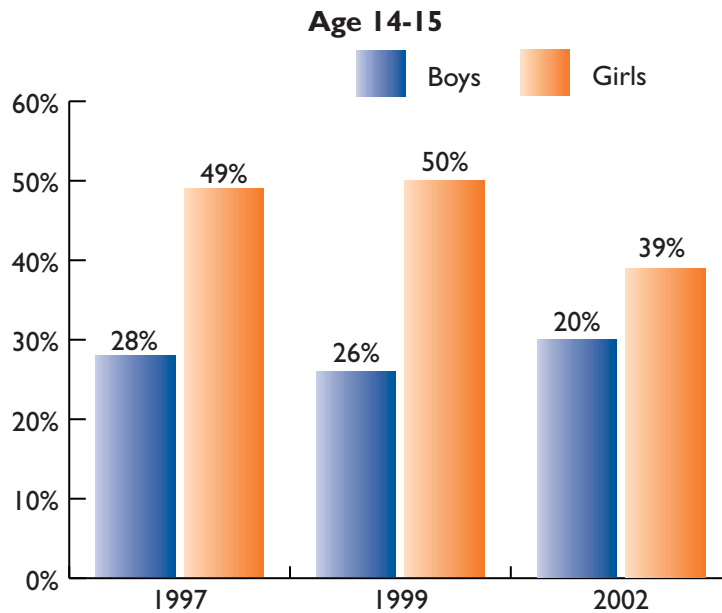
\* Engagement in school is measured by items such as academic grades, test scores, educational aspirations, whether a student participates in class, and whether a student completes his or her homework.

\*\* Connectedness to school refers to teens' emotional feelings about the school (i.e. they feel close to people at the school, they feel like they are part of the school, or they are happy to be at school).



## SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Students (aged 14-17) who are highly engaged in school,<sup>18</sup> 1997-2002.



Source: Original analysis by Child Trends of data from the National Survey of America's Families, 1997-2002, based on reports by most knowledgeable adult in household.

<sup>18</sup> A scale of school engagement, derived from four questions in which parents were asked about the extent to which their children did homework only when forced to, did just enough schoolwork to get by, always did homework, and cared about doing well in school (Ehrle and Moore, 1999).

## SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

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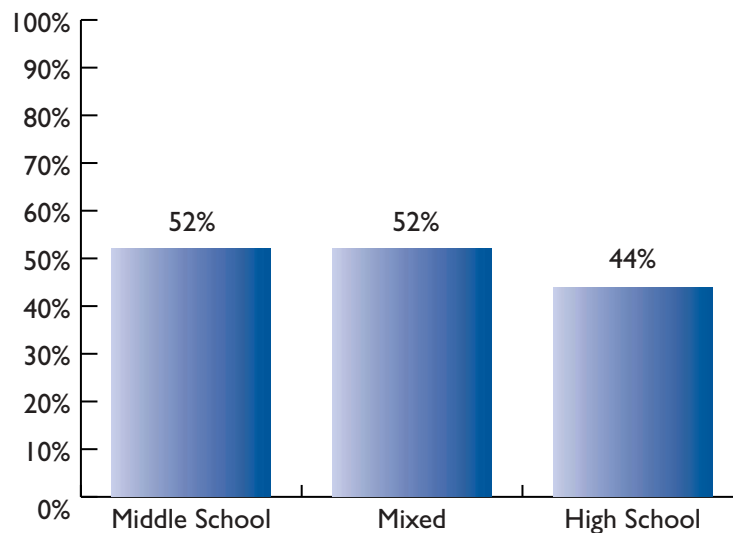
According to their parents, most teens (aged 14-17) are *not* engaged in school, and the proportion of teens who *are* declined between 1997 and 2002. Girls are more likely than boys to be engaged in school and patterns of school engagement are similar among 14- to 15-year-olds, and 16- to 17-year-olds.

Among students in both age groups, girls are consistently almost twice as likely as boys to be highly engaged in school, as reported by their parents. Nearly half of girls in both age groups were highly engaged in 1997 and 1999, compared with 26 to 28% of boys. But between 1999 and 2002, both of those percentages dropped, so that among 14- to 15-year-olds, only 39% of girls and 20% of boys were described as engaged, and among 16- to 17-year-olds, 45% of girls and 23% of boys were seen as engaged in school.



## SCHOOL SUPPORT

**Students (grades 7-12) who believe their school is supportive,<sup>19</sup> 1995-1996.**



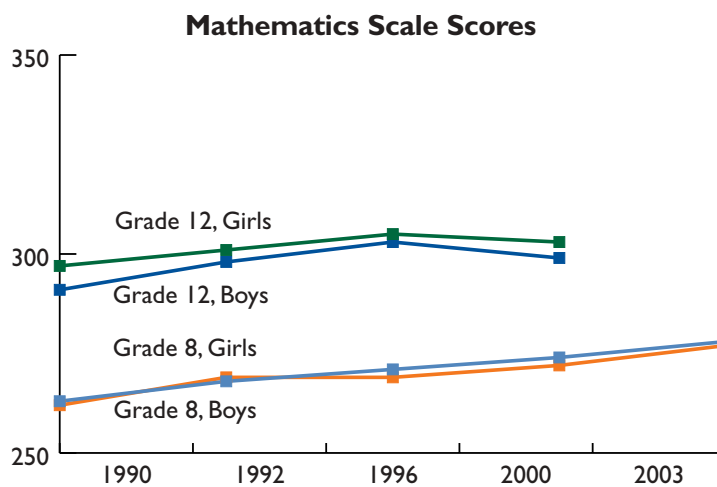
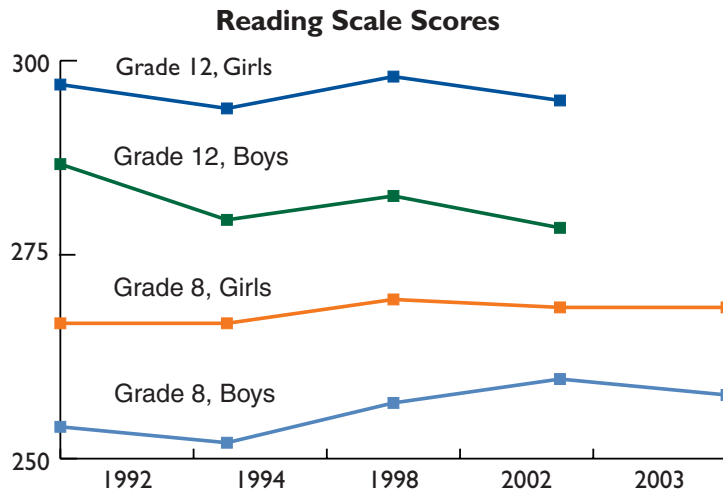
Source: Child Trends analysis of National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, 1995-1996.

Approximately one-half of students in grades 7–12 get along with their teachers, say their teachers treat them fairly, and believe that their teachers care about them. A smaller proportion of high school students (44%) than middle school (52%) or mixed school (52%) students perceive their school to be supportive.

<sup>19</sup> Perceptions of school supportiveness are based on a three-item scale including whether students have trouble getting along with teachers, feel like teachers treat students fairly, and feel that teachers care about them. A middle school ends at or before the 9th grade. A high school begins at or after the 9th grade. A mixed school contains both middle and high school grade levels.

## ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY

### Academic proficiency scores in reading and mathematics for 8th and 12th grade boys and girls, selected years.<sup>20</sup>



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress, various years.

Proficiency in math and reading can be tracked using the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the “Nation’s Report Card.” The average NAEP reading scores for 8th grade girls and boys improved modestly from 1992 to 2002, but the reading scores for 12th grade boys and girls declined over the decade. In mathematics, scores for both 8th and 12th grade boys and girls improved between 1990 and 2000.

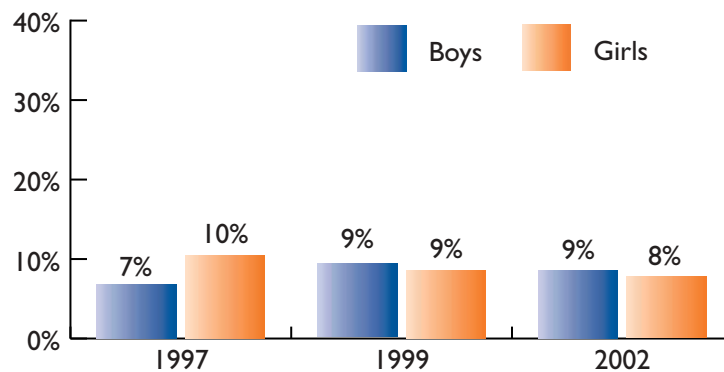
<sup>20</sup> Reading and mathematics assessments are administered on different cycles.



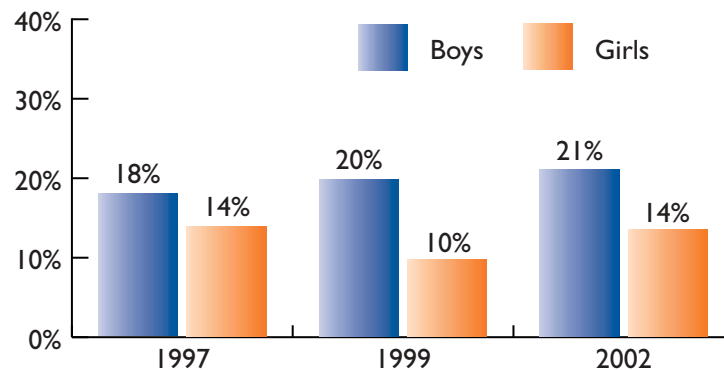
## SUSPENSION AND ABSENTEEISM

Students (aged 14-17) who have skipped school<sup>21</sup> or been suspended/expelled,<sup>22</sup> as reported by parents, 1997-2002.

Age 14-15, Skipped School



Age 14-15, Suspended/Expelled



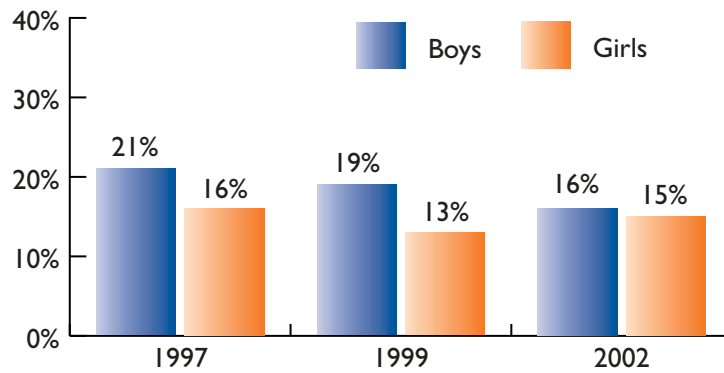
Teens are more likely to skip school as they get older: In 2002, 16% of boys aged 16-17 skipped school more than once in the past year compared with 9% of boys aged 14-15. Similarly, while 15% of girls aged 16-17 skipped more than once, 8% of 14- to 15-year-old girls did the same.

<sup>21</sup> Skipped school two or more times in the past 12 months.

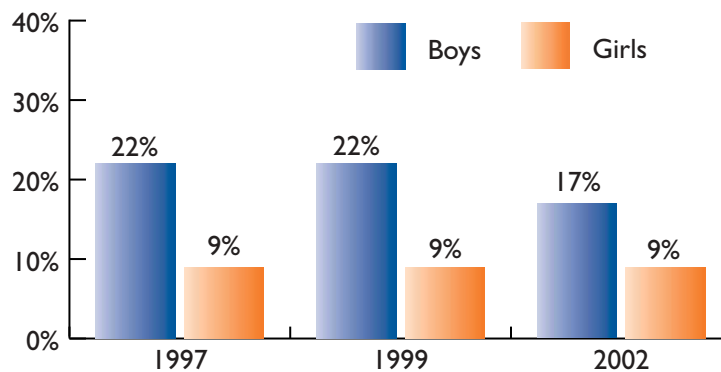
<sup>22</sup> Suspended or expelled from school in the past 12 months.

## SUSPENSION AND ABSENTEEISM

### Age 16-17, Skipped School



### Age 16-17, Suspended/Expelled



Source: Original analysis by Child Trends of data from the National Survey of America's Families, 1997-2002, based on reports by most knowledgeable adult in household.

Boys are more likely than girls to be suspended or expelled. Among teens aged 14-15, 21% of boys were suspended or expelled in 2002, compared with 14% of girls. Among 16- to 17-year-olds, 17% of boys had been suspended or expelled compared with 9% of girls.

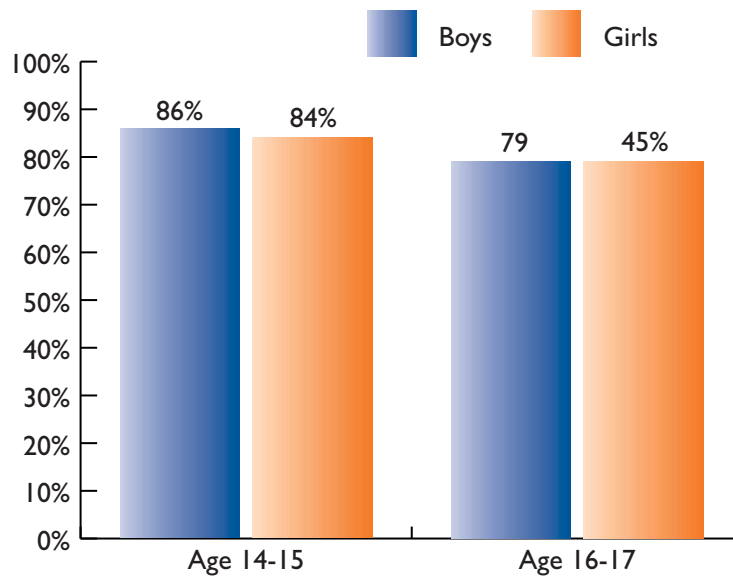
Between 1997 and 2002, there was a small decline in the proportion of boys aged 16-17 getting suspended or skipping school. For young teen boys (aged 14-15), however, the percentage suspended or expelled increased.





## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students (aged 14-17) who are involved in at least one extracurricular activity,<sup>24</sup> 2002.



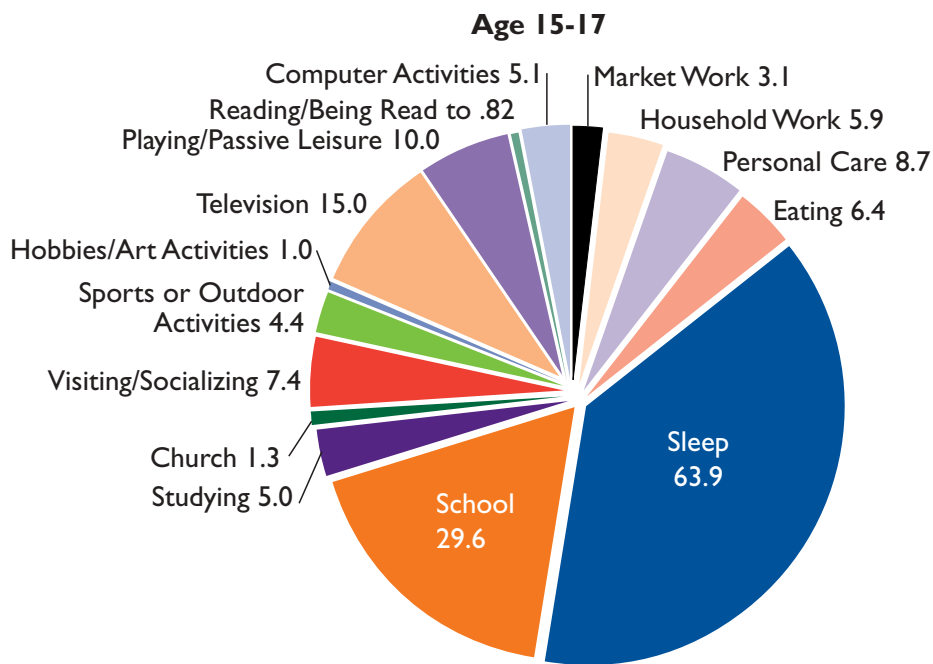
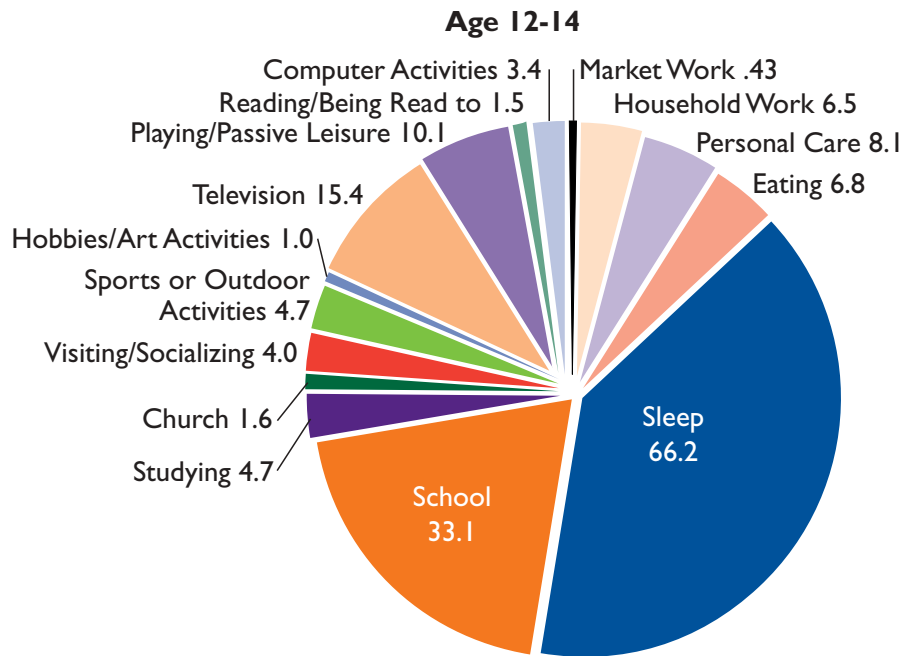
Source: Original analysis by Child Trends of data from the National Survey of America's Families, 1997-2002, based on reports by most knowledgeable adult in household.

The vast majority of teens are involved in positive extracurricular activities. About 85% of 14- to 15-year-olds participate in at least one extracurricular activity, and eight in ten older teens (aged 16-17) say they participate. Girls and boys are equally likely to participate in some type of extracurricular activity.

24 Extracurricular activities include being a member of a sports team, taking lessons in subjects like music, dance, language or computers, participating in a club or organization such as scouts, student government, drama, band, chorus, or a religious or community group, or any other organized activity.

## WEEKLY TIME USE

Hours youth spent in various activities during a typical week, by age, 2002-2003.



Source: *Changing Times of American Youth: 1981-2003*. Based on time use data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 2002-2003.

## WEEKLY TIME USE

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Teens spend most of their time sleeping, going to school, or watching television. During a typical week, on average, they only spend about 5 hours studying and about 4½ hours playing sports or engaging in outdoor activities.

For the most part, younger teens are quite similar to older teens in the amount of time they spend on most activities. For example, younger and older teens spend nearly the same amount of time on household work (6.5% and 5.9%, respectively).

There are some differences in time use, however, between younger and older teens. Older teens, for example, spend more time than younger teens on the computer (5.1 hours per week compared with 3.4 hours per week) and visiting or socializing (7.4 hours per week compared with 4 hours per week). Younger teens sleep slightly more than older teens (66.2 hours compared with 63.9 hours per week) and work less (0.4 hours per week for teens aged 12-14, compared with 3 hours per week for teens aged 15-17).





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# COMMUNITY





# Community

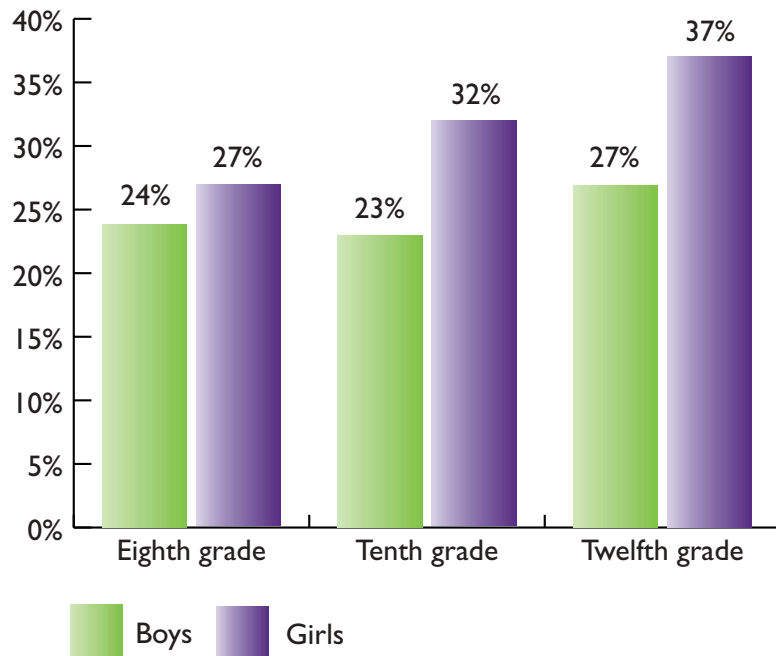
**C**ommunity characteristics and community involvement can influence teen sexual behavior, although individual and family characteristics usually play a more significant role. Teens who volunteer in their community and participate in community-sponsored activities have a lower risk of teen pregnancy and childbearing.<sup>1</sup> Participating in formal community programs that combine volunteer service with classroom discussions about the service activities also reduces teens' risk of sexual activity and pregnancy.<sup>2,3</sup>

The communities teens live in are also important. Teens who live in neighborhoods with high rates of poverty, delinquency, and crime, and little neighborhood cohesion are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior.<sup>4</sup> Teens from economically disadvantaged communities tend to have sex more frequently, have more sexual partners, use contraception less, and are at higher risk of becoming a teen parent.<sup>5,6</sup> Teens who grow up in high-crime neighborhoods are more likely to be sexually active than their peers in low-crime areas.<sup>7</sup>

- 
- 1 Morrissey, K. M., & Werner-Wilson, R. J. (2005). The relationship between out-of-school activities and positive youth development: an investigation of the influences of communities and family. *Adolescence*, 40(157), 67-85.
  - 2 Allen, J. P., Philliber, S., Herrling, S., & Kuperminc, G. P. (1997). Preventing teen pregnancy and academic failure: Experimental evaluation of a developmentally based approach. *Child Development*, 68(4), 729-742.
  - 3 Kirby, D. (2001). *Emerging answers: Research findings on programs to reduce teen pregnancy*. Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
  - 4 Sampson, R. J., Morenoff, J. D., & Gannon-Rowley, T. (2002). Assessing "neighborhood effects": Social processes and new directions in research. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 29(1), 443-478.
  - 5 Baumer, E. P., & South, S. J. (2001). Community effects on youth sexual activity. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 63(2), 540-554.
  - 6 Brewster, K. L., Billy, J. O., & Grady, W. R. (1993). Social context and adolescent behavior: The impact of community on the transition to sexual activity. *Social Forces*, 71(3), 713-740.
  - 7 Billy, J. O. G., Brewster, K. L., & Grady, W. R. (1994). Contextual effects on the sexual behavior of adolescent women. *Journal of Marriage & the Family*, 56(2), 387-404.

## STUDENTS WHO VOLUNTEER

Students (grades 8-12) who volunteer at least once a month, by grade level, 2003.

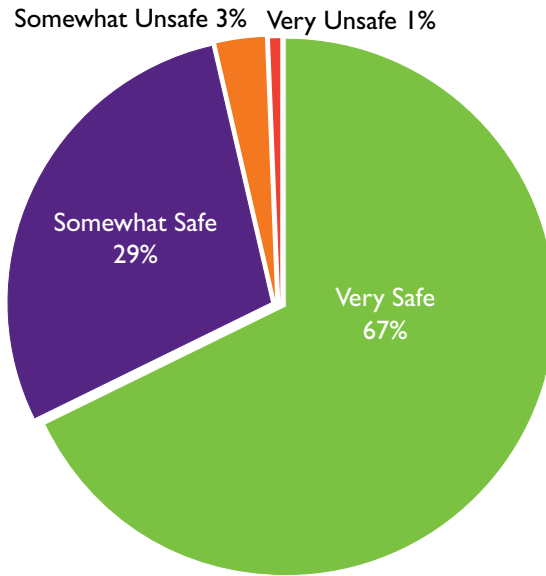


Source: Child Trends analysis of Monitoring the Future survey data, 2003.

About one-quarter to one-third of all students volunteer at least once a month. Twelfth graders are more likely to volunteer than students in eighth or tenth grade, and girls in all grades are more likely to volunteer than boys. For example, in twelfth grade, 37% of girls volunteer at least once a month, compared with 27% of boys. Among girls, 27% of eighth grade girls volunteer compared with 37% in twelfth grade.

## NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

### Neighborhood safety, as perceived by the parents of 10th grade students, 2002.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Education Longitudinal Study, 2002.

The vast majority of parents of 10th graders believe that the neighborhoods in which they live are safe. Sixty-seven percent of parents of 10th grade students believe that their neighborhood is very safe, and 29% believe that their neighborhood is somewhat safe. Only 3% believe that their neighborhood is somewhat unsafe, and less than 1% believe that their neighborhood is very unsafe.

### ★ Flash Fact: Teens and Cars

THE PROPORTION OF TEENS WHO OWN CARS IS ON THE RISE AS IS THE PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS WHO PAY FOR THEM.

TEENS AGED 16-19 WHO OWN CARS:

2003: 41%

1985: 23%

PROPORTION OF PARENTS WHO PAY FOR TEENS' CARS:

2003: 40%

1985: 19%

Source: CNW Marketing Research, cited in *The Washington Post*, November 8, 2004.

## POLITICAL VIEWS

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### Political views of incoming college freshmen, 2004

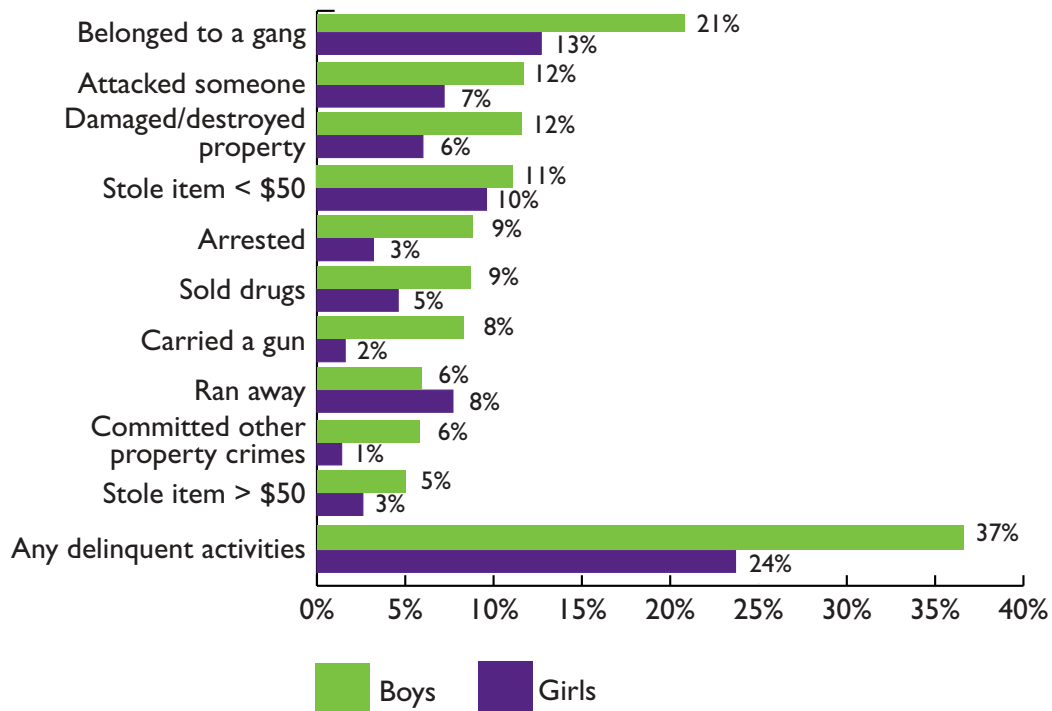


*Source: The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey*

In 2004, most incoming college freshmen (46.4%) defined themselves as political moderates. However, the proportion of those who consider themselves in the political middle is now at its lowest point in over thirty years (not shown). In 2003 about half (50.3%) of incoming college freshmen aligned themselves with the political middle. In 2004, few defined themselves as "far left" (3.4%) or "far right" (2.2%) although both of these percentages have increased over time.

## DELINQUENCY

Teens (aged 15-19) who reported that they had participated in delinquent activities over the last year, 2000.



Source: Child Trends analysis of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997, round 3, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Surveys.

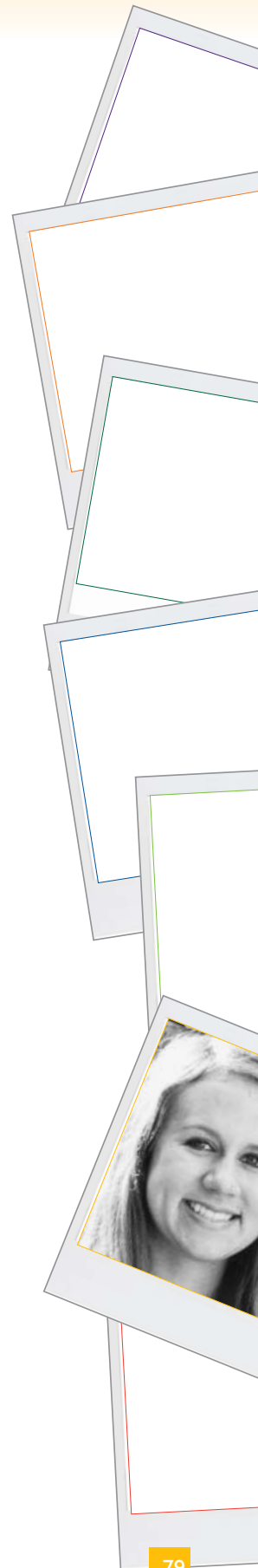
More than one-third of teen boys say they have participated in at least one type of delinquent activity in the past year compared to about one-quarter of teen girls. Of those who have participated in delinquent activity, fully two in ten teen boys say they have belonged to a gang (21%), attacked someone (12%), damaged/destroyed property (12%) or stolen an item worth less than \$50 (11%). The most common delinquent activities among girls include gang membership (13%), theft less than \$50 (10%), and running away (8%).





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# MEDIA/CONSUMER BEHAVIOR





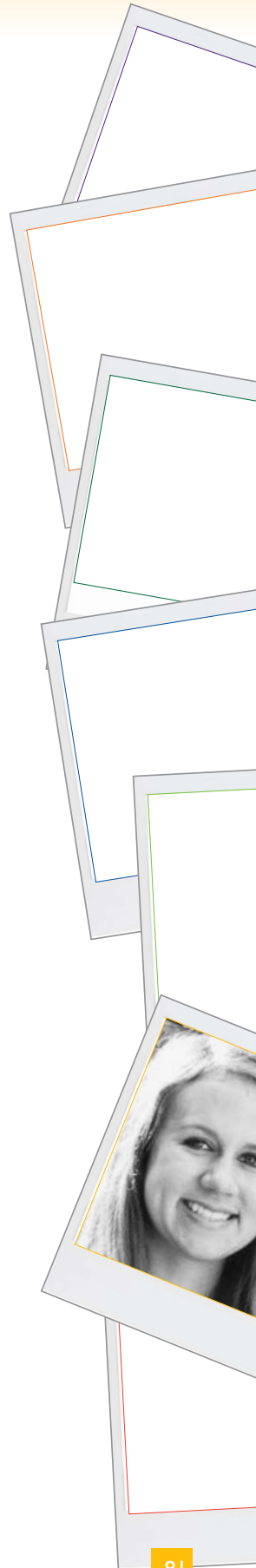
## Media/Consumer Behavior

**D**oes this sound like a teenager you know: Doing homework on the computer while talking with a friend on a cell phone, instant messaging three or four other friends, TV on with the sound turned down and music playing away in the background? Seems your teenager is not alone: Young people's lives are saturated by the media.

Young people spend an average of nearly 6.5 hours a day—over 44.5 hours a week—with media. Much of this time is spent using different types of media simultaneously. The overwhelming majority of this time (3:51) is spent watching television and listening to music. This media devotion is not surprising given the significant access teens have to media. Two thirds of young people say they have a TV in their bedroom, about half (53%) say there are no rules about watching TV in their house, and 51% say that a TV is on in their homes most of the time.<sup>1</sup>

It is not at all surprising that what teens are watching, reading, and listening to may influence their sexual attitudes and behavior. It is also true that the media is an important source of information for teens about sex and contraception. A majority of teens list television and movies as important sources of information about sex, pregnancy, and birth control<sup>2</sup> and most teen girls also list magazines as important sources of information on these topics. Teens who watch television frequently are more likely to have more permissive attitudes about sex (although causality is unclear). Specifically, teens who watch TV shows or music videos that include sexual content are less likely to disapprove of sex outside of marriage, sexual infidelity, or sexual promiscuity.<sup>1,3</sup> In addition, teens who report greater exposure to sexual content on TV are more likely to either talk about sex or depictions of sexual behavior, to begin having sex at an early age,<sup>4,5</sup> and to participate in sexual activities other than intercourse.<sup>5</sup>

- 
- 1 Roberts, D.F., Foehr, U.G., & Rideout, V. (2004). *Generation M: Media in the lives of 8-18 year-olds*. Menlo Park, CA: Kaiser Family Foundation.
  - 2 Brown, J.D., & Witherspoon, E.M. (2002). The mass media and American adolescents' health. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 31* (6S), 153-170.
  - 3 Roberts, D.F. (2003). From Plato's Republic to Hillary's village: Children and the changing media environment. In R.P. Weissberg, H.J. Walberg, M.U. O'Brien, & C.B. Kuster (Eds.), *Long-term trends in the well-being of children and youth*. Washington, D.C.: Child Welfare League of America (pp. 255-276).
  - 4 Villani, S. (2001). Impact of media on children and adolescents: A 10-year review of the research. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 40*(4), 392-401.
  - 5 Collins, R.B., Elliott, M.N., Berry, S.H., Kanouse, D.E., Kunkel, D., Hunter, S.B., & Miu, A. (2004). Watching sex on television predicts adolescent initiation of sexual behavior. *Pediatrics 114*(3), 280-289.



# MEDIA/CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

Even though the level of sexual content in the media is often discussed and debated, it is worth noting that there is very little research examining its precise effect on teens' decisions about sex. It is also the case that the little research that *has* been done has tended to focus on television—precious little is known about the effects of news forms of media such as the Internet.

# MEDIA/CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

## MEDIA CONSUMPTION

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### Average amount of time 8-18-year-olds spend per day consuming media, 2005

Watching TV (TV/videos/DVDs/prerecorded shows): 3 hours: 51 minutes

Listening to music (radio/CDs/tapes/MP3s): 1:44

Using computer (online/offline): 1:02

Playing video games: 0:49

Reading: 0:43

Watching movies in a theater: 0:25

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### Percentage of 8-18-year-olds who have media in their bedrooms, 2005

TV: 68%

Computer: 31%

Internet access: 20%

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### Rules about TV consumption, 2005

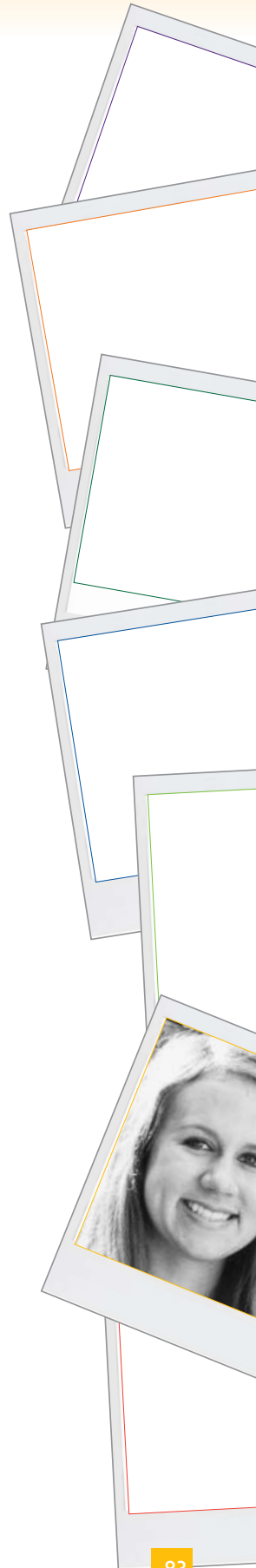
Percentage of 8- 18-year-olds, 2005, who say...

The TV is “usually” on during meals: 63%

There are no rules about watching TV: 53%

The TV is on “most of the time”: 51%

*Source: Generation M: Media in the Lives of 8-18 Year-olds, Kaiser Family Foundation, 2005.*



## COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

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### Adolescents (aged 12-17) who have gone online, 2005

2005: 87%

2000: 73%

Source: "Teens and Technology", from the Pew Internet and American Life Project, 2005

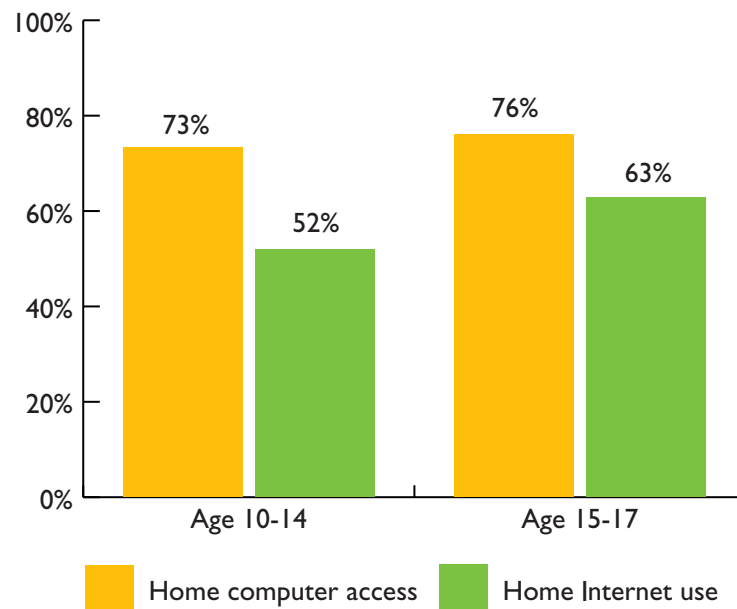
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### Adolescents (aged 12-17) who use the Internet at least once a day, 2005:

51%

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### Adolescents (aged 10-17) that have access to computers at home and who use the Internet at home, 2001



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Computer and Internet Use in the United States, 2001.

# MEDIA/CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

## COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

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### Adolescents (aged 12-17) who participate in various activities while online, 2005

Send or read email: 89%  
Go to websites about movies, TV shows, music groups, or sports stars: 84%  
Play online games: 81%  
News or information about current events: 76%  
Send or receive instant messages: 75%

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### Adolescents (aged 12-17) with Internet access who use instant messaging (IM), 2005

Ever used IM: 75%  
Use IM at least once a day: 48%  
IM between 30 and 60 minutes on a typical day: 37%  
IM less than 30 minutes on a typical day: 27%  
IM for 1-2 hours each day: 24%

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### Adolescents (aged 12-17) who use the internet to get information about health, dieting, or physical fitness:

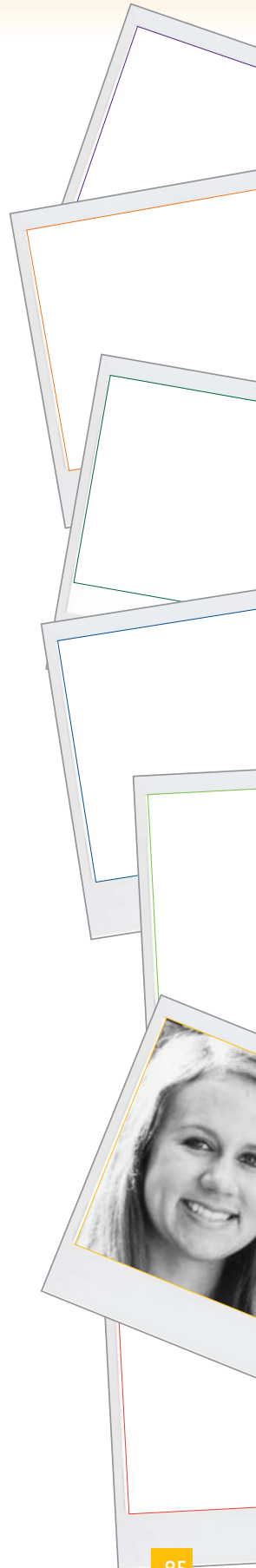
2000: 26%  
2005: 31%

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### Adolescents (aged 12-17) who use the internet to research difficult health topics such as information about sexual health, drug use, or depression:

2000: NA  
2005: 22%

Source: "Teens and Technology", from the Pew Internet and American Life Project, 2005



## COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

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In 2005, nearly nine in ten (87%) teens said they use the Internet, a 24% increase since 2000. About half of those who use the Internet say they go online at least once a day. In 2001, roughly three-quarters of adolescents of all ages had access to computers at home and more than half used their home computer to access the Internet. Sending and receiving email continues to be the most popular online activity (89%) while significant percentages of teens use the Internet to play online games, to receive instant messages or to get news about current events, movies, TV shows, music groups, or athletes. Three in four (75%) of teens with Internet access IM and nearly one-quarter (24%) of adolescents say they IM between 1-2 hours each day. The percentage of teens who use the Internet to get information about health, dieting, or physical fitness has increased (from 26% in 2000 to 31% in 2005). A significant percentage of teens (22%) say they use the Internet to research difficult health topics, such as information about sexual health.

## PORNOGRAPHY

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**Adolescents (aged 12-17) who say they have friends who regularly view pornography on the Internet, 2004**

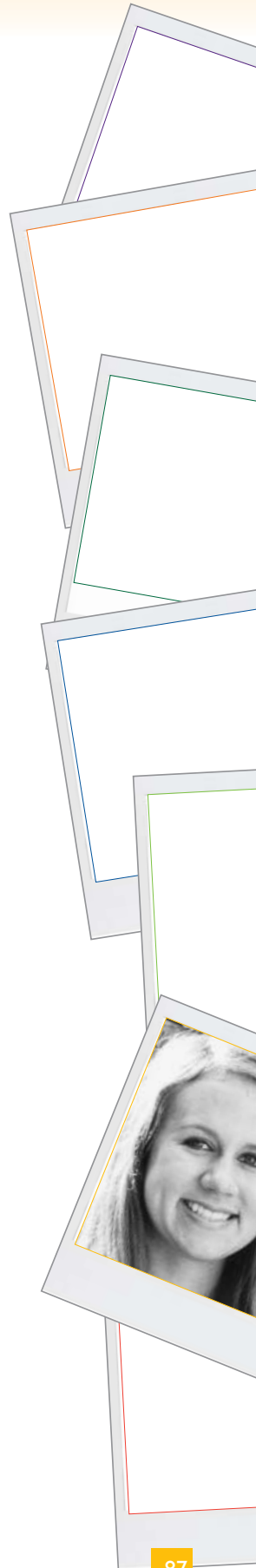
45%

Source: National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse IX: Teen Dating Practices and Sexual Activity. Published by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University

### **Flash Fact**

ADOLESCENTS (AGED 12-17) ARE THE LARGEST GROUP OF CONSUMERS OF INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT NEARLY SIX IN TEN (57%) OF THOSE AGED 9-19 WITH INTERNET ACCESS HAVE COME INTO CONTACT WITH ONLINE PORNOGRAPHY.

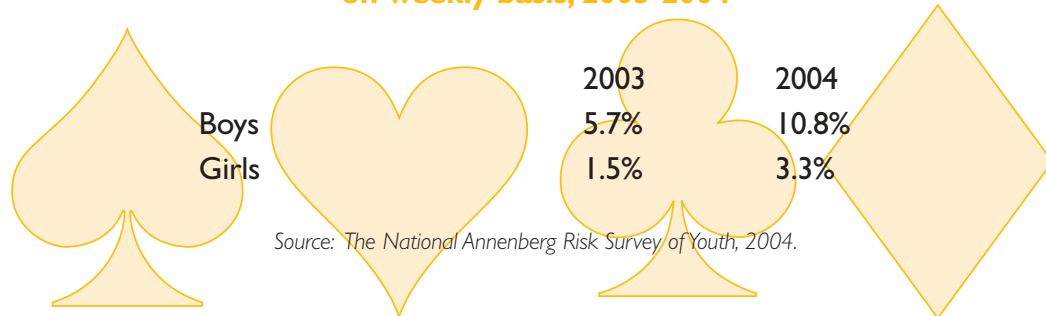
Source: The Porn Standard: Children and Pornography on the Internet. Published by The Third Way, July 2005.



## GAMBLING

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### High school students who play card games for money on weekly basis, 2003-2004



While the survey notes an increase in the percentage of high school students (males in particular) who play cards for money, the same survey noted a simultaneous decline in other forms of weekly gambling (such as playing the lottery, gambling on the Internet, playing slot machines, and betting on horse races).

# MEDIA/CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

## FINANCIAL VIEWS

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**Young people (aged 18-25) who think they will be financially better off than their parents, 2005:**

**61%**

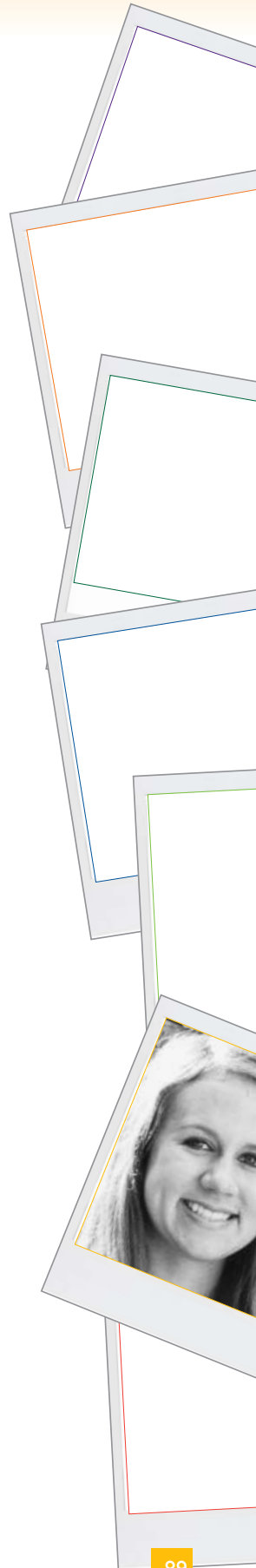
*Source: Life After High School: Young People Talk About Their Hopes and Prospects, Public Agenda.*

Most young people aged 18-25 (61%) believe that they will be financially better off than their parents; about one-third (34%) say they will be about the same; and only 4% feel they will be worse off.

### **Flash Fact: Teen Spending**

FOUR IN TEN YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-22 SAY THEY WOULD BUY A PAIR OF JEANS OR SOME OTHER ITEM THEY REALLY WANT EVEN IF THEY CAN'T AFFORD IT.

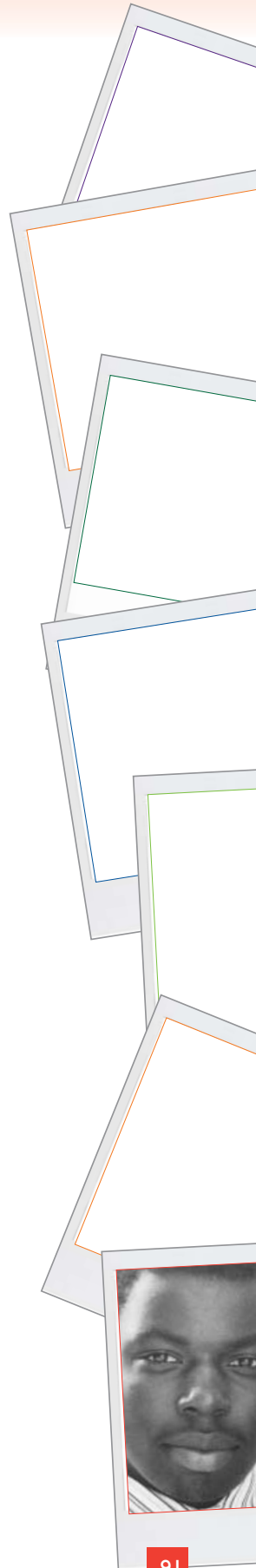
*Source: American Savings Education Council, 1999, cited in The Washington Post, March 30, 2004*





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# RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR



# RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL

# Religious/Spiritual

**R**esearch has consistently linked teens' religious beliefs and spirituality to their sexual behavior. Teens who attend religious services on a regular basis are more likely to postpone sexual activity and less likely to become a teen parent than their peers who do not attend regular services.<sup>1,2</sup> Teens who say that religion plays an important role in their life tend to delay having sex for the first time until they are older.<sup>3,4</sup> Teens who have not had sex often say the primary reason for maintaining their virginity is because sexual intercourse is against their religion or morals.<sup>5</sup>

Family and peer religiosity may also influence adolescents' sexual behavior. Mothers who place a high level of importance on religion can influence their young teens to delay sexual initiation.<sup>6</sup> Teens who go to church on a regular basis and have peers attending the same church are less likely to be sexually experienced than churchgoing teens who do not have peers attending their church.<sup>7</sup>

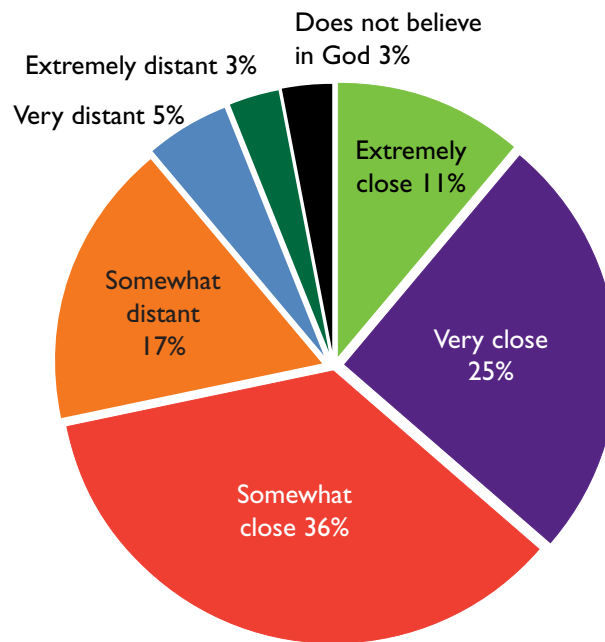
- 1 Rostosky, S., Wilcox, B., Wright, M., & Randall, B. (2004). The Impact of Religiosity on Adolescent Sexual Behavior: A Review of the Evidence. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 19(6), 677-697.
- 2 Manlove, J., Terry, E., Gitelson, L., Papillo, A. R., & Russell, S. (2000). Explaining demographic trends in teenage fertility, 1980-1995. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 32(4), 166-175.
- 3 Resnick, M. D., Bearman, P. S., Blum, R. W., Bauman, K. E., Harris, K. M., Jones, J., et al. (1997). Protecting adolescents from harm: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health. *Jama: Journal of the American Medical Association*, 278(10), 823-832.
- 4 Sheeran, P., Abrams, D., Abraham, C., & Spears, R. (1993). Religiosity and adolescents' premarital sexual attitudes and behavior: An empirical study of conceptual issues. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 23, 39-52.
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## CLOSENESS TO GOD

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**How close teens (aged 13-17)  
feel to God, 2002-2003.**

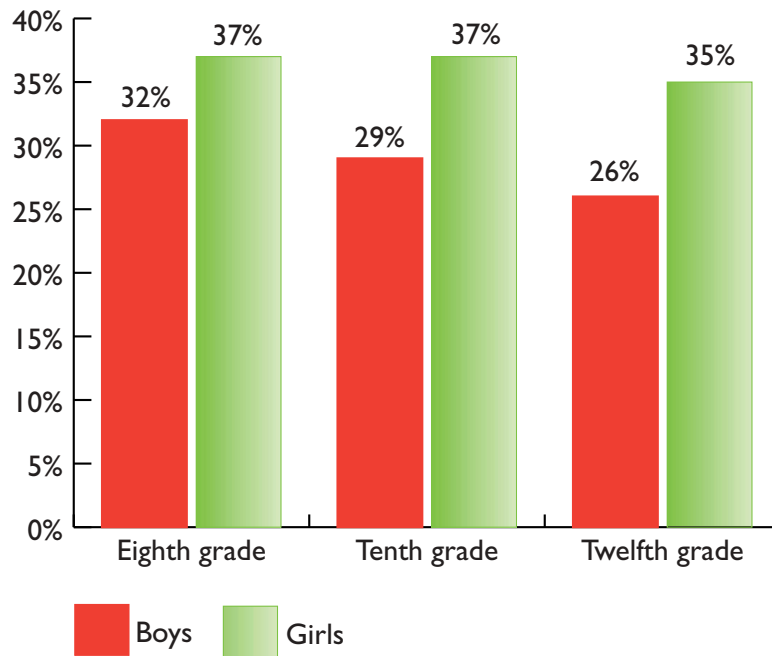


Source: Smith and Denton, "Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers", Oxford University Press, 2005. Data analysis from the National Survey of Youth and Religion, 2002-2003.

The majority (72%) of teenagers feel close to God. Eleven percent feel extremely close to God and 25% feel very close, while 36% feel somewhat close. One quarter of teens feel somewhat to extremely distant from God. Only 3% indicate that they do not believe in God at all.

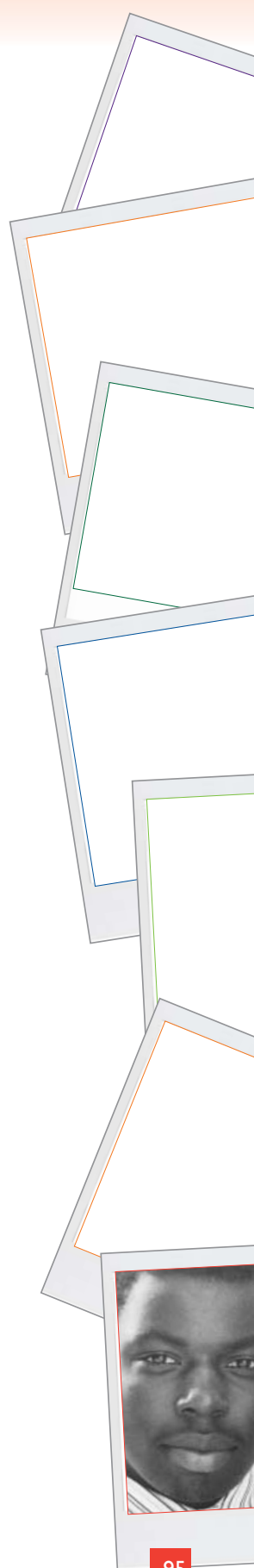
## IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION

Students in grades 8, 10, and 12 who report that religion plays a very important role in their lives, by gender, 2003.



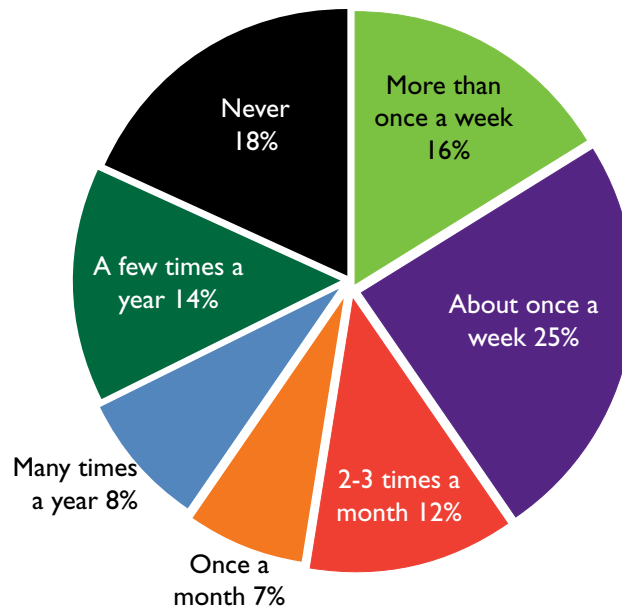
Source: Child Trends analysis of Monitoring the Future survey data, 2003.

Many teens say that religion plays a very important role in their lives, though the importance of religions tends to diminish as teens age, especially among boys. In the eighth grade, 37% of girls and 32% of boys report that religion plays a very important role in their lives, but among twelfth graders, 35% of girls and 26% of boys feel that way. At all three grade levels, girls are more likely than boys to say that religion plays a very important role, and the gap between girls and boys is larger in higher grades.



## RELIGIOUS SERVICE ATTENDANCE

### Frequency of religious service attendance for teens (aged 13-17), 2002-2003.



Source: Smith and Denton, "Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers", Oxford University Press, 2005. Data analysis from the National Survey of Youth and Religion, 2002-2003.

Sixty percent of teens attend religious services at least once a month. Sixteen percent go more than once a week, 25% attend about once a week, 12% attend 2-3 times a month, and 7% attend once a month. Eighteen percent report that they never attend religious services.

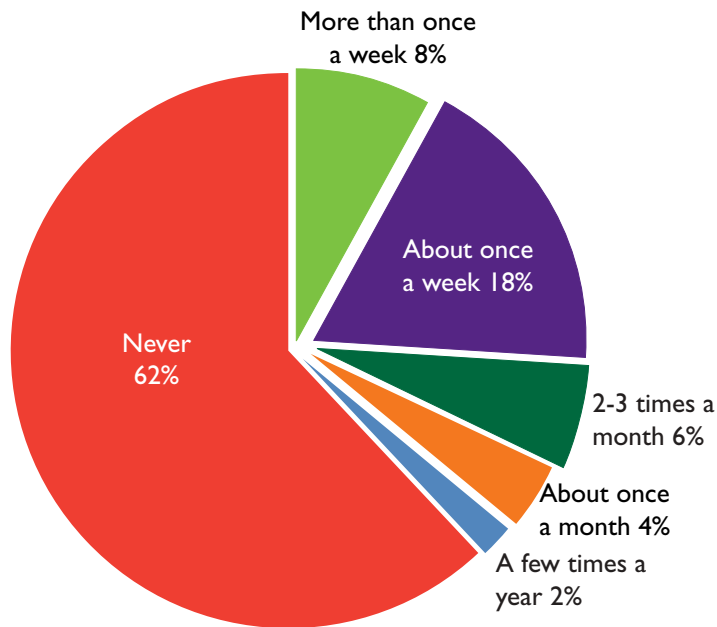
### ★ Flash Fact: Religion and Sexual Experience

TEENS WHO SAY THEIR PEERS ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICE REGULARLY ARE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE SEX BEFORE AGE 18 THAN THOSE TEENS WHOSE PEERS DO NOT.

Source: The Association Between Parent, Family, and Peer Religiosity and Teenagers' Sexual Experience and Contraceptive Use, based on data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. Authored by Child Trends, in press publication from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

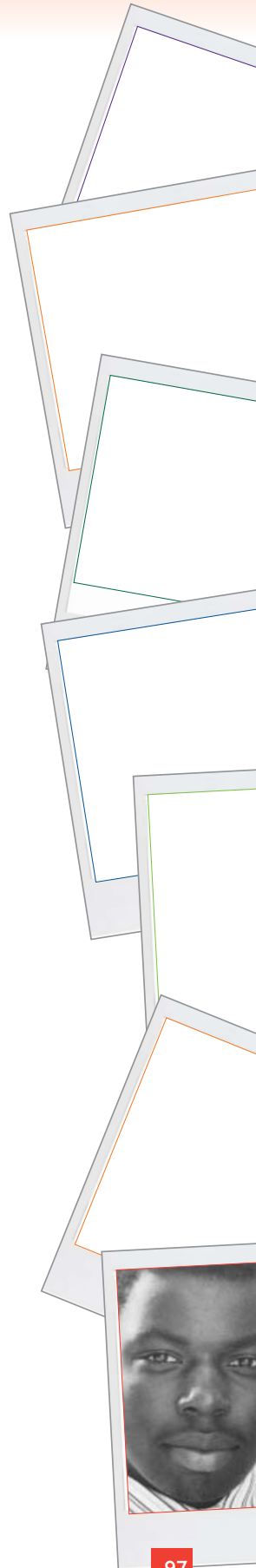
## RELIGIOUS YOUTH GROUP ATTENDANCE

### Religious youth group attendance for teens (aged 13-17), 2002-2003.



Source: Smith and Denton, "Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers", Oxford University Press, 2005. Data analysis from the National Survey of Youth and Religion, 2002-2003.

Sixty-two percent of teens (aged 13-17) report that they never attend or participate in religious youth groups. Those who do participate, however, appear to do so frequently. Eight percent attend a religious youth group more than once a week, 18% attend approximately once a week, 6% attend two to three times a month, and 4% attend once a month.



# RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL

# Sources of Data

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# Data Source Review

## ARE TEENS GETTING A BAD RAP?

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*Are Teens Getting A Bad Rap* summarizes the findings from an omnibus survey of parents and teens aged 12-17. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy designed the survey with assistance from International Communications Research (ICR). The survey was published by the National Campaign in 1999 and conducted by ICR. The teen and adults surveys are weighted to provide a nationally representative estimate of these two groups. Field work for these surveys took place in March, 1999. Interviews were conducted with 513 young people.

- Indicators in this report that use *Are Teens Getting a Bad Rap?* are: Peer Influence.
- Website: <http://www.teenpregnancy.org>

## COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM (CIRP) FRESHMAN SURVEY

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The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey has been conducted annually since 1966. The continuing longitudinal study is sponsored by the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Each year about 700 two-year colleges, four-year colleges, and universities administer the survey to over 400,000 entering students. The questionnaire covers a wide range of issues, from parental income and education to personal attitudes and beliefs.

- Indicators in this report that use CIRP data are: Political Views.
- Website: [http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/american\\_freshman.html](http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/american_freshman.html)

## CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY (CPS)

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The CPS is a cross-sectional survey primarily designed to supply estimates of employment, unemployment, and other characteristics of the general labor force, the population as a

# DATA SOURCE REVIEW

whole, and various subgroups of the population. It has been conducted monthly by the Census Bureau on behalf of the Bureau of Labor Statistics since 1942, with a number of supplements throughout the year. In addition to collecting labor force data, the CPS also collects annual data on work experience, income, and migration (the annual March income and demographic supplement), and school enrollment of the population (the October supplement). The CPS is administered using a scientifically selected sample of 50,000 occupied households nationwide. Households are in the survey for four consecutive months, out for eight, and then return for another four months before leaving the sample permanently.

- Indicators in this report that use CPS data are: Dropout Rates; and Computer and Internet Use.
- Website: <http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/cpsmain.htm>

## EDUCATION LONGITUDINAL SURVEY (ELS)

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The ELS is a longitudinal study designed to monitor a national sample of young people as they progress from tenth grade through high school and on to postsecondary education and/or the world of work. This longitudinal study is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics and gathers information at multiple levels. It obtains information not just from students and their school records, but also from students' parents, and teachers, and the administrators (principal and library media center director) of their schools. In the base year of 2002, data were collected from 750 schools and over 15,000 students and their parents, as well as mathematics and English teachers.

- Indicators in this report that use ELS data are: Telephone Use; Hanging out with Friends; and Neighborhood Safety.
- Website: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/els2002>

## FEELING SAFE: WHAT GIRLS SAY

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*Feeling Safe: What Girls Say* is a report from the Girl Scout Research Institute. The report was commissioned by Girl Scouts of the USA and authored by Judy Schoenberg, Ed.M, Toija Riggins, Ph.D., and Kimberlee Salmond, M.P.P, of the Girl Scout Research Institute. The study was conducted by Harris Interactive, Inc. The study contains data collected from a total of 2,341 girls aged 8-17 between April 16-30, 2003 using an online survey. Girls aged

# DATA SOURCE REVIEW

13-17 represent 49% of the entire sample. The data were weighted to reflect the national population of girls 8-17 for key demographic variables (age, race/ethnicity, urban/rural/suburban, parents' education, and region).

- Indicators in this report that use data from *Feeling Safe* are: Teen Girls' Concerns.
- Website: [http://www.girlscouts.org/research/publications/original/feeling\\_safe.asp](http://www.girlscouts.org/research/publications/original/feeling_safe.asp)

## GENERATION M: MEDIA IN THE LIVES OF 8-18 YEAR OLDS

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The data for this study come from a nationally representative sample of 2,032 students in grades three-12 (aged 8-18). The sample was obtained using a stratified, two-stage national probability sample. Stage one: schools were randomly selected from a list of public, private, and parochial schools in the U.S. Stage two: grades and classes within grades were randomly selected to participate. Data from the survey were weighted to ensure a nationally representative sample of students. The Kaiser Family Foundation commissioned the survey and worked with Dana Markow of Jordan Fein at Harris Interactive, Inc., and with Donald Roberts and Ulla Foehr of Stanford University to design and analyze the survey.

- Indicators in this report that use data from the Generation M report are: Media Consumption.
- Website: [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org).

## LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: YOUNG PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THEIR HOPES AND PROSPECTS

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*Life After High School: Young People Talk About Their Hopes and Prospects.* This survey was based on telephone interviews with a national random sample of 1,000 young people aged 18-25. Over-samples of African American, Hispanic, and Asian American young adults were included. The survey was designed and published by Public Agenda and the survey was fielded by Robinson and Muenster Associates, Inc.

- Indicators in this report that use *Life After High School* are: Financial Views.
- Website: [http://www.publicagenda.org/research/research\\_reports\\_details2.cfm?list=31](http://www.publicagenda.org/research/research_reports_details2.cfm?list=31)

# DATA SOURCE REVIEW

## MONITORING THE FUTURE (MTF)

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MTF is a cross-sectional study conducted by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan through grants from the National Institutes of Health. It is an annual survey of the behavior, attitudes, and values of American secondary school students, college students, and young adults. Its main focus is on drug use among high school students, but it also includes measures on such topics as: education; work and leisure; sex roles and family; population concerns; religion; politics; social change; social problems; military; interpersonal relationships; race relations; concern for others; happiness; deviant behavior; and health. In addition to the yearly high school senior sample, studies of nationally representative samples of 8th and 10th graders have also been conducted annually since 1991. Approximately 50,000 students in about 420 public and private secondary schools are surveyed annually.

- Indicators in this report that use MTF data are: Substance Free Youth; Volunteerism; and Importance of Religion.
- Website: <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>

## NATIONAL ANNEBERG RISK SURVEY OF YOUTH

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The National Annenberg Risk Survey of Youth study was conducted by Shulman, Ronca, and Bucuvalas, Inc., using random digit dialing procedures. The survey was designed by the Adolescent Risk Communication Institute of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. The sample contained 1,501 completed interviews with young people aged 14-22 from the 48 contiguous states in 2004.

- Indicators in this report that use National Annenberg Risk Survey of Youth data are: Gambling.
- Website: [http://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/07\\_adolescent\\_risk/adolescent\\_risk.htm](http://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/07_adolescent_risk/adolescent_risk.htm)

## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

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NAEP, also known as "the Nation's Report Card" is a continuing cross-sectional, nationally representative, assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Assessments have been conducted every few years in reading, mathematics, science,

writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and the arts. NAEP does not provide scores for individual students or schools; however it does provide results regarding subject-matter achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for populations of students. The sample includes students drawn from public and private schools in grades 4, 8, and 12.

■ Indicators in this report that use NAEP data are: Academic Proficiency.

■ Website: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>

## NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY (NHIS)

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The NHIS is the principal source of information on the health of the civilian, non-institutionalized population of the United States, and has been conducted continuously since 1957 by the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This cross-sectional study seeks to obtain accurate and current statistical information on the amount, distribution, and effects of illness and disability in the United States and the services rendered for or because of such conditions. NHIS data are used widely throughout the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to monitor trends in illness and disability and to track progress toward achieving national health objectives. The data are also used by the public health research community for epidemiologic and policy analysis of such timely issues as characterizing those with various health problems, determining barriers to accessing and using appropriate health care, and evaluating Federal health programs. NHIS data are collected annually from approximately 106,000 persons in 46,000 households.

■ Indicators in this report that use NHIS data are: General Health Status.

■ Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

## THE NATIONAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION EXAMINATION SURVEY (NHANES)

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The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) is a program of the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The survey includes a series of cross-sectional nationally representative health surveys beginning in 1960. The findings from NHANES used in this publication were published in October 2004. In each survey a nationally representative sample of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population is selected using a complex, stratified, multistage probability cluster sampling design. A home interview is followed by a physical examination in a mobile examination center.

# DATA SOURCE REVIEW

■ Indicators in this report that use NHANES data are:

■ Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad347.pdf>

## **NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH (ADD HEALTH)**

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Add Health is a school-based longitudinal study that focuses on the causes and implications of the health-related behavior of adolescents, and that collects data from surveys of students, parents, and school administrators. Add Health, a representative study of high school students in the United States in 1994-1995, has been conducted by the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina with funding from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and 17 other federal agencies. The Wave I In-School Survey was administered in 1994-1995 and collected information from 90,118 students in grades 7 through 12. A Wave I In-Home Survey followed the In-School Survey in 1995, and had a sample size of 20,745. The Wave II In-Home Survey was administered in 1996 to a sample of 14,738 adolescents who were in grades 7 through 11 in Wave I and participated in the Wave I survey; note that teens who were in 12th grade at Wave I were not re-interviewed at Wave II. The Wave III In-Home Survey was administered in 2002 to a sub-sample of the Wave I respondents; the Wave III sample consisted of 15,197 young adults aged 18 to 26.

■ Indicators in this report that use Add Health data are: Romantic Relationship; Dating and Relationship Violence; Same-Sex Partner; Sex with Older Partners; Non-Voluntary Sex; and School Supportiveness.

■ Website: <http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/>

## **NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL SURVEY OF YOUTH -1997 (NLSY97)**

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The NLSY97 is a nationally representative, longitudinal survey designed to examine the transition from school to work and into adulthood, conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is an updated cohort of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth that began in 1979. The survey collects extensive information about youths' labor market behavior and educational experiences over time. The NLSY97 also collects information on many other

# DATA SOURCE REVIEW

topics, such as: youths' relationships with parents, contact with absent parents, marital and fertility histories, dating, sexual activity, onset of puberty, employment or job skills training, participation in government assistance programs, life-course expectations, time use, criminal behavior, and alcohol and drug use. Youth complete personal interviews on an annual basis. Five rounds of interviews have been completed. The Round 1 sample consisted of approximately 9,000 youth between the ages of 12 and 16 in 1997. Due to attrition, the sample size has decreased to 8,386 in Round 2 (1999), to 8,209 in Round 3 (2000), and to 8,081 in Round 4 (2001).

- Indicators in this report that use NLSY97 data are: Positive Relationship with Parent; Family Routines; Parental Monitoring; Limit Breaking; and Delinquent Activities.
- Website: <http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsy97.htm>

## **NATIONAL SURVEY OF AMERICAN ATTITUDES ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE IX: TEEN DATING PRACTICES AND SEXUAL ACTIVITY**

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*National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse IX: Teen Dating Practices and Sexual Activity* was published by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA) and designed by CASA and QEV Analytics. The survey was conducted by telephone using a random household selection procedure. In total, 1,000 teens and 500 parents of teens were interviewed between April and May 2004.

- Indicators in this report using data from the National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse are: Pornography.
- Website: [http://www.casacolumbia.org/Absolutenm/articlefiles/380-august\\_2004\\_casa\\_teen\\_survey.pdf](http://www.casacolumbia.org/Absolutenm/articlefiles/380-august_2004_casa_teen_survey.pdf)

## **NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUTH AND RELIGION (NSYR)**

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The NSYR is being conducted at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, under the direction of Dr. Christian Smith, Professor of Sociology. It is designed to enhance the understanding of the religious lives of American adolescents through a national telephone survey in 2002 of 3,370 youth ages 13 to 17 and their parents, as well as 267 in-depth inter-

# DATA SOURCE REVIEW

views in 2003 of a sub-sample of these youth. The study began in August 2001, and will continue through December 2007. Wave II of the NSYR seeks to re-interview the 3,370 youth who participated in the first round of telephone interviews, and to conduct in-depth interviews with 150 of these youth. Wave II began in January 2005 and will continue through December 2007.

■ Indicators in this report that use NSYR data are: Closeness to God; and Religious Participation.

■ Website: <http://www.youthandreligion.org>

## NATIONAL SURVEY OF AMERICA'S FAMILIES (NSAF)

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The NSAF is a nationally representative survey designed by the Urban Institute and Child Trends that has collected information on child, adult and family well-being in America, with a focus on low-income families. The survey asks questions related to economic security, health and health care, child well-being, and family environment as well as other topics. It was conducted in the years 1997, 1999, and 2002 via computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). In each year, interviews were obtained from more than 40,000 households, providing information on more than 109,000 persons under age 65 in 13 states: Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

■ Indicators in this report that use NSAF data are: Family Structure; School Engagement; Suspension and Absenteeism; and Extracurricular Activities.

■ Website: <http://www.urban.org/Content/Research/NewFederalism/NSAF/Overview/NSAFOverview.htm>

## NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH (NSFG)

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The NSFG is a cross-sectional study that has been administered by the National Center for Health Statistics in 6 cycles, beginning in 1973. The first five cycles were based on personal interviews of a national sample of women between the age of 15 and 44 in the civilian, non-institutionalized United States. The main purpose was to provide reliable national data on marriage, divorce, contraception, infertility, and the health of women and infants. Cycle 6, conducted in 2002, expanded the survey to include men as well as women between the

# DATA SOURCE REVIEW

ages of 15 and 44. In-person interviews were conducted on 7,643 females and 4,928 males in the United States.

- Indicators in this report that use NSFG data are: Discussion with Parents about Sex, Sexual Activity, and Contraceptive Use.
- Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>

## PANEL STUDY OF INCOME DYNAMICS (PSID)

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The PSID is a longitudinal study conducted yearly by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. It emphasizes the dynamic aspects of economic and demographic behavior. The core survey collects data on income sources and amounts, employment, family composition changes, and residential location. The Child Development Supplement provides comprehensive data on children and their families with which to study the dynamic process of early human capital formation. The data collection for the Child Development Supplement took place in 1997 and 2002-2003, and includes the following: (1) age-graded assessments of the cognitive, behavioral, and health status of 3,563 children (including about 329 immigrant children), obtained from various adults involved with the child, and the child; (2) parental and caregiver time inputs to children as well as how children and adolescents spend their time; (3) teacher-reported time use in elementary and preschool programs; and (4) measures of other resources, for example, the learning environment in the home, school resources, and decennial-census-based measurement of neighborhood resources.

- The indicator in this report that uses PSID data is: Weekly Time Use.
- Website: <http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/>

## PEW INTERNET & AMERICAN LIFE PROJECT

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The Pew Internet & American Life Project produces reports that explore the impact of the Internet on families, communities, work and home, daily life, education, health care, and civic and political life. The Project aims to be an authoritative source on the evolution of the Internet through collection of data and analysis of real-world developments as they affect the virtual world. The basis of the reports are nationwide random digit dial telephone surveys as well as online surveys. This data collection is supplemented with research from govern-

# DATA SOURCE REVIEW

ment agencies, academia, and other experts; observations of what people do and how they behave when they are online; in-depth interviews with Internet users and Internet experts alike; and other efforts that try to examine individual and group behavior. The Project releases 15-20 pieces of research a year, varying in size, scope, and ambition.

■ Indicators in this report that use data from the Pew Internet & American Life Project are: Computer and Internet Use.

■ Website: <http://www.pewinternet.org>

## **SADD/LIBERTY MUTUAL GROUP, ATLANTIC RESEARCH AND CONSULTING, INC.**

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This survey was commissioned by Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and the Liberty Mutual Group. The survey was conducted by Atlantic Research and Consulting, Inc. A total of 3,574 teens from 41 schools across the country filled out the quantitative survey during the months of May and June 2004. The data were weighted by census region to ensure that it was representative of the U.S. population. The findings in the report are based on 3,574 completed interviews and can be interpreted at a 95% confidence interval with a +/- 1.3% error margin.

■ Indicators in this report that use data from the SADD/Liberty Mutual Group are: Teens' Sense of Self.

■ Website: <http://www.libertymutualinsurance.com>

## **THE STATE OF OUR NATION'S YOUTH**

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The State of Our Nation's Youth is published annually by the Horatio Alger Association, and analyzes the varying types and levels of family and peer support that American youth receive, their outlook on numerous issues from education to social attitudes, and what these students see as the biggest obstacles in their lives (as opposed to obstacles perceived by adults and educators). The study provides data on the adversities adolescents are facing and how to assist these students in overcoming their adversities. In 2003, the survey was conducted by telephone among 1,055 students between the ages of 13 and 19.

■ Indicators in this report that use data from The State of Our Nation's Youth are: Family Communication.

■ Website: <http://www.horatioalger.com/pubmat/surpro.htm>

# DATA SOURCE REVIEW

## THE UCAN TEEN REPORT CARD 2005

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The UCAN Teen Report Card 2005 grades were provided by a nationally representative sample of over 1,000 teenagers (ages 12 –19) from throughout the United States. The survey was conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU) using a stratified sampling design. TRU made adjustments to ensure a reflective sampling based on sex, age, ethnic and geographical distribution (including rural, suburban and urban distribution). The report card grades and percentages represent the opinion of all teenagers in the United States (ages 12 –19), with a 3% margin of error. The survey was conducted through a mail interview in January and February of 2005, as part of the TRU syndicated survey.

- Indicators in this report that use UCAN data are: Grading Parents.
- Website: <http://www.ucanchicago.org/reportcard/>

## WITH ONE VOICE 2004: AMERICA'S ADULTS AND TEENS SOUND OFF ABOUT TEEN PREGNANCY

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Data in *With One Voice* were drawn from two national surveys, one of young people aged 12-19 and the other of adults aged 20 and over. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy designed the survey with assistance from International Communications Research (ICR). The survey was published by the National Campaign. The teen and adults surveys were weighted to provide a nationally representative estimate of these two groups. Field work for these surveys took place in September 2004. Interviews were conducted with 1,000 young people and 1,014 adults.

- Indicators in this report that use *With One Voice* are: Information About Abstinence and Contraception, Sex and Regret.
- Website: <http://www.teenpregnancy.org>

## YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (YRBSS)

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The YRBSS is a cross-sectional study conducted by the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The study gathers information mainly on the negative indicators of health and risky health-related behavior among youth. Topics include tobacco use; healthy and unhealthy

# DATA SOURCE REVIEW

dietary behaviors; physical activity; alcohol and drug use; sexual behaviors; and violent behavior. The YRBSS includes a national survey as well as surveys conducted by state and local education and health agencies. The national surveys have been conducted every two years since 1991, and are nationally representative of students in grades 9 through 12 in public and private high schools.

- Indicators in this report that use YRBSS data are: Vegetables and Fruits, Drug and Alcohol Use and Sex.
- Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/index.htm>

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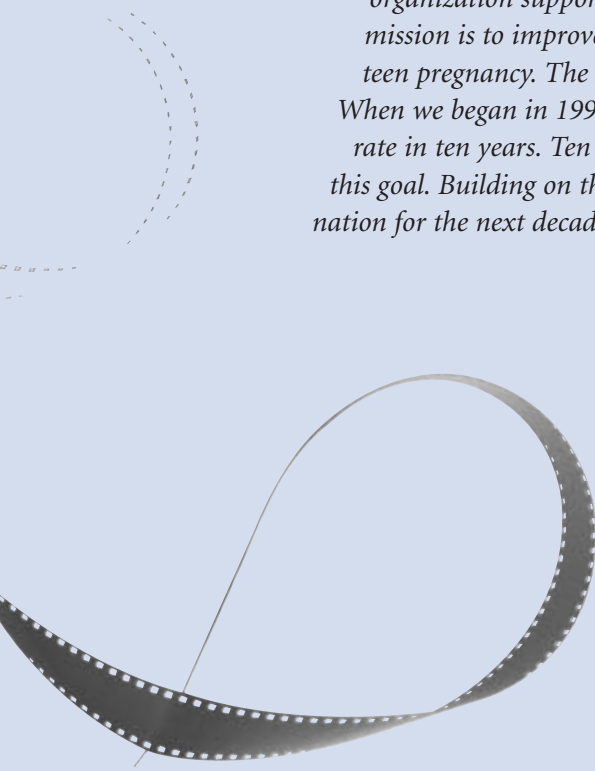
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THE  
NATIONAL  
CAMPAIGN TO  
PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF PROGRESS  
IN IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN,  
YOUTH AND FAMILIES



*The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization supported largely by private donations. The National Campaign's mission is to improve the well-being of children, youth, and families by reducing teen pregnancy. The National Campaign celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2005. When we began in 1996, we set a goal of a one-third reduction in the teen pregnancy rate in ten years. Ten years later, it seems almost certain that the nation will reach this goal. Building on this great success, the National Campaign's new challenge to the nation for the next decade will be to reduce the teen pregnancy rate by another one-third.*

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Child TRENDS

*Child Trends is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization dedicated to improving the lives of children by conducting research and providing science-based information to improve the decisions, programs, and policies that affect children.*

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