

Debbie Fine

FyI -- if you'd
like it.
— Janet

AMERICAN TEENS SPEAK:
SEX, MYTHS, TV,
AND BIRTH CONTROL

The Planned Parenthood Poll

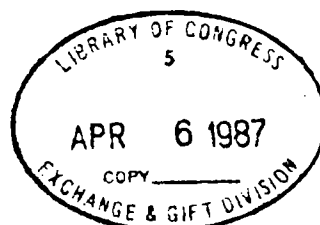
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INTRODUCTION

This year in the United States there will be more than one million teenage pregnancies. Although the problem falls disproportionately heavily on those teenagers and their parents who are socially disadvantaged, the fact is that no stratum of society, or economic level, or ethnic group remains untouched.

The Planned Parenthood Poll for the first time asks a representative sample of American teenagers, age 12 through 17, to speak about how they view the problem. Last year the Planned Parenthood Poll of adults across the U.S., also conducted by Louis Harris and Associates, showed that 84% of American adults view teenage pregnancy as a serious problem. This year's poll adds the perspective of teenagers themselves to the national debate about causes and solutions.

Topics in the survey include:

- The reasons why so many teenagers do not wait to have sexual intercourse
- The reasons why so many sexually active teenagers do not use birth control
- Arguments that teenagers think would influence their peers to delay sex
- Arguments and steps that teenagers think would influence their peers to use birth control
- Areas of knowledge and areas of ignorance or myth about sexuality
- Sources of information (and misinformation) about sexual topics
- The perceived realism of TV in dealing with sexual topics
- The content of sex education courses in the schools, as reported by the pupils who have actually taken them
- The extent of talks between parents and children on sex and birth control
- The resulting impact on teenagers' sexual behavior of knowledge, parental talks, and sex education courses
- The barriers that remain to increased use of birth control by teenagers

The findings confirm many of the conclusions reached by major research studies done in past years. But they also break much new ground and add greatly to our understanding of the problem of teenage pregnancy and of what can be done about it.

During September and October, 1986, Louis Harris and Associates interviewed 1,000 teenagers in their homes across the country. First a national area probability sample of locations was drawn. Then interviewers were sent to pre-designated locations, where they knocked on doors, to locate households containing teenagers age 12 through 17. Parents' permission was obtained, and then parents were asked to leave the room during the actual interview. Black teenagers and Hispanic teenagers were oversampled, so that their views could be studied with greater statistical confidence than most surveys allow; the sample contains 451 whites, 341 blacks, and 208 Hispanics. Final results have been weighted to reflect the actual proportion of white, black, and Hispanic teenagers in the population. Thus, figures reported in this study are projectable to all teenagers in the U.S., and to the respective sub-groups indicated in each table. The questionnaire is contained in the appendix, as well as the letter given to parents explaining the purpose of the survey and requesting their cooperation.

An asterisk (*) on a table signifies a value of less than one-half percent (0.5%). A dash (-) represents a value of zero. Percentages may not always add up to 100% because of computer rounding, multiple answers from respondents, or the elimination of "no answers."

All Louis Harris and Associates surveys are designed to adhere to the code of standards of the Council of American Survey Research Organizations (CASRO) and the code of the National Council of Public Polls (NCPP). Because data from this survey will be released to the public, any release must stipulate that the complete report is also available, rather than simply an excerpt from the survey findings.

The director of this project at Louis Harris and Associates was Humphrey Taylor, President. The chief analyst was Michael Kagay, Ph.D., Vice President. Stuart Leichenko, Research Associate, contributed to all aspects of the project.

Louis Harris and Associates would like to thank the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. for commissioning this research. It was supported by generous grants from the Carnegie Corporation, the W.T. Grant Foundation, and the Ruth Mott Foundation. We would like to thank Douglas Gould, Vice President for Communications at Planned Parenthood, for his valuable contributions during the development of the questionnaire. However, final responsibility for topics, question wording, data collection, and the interpretations in this report rest solely with Louis Harris and Associates.

AMERICAN TEENS SPEAK:
SEX, MYTHS, TV, AND BIRTH CONTROL

The Planned Parenthood Poll

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SURVEY FINDINGS

This summary provides an overview of the results of the survey. Many findings described in the body of the report do not appear in this summary. Interested readers should examine the body of the report to understand the full findings of the survey.

Teenage Sex and Use of Birth Control

The survey documents the scope of a national problem: many teenagers are sexually active, and yet many do not usually use birth control. High rates of teenage pregnancy are the inevitable result. And those results will fall heaviest, the survey shows, at those levels of society where teenagers and their parents have the least resources to cope with the problem.

1. More than half of America's teenagers report having had sexual intercourse by their seventeenth year. Of all U.S. teenagers age 12 through age 17, nearly three out of ten (28%) say they have had sexual intercourse. The proportion increases rapidly with age, rising from 4% of the 12-year-olds to 57% of the 17-year-olds.

2. Sexual activity begins earlier among those teenagers who have the fewest resources, and who are thus the most vulnerable. Teenagers whose parents are not college graduates, teenagers who have grades in school averaging C, D, or F, and black teenagers are all more likely to have had sexual intercourse.

3. Teenagers say that social pressure is the chief reason why so many of their peers do not wait to have sexual intercourse until they are older. Both boys as well as girls cite social pressure more frequently than other factors, but girls mention it (73%) more than do boys (50%). More girls (28%) than boys (21%) also say that they themselves have personally felt pressured by other teenagers to go farther with sex than they wanted to.

4. Only one-third (33%) of those teenagers who have had intercourse say that they use contraceptives all the time. Nearly as many (27%) say that they never use them. The rest say that they use contraceptives "sometimes" or "most of the time."

5. Teenagers who have the fewest resources are the most likely to be at risk by not using contraceptives. Among sexually active teenagers, those whose parents are not college graduates, those who live with only one parent, and black and Hispanic teenagers are all less likely to use contraceptives.

6. Teenagers who have had intercourse say that "unexpected sex" -- with no time to prepare -- is the most frequent single reason why they and so many of their peers do not use birth control. Other categories of reasons cited by teenagers as a whole include: that many simply prefer not to use birth control (39%), that many do not know enough about contraceptives or can't get access to them (25%), that many are too afraid and embarrassed to get contraceptives or fearful that their parents will find out (24%), and that many believe they are safe without contraceptives, that pregnancy will not happen to them (15%).

7. Contraceptives are most likely to be used by those teenagers who can see they have a lot at stake and who stand to lose a lot by being involved in an unintended pregnancy. This includes those who can name some career they aspire to, those whose grades are in the A or B range, and those who are involved in sports or extracurricular activities. They have extra incentive to look ahead and to plan beyond the moment. They are more likely to have both the motive and the resources to overcome a cultural tradition that, while valuing spontaneity in human relationships, often discourages any combination of "planning" with "romance."

The Impact of Knowledge, Talks with Parents, and Sex Education at School

Education and information, the survey shows, have enormous impact on teenagers' sexual behavior. Therefore, a major priority for society in dealing with the problem of teenage pregnancy is to find ways of increasing the information that teenagers have at their disposal. This means encouraging more parents to talk openly and in detail with their own children about sexuality and contraception. It also means improving both the availability and the comprehensiveness of sex education in the schools.

1. Teenagers who have talked about sex, pregnancy, and contraception with their parents, are more likely to use birth control all the time if they are sexually active. Of sexually active teenagers who have had no talk with their parents, only 26% use birth control all the time. This figure rises to 37% among those who have some kind of talk about sex with their parents, and to 43% among those whose talk included the subject of birth control.

2. Two thirds of American teenagers (68%) have at some time talked to their parents about sex and how pregnancy is caused. But only one-half of those (33% of all teenagers) had talks that included the subject of birth control. Girls are more likely to have had discussions with their parents than are boys. Whites and blacks are more likely than Hispanic teenagers. And those whose parents are college graduates are more likely to have talked about sex with their parents, but they are no more likely to have talked about birth control.

3. Teenagers who have had a comprehensive sex education course at school are more likely to use birth control all the time if they are sexually active. Of sexually active teenagers who have had no sex education course, only 25% say they use birth control all the time. That figure rises slightly to 30% among those who have had a formal sex education course which was not comprehensive. Of those who had a course which was comprehensive, 40% use contraceptives all the time.

4. A majority of American teenagers (59%) have had some kind of formal course or class on sex education at school. But only 35% of all teenagers have had a sex education course whose content could be called comprehensive. "Comprehensive" was defined as including at least four out of the following six topics: biological facts of reproduction, coping with sexual development, different kinds of birth control, information about where to get contraceptives, information about preventing sexual abuse, and facts about abortion.

5. Teenagers who have greater knowledge about sexuality -- gained from whatever source -- are also more likely to use contraceptives all the time if they are sexually active. Of sexually active teenagers who have a low level of knowledge about sexuality, only 16% use birth control all the time. That figure rises to 25% among those who have a medium level of knowledge. It rises greatly those with a high level of knowledge; 45% of them use birth control all the time. LOUIS HARRIS AND ASSOCIATES

6. Many teenagers are confused or uncertain in their knowledge of basic facts about sexuality. And many of the teenagers who are most at risk of pregnancy turn out to have the least knowledge. For instance, only 40% of all teenagers know it is usually true that a girl is most likely to become pregnant about two weeks after her menstrual period begins; 59% give the wrong answer or are not sure. From this and six other such facts, a "sexuality knowledge index" was constructed to show which teenagers are most knowledgeable and which are confused or ignorant. Those whose economic status is low have less knowledge than do those with a higher economic status. And those with lower grades in school also have less knowledge. And black and Hispanic teenagers have less knowledge of these topics than whites.

Thus there is a vicious cycle at work that compounds social and economic disadvantage with disadvantages in dealing with the world of sexuality. Low sexual information -- with a resulting greater risk of pregnancy -- is simply one more way in which socially disadvantaged teenagers get left behind.

7. But it is possible to break into this cycle. For greater knowledge of sexuality is shown both by teenagers who have talked with their parents and by teenagers who have had formal sex education in school. Parent-child communication would seem to be an under-utilized resource that has a large potential for improving the situation. Teenagers rank parents as first in importance out of eleven possible sources of information about sex and birth control. Yet, as we have seen, only one-third of all teenagers currently say they have actually discussed birth control with their parents. This potential, however, may never be fully realized. Forty-two percent of teenagers say they would be nervous or afraid to bring up the subject with their parents. And last year's Planned Parenthood Poll of adults across the U.S. showed that many parents themselves feel they need outside help in educating their children about sex and birth control.

8. Sex education in the schools is the other way that society can break the cycle of low social status - low grades - low information about sexuality - low use of contraceptives - high risk of pregnancy. Teenagers currently rank courses at school as third most important out of eleven possible sources of information about sex and birth control. Yet, as reported above, only 35% of all teenagers currently have had a

comprehensive sex education course, indicating that here, too, there is a large potential for improving the situation.

9. It is important that both parents and schools play a greater role, for the other two most important sources of teenagers' information are their own friends (second in importance out of eleven possible sources) and television and movies (fourth in importance out of eleven). As for teenagers' friends, in many cases they are no more knowledgeable than they are themselves. Regarding television's portrayal of sexual subjects, in this year's survey teenagers were asked the same questions about television that adults had been asked in last year's survey. The results show that teenagers have greater faith in the realism of television's portrayal of sexual subjects than adults do. For instance, 41% of teenagers think that television gives a realistic picture of pregnancy and the consequences of sex. Only 24% of adults think that.

Further Steps that Society Can Take

In addition to encouraging parent-child talks and sex education in the schools, society may also wish to intervene in additional ways, such as by an organized campaign for teenage pregnancy prevention. For such a campaign, the survey shows a number of the tools which can prove effective.

1. In evaluating arguments for delaying sex, teenagers say that the danger of catching sexually transmitted diseases and the danger of a pregnancy ruining one's life are two messages that are most likely to influence their peers. Sixty-five percent think that telling teenagers to worry more about catching diseases like AIDS and herpes would be likely to influence them to wait to have sexual intercourse. Sixty-two percent think that telling them how a pregnancy could ruin their life would be effective. While such arguments may prove useful in convincing some teenagers to delay sex, in some cases the delay may serve mainly to postpone an unintended pregnancy until a later age, rather than to prevent it altogether. Further steps are needed in pregnancy prevention.

2. In evaluating steps to encourage the use of birth control, teenagers say that guaranteeing confidentiality, making birth control free, and making birth control easy to obtain are most likely to influence their peers. Guaranteeing confidentiality in obtaining birth control ranked first (78%) out of eight possible steps that were

evaluated. Making it free of cost ranked second (75%) and making it easy to obtain ranked third (70%) out of the eight steps.

3. When teenagers are asked to compare various methods of birth control, they overwhelmingly prefer the pill and the condom. No other method ranks anywhere close. Girls tend to prefer the pill (63%), while boys tend to prefer the condom (53%). They view these methods as effective, safe, easy to use (in the case of the pill), and easy to buy (in the case of the condom).

4. There is unmet demand for the birth control pill. When the methods of birth control preferred by teenagers are compared with the actual methods most frequently used, it is apparent that many more prefer the pill than actually use it. Sixty-three percent of girls would prefer the pill, but only 38% of sexually active girls actually use the pill. There is much less fall-off in the case of the condom. Fifty-three percent of boys prefer the condom, and 47% of sexually active boys actually use that method.

5. One barrier to increased use of the birth control pill may be the pelvic examination that is usually required by physicians and clinics. Sixty-nine percent of girls say that this requirement frightens many girls away. A similar proportion of agreement (70%) was registered by those girls who have actually used the pill and who, presumably, have themselves undergone a pelvic exam. Thus, first-hand experience with the pelvic exam does not remove the fear of it.

6. For some teenagers another barrier to increased use of contraceptives methods in general is cost. When informed that most methods of birth control cost between \$5.00 a month and \$20.00 a month, one-third of all teenagers (33%) say this is too much for them to pay. While only a minority of all teenagers cite cost, they include a disproportionate number of those who are most at risk: 35% of black teenagers and 40% of Hispanic teenagers.

7. An additional barrier to increased use of birth control is misinformation about the effectiveness and side effects of various methods. For instance, 39% of teenagers think that condoms are ineffective at preventing pregnancy, or don't know. Seventeen percent think that withdrawal works well in preventing pregnancy. Of more than a dozen side effects of the pill mentioned by teenagers, those cited second

and third most frequently were that it causes cancer (12%) and causes sterility (11%), neither of which is true.

8. A further barrier to increased use of birth control is accessibility or perceived inaccessibility. One way to increase accessibility would be to establish school-linked clinics where contraceptives could be obtained. Forty percent of teenagers endorse this idea. Somewhat more say that the clinic should be located close to the school (28%) rather than inside the school (12%), perhaps to ensure the confidentiality that they ranked as the number one step needed to increase use of birth control. Thirty-one percent of all teenagers think their own school needs such a clinic. These percentages are even higher among the groups for which access to contraception is most likely to be important. For instance, a majority of those who are sexually active favor the idea of school-linked clinics, as do a majority of black teenagers.

9. If pregnancy prevention fails, then abortion remains as an option that teenagers want, on balance, to keep open as a possibility. Like adult Americans, teenage Americans have mixed feelings on this subject, but on balance they favor the availability of abortion by a 47% to 40% ratio. The ambivalence that this reflects means that most teenagers do not look to abortion as the easy way out of an unwanted pregnancy or as any reason to neglect birth control in the first place. Pregnancy prevention remains the first priority.

10. Finally, it would be very helpful to increase the number of teenagers who realize they have a lot at stake and a lot to lose by being involved in an unintended pregnancy. The survey shows that most teenagers have high hopes for their careers and that teenagers overwhelmingly (94%) believe that they will succeed in life if they work hard. The survey also shows that those who objectively have the most to lose do use birth control more frequently. What is needed, then, is for more teenagers to understand that connection: how being involved in an unintended pregnancy can interfere with their hopes and dreams for success in their lives.

AMERICAN TEENS SPEAK:
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CHAPTER 1: PROBLEMS OF TEENAGE SEX AND PREGNANCY

Sexual Intercourse among Teenagers

Almost three out of every ten teenagers (28%) -- aged 12 to 17 -- say they have had sexual intercourse. The proportion increases with age, from 4% of the 12-year-olds and 10% of the 13-year-olds up to 46% of the 16-year-olds and 57% of the 17-year-olds. Thus, more than half of all teenagers report they have had sexual intercourse by their seventeenth year (Table 1-1).

Sexual activity tends to start younger among teenagers who have the least resources and who are thus most vulnerable. Teenagers whose parents are not college graduates are half again as likely to have had sexual intercourse as are the children of college graduates. Teenagers with grades in school averaging C, D, and F are half again as likely to have had sexual intercourse as are teenagers with an academic average in the A or B range. And black teenagers are almost twice as likely to have had sexual intercourse as white or Hispanic teenagers (Table 1-2).

Teenagers were also asked what they felt was the "right age" for a person to start having sexual intercourse. The median -- for those who nominated an age -- was 18, the age of legal majority. Only one-quarter said age 16 or younger. But 78% of teenagers also say they believe that most teenagers in their school or neighborhood don't wait until then, but start having sexual intercourse earlier than the "right age" (Table 1-3).

Teenagers and Use of Contraceptives

Only one-third of sexually active teenagers use contraceptives all the time. Over one-quarter of the sexually active say they never use them. The remainder say they use contraceptives most of the time or only sometimes (Table 1-4). Thus, a

pattern begins during the teenage years which other surveys -- of adults -- have found to continue into and during adult life.

Again, teenagers whose families have the fewest resources are the most likely to be at risk. Among sexually active teenagers, blacks and Hispanics are only half as likely as whites to use contraceptives all the time. Those whose parents did not graduate from college are only half as likely to use contraceptives all the time as are the children of college graduates. And those who live with only one parent are only half as likely to use contraceptives all the time as are those who live with both parents.

Another way to describe the situation is that contraceptives are more likely to be used by those teenagers who objectively have a lot at stake, and who stand to lose a lot by being involved in an unintended pregnancy. Thus, those whose grades are in the A or B range, those who can name some career they aspire to, and those who are currently involved in extra-curricular activities or sports are all more likely to use birth control if they are sexually active. They have extra incentive to look ahead and to plan beyond the moment.

Observation

The problem emerges with such clarity from the survey that one is tempted to ask, not "Why are there so many teenage pregnancies?", but rather "Why are there not many more?" Three out of ten teenagers are sexually active but only one in three of those who are sexually active use contraceptives all the time. High rates of teenage pregnancy are bound to be the result. And those results will fall heaviest, the survey shows, at those levels of society where teenagers and their parents have the least resources to cope with the problem.

Q.43

Table 1-1

WHETHER HAD SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

Q.: Have you yourself had sexual intercourse?

	<u>Yes, Had Intercourse</u>
<u>Total Teenagers</u>	<u>28%</u>
<u>Age</u>	
12 years	4
13 years	10
14 years	20
15 years	29
16 years	46
17 years	57
<u>Total Teenage Boys</u>	<u>32%</u>
<u>Age</u>	
12 years	1
13 years	11
14 years	31
15 years	35
16 years	49
17 years	61
<u>Total Teenage Girls</u>	<u>24%</u>
<u>Age</u>	
12 years	7
13 years	10
14 years	9
15 years	22
16 years	42
17 years	53

Note: Six percent of teenagers refused to say. They have not been removed from the base. If they were removed, it would raise the overall figure for sexual intercourse by 2 points, from 28% to 30% of all teenagers.

Q.43

Table 1-2

WHICH TEENAGERS HAVE HAD SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

Q.: Have you yourself ever had sexual intercourse?

	<u>Base</u>		<u>Yes, Had Intercourse</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Refused</u>
<u>Total Teenagers</u>	<u>1000</u>	%	<u>28</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Age Group</u>					
12-13 years	250	%	7	89	3
14-15 years	383	%	25	66	8
16-17 years	367	%	51	44	5
<u>Gender</u>					
Boys	513	%	32	61	7
Girls	486	%	24	71	5
<u>Race</u>					
White	451	%	24	69	7
Black	341	%	47	51	2
Hispanic	208	%	27	70	3
<u>Region</u>					
East	214	%	35	53	12
Midwest	215	%	22	76	2
South	365	%	29	64	7
West	206	%	27	70	2
<u>Economic Status Index</u>					
Low	276	%	30	61	8
Medium	604	%	29	66	5
High	120	%	22	71	6
<u>Living With</u>					
Both parents	597	%	25	69	5
One parent	354	%	31	62	7
<u>Attended Religious Services</u>					
Frequently	381	%	18	79	3
Occasionally	267	%	29	61	10
Seldom, never	344	%	38	56	6
<u>Grade point Average in School</u>					
A to B+	253	%	21	74	5
B to B-	359	%	25	69	6
C to F	368	%	37	57	5

(Continued)

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Q.43

Table 1-2 (Continued)

WHICH TEENAGERS HAVE HAD SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

	<u>Base</u>		<u>Yes, Had Intercourse</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Refused</u>
<u>Total Teenagers</u>	<u>1000</u>	%	<u>28</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Mother's/Father's Highest Education</u>					
Not high school graduate	141	%	32	58	8
High school graduate	395	%	31	63	6
Some college	154	%	30	68	2
College graduate	207	%	19	73	7
<u>Track in School</u>					
Academic	624	%	27	68	5
Vocational	183	%	34	60	6
<u>Plan to Go to College</u>					
Those who do	707	%	25	70	4
Those who do not	166	%	37	54	9
<u>Presently Employed</u>					
Those who are	296	%	34	63	3
Those who are not	700	%	25	68	7
<u>Involved in Extra-Curricular Activities or Sports</u>					
Those who are	578	%	28	67	5
Those who are not	416	%	28	64	7

Q.19, 20

Table 1-3

RIGHT AGE TO BEGIN SEX AND WHETHER TEENAGERS WAIT UNTIL THEN

Q.: What do you think is about the right age for a person to start having sexual intercourse? (PROMPT IF NEEDED:) Well, at what age do you feel it would be OK if a person decided to have sexual intercourse?

Q.: From what you've seen or heard, do you think that most of the teenagers in your school or neighborhood wait until that age to have sexual intercourse, or do most start earlier?

	Total Teenagers	Race			Age Now		
		White	Black	Hispanic	12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years
Base	1000	451	341	208	250	383	367
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Right Age</u>							
12 years or under	1	*	4	1	2	1	1
13 years	1	*	3	-	*	2	*
14 years	2	1	3	1	3	1	1
15 years	4	3	5	4	1	4	5
16 years	9	8	15	8	7	8	12
17 years	8	8	7	9	10	6	9
18 years	17	16	19	24	17	19	15
19 years	5	4	7	6	6	4	5
20 years	9	9	11	8	16	9	4
21 years	4	3	7	6	7	4	2
22 years or over	4	3	4	4	4	2	4
Depends	15	18	5	7	3	18	23
Only OK after marriage	12	13	4	10	13	13	9
Not sure	10	11	7	11	11	9	11
<u>Most Wait or Start Earlier</u>							
Most wait until then	16	19	8	15	20	15	13
Most start earlier	79	75	89	83	70	83	84
Not sure	4	4	3	2	7	2	2

Q.48

Table 1-4

FREQUENCY OF USING BIRTH CONTROL

Base: Those who have had intercourse

Q.: Since your first time, whenever you have had intercourse, have you or a partner used birth control all the time, most of the time, only sometimes, or not at all?

	<u>Base</u>		<u>All the Time</u>	<u>Most of the Time</u>	<u>Only Sometimes</u>	<u>Not at All</u>
<u>All Teenagers Who Have Had Intercourse</u>	<u>350</u>	%	<u>33</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>Gender</u>						
Boys	223	%	33	15	15	30
Girls	127	%	34	23	14	21
<u>Race</u>						
White	122	%	41	19	12	20
Black	169	%	19	16	18	40
Hispanic	59*	%	20	19	19	36
<u>Age Now</u>						
12-13 years	26*	%	2	4	14	42
14-15 years	117	%	18	18	19	40
16-17 years	207	%	46	20	12	18
<u>Economic Status Index</u>						
High	32*	%	54	4	12	20
Medium	208	%	33	21	14	26
Low	110	%	24	20	18	31
<u>Live With</u>						
Both parents	185	%	41	13	14	23
One parent	138	%	21	25	17	32
<u>Mother's/Father's Highest Education</u>						
Not high school graduate	55*	%	17	30	11	35
High school graduate	153	%	33	17	13	27
Some college	53*	%	29	20	25	23
College graduate	55*	%	60	12	8	15

(Continued)

Q.48

Table 1-4 (Continued)

FREQUENCY OF USING BIRTH CONTROL

Base: Those who have had intercourse

	<u>Base</u>		<u>All the Time</u>	<u>Most of the Time</u>	<u>Only Sometimes</u>	<u>Not at All</u>
<u>All Teenagers Who Have Had Intercourse</u>	<u>350</u>	%	<u>33</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>Grade Point Average at School</u>						
A to B+	62*	%	43	11	10	25
B to B-	115	%	38	18	13	22
C to F	166	%	26	20	19	32
<u>Involved in Extracurricular Activities or Sports</u>						
Those who are	204	%	39	13	13	29
Those who are not	145	%	26	28	17	21
<u>Currently Employed</u>						
Those who are	124	%	46	15	12	18
Those who are not	225	%	25	21	17	32
<u>Have Some Career in Mind</u>						
Those who do	288	%	35	20	12	27
Those who do not or are unsure	62*	%	26	13	26	28
<u>Religious Background</u>						
Born again Christian	74	%	22	25	13	33
Other Protestant	85	%	38	16	16	26
Other Catholic	60*	%	29	19	23	25

*Sample sizes near 50 are subject to large sampling error.

Note: The impact of knowledge, talks with parents, and sex education at school is shown in Table 6-1.

CHAPTER 2: SOME UNDERLYING REASONS FOR THE PROBLEM

Reasons Why Many Teenagers Do Not Delay Sex

Teenagers say that social pressure is the chief reason why many teenagers do not wait to have sexual intercourse until they are older.

Girls most frequently mention "peer pressure" (34%), followed by "boys talk/pressure girls into it" (17%), and "everyone is doing it" (14%). They also mention "curiosity" (14%) with less frequent mentions of being in love, wanting to feel grown up, and feeling sexual desires (Table 2-1).

Girls are not alone in pointing to the importance of social pressure as an explanation of why many teens do not delay sex. Boys also cite "social pressure" reasons first. They next cite "sexual feelings/desires" followed by "curiosity." However, compared to girls, boys are relatively less likely to mention social pressure and somewhat more likely to point to reasons of sexual desires.

One-quarter of all teenagers report that they themselves have personally felt pressured by other teenagers to go farther with sex than they wanted to. Both genders feel this pressure, but girls are more likely to report pressure (28%) than are boys (21%) (Table 2-2). Girls who have had intercourse are three times as likely as boys who have had intercourse to say that that they felt pressured at the time of first intercourse (Table 2-3).

Reasons Why Many Teenagers Do Not Use Contraceptives

Of those teenagers who are sexually active, less than one-half (41%) used contraceptives the first time they had intercourse. One reason for this is that they did not expect to have intercourse -- it "just happened," according to two-thirds of them (Table 2-3).

Apparently, the unexpectedness of much sexual activity continues to be a major factor with many teenagers even after their first sexual experience.

In answer to an open-ended question, unexpected sex -- with no time to prepare -- is cited by teenagers who have actually had intercourse as the most frequent single reason for not using birth control (Table 2-4).

However, teenagers also have a number of additional impressions about why so many of their peers don't use birth control. When numerous individual reasons are grouped into broad categories, several types of reasons emerge as just as important as, or even more important than, the reason of unexpected sex.

The largest number of teenagers say that they think their peers simply prefer not to use birth control (39%) -- that sex feels better without it, that they don't think about it, or just don't want to use it. Others think that many teenagers don't know enough about contraceptives or can't get access to them (25%). Others yet think that many teenagers are afraid their parents will find out, or they are too embarrassed to get contraceptives. And many say that their peers believe they are safe without contraceptives, that pregnancy is something that won't happen to them (14%). (Table 2-4).

Observation

Many of the reasons why sexually active teenagers do not use birth control can be traced to ignorance, naivete, embarrassment, fear of disapproval, recklessness, thoughtlessness, or stupidity.

Some of these root causes can, in turn, potentially be ameliorated by families, schools, and society through efforts at education. But some of these causes also may be rooted in human nature itself, or at least in American culture, in such a way as to make them more difficult to change.

For instance, the seeming "unexpectedness" of so much teenage sex deserves closer examination. This presumably includes some genuinely spontaneous sexual encounters -- for instance, first intercourse or first intercourse with a particular partner. But one suspects that this reason of "unexpected sex" may also function as an excuse or cover-up for some individuals' failure to prepare for something that should and could have been anticipated.

The fact that "unexpected sex" is the reason most frequently cited by those teenagers who are already sexually active and who do not usually use birth control suggests a repeated and continuing lack of anticipation on the part of many teenagers. That may result from their own personal failings, or from a youthful propensity for risk-taking behavior, or from a cultural tradition that discourages any combination of "planning" with "romance." Those concerned with programs of sex education -- whether within families or schools -- will need to take this finding into consideration.

Q.21

Table 2-1

REASONS WHY TEENAGERS DON'T DELAY SEX

Q.: From what you've heard or seen, what are some of the reasons why many teenagers don't wait to have sexual intercourse until they are older?

	Total Teenagers	Gender		Those Who Have	
		Boys	Girls	Had Sexual Intercourse	Not Had Sexual Intercourse
Base	1000 %	513 %	486 %	350 %	600 %
<u>Social Pressure</u>	<u>(61)</u>				
Peer pressure	30	26	34	37	27
Everyone is doing it	12	10	14	14	11
Boys talk girls/pressure into it	9	2	17	10	10
Friends talk about it	5	7	3	7	5
Want to be popular	3	2	3	2	3
So can boast to friends	2	3	2	2	2
<u>Sexual Feelings/Desires</u>	<u>(30)</u>				
In love with partner	8	6	11	10	7
Want sexual gratification	8	10	5	12	6
Like sex/it's fun	5	6	3	4	5
Long time to wait	5	6	4	6	5
Makes you feel cool	4	7	2	2	5
<u>Curiosity</u>	<u>(25)</u>				
Curiosity	15	16	14	20	13
Don't want to miss something	3	4	2	4	3
Want to feel grown up	7	7	7	8	7
<u>Other</u>					
Influenced by media	3	4	2	4	3
Don't understand consequences	3	2	3	2	3
Problems at home	2	1	3	1	2
Want to have baby	1	1	1	1	1
Nothing to wait for	1	1	1	*	1
All other reasons	15	11	18	16	14

*Less than 0.5%.

Q.23

Table 2-2

WHETHER FELT PRESSURED TO HAVE SEX

Q.: Have you ever felt pressured by other teenagers to go further with sex than you wanted to, or not?

	Total Teenagers	Gender		Race			Those Who Have	
		Boys	Girls	White	Black	Hispanic	Had Sexual Inter- course	Not Had Sexual Inter- course
Base	1000	513	486	451	341	208	350	600
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes felt pressured	25	21	28	24	30	20	30	22
No, not felt pressured	73	76	71	74	68	79	69	77

Q.44, 45, 46, 47

Table 2-3

CONDITIONS OF FIRST INTERCOURSE

Base: Those who have had intercourse

Q.: How old were you the first time you had intercourse?

Q.: Think back now. When you first had intercourse, did you expect it to happen or did it just happen?

Q.: Would you say that you felt pressured to have sexual intercourse at that time, or not?

Q.: When you first had intercourse, did you or your partner use any method of birth control, or not?

	All Teenagers Who Have Had Intercourse	Gender		Race			Age		
		Boys	Girls	White	Black	Hispanic	12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years
		223 %	127 %	122 %	169 %	59* %	26* %	117 %	207 %
Base	350 %								
<u>Age at First Intercourse</u>									
10 years or under	5	9	1	3	12	2	24	7	1
11 years	4	6	1	3	7	2	9	6	2
12 years	8	10	5	7	12	4	28	12	3
13 years	13	13	14	10	20	17	30	22	6
14 years	19	23	14	19	20	17	-	30	16
15 years	25	17	36	29	11	34	-	16	33
16 years	17	16	20	21	9	15	-	-	28
17 years	2	2	3	3	1	2	-	-	4
<u>Expected It or Not</u>									
Expected it at that time	32	31	33	34	25	35	42	14	40
Just happened	65	65	65	62	73	62	49	83	57
<u>Pressured or Not</u>									
Felt pressured at that time	21	12	35	19	26	24	49	23	17
Did not	77	87	64	80	72	76	49	75	82
<u>Used Birth Control or not</u>									
Yes, used at that time	41	37	47	52	17	30	4	29	53
No	56	61	50	45	80	65	85	68	46

*Sample sizes near 50 are subject to large sampling error.

Note: The impact of knowledge and of sex education on use of birth control at time of first intercourse is shown in Table 6-1.

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Q.32

Table 2-4

PERCEIVED REASONS WHY MORE TEENAGERS DON'T USE BIRTH CONTROL

Q.: What do you think are some of the reasons why more teenagers don't use some method of birth control when they have sexual intercourse?

	Total Teenagers	Gender		Those Who Have Had Not Had Sexual Sexual Inter- Inter- course course		Economic Status Index		
		Boys	Girls			High	Medium	Low
Base	1000	513	486	350	600	120	604	276
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Prefer Not to Use</u>	<u>(39)</u>							
Don't want to use	4	5	4	5	4	1	5	3
Feels better without it	5	6	4	7	5	9	5	3
Don't think about it	7	6	7	5	7	5	8	5
Don't care about it	8	8	9	10	8	7	9	8
It's unnatural	1	1	1	1	*	-	1	1
Want to get pregnant	10	8	12	10	10	7	9	14
Against God/religion	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	*
Makes them feel cool	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	3
Under influence of alcohol/ drugs	1	2	-	2	*	*	1	*
<u>Lack of Knowledge or Access</u>	<u>(25)</u>							
Can't get them	4	5	3	2	4	6	5	1
Don't know enough about	14	16	13	13	16	13	15	14
Don't know where to get	5	5	5	4	5	6	6	4
Can't afford to buy	2	3	1	2	2	1	3	*
<u>Fear or Embarrassment</u>	<u>(24)</u>							
Afraid parents will find out	8	4	13	12	7	13	6	11
Afraid of side effects	4	3	5	4	5	4	4	5
Embarrassed	7	5	8	7	7	14	6	3
Afraid to get birth control	5	3	6	4	5	5	4	4
<u>No Time to Use</u>	<u>(20)</u>							
Unexpected sex, no time	13	12	14	17	12	16	14	9
Don't want to take time	7	8	6	10	5	7	8	4
<u>No Need</u>	<u>(15)</u>							
No need, pregnancy won't happen to them	14	11	17	16	13	19	13	13
Ineffective, won't work	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	1
All other reasons	6	5	7	8	6	8	6	6
Don't know	13	14	12	6	15	8	13	19

*Less than 0.5%.

Q.49

Table 2-5

REASONS GIVEN BY SEXUALLY ACTIVE TEENAGERS WHO THEMSELVES
DO NOT USUALLY USE BIRTH CONTROL

Base: Teenagers who have had intercourse but do not
usually use birth control

Q.: What is the main reason you have not used birth control all or most of the
time?

	Those Who Are Sexually Active But Do <u>Not</u> Usually Use <u>Birth Control</u>
	168
	%
<u>Prefer Not to Use</u>	
Don't want to use	9
Feels better without it	5
Don't think about it	8
Don't care about it	3
It's unnatural	2
Want to get pregnant	2
Against God/religion	1
Makes them feel cool	-
Under influence of alcohol/drugs	-
<u>Lack of Knowledge or Access</u>	
Can't get them	6
Don't know enough about	5
Don't know where to get	2
Can't afford to buy	1
<u>Fear or Embarrassment</u>	
Afraid parents will find out	4
Afraid of side effects	3
Embarrassed	2
Afraid to get birth control	1
<u>No Time to Use</u>	
Unexpected sex, no time	21
Don't want to take time	9
<u>No Need</u>	
No need, pregnancy won't happen to them	9
Ineffective, won't work	1
All other reasons	13
Don't know	8

CHAPTER 3:

WHAT TEENAGERS KNOW AND DON'T KNOW ABOUT CONCEPTION AND CONTRACEPTION

Areas of Knowledge vs. Ignorance

Many teenagers are confused or uncertain about when the "safe time" of the month is and which time of the menstrual cycle poses the greatest risk of conception (Table 3-1). Only 40% of teenagers say it is usually true that a girl is most likely to become pregnant about two weeks after her menstrual period begins; 59% give the wrong answer or are not sure. Only 22% of teenagers say it is usually true that a girl cannot become pregnant if she has intercourse during her menstrual period; 76% give the wrong answer or are not sure. Widespread ignorance about so basic a fact of sexuality as this is a disturbing state of affairs.

On the other hand, a majority of teenagers do give the right answers when confronted with some of the most dangerous myths that circulate in teenage society. Only small minorities believe that a girl has to have an orgasm in order to become pregnant or that a girl can't get pregnant the first time she has intercourse. But even on these topics there is considerable uncertainty which, when added to the outright incorrect answers, makes for alarming levels of ignorance.

A composite "sexuality knowledge index," based on seven such facts vs. myths of sexuality, reveals which teenagers are most knowledgeable (Table 3-2). Knowledge increases with age. It is also higher among those who are sexually active and who, thus, have some actual experience. But experience is not the only way to obtain knowledge. Knowledge is also higher among those who have had sex education in school, and among those who have talked with their parents about sex, pregnancy, and birth control.

However, some of the teenagers who are most at risk turn out to have the least knowledge. Black and Hispanic teenagers have less knowledge than whites. And those whose economic status is low have less knowledge than do those who have a high economic status with all the opportunities for learning which that entails. Those with lower grades in school also have less knowledge. And boys show less knowledge than girls on these matters.

Perceptions and Misperceptions about Various Birth Control Methods

When it comes to the effectiveness of various birth control methods in preventing pregnancy, teenagers rate birth control pills and condoms at the top, and they rate withdrawal and the rhythm method at the bottom (Table 3-3). But some teenagers' answers reveal their ignorance or uncertainty about the effectiveness of some of the methods.

For instance, regarding the top-rated methods, 29% nonetheless think that the pill is ineffective at preventing pregnancy, or they don't know. And 39% think that condoms are ineffective, or don't know. And, regarding the methods that were ranked the lowest in effectiveness by teenagers as a whole, there are still 17% of teenagers who think that withdrawal works well in preventing pregnancy, and 15% who think that the rhythm method works well.

When it comes to the safety of various birth control methods, teenagers rate condoms as the safest from side effects. They rate intra-uterine devices and birth control pills as the most likely to have harmful side effects (Table 3-4).

But, when asked to describe the kind of harmful side effects they have heard about, their answers reveal some confusion and misinformation (Table 3-5). For instance, of more than a dozen side effects of the pill that teenagers mentioned, they cited as second and third most frequent that it causes cancer (12%) and causes sterility (11%), neither of which is true.

Finally, when it comes to the accessibility at drugstores of various birth control methods, teenagers report that condoms and vaginal contraceptives like foam,

cream, and sponges are the most accessible. They feel that IUD's and diaphragms are the least easily available.

But, here again, some teenagers have their facts wrong. Seven percent of teenagers think that they cannot walk into a drugstore and buy condoms. And 23% think that any teenager can walk into a drugstore and buy the pill.

Observation

Such ignorance and outright misinformation may result in some teenagers failing to take advantage of particular methods of birth control that could be quite appropriate and effective for them. This could cause some to rely on other methods which are less effective. However, other instances of the confusion and erroneous information documented by the survey may be even more dangerous. For instance, ignorance about basic facts of sexuality and conception can lead directly to unintended pregnancy.

Such teenage ignorance is an adult problem -- both in the sense that adults need to take action to correct it and in the sense that, if left uncorrected, ignorant teenagers become ignorant adults later on.

Q.39

Table 3-1

FACT VS. MYTH: AREAS OF GREATEST IGNORANCE AND UNCERTAINTY

Q.: Here are some statements about pregnancy that other teenagers have told us. Some are true and some are false. From what you have heard, tell me whether you think each is usually true or usually false

Base: 1000		Usually True	Usually False	Not Sure	Refused	Percent Wrong Plus Uncertain
A girl cannot become pregnant if she has intercourse during her menstrual period	%	22	<u>47</u>	<u>29</u>	2	76
It is possible for a girl to become pregnant even though her male partner's penis did not actually enter her vagina	%	33	<u>48</u>	<u>17</u>	2	65
The time when a girl is most likely to become pregnant is about two weeks after her menstrual period begins	%	40	<u>25</u>	<u>34</u>	2	59
A girl has to have an orgasm during intercourse in order to become pregnant	%	<u>14</u>	57	<u>27</u>	2	41
A girl cannot become pregnant if she douches with Coca-Cola after intercourse	%	<u>3</u>	71	<u>25</u>	2	28
A girl cannot become pregnant the first time she has intercourse	%	<u>10</u>	78	<u>10</u>	2	20
A girl can get pregnant only if she is lying flat on her back during intercourse	%	<u>4</u>	79	<u>14</u>	2	18

Q.39

Table 3-2

WHICH TEENAGERS ARE MORE VS. LESS KNOWLEDGEABLE

Q.: Here are some statements about pregnancy that other teenagers have told us. Some are true and some are false. From what you have heard, tell me whether you think each is usually true or usually false.

	Base	<u>Knowledge Level Is</u>			
		<u>High</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>	
<u>Total Teenagers</u>	1000	% 34	42	24	
<u>Sex Education in School</u>					
Had comprehensive sex education	373	% 49	43	8	
Had sex education but not comprehensive	209	% 30	40	30	
No sex education	409	% 24	42	34	
<u>Talk With Parents About Sex and Pregnancy</u>					
Those who have not talked	319	% 26	43	31	
Those who have talked	675	% 38	41	21	
Those whose talk also included birth control	353	% 45	39	16	
<u>Those Who Have</u>					
Had sexual intercourse	350	% 48	39	13	
Not had sexual intercourse	600	% 28	44	28	
<u>Gender</u>					
Boys	513	% 29	41	30	
Girls	486	% 39	42	18	
<u>Age</u>					
12-13 years	250	% 18	42	41	
14-15 years	383	% 34	44	22	
16-17 years	367	% 50	40	11	
<u>Race</u>					
White	451	% 38	38	24	
Black	341	% 24	53	23	
Hispanic	208	% 21	52	27	
<u>Economic Status Index</u>					
High	120	% 46	34	19	
Middle	604	% 34	42	23	
Low	276	% 24	45	31	
<u>Grade Point Average in School</u>					
A to B+	253	% 41	39	20	
B to B-	359	% 36	42	22	
C to F	368	% 26	45	29	

Note: Knowledge level is measured by a composite index of the seven items in Table 3-1.

Q.24

Table 3-3

EFFECTIVENESS OF BIRTH CONTROL METHODS AS PERCEIVED BY TEENAGERS

Q.: This card contains a list of the most widely used methods of contraception or birth control. Tell me, from what you have heard, whether you think each of these methods works well in preventing pregnancy, or doesn't work so well.

Base	Total Teen- agers 1000 %	Age			Those Who Have	
		12-13	14-15	16-17	Had Sexual Inter-	Not Had Sexual Inter-
		Years	Years	Years	course	course
		250 %	383 %	367 %	350 %	600 %
<u>Birth Control Pills</u>						
Works well	69	61	65	80	77	67
Not so well	13	12	15	11	14	12
Not sure how well	16	22	18	8	8	19
Not familiar with	2	3	1	1	*	2
<u>Condoms or Rubbers</u>						
Works well	56	47	57	63	66	52
Not so well	25	19	27	29	30	23
Not sure how well	14	21	14	7	3	18
Not familiar with	5	12	2	1	1	6
<u>Diaphragms</u>						
Works well	31	18	32	43	42	28
Not so well	15	14	16	17	18	15
Not sure how well	26	22	27	27	22	26
Not familiar with	27	44	24	13	19	30
<u>IUD's or Intra-Uterine Devices</u>						
Works well	20	10	16	33	25	19
Not so well	16	11	18	19	20	14
Not sure how well	21	16	23	24	26	19
Not familiar with	42	61	42	24	30	47
<u>Vaginal Contraceptives Like Foam, Cream, Suppositories, or Sponges</u>						
Works well	18	12	17	24	25	16
Not so well	36	25	40	43	48	33
Not sure how well	21	17	24	22	19	21
Not familiar with	24	44	18	11	9	30

(Continued)

Q.24

Table 3-3 (Continued)

EFFECTIVENESS OF BIRTH CONTROL METHODS AS PERCEIVED BY TEENAGERS

	Total Teen- agers	Age			Those Who Have	
		12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years	Had Sexual Inter- course	Not Had Sexual Inter- course
Base	1000 %	250 %	383 %	367 %	350 %	600 %
<u>Pulling Out or Withdrawal</u>						
Works well	17	15	19	17	20	15
Not so well	48	26	50	67	66	43
Not sure how well	15	18	17	9	7	17
Not familiar with	19	39	12	6	7	24
<u>The Rhythm Method or the "Safe Time" of the Month</u>						
Works well	15	12	19	14	19	15
Not so well	47	29	48	64	59	44
Not sure how well	18	20	19	15	14	18
Not familiar with	18	37	13	6	8	23

*Less than 0.5%.

Q.25

Table 3-4

SAFETY OF BIRTH CONTROL METHODS AS PERCEIVED BY TEENAGERS

Base: Those familiar with each method

Q.: Tell me, from what you have heard, whether you think each of these methods sometimes has harmful side effects, or no harmful side effects. (USE SHOWCARD "B" AGAIN. READ EACH ITEM THAT RESPONDENT SEEMS FAMILIAR WITH IN Q.24.)

	All Teenagers Familiar	Age			Those Who Have	
		12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years	Had Sexual Inter- course	Not Had Sexual Inter- course
<u>Condoms or Rubbers</u>	(943)					
Harmful side effects	% 6	5	8	4	6	6
No harmful side effects	% 77	71	74	85	85	74
Not sure	% 16	22	18	9	7	19
<u>Pulling Out or Withdrawal</u>	(800)					
Harmful side effects	% 11	12	11	10	10	11
No harmful side effects	% 66	55	63	74	75	61
Not sure	% 22	30	25	14	13	25
<u>The Rhythm Method or the "Safe Time" of the Month</u>	(793)					
Harmful side effects	% 12	10	14	10	10	12
No harmful side effects	% 63	53	57	74	72	59
Not sure	% 24	35	27	15	17	26
<u>Diaphragms</u>	(692)					
Harmful side effects	% 18	20	17	19	17	20
No harmful side effects	% 41	30	40	49	51	38
Not sure	% 38	45	42	30	33	39
<u>Vaginal Contraceptives Like Foam, Cream, Suppositories, or Sponges</u>	(767)					
Harmful side effects	% 33	31	37	31	33	34
No harmful side effects	% 32	29	26	39	37	30
Not sure	% 32	37	35	27	30	32
<u>Birth Control Pills</u>	(980)					
Harmful side effects	% 47	33	48	59	54	45
No harmful side effects	% 28	32	26	26	30	27
Not sure	% 25	34	25	14	16	28
<u>IUD's or Intra-Uterine Devices</u>	(556)					
Harmful side effects	% 43	28	36	55	48	41
No harmful side effects	% 15	22	14	14	18	14
Not sure	% 40	48	49	30	34	43

Q.26

Table 3-5

TYPES OF HARMFUL SIDE-EFFECTS PERCEIVED BY TEENAGERS

Base: Those perceiving harmful side effects

Q.: What kind of harmful side effects have you heard about (THOSE METHODS SAID TO HAVE HARMFUL EFFECTS)? Anything else?

<u>Birth Control Pills</u>	(426)
	%
Nausea	12
Causes cancer	12
Sterility	11
Get sick	8
Can get pregnant	8
Upsets metabolism	7
Upsets menstrual cycle	7
Headaches	6
Birth defects	6
Weight gain	5
Heart disease	5
Cramps/pain	5
All other	29
Not sure	17
<u>Intra-Uterine Devices</u>	(215)
	%
Uterine damage	30
Infections	17
Sterility	9
Pain	7
All other	27
Not sure	25
<u>Vaginal Contraceptives</u>	(205)
	%
Infections	13
Can get pregnant	8
Rashes	7
All other	30
Not sure	45
<u>Diaphragms</u>	(99)
	%
Pain, cramps	10
Infections	9
Causes cancer	6
All other	27
Not sure	52

Note: Percentages add to more than 100% because respondents were free to give more than one answer. Answers for rhythm method, withdrawal, and condoms not shown because so few respondents perceived harmful side effects from these three methods.

Q.27

Table 3-6

ACCESSIBILITY OF BIRTH CONTROL METHODS AS PERCEIVED BY TEENAGERS

Base: Those familiar with each method

Q.: There are some methods of birth control that teenagers can obtain by walking into any drugstore and buying them. Other methods require a prescription or permission of some kind. From what you've heard, can teenagers walk into a drugstore on their own and buy (READ EACH ITEM THAT RESPONDENT SEEMS FAMILIAR WITH IN Q.24.), or not?

		All Teenagers Familiar	Age			Those Who Have	
			12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years	Had Sexual Inter- course	Not Had Sexual Inter- course
<u>Condoms or Rubbers</u>		(951)					
Teenager can	%	86	73	86	96	96	82
Teenager cannot	%	7	12	7	2	3	8
Not sure	%	8	15	7	2	1	11
<u>Vaginal Contraceptives Like Foam, Cream, Suppositories, or Sponges</u>		(767)					
Teenager can	%	60	43	58	73	67	58
Teenager cannot	%	16	30	13	12	15	17
Not sure	%	23	28	28	16	18	24
<u>Birth Control Pills</u>		(980)					
Teenager can	%	23	26	24	19	22	23
Teenager cannot	%	61	48	62	71	69	58
Not sure	%	16	26	14	9	9	19
<u>Diaphragms</u>		(692)					
Teenager can	%	20	21	16	22	25	18
Teenager cannot	%	48	37	46	57	50	47
Not sure	%	32	42	38	21	24	35
<u>IUD's or Intra- Uterine Devices</u>		(556)					
Teenager can	%	8	13	9	5	8	8
Teenager cannot	%	58	40	52	70	61	56
Not sure	%	34	44	38	26	31	35

CHAPTER 4:

HOW TEENAGERS LEARN ABOUT SEX, CONCEPTION, AND BIRTH CONTROL

Sources of Information

Teenagers cite their parents above all others as their chief source for information about how pregnancy is caused. Eleven possible sources were offered in all. Friends are the next most important source for such information, followed by courses at school, and then television and the movies (Table 4-1).

When it comes to information about contraception and birth control, teenagers rank these same four sources as the most important. Parents rank first, then friends, then courses at school, and then television and movies (Table 4-2).

Talks between Teenagers and their Parents

Two-thirds of all teenagers have at some time talked to their parents about sex and how pregnancy is caused. One-half of those (one-third of all teenagers) had talks that included the subject of birth control. Forty-two percent of teenagers say they would be nervous or afraid to bring up the subject, but 50% say they would not be (Table 4-3).

Older teenagers are more likely than younger ones to report discussions with parents about birth control. But even among 16- and 17-year olds, only 46% have had such a discussion. Thirty-one percent of 16- and 17-year olds have talked with their parents about neither sex nor birth control. Sexually active teenagers are also more likely than sexually non-active teenagers to have had a talk with their parents. But even among sexually active teenagers only 47% have talked with their parents about birth control. Twenty-eight percent of them have had no talk of any kind with their parents about sex (Table 4-4).

Girls are more likely to have had discussions with their parents than are boys. Whites and blacks are more likely than Hispanic teenagers. And those whose parents are college graduates are more likely to have talked about sex with their parents, but they are no more likely to have talked about birth control.

Teenagers' Perceptions of Parents

It is partly from such discussions, partly from general observation, and partly from guesswork that teenagers form perceptions about their parents and birth control. The results of the survey suggest that parents more successfully convey their wishes for their children's behavior than they convey information about their own behavior.

When asked whether they think their parents would want them to use birth control, nearly two-thirds of teenagers (64%) say yes. But, when asked whether they think their parents themselves use birth control, only one-quarter of teenagers think that they do; the plurality (39%) think their parents do not use birth control, and 31% say they are not sure (Table 4-5).

Observation

Parents remain the most important source of information for teenagers. But a large number of teenagers report no discussion at all of sexual matters with their parents, and about half of those who report discussions about sex say that no mention was made of birth control. Since the next most important source of information is the teenager's friends, it is no wonder that ignorance and misinformation on some key topics are as extensive as we found them to be. As last year's Planned Parenthood Poll of adult Americans discovered, many parents feel that they need outside help in informing their children properly about sex and birth control.

Q.13

Table 4-1

SOURCES OF TEENAGERS' INFORMATION ABOUT HOW PREGNANCY IS CAUSED

Q.: When it comes to information about how pregnancy is caused, please look at this card and tell me which sources of information have given you most of what you know about the subject. (HAND RESPONDENT SHOWCARD "A") Which source has given you the most information about how pregnancy is caused? Which source has given you the second greatest amount of information? And which source has given you the third greatest amount of information?

	Most Information	Second Greatest	Third Greatest	Sum
	1000	1000	1000	1000
	%	%	%	%
Base				
Parents	40	19	10	69
Friends	20	21	18	59
Courses or teachers at school	19	18	10	47
Television or movies	6	8	13	27
Brothers or sisters	4	9	8	21
Books or magazines	3	7	10	20
Other relatives	2	6	8	16
A doctor or a nurse	2	4	4	10
Sexual partners	2	2	3	7
A Planned Parenthood Clinic	1	1	1	3
Other family planning clinic	*	1	1	2

*Less than 0.5%.

Q.14

Table 4-2

SOURCES OF TEENAGERS' INFORMATION ABOUT CONTRACEPTION AND BIRTH CONTROL

Q.: When it comes to information about contraception and birth control, look at this card and tell me which sources have given you most of what you know about the subject. (HAND RESPONDENT SHOWCARD "A" AGAIN) Which source has given you the most information about contraception and birth control? Which source has given you the second greatest amount of information? And which source has given you the third greatest amount of information?

Base	Most Information 1000 %	Second Greatest 1000 %	Third Greatest 1000 %	Sum 1000 %
Parents	29	15	9	53
Friends	14	18	13	45
Courses or teachers at school	19	13	7	39
Television or movies	8	8	9	25
Books or magazines	6	7	10	23
A doctor or a nurse	5	7	7	19
Brothers or sisters	4	6	7	17
Other relatives	2	7	8	17
A Planned Parenthood Clinic	3	3	1	7
Sexual partners	2	*	2	4
Other family planning clinic	1	1	2	4

*Less than 0.5%.

Q.15, 16, 17, 18

Table 4-3

WHETHER TALKED WITH PARENTS ABOUT SEX AND BIRTH CONTROL

Q.: Have either of your parents ever talked with you about sex and how pregnancy is caused, or not?

Q.: How old were you when they first talked to you about this?

Q.: Have your parents or any other adult in your family ever talked with you about using birth control methods, or not?

Q.: Do you think that you would be nervous or afraid to bring up the subject of sex and birth control with your parents, or not?

	Total Teenagers	Age Now		
		12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years
Base	1000 %	250 %	383 %	367 %
<u>Ever Talked With Parents About</u>				
Both sex <u>and</u> birth control	35	23	35	46
Sex but <u>not</u> birth control	33	40	38	23
Neither subject	31	35	27	31
		64	73	69
<u>Nervous or Afraid to Bring up Subject</u>				
Yes, nervous or afraid	42	46	44	36
Would not be	50	44	50	58
Not sure	8	11	7	6
<u>Age at First Talk About Sex and Pregnancy</u>				
8 years or under	6	4	7	6
9-10 years	14	23	12	9
11 years	12	17	11	7
12 years	16	12	20	15
13 years	8	3	11	10
14 years	4	-	5	7
15 years or over	3	-	1	7
Not sure what age	6	5	6	7
No such talk yet	31	35	27	31

Q.15, 17

Table 4-4

WHICH TEENAGERS HAVE TALKED WITH THEIR PARENTS

Q.: Have either of your parents ever talked with you about sex and how pregnancy is caused, or not?

Q.: How old were you when they first talked to you about this?

	Base		Percent Who Have Ever Talked With Parents About		
			Both Sex and Birth Control	Sex But Not Birth Control	Neither Subject
<u>Total Teenagers</u>	1000	%	35	33	31
<u>Gender</u>					
Boys	513	%	25	33	41
Girls	486	%	46	34	20
<u>Age</u>					
12-13 years	250	%	23	40	35
14-15 years	383	%	36	38	27
16-17 years	367	%	46	23	31
<u>Race</u>					
White	451	%	36	34	29
Black	341	%	40	42	29
Hispanic	208	%	20	34	45
<u>Economic Status Index Level</u>					
High	120	%	42	34	23
Medium	604	%	32	36	31
Low	276	%	39	26	35
<u>Mother's/Father's Highest Education</u>					
Not high school graduate	141	%	36	21	43
High School graduate	395	%	34	35	30
some college	154	%	39	33	26
College graduate	207	%	37	39	23
<u>Sex Education in School</u>					
Had comprehensive sex education	373	%	47	30	23
Had sex education but not comprehensive	209	%	32	39	28
No sex education	409	%	25	34	39

(Continued)

Q.15, 17

Table 4-4 (Continued)

WHICH TEENAGERS HAVE TALKED WITH THEIR PARENTS

			Percent Who Have Ever Talked With Parents About		
			Both Sex and Birth Control	Sex But Not Birth Control	Neither Subject
	<u>Base</u>				
<u>Total Teenagers</u>	1000	%	35	33	31
<u>Plan to Go to College</u>					
Those who do	707	%	36	36	27
Those who do not	166	%	37	30	33
<u>Have Some Career in Mind</u>					
Those who do	772	%	37	35	28
Those who do not or are unsure	156	%	32	26	41
<u>Religious Background</u>					
Born again Christian	214	%	39	31	27
Other Protestant	201	%	39	37	24
Other Catholic	213	%	28	34	37
<u>Knowledge Level</u>					
Those who score high	318	%	46	31	23
Those who score medium	460	%	33	35	31
Those who score low	222	%	23	35	40
<u>Those Who Have</u>					
Had sexual intercourse	350	%	47	24	28
Not had sexual intercourse	600	%	29	38	31
<u>Those Who Have</u>					
Had sexual intercourse <u>and</u> usually use birth control	160	%	58	16	27
Had sexual intercourse but do <u>not</u> usually use birth control	168	%	38	34	28

Q.51, 52

Table 4-5

TEENAGERS' PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR PARENTS AND BIRTH CONTROL

Q.: Do you think that your parents would want you to use birth control methods, or would they not want you to use birth control methods, or would they not care one way or the other, or would they be too angry to discuss it?

Q.: Do you think that your parents themselves use birth control, or not?

		Talk With Parents About Sex and Pregnancy				
		Those Who Have		Those Who	Those	Those
	Total	Had	Not Had	Have Not	Who Have	Whose
	Teenagers	Sexual	Sexual	Talked	Talked	Talk Also
	1000	Inter-	Inter-	Have Not	Who Have	Included
	%	course	course	Talked	Talked	Birth
Base		350	600	319	675	353
		%	%	%	%	%
<u>Parents Wishes Regarding Birth Control</u>						
Would want me to use	64	79	59	52	69	83
Would not want me to use	10	7	10	9	10	6
Would not care	2	2	2	1	2	1
Would be too angry to discuss	13	8	14	19	9	2
Not sure	11	3	14	15	8	5
Refused	2	1	1	3	2	2
<u>Parents Own Use of Birth Control</u>						
Yes, think they do	24	27	23	20	25	29
No, think they don't	39	41	38	35	41	40
Not applicable	3	5	2	4	2	3
Not sure	31	26	34	36	28	25
Refused	4	2	3	5	4	3

CHAPTER 5:

OUTSIDE HELP FOR THE FAMILY FROM SCHOOL AND TELEVISION

Sex Education at School

A majority of teenagers (59%) have had a formal course or class in sex education at school. That is why teenagers nominate the school as the third most important source of their knowledge about both sex and birth control -- third after parents and friends. But 40% of all teenagers have not had sex education at school (Table 5-1).

Moreover, many of those who have had sex education at school seem to have received a sketchy training (Table 5-2). For instance, while two-thirds of those with sex education say their course covered different kinds of birth control, three in ten say their course did not. While half say their course included facts about where to get contraceptives, most of the other half say their course did not. Including those who have had no formal sex education at all, the survey shows that only 35% of all American teenagers have had a sex education course whose content could be called comprehensive. ("Comprehensive" was defined as including at least four of the six topics listed in Table 5-2).

One reason for this may be that the median teenager reports having had sex education by seventh grade, and half say that they received sex education in only one grade. For six out of ten it was given as part of another course rather than as a separate course (Table 5-3). Many teenagers, then, may be receiving sex education at an age when schools think them too young for a fully comprehensive course, and yet many then fail to receive any more advanced education at a later date.

Indeed, older teenagers are more likely than younger ones to report having had a sex education course that was comprehensive. Whites and Hispanics are more likely than blacks, and girls are slightly more likely than boys, to report such a course. Teenagers in the East and West are more likely than those in the Midwest and South to have had a comprehensive sex education course at school (Table 5-4).

Television as a Source of Information

Teenagers rank television as the fourth most important source of their information on both sex and birth control (out of 11 possible sources.) Their reliance on television is of concern because the survey shows that many teenagers -- not majorities, but very sizeable minorities -- believe that TV gives a realistic picture of such topics as sexually transmitted diseases (45%), pregnancy and the consequences of sex (41%), family planning to prevent pregnancy (28%), and people making love (24%).

The 1985 Planned Parenthood Poll of U.S. adults, conducted by Harris, asked the same questions of adults and found them to be much more skeptical, giving television very little credit for offering accurate and realistic information on these subjects (Table 5-5).

By the later teens, teenagers begin to approach the adult levels of skepticism. Those who are sexually active are also more skeptical of TV. Those who have had comprehensive sex education in school also are closer to adult levels of skepticism about TV. And those whose parents are college graduates are also more skeptical (Table 5-6).

Observation

The contrast between adult skepticism and teenage trust in television is cause for concern. Although with age and increased education teenagers become more skeptical, still many of those who are most in need of reliable information -- the youngest teenagers, those who have not had any formal sex education, and those whose parents are not college graduates -- are the most likely to think TV realistic. And the fact that only 35% of all American teenagers have had comprehensive formal sex education at school leaves many of them vulnerable to TV as well as to other influences, such as misinformation from friends.

Q.5, 6, 7

Table 5-1

WHETHER HAD SEX EDUCATION AT SCHOOL

Q.: At school have you ever had any course or class in sex education, or not?

Q.: In what grade did you first have a course or class in sex education?

Q.: Since you have been in school, have you had sex education in just one grade, or in more than one grade?

	Total Teenagers	Age			Region			
		12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years	East	Mid- west	South	West
Base	1000 %	250 %	383 %	367 %	214 %	215 %	365 %	206 %
<u>Had Course or Class</u>								
Yes, had	59	42	60	73	65	54	45	80
No	40	56	39	26	35	45	53	19

Base with sex education	(582) %	(102) %	(225) %	(255) %	(143) %	(120) %	(157) %	(162) %
<u>Beginning in</u>								
First through fourth	6	13	4	4	7	7	2	6
Fifth grade	20	40	19	10	16	20	20	23
Sixth grade	18	21	19	16	28	13	12	20
Seventh grade	18	19	22	14	23	12	14	22
Eighth grade	13	5	13	17	14	9	13	15
Ninth grade	15	-	17	21	5	24	25	6
Tenth or later	7	-	*	16	4	6	10	8
<u>In One Grade or More</u>								
Just one grade	49	52	46	50	43	50	62	42
In more than one grade	49	44	52	49	56	46	38	55

*Less than 0.5%.

Q.11

Table 5-2

CONTENTS OF SEX EDUCATION AT SCHOOL

Q.: Did any of your sex education classes ever include (READ EACH ITEM), or not?

Base	Total Teen- agers 1000 %	Those With Sex Education at School							
		All With Sex Educa- tion 582 %	Age			Region			
			12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years	Mid-			
			102 %	225 %	255 %	East 143 %	west 120 %	South 157 %	West 162 %
Biological facts about reproduction	52	89	83	89	92	97	82	89	88
Talk about coping with your sexual development	46	79	66	83	83	85	76	84	71
Information about different kinds of birth control	39	66	48	63	79	71	55	74	65
Information about preventing sexual abuse	32	55	56	55	53	46	49	61	62
Facts about abortion	32	54	39	57	59	57	45	54	60
Facts about where to get contraceptives	30	51	31	45	67	55	45	60	44

Percent who have had "comprehensive" sex education*	35	60	40	60	70	64	49	64	62

*"Comprehensive" was defined as including at least four of the six contents above.

Q.8, 9, 10

Table 5-3

SETTING OF SEX EDUCATION AT SCHOOL

Base: Those who have had sex education in school

Q.: Think back to the most recent sex education you had in school. Was it a separate course, or was it part of some other course?

Q.: What kind of teacher taught the course?

Q.: Were boys and girls in the same class or only students of your sex?

	All Teenagers With Sex Education	Age			Region			
		12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years	East	Mid- west	South	West
Base with sex education	582 %	102 %	225 %	255 %	143 %	120 %	157 %	162 %
<u>Separate Course or Not</u>								
Separate course	37	59	34	27	44	39	28	36
Part of some other course	61	35	65	71	54	58	70	61
<u>Type of Teacher</u>								
Science teacher	14	15	13	14	22	10	15	9
Health/sex education teacher	41	25	43	47	33	46	38	46
Nurse	13	24	11	7	6	10	18	17
Gym teacher	11	8	11	13	20	7	9	9
Outside expert	4	5	3	3	3	4	3	5
Other regular teacher	13	16	12	12	12	16	13	11
Someone else	3	3	5	2	3	5	2	2
<u>Mixed or Same Sex</u>								
Boys and girls	64	55	61	72	79	54	53	69
Your sex only	35	43	39	28	20	45	47	30

Q.11

Table 5-4

WHICH TEENAGERS HAVE HAD COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION AT SCHOOL

Q.: Did any of your sex education classes ever include (READ EACH ITEM), or not?

	<u>Base</u>		<u>Percent Who Have Had</u>		
			<u>Comprehensive Sex Education</u>	<u>Sex Education But Not Comprehensive</u>	<u>No Sex Education</u>
<u>Total Teenagers</u>	1000	%	35	24	40
<u>Age</u>					
12-13 years	250	%	17	26	56
14-15 years	383	%	36	24	39
16-17 years	367	%	51	22	26
<u>Gender</u>					
Boys	513	%	32	22	45
Girls	486	%	38	26	35
<u>Race</u>					
White	451	%	35	26	38
Black	341	%	30	17	52
Hispanic	208	%	42	19	39
<u>Region</u>					
East	214	%	41	23	35
Midwest	215	%	26	28	45
South	365	%	29	16	53
West	206	%	50	30	19
<u>Size of Place</u>					
Central city	389	%	32	25	43
Rest of SMSA	371	%	33	27	39
Outside of SMSA	240	%	43	17	39
<u>Economic Status Index</u>					
Low	276	%	34	18	46
Medium	604	%	36	24	40
High	120	%	32	31	35
<u>Knowledge Level</u>					
Those who score high	318	%	50	21	29
Those who score medium	460	%	36	23	40
Those who score low	222	%	12	30	56

(Continued)

Q. 11

Table 5-4 (Continued)

WHICH TEENAGERS HAVE HAD COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION AT SCHOOL

	<u>Base</u>		<u>Percent Who Have Had</u>		
			<u>Comprehensive Sex Education</u>	<u>Sex Education But Not Comprehensive</u>	<u>No Sex Education</u>
<u>Total Teenagers</u>	<u>1000</u>	%	<u>35</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Talk With Parents About Sex and Pregnancy</u>					
Those who have <u>not</u> talked	319	%	26	22	52
Those who have talked	675	%	40	25	35
Those whose talk also included birth control	353	%	48	22	29
<u>Those Who Have</u>					
Had sexual intercourse	350	%	46	19	34
Not had sexual intercourse	600	%	31	26	42
<u>Those Who Have</u>					
Had sexual intercourse <u>and</u> usually use birth control	160	%	53	18	28
Had sexual intercourse but do <u>not</u> usually use birth control	168	%	40	22	37

Note: "Comprehensive" is defined as including at least four of the six contents listed in Table 5-2.

Q.12

Table 5-5

TEENAGERS' VS. ADULTS' PERCEPTIONS OF TELEVISION
IN DEALING WITH SEXUAL TOPICS

Q.: We're interested in how you think television portrays subjects dealing with sex. For each subject, tell me whether you think television gives a realistic picture, or an exaggerated picture, or doesn't deal with the subject much at all.

Base: 1000 <u>Teenagers</u>		TV Gives Realistic <u>Picture</u>	TV Gives Exaggerated <u>Picture</u>	TV Doesn't <u>Deal Much</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>
Information about sexually trans- mitted diseases	%	45	12	34	9
Pregnancy and the consequences of sex	%	41	21	27	11
Family planning to prevent pregnancy and to control family size	%	28	14	44	13
People making love	%	24	53	14	10
People having sexual intercourse	%	20	45	23	11

Base: 1253 <u>Adults</u>					
Information about sexually transmitted diseases	%	28	6	63	3
Pregnancy and the consequences of sex	%	24	25	45	6
Family planning to prevent pregnancy and to control family size	%	17	9	68	6
People making love	%	18	68	11	3

Q.12

Table 5-6

HOW TEENAGERS THINK TELEVISION PORTRAYS
PEOPLE HAVING SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

Q.: We're interested in how you think television portrays subjects dealing with sex. For each subject, tell me whether you think television gives a realistic picture, or an exaggerated picture, or doesn't deal with the subject much at all.

	<u>Base</u>		<u>Percent Saying That Television</u>			
			<u>Gives</u> <u>Realistic</u> <u>Picture</u>	<u>Gives</u> <u>Exaggerated</u> <u>Picture</u>	<u>Does Not</u> <u>Deal Much</u>	<u>Not</u> <u>Sure</u>
<u>Total Teenagers</u>	<u>1000</u>	%	<u>20</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Age</u>						
12-13 years	250	%	18	37	26	18
14-15 years	383	%	21	46	24	9
16-17 years	367	%	22	52	19	7
<u>Grade Point</u> <u>Average at School</u>						
A to B+	253	%	18	53	21	8
B to B-	359	%	18	44	24	12
C to F	368	%	26	39	23	12
<u>Mother's/Father's</u> <u>Highest Education</u>						
Not high school graduate	141	%	27	39	19	15
High school graduate	395	%	23	42	25	10
Some college	154	%	19	49	22	9
College graduate	207	%	17	51	21	11
<u>Sex Education at School</u>						
Had comprehensive sex education	373	%	24	56	15	6
Had sex education but not comprehensive	209	%	21	40	26	12
No sex education	409	%	17	39	27	16
<u>Knowledge Level Is</u>						
High	318	%	21	56	16	6
Medium	460	%	19	45	27	9
Low	222	%	21	30	24	23
<u>Those Who Have</u>						
Had sexual intercourse	350	%	24	50	17	9
Not had sexual intercourse	600	%	19	43	25	12

CHAPTER 6:

WHAT SOCIETY CAN DO

The Impact of Education and Knowledge

First, education works! Among those teenagers who are sexually active the effect of education is clear (Table 6-1). Those who have had comprehensive sex education at school are much more likely to use birth control all the time. So are those who have talked about sex and pregnancy with their parents, and especially those whose talk included the subject of birth control. And those teenagers with the highest knowledge about sexuality and conception -- gained from whatever source -- are also more likely to use birth control all the time.

Therefore, a major priority for society in dealing with the problem of teenage pregnancy is to find ways of encouraging more parents to talk more openly and in more detail with their own children about sexuality and contraception. The second major priority is to improve both the availability and the comprehensiveness of sex education in the schools. But society may also wish to go farther and to try actively to persuade teenagers either to delay sex or, if sexually active, to use birth control.

Influential Arguments for Delaying Sex

We asked teenagers themselves which of four arguments would be most influential in convincing their peers to wait to have sex until they are older (Table 6-2). The most convincing arguments, in their view, revolved around the dangers of catching diseases like AIDS and herpes (65%) and the danger of a pregnancy ruining one's life (62%). Somewhat fewer thought it would help to warn teenagers about what their parents would do to them if they found out (50%). And far fewer felt it would help to tell teenagers that having sex would ruin their reputation with their friends (29%).

Influential Arguments for Using Birth Control

We also asked teenagers which of eight arguments would be influential in convincing their sexually active peers to use birth control. The three most convincing arguments -- in their view -- included guaranteeing confidentiality in getting birth control (78%), making birth control free of cost (75%), and making birth control easy to obtain (70%). (Table 6-3).

Majorities or near majorities also saw some effectiveness in telling teenagers that using birth control is the responsible thing to do (59%), telling teenagers that sex is more fun when it is safe (55%), and telling teenagers that using birth control is the healthy thing to do (48%).

Far fewer thought it would be helpful to tell teenagers that their partner would love them more for using birth control (34%) or to tell teenagers that using birth control is the "cool" thing to do (34%).

Observation

We need to increase the comprehensiveness of the sex education that teenagers receive -- whether they receive it from parents or from the schools or from other sources.

Of all the things which that education needs to accomplish, arguably the most important is to create an environment in which those teenagers who are sexually active want to use contraceptives, not just because it is healthy, sensible, and responsible, but because it is the smart thing to do. We need to create a consensus among young people that not using contraceptives is dumb. In this new environment they would be deeply embarrassed if their friends thought they were not using contraceptives. The 1986 Planned Parenthood

Poll of teenagers clearly shows some of the arguments for delaying sex that can be influential with teenagers -- about preventing disease, pregnancy, and ruined lives.

And it shows some of the steps that society can effectively take to encourage sexually active teenagers to use more birth control -- by increasing access to contraceptives and by insuring the confidentiality of that access.

Q.47, 48

Table 6-1

IMPACT OF KNOWLEDGE, TALKS WITH PARENTS, AND SEX EDUCATION AT
SCHOOL ON TEENAGERS' USE OF BIRTH CONTROL

Base: Those who have had intercourse

Q.: When you first had intercourse, did you or your partner use any method of birth control, or not?

Q.: Since your first time, whenever you have had intercourse, have you or a partner used birth control all the time, most of the time, only sometimes, or not at all?

	Base	Frequency of Using Birth Control Since First Intercourse				Percent Who Used Birth Control at First Intercourse
		All The Time	Most of the Time	Only Some- times	Not at All	
All Teenagers Who Have Had Intercourse	350	% 33	19	15	27	41
Sex Education at School						
Yes and comprehensive	157	% 40	19	12	24	53
Yes, but not comprehensive	62*	% 30	19	20	27	38
No sex education	129	% 25	18	15	30	28
Talk With Parents About Sex and Pregnancy						
Those who have not talked	105	% 26	23	11	30	31
Those who have talked	244	% 37	17	16	26	45
Those whose talk also included birth control	155	% 43	20	14	19	51
Knowledge Index Score						
Low	46*	% 16	11	22	34	27
Medium	165	% 25	16	14	37	28
High	139	% 45	22	13	16	56

*Sample sizes near 50 are subject to large sampling error.

Note: Additional factors that influence the use of birth control are shown in Table 1-4.

Q.22

Table 6-2

TEENAGERS EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF ARGUMENTS FOR DELAYING SEX

Q.: Here are some possible reasons that might make more teenagers wait to have sexual intercourse until they are older. For each, tell me if you think it would be likely to influence the teenagers that you know to wait to have sex, or not likely to influence them.

Percent Saying "Likely to Influence"									
	Teen- agers	Age			Those Who Have		Economic		
		12-13	14-15	16-17	Had	Not Had	Status Index		
		Years	Years	Years	Sexual Inter- course	Sexual Inter- course	Low	Medium	High
Base	1000	250	383	367	350	600	276	604	120
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Telling them to worry more about catching diseases like AIDS and herpes	65	60	66	68	60	67	68	65	60
Telling them how a pregnancy could ruin their life	62	67	61	60	55	66	56	63	67
Telling them to worry more about what their parents would say or do to them if they found out	50	61	50	40	38	55	49	53	39
Telling them that having sex would ruin their reputation with their friends	29	37	27	23	16	35	31	30	22

Q.34

Table 6-3

TEENAGERS EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF ARGUMENTS FOR USING BIRTH CONTROL

Q.: Here are some possible things that might make more teenagers use birth control if they are having sexual intercourse. For each, tell me whether you think it would be likely to influence the teenagers that you know to use birth control, or would not be likely to influence them.

	Total Teen- agers	Percent Saying "Likely to Influence"					
		Age			Those Who Have		
					Had Sexual Intercourse and Usually Use Birth Control	Had Sexual Intercourse But Do <u>Not</u> Usually Use Birth Control	Not Had Inter- course
		12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years			
Base	1000 %	250 %	383 %	367 %	160 %	168 %	600 %
Telling teenagers where they can get birth control with- out anyone else finding out	78	73	78	84	80	79	79
Making birth control free of cost	75	66	75	83	78	74	76
Making birth control easy to get	70	57	70	83	76	67	70
Telling teenagers that using birth control is the responsible thing to do	59	57	56	65	69	61	58
Telling teenagers that sex is more fun when it is safe	55	51	53	60	59	55	54
Telling teenagers that using birth control is the healthy thing to do	48	49	44	51	47	38	51
Telling teenagers that their sexual partner would love them more for using birth control	34	34	30	38	44	39	32
Telling teenagers that using birth control is the cool thing to do	34	34	33	34	33	34	35

(Continued)

Q.34

Table 6-3 (Continued)

TEENAGERS EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF ARGUMENTS FOR USING BIRTH CONTROL

Q.: Here are some possible things that might make more teenagers use birth control if they are having sexual intercourse. For each, tell me whether you think it would be likely to influence the teenagers that you know to use birth control, or would not be likely to influence them.

		Percent Saying "Likely to Influence"						
	Total Teen-agers	Race			Gender		Track in School	
		White	Black	Hispanic	Boys	Girls	Academic	Vocational
Base	1000	451	341	208	513	486	624	183
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Telling teenagers where they can get birth control without anyone else finding out	78	79	78	76	77	80	83	72
Making birth control free of cost	75	75	78	69	76	74	77	76
Making birth control easy to get	70	71	66	69	69	71	72	73
Telling teenagers that using birth control is the responsible thing to do	59	59	63	54	58	61	60	54
Telling teenagers that sex is more fun when it is safe	55	54	57	57	56	53	56	55
Telling teenagers that using birth control is the healthy thing to do	48	48	51	43	47	48	47	53
Telling teenagers that their sexual partner would love them more for using birth control	34	33	45	32	39	29	34	35
Telling teenagers that using birth control is the cool thing to do	34	31	48	29	34	34	31	40

CHAPTER 7:

ON FURTHER UNDERSTANDING TEENAGERS AND BIRTH CONTROL

Methods Preferred vs. Actually Used by Teenagers

It is important for parents, educators, and others to understand that the overwhelming majority of teenagers prefer just two methods of birth control: the pill and the condom. Forty percent of all teenagers and (63% of girls) prefer the pill while 32% of all teenagers (and 53% of boys) prefer the condom. Among those who are sexually active, the ratio of preferences is approximately the same. No other methods rank anywhere close (Table 7-1).

However, the methods actually used -- as reported by teenagers who are sexually active -- have a quite different ratio. As Table 7-1 shows, many more prefer the pill than actually use it; many end up using the condom instead. This discrepancy suggests that preferences get translated into behavior at very different rates for the two methods due to the relative ease of obtaining condoms and the actual or perceived difficulty of obtaining the pill.

This interpretation gains confirmation in Table 7-2 which presents the reasons why teenagers prefer each method. Effectiveness in preventing pregnancy is, quite naturally, the chief reason cited by both those who prefer the pill and those who prefer condoms, and safety is also highly mentioned by both groups. But after these chief considerations, those who prefer the condom next cite that it is easy to buy, while those who prefer the pill next say it is easy to use with many fewer saying it is easy to buy.

The implication is that many more teenagers would use the pill if it were more easily available.

Other Possible Barriers

Another possible barrier to use of the pill is indicated in Table 7-3. It was pointed out to girls in the survey that when a girl sees a doctor about

birth control she is usually required to have a pelvic examination. Sixty-nine percent of girls thought that this requirement frightens many girls away. A similar proportion of agreement (70%) is registered by those girls who have actually used the pill and who, presumably, have actually undergone a pelvic exam. Thus, first-hand experience with the pelvic exam does not remove the fear of it. Such fear would reduce actual use of the pill below the level of preferences that teenagers express.

Table 7-3 also indicates that the cost of birth control is also a barrier for some teenagers. When informed that most methods of birth control cost between \$5.00 a month and \$20.00 a month, one-third of all teenagers say this is too much for them to pay.

Where Teenagers Would Get Contraceptives

The source of supply of contraceptives for teenagers is also an important consideration (Table 7-4). Teenagers say they would go to a drugstore (31%), family doctor (26%), or a family planning clinic like Planned Parenthood (16%) as their chief sources of supply. Boys lean toward the drugstore while girls lean toward the family doctor. As teenagers get older they increasingly mention the family planning clinic.

One way to increase the accessibility of birth control would be to establish school-linked clinics where contraceptives could be obtained (Table 7-5). Forty percent of teenagers endorse this idea, with somewhat more saying the clinic should be located close to the school (28%) rather than inside the school (12%). Thirty-one percent of all teenagers think their own school needs such a clinic. These percentages are substantially higher among the groups for which access to contraception is most likely to be important. For instance, a majority of those who are sexually active favor the idea of school-linked clinics, as do a majority of black teenagers.

Observation

It is a reasonable assumption that if contraceptives were available through school-linked clinics, then contraceptive use would increase and teenage pregnancy would be reduced. Furthermore, many of those teenagers

who say that they think their schools should not be linked with family planning clinics might give a different answer if they felt that these were not solely family planning clinics, but rather clinics providing a whole range of health care services including family planning. Being able to enter the facility without signaling to one's classmates, teachers, or parents that one is going in to ask for contraceptives is clearly of great importance to many teenagers. Teenagers ranked the guarantee of confidentiality as the number one factor in influencing more teenagers to use contraceptives (Table 6-3).

Teenagers' Views on Abortion

If preventing pregnancy fails, then abortion remains as a possible option available to teenagers. But teenage America has mixed feelings on this subject, as does adult America. Teenagers, like adult Americans, on balance favor the availability of abortion, but the ratio is a close 47% to 40%. (Table 7-6).

Older teenagers and those who are sexually active tend to be even more in favor of making abortion available. As with adult Americans, teenagers of higher economic status are also more in favor of the right to abortion.

However, fifty-nine percent of teenage girls say that, if they themselves became pregnant while still in school, they would probably have the baby rather than an abortion. It should be emphasized that this was a hypothetical situation; many girls may not know what they would eventually do if faced with an actual need for such a choice. Teenage girls whose parents are college graduates are more likely to be able to see themselves actually choosing an abortion.

Observation

This ambivalence about abortion -- support for the availability of the option, but hesitation to say that one would opt for it oneself -- is important to understand. For it means that most teenagers do not look to abortion as the easy way out of an unwanted pregnancy or as any reason to neglect birth control. While many teenagers (and their parents) might eventually choose abortion as a last resort, the need to prevent pregnancy in the first place continues to be the primary goal.

Q.29, 50

Table 7-1

PREFERENCE FOR VARIOUS BIRTH CONTROL METHODS AMONG TEENAGERS

Q.: From what you've heard, which method of birth control sounds like the one you would choose to use with a sexual partner?

Q.: Look at the list on this card again and tell me which method of birth control you and your sexual partner have used most often.

	Preferred Method of Birth Control								
	Total Teenagers 1000 %	Gender		Age			Those Who Are Sexually Active	Actual Method Used Most By Sexually Active	
		Boys	Girls	12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years		Boys	Girls
		513 %	486 %	250 %	383 %	367 %		223 %	127 %
Birth control pills	40	17	63	35	41	42	42	10	38
Condoms or rubbers	32	53	10	29	33	32	36	47	25
Diaphragms	2	2	3	1	1	4	5	4	3
UD's or intra-uterine devices	1	1	1	*	1	*	*	-	-
Vaginal contraceptives like foam, cream, suppositories, or sponges	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	-	2
Pulling out or withdrawal	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	3	5
Rhythm method or the safe time of the month	1	1	1	1	1	*	*	-	1
One of these	3	2	3	4	2	2	2	22	16
Not sure	18	20	16	25	17	13	10	14	5
Refused	2	1	2	3	2	1	*	1	6

Less than 0.5%.

Q.30

Table 7-2

REASONS FOR PREFERRED METHOD

Base: Those who have a preference for some method of birth control

Q.: What is the main reason why you would pick that method?

	All Teenagers Who Have a Preference	Gender		Those Who Prefer		Those Who Have Had Intercourse and Who Usually Use Birth Control
		Boys With a Preference	Girls With a Preference	Birth Control Pills	Condoms or Rubbbers	
Base	803 %	404 %	398 %	395 %	331 %	150 %
Effective/reliable/ prevents pregnancy	39	39	40	45	32	44
Safe/safer	26	22	30	30	20	30
Easy to use	13	7	19	18	9	19
Easy to buy	12	21	4	2	27	14
More familiar with	12	10	13	14	10	7
No side effects	9	8	11	6	13	9
Family member uses/ recommends	3	1	5	5	1	*
Prevents disease	3	5	1	-	7	2
Inexpensive/cheaper	2	3	1	*	5	3
Only method available for men	2	3	*	-	4	1
Prescribed by doctor	1	*	3	2	-	4
Keeps me in control	1	1	2	1	1	4
More natural	1	1	1	1	*	1
Quick	*	1	*	-	1	-
All other reasons	6	5	7	8	3	10
Not sure	4	4	3	3	5	2

*Less than 0.5%.

Q.28, 33, 36, 42

Table 7-3

SOME POSSIBLE BARRIERS TO USING BIRTH CONTROL

Q.: Most methods of birth control cost between \$5.00 a month and \$20.00 a month. If you needed birth control, could you afford to pay between \$5.00 and \$20.00 a month for it, or would that be too much for you to pay?

Q.: If your parents' permission were required before you could get contraceptives, would that make you more likely to use them, less likely to use them, or wouldn't that make any difference to you?

Q.: Here are some more statements that some teenagers have told us. There is no right or wrong answer. For each, just tell me whether you agree or disagree.

Q.: When a girl sees a doctor about birth control, she is usually required to have a pelvic examination. Do you think that this requirement frightens a lot of girls away from seeing a doctor about birth control, or do you think it is not much of a problem?

	Total Teenagers	Age			Race		
		12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years	White	Black	Hispanic
Base	1000 %	250 %	383 %	367 %	451 %	341 %	208 %
<u>Cost of Birth Control</u>							
Could afford	55	38	57	69	56	50	50
Too much to pay	33	47	32	21	31	35	40
Depends, not sure	11	12	10	9	10	15	10
<u>If Parental Permission Required</u>							
More likely	20	18	23	18	17	32	23
Less likely	32	26	33	37	32	28	36
Would make no difference	34	33	33	38	36	31	27
<u>Prevalence of Two Attitudes</u>							
Using birth control is unromantic because it means a person has planned to have sex in advance							
Agree	20	22	21	17	17	23	32
Disagree	68	55	70	78	69	66	62

(Continued)

Q.28, 33, 36, 42

Table 7-3 (Continued)

SOME POSSIBLE BARRIERS TO USING BIRTH CONTROL

	Total Teenagers	Age			Race		
		12-13 Years	14-15 Years	16-17 Years	White	Black	Hispanic
Base	1000	250	383	367	451	341	208
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Any guy who worries about birth control isn't really a man							
Agree	9	9	11	7	7	16	16
Disagree	81	72	80	90	83	76	77
<u>Pelvic Exam</u>							
(Based on girls only)	(486)						
Frightens a lot away	69	70	74	63	70	60	76
Not much of a problem	21	14	18	29	20	27	18
Not sure	10	14	8	7	9	11	6

Q.35

Table 7-4

SOURCE OF BIRTH CONTROL MOST LIKELY TO BE USED BY TEENAGERS

Q.: If you needed birth control, where would you be most likely to go to get it -- a drugstore, a family doctor, a doctor your family does not know, a family planning clinic like Planned Parenthood, or somewhere else?

	Total Teenagers	Gender		Age			Those Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse	
		Boys	Girls	12-13	14-15	16-17	Boys	Girls
		513	486	Years	Years	Years	223	127
Base	1000			250	383	367		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Drugstore	31	50	11	29	32	32	47	7
Family doctor	26	15	37	28	26	23	17	40
Family planning clinic like Planned Parenthood	16	8	24	7	17	24	16	38
Doctor family does not know	8	5	11	9	6	8	5	9
Somewhere else	7	9	5	7	9	6	12	4
Not sure	12	13	10	20	10	6	2	2

Q.37, 38

Table 7-5

TEENAGERS' VIEWS ABOUT SCHOOL-LINKED CLINICS PROVIDING CONTRACEPTIVES

Q.: Do you think that clinics where contraceptives can be obtained should be located inside schools, or located close to schools, or located somewhere else?

Q.: Do you think that your school needs a clinic where contraceptives can be obtained, or not?

	Base		Clinics for Contraceptives Should Be Located				Percent Who Think Their Own School Needs Such a Clinic
			Inside Schools	Close to Schools	Somewhere Else	Depends, Not Sure	
<u>Total Teenagers</u>	<u>1000</u>	%	<u>12</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Age</u>							
12-13 years	250	%	11	18	53	17	25
14-15 years	383	%	12	30	49	8	34
16-17 years	367	%	12	35	46	7	34
<u>Gender</u>							
Boys	513	%	12	28	48	12	30
Girls	486	%	12	27	50	9	32
<u>Race</u>							
White	451	%	9	28	50	12	27
Black	341	%	22	28	46	5	51
Hispanic	208	%	13	26	51	10	36
<u>Those Who Have</u>							
Had sexual intercourse	350	%	14	37	44	6	42
Not had sexual intercourse	600	%	10	26	52	13	27
<u>Size of Place</u>							
Central city	389	%	14	34	43	8	37
Rest of SMSA	371	%	8	25	52	14	27
Outside SMSA	240	%	13	23	54	10	31
<u>Economic Status Index</u>							
Low	276	%	15	23	45	14	40
Medium	604	%	11	31	49	10	30
High	120	%	9	23	56	11	24

Q.41

Table 7-6

TEENAGERS' VIEWS ABOUT ABORTION

Q.: Do you think that abortion should, or should not, be available to anyone who wants one?

	<u>Base</u>		<u>Should Be Available</u>	<u>Should Not Be Available</u>	<u>Depends, Not Sure</u>
<u>Total Teenagers</u>	1000	%	47	40	12
<u>Region</u>					
East	214	%	53	30	15
Midwest	215	%	48	41	10
South	365	%	38	46	15
West	206	%	50	39	11
<u>Gender</u>					
Boys	513	%	46	39	14
Girls	486	%	47	41	11
<u>Age</u>					
12-13 years	250	%	44	40	15
14-15 years	383	%	43	45	12
16-17 years	367	%	54	34	11
<u>Economic Status Index</u>					
Low	276	%	43	40	13
Medium	604	%	44	42	14
High	120	%	61	31	7
<u>Attends Religious Services</u>					
Frequently	381	%	34	54	12
Occasionally	267	%	51	36	12
Seldom or never	344	%	56	29	14
<u>Those Who Have</u>					
Had sexual intercourse	350	%	59	34	7
Not had sexual intercourse	600	%	43	43	14
<u>Knowledge Index</u>					
Low	222	%	38	34	25
Medium	460	%	43	47	10
High	318	%	57	36	8

Q.40

Table 7-7

WHETHER TEENAGE GIRLS THINK THEY WOULD HAVE ABORTION

Base: Girls only

Q.: Suppose you yourself became pregnant while you were still in school. Do you think you would probably have the baby, or probably have an abortion?

	<u>Base</u>		<u>Probably Have the Baby</u>	<u>Probably Have Abortion</u>	<u>Depends, Not Sure</u>
<u>Total Teenager Girls</u>	487	%	59	24	16
<u>Region</u>					
East	99	%	41	44	12
Midwest	107	%	67	18	16
South	179	%	62	17	18
West	101	%	63	21	16
<u>Age</u>					
12-13 years	116	%	53	24	18
14-15 years	198	%	61	23	16
16-17 years	172	%	62	25	12
<u>Race</u>					
White	222	%	58	24	16
Black	164	%	63	25	11
Hispanic	100	%	63	22	14
<u>Mother's/Father's Highest Education</u>					
Not high school graduate	70	%	72	14	8
High school graduate	210	%	63	19	17
Some college	85	%	62	21	13
College graduate	81	%	41	42	17
<u>Attends Religious Services</u>					
Frequently	196	%	63	18	17
Occasionally	128	%	62	24	14
Seldom or never	158	%	54	29	15
<u>Those Who Have</u>					
Had sexual intercourse	127	%	56	28	16
Not had sexual intercourse	340	%	61	23	15
<u>Track at School</u>					
Academic	315	%	59	26	14
Vocational	72	%	74	11	14

APPENDIX A:

PROFILE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER

AND OF THREE HIGH RISK GROUPS

Table A-1

PROFILE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER AND OF THREE GROUPS AT HIGH RISK

	Unweighted Number in Raw Sample	Total Teenagers	Weighted Percentage		
			Three Groups at High Risk		
	1000 #	100 %	Those Who Have a Low Level of Sexual Information	Those Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse	Those Who Have Had Intercourse But Do Not Usually Use Birth Control
			100 %	100 %	100 %
<u>Gender</u>					
Male	513	51	54	58	65
Female	486	49	46	42	35
<u>Race</u>					
White	451	74	74	65	51
Black	341	15	14	25	35
Hispanic	208	10	12	10	13
<u>Region</u>					
East	214	22	21	28	24
Midwest	215	27	29	21	18
South	365	31	34	32	38
West	206	19	17	18	20
<u>Size of Place</u>					
Central city	389	34	33	33	40
Rest of SMSA	371	41	39	44	39
Outside SMSA	240	25	28	23	21
<u>Living With</u>					
Both parents	597	66	63	59	53
One parent	354	30	32	34	40
Someone else	45	3	4	6	7
<u>Mother's Education</u>					
8th grade or less	59	4	2	4	4
Some high school	155	14	14	18	19
High school graduate	381	40	43	41	41
Some college or two- year college graduate	140	16	12	14	16
Four-year college graduate	101	12	9	6	3
Post-graduate	22	3	-	4	1
Not sure	141	11	20	12	16

(Continued)

Table A-1 (Continued)

PROFILE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER AND OF THREE GROUPS AT HIGH RISK

	Unweighted Number in Raw Sample	Weighted Percentage			
		Three Groups at High Risk			
	1000 #	Total Teenagers 100 %	Those Who Have a Low Level of Sexual Information 100 %	Those Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse 100 %	Those Who Have Had Intercourse But Do Not Usually Use Birth Control 100 %
<u>Father's Education</u>					
8th grade or less	43	3	3	4	5
Some high school	103	10	12	13	13
High school graduate	338	35	34	36	36
Some college or two- year college graduate	106	14	16	11	13
Four-year college graduate	113	13	6	8	6
Post-graduate	46	6	3	7	3
Not sure	250	19	27	21	25
<u>Interviewer's Rating of Family's Financial Status</u>					
Much above average	47	6	3	6	3
Somewhat above average	203	24	12	20	14
About average	434	46	55	45	47
Somewhat below average	230	19	23	22	29
Much below average	46	3	4	4	5
Not sure, can't determine	40	3	2	4	2
<u>Religious Background</u>					
Protestant	466	45	42	47	53
Catholic	342	35	34	30	34
Jewish	31	4	1	5	*
Other	69	7	6	6	6
None	40	4	6	5	4
Not sure	49	5	8	7	3
<u>Attend Religious Services</u>					
Frequently	381	36	33	23	23
Occasionally	267	26	31	27	29
Seldom	248	26	25	32	35
Never	96	11	9	18	13

(Continued)

Table A-1 (Continued)

PROFILE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER AND OF THREE GROUPS AT HIGH RISK

	Unweighted Number in Raw Sample 1000 #	Total Teenagers 100 %	Weighted Percentage		
			Three Groups at High Risk		
			Those Who Have a Low Level of Sexual Information	Those Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse	Those Who Have Had Intercourse But Do Not Usually Use Birth Control
			100 %	100 %	100 %
<u>Born Again Christian</u> (Based on Protestants and Catholics only)					
Yes, consider self	214	25	18	25	25
No, do not	414	53	50	57	56
Not sure	175	21	32	17	18
<u>Age</u>					
12 years	98	15	29	2	2
13 years	152	16	24	6	9
14 years	174	17	21	12	20
15 years	209	18	11	19	24
16 years	185	17	8	28	23
17 years	182	16	7	33	21
<u>Currently in School</u>					
In school	961	97	96	93	93
Not in school	38	3	4	7	7
<u>Highest Grade Enrolled</u>					
6th grade	46	5	13	1	1
7th grade	111	14	23	4	4
8th grade	164	17	23	11	17
9th grade	173	15	14	12	16
10th grade	190	18	12	19	22
11th grade	160	15	5	24	19
12th grade	134	13	5	36	15
<u>Track in School</u>					
Academic/college prep	624	61	42	58	55
Vocational	183	18	18	22	22
Other	54	6	10	7	8
Not sure	125	14	29	11	12

(Continued)

Table A-1 (Continued)

PROFILE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER AND OF THREE GROUPS AT HIGH RISK

	Unweighted Number in Raw Sample 1000 #	Total Teenagers 100 %	Weighted Percentage		
			Three Groups at High Risk		
			Those Who Have a Low Level of Sexual Information 100 %	Those Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse 100 %	Those Who Have Had Intercourse But Do <u>Not</u> Usually Use Birth Control 100 %
<u>Grade Point Average</u>					
A (4.0)	56	5	3	3	4
A- (3.7)	58	7	5	5	2
B+ (3.3)	139	16	15	12	12
B (3.0)	245	25	22	18	21
B- (2.7)	114	12	12	16	8
C+ (2.3)	109	11	17	12	13
C (2.0)	191	16	15	23	30
C- (1.7)	41	3	3	5	4
D+ (1.3)	13	1	3	1	2
D (1.0)	14	1	2	2	4
D- (0.7)	-	-			
F (below 0.7)	-	-			
<u>Racial Composition of School</u>					
Mainly white	449	60	57	55	40
Mainly black	152	10	12	15	21
Mainly Hispanic	81	5	5	3	7
Mixture	311	24	25	25	31
<u>Ever Had to Repeat a Grade in School</u>					
Yes	282	25	38	31	39
No	708	74	61	69	61
<u>Extra-Curricular Activities or Sports</u>					
Involved	578	60	52	60	62
Not involved	416	39	47	39	37
<u>Have Paying Job</u>					
Yes, full-time	22	2	2	5	4
Yes, part-time	274	32	23	36	26
No	700	66	74	59	70

(Continued)

Table A-1 (Continued)

PROFILE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER AND OF THREE GROUPS AT HIGH RISK

	Unweighted Number in Raw Sample	Total Teenagers	Weighted Percentage Three Groups at High Risk		
			Those Who Have a Low Level of Sexual Information	Those Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse	Those Who Have Had Intercourse But Do Not Usually Use Birth Control
	1000 #	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
<u>Ever Skipped a Grade in School</u>					
Yes	66	6	7	8	7
No	930	94	92	92	93
<u>Plan to Finish High School</u>					
Yes	961	96	95	92	93
No	10	1	1	1	2
Already finished	15	1	1	3	2
Not sure	13	2	4	3	3
<u>Plan to Go to College</u>					
Yes	707	70	57	64	65
No	166	16	20	21	19
Depends	57	5	8	8	8
Not sure	66	8	14	7	8
<u>Importance Placed on Performance in School</u>					
Very important	726	68	63	64	60
Somewhat important	223	26	31	28	29
Not too important	37	4	3	6	8
Not important at all	8	1	2	1	2
<u>Importance Placed on Starting a Family and Having Children</u>					
Very important	318	29	27	35	38
Somewhat important	317	33	23	32	28
Not too important	225	22	19	18	19
Not important at all	100	11	18	10	10

(Continued)

Table A-1 (Continued)

PROFILE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER AND OF THREE GROUPS AT HIGH RISK

	Unweighted Number in Raw Sample	Total Teenagers	Weighted Percentage Three Groups at High Risk		
			Those Who Have a Low Level of Sexual Information	Those Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse	Those Who Have Had Intercourse But Do <u>Not</u> Usually Use Birth Control
	1000 #	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Have Career or Occupation in Mind					
Yes	772	75	63	81	75
No	156	16	19	15	19
Not sure	72	9	18	4	6
Possible for Someone Today to Start Out Poor and Become Rich By Working Hard					
Yes, possible	896	90	88	90	90
No, not possible	50	5	4	5	5
Not sure, depends	54	5	8	5	4
Personally Expect to Succeed if Work Hard					
Yes, expect to	933	94	91	91	90
No, do not expect to	15	1	2	2	3
Not sure, depends	52	5	8	7	8

(Continued)

Table A-1 (Continued)

PROFILE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER AND OF THREE GROUPS AT HIGH RISK

		Weighted Percentage			
		Three Groups at High Risk			
	Unweighted Number in Raw Sample	Total Teenagers	Those Who Have a Low Level of Sexual Information	Those Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse	Those Who Have Had Intercourse But Do <u>Not</u> Usually Use Birth Control
	1000 #	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
<u>Family Owns or Rents Home</u>					
Owns	580	66	56	63	55
Rents	397	32	42	36	44
<u>Family Owns Car</u>					
Yes, owns a car	842	89	85	87	85
No, does not own a car	154	11	15	13	15
<u>Family has VCR</u>					
Yes, have a videocassette recorder	521	57	56	51	51
No, do not have	475	43	44	49	49
<u>Family Has Personal Computer</u>					
Yes, have a personal computer	239	28	26	27	25
No, do not have	757	72	74	73	75

Economic Status Index (Based on Above 4 Items)					
Low	276	21	27	23	27
Medium	604	63	60	64	63
High	120	16	13	13	10

APPENDIX B:

THE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

WITH MARGINAL FREQUENCIES

LOUIS HARRIS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

630 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10111

TEL: (212) 696-9600 TELEX: 148363

WASHINGTON, D. C.

LONDON

PARIS

September 1986

Dear Parent of a Teenage Son or Daughter:

I want to ask for your family's assistance.

We are conducting a nationwide survey on some of the most important issues facing families in America today. I believe it is one of the most significant surveys that the Harris Poll has ever conducted in its thirty-year history.

We are interviewing 1,000 teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17 across the country. We have scientifically selected your family to be one of the 1,000 representative families in the survey.

Our interviewer will need to conduct an interview with your teenage son or daughter. The interview will last about 30 minutes.

As in all Harris surveys, all answers will be held in total confidence. We release our results only as statistics. In order to assure total confidentiality, our interviewers will need to interview the teenager alone.

We ask your permission to conduct this interview.

The topics will include issues such as the following:

- Sex education in the schools
- The growth in the number of teenage pregnancies in the U.S.
- How TV portrays subjects dealing with sex.
- What teenagers know about birth control.
- What can be done by families, schools, churches, etc. to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies.

May I thank you in advance for cooperating with our interviewer. When we release our overall findings from this survey in the autumn, I believe that they will make a valuable contribution to solving an important national problem.

Sincerely,

Lou Harris

Louis Harris

P.S. If you wish to confirm any point in this letter with one of our supervisors, please call our New York City office at this toll-free number: 800-223-0405.

LOUIS HARRIS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

630 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10111

TEL (212) 698-9600 TELEX: 148383

WASHINGTON, D.C.

LONDON

PARIS

agosto, 1986

Querido Padre de un joven (hijo o hija) de 12 a 17 años de edad:

Quiero a pedir la ayuda de su familia.

Estamos conduciendo un estudio de toda la nación sobre algunas de las consecuencias importantes que las familias americanas encuentran hoy. Creo que lo sea uno de los estudios más significantes que el Harris Poll jamás ha conducido en su historia de treinta años.

Estamos entrevistando a 1,000 jóvenes de 12 a 17 años de edad en toda la nación. Hemos escogido a su familia científicamente para ser una de las 1,000 familias representadas en el estudio.

La persona que hace la entrevista necesitará hablar con su hija/hijo de edad 12 a 17. La entrevista dura aproximadamente 30 minutos.

Como en todas las estudios de Harris, todas las respuestas serán confidenciales. Los resultados son solamente para las estadísticas. Para asegurar toda confidencia, nuestras entrevistas necesitarán hablar con el joven solo.

Preguntamos su permiso a conducir esta entrevista.

Las asuntos incluirá las temas como las siguientes:

- La educación de sexo en las escuelas
- El aumento del número de las jóvenes embarazadas en los Estados Unidos
- Como el televisor representa las asuntos sexuales
- Que saben los jóvenes de la contracepción
- Que pueden hacer las familias, las escuelas, las iglesias, etc. a reducir el numero de preñeces

Te doy gracias, ahora para su cooperación con nuestra entrevista. Cuando tenemos toda la información e este estudio en el otoño. Creo que vaya a hacer una contribución estimable para resolver un problema nacional y importante.

Sincerely,

Lou Harris

Louis Harris

P.S. Si quiere confirmar algun punto en esta carta con uno de nuestros supervisores, por favor llame nuestra oficina en Nueva York a este número (gratis) 800-223-0405.

LOUIS HARRIS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
630 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10111

/ FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:
/
/ Questionnaire No.: _____
/
/ _____ 5-6-7-8

Study No. 864012
MARGINALS
N = 1,000
Weighted

August 22, 1986

Sample Point No. / / / / / / / / / /
10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18

Interviewer: _____ Date: _____

Respondent's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

TO PARENTS:

Hello, I'm _____ from Louis Harris and Associates, the national opinion polling and research firm located in New York. We are conducting a national survey among teenagers on some aspects of family life, and we would like to interview a teenager in your household between the age of 12 and 17. Is there anyone living in this household of that age? (IF "YES," CONTINUE. IF NOT, THANK THEM AND LEAVE.)

So that the interview can be completely confidential, I would need to conduct the interview with him/her. (IF MORE THAN ONE QUALIFYING TEENAGER:) I need to interview the teenager who is the oldest.

INTERVIEWER: GIVE PARENT A COPY OF INTRODUCTORY LETTER FROM LOUIS HARRIS.

TO TEENAGER:

Hello, I'm _____ from Louis Harris and Associates, the national opinion polling and research firm located in New York. We are conducting a national survey among teenagers on some aspects of family life, and we would like to include your opinions. All your answers will be absolutely confidential. We will never reveal your name or your individual answers to anyone.

Let me just confirm, you are at least age 12 and not yet age 18?

Yes..... (GO TO Q.1)

No..... (SCREEN OUT)

1. How old are you?

12 years.....	(19(15 -1)	} 31
13 years.....	16 -2	
14 years.....	17 -3	} 35
15 years.....	18 -4	
16 years.....	17 -5	} 33
17 years.....	16 -6	
Not sure.....	- -7	
Refused.....	- -8	

2. Are you in school this fall, or not?

In school.....	(20(97 -1
Not in school.....	3 -2
Not sure.....	- -3
Refused.....	* -4

3. (IF IN SCHOOL:) What grade at school are you in this fall?

(IF NOT IN SCHOOL:) What was the last grade of school you completed?

6th grade.....	(21(5 -1
7th grade.....	14 -2
8th grade.....	17 -3
9th grade.....	15 -4
10th grade.....	18 -5
11th grade.....	15 -6
12th grade.....	13 -7
Not in school.....	* -8
Not sure.....	* -9
Refused.....	3 -0

4. Are (Were) the students at your school mainly white, mainly black, or mainly Hispanic?

Mainly white..	(22(60 -1
Mainly black.....	10 -2
Mainly Hispanic...	5 -3
Mixture (vol.)....	24 -4
Not sure.....	1 -5
Refused.....	* -6

5. At school have you ever had any course or class in sex education, or not?

Yes, had.....(23(59 -1 (ASK Q.6)

No.....	40 -2	} (SKIP TO Q.12)
Not sure.....	1 -3	
Refused.....	* -4	

ASK Q.6-Q.11 IF "YES, HAD" IN Q.5		N=582	Grade	Percent
6. In what grade did you first have a course or class in sex education?			1-4	6
			5	20
	<u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u> grade		6	18
	(24-25)		7	18
	Not sure.....(26(<u>3</u> -1		8	13
	Refused..... <u>1</u> -2		9	15
			10	6
			11-12	1
7. Since you have been in school, have you had sex education in just one grade, or in more than one grade?				
	Just one grade.....(27(<u>49</u> -1			
	In more than one grade.... <u>49</u> -2			
	Not sure..... <u>2</u> -3	N=582		
	Refused..... <u>-</u> -4			
8. Think back to the most recent sex education you had in school. Was it a separate course, or was it part of some other course?				
	Separate course.....(28(<u>37</u> -1			
	Part of some other course.. <u>61</u> -2	N=582		
	Not sure..... <u>2</u> -3			
	Refused..... <u>1</u> -4			
9. What kind of teacher taught the course? <u>READ LIST IF NECESSARY</u>				
	Science teacher.....(29(<u>14</u> -1			
	Health/sex education			
	teacher..... <u>41</u> -2			
	Nurse..... <u>13</u> -3			
	Gym teacher..... <u>11</u> -4			
	Outside expert..... <u>4</u> -5	N=582		
	Other regular teacher..... <u>13</u> -6			
	Someone else..... <u>3</u> -7			
	Not sure..... <u>2</u> -8			
	Refused..... <u>-</u> -9			
10. Were boys and girls in the same class or only students of your sex?				
	Boys and girls.....(30(<u>64</u> -1			
	Your sex only..... <u>35</u> -2			
	Not sure..... <u>1</u> -3			
	Refused..... <u>*</u> -4	N=582		
11. Did any of your sex education classes <u>ever</u> include (READ EACH ITEM), or not?				
			Never	Not
			Included	Sure
				Refused
a. Biological facts about reproduction.....(31(<u>89</u> -1		<u>5</u> -2	<u>6</u> -3	<u>-</u> -4
b. Talk about coping with your sexual development.....(32(<u>79</u> -1		<u>15</u> -2	<u>7</u> -3	<u>-</u> -4
c. Information about different kinds of birth control.....(33(<u>66</u> -1		<u>29</u> -2	<u>4</u> -3	<u>*</u> -4
d. Facts about abortion.....(34(<u>54</u> -1		<u>38</u> -2	<u>7</u> -3	<u>1</u> -4
e. Facts about where to get contraceptives..(35(<u>51</u> -1		<u>43</u> -2	<u>6</u> -3	<u>*</u> -4
f. Information about preventing sexual abuse(36(<u>55</u> -1		<u>35</u> -2	<u>10</u> -3	<u>-</u> -4

N=582

ASK EVERYONE

12. We're interested in how you think television portrays subjects dealing with sex. For each subject, tell me whether you think television gives a realistic picture, or an exaggerated picture, or doesn't deal with the subject much at all.

	TV Gives Realistic Picture	TV Gives Exaggerated Picture	TV Doesn't Deal Much	Not Sure	Refused
a. People making love.....	(37(24 -1	53 -2	14 -3	10 -4	* -5
b. Pregnancy and the consequences of sex.....	(38(41 -1	21 -2	27 -3	11 -4	* -5
c. Family planning to prevent pregnancy and to control family size.....	(39(28 -1	14 -2	44 -3	13 -4	* -5
d. Information about sexually transmitted diseases.....	(40(45 -1	12 -2	34 -3	9 -4	* -5
e. People having sexual intercourse...	(41(20 -1	45 -2	23 -3	11 -4	* -5

13. When it comes to information about how pregnancy is caused, please look at this card and tell me which sources of information have given you most of what you know about the subject. (HAND RESPONDENT SHOWCARD "A") Which source has given you the most information about how pregnancy is caused? Which source has given you the second greatest amount of information? And which source has given you the third greatest amount of information?

	Most Information	Second Greatest	Third Greatest
a. Parents.....	(42(40 -1	(44(19 -1	(46(10 -1
b. Courses or teachers at school.....	19 -2	18 -2	10 -2
c. A Planned Parenthood Clinic.....	1 -3	1 -3	1 -3
d. Brothers or sisters.....	4 -4	9 -4	8 -4
e. Other relatives.....	2 -5	6 -5	8 -5
f. Friends.....	20 -6	21 -6	18 -6
g. A doctor or a nurse.....	2 -7	4 -7	4 -7
h. Sexual partners.....	2 -8	2 -8	3 -8
i. Television or movies.....	6 -9	8 -9	13 -9
j. Books or magazines.....	3 -0	7 -0	10 -0
k. Other family planning clinic.....	(43(* -1	(45(1 -1	(47(1 -1
L. Not sure.....	2 -2	5 -2	12 -2
m. Refused.....	- -3	* -3	* -3

14. When it comes to information about contraception and birth control, look at this card and tell me which sources have given you most of what you know about the subject. (HAND RESPONDENT SHOWCARD "A" AGAIN) Which source has given you the most information about contraception and birth control? Which source has given you the second greatest amount of information? And which source has given you the third greatest amount of information?

	<u>Most Information</u>	<u>Second Greatest</u>	<u>Third Greatest</u>
a. Parents.....	(48(29 -1	(50(15 -1	(52(9 -1
b. Courses or teachers at school.....	19 -2	13 -2	7 -2
c. A Planned Parenthood Clinic.....	3 -3	3 -3	1 -3
d. Brothers or sisters.....	4 -4	6 -4	7 -4
e. Other relatives.....	2 -5	7 -5	8 -5
f. Friends.....	14 -6	18 -6	13 -6
g. A doctor or a nurse.....	5 -7	7 -7	7 -7
h. Sexual partners.....	2 -8	* -8	2 -8
i. Television or movies.....	8 -9	8 -9	9 -9
j. Books or magazines.....	6 -0	7 -0	10 -0
k. Other family planning clinic.....	(49(1 -1	(51(1 -1	(53(2 -1
l. Not sure.....	7 -2	11 -2	19 -2
m. Refused.....	* -3	1 -3	1 -3

15. Have either of your parents ever talked with you about sex and how pregnancy is caused, or not?

Yes, have talked.....(54(68 -1 (ASK Q.16)

No, have not talked.....	31 -2	} (SKIP TO Q.18)
Not applicable (vol.).....	* -3	
Not sure.....	1 -4	
Refused.....	* -5	

ASK Q.16-Q.17 IF "YES, TALKED" IN Q.15

	Age	Percent
16. How old were you when they first talked to you about this?	5 or less	1
<u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u> years	6-8	7
(55-56)	9-10	21
	11	17
Not sure....(57(<u> 9 </u> -1	12	23
Refused..... <u> * </u> -2	13	12
	14	6
	15-17	4

N=675

17. Have your parents or any other adult in your family ever talked with you about using birth control methods, or not?

Yes, talked.....(58(<u> 51 </u> -1	
No, never..... <u> 46 </u> -2	N=675
Not sure..... <u> 3 </u> -3	
Refused..... <u> * </u> -4	

ASK EVERYONE

18. Do you think that you would be nervous or afraid to bring up the subject of sex and birth control with your parents, or not?

Nervous or afraid.....(59(<u> 42 </u> -1
Would not be..... <u> 50 </u> -2
Not sure..... <u> 8 </u> -3
Refused..... <u> - </u> -4

19. What do you think is about the right age for a person to start having sexual intercourse? (PROMPT IF NEEDED:) Well, at what age do you feel it would be OK if a person decided to have sexual intercourse?

	Age	Percent
<u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u> years	(ASK Q.20) 13 or less	2
(60-61)	14	2
	15	4
Depends (vol.).....(62(<u> 15 </u> -1	16	9
Only OK after marriage (vol.).... <u> 12 </u> -2	17	8
Not sure..... <u> 10 </u> -3	(SKIP TO Q.21) 18	17
Refused..... <u> 1 </u> -4	19	5
	20	9
	21+	7

20. From what you've seen or heard, do you think that most of the teenagers in your school or neighborhood wait until that age to have sexual intercourse, or do most start earlier?

Most wait until then...(63(<u> 16 </u> -1	
Most start earlier..... <u> 79 </u> -2	N=691
Not sure..... <u> 4 </u> -3	
Refused..... <u> 1 </u> -4	

ASK EVERYONE

21. From what you've heard or seen, what are some of the reasons why many teenagers don't wait to have sexual intercourse until they are older? (USE THIS PROBE IF ANSWER IS VAGUE OR INCOMPLETE: Can you explain a little more what you mean by that?) Any other reasons?

20 categories of answers were given (64-65)

Largest = 30% peer pressure; 15% curiosity; (66-67)

12% everyone is doing it; 9% boys pressure (68-69)

girls into it; 8% in love; 8% want/need gratification

22. Here are some possible reasons that might make more teenagers wait to have sexual intercourse until they are older. For each, tell me if you think it would be likely to influence the teenagers that you know to wait to have sex, or not likely to influence them. (NOTE: IF RESPONDENT SAYS LIKELY FOR ONE SEX BUT NOT FOR OTHER SEX, CODE AS "LIKELY TO INFLUENCE.") READ EACH ITEM AND PROMPT WITH ANSWER CATEGORIES

		Likely to <u>Influence</u>	Not Likely to <u>Influence</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>	<u>Refused</u>
a.	Telling them how a pregnancy could ruin their life.....	(70)(62) -1	31 -2	6 -3	* -4
b.	Telling them to worry more about catching diseases like AIDS and herpes.....	(71)(65) -1	28 -2	7 -3	* -4
c.	Telling them that having sex would ruin their reputation with their friends.....	(72)(29) -1	64 -2	7 -3	* -4
d.	Telling them to worry more about what their parents would say or do to them if they found out.....	(73)(50) -1	42 -2	88 -3	1 -4

23. Have you ever felt pressured by other teenagers to go further with sex than you wanted to, or not?

Yes, felt pressured.....(74)(25) -1
 No.....73 -2
 Not sure.....-4
 Refused.....2 -5

HAND RESPONDENT SHOWCARD "B"

24. This card contains a list of the most widely used methods of contraception or birth control. Tell me, from what you have heard, whether you think each of these methods works well in preventing pregnancy, or doesn't work so well.

	<u>Works Well</u>	<u>Not So Well</u>	<u>Never Heard of Method/Not Applicable</u>	<u>Not Sure How Well It Works</u>	<u>Refused</u>
a. Birth control pills.....	(75(69 -1	13 -2	2 -3	16 -4	1 -5
b. IUD's or intra-uterine devices..	(76(20 -1	16 -2	42 -3	21 -4	1 -5
c. Condoms or rubbers.....	(77(56 -1	25 -2	5 -3	14 -4	1 -5
d. Diaphragms.....	(78(31 -1	15 -2	27 -3	26 -4	1 -5
e. Vaginal contraceptives like foam, cream, suppositories, or sponges.....	(79(18 -1	36 -2	24 -3	21 -4	1 -5
f. Pulling out or withdrawal.....	(80(17 -1	48 -2	19 -3	15 -4	1 -5
g. The rhythm method or the "safe time" of the month.....2*	(10(15 -1	47 -2	18 -3	18 -4	1 -5

25. Tell me, from what you have heard, whether you think each of these methods sometimes has harmful side effects, or no harmful side effects. (USE SHOWCARD "B" AGAIN. READ EACH ITEM THAT RESPONDENT SEEMS FAMILIAR WITH IN Q.24.)

		<u>Harmful Side Effects</u>	<u>No Harmful Side Effects</u>	<u>Never Heard of Method/Not Applicable</u>	<u>Not Sure About Side Effects</u>	<u>Refused</u>
N=980	a. Birth control pills.....	(11(47 -1	28 -2	1 -3	24 -4	1 -5
N=556	b. IUD's or intra-uterine devices..	(12(43 -1	15 -2	3 -3	37 -4	2 -5
N=951	c. Condoms or rubbers.....	(13(6 -1	77 -2	1 -3	15 -4	1 -5
N=692	d. Diaphragms.....	(14(18 -1	41 -2	2 -3	36 -4	3 -5
N=767	e. Vaginal contraceptives like foam, cream, suppositories, or sponges.....	(15(33 -1	32 -2	2 -3	30 -4	3 -5
N=800	f. Pulling out or withdrawal.....	(16(11 -1	66 -2	2 -3	20 -4	1 -5
N=793	g. The rhythm method or the "safe time" of the month.....	(17(12 -1	63 -2	1 -3	23 -4	2 -5

ASK Q.26 IF ANY METHOD IS SAID TO HAVE "HARMFUL SIDE EFFECTS" IN Q.25

26. What kind of harmful side effects have you heard about (THOSE METHODS SAID TO HAVE HARMFUL EFFECTS)? Anything else?

N=647

	(18-19)
Most frequently cited items for each method:	(20-21)
	(22-23)
	(24-25)
Pill IUD VAGINAL	(26-27)

Nausea	8	Uterine damage	10	Infection	4
Cancer	8	Infection	6	Get pregnant	3
Sterility	7	Sterility	3	Rashes	2
Get sick	6	Pain	2		
Get pregnant	5				
Upsets system	5				
Headaches	4				
Upsets cycle	4				

27. There are some methods of birth control that teenagers can obtain by walking into any drugstore and buying them. Other methods require a prescription or permission of some kind. From what you've heard, can teenagers walk into a drugstore on their own and buy (USING SHOWCARD "B" AGAIN, READ EACH ITEM THAT RESPONDENT SEEMS FAMILIAR WITH IN Q.24), or not?

	Teenager Can	Teenager Cannot	Never Heard of Method/Not Applicable	Not Sure Whether Teenager Can	Refused
a. Birth control pills.....	(28)(23) -1	61 -2	* -3	16 -4	* -5 N=980
b. IUD's or intra-uterine devices..	(29)(8) -1	58 -2	3 -3	31 -4	1 -5 N=556
c. Condoms or rubbers.....	(30)(86) -1	7 -2	1 -3	7 -4	* -5 N=951
d. Diaphragms.....	(31)(20) -1	48 -2	3 -3	29 -4	* -5 N=692
e. Vaginal contraceptives like foam, cream, suppositories, or sponges.....	(32)(60) -1	16 -2	2 -3	21 -4	1 -5 N=767

28. If your parents' permission were required before you could get contraceptives, would that make you more likely to use them, less likely to use them, or wouldn't that make any difference to you?

More likely.....(33)(20) -1
 Less likely.....32 -2
 Would make no difference...34 -3
 Not applicable (vol.).....3 -4
 Not sure.....10 -5
 Refused.....1 -6

HAND RESPONDENT SHOWCARD "B" AGAIN

29. From what you've heard, which method of birth control sounds like the one you would choose to use with a sexual partner?

Birth control pills.....	(34(40 -1	(N=100)
IUD's or intra-uterine devices.....	1 -2	
Condoms or rubbers.....	32 -3	
Diaphragms.....	2 -4	
Vaginal contraceptives like foam, cream, suppositories, or sponges.....	1 -5	(ASK Q.30)
Pulling out or withdrawal.....	1 -6	
Rhythm method or the "safe time" of the month.....	1 -7	
None of these (vol.).....	3 -8	(SKIP TO Q.31)
Not sure.....	18 -9	(SKIP TO Q.32)
Refused.....	2 -0	

ASK Q.30 IF SOME METHOD PREFERRED IN Q.29

30. What is the main reason why you would pick that method? (USE THIS PROBE IF ANSWER IS VAGUE OR INCOMPLETE: Can you explain a little more why you would pick that method?) N=803

<u>13 types of reasons given</u>	(35-36)
<u>Largest = 39% effectiveness; 26% safe;</u>	(37-38)
<u>13% easy to use; 12% easy to buy</u>	(39-40)
<u>12% more familiar with; 9% no side effects</u>	

ASK Q.31 IF "NONE OF THESE" PREFERRED IN Q.29

31. What is the main reason why you would not choose to use any of these methods? (USE THIS PROBE IF ANSWER IS VAGUE OR INCOMPLETE: Can you explain a little more why you would not choose any of those methods?)

_____	(41-42)
_____	(43-44)
_____	(45-46)

Most frequently cited reason for each of top methods:

PILL		CONDOM	
Effectiveness	45	Effectiveness	32
Safe	30	Easy to buy	27
Easy to use	18	Safe	20
More familiar	14	No side effects	13
		More familiar	10

ASK EVERYONE

32. What do you think are some of the reasons why more teenagers don't use some method of birth control when they have sexual intercourse? (USE THIS PROBE IF ANSWER IS VAGUE OR INCOMPLETE: Can you explain a little more what you mean by that?) Any other reason?

21 types of reasons given (47-48)

Largest = 14% don't know enough about; (49-50)

14% think pregnancy won't happen to them; (51-52)

13% unexpected sex; 10% want to get pregnant

ASK Q.33 ONLY IF RESPONDENT IS FEMALE

33. When a girl sees a doctor about birth control, she is usually required to have a pelvic examination. Do you think that this requirement frightens a lot of girls away from seeing a doctor about birth control, or do you think it is not much of a problem?

Frightens a lot away.....	(53(	<u>69</u>	-1	
Not much of a problem.....		<u>21</u>	-2	
Not sure.....		<u>9</u>	-3	
Refused.....		<u>1</u>	-4	
				N=486

34. Here are some possible things that might make more teenagers use birth control if they are having sexual intercourse. For each, tell me whether you think it would be likely to influence the teenagers that you know to use birth control, or would not be likely to influence them. READ EACH ITEM AND PROMPT WITH ANSWER CATEGORIES

ROTATE -- START AT "X"	Likely to Influence	Not Likely to Influence	Not Sure	Refused
() a. Telling teenagers that using birth control is the responsible thing to do.....	(54(<u>59</u> -1	<u>32</u> -2	<u>8</u> -3	<u>1</u> -4
() b. Telling teenagers that sex is more fun when it is safe.....	(55(<u>55</u> -1	<u>34</u> -2	<u>11</u> -3	<u>1</u> -4
() c. Telling teenagers that using birth control is the healthy thing to do.....	(56(<u>48</u> -1	<u>41</u> -2	<u>11</u> -3	<u>1</u> -4
() d. Telling teenagers that their sexual partner would love them more for using birth control.....	(57(<u>34</u> -1	<u>52</u> -2	<u>12</u> -3	<u>1</u> -4
() e. Telling teenagers that using birth control is the cool thing to do.....	(58(<u>34</u> -1	<u>54</u> -2	<u>10</u> -3	<u>2</u> -4
() f. Making birth control easy to get.....	(59(<u>70</u> -1	<u>20</u> -2	<u>9</u> -3	<u>1</u> -4
() g. Making birth control free of cost.....	(60(<u>75</u> -1	<u>17</u> -2	<u>8</u> -3	<u>1</u> -4
() h. Telling teenagers where they can get birth control without anyone else finding out.....	(61(<u>78</u> -1	<u>14</u> -2	<u>7</u> -3	<u>1</u> -4

35. If you needed birth control, where would you be most likely to go to get it -- a drugstore, a family doctor, a doctor your family does not know, a family planning clinic like Planned Parenthood, or somewhere else?

Drugstore.....	(62(31	-1
Family doctor.....	26	-2
Doctor family does not know.....	8	-3
Family planning clinic like		
Planned Parenthood.....	16	-4
Somewhere else.....	7	-5
Not sure.....	12	-6
Refused.....	1	-7

36. Most methods of birth control cost between \$5.00 a month and \$20.00 a month. If you needed birth control, could you afford to pay between \$5.00 and \$20.00 a month for it, or would that be too much for you to pay?

Could afford.....	(63(55	-1
Too much to pay.....	33	-2
Depends (vol.).....	5	-3
Not sure.....	6	-4
Refused.....	2	-5

37. Do you think that clinics where contraceptives can be obtained should be located inside schools, or located close to schools, or located somewhere else?

Inside schools.....	(64(12	-1
Close to schools.....	28	-2
Somewhere else.....	49	-3
Depends (vol.).....	10	-4
Not sure.....	1	-5
Refused.....		-6

38. Do you think that your school needs a clinic where contraceptives can be obtained, or not?

Yes, needs.....	(65(31	-1
No.....	56	-2
Depends (vol.).....	5	-3
Not sure.....	7	-4
Refused.....	1	-5

39. Here are some statements about pregnancy that other teenagers have told us. Some are true and some are false. From what you have heard, tell me whether you think each is usually true or usually false. READ EACH ITEM AND PROMPT WITH ANSWER CATEGORIES

<u>ROTATE -- START AT "X"</u>		<u>Usually True</u>	<u>Usually False</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>Refused</u>
() a.	A girl cannot become pregnant the first time she has intercourse.....	(66(10 -1	78 -2	10 -3	2 -4
() b.	The time when a girl is most likely to become pregnant is about two weeks after her menstrual period begins.....	(67(40 -1	25 -2	34 -3	2 -4
() c.	It is possible for a girl to become pregnant even though her male partner's penis did not actually enter her vagina.....	(68(33 -1	48 -2	17 -3	2 -4
() d.	A girl can get pregnant only if she is lying flat on her back during intercourse.....	(69(4 -1	79 -2	14 -3	2 -4
() e.	A girl has to have an orgasm during intercourse in order to become pregnant.....	(70(14 -1	57 -2	27 -3	2 -4
() f.	A girl cannot become pregnant if she has intercourse during her menstrual period.....	(71(22 -1	47 -2	29 -3	2 -4
() g.	A girl cannot become pregnant if she douches with Coca-Cola after intercourse.....	(72(3 -1	71 -2	25 -3	2 -4

ASK Q.40 IF RESPONDENT IS FEMALE. SKIP MALES TO Q.41.

40. Suppose you yourself became pregnant while you were still in school. Do you think you would probably have the baby, or probably have an abortion?

Probably have the baby....(73(59 -1
 Probably have abortion.....24 -2
 Depends (vol.).....7 -3
 Not sure.....9 -4
 Refused.....2 -5

N=486

ASK EVERYONE

41. Do you think that abortion should, or should not, be available to anyone who wants one?

Should be available.....(74(47 -1
 Should not be available..... 40 -2
 Depends (vol.)..... 7 -3
 Not sure..... 5 -4
 Refused..... 1 -5

42. Here are some more statements that some teenagers have told us. There is no right or wrong answer. For each, just tell me whether you agree or disagree.

READ EACH ITEM AND PROMPT WITH ANSWER CATEGORIES

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	<u>Refused</u>
a. Using birth control is unromantic because it means a person has planned to have sex in advance.....	(75(<u>20</u> -1	<u>68</u> -2	<u>11</u> -3	<u>1</u> -4
b. Any guy who worries about birth control isn't really a man.....	(76(<u>9</u> -1	<u>81</u> -2	<u>8</u> -3	<u>2</u> -4

43. Have you yourself ever had sexual intercourse?

Yes, had intercourse.....(77(28 -1 (ASK Q.44)

No..... 66 -2
 Not sure..... * -3
 Refused..... 6 -4

} (SKIP TO Q.51, PAGE 16)

ASK Q.44-Q.50 IF "YES, HAD INTERCOURSE" IN Q.43

	Age	%	Cum.%
44. How old were you the first time you had intercourse?	10 or less	5	5
	11	4	9
<u> </u> / <u> </u> / <u> </u> years old	12	8	17
(78-79)	13	13	30
	14	19	49
Not sure.....(80(<u>4</u> -1	15	25	74
Refused..... <u>2</u> -2	16	17	91
	17	2	93

N=350

45. Think back now. When you first had intercourse, did you expect it to happen, or did it just happen?

Expected it.....3*(10(<u>32</u> -1	
Just happened..... <u>65</u> -2	N=350
Not sure..... <u>2</u> -3	
Refused..... <u>1</u> -4	

46. Would you say that you felt pressured to have sexual intercourse at that time, or not?

Felt pressured.....(11(<u>21</u> -1	
Did not..... <u>77</u> -2	N=350
Not sure..... <u>1</u> -3	
Refused..... <u>*</u> -4	

47. When you first had intercourse, did you or your partner use any method of birth control, or not?

Yes, used.....(12(<u>44</u> -1	
No..... <u>56</u> -2	N=350
Not sure..... <u>2</u> -3	
Refused..... <u>*</u> -4	

48. Since your first time, whenever you have had intercourse, have you or a partner used birth control all the time, most of the time, only sometimes, or not at all?

All the time.....(13(<u>33</u> -1		
Most of the time..... <u>19</u> -2	(SKIP TO Q.50)	
Only sometimes..... <u>15</u> -3		
Not at all..... <u>27</u> -4	(ASK Q.49)	N=350
Depends (vol.)..... <u>*</u> -5		
Not applicable (vol.)..... <u>3</u> -6	(SKIP TO Q.50)	
Not sure..... <u>3</u> -7		
Refused..... <u>1</u> -8		

49. What is the main reason you have not used birth control all or most of the time? (USE THIS PROBE IF NEEDED: Could you tell me a little more what you mean by that?) N=168

21 types of reasons given. (14-15)

Largest = 21% unexpected sex; (16-17)

9% don't want to take time; (18-19)

9% don't want to use; 9% think pregnancy won't happen to me

HAND RESPONDENT SHOWCARD "B" AGAIN

50. Look at the list on this card again and tell me which method of birth control you and a sexual partner have used most often.

Birth control pills.....	(20(22	-1	
IUD's or intra-uterine devices.....	-	-2	
Condoms or rubbers.....	38	-3	
Diaphragms.....	3	-4	
Vaginal contraceptives like foam, cream, suppositories, or sponges.....	1	-5	N=350
Pulling out or withdrawal.....	4	-6	
Rhythm method or the "safe time" of the month.....	*	-7	
Never used any (vol.).....	19	-8	
Not sure.....	10	-9	
Refused.....	3	-0	

ASK EVERYONE

51. Do you think that your parents would want you to use birth control methods, or would they not want you to use birth control methods, or would they not care one way or the other, or would they be too angry to discuss it?

Would want me to use.....	(21(64	-1	
Would not want me to use.....	10	-2	
Would not care.....	2	-3	
Would be too angry to discuss.....	13	-4	(N=100)
Not sure.....	11	-5	
Refused.....	2	-6	

52. Do you think that your parents themselves use birth control, or not?

Yes, think they do.....	(22(24	-1
No, think they don't.....	39	-2
Depends (vol.).....	*	-3
Not applicable (vol.).....	3	-4
Not sure.....	31	-5
Refused.....	4	-6

F1. At school are (were) you on an academic track or on a vocational track?

Academic/college prep.....	(23(61	-1
Vocational.....	18	-2
Other.....	6	-3
Not sure.....	14	-4
Refused.....	1	-5

F2. Did you ever skip over a grade in school, or not?

Yes, skipped.....	(24(6	-1
No.....	94	-2
Not sure.....	*	-3
Refused.....	-	-4

F3. Have you ever been held back or left back to repeat a grade in school, or not?

Yes, held back.....	(25(25	-1
No.....	74	-2
Not sure.....	1	-3
Refused.....	*	-4

F4. On a scale of A to F, what would you say is (was) your average grade in school, or your cumulative grade point average?

A (4.0).....	(26(5	-1
A- (3.7).....	7	-2
B+ (3.3).....	16	-3
B (3.0).....	25	-4
B- (2.7).....	12	-5
C+ (2.3).....	11	-6
C (2.0).....	16	-7
C- (1.7).....	3	-8
D+ (1.3).....	1	-9
D (1.0).....	1	-0
D- (0.7).....	(27(-	-1
F (Below 0.7).....	-	-2
Not sure.....	2	-3
Refused.....	*	-4

F5. Do you plan to finish high school?

Yes.....	(28(96	-1
No.....	1	-2
Already finished (vol.).....	1	-3
Not sure.....	2	-4
Refused.....	*	-5

F6. Do you plan to go to college?

Yes.....	(29(70	-1
No.....	16	-2
Depends (vol.).....	5	-3
Already in college (vol.).....	*	-4
Not sure.....	8	-5
Refused.....	-	-6

F7. How important to you is (was) your performance in school -- very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

Very important.....(30(68 -1
Somewhat important..... 26 -2
Not too important..... 4 -3
Not important at all..... 1 -4
Not sure..... 1 -5
Refused..... - -6

F8. Do you have in mind any particular career or type of occupation that you would like to do someday?

Yes.....(31(75 -1 (ASK Q.F9)
No..... 16 -2
Not sure..... 9 -3
Refused..... - -4 } (SKIP TO Q.F10)

ASK Q.F9 IF "YES" IN Q.F8

F9. What career or occupation is that? Largest =
54% Profession; 8% Technician; 5% personal service;

N=772

5% Protective Service

(32-33)

ASK EVERYONE

F10. Do you think it is possible nowadays for someone in this country to start out poor and become rich by working hard?

Yes, possible.....(34(90 -1
No, not possible..... 5 -2
Depends (vol.)..... 4 -3
Not sure..... 1 -4
Refused..... - -5

F11. How about you? Do you expect to succeed if you work hard, or not?

Yes, expect to.....(35(94 -1
No, do not expect to..... 1 -2
Depends (vol.)..... 3 -3
Not sure..... 2 -4
Refused..... - -5

F12. How important to you is starting a family and having children -- very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

Very important.....(36(29 -1
Somewhat important..... 33 -2
Not too important..... 22 -3
Not important at all..... 11 -4
Already started (vol.)..... * -5
Not sure..... 4 -6
Refused..... - -7

F13. At the present time, do you work at a paying job, either full-time or part-time, or not?

Yes, full-time.....	(37(	<u>2</u>	-1
Yes, part-time.....		<u>32</u>	-2
No.....		<u>66</u>	-3
Not sure.....		<u>*</u>	-4
Refused.....		<u>*</u>	-5

F14. At the present time, are you involved in any organized sports, extracurricular activities, or clubs?

Yes, involved.....	(38(	<u>60</u>	-1
No, not involved.....		<u>39</u>	-2
Not sure.....		<u>1</u>	-3
Refused.....		<u>*</u>	-4

F15. Do you live with both parents, with just one parent, or with someone else?

Both parents.....	(39(	<u>66</u>	-1
One parent.....		<u>30</u>	-2
Someone else.....		<u>3</u>	-3
Not sure.....		<u>*</u>	-4
Refused.....		<u>*</u>	-5

F16. What is the last grade or level of school that your mother completed?

8th grade or less.....	(40(	<u>4</u>	-1
Some high school.....		<u>14</u>	-2
High school graduate.....		<u>40</u>	-3
Some college or two-year college graduate.....		<u>16</u>	-4
Four-year college graduate.....		<u>12</u>	-5
Post-graduate.....		<u>3</u>	-6
Not sure.....		<u>11</u>	-7
Refused.....		<u>*</u>	-8

F17. What is the last grade or level of school that your father completed?

8th grade or less.....	(41(	<u>3</u>	-1
Some high school.....		<u>10</u>	-2
High school graduate.....		<u>35</u>	-3
Some college or two-year college graduate.....		<u>14</u>	-4
Four-year college graduate.....		<u>13</u>	-5
Post-graduate.....		<u>6</u>	-6
Not sure.....		<u>19</u>	-7
Refused.....		<u>*</u>	-8

F18. Are you of Hispanic descent, or not? (IF NECESSARY: Is your family of Spanish-speaking origin, or not?)

Yes, Hispanic descent.....(42(10 -1
 No.....88 -2
 Not sure.....1 -3
 Refused.....1 -4

F19. Do you consider yourself white, black, Asian, or some other race?

White.....(43(80 -1
 Black.....16 -2
 Asian/Oriental/Pacific Islander....1 -3
 American Indian or Alaskan native..* -4
 Not sure.....2 -5
 Refused.....* -6

F20. Would you describe your religious background as Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, or something else?

Protestant.....(44(45 -1
 Catholic.....35 -2 } (ASK Q.F21a)
 Jewish.....4 -3
 Other (SPECIFY):
7 -4 } (SKIP TO Q.F21b)
 None (vol.).....4 -5
 Not sure.....5 -6
 Refused.....* -7

ASK Q.F21a IF "PROTESTANT" OR "CATHOLIC" IN Q.F20

F21a. Do you consider yourself a born-again Christian or a charismatic Christian, or not?

Yes, consider self.....(45(25 -1
 No, do not.....53 -2
 Not sure.....21 -3
 Refused.....* -4

N=808

ASK EVERYONE

F21b. Would you say that you attend religious services frequently, occasionally, seldom, or never?

Frequently.....(46(36 -1
 Occasionally.....26 -2
 Seldom.....26 -3
 Never.....11 -4
 Not sure.....* -5
 Refused.....* -6

F22a. Does your family own your (house/apartment), or rent it?

Owens.....	(47(66 -1
Rents.....	32 -2
Not sure.....	2 -3
Refused.....	* -4

F22b. Does your family own a car, or not?

Yes, owns a car.....	(48(89 -1
No, does not own a car.....	11 -2
Not sure.....	* -3
Refused.....	* -4

F22c. Do you have a videocassette recorder or VCR in your home, or not?

Yes, have a videocassette recorder....	(49(57 -1
No, do not have.....	43 -2
Not sure.....	* -3
Refused.....	* -4

F22d. Do you have a personal computer in your home, or not?

Yes, have a personal computer.....	(50(28 -1
No, do not have.....	72 -2
Not sure.....	* -3
Refused.....	* -4

SES INDEX FROM ABOVE FOUR ITEMS:

High	16%
Medium	63%
Low	21%
	<u>100%</u>

HAND RESPONDENT SHOWCARDS "X," "Y," AND "Z" ONE AT A TIME. ALLOW TIME TO READ EACH ONE BEFORE HANDING RESPONDENT THE NEXT ONE. WHEN RESPONDENT HAS READ ALL THREE, REPEAT THE QUESTION.

F23. For my final question, I need to show you these three different advertisements. Could you look at each one for a moment and then tell me which one you think would work best in helping teenagers to avoid getting pregnant or causing pregnancy.

AFTER RESPONDENT STUDIES THE ADVERTISEMENTS, REPEAT THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

Which advertisement do you think would work best in helping teenagers to avoid getting pregnant or causing pregnancy -- "X," "Y," or "Z?"

Advertisement "X".....	(51(27 -1	} (ASK Q.F25)
Advertisement "Y".....	28 -2	
Advertisement "Z".....	26 -3	
None of them (vol.).....	3 -4	} (THANK AND END INTERVIEW)
All of them (vol.).....	7 -5	
Depends (vol.).....	3 -6	
Not sure.....	6 -7	
Refused.....	* -8	

F24. INTERVIEWER RECORD -- DO NOT READ -- USE YOUR JUDGMENT.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Respondent had trouble reading "X".....	(52(5 -1	85 -2	10 -3
Respondent had trouble reading "Y".....	(53(5 -1	84 -2	11 -3
Respondent had trouble reading "Z".....	(54(4 -1	86 -2	10 -3

ASK Q.F25 IF "X," "Y," OR "Z" CHOSEN IN Q.F23

F25. What is the main reason why you think that that advertisement would work best? Any other reason? N=860

27 types of reasons given (55-56)

Largest = 17% shows methods; (57-58)

13% shows consequences; (59-60)

11% shows how it really is;

8% shows how to overcome pressure

INTERVIEWER RECORD -- DO NOT READ -- MAKE A JUDGMENT.

F26. Interviewer's rating on how well off this family is financially:

Much above average.....	(61(	6	-1
Somewhat above average.....	24	-2	
About average.....	46	-3	
Somewhat below average.....	19	-4	
Much below average.....	3	-5	
Not sure.....	3	-6	

That concludes the interview. Thank you very much!

INTERVIEWER RECORD:

Respondent's sex:

Male.....	(62(	51	-1
Female.....	49	-2	

Respondent's telephone number for validation:

Area Code: _____ Telephone No.: _____
(63-65) (66-73)

Respondent's first name for validation:

74-80Z

"He said if I didn't do it,
he wouldn't love me anymore."



"AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I GOT angry. It was such a trashy thing to say. Like I was so desperate for him I'd jump off a cliff or something.

We didn't have any birth control. I started out saying it was just the wrong time.

Then I started thinking it was the wrong guy.

After he said that, he put on this big act about it. If he really cared, he'd have let it drop. He'd have given me time.

I mean, you don't have to be the brain of the world to know you don't have sex without protection.

And you sure don't make a baby with a guy who thinks he can threaten you."

Nobody should pressure anybody to have sex. Especially if you feel you're not ready. Or prepared. It's a fact of life that if you have sex without safe, effective birth control, you're going to get pregnant. Who should be responsible for birth control? It can be you, it can be him, even better when it's both. If you need information or just someone to talk to, call your nearest Planned Parenthood. We can help. That's what we're here for.



Planned Parenthood*
Federation of America

810 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019



"Then I got that awful phone call."

"SHE'D NEVER CALLED ME BEFORE.
We'd just been together a couple of times.

So she tells me she's pregnant.

I mean, I didn't know what to say.
There's just this silence on the phone until
she asks if I died.

She sounds like she's burnt out on
crying and you don't know what to do.
It's like you're a blank.

The worst part is I wake up in the
morning and it just rushes at me. Quit
school. Get married. Run away from it.
I don't know.

I didn't know then and I don't
know now.

All I know is all the ways it shouldn't
have happened. All those easy ways.
But it's a little too late for that, I guess.

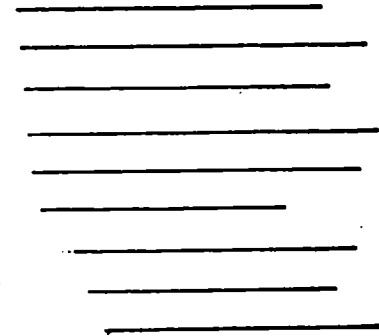
Too late this lifetime, for me."

Nobody has all the answers about sex.
But keep in mind that a million teen girls
get pregnant every year. Which means a
million guys don't hear the end of it.
Here's your choice. You can take responsi-
bility when it's easy or you can wait until
it's impossible. Don't make a big mistake.
Buy a condom. You can get them at any
drugstore or from your local Planned
Parenthood. If you need help or informa-
tion, call us. That's what we're here for.



Planned Parenthood*
Federation of America

810 Seventh Avenue,
New York, NY 10019



810 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York 10019.