

STATISTICS

(Josh McDowell research 2006 to present)

“AMERICAN YOUTH WANT LOVE MORE THAN SEX VALENTINE’S DAY’S TRUE ESSENCE STILL IN EFFECT”

“In Youthography’s latest national, regionally representative Ping(TM) survey of more than 1,900 Americans aged 14-29, 77.8% and 64.2% of respondents put top box importance (a rating of ‘4’ or ‘5’ on a scale from 1-5, ‘5’ being ‘totally important’) on ‘having a lifelong partner’ and ‘getting married’ respectively. In comparison, ‘having sex’ received top box importance from less than half surveyed (46.1%).”

(“American Youth Want Love More Than Sex Valentine’s Day’s true essence still in effect,” PR Newswire, January 2007, <http://sev.prnewswire.com/publishing-information-services/20070131/CLW17331012007-1.html>)

“CHINA TEENS CASUAL ABOUT ONE-NIGHT STANDS: POLL”

“BEIJING, Jan 11 (Reuters Live!) – More than half of China’s high school students find nothing wrong with one-night stands and an overwhelming majority of girls would not reject a boyfriend’s demands for sex, a poll suggests.”

“Some 6.2 percent of the survey’s 2,300 high school students in Xuanwu, a downtown district in the Chinese capital of Beijing, had already had a sexual experience and the average age of students losing their virginity was 15, the China Daily said on Thursday.”

“Of the 1,300 girls asked if they would agree to sex when asked by a boyfriend, only six gave a definite ‘no.’”

““The typical answer: ‘As long as he loves me, it’s OK’,’ the newspaper said.”

“About 200 respondents of both sexes said they would have a one-night stand if the opportunity arose, it added.”

(“China teens casual about one-night stands: poll,” Reuters, January 2007, www.today.reuters.com)

“FACTS ON AMERICAN TEENS’ SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH”

“Sexual Activity”

- “Nearly half (46%) of all 15-19-year-olds in the United States have had sex at least once.”
- “By age 15, only 13% of teens have ever had sex. However, by the time they reach age 19, seven in 10 teens have engages in sexual intercourse.”

- “Most young people have sex for the first time at about age 17, but do not marry until their middle or late 20s. This means that young adults are at risk of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for nearly a decade.”
- “Teens are waiting longer to have sex than they did in the past. Some 13% of females and 15% of males aged 15-19 in 2002 had had sex before age 15, compared with 19% and 21%, respectively, in 1995.”
- “The majority (59%) of sexually experienced teen females had a first sexual partner who was 1-3 years their senior. Only 8% had first partners who were six or more years older.”
- “More than three-quarters of teen females report that their first sexual experience was with a steady boyfriend, a fiance, a husband or a cohabiting partner.”
- “Ten percent of young women aged 18-24 who had sex before age 20 reported that their first sex was involuntary. The younger they were at first intercourse, the higher the proportion.”
- “Twelve percent of teen males and 10% of teen females have had heterosexual oral sex but not vaginal intercourse.”
- “The proportion of teens who had ever had sex declined from 40% to 46% among females and from 55% to 46% among males between 1995 and 2002.”

“STIs”

- “Of the 18.9 million new cases of STIs each year, 9.1 million (48%) occur among 15-24-year-olds.”
- “Although 15-24-year-olds represent only one-quarter of the sexually active population, they account for nearly half of all new STIs each year.”
- “Human papillomavirus (HPV) infections account for about half of STIs diagnosed among 15-24-year-olds each year. HPV is extremely common, often asymptomatic and generally harmless. However, certain types, if left undetected and untreated, can lead to cervical cancer.”
- “In June 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the vaccine Gardasil as safe and effective for use among girls and women aged 9-26. The vaccine prevents infection with the types of HPV most likely to lead to cervical cancer.”
- “Half of new HIV infections (about 20,000) each year occur among youth aged 15-24.”

“Abortion”

- “There were 214,750 abortions among 15-19-year-olds in 2002.”
- “Twenty-nine percent of pregnancies among 15-19-year-olds ended in abortion in 2002, compared with 21% among all women.”

- “The reasons teens give most frequently for having an abortion are concern about how having a baby would change their lives, inability to afford a baby now and feeling insufficiently mature to raise a child.”

(“Facts on American Teens’ Sexual and Reproductive Health,” Guttmacher, September 2006)

“REPORT: FEWER HIGH SCHOOLERS HAVING SEX”

“Fewer U.S. high school students are having sex, and the ones who do are less likely to have multiple partners, according to a report issued Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

“Some 46.8 percent of students said they engaged in sexual intercourse in a 2005 survey, down from 54.1 percent in 1991, according to the report.”

“At the same time, the number of students who say they used a condom the last time they had intercourse rose to 62.8 percent in 2005 from 46.2 percent in 1991, the survey said.”

(“Report: Fewer high schoolers having sex,” MSNBC.com, August 2006, www.msnbc.msn.com/id/14301821/)

“SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AND LACK OF KNOWLEDGE THREATEN HEALTH OF CANADIAN TEENS”

“Canada’s half million sexually active teens between the ages of 14 and 17 have had three sexual partners on average.”

“And 68% per cent have engaged in oral sex”

“Yet 90 per cent of Canadian teens claim to be very (19 per cent) or somewhat (71 per cent) knowledgeable about sex and sexual health. Not only does this claim run counter to their actual behaviour, considering the increasing prevalence of STIs, it is also undermined by their widespread lack of knowledge of the most common sexually transmitted infection – only 19 per cent have ever heard of HPV, the cause of genital warts and cervical cancer. HIV, on the other hand, is reported most often by teens as a common STI, despite its very low prevalence compared to all the others.”

“Canadian teens also appear to be unaware of the consequences of STIs. For example, only 20 per cent mention cancer as a possible consequence of HPV and only 37 per cent mention infertility as a possible consequence of Chlamydia.”

“Parents will be surprised to learn that THEY are in fact the real teen role models when it comes to sex, not movie, music, sport and TV stars. Parents are also considered a major source of information on sex and sexual health by their teenagers (63 per cent) and nearly half (43 per cent) consider their parents to be the most useful and valuable source of information. Unfortunately, 38 per cent of teens have not discussed sex and sexuality with their mothers.”

“One of the most surprising results of the study was how parents underestimate their importance and the role teens expect them to play when it comes to their sexuality and sexual health,” said Dr. Miriam Kaufman, and CAAH spokesperson and pediatrician at the Adolescent Division at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. “Canadian teens look up to their parents and consider them a valuable source of information. We hope that by making this information widely known, parents will feel more comfortable breaking the wall of silence that too often exists when it comes to discussing sexuality with their children.”

“Sexual Behaviour and STIs”

- “Nearly 3 in 10 (27%) Canadian teens between the ages of 14 and 17 report being sexually active. By age 17, nearly one in two (45%) Canadian teens report being sexually active, while it is one in five (20%) at age 15.”
- “On average, teens have had 3 partners since becoming sexually active.”
- “More than 1 in 3 (38%) sexually active teens have engaged in casual sex and 16% admit that their partner had other sexual partners while dating them.”
- “One in 4 sexually active teens did not use any protection against STIs the last time they had sex. And half of those who did use condoms never checked to see if the condom remained intact after use.”
- “Two in 3 (68%) sexually active Canadian teens have had oral sex (mean age of 15).”
- “Nearly 1 in 5 (17%) adolescents do not know that STIs can be transmitted by oral sex.”
 - “STIs such as HPV (the cause of genital warts and cervical cancer), syphilis and gonorrhoea can be transmitted by oral sex.”
 - “In Canada, between 1997 and 2004, the reported cases of gonorrhoea increased by 82% and for syphilis the increase is 909%.”
- “While 9 in 10 (90%) teens claim to be very (19%) or somewhat (71%) knowledgeable about sex and sexual health, only 1 in 5 (19%) have heard about HPV, the most common sexually transmitted infection. When asked how common are different STIs, more teens list HIV as opposed to all other STIs.”
- “When asked for the consequences of different STIs, too few knew the major consequence of common STIs. For example, only 1 in 5 (20%) mention cancer as a possible consequence of HPV, 1 in 3 (37%) mention infertility as a possible consequence of Chlamydia, and 1 in 2 (54%) mention pain as a consequence of herpes.”
- “Of those teens who say they have heard of HPV, close to half (45%) don’t know any of the potential health consequences.”
- “Of the sexually active female Canadian teens, nearly 3 in 5 (56%) have not had a Pap test in the last 3 years.”

- “One in 4 (24%) mothers have not had a Pap test in the last 2 years.”
- “One in 20 (5%) sexually active teens have been diagnosed with an STI.”

“Barriers and Information Gaps”

- “Two-thirds (62%) of Canadian teens faced obstacles or barriers in getting answers to their questions on sexual health. As an example, one in three (31%) are uncomfortable talking or learning about sexual health information.”
- “Teens regard their parents as an important information source on the subject of sex, but a generation barrier exists. When teens were asked what they felt was missing in their knowledge about sex, one-quarter (25%) cited ‘how to talk about sexual health issues with my parents’. Also, mothers say they are comfortable discussing different issues related to sexual health, but according to teens, half of them are not having these discussion with their parents.”
- “Though 4 in 5 Canadian teens (79%) get sex education in school, only one in four (23%) think that it is very useful.”
- “The meaning of a word can be different for different people, so vocabulary can be a barrier to information. For example, 1 in 5 Canadian teens and 1 in 3 mothers include mutual masturbation in their definition of ‘sexual intercourse’. And when asked to define sexual abstinence, for 1 in 4 teens, it appears that practicing oral sex is compatible with abstinence.”
- “There is significant misinformation related to how STIs can be contracted. 1 in 4 (23%) teens and 1 in 5 (21%) parents believe public toilet seats and poor personal hygiene are sources.”
- “Two in 3 (69%) teens and 3 in 4 (76%) mothers claim not to have found all the information about sex and sexual health they were looking for.”
 - “Missing information most often cited by both groups: Abuse between partners; When to know I am ready to have sex; Date rape; Taking about love; Feelings and emotions.”
 - “Missing for parents only: How to say ‘no’ to sex.”
 - “Missing for teens only: How to talk about sexual health issues with my parents.”

“Parents as Role Model”

- “Three in 4 mothers believe that friends are significant role models when it comes to sex, and more than half mention entertainment industry stars at par with parents. They may be surprised to learn that 45% of teens regard their parents as their role model, far ahead of friends (at 32%) and of entertainment industry stars (at about 15%).”
- “Mothers have misconceptions regarding teen sexuality. As an example, mothers overestimate by 50% the number of teens engaging in sex at any age.”

- “Parents are considered a major source of information on sex and sexual health by their teenagers (63%) and nearly half (43%) consider their parent to be the most useful and valuable source of information.”
- “Although the relationship between mothers and teens is mainly very positive, 38% of teens have not discussed sex sexuality with their mothers.”

(“Sexual Behaviour and Lack of Knowledge Threaten Health of Canadian Teens,” February 2006)

“SURVEY DESCRIBES THE UPS AND DOWNS OF TWEEN LIFE”

“Children between the ages of 8 and 12--their family is critical to their success and satisfaction with life--and is doing well in many areas. Have lifelong repercussions.”

“What Works for Kids”

“Most of today’s children give positive marks to aspects of their family experience. Eight out of ten adolescents (79%) feel safe when they are at home; two out of every three (69%) say their family eats dinner together at least five nights a week; and 65% say they feel they can always trust their parents to do what is right for the child.”

“Nine out of every ten adolescents (91%) get punished by their parents if they are caught using bad language. Three out of four young people (74%) said their parents enforce a strict curfew, and two out of every three (67%) noted that the amount of television they are allowed to watch is limited by their parents.”

“One of the bright spots in the lives of most kids is their friendships. Nine out of ten (94%) said they have good friends whom they can trust.”

“What Doesn’t Work”

“Not fulfilling the needs and hopes of adolescents was the faith arena. Less than four out of every ten young people (38%) said that churches have made a positive difference in their life. 34% said that prayer is very important to them; 43% rejected the notion that they would rather be popular than do what is morally right.”

“A bare majority (56%) believe that they will have a great life. 57% contend that they look forward to spending free time with their family. One out of every three pre-teens (35%) said they find it easy to talk to their parents about everything that is happening in their life these days.”

“One out of every three 8-to-12-year olds (31%) is bothered by bullies who threaten or scare them.”

“Improving the Odds”

“Living in the gap between the early childhood and teenage years.”

“Young people who get mostly ‘A’s’ tended to have a more positive experience and outlook and were less likely to be bothered by bullies. They were also more likely than others to trust their parents’ choices, to expect to have a great life, to look forward to time spent with family, to be comfortable doing what is morally right rather than popular, and to believe their church has positively affected their life.”

“Having both parents in their home also makes a big difference”

- “to regularly eat meals as a family”
- “to feel safe at home”
- “to enjoy spending time together as a family”
- “to find it easy to speak with parents about their life”
- “to choose morality over popularity”
- “to say their church had a positive impact on them.”

“The study underscored the importance of age 12 as a transition time for kids. At that point, young people are notably vulnerable”

- “to losing trust in their parents”
- “losing interest in family activities”
- “lean more toward popularity than morality”
- question their future.”

“‘Much of the stability and security that tweens experience is a result of their family environment and relationships.’ ‘ Investing themselves in their relationship with their children.’”

“The challenge to churches. While most kids in the 8-to-12- age range are involved in a church, relatively few of them consider church experiences to be valuable. So few kids consider prayer to be a critical part of their life. Parents must take the lead in establishing the centrality of faith experiences and practices for their children. That begins with parents modeling the significance of faith in their lives. Families taking the lead in the spiritual development process, rather than expecting or waiting for a church to produce spiritual growth in adolescents.”

“Barna also reinforced the importance of age 12 as a hinge point. ‘During the 11 to 13 age range, most kids undergo huge changes and challenges related to their self-image and their choices concerning morals, beliefs, relationships and life goals. It is one of the most critical times for parents to make sure they stay connected and accessible to their kids.’”

(“Survey Describes the Ups and Downs of Tween Life, *The Barna Update*, (September 30, 2006)

“THE CHANGING DEFINITION OF SEX”

“The National Center for Health Statistics surveyed more than 10,000 teenagers and found that just over 36% of 15- to 17-year-old boys have had sexual intercourse and 49% of all 15- to 17-year-old girls have had no sexual contacts at all. Meanwhile, the Centers for Disease Control released a survey that found more than half of all 15- to 17-year-olds have given or received oral sex.”

(“The changing definition of sex,” youthministry (May 2006):12)

“TRENDS AND RECENT ESTIMATES: SEXUAL ACTIVITY AMONG U.S. TEENS”

“Sexual experience increases with age. In 2002, approximately one-quarter of never-married teenagers had sexual intercourse before the age of 16 (see Figure 1). This proportion increased with age, with more than one-half of females (58 percent) and males (54 percent) having sexual intercourse before the age of 18. Before the age of 19, 70 percent of females and 65 percent of males had had sex.”

“The percentage of teenagers who has ever had sexual intercourse has declined among all age groups. In 2002, 46 percent of never-married male and female teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 had ever had sexual intercourse (see Figure 2). Between 1988 and 2002, male teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 experience (from 60 percent to 46 percent). The proportion of female teenagers who had ever had sexual intercourse also declined during this same time period (51 percent in 1988 to 46 percent in 2002), but the decline was smaller and not statistically significant. Additional analyses indicate that there were declines in sexual experience among almost all age groups:”

- “Retrospective reports of sexually experienced teenagers suggest a decline in the proportion of very young teenagers (those under the age of 15) who had had sex. In 2002, 13 percent of never married females between the ages of 15 and 19 reported having had sex before the age of 15, down from 19 percent in 1995. For adolescent males, the proportion reporting having had sex before the age of 15 declined from 21 percent in 1995 to 15 percent in 2002.”
- “Male and female teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17 showed a significant decline in sexual experience between 1995 and 2002 (from 43 percent to 31 percent for males and from 38 percent to 30 percent for females).”
- “Male teenagers, but not female teenagers, between the ages of 18 and 19 also experienced a decline in the proportion of those who had ever had sex during this time period (from 75 percent in 1995 to 64 percent in 2002).”

“White, black, and Hispanic teenagers all experienced significant declines in sexual experience for at least one gender. Never married Hispanic female teenagers experienced a 29 percent decline in the proportion of those who were sexually experienced between 1995 and 2002 (53 percent to 37 percent) and were the least likely to have ever had sexual intercourse in 2002. In comparison, no significant declines were found in the proportion of never-married white or black teen females who were sexually experienced during this time period. In 2002, 45 percent of white females and 57 percent of black females between the ages of 15 and 19 had ever had sexual intercourse.”

“...decline in the proportion of those who were sexually experienced (from 50 percent to 41 percent), and black male teenagers experiences a 21 percent decline (from 80 percent to 63 percent).”

“Among females, however, white and black teenagers were more likely to be sexually active than were Hispanic teenagers (36 percent for white teenagers and 35 percent for black teenagers, compared with 29 percent for Hispanic teenagers).”

- “Oral sex. A substantial minority of teenagers, particularly white teenagers, have never had sexual intercourse but have had oral sex, which places them at risk of STIs. Specifically, one in six young teenagers age 15-17 has not engaged in sexual intercourse, but has given or received oral sex, and very few of these teenagers have used a condom.”

(Elizabeth Terry-Humen, M.P.P., Jennifer Manlove, Ph.D., and Sarah Cottingham, “Trends and Recent Estimates: Sexual Activity Among U.S. Teens,” *Child Trends*, (June 2006):2-4,6)

“TRENDS IN PREMARITAL SEX IN THE UNITED STATES, 1954-2003”

“Results. Data from the 2002 survey indicate that by age 20, 77% of respondents had had sex, 75% had had premarital sex, and 12% had married; by age 44, 95% of respondents (94% of women, 96% of men, and 97% of those who had ever had sex) had premarital sex. Even among those who abstained until at least age 20, 81% had had premarital sex by age 44. Among cohorts of women turning 15 between 1964 and 1993, at least 91% had had premarital sex by age 30. Among those turning 15 between 1954 and 1963, 82% had had premarital sex by age 30, and 88% had done so by age 44.”

“By the exact age of 20 years, 77% of individuals had had sex, and 75% had had sex before marriage; 12% had married. By exact age 44, 99% of Americans had had sex, 95% had had sex before marriage, and 85% had married. At that age, 3.3% had abstained until marriage, and 1.3% had neither married nor had sex. Thus, 97% of those who had ever had sex had done so premaritally at some point.”

“males virtually every age; by exact age 44, 96% of males and 94% of females had had premarital sex. Females were more likely to have married by each age, reflecting the fact that women typically marry at a younger age than men.”

“The figure and table show a trend from the 1950s through the 1990s toward a higher proportion experience premarital sex: 48% of the cohort who turned 15 from 1954 to 1963 had done so by exact age 20, while 65% of the 1964-73 cohort, 72% of the 1974-83 cohort, and 76% of the 1984-93 cohort had done so. For the 1994-2003 cohort, 74% had had premarital sex by exact age 20, a figure between that of the 1974-83 and 1984-93 cohorts. The difference between the first cohort and subsequent ones was larger than later differences.”

“Among those born in the 1940s and turning 15 from 1954 to 1963, 82% had had premarital sex by exact age 30, and 88% had done so by exact age 44; for more recent cohorts turning 15 from 1964 to 1993, at least 91% had done so by exact age 30. The youngest cohort had not yet reached age 30 by the time of the most recent survey.”

(Lawrence B. Finer, “Trends in Premarital Sex in the United States, 1954-2003,” *The Guttmacher Institute*, January-February 2007)