

VIOLENCE

(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 engaged 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 fiancé, 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)

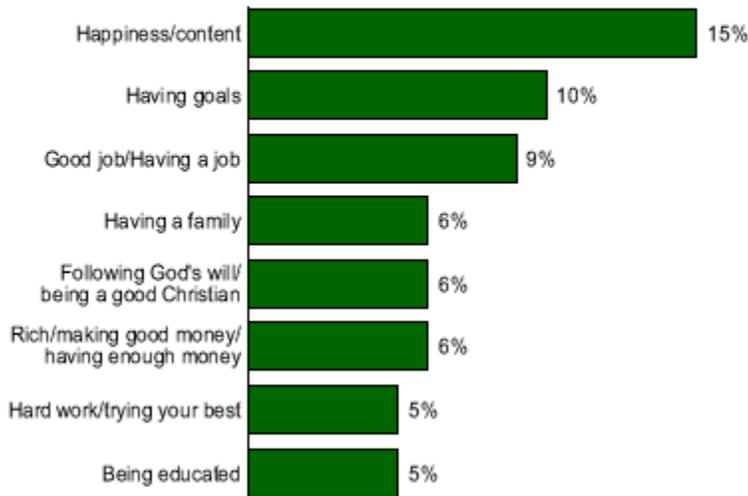
“HOW DO 21st-CENTURY TEENS SPELL SUCCESS?”

“But according to a recent Gallup Youth Survey*, American teenagers don't necessarily equate fame and fortune with success.”

“Teens were asked in an open-ended question to define what makes someone successful in life. Fifteen percent of all teens surveyed say happiness and contentment. ‘A person is successful when they are happy with their life and who they are,’ one 13-year-old girl says. ‘It doesn't matter how much money they make, where they live, or what kind of car they drive.’”

How would you define success in life -- that is, what do you think it is that makes a person successful?

Asked of U.S. teens aged 13-17



“*The Gallup Youth Survey is conducted via an Internet methodology provided by Knowledge Networks, using an online research panel that is designed to be representative of the entire U.S. population. The current questionnaire was completed by 439 respondents, aged 13 to 17, August 8-19, 2004. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 5 percentage points.”

(Raksha Arora, “How Do 21st-Century Teens Spell Success?” The Gallup Organization, October 19, 2004, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/content/default.aspx?ci=13684>)

“HUNTING DOWN THE COOL”

“College freshmen lookin’ liberal; Alex P. Keaton must be rolling over in the cancelled-TV-show graveyard. As the wider culture tips toward patriotic conservatism, incoming college freshmen have countered with a decidedly liberal lean. In fact, more of them have embraced the political positions of the ‘far left’ than at any time since 1975, according to the results of a massive annual survey by the Higher Education Research Institute.”

“The survey of almost 300,000 incoming freshmen found that nearly a third (30%) say they’re liberals, compared with only a fifth (21%) just two decades ago. Half of those responding (49%) say they’re “middle-of-the-road,” and only a fifth (21%) label themselves ‘conservative’ or ‘far right’.”

“Examples of their liberal brainwaves:”

- “More than half of incoming college freshmen (58%) think gay couples should be granted legal marital status, the largest percentage in history.” (According to a recent Gallup Poll, almost two-thirds [62%] of young adults consider homosexuality acceptable.)
- “A third of them (32%) say they oppose the death penalty, the highest percentage since 1980.”

“Four in 10 (37%) say they’d like marijuana possession legalized, also the highest number since 1980.”

“Why is youth culture listing to port? According to a report in USA Today:”

- “Their Boomer Parents are socially and politically liberal. ‘We know parents definitely have an influence on social and political attitudes,’ says Angela Aimals, Columbia University sociologist.”
- “MTV is shaping their belief systems. If the popular media is liberal-learning, MTV is the Tower of Pisa. This electronic watering hold for teenagers doesn’t hide its lefty opinion on sex, drugs, and homosexuality.”

“Today’s college students are also liberal in their spending habits. According to the student loan agency Nellie Mae, the average student credit-card debt rose from \$1,879 in 1998 to \$2,748 in 2000—a whopping two-year increase of 46%.”

(“Hunting down the cool.” Trendwatch; youth and culture. Group Magazines. May 6, 2002.)

INCIDENCE AND CORRELATES OF UNWANTED SEX IN RELATIONSHIPS OF MIDDLE AND LATE ADOLESCENT WOMEN

“Results: A total of 279 participants with a mean age of 15.9 years were enrolled, and most were African American (88.5% [247/279]). Unwanted sex was reported by 40.9% (n=114) of participants and in 15.5% (292/1880) of partner-visits. The most prevalent type of unwanted sex was due to fear that the partner would get angry if denied sex (37.6%, or 105 participants). Factors associated with unwanted sex included having a baby with the partner, lower relationship quality, lack of sexual control, less condom use, and partner marijuana use.”

“Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2006; 160:591-595”

(Margaret J. Blythe, MD; J. Dennis Fortenberry, MD, MS; M’Hamed Temkit, MS; Wanshu Tu, PhD; Donald P. Orr, MD, “Incidence and Correlates of Unwanted Sex in Relationships of Middle and Late Adolescent Women,” American Medical Association, June 2006)

“NEW SURVEY OF AMERICAN TEENS REVEALS SHOCKING LEVELS OF TEEN DATING ABUSE AND VIOLENCE”

“- 1 In 3 Teen Girls In A Dating Relationship Have Feared For Their Physical Safety”

“- 1 In 2 Teens In Serious Relationships Have Compromised Their Beliefs To Please Their Partner”

“- 1 In 3 Teens In Serious Relationships Have Been Strongly Controlled In What They Do And Where They Go”

“Key Findings:”

“Physical threats and safety:”

“-- 30% of all teens report worrying about their personal physical safety in a relationship;”

“-- 1 in 5 teens (20%) in a serious relationship report they have been hit, slapped or pushed by a partner;”

“-- 13% of Hispanic teens reported that hitting a partner was permissible.”

“Controlling/Abusive Behavior:”

“-- 64% of teens have been with someone who acted really jealous, asking where they were all the time;”

“-- 55% of teens in serious relationships have done something that compromised their values to please their partner;”

“-- 1 in 4 teens in serious relationships were asked to only spend time with their partner and prevented from spending time with family or friends;”

-- 1 in 3 teens in serious relationships were asked by their partner where they were and who they were with all the time;”

“-- 61% of teens said they have had a boyfriend or girlfriend who made them feel bad or embarrassed about themselves;”

“-- More than 1 in 4 teens have been in a relationship where their partner calls them names and puts them down.”

“Sexual Pressures:”

“-- Almost one third of girls who have been in a relationship (29%) said they have been pressured to have sex or engage in sex they don't want;”

“-- Nearly 1 out of 4 teen girls of all ages report that they have gone further sexually in a relationship than they wanted;”

“-- Nearly 1 out of 2 girls worry that their partner will break up with them if they did not agree to engage in sex;”

“-- 1 in 3 teens between the ages of 16 and 18 and 1 in 4 teens between the ages of 13 and 18 say sex is expected in their relationships.”

(“New Survey of American Teens Reveals Shocking Levels of Teen Dating Abuse and Violence,” Corporate Alliance to End Partner violence. April 28, 2006

“REPORT: FEWER HIGH SCHOOLERS HAVING SEX”

“ATLANTA- 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/)

“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)
