

With One Voice 2007 is the fifth in a series of national surveys conducted by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. The surveys date back to 2001 and have asked adults and teens a consistent, core set of questions about teen pregnancy and related issues. The surveys have been conducted for two primary reasons: 1) assess regularly the content and direction of American opinion on teen pregnancy and 2) surveys of public opinion are a critical supplement to the behavioral data collected regularly by the federal government. Regular surveys of attitudes about teen sex and pregnancy greatly enhance our understanding of the teen pregnancy problem and what to do about it. Topics covered in the survey questions include the following: parents; abstinence; contraception; attitudes and beliefs; gender differences; religion; social norms; and media.

Significant findings from the survey are identified below. For specifics about the methodology, specific questions and other detailed findings visit

www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/polling.asp.

Parents

- Teens continue to say that parents most influence their decisions about sex.
- For the first time in National Campaign polling, adults in general now believe that parents most influence teens' decisions about sex.
- Parents of teens, however, continue to underestimate the influence they have over their children's decisions about sex and overestimate the influence of friends and the media.
- Most teens (64%) say they share their parents' values about sex.
- Although the vast majority of parents of teens (89%) say they have had a helpful conversation with their children about delaying sex and avoiding teen pregnancy, fewer teens (71%) report similar conversations with their parents. Even so, the proportion of teens who say they have had a helpful conversation with their parents on these topics has increased since the Campaign's 2004 survey.

Abstinence

- An overwhelming majority of adults (93%) and teens (90%) continue to believe that providing young people with a strong abstinence message is important.

Contraception

- Adults (73%) and teens (56%) also continue to believe that young people need more information about abstinence and contraception, rather than either/or.

Attitudes and Beliefs

- Most sexually experienced teens (60%) wish they had waited longer to have intercourse.
- Fully 75% of teens do not think it is embarrassing for teens to admit they are virgins.

Gender Differences

- Most teens (62%) and adults (75%) believe that teen boys often receive the message that they are "expected to have sex."
- Teens (59%) and adults (74%) also believe that teen girls often receive the message that "attracting boys and looking sexy is one of the most important things they can do."
- When it comes to talking about sex, most teens (65%) and adults (61%) believe that parents send one message to their sons and a different message to their daughters.

Religion

- A large majority of adults (64%) and teens (76%) believe that religious leaders and groups should be doing more to help prevent teen pregnancy.

Social Norms

- About half of teens (48%) say they have never thought about what their life would be like if they got/got someone pregnant as a teen.
- Some 29% of teens and 25% of adults say that teen pregnancy and parenthood in their community are "no big deal."
- Sixteen percent of teens and adults say being a teen parent would help or not affect teens reaching their future goals.

Media

- Most teens (75%) agree that when a TV show or character experiences teen pregnancy, it makes them think more about the consequences of sex.
- Most teens (76%) also wish the media showed more or talked more about the consequences of sex, including teen pregnancy.

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