

With One Voice 2010

America's Adults and Teens Sound Off
About Teen Pregnancy

A Periodic National Survey

By Bill Albert
December 2010

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About the author: Bill Albert is the Chief Program Officer of The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

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Introduction

With One Voice

With One Voice 2010 is the latest in a series of national surveys dating back to 2001 commissioned and released by The National Campaign. These surveys have asked teens and adults a core set of questions about teen pregnancy and related issues. It is our hope and belief that the surveys have provided valuable insights for parents, program leaders, funders, policymakers, the media, and others about teen pregnancy and some of the factors that influence teens' decisions about relationships, sex, contraception, and pregnancy.

These surveys are undertaken with two primary goals in mind. First, we think it is important to regularly assess and report on American opinion on teen pregnancy and related issues—where teens and adults have changed their opinions and where they have remained rock solid. Second, we believe that these periodic surveys of public opinion serve as a helpful addition to the behavioral data collected by the federal government through such important projects as the National Survey of Family Growth and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

As we have noted in the past, we think the results of this public opinion survey, and previous surveys commissioned by The National Campaign, underscore that the American public—both teens and adults—hold a common sense, centrist view about teen sexual behavior and about the strategies for reducing too-early pregnancy and parenthood. The results of *With One Voice 2010* suggest that there is considerable common ground on how best to prevent teen pregnancy (for example, teens continue to underscore the critical role parents can play); there is much more that unites teens and adults than divides them when it comes to teen pregnancy and related issues (for example, the survey results surface precious few differences among different racial/ethnic groups); and that the remaining challenges in convincing young people to delay pregnancy and parenthood may be more profound than many have thought (for example, about one-third of teens believe it doesn't matter whether you use birth control or not, pregnancy just happens).

Readers should note the following about how the results are presented in this publication:

- The questions in this poll were developed by The National Campaign and the exact wording of the survey questions are provided throughout.
- As a general matter, survey results are reported for young people aged 12–19 and adults 20 and older unless otherwise noted.
- Subgroup differences, such as age, gender, and race/ethnicity are noted when these differences appear compelling.
- Some of the responses to various questions do not quite total 100 percent due to our decision not to report, for the sake of clarity and simplicity, the percentages of respondents who answered “don't know” or refused to answer the question unless such responses totaled more than five percent.

Headlines and Toplines

PARENT POWER

- Teens continue to say that parents (46%) most influence their decisions about sex. By comparison, just 20% say friends most influence their decisions.
- Eight in ten teens (80%) say that it would be much easier for teens to delay sexual activity and avoid teen pregnancy if they were able to have more open, honest conversations about these topics with their parents.
- Six in ten teens (62%) wish they were able to talk more openly about relationships with their parents.
- Six in ten teens (63%) and adults (62%) agree that the *primary* reason teens don't use contraception is because they are afraid that their parents will find out.
- However, most parents say that if they learned that their teen was using contraception, they would be unhappy that they were having sex but happy that their daughter (63%) or son (69%) was using contraception.

KNOWLEDGE AND FATALISM

- Although 78% of teens say they have all the information they need to avoid an unplanned pregnancy:
 - half of teens (49%) admit that they know “little or nothing” about condoms and how to use them, and
 - one-third (34%) agree “it doesn't matter whether you use birth control or not, when it is your time to get pregnant, it will happen.”

ABSTINENCE AND CONTRACEPTION

- The overwhelming majority of teens (87%) and adults (93%) agree that it is important for teens to be given a strong message that they should not have sex until they are at least out of high school.
- Most teens (46%) and adults (73%) wish young people were getting information about both abstinence and contraception rather than either/or.

SEX AND REGRET

- Most teens (65% of girls and 57% of boys) who have had sex say they wish they had waited.

HOW IMPORTANT IS PREVENTING TEEN PREGNANCY?

- About nine in ten teens (91% of girls and 87% of boys) and two-thirds of adults (66%) say that teen pregnancy is a “very important” problem in the United States.
- About nine in ten teens (95% of girls and 93% of boys) say it is important for them right now to avoid getting pregnant or causing a pregnancy.

- When asked how they would react to getting pregnant/causing a pregnancy, 24% of girls and 22% of boys said “it would make my life a little more challenging, but I could manage.” About seven in ten (69% of girls and 71% of boys) said “it would be a real challenge and I’m not sure how I would manage.”

GENDER DIFFERENCES

- Significant percentages of teens (63%) and adults (72%) agree that “teen boys often receive the message that they are expected to have sex.”
- Most teens (71%) and adults (77%) also agree that “teen girls often receive the message that attracting boys and looking sexy is one of the most important things they can do.”

SEX OR STEADY?

- Most teens (93% of girls and 88% of boys) say they would rather have a boyfriend/girlfriend and not have sex rather than have sex but not have a boyfriend or girlfriend.

MEDIA

- Most teens (79% of girls and 67% of boys) agree with the following statement: “When a TV show or character I like deals with teen pregnancy, it makes me think more about my own risk of becoming pregnant/causing a pregnancy and how to avoid it.”
- Three-quarters of teens (76%) and adults (75%) say that what they see in the media about sex, love, and relationships can be a good way to start conversations about these topics.
- Among those teens who have watched MTV’s *16 and Pregnant*, 82% think the show helps teens better understand the challenges of teen pregnancy and parenthood and how to avoid it.

SEXTING

- Most teens (71%) and adults (81%) agree that sharing nude or semi-nude images of themselves or other teens electronically (through cell phones, websites, and/or social media networks) leads to more sex in real life.

TEEN PREGNANCY AND EDUCATION

- About nine in ten teens (87%) and adults (90%) believe reducing teen pregnancy is a very effective way to reduce the high school dropout rate and improve academic achievement.

TEEN PREGNANCY AND RELIGION

- Most teens (73%) and adults (70%) believe religious leaders and groups should be doing more to help prevent teen pregnancy.

Methodology

Data presented in *With One Voice 2010* are drawn from two national surveys—one with teens and one with adults. Both surveys were conducted by Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS.com), an independent research company. The survey was developed by The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy with assistance from SSRS.

The adult survey is weighted to provide a nationally representative estimate of the adult population aged 20 and older (some of whom are parents of teens, some of whom are not). Telephone interviews were conducted by SSRS with 1,011 adults between August 11 and September 5, 2010. The margin of error for total respondents is +/-3.08 at the 95% confidence level.

The teen survey is also weighted to provide a nationally representative estimate of young people aged 12–19. Telephone interviews were conducted by SSRS with 1,008 young people between August 12 and September 12, 2010. The margin of error for total respondents is +/-3.09 at the 95% confidence level.

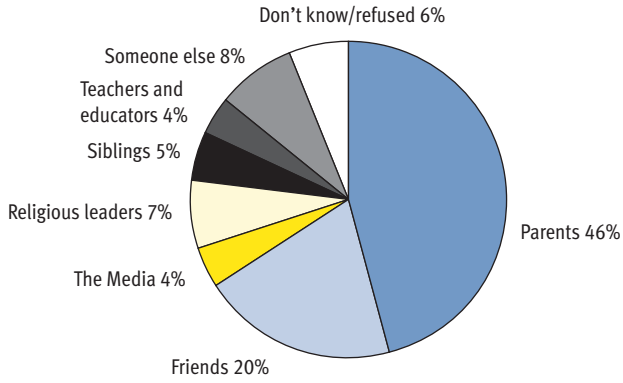
Interviews with those 18 and older were conducted as part of an SSRS omnibus survey, a national, weekly, dual-frame, bilingual telephone survey. Each survey consists of a minimum of 1,000 interviews, 1/2 male and 1/2 female, of which 150 interviews are completed with respondents on their cell phones. Each survey uses a fully-replicated, stratified, single-stage random-digit-dialing (RDD) sample of telephone households. Sample telephone numbers are computer generated. Interviews with those 18 and younger were conducted using a separate omnibus survey.

The order in which respondents were asked questions were rotated. In addition, when answer options were presented, they were also rotated. This rotation helps eliminate “question position” bias.

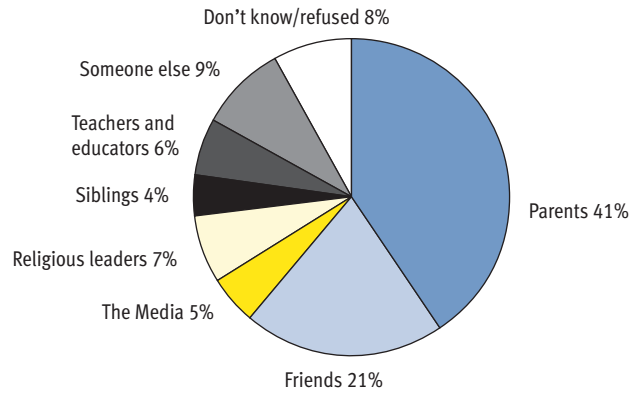
CHART 1

When it comes to your/teens' decisions about sex, who is most influential?

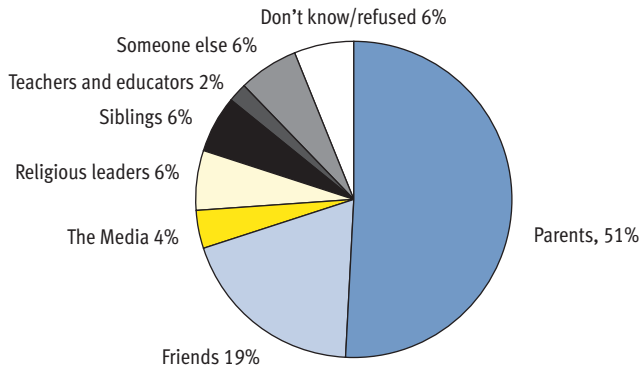
Teens (aged 12–19)



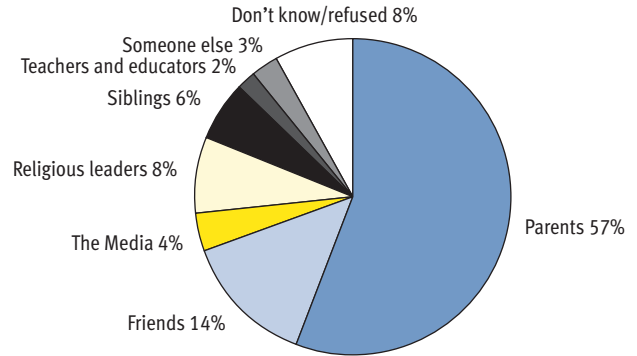
Teen Boys (aged 12–19)

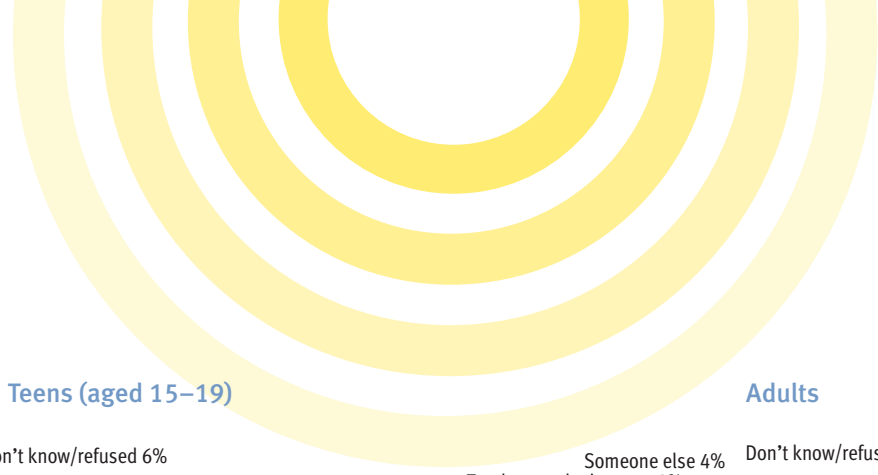


Teen Girls (aged 12–19)

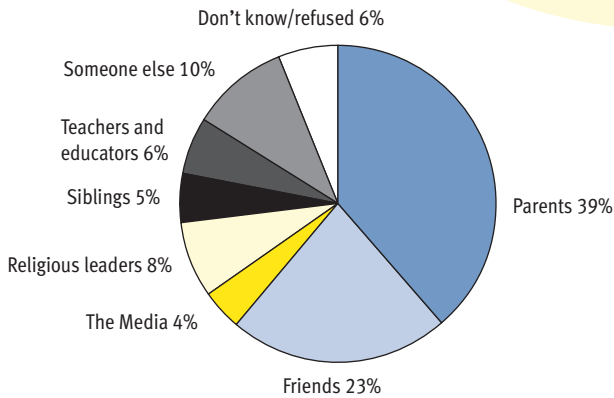


Teens (aged 12–14)

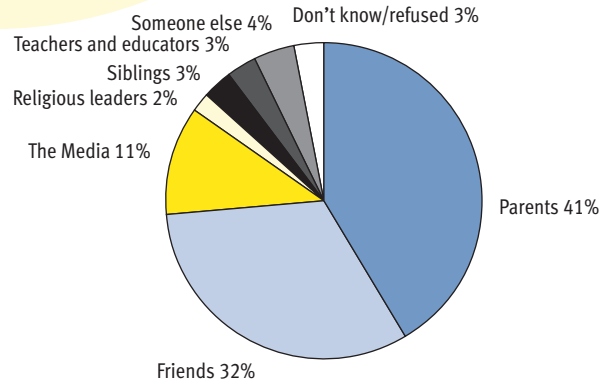




Teens (aged 15–19)



Adults



★ **Fast Fact:** Hispanic teens (55%) are more likely than non-Hispanic black (50%) and non-Hispanic white (42%) teens to say that parents most influence their decisions about sex.

CONTEXT AND COMMENT

The results reported in this survey regarding parental influence should come as no surprise. Teens continue to say that parents *most* influence their decision about sex—a finding consistent with all previous National Campaign surveys. This is particularly heartening news given the large body of social science research suggesting that overall closeness between parents and their children, shared activities, parent presence in the home, and parental caring and concern are all associated with a reduced risk of early sex and teen pregnancy. Teens who are close to their parents and feel supported by them are more likely to delay sex, have fewer sexual partners, and use contraception more consistently.

CHART 2

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “It would be much easier for teens to postpone sexual activity and avoid pregnancy if they were able to have more open, honest conversations about these topics with their parents.”

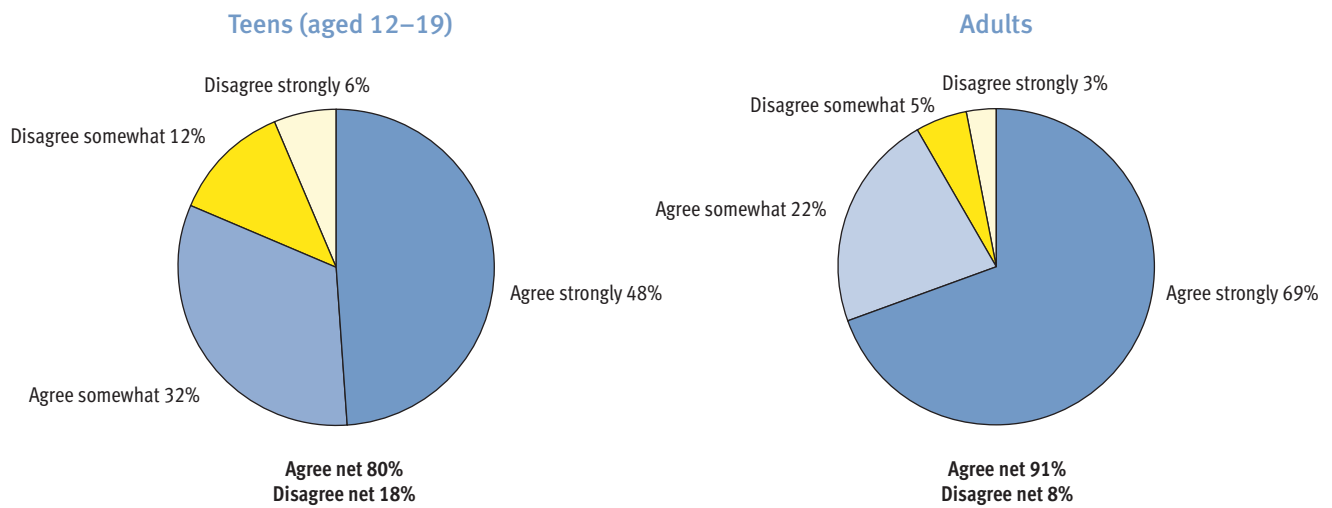
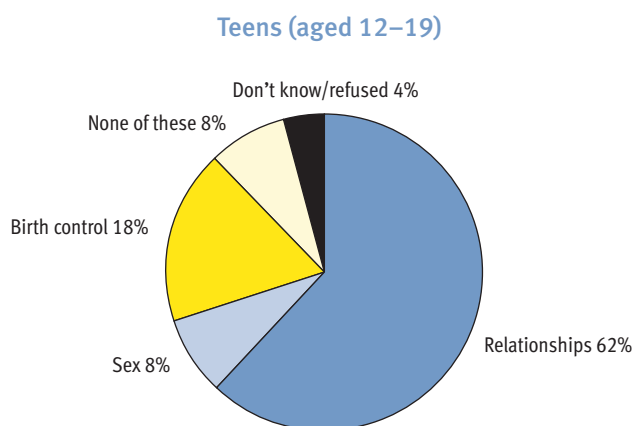


CHART 3

Which of the following do you most wish you were able to talk more openly about with your parents? Even if you'd like to be able to talk more freely about all three, I need you to tell me only the one you feel the most strongly about.



★ Fast fact: Older teens (20% of those aged 15–19) are more likely than younger teens (13% of those aged 12–14) to want more open conversations with their parents about birth control. Similarly, teen girls (21% of those aged 12–19) are more likely than teen boys (14% of those aged 12–19) to be able to talk more openly with their parents about birth control.

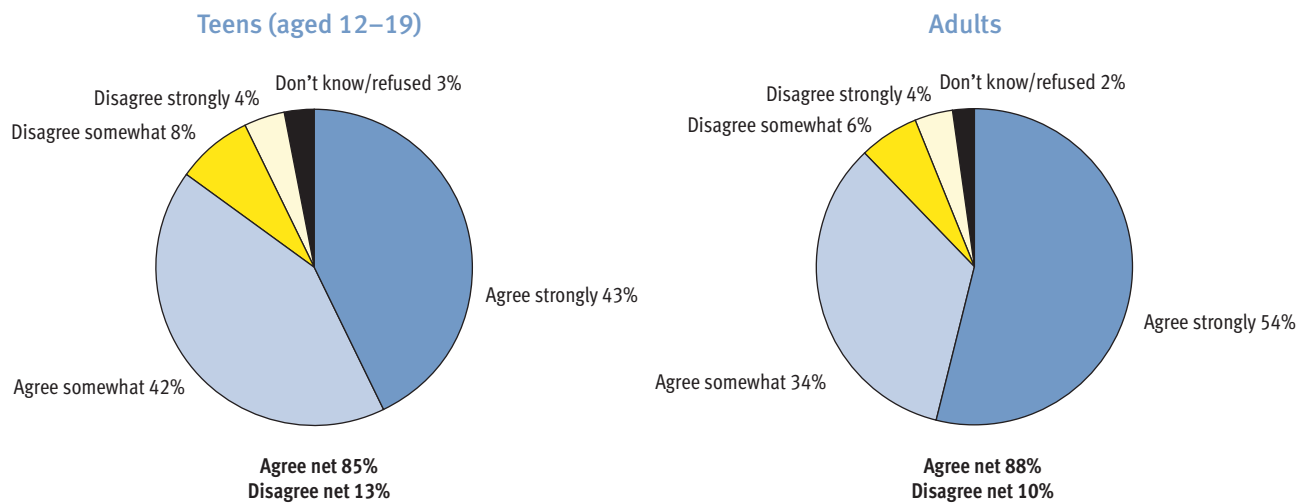
CONTEXT AND COMMENT

We have already established that teens believe their parents most influence their decisions about sex (Chart 1). The data in Charts 2 and 3 provide parents with some specific to-do's. The overwhelming majority of teens (and adults for that matter) say that discussions between parents and teens regarding teen pregnancy and how to avoid it help young people avoid too-early pregnancy and parenthood.

It is not, however, just biology and body parts teens want to discuss. Although many parents may understand the importance of talking to their kids about sex and contraception, far fewer seem to realize just how important it is for them to talk to their children about what it takes to recognize, develop, and maintain a healthy relationship.

CHART 4

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“Parents believe they should talk to their kids about sex but often don’t know what to say, how to say it, or when to start.”



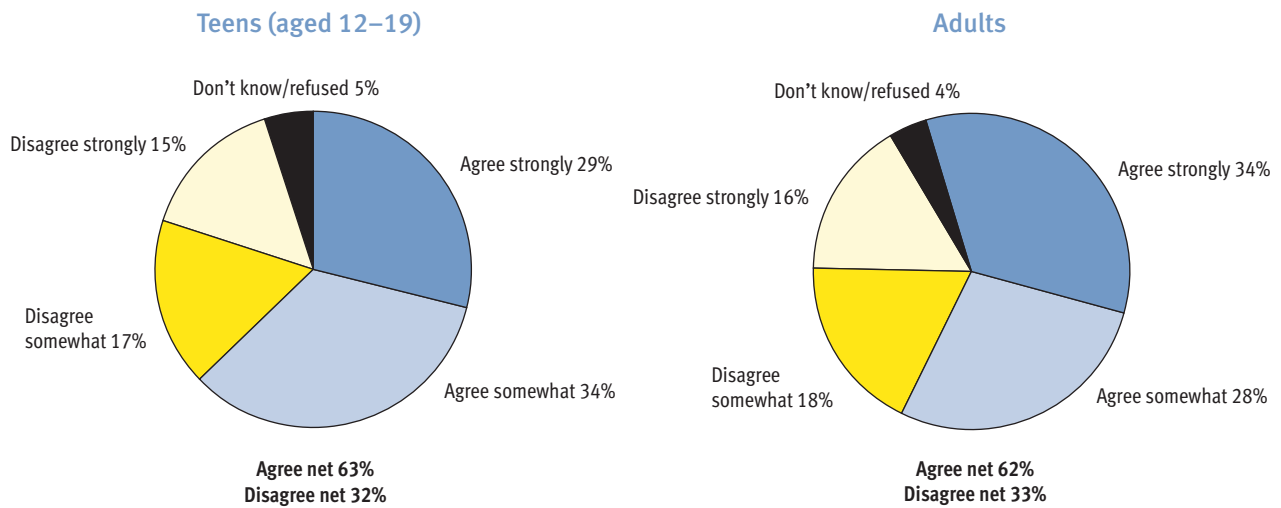
★ Fast fact: Women (62%) are more likely than men (47%) to strongly agree that parents should talk to their kids about sex but don't know what to say.

CONTEXT AND COMMENT

Parents continue to experience a crisis of confidence when it comes to talking to their kids about sex. For their part, teens seem to be all too aware of parental uneasiness on this issue. Parents should take comfort, however, in the knowledge that they are more influential regarding their children's decisions about sex than they apparently believe, that young people say that conversations about sex and related topics are helpful to them, and that teens want to have conversations with their parents on topics ranging from relationships to sex.

CHART 5

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “The primary reason teens don’t use birth control or protection is because they are afraid that their parents will find out.”



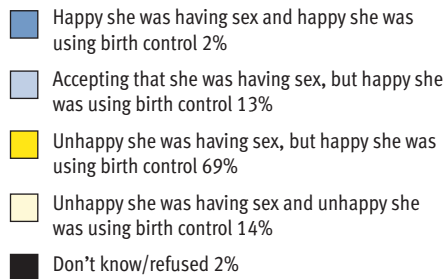
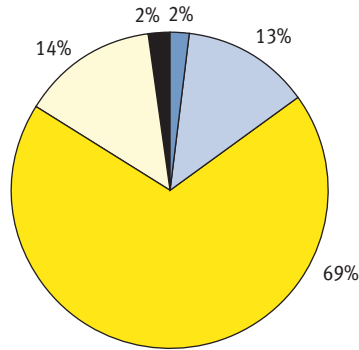
★ **Fast fact:** Teen girls (69%) are more likely than teen boys (58%) to be concerned about their parents finding out about birth control.

★ **Fast fact:** Women (70%) are more likely than men (54%) to believe that teens are worried about their parents finding out about birth control.

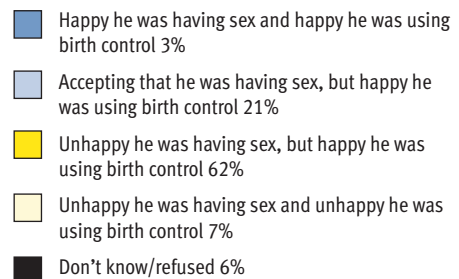
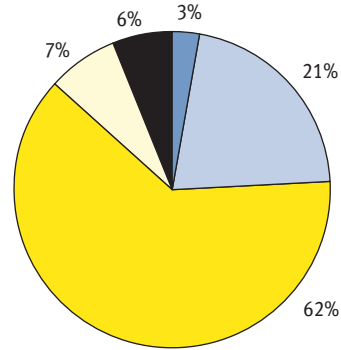
CHART 6

If you were to find out that your teenage daughter/son was using contraception would you be happy?

Adults – Daughters



Adults – Sons



★ Fast fact: Adults are more accepting that boys (21%) rather than girls (13%) are having sex.

CONTEXT AND COMMENT

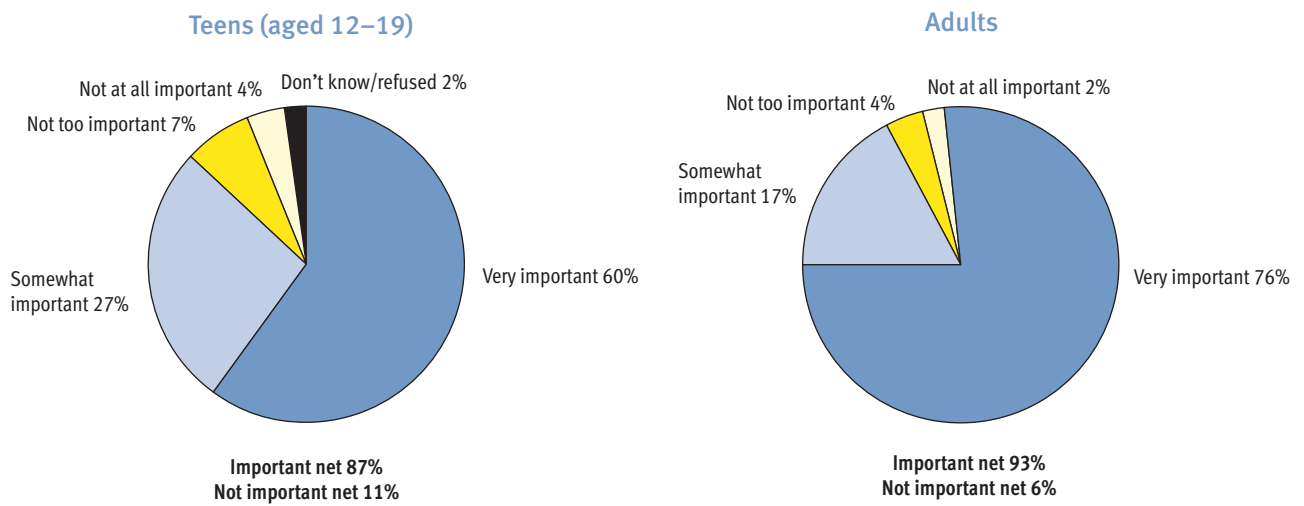
Charts 5 and 6 paint a rather convoluted picture regarding teens, parents, and contraception. Most teens say the primary reason why they don't use contraception is out of concern that their parents will find out. Teens, however, may be misreading their parents' potential disapproval. In fact, most adults say they would be happy that their sexually active children were using contraception even though they would be unhappy that they were having sex.

Communicating with your children about such things as contraception is often more successful when parents are clear in their own minds about their own views and values regarding contraception and related issues. In conversations about these issues parents should consider clarifying their own attitudes and values by thinking about the following kinds of questions:

- What do you really think about school-aged teens being sexually active?
- Who is responsible for setting limits in relationships and how is that done realistically?
- Is delaying sexual activity best for teens?
- What do you think about your sons and daughters using contraception?

CHART 7

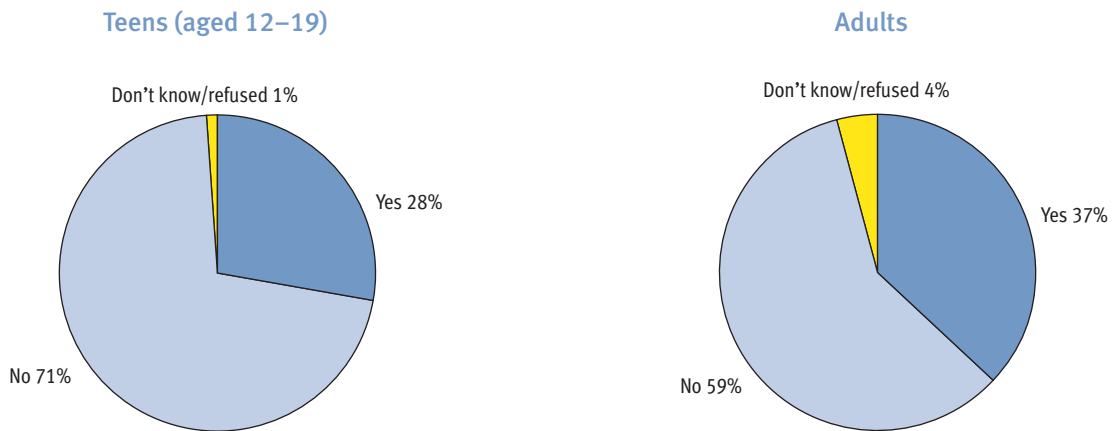
How important do you think it is for teens to be given a strong message that they should not have sex until they are at least out of high school?



★ **Fast fact:** Teen girls (70%) are more likely than teen boys (50%) to believe it is very important that teens be encouraged to delay sex.

CHART 8

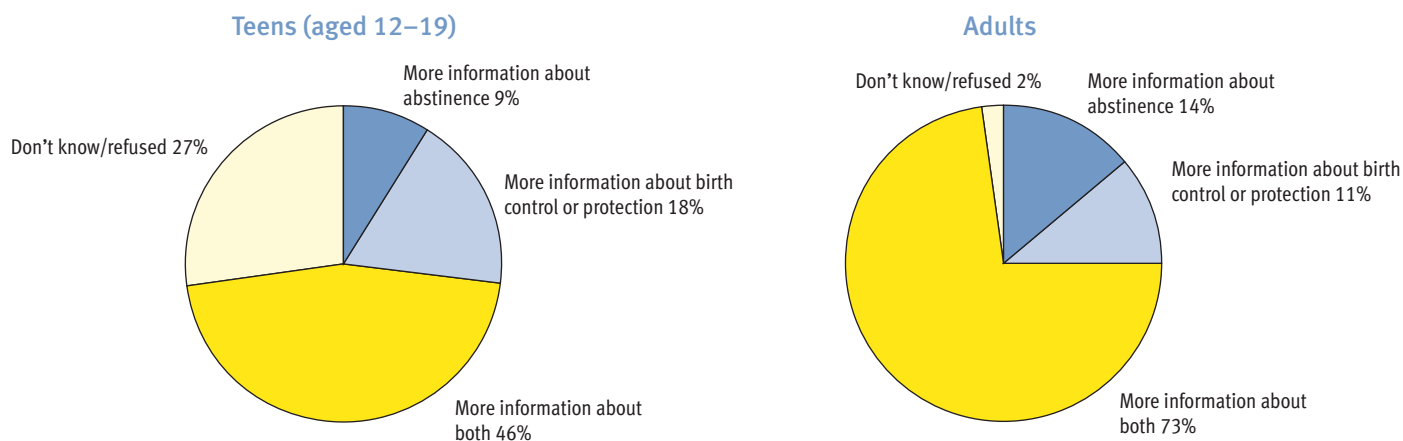
Suppose a parent or other adult tells a teen the following: “I strongly encourage you not to have sex. However, if you do, you should use birth control or protection.” Do you think this is a message that encourages teens to have sex?



★ Fast fact: The proportion of teens who say that such a message does *not* encourage teens to have sex increased from 53% in our 2007 survey to 71% this year.

CHART 9

Do you wish you/teens were getting more information about abstinence, more information about birth control or protection, or more information about both?



★ Fast fact: Non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black teens (12% respectively) are more likely than Hispanic teens (2%) to say they want more information about abstinence. Hispanic teens (64%) are more likely than non-Hispanic black teens (54%) and non-Hispanic white teens (37%) to say they want more information about abstinence and birth control.

★ Fast fact: Between 2007 (the last time The National Campaign commissioned a public opinion survey of teens and adults) and 2010, the percentage of young people who say that they want more information about contraception has approximately doubled (from 9% to 18%). The percentage of teens who say they want more information about abstinence remained relatively stable (7% and 9% respectively).

CONTEXT AND COMMENT

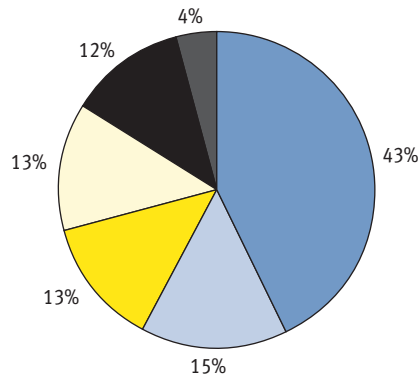
Charts 7, 8, and 9 make clear that adults and teens view messages about abstinence and contraception as complimentary, not contradictory. Consider the following:

- As we have noted in previous years, providing young people with a strong message that they should delay sex until they are at least out of high school continues to garner near unanimous and consistent support among adults and teens.
- The overwhelming support for encouraging young people to delay sex is not, however, a mandate to provide young people with messages or interventions that focus on abstinence exclusively. Fully seven in ten adults and about half of teens believe that young people should be getting more information about abstinence and contraception rather than either/or. It is worth noting that a surprisingly large percentage of teens (27%) said they don't know if they need more information on abstinence, contraception, or both.
- Some parents and advocates have suggested that encouraging young people to delay sex while also telling them to use contraception if they are sexually active sends young people a confusing, mixed message that might inadvertently encourage teens to have sex. Seven in ten teens do not share that view.

CHART 10

What do you think is the main reason why so many teens have unprotected sex?

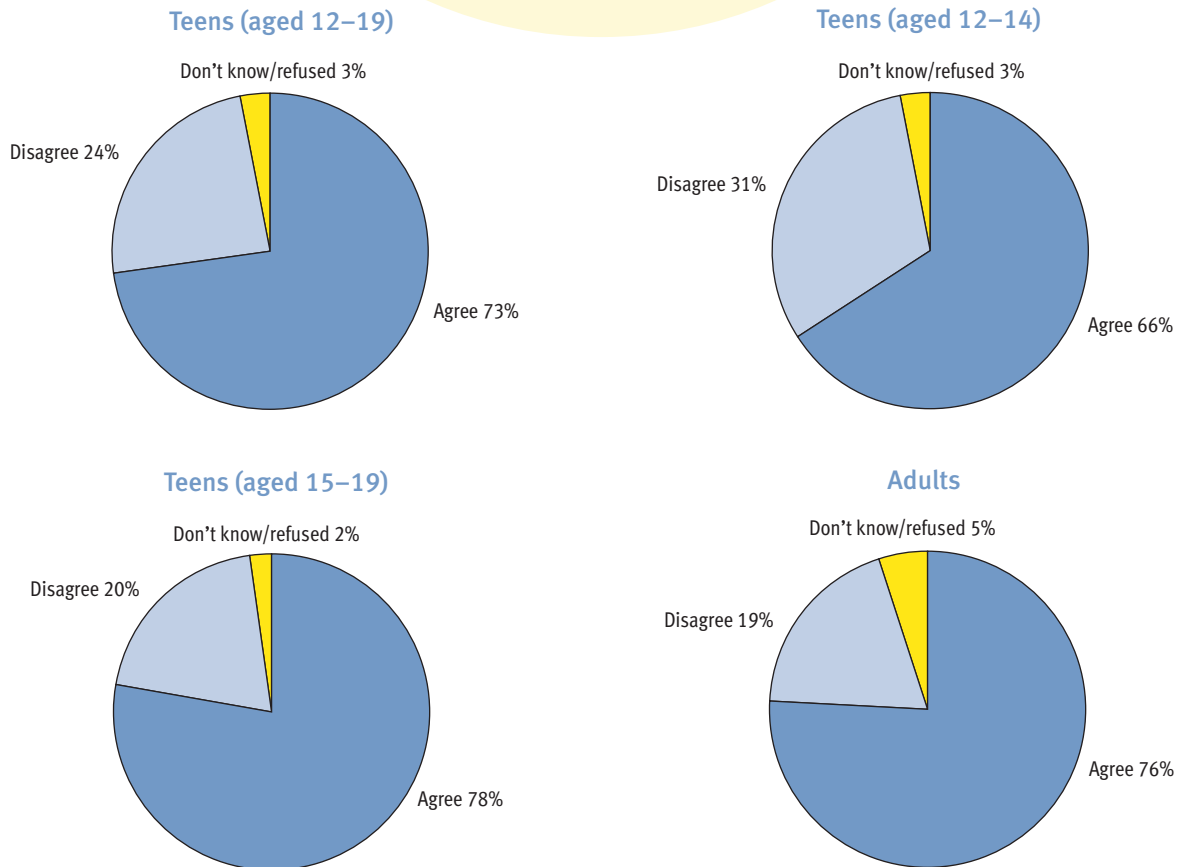
Teens (aged 12–19)



- They are willing to take the risk because they don't think anything will happen to them 43%
- They are fearful or embarrassed of what their partner will think if they insist on protection 15%
- They don't know where/how to get birth control or protection 13%
- They are lazy 13%
- Their parents don't talk to them about sex and contraception 12%
- Don't know/refused 4%

CHART 11

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
 “Most high school-age teens have had sex.”



★ Fast fact: Non-Hispanic black (93%) and Hispanic (83%) teens are more likely than non-Hispanic white teens (66%) to believe that most high school-aged teens have had sex.

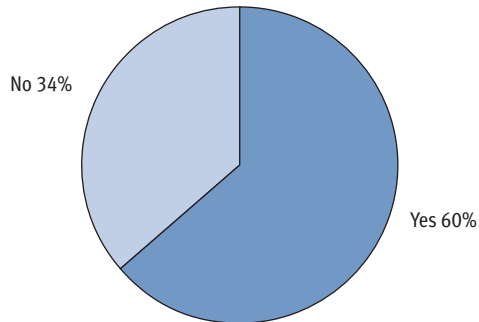
CONTEXT AND COMMENT

About half of high school-age teens have had sex, according to the National Survey of Family Growth and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, two respected behavioral surveys from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chart 11 suggests that young teens in particular—66% of those age 12–14—overestimate the proportion of their peers who have had sex. This is troublesome for several reasons. First, teens who think their friends are having sex are more likely to have sex themselves. There is great consensus among adults and professionals that young teens are simply not developmentally ready to have sex. Second, research has linked early sexual activity to a greater number of sexual partners over time and an increased risk of both teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Third, research also suggests that the younger a girl was the first time she had sex, the more likely it was to have been unwanted.

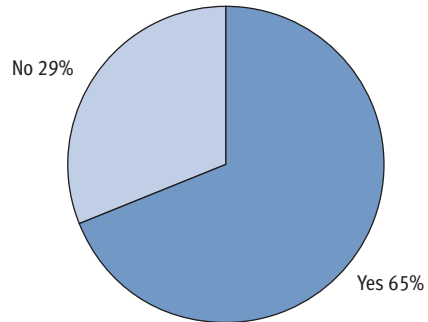
CHART 12

If you have had sexual intercourse, do you wish you had waited longer?

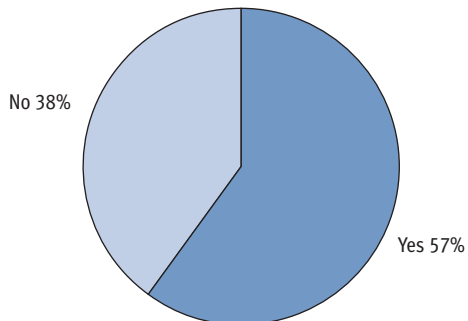
Teens (aged 12–19)



Teen Girls (aged 12–19)



Teen Boys (aged 12–19)

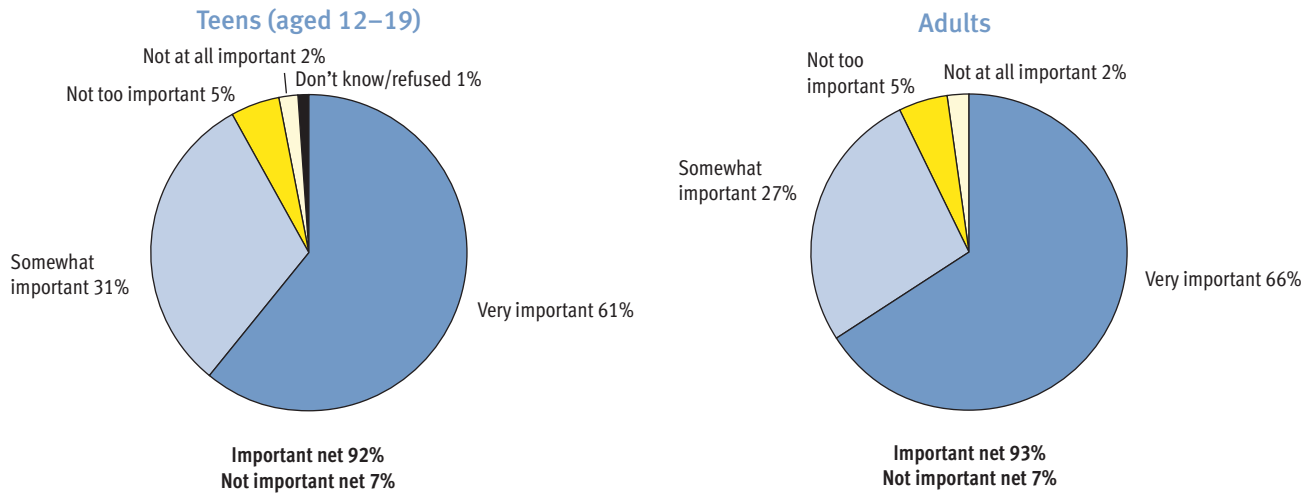


★ Fast fact: Non-Hispanic black (73%) and Hispanic (70%) teens are more likely than non-Hispanic white teens (51%) to say they wish they had waited to have sex.

About four in ten teens (44%) in this survey say they have not had sex. Among those who have, about six in ten teens (both girls and boys) say they wish they had waited longer. Careful followers of this survey will note that the percentage of sexually experienced teens in National Campaign surveys who regret the timing of their first sexual experience has remained nearly unchanged over the years.

CHART 13

When you think about the many problems facing the United States, how important is the problem of teen pregnancy?

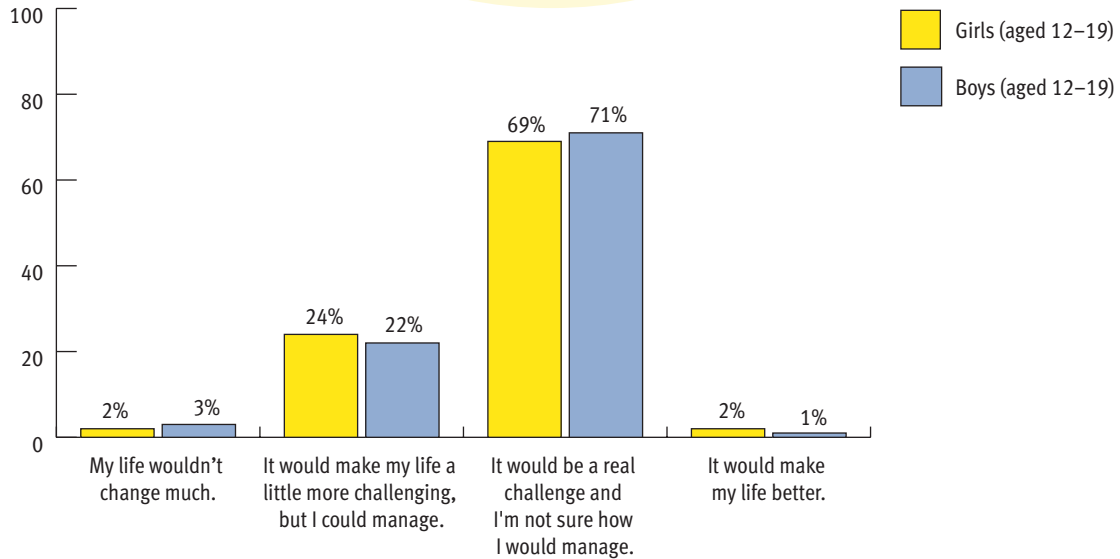


★ Fast fact: Teen girls (70%) are more likely than teen boys (53%) to view teen pregnancy as an important problem.

★ Fast fact: Non-Hispanic black adults (81%) and Hispanic adults (78%) are more likely than non-Hispanic white adults (61%) to view teen pregnancy as a very important problem.

CHART 14

Please describe your reaction if you were to get pregnant/
get someone pregnant right now.



★ Fast fact: Hispanic teen girls (53%) are *less* likely than non-Hispanic black (69%) or non-Hispanic white (74%) teen girls to describe teen pregnancy as a challenge that they could manage.

★ Fast fact: Non-Hispanic black teen boys (36%) are more likely than Hispanic (17%) or non-Hispanic white (17%) teen boys to describe teen pregnancy as a challenge they could manage.

CONTEXT AND COMMENT

The glass half full interpretation of Chart 14 is that seven in ten teens understand that getting pregnant or causing a pregnancy at this time in their lives would be a significant and perhaps unmanageable challenge. The glass half empty interpretation is that an appreciable proportion of teens—about one in five—view pregnancy as an inconvenience that they could manage. It is also worth noting that although the overwhelming majority of teen pregnancies are unplanned (about 80%), there is a small but not insignificant proportion of teens (about 20%) who say their pregnancy was intentional.

CHART 15

How important is it for you to avoid getting pregnant/
getting someone pregnant right now?

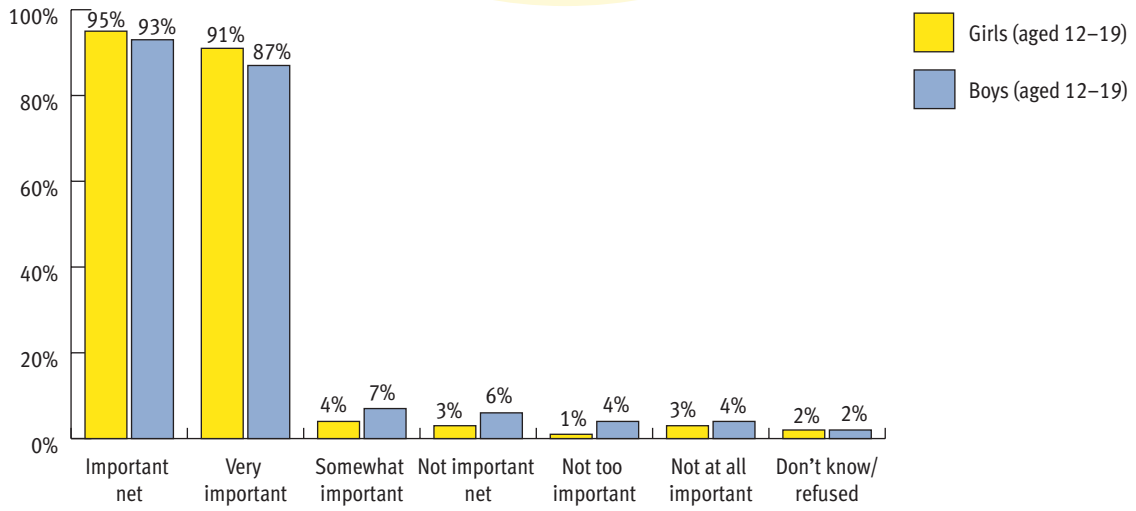
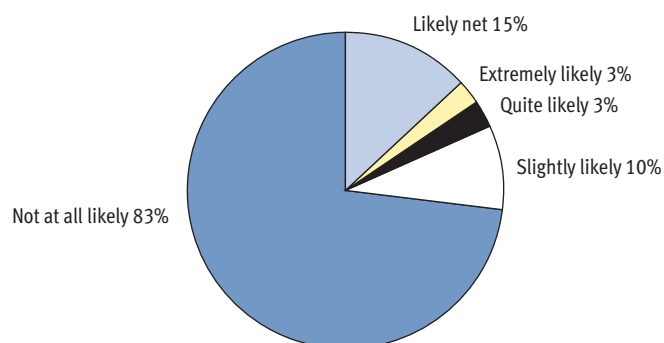


CHART 16

In the next six months, how likely is it that you will have unprotected sex (that is sex without using any method of birth control or protection)?

Teens (aged 12–19)



★ **Fast Fact:** Boys aged 15–19 (23%) are more likely than girls their age (14%) to say it is likely that they will have unprotected sex in the next six months.

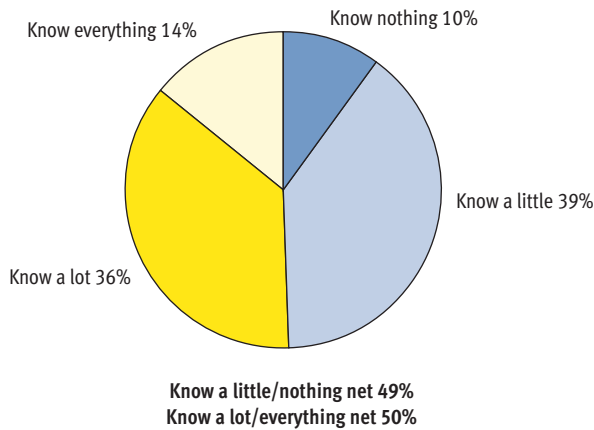
CONTEXT AND COMMENT

Nearly all teens say it is important for them to avoid getting pregnant or causing a pregnancy at this time in their lives (Chart 15). Most describe it as very important. Even so, fully 15% say they are likely to have unprotected sex in the next six months. In this respect, teens seem better at matching their intentions and behavior than their older peers. In a 2009 survey of unmarried young people aged 18–29, 29% of women and 42% of men said it was likely that they would have unprotected sex in the next three months (see *The Fog Zone*, www.TheNationalCampaign.org/FogZone). These results suggest that young people need clear guidance, messages, and conversation about how to align intent and behavior—that not having sex is the best way to avoid unplanned pregnancy and that, if they are sexually active, using contraception “most of the time” isn’t good enough.

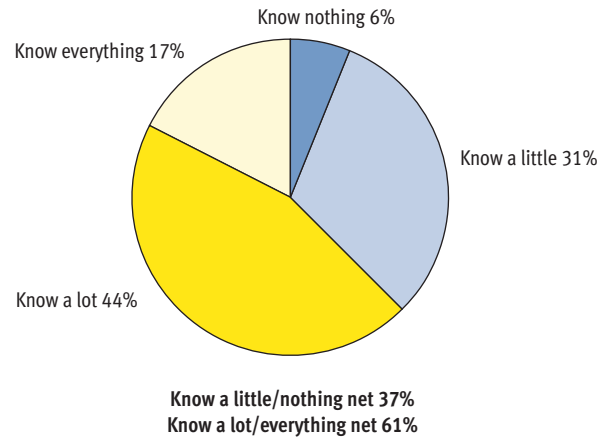
CHART 17

Overall, how much do you feel you know about male condoms and how to use them?

Teens (aged 12–19)



Teens (aged 15–19)



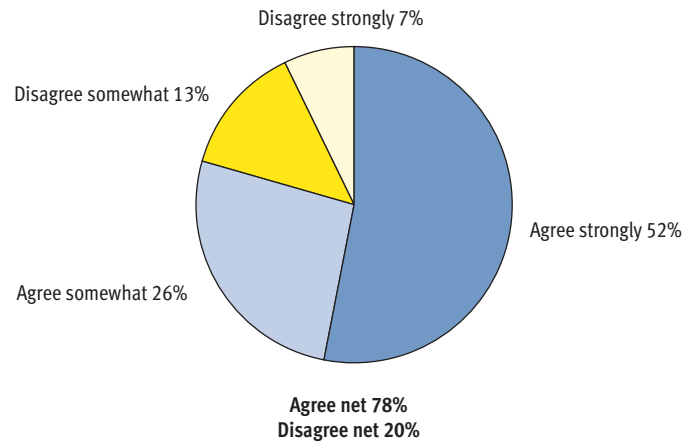
CONTEXT AND COMMENT

That half of teens overall and four in ten of those aged 15–19 admit they know little or nothing about condoms is distressing. This admitted lack of knowledge about the most commonly used method of contraception among teens must be reconciled with the fact that about six in ten young people have sex before they leave high school. Data noted above (see charts 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9) suggest that parents, schools, and programs all have a role to play in informing children about contraception and the value of delaying sexual activity.

CHART 18

I have all the information I need to avoid an
unplanned pregnancy.

Teens (aged 12–19)



★ Fast fact: Teen girls 12–19 (79%) and teen boys 12–19 (78%) are equally as likely to say they have all the information they need to avoid an unplanned pregnancy.

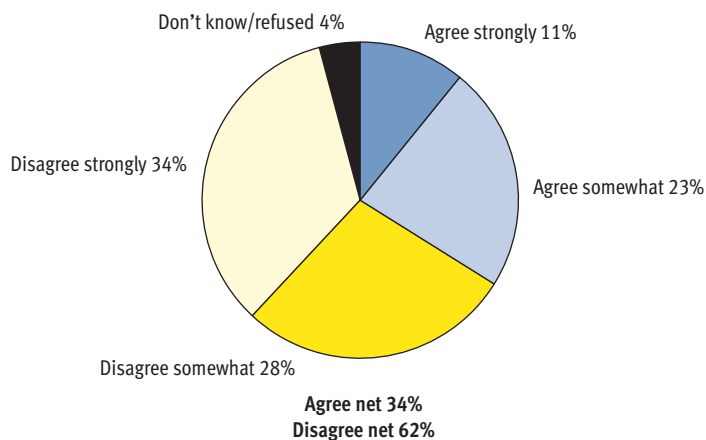
CONTEXT AND COMMENT

Charts 17 and 18 make clear that many young people think they know more about avoiding unplanned pregnancy than they actually do. Eight in ten teens say they have all the information they need to avoid an unplanned pregnancy yet half freely admit they know little or nothing about condoms (Chart 17). Many young people have told us over the years that this disconnect may be due to embarrassment. That is, many young people are uncomfortable asking for more information on topics they feel they *should* know.

CHART 19

It doesn't matter whether you use birth control or not, when it is your time to get pregnant it will happen.

Teens (aged 12–19)



★ **Fast fact:** About equal percentages of teens 12–19 (37% of girls and 32% of boys) are fatalistic about pregnancy.

CONTEXT AND COMMENT

Fatalism about the timing and circumstances of pregnancy is alarmingly high and not unique to teens. About one-third of teens in this survey and about four in ten unmarried young adults 18–29 (see *The Fog Zone* www.TheNationalCampaign.org/FogZone) believe that pregnancy is subject to influences outside of basic biology and birth control technology.

CHART 20

Would you rather have a boyfriend/girlfriend but not have sex or have sex but not have a boyfriend/girlfriend?

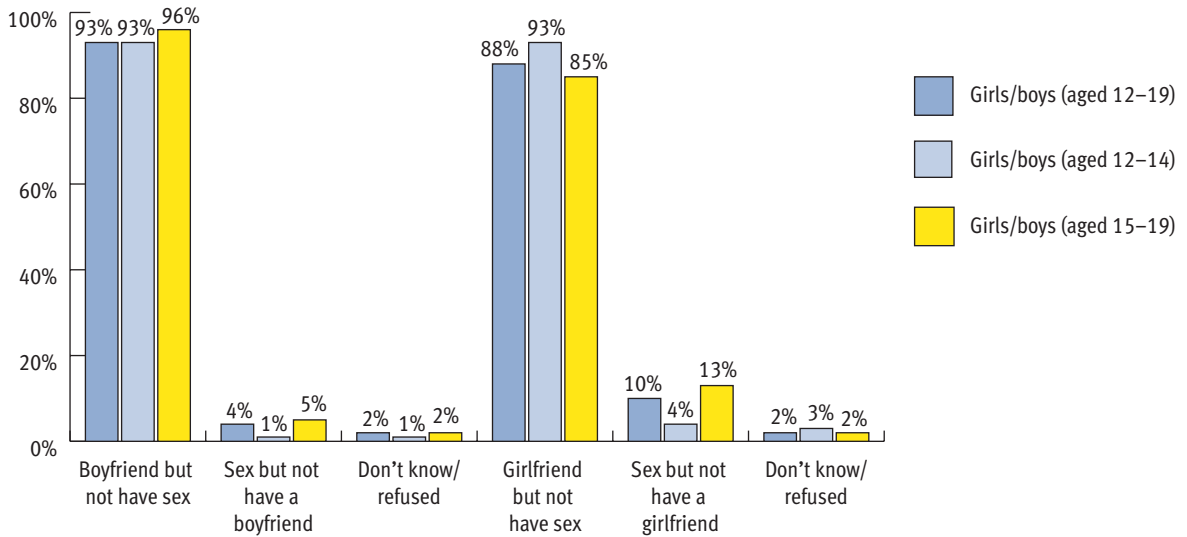
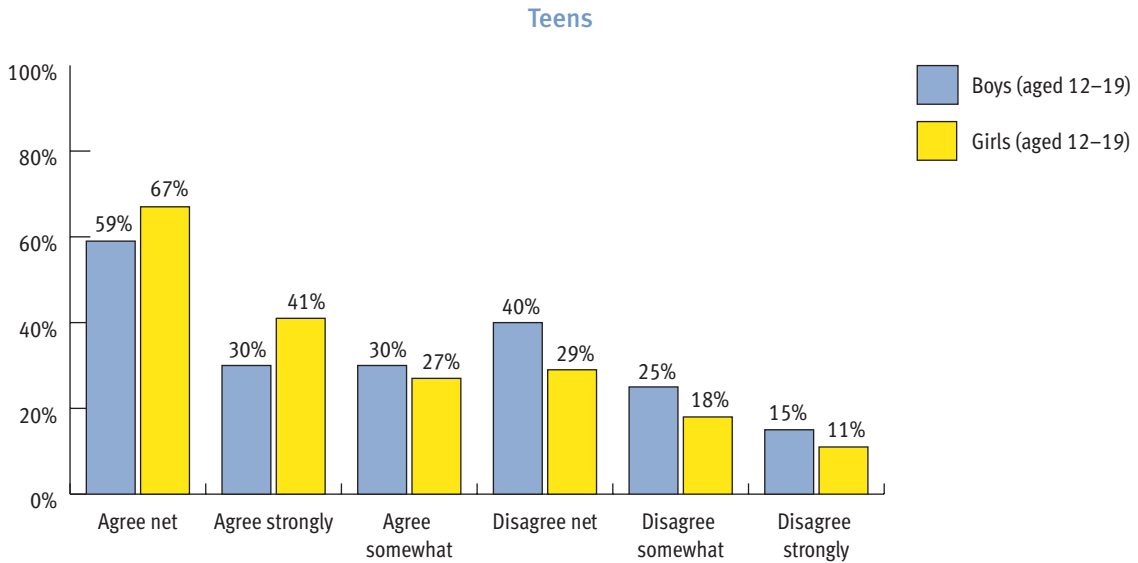


CHART 21

Teen boys often receive the message that they are expected to have sex.



★ Fast fact: Non-Hispanic black (74%) and Hispanic (66%) teens aged 12-19 are more likely than non-Hispanic white teens (60%) to believe that teen boys often get the message that they are expected to have sex.

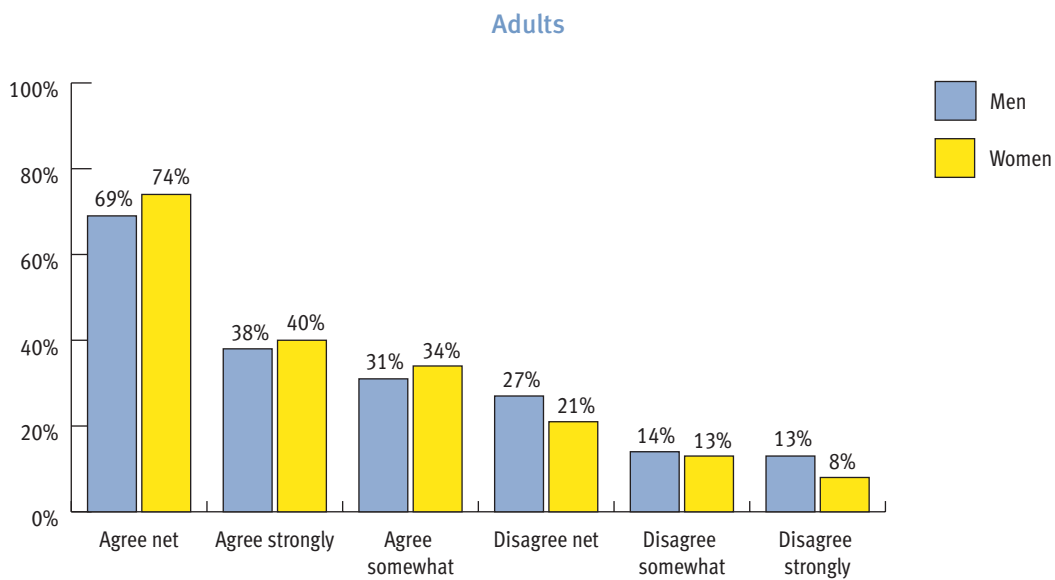
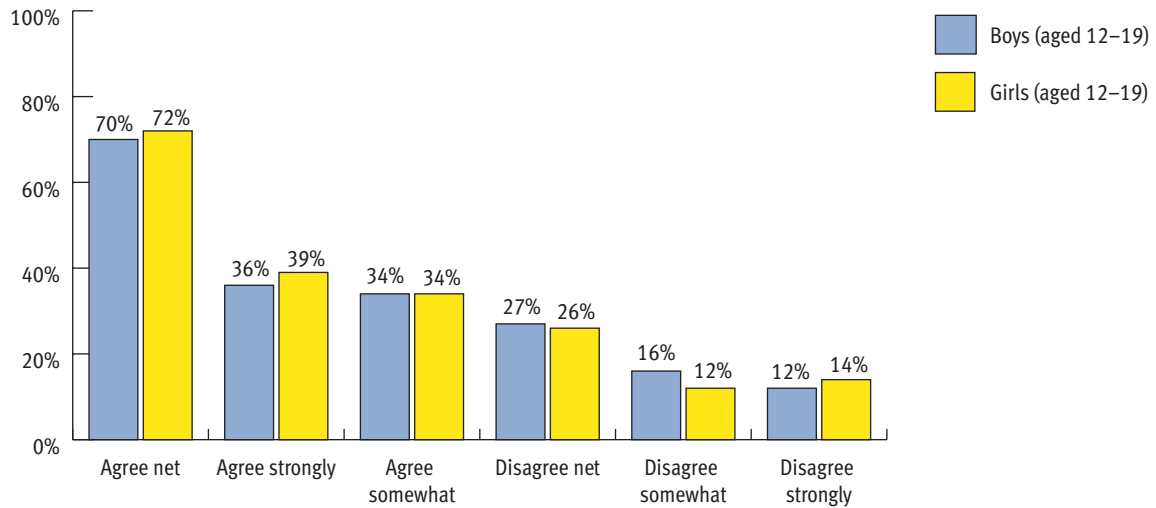


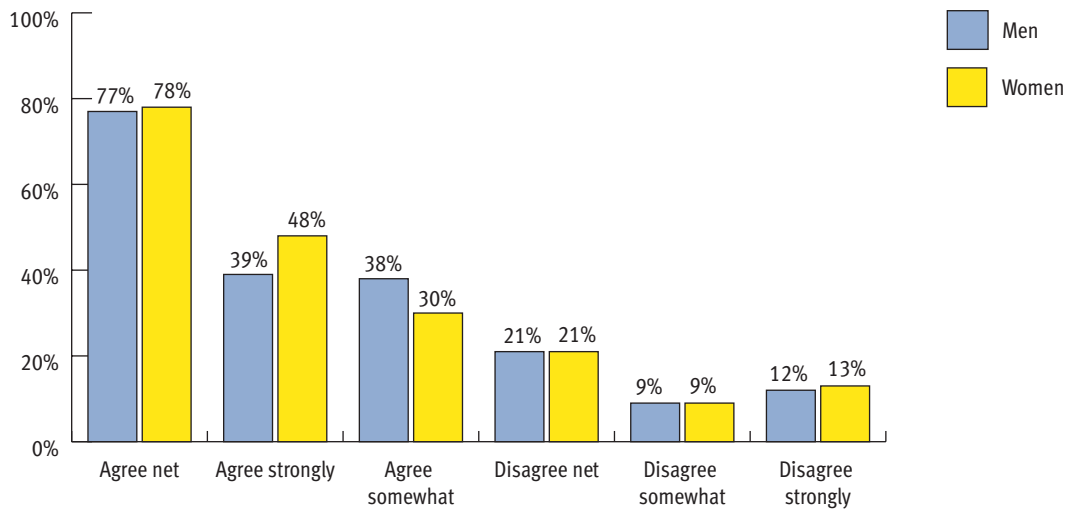
CHART 22

Teen girls often receive the message that attracting boys and looking sexy is one of the most important things they can do.

Teens



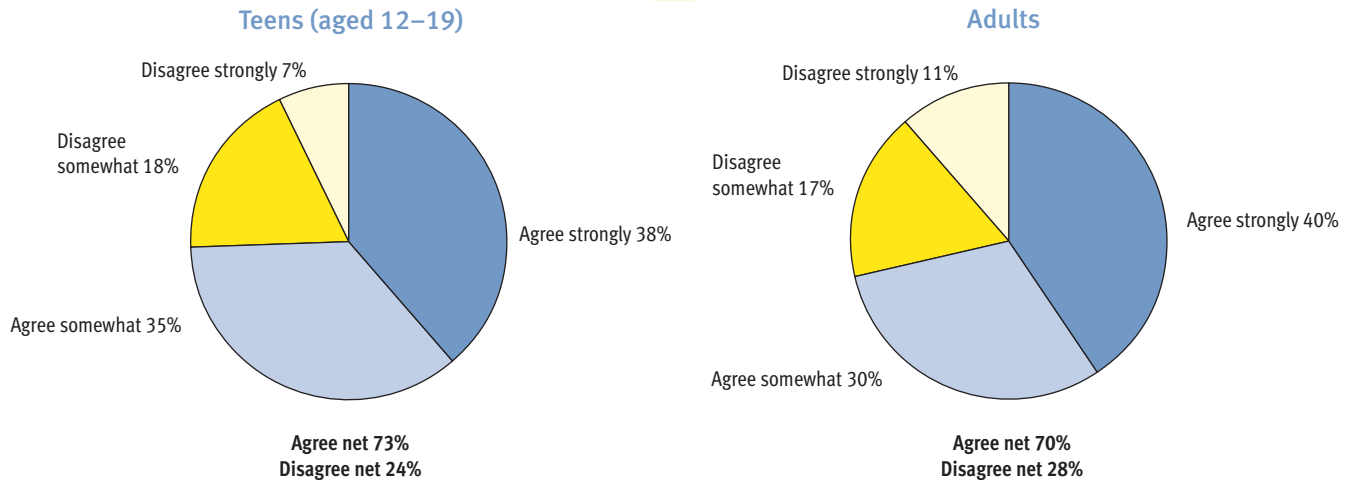
Adults



★ Fast fact: Non-Hispanic white adults (81%) are more likely than Hispanic (69%) or non-Hispanic black (67%) adults to believe that teen girls often get the message that attracting boys and looking sexy is important.

CHART 23

Religious leaders and groups should be doing more to help prevent teen pregnancy.



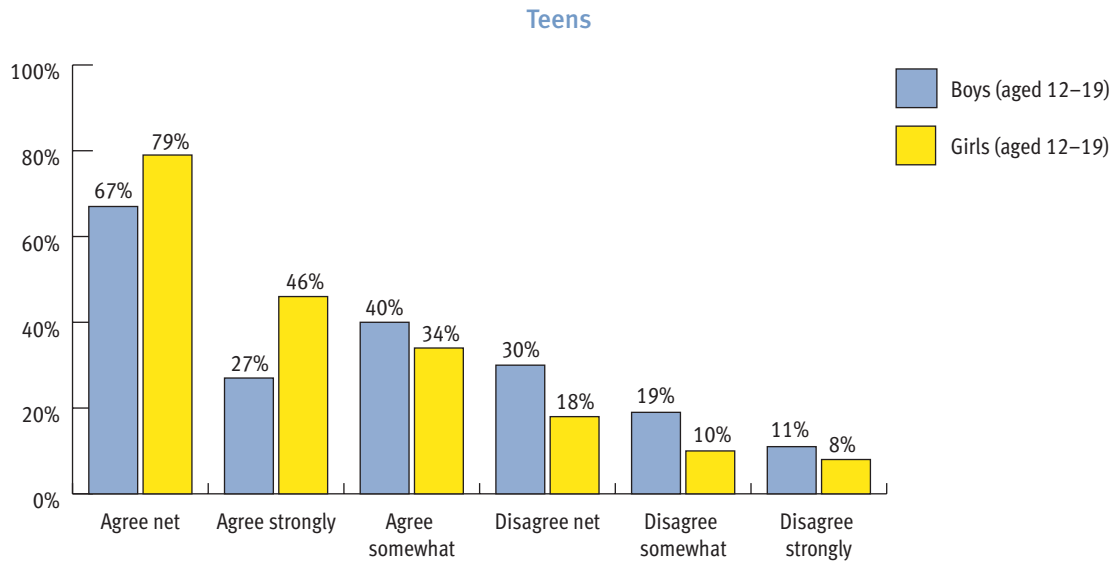
★ **Fast fact:** Non-Hispanic black teens (87%) and adults (80%) are more likely than Hispanic teens (78%) and adults (73%) or non-Hispanic white teens (68%) or adults (68%) to think religious leaders and groups should be doing more to help prevent teen pregnancy.

CONTEXT AND COMMENT

Previous research done by The National Campaign and other organizations make clear that teens' morals and values, their own sense of right and wrong, and their own religious beliefs play an important role in their decisions about sex. In short, many young people make decisions about sex based not just on what is safe but also on what they believe is right. The results presented here make clear that most young people feel that religious leaders and groups should be doing more to help prevent teen pregnancy—a real opportunity for faith communities.

CHART 24

When a TV show or character I like deals with teen pregnancy, it makes me think more about my own risk of getting pregnant/ causing a pregnancy and how to avoid it.

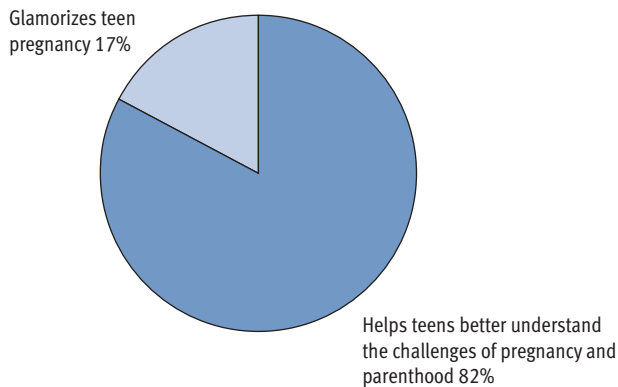


★ Fast fact: Hispanic teens (70%) are more likely than non-Hispanic black (58%) or non-Hispanic white (37%) teens to strongly agree that certain situations on television make them think more about their own risk of getting pregnant or causing a pregnancy.

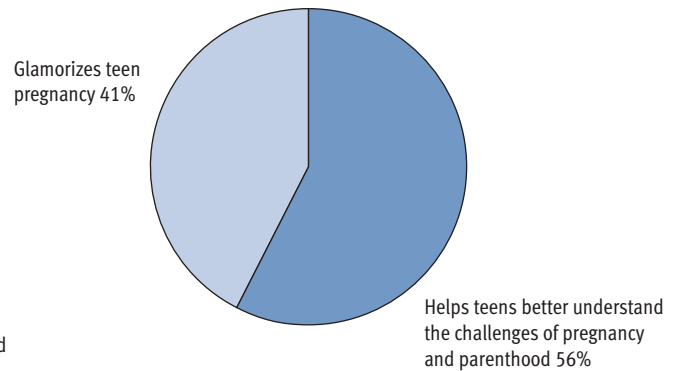
CHART 25

Teen pregnancy has been the focus of many entertainment programs recently. Thinking specifically about MTV's *16 and Pregnant*, do you think the show...

Teens (aged 12–19) who have seen MTV's *16 and Pregnant*



Adults who have seen MTV's *16 and Pregnant*

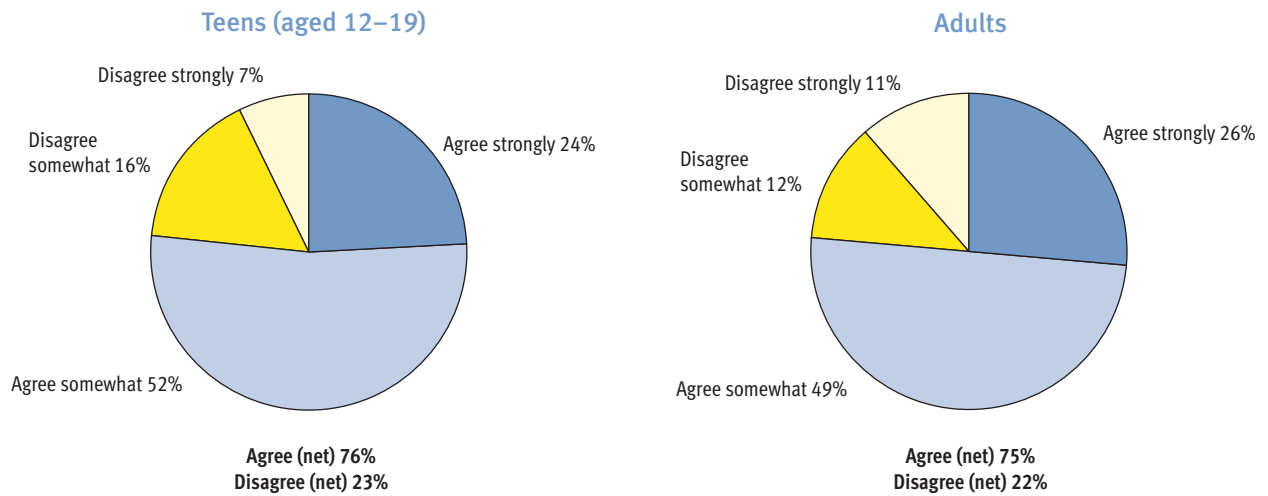


★ Fast fact: Hispanic (64%) and non-Hispanic black (62%) adults are more likely than non-Hispanic white adults (54%) to believe that MTV's *16 and Pregnant* helps teens better understand the challenges of pregnancy and parenthood.

*29% of those surveyed said they haven't seen MTV's *16 and Pregnant*

CHART 26

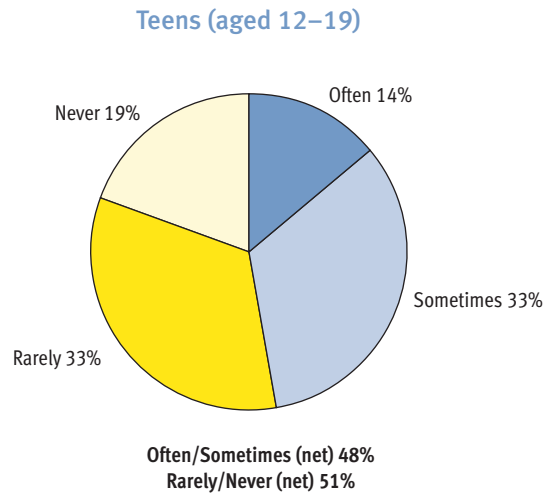
Stories and events in TV shows and other media about sex, love, and relationships can be a good way to start conversations with teens about these topics.



★ Fast fact: Teen girls 12-19 (31%) are more likely than teen boys 12-19 (18%) to strongly agree that stories in TV shows and other media are a good way to start conversations about sex, love, and relationships.

CHART 27

How often would you say you and your parents have talked about sex, love, and relationships because of something you saw in popular media like television shows?



★ **Fast fact:** Non-Hispanic black teens 12–19 (60%) are more likely than Hispanic (52%) or non-Hispanic white (44%) teens to say that something in popular media has sparked a conversation with their parents about sex, love, or relationships.

CONTEXT AND COMMENT

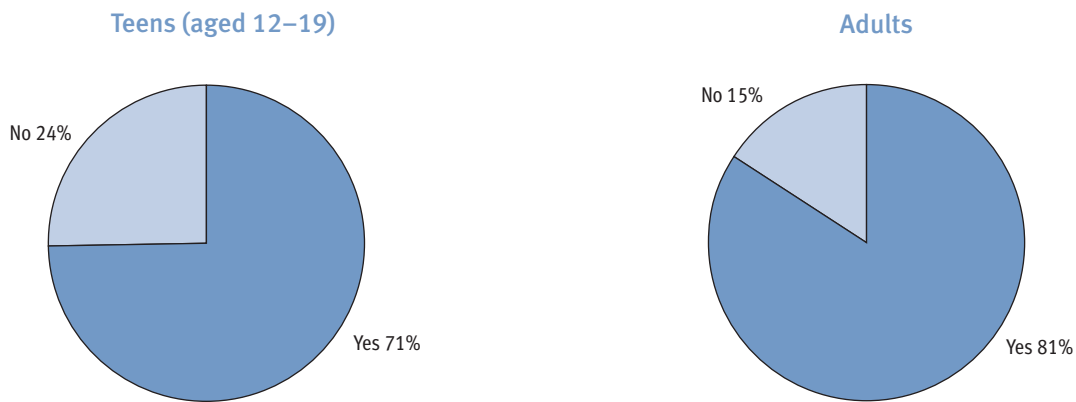
Teens spend considerable time consuming media—nearly 45 hours a week according to one credible estimate. Given all the time young people spend with media, it is not unreasonable to conclude that media helps shape the social script for teens. Many adults believe that the media has contributed mightily to a coarser, more sexualized culture that has, in turn, negatively influenced young peoples’ attitudes and beliefs regarding sex and related topics.

The findings in Charts 24–27 paint a considerably different picture. The overwhelming majority of teens report that shows dealing with teen pregnancy make them think about their own risks of getting pregnant or causing a pregnancy, and that stories and events in TV shows and other media about sex, love, and relationships can be, and often are, a good way to start conversations between teens and parents about these topics.

MTV’s popular series *16 and Pregnant* underscores the ongoing discussion and disagreements about media and teen pregnancy. Some have criticized the show for glamorizing teen pregnancy. The results of this survey suggest MTV and the show should be praised for their efforts rather than criticized. Among those who have seen the show, a remarkable 82% think that it helps teens better understand the challenges of teen pregnancy and how to avoid it.

CHART 28

Many teens say they are sharing nude or semi-nude images of themselves (or other other teens they know) using cell phones, websites, and social media networks; a practice that has come to be known as sexting. Does exchanging this sort of sexually suggestive content electronically lead to more sex in real life?



★ Fast fact: Teen girls 12-19 (73%) are just as likely as teen boys (69%) to believe that sexting leads to real-life hook-ups.

CHART 29

Reducing teen pregnancy is a very effective way to reduce the high school dropout rate and improve academic achievement.

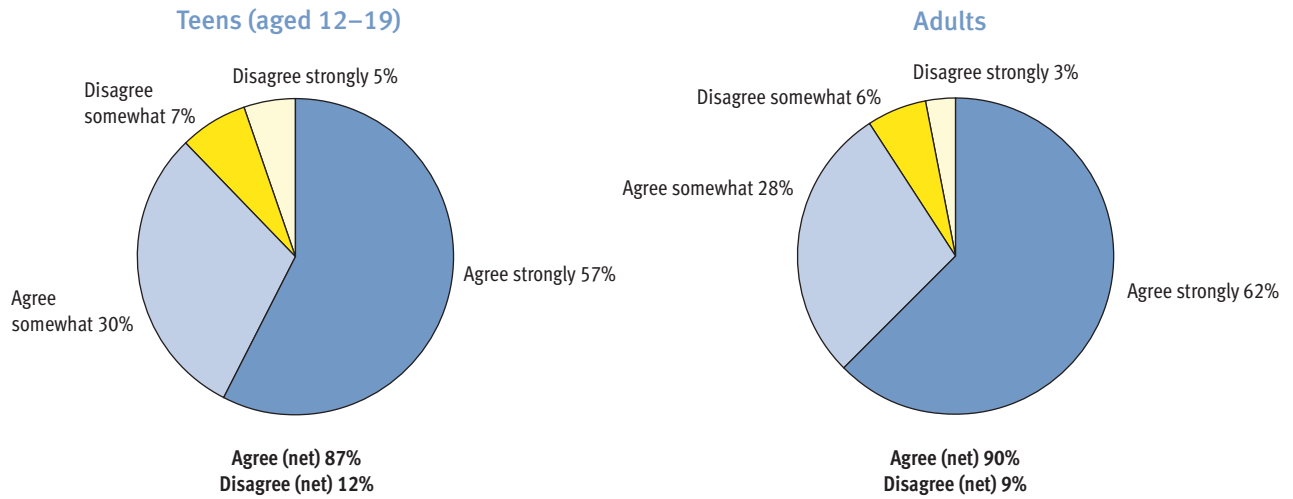
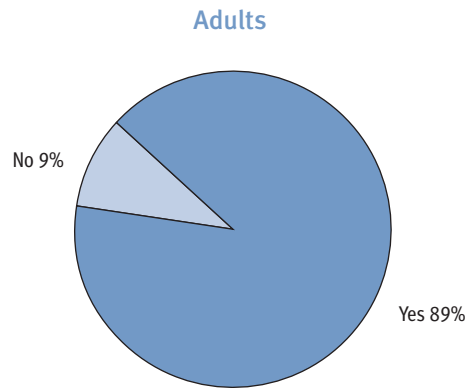


CHART 30

Do you think there should be direct efforts in your community to prevent teen pregnancy?




★ Fast fact: Nearly all non-Hispanic black (97%) and Hispanic (93%) adults surveyed believe there should be an effort in their community to prevent teen pregnancy.

★ Fast fact: About equal percentages of those in urban (89%) and non-urban (91%) areas think there should be efforts in their communities to prevent teen pregnancy.

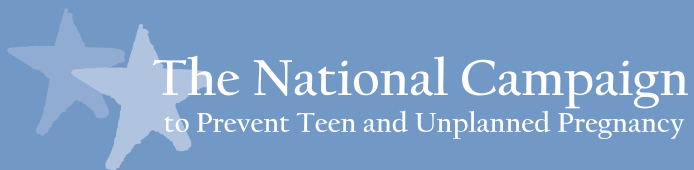
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