

# FREEZE FRAME 2012: A SNAPSHOT OF AMERICA'S TEENS



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# FREEZE FRAME 2012: **A SNAPSHOT OF AMERICA'S TEENS**

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By: Alison Stewart & Kelleen Kaye



## **FREEZE FRAME 2012: A SNAPSHOT OF AMERICA'S TEENS**

*Freeze Frame 2012* was developed through The National Campaign's "Technical Assistance in Action" project, which includes providing support to nine community-wide teen pregnancy prevention grantees in collaboration with four other national organizations and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Part of this support includes developing resources on the latest research on teen pregnancy. This project is funded by the CDC and is supported by grant number 1U58DP002916-01. Materials developed as part of this project are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC. The National Campaign wishes to thank the CDC for its support of this resource.

Kelleen Kaye and Alison Stewart wish to thank Bill Albert, Katherine Suellentrop, and Jessica Sheets Pika for reviewing this document and providing valuable feedback.

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# OVERVIEW:

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When it comes to making decisions about sex, teens today are doing far better than they were 20 years ago. Fewer teens are having sex, and among those who are, more teens are using contraception. The happy result is that teen pregnancy and birth rates have declined dramatically. Despite this extraordinary progress, teen pregnancy and childbearing in the United States remains higher than in all other western industrialized countries, and approximately three in 10 girls in the United States get pregnant by age 20.<sup>1,2</sup> Clearly, there is still much progress to be made.

Of course teens' decisions about sex and contraception are influenced by many factors, including their relationships, their future opportunities, and the quality, quantity, and sources of their information. Accordingly, this book of charts and statistics includes not only trends on key measures such as sexual activity, contraceptive use, and pregnancy, but also other indicators ranging from teens' relationships with parents and peers, to community involvement, educational achievement and aspirations, and media consumption. While no single volume can provide a truly comprehensive portrait of teens, this compilation of indicators presents recent trends in teen childbearing and teen pregnancy in a broader context.

*Freeze Frame* is an update to our original volume published in 2005. The update is timely given not only the extent to which teen pregnancy and childbearing continues to decline, but also given the sea change in teens' lives, particularly their interaction with media. From mobile phones to social networking with friends, these advances in technology and the way we all communicate have transformed how teens communicate with each other. Of course, these changes also provide a new and promising way to reach teens as well. *Freeze Frame* is grouped into five main categories—sex and related measures, peer and family relationships, school, community, and media.

## **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH:**

- Teens today are less likely to be sexually active than they were in the early 1990s, especially non-Hispanic black teens and Hispanic teens.
- Over the same time period, teens have become more likely to use contraception—particularly condoms.
- Fewer teens report various types of risky sexual behavior, including using drugs or alcohol before sex, having had multiple partners, or having sex for the first time at a particularly young age.

<sup>1</sup> The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2010). *Teen birth rates: How does the United States compare?* Washington, DC: Author.

<sup>2</sup> The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2011). *How is the 3 in 10 statistic calculated?* Washington, DC: Author.

**PEER AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS:**

- Although teens today have become more accepting of non-marital childbearing than previous generations, the family structure in which teens themselves are growing up has changed little in recent years.
- Teens still say that their parents are the most important influence when it comes to their decisions about sex. Even so, many teens wish they could discuss these issues more with their parents.
- Most teens say they are *not* currently in a relationship, though not surprisingly the percentage who are in a relationship is higher for older teens than younger teens. Relationships among younger teens are more likely to be casual than serious.
- The majority of teens who have had sex say they regret not waiting longer.

**SCHOOL:**

- Teens today have more ambitious goals than ever before—most report that they are highly engaged in school, and the drop-out rate is gradually declining.
- Most teens are motivated to succeed, evidenced by the aspirations that most teens have to complete a two-year or four-year college program.

**COMMUNITY:**

- Teens are very involved in their communities—most report volunteering at least occasionally.
- Religion is important to a majority of teens—particularly teen girls and non-Hispanic black teens—although less than half of all teens regularly attend religious services.

**MEDIA:**

- Teens have increased the amount of media they consume since the late 1990s, largely by using new technology (such as smartphones) to access traditional TV and music content.
- Over the past decade, media use has increased for teens of all races and ethnicities, but it is particularly pronounced among non-Hispanic black teens and Hispanic teens. Non-Hispanic white teens' media use has largely remained the same.
- Social networking has become the most popular activity for teens on the computer—most visit daily. Spending time on social networks is also the one activity that takes up the largest share of teens' computer time.
- The vast majority of teens have cell phones, and are starting to transition to smartphones—the majority of teens are now taking advantage of the multimedia functions of cell phones as well.

On the whole, teens' sexual behavior has measurably improved. More teens are postponing sexual activity and using contraception when they do have sex, thereby decreasing pregnancy and birth rates—yet there are still many causes for concern. Too many teens feel that they can't discuss sex and related issues with their parents and too many teens have risky relationships with older partners, especially younger teens. A majority of teens say that they are involved in their schools, communities, and religion, but a sizeable proportion aren't engaged in their communities, leaving too many at risk. Above all, teens are spending more and more time with media, and are using social networking to interact in different ways, while some parents remain unaware and impose few rules.

Some survey totals do not equal 100% due to rounding or respondents answering "don't know/refused."



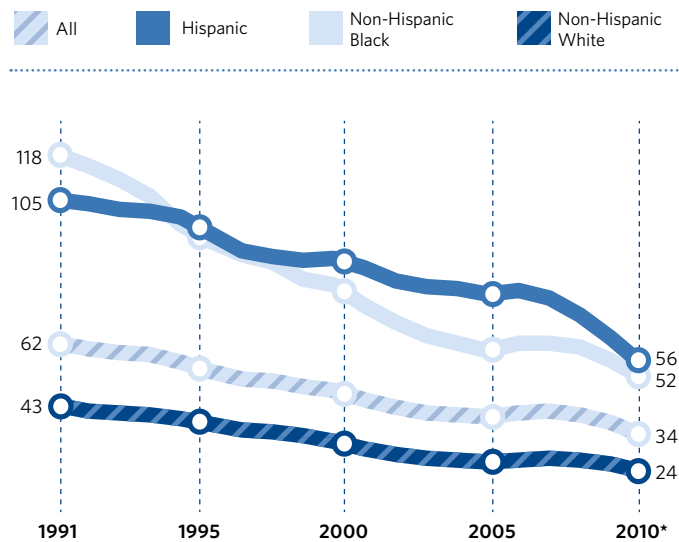
# SEX AND RELATED MEASURES:

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- Since the early 1990s, teen pregnancy and birth rates have dropped considerably.
- These rates have dropped the most among younger teens (age 15–17), as well as among non-Hispanic black teens and Hispanic teens.
- Fewer teens are having sex than in 1990, especially teen boys. However, improvements in contraceptive use have been particularly impressive, especially use of condoms.
- Although most sexually active teen girls have partners their own age, girls who were younger when they first had sex are more likely to report having older first partners.
- Risky behavior among teens has diminished in several areas since the early 1990s—fewer teens are using drugs or alcohol before sex, reporting multiple partners over their lifetime, or first having sex at a particularly young age. These declines have been particularly impressive among non-Hispanic black teens.
- Rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) vary significantly by race/ethnicity—non-Hispanic black teen girls are far more likely than non-Hispanic white teen girls to be diagnosed with an STI.
- Almost all teens report covering at least one common topic in sex education classes, such as discussing STIs or how to say no to sex. Far fewer teens report learning about methods of birth control.
- Most adults and nearly half of all teens think that teens need more information about abstinence and contraception.

## » TEEN BIRTHS

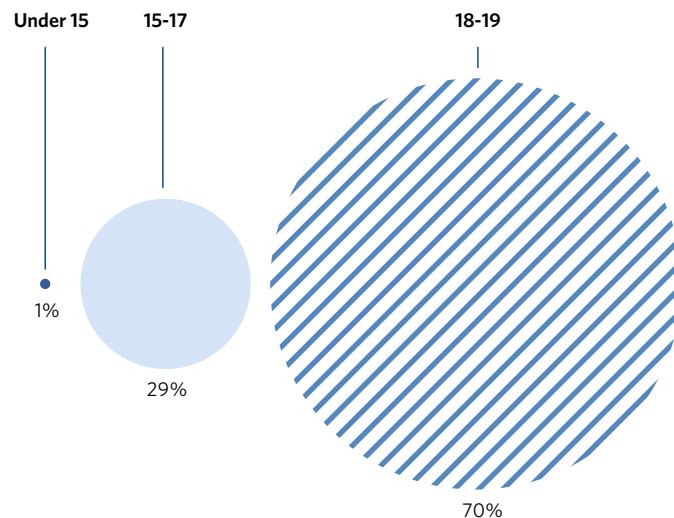
Births per 1,000 girls (age 15–19), 1991–2010<sup>3,4</sup>



The overall teen birth rate plummeted 44% between 1991 and 2010, from 62 to 34 births per 1,000 girls age 15 to 19. The steady decline over this period was interrupted only briefly, between 2005 and 2007, when the teen birth rate increased by 5%. Since 2007, rates have continued and even accelerated their decline, falling a total of 17% through 2010 (based on preliminary data), with a 9% decline in 2010 alone—the largest measured in a single year since 1946–47.<sup>4</sup>

The declines were particularly impressive among some racial/ethnic groups—the teen birth rate among non-Hispanic black teens dropped by 56% over this period, compared to 46% among non-Hispanic white teens and 47% among Hispanic teens.

Births among teen girls, by age, 2010<sup>4</sup>



Even though teen childbearing often brings to mind images of 15- and 16-year-olds, it's important to note that the majority of teen births are to older teens—age 18 to 19. In 2010, seven in 10 births to women younger than 20 were to those age 18–19. By comparison, just 29% of teen births are to those age 15–17. Childbearing among 15–17 year-olds declined by 55% from 1991 to 2010, while births to 18–19 year-olds declined by 38% (not shown).<sup>4</sup>

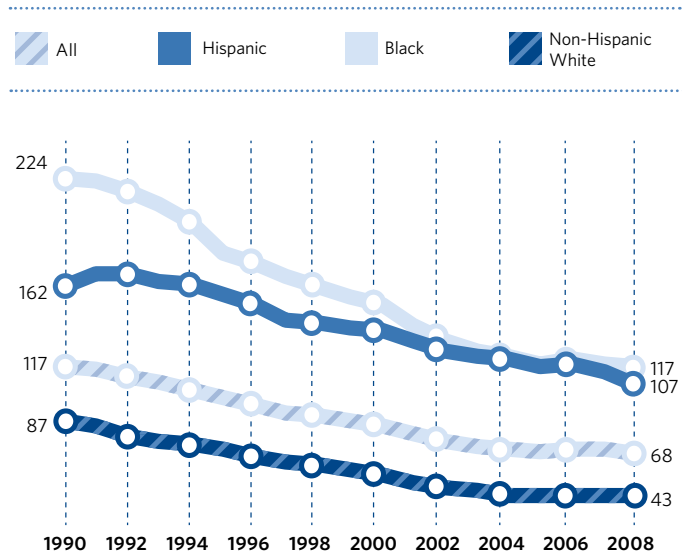
<sup>3</sup> Martin, J.A., Hamilton, B.E., Ventura, S.J., Osterman, M.J.K., Kirmeyer, S., Matthews, T.J., et al. (2011). Births: Final data for 2009. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 60(1). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60\\_01.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60_01.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Hamilton, B.E., Martin, J.A., & Ventura S.J. (2011). Births: Preliminary data for 2010. *National Vital Statistics Reports Web Release*, 60(2). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60\\_02.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60_02.pdf).

\* Birth data from 2010 are preliminary.

## » TEEN PREGNANCY

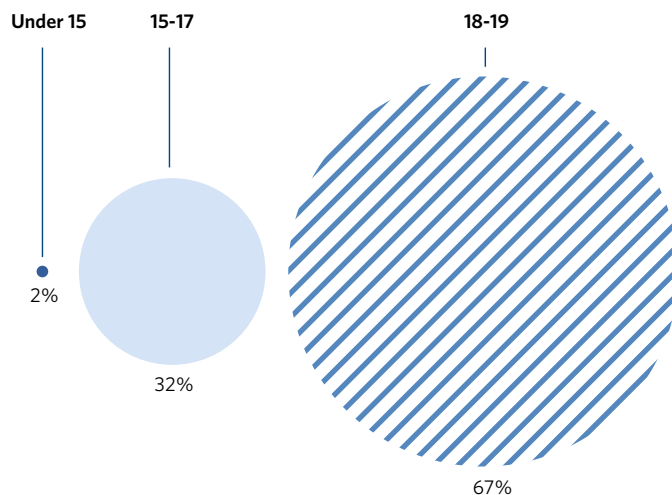
Pregnancies per 1,000 girls (age 15-19), 1990-2008<sup>5,6</sup>



Declines in the teen birth rate are *not* the result of fewer pregnant teens giving birth, but rather fewer teens getting pregnant to begin with. The teen *pregnancy* rate (which includes not only births but also abortions and miscarriages), has also decreased significantly over the past two decades, falling by 42% between 1990 and 2008. The pregnancy rate fell by 50% among non-Hispanic white teens, 48% among black teens, and 34% among Hispanic teens.

Similar to the composition of teen births, the majority of teen pregnancies occur to older teens. Two-thirds occur to teens age 18 to 19 and nearly one-third occur to teens age 15 to 17.

Pregnancies among teen girls, by age, 2008<sup>5</sup>

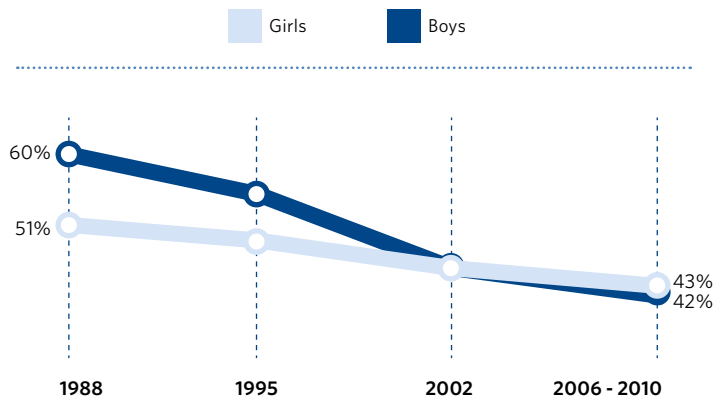


<sup>5</sup>Kost, K., & Henshaw, S. (2012). U.S. teenage pregnancies, births and abortions, 2008: National trends by age, race and ethnicity. New York: The Guttmacher Institute. Retrieved from <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends08.pdf>

<sup>6</sup>Note that pregnancy data from the Guttmacher Institute refer to black teen girls and pregnancy and birth data from the National Center for Health Statistics refer to non-Hispanic black teen girls. In general there is little difference in the rate between non-Hispanic black and black teen girls. For example, in 2008 the birth rate among black teen girls was 60.1 per 1,000 and the birth rate among non-Hispanic black teen girls was 60.4 per 1,000. For more information about the data sources, refer to the Data Source Review.

## » SEXUAL ACTIVITY

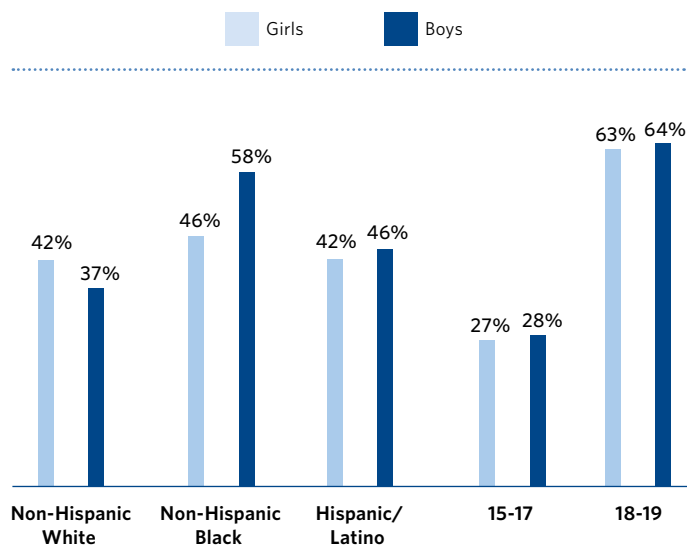
Never married teens (age 15-19) who have ever had sexual intercourse, 1988-2010<sup>7</sup>



As might be expected, during this same 20 year period there has also been a substantial decline in the percentage of teens who have ever had sex—especially among younger teens. Traditionally, teen boys had generally been more likely to report having had sex than teen girls. Declines in sexual activity have been more pronounced among teen boys than girls so that by 2009, boys and girls were equally likely to report having had sex (42% for boys, 43% for girls).

While rates of sexual activity among teens do vary somewhat by race/ethnicity, these levels vary more among teen boys than among teen girls. Not surprisingly, the percentage of teens who have ever had sex is higher among older teens, and this varies little by gender.

By race/ethnicity and age, 2006-2010<sup>7,8</sup>

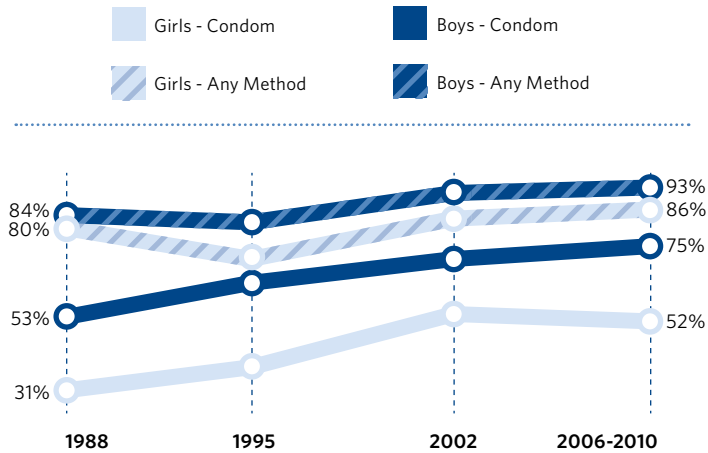


<sup>7</sup>Martinez G., Copen C.E., & Abma J.C. (2011). Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006-2010 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 23(31). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

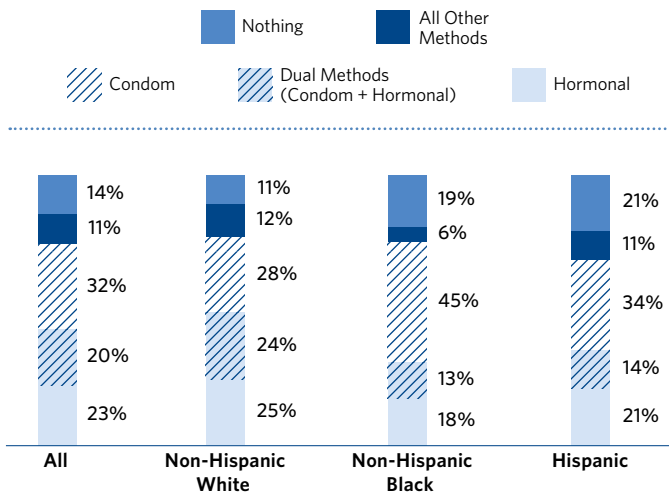
<sup>8</sup> Findings are based on the 2006-2010 panel of the National Survey of Family Growth and thus approximate an average over the 2006 to 2010 period.

## » CONTRACEPTIVE USE

Never married teens (age 15–19) who used a condom or any method of contraception during last sex in the prior three months, 1988–2010<sup>9</sup>



Contraceptive use among never married teen girls (age 15–19) during last sex in the prior three months, by race/ethnicity and method used, 2006–2010<sup>9,10</sup>



The vast majority of sexually active teens use some method of contraception. Fully 93% of boys and 86% of girls reported using some type of contraception the last time they had sex. Condom use in particular has been improving over the past 20 years. This improvement has been especially impressive among teen girls—roughly half (52%) reported using a condom at last sex between 2006 and 2010, while less than one-third did in 1988 (31%). Rates of condom use also increased among teen boys. More than half (53%) of teen boys reported using a condom the last time they had sex in 1988, while three in four (75%) did between 2006 and 2010.<sup>9</sup>

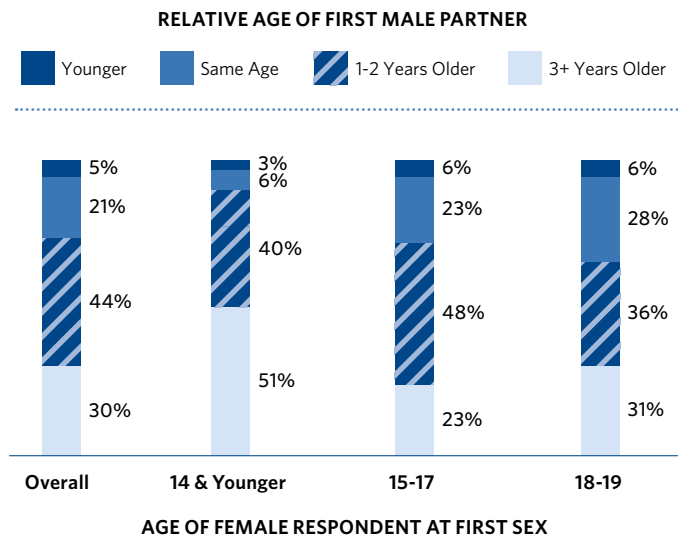
While condoms are the most popular form of contraception among teen girls, nearly half of teen girls are using a hormonal method (43%), either alone or in addition to a condom. Among all users of hormonal methods (including dual method users), some are pill users and some are users of other hormonal methods like the patch, the ring, and the shot (not shown). Among non-Hispanic white teens, the majority (80%) of hormonal method users rely on the pill, while the rest (20%) rely on all other hormonal methods (not shown). This is in contrast to non-Hispanic black and Hispanic teens, who are evenly split between the pill and other hormonal methods

<sup>9</sup> Martinez G., Copen C.E., & Abma J.C. (2011). Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 23(31). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

<sup>10</sup> “Hormonal” methods include the birth control pill, injectables, implants, emergency contraception, the contraceptive patch, and the contraceptive ring. “All other methods” include withdrawal, sterilization, IUD, female condom, diaphragm, cervical cap, calendar rhythm method, and others, but does not include those who used one of these methods along with a condom or a hormonal method.

## » RELATIVE AGE OF PARTNER

Age difference between teen girls and their first male partner, by girls' age at first sex, 2006–2010<sup>11,12</sup>



Many are concerned about age differences between teens and their partners, given that teen girls who have older partners (three or more years older) are much more likely to have sex without using contraception and to report that sex was unwanted.<sup>13</sup> Fortunately, most young women who first had sex as a teenager were relatively close in age to their first male partner, although three in 10 had a first male partner who was three or more years older. Generally, teen girls are the same age or slightly younger than their first male partners.

However, teen girls who were particularly young when they first had sex—14 or younger—almost always had an older male partner. Fully 51% of teen girls who were 14 or younger when they first had sex had a male partner who was three or more years older.

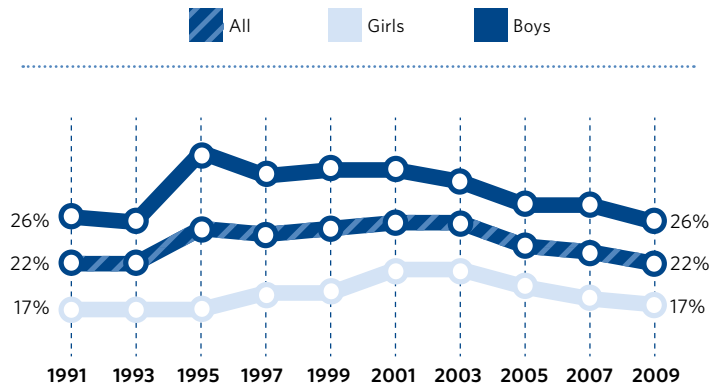
<sup>11</sup> *Unpublished National Campaign Analysis of the National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2010* [Data File]. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>.

<sup>12</sup> Respondents were between 18 and 24 years old at time of the survey. Results were limited to those who reported having first sex at age 19 or younger.

<sup>13</sup> Martinez G., Copen C.E., & Abma J.C. (2011). Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 23(31). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

## » RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

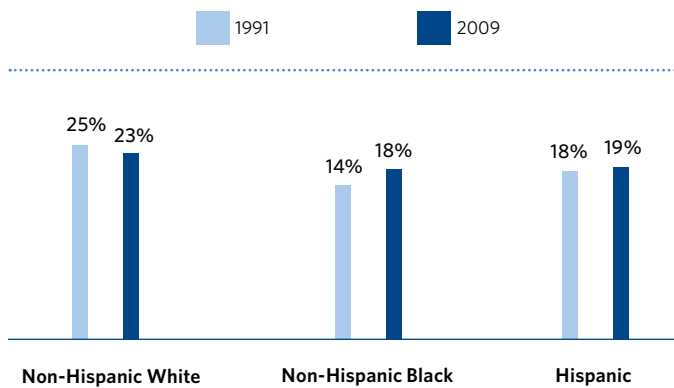
Currently sexually active high school students who drank alcohol or used drugs before last sex, 1991–2009<sup>14</sup>



Trends in the use of alcohol or drugs before sex, another risk factor for unprotected sex, show early increases followed by gradual declines for both girls and boys. While rates went up initially (in the mid-1990s for boys and through the early 2000s for girls), by 2009 the percentage of students who used drugs or alcohol before sex dropped to 1991 levels (26% for boys, 17% for girls, and 22% overall).

Trends by race/ethnicity, however, are more mixed, with the percentage using drugs or alcohol falling slightly over the period for non-Hispanic white teens and rising for non-Hispanic black teens—thus we see racial/ethnic differences narrowing over time. Even so, in 2009, fully 23% of non-Hispanic white teens reported using alcohol or drugs before the last time they had sex, while fewer than one in five non-Hispanic black or Hispanic teens did. The proportion using drugs or alcohol before sex is fairly similar for both young and older sexually active teens (not shown).

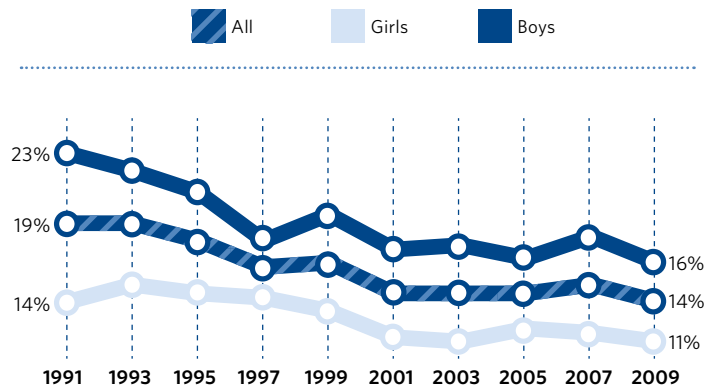
By race/ethnicity<sup>14</sup>



<sup>14</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991–2009 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available from <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline>. Accessed July 2011.

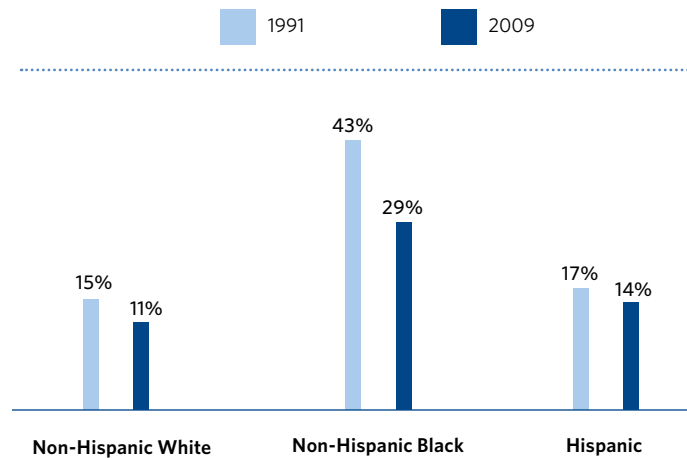
## » RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

High school students who have had sex with four or more partners in their life, 1991–2009<sup>15</sup>



The proportion of teens who have had more than four sexual partners in their lives has decreased fairly steadily since 1991, reaching a new low of 14% in 2009. Teen boys (16%) are more likely than teen girls (11%) to have had several partners. While the proportion of teens who have had four or more sexual partners declined across both genders and all race/ethnicities, this decline was particularly evident among teen boys and non-Hispanic black teens. Not surprisingly, as teens age, they are more likely to have had four or more sexual partners (not shown).

By race/ethnicity<sup>15</sup>

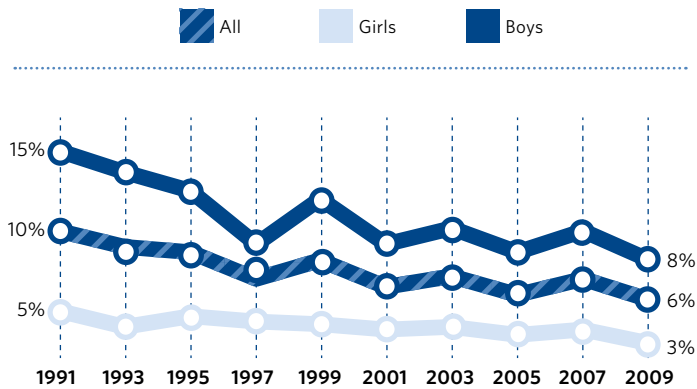


<sup>15</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *1991–2009 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data*. Available from <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline>. Accessed July 2011.



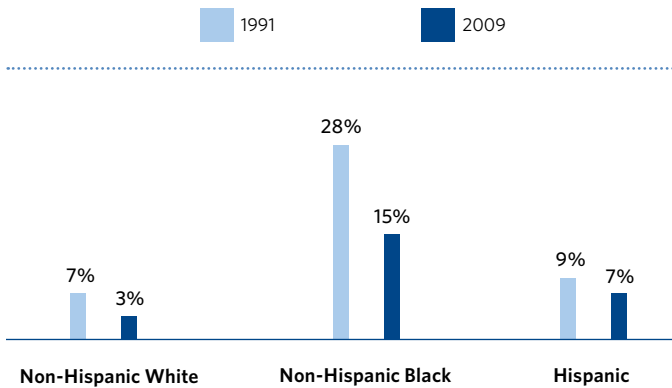
## » RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

High school students who first had sexual intercourse before age 13, by gender, 1991-2009<sup>16</sup>



As the incidence of risky sexual behavior has fallen, differences by race/ethnicity, age, and gender have narrowed somewhat but remain pronounced. Teen boys (8%) are nearly three times as likely to have had sex before age 13 than teen girls (3%). Fully 15% of non-Hispanic black teens report having sex before age 13, compared to 7% of Hispanic teens and 3% of non-Hispanic white teens. These differences have narrowed over time, as the most impressive declines occurred among teen boys and non-Hispanic black teens.

By race/ethnicity<sup>16</sup>



<sup>16</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991-2009 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline>. Accessed July 2011.

## » SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs)

Chlamydia and gonorrhea rate per 100,000 people among teen girls (10–19), by age and race/ethnicity, 2010<sup>17</sup>

CHLAMYDIA				
Age	Total	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic
10-14	132	31	353	71
15-19	3,378	1,172	7,719	2,226

GONORRHEA				
Age	Total	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic
10-14	26	4	93	8
15-19	571	119	2,032	192

Among teen girls, rates of sexually transmitted infections vary substantially by race/ethnicity. The rate of reported chlamydia cases among non-Hispanic black teen girls (age 15–19) is more than six times higher than the rate among non-Hispanic white teen girls. Rates among Hispanic teen girls of the same age group were almost twice as high as among non-Hispanic white teen girls. Even though reported cases of gonorrhea infection are less prevalent than chlamydia, disparities by race/ethnicity remain.<sup>17</sup> The rates presented here are based on reported cases among individuals who get tested, and the total incidence in the population may be higher. Differences by subgroup in these rates may reflect, to some extent, variable rates of testing among subgroups.

It is also the case that changes in the rates of STIs over time are influenced by increased screening efforts, the adoption of more sensitive laboratory tests, and more complete nationwide reporting.<sup>17</sup> Also, comparing rates of chlamydia infection between teen boys and girls is inherently difficult, as teen boys are less likely to be tested due to screening recommendations.<sup>17,18</sup> Therefore, rates by gender and over time are not reported here. However, one recent study estimated that the *total prevalence* of chlamydia in the population was 6.8% among sexually active teen girls age 14 to 19 (4.4% among non-Hispanic whites and 16.2% among non-Hispanic blacks) between 1999 and 2008.<sup>19</sup>

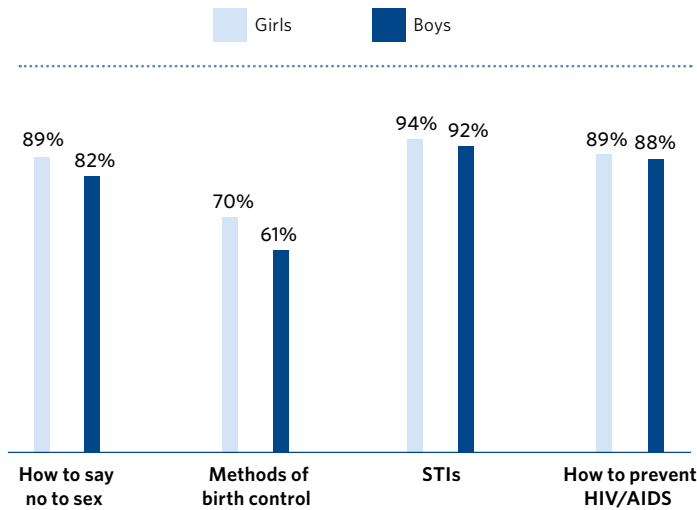
<sup>17</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2011). *Sexually transmitted disease surveillance, 2010*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<sup>18</sup>The CDC recommends that all sexually active women less than 26 years old receive an annual chlamydia screening.

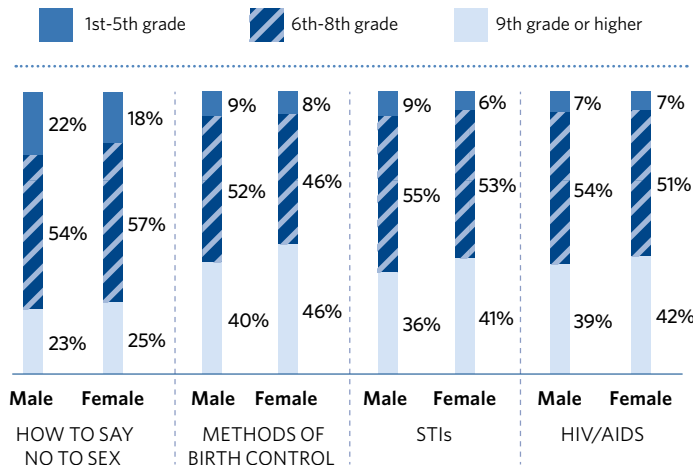
<sup>19</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2011). CDC Grand Rounds: Chlamydia prevention: Challenges and strategies for reducing disease burden and sequelae. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, 60(12), 370–373.

## » SEX EDUCATION

Teens (age 15-19) who have received formal sex education, by subject and gender, 2006-2010<sup>20</sup>



Grade when teens (age 15-19) first received formal sex education, by subject and gender, 2006-2010<sup>20</sup>



The majority of today's teens say they have received some formal sex education. Almost all teenagers learn about sexually transmitted infections, and the vast majority of teens say they have been taught about how to say no to sex, as well as how to prevent HIV/AIDS. Fully three in 10 girls and four in 10 boys say they have *not* been given formal education about birth control methods. Earlier studies suggest that teens' formal sex education has remained relatively unchanged since 2002. However, roughly twice as many teens today say they have received formal sex education on the topics noted above as compared to 1995 (not shown).<sup>21</sup>

Teen girls are slightly more likely than boys to report receiving sex education on most topics. The most notable differences between girls and boys center on instruction on how to say no to sex and methods of birth control. Differences by race/ethnicity (not shown) are similarly small across most topics.

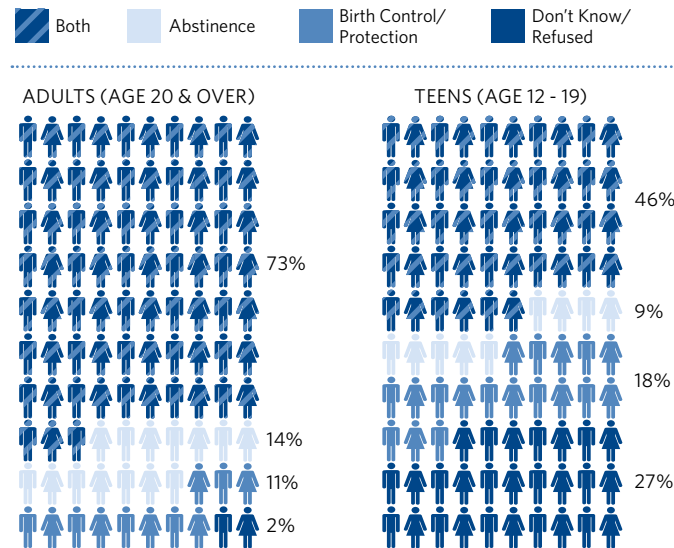
<sup>20</sup> Unpublished National Campaign Analysis of the National Survey of Family Growth, 2006-2010 [Data File], Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>

<sup>21</sup> Lindberg, L.D., Santelli, J.S., & Singh, S. (2006). Changes in Formal Sex Education: 1995-2002. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 38(4), 182-189.

## » INFORMATION ABOUT ABSTINENCE AND CONTRACEPTION

Teens' and adults' opinions on whether teens are getting enough information about abstinence and contraception, 2010<sup>22</sup>

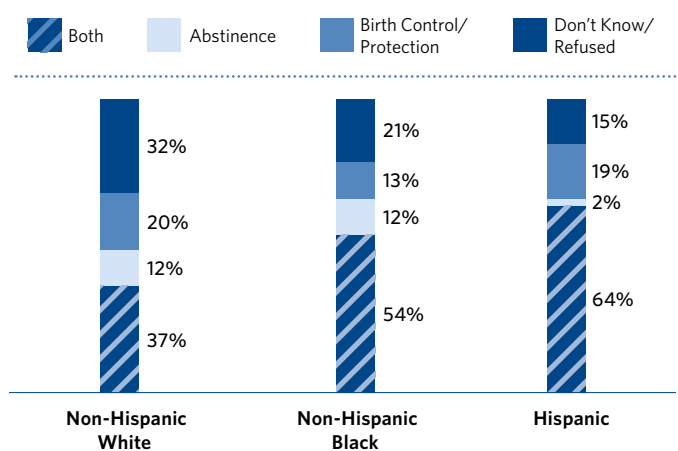
Do you wish you/teens were getting more information about abstinence, more information about birth control or protection, or more information about both?



More than seven in 10 adults and nearly half of teens agree that teens need more information about both contraception and abstinence, rather than either/or. Teens, however, are more likely than adults to favor more information about contraception alone and less likely to favor additional information about abstinence alone. Since the last time this survey was conducted in 2007 (not shown), the proportion of teens who responded that they favored more information about contraception alone doubled (9% to 18%), while results for adults remained mostly the same.<sup>22,23</sup>

As a general matter, teens say they want more information about abstinence and contraception. However, teens' opinions varied substantially based on race/ethnicity. Nearly two-thirds of Hispanic teens wanted more information about both contraception and abstinence (64%), while roughly half of non-Hispanic black teens (54%) and only 37% of non-Hispanic white teens did.

Teens (age 12-19), by race/ethnicity, 2010<sup>22</sup>



Hispanic teens (19%) and non-Hispanic white teens (20%) were also more likely than non-Hispanic black teens (13%) to want more information about birth control alone. Far fewer Hispanic teens (2%) than non-Hispanic black or non-Hispanic white teens (12%) wanted more information about abstinence alone.

<sup>22</sup> Albert, B. (2010). *With One Voice 2010: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, A Periodic National Survey*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign.

<sup>23</sup> Albert, B. (2007). *With One Voice 2007: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, A Periodic National Survey*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign.

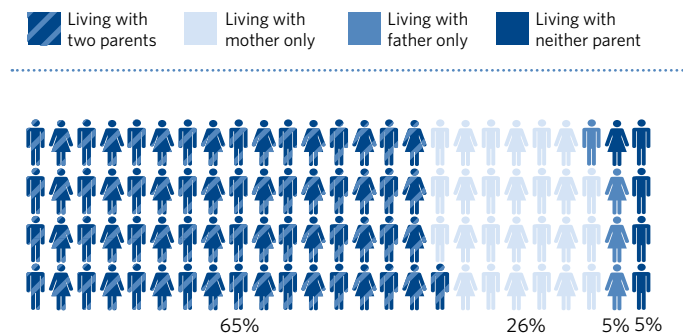
# PEER AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS:

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- Family structure has remained relatively stable over time; a majority of teens continue to live with two parents.
- However, teens' attitudes on family formation are changing over time—a growing share of teens believe that non-marital childbearing is okay.
- The vast majority of teens say they would be upset if they found out they were pregnant now. Teen girls are more likely than teen boys to say they would be upset.
- Nearly half of all teens say that parents most influence their decisions about sex.
- The vast majority of teens say that they can discuss serious issues with at least one parent, and nearly half say they can discuss issues with both parents. Still, fewer teens today than in 2005 say that their parents understand the realities of teen sex.
- Nearly two-thirds of teens say they wish they could talk to their parents more about relationships.
- Most teens report discussing at least some sex-related issues with their parents, particularly STIs and how to say no to sex. However, the topics discussed depend largely on gender.
- While only 28% of teens overall report currently being in a relationship, among older teens (age 18 to 19) this rises to 46%, and one-third of older teens are either seriously dating, engaged, or married.
- Of teens who have had sex, the majority say they wish they had waited longer.
- Teen girls who were particularly young when they first had sex are far more likely to report that it was unwanted.
- One in 10 teenagers say they have experienced dating violence.

## » FAMILY STRUCTURE

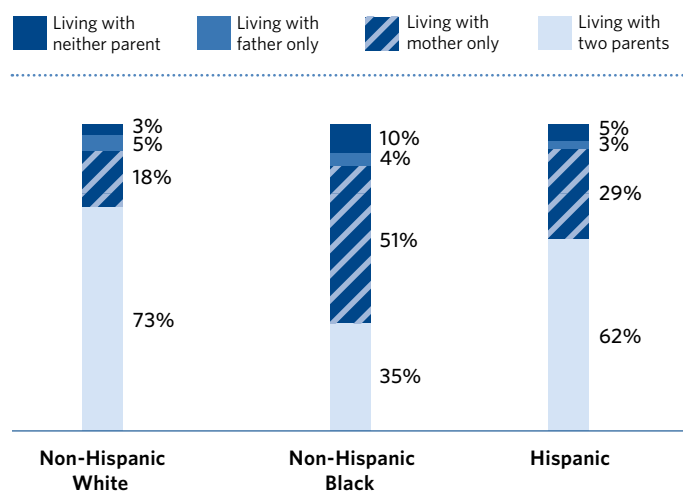
Adolescents (age 12-17), according to their family structure, March 2011<sup>24</sup>



Currently, nearly two-thirds of teens live with two parents (65%), and of those, most live with their biological parents (84%, not shown). Approximately one in four teens live with their mother only (26%). Since the early 1990s, family structure has remained largely unchanged; the percentage of teens living with two parents has declined only slightly<sup>24,25</sup>

Family structure varies based on race/ethnicity. Nearly three-quarters of non-Hispanic white teens (73%) and six in 10 Hispanic teens (62%) live with two parents. Only about one-third of non-Hispanic black teens live with two parents (35%) and more than half live with their mother only (51%).

By race/ethnicity<sup>24</sup>



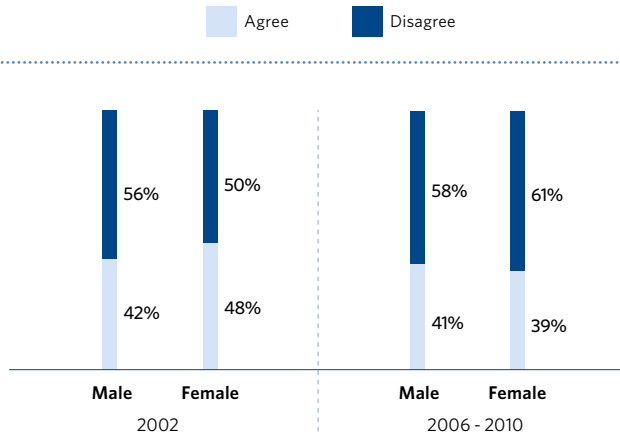
<sup>24</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. (2011). *Current Population Survey. Annual Social and Economic Supplement, March 2011*. [Data file]. Available from <http://www.census.gov/cps/>.

<sup>25</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. (2011). *Current Population Survey. Annual Social and Economic Supplement, March 1992*. [Data file]. Available from <http://www.census.gov/cps/>.

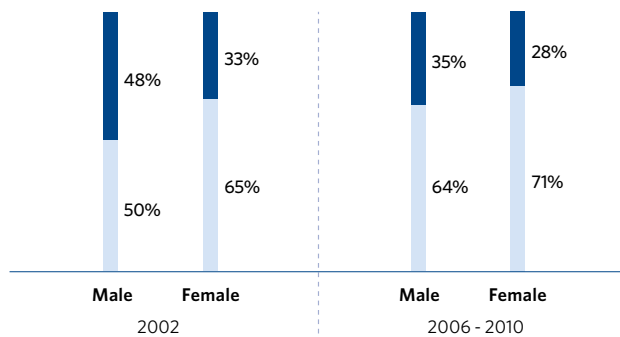
## » FAMILY STRUCTURE

Teens' (age 15–19) opinions on family structure and family formation, 2002 and 2006–2010<sup>26</sup>

**Divorce is usually the best solution when a couple can't seem to work out their marriage problems**



**It is okay for an unmarried female to have a child**



Over the past few years, teens' attitudes towards family structure have shifted. In 2002, teen girls were somewhat more likely than teen boys to agree that divorce was the best solution to a problematic marriage (48% compared to 42%). By 2006–2010, the gender gap regarding divorce had narrowed; teen boys' attitudes remained largely unchanged and the percentage of girls who thought divorce was the best solution to a problematic marriage fell to 39%—nearly equal to that for boys.

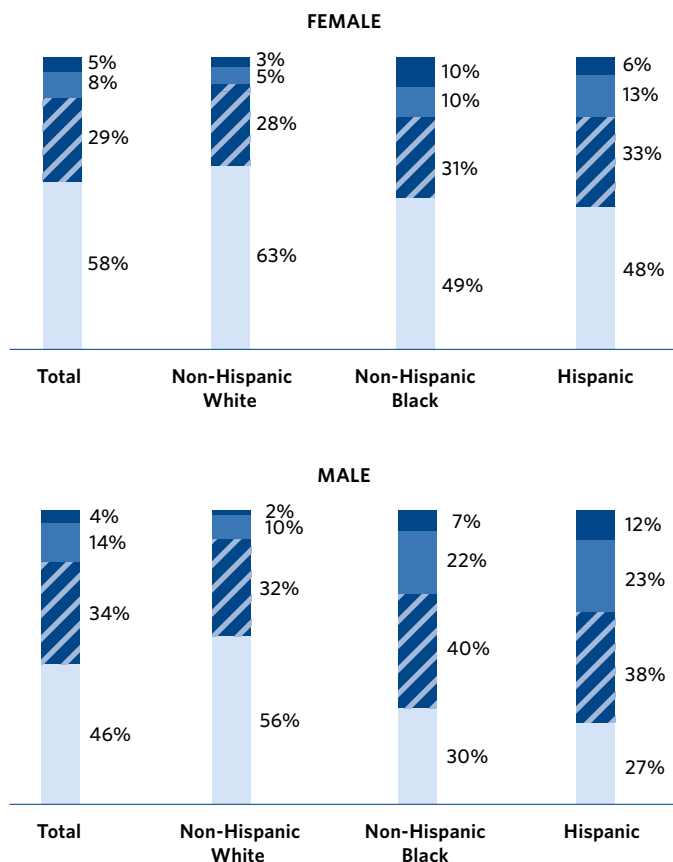
Teens have also become more accepting of non-marital childbearing over time. This change was particularly pronounced among teen boys. When asked if it was okay for an unmarried female to have a child, the percentage of teens who agreed increased from 65% to 71% among teen girls and from 50% to 64% among teen boys.

<sup>26</sup> Unpublished National Campaign Analysis of the National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2010 [Data File]. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>.

## » FAMILY STRUCTURE

Never married teens (age 15–19) on how they would feel if they got pregnant/got a female pregnant now, by gender and race/ethnicity, 2006–2010<sup>27</sup>

Very Pleased
  A Little Pleased
  A Little Upset
  Very Upset



Even though the vast majority of teens would be upset if they found out they were pregnant, some teens have a neutral or even positive attitude towards early pregnancy. Overall, teen girls are more likely than boys to be upset if they were to get pregnant/cause a pregnancy—58% of girls and 46% of boys report they would be *very* upset.

Among teen girls, attitudes towards early pregnancy vary little by race/ethnicity. Although non-Hispanic white teen girls are more likely than their peers to say that they would be very upset if they got pregnant at this time in their lives, nearly all teen girls are eager to avoid pregnancy.

However, attitudes vary strongly by race/ethnicity among teen boys. An alarming 35% of Hispanic teen boys and 29% of non-Hispanic black teen boys responded that they would be a little or very pleased if they got a female pregnant now, compared to just one in 10 non-Hispanic white teen boys.

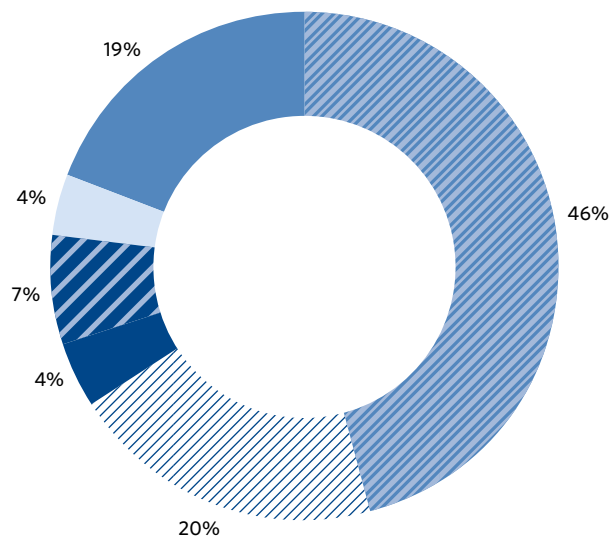
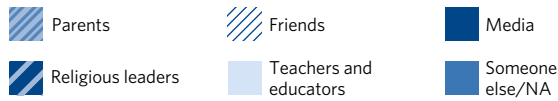
<sup>27</sup> Martinez G., Copen C.E., & Abma J.C. (2011). Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 23(31). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.



## » FAMILY AND PEER INFLUENCES

Influences on teens' decisions about sex (age 12–19), 2010<sup>28</sup>

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



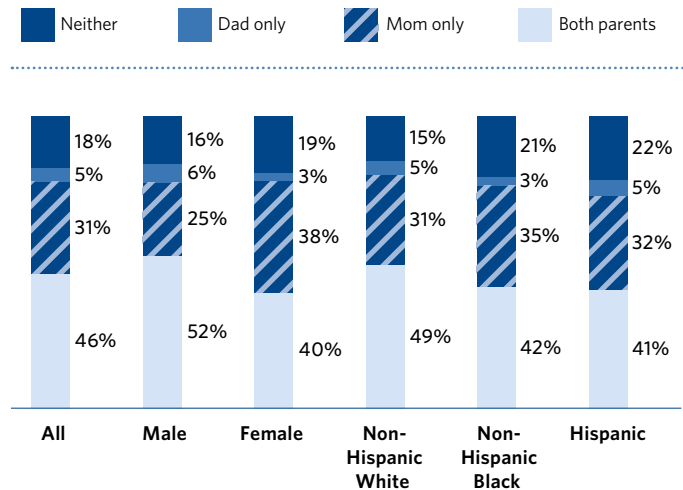
Despite what parents may believe, teens say that parents *most* influence their decisions about sex. Teen girls (51%) are especially likely to say that parents are most influential compared to teen boys (41%, not shown), and younger teens (57% of those 12–14) are more likely to say that parents are most influential compared to older teens (39% of those 15–19, not shown). Hispanic (55%) and non-Hispanic black teens (50%) are more likely than non-Hispanic white teens (42%) to say their parents are most influential (not shown).

<sup>28</sup> Albert, B. (2010). *With One Voice 2010: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, A Periodic National Survey*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign.

## » PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

Teens (age 12-19) who say they can talk with their parents about serious issues, 2010<sup>29</sup>

Can you talk to your mom or dad openly, honestly, and with detail about serious issues like drugs, sex, and drinking?



Nearly half of all teens say that while they can talk to both of their parents about serious issues, they are generally more comfortable confiding in their mothers than in their fathers. About half of teen boys and 40% of teen girls feel they can discuss serious issues with both parents. For their part, teen girls (38%) are more likely than teen boys (25%) to discuss serious issues only with their mother or with neither parent (19% for girls, 16% for boys).

Non-Hispanic black teens (35%) are more likely than Hispanic (32%) or non-Hispanic white teens (31%) to feel they can discuss serious issues only with their mothers. However, non-Hispanic white teens are more likely than other teens to discuss serious issues with both parents (49%). As teens age, the proportion of teens who report they can't discuss issues with either parent increases (not shown).

Increasing parent-teen communication could be an important goal for those seeking to reduce risky behavior among teens, given that nearly one in five teens do not feel as though they can discuss serious issues with either parent (18%).

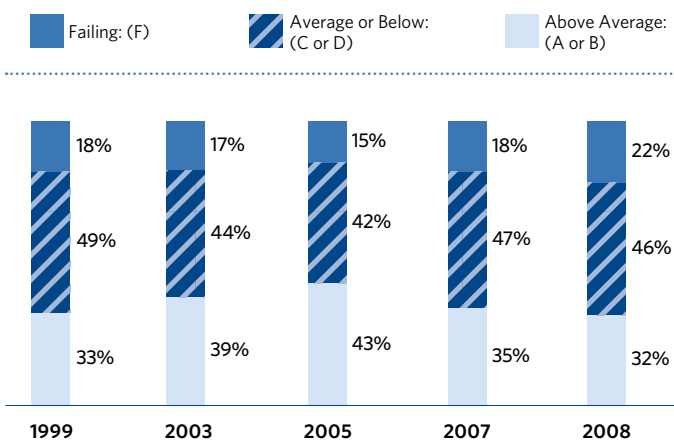
<sup>29</sup> Teenage Research Unlimited. (2010). *The TRU Study 2011: U.S. Edition*. [mTAB Crosstab Tool Data File]. Available from [www.truportal.com](http://www.truportal.com).

## » PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

Grades that teens (age 12-19) give parents for “understanding the realities of teen sex,” 1999-2008<sup>30,31</sup>

Let's suppose you could give adults grades (A,B,C,D, or F).  
How would you grade adults, as a group, on how they're doing at each of the following...

Understanding the realities of teenage sex



The percentage of teens who gave their parents an above average grade (A or B) for “understanding the realities of teen sex” increased between 1999 and 2005, however the grades that teens give their parents have been falling since then. In 2008, only one-third of teens gave adults an above average grade (A or B) for “understanding the realities of teen sex,” and about one in five (22%) gave parents a failing grade (F). Overall, this pattern was the same among teens across all race/ethnicities (not shown).

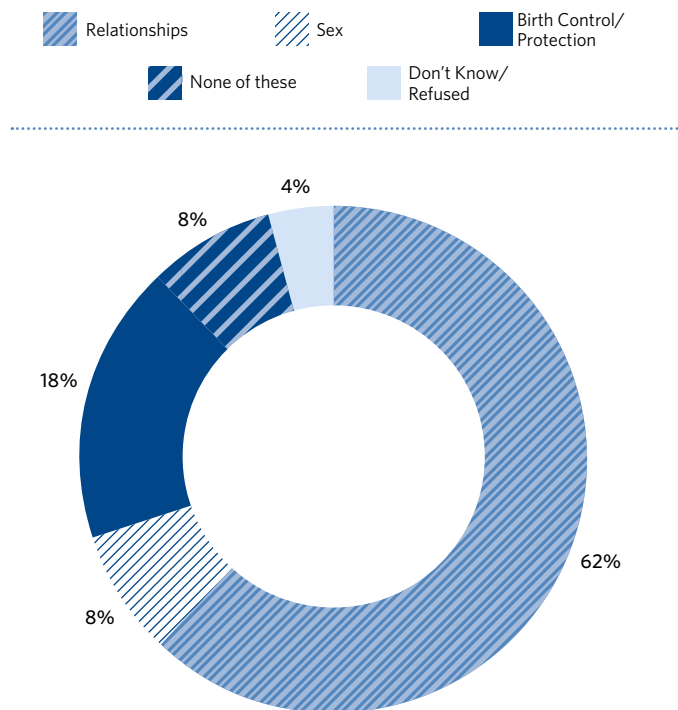
<sup>30</sup> Uhlrich Children's Advantage Network (UCAN). *The UCAN Teen Report Card, 2007 and 2008*. [Complete Data Files]. Retrieved from [http://www.ucanchicago.org/site/epage/83928\\_682.htm](http://www.ucanchicago.org/site/epage/83928_682.htm). Accessed July 2011.

<sup>31</sup> Uhlrich Children's Advantage Network (UCAN). (2005). *The UCAN Teen Report Card*. Retrieved from <http://www.ucanchicago.org/reportcard/>. Accessed 2005.

## » PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

Topics that teens (age 12-19) wish they could talk more openly about with their parents, 2010<sup>32</sup>

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.



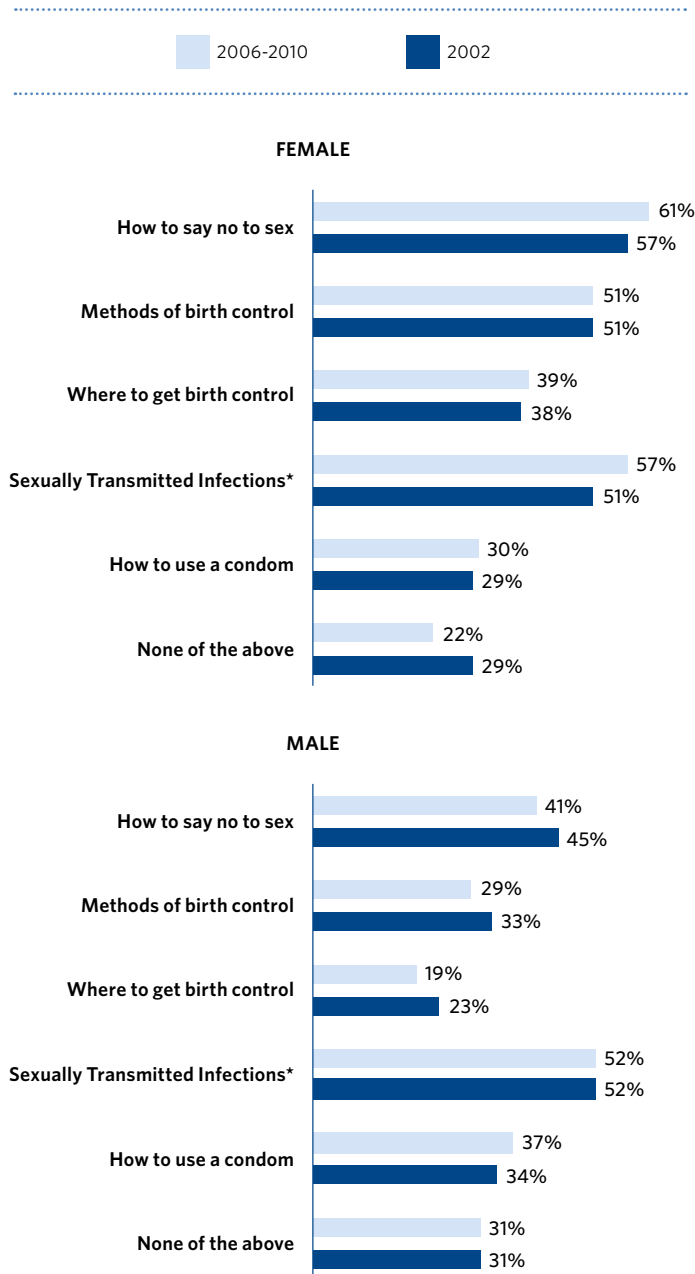
Teens are far more likely to want to freely discuss relationships with their parents (62%) than sex (8%) or birth control (18%). Clearly, relationships could be a useful conversation starter for parents who want to talk to their teens about avoiding pregnancy.

Teen boys (65%) are more likely than teen girls (60%) to want to discuss relationships with their parents most, while teen girls are more likely than boys to want to discuss birth control or protection (21% vs. 14%, not shown). Hispanic (34%) and non-Hispanic black teens (31%) are more likely to want to discuss sex or birth control compared to non-Hispanic white teens (22%, not shown).

<sup>32</sup> Albert, B. (2010). *With One Voice 2010: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, A Periodic National Survey*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign.

## » PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

Teens (age 15-19) who report that they have ever discussed sex and related issues with their parents before age 18, 2002 & 2006-2010<sup>33</sup>



Most teens, regardless of gender, do communicate with their parents about sex and related issues. However, the topics covered vary between boys and girls. Teen girls are more likely than teen boys to report discussing how to say no to sex (61% vs. 41%), as well as methods of birth control and where to get them (51% vs. 29% and 39% vs. 19%, respectively). Similarly, teen boys are more likely than teen girls to report discussing with their parents how to use a condom (37% vs. 30%), and to report not discussing any of these topics (31% vs. 22%).

Since 2002, the way parents talk to their teens about sex has remained largely unchanged. Still, the gap between the topics parents discuss with their sons and the topics they discuss with their daughters seems to be widening, particularly with respect to discussing how to say no to sex. Also, an examination of younger teens (not shown) shows a decline in the discussion of several sex-related topics, which could be the leading edge of a downward trend.

<sup>33</sup> Unpublished National Campaign Analysis of the National Survey of Family Growth, 2002 and 2006-2010 [Data Files]. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>.

\* The category "Sexually Transmitted Infections" includes those who discussed STIs or HIV in 2006-2010, but just those who discussed STIs in 2002. Therefore, this figure may not be comparable across time.

## » DATING RELATIONSHIPS

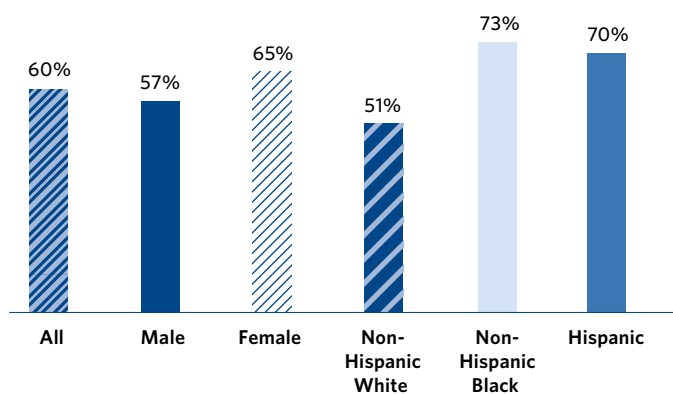
Teens (age 12-19), by relationship status, 2011<sup>34</sup>

	TOTAL	12-15	16-17	18-19
Single	72%	86%	66%	54%
Casually dating	15%	11%	21%	14%
Seriously dating	12%	3%	13%	29%
Engaged	1%	0%	0%	3%
Married	1%	1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Most teens describe themselves as single—that is not dating or in any other kind of relationship. Not surprisingly, however, teens are more likely to date or enter into serious relationships as they get older. Casual dating peaks around age 16-17 and more teens are in serious relationships by age 18 or 19.

Teens (age 12-19) who regret not waiting longer to have sex, 2010<sup>35</sup>

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



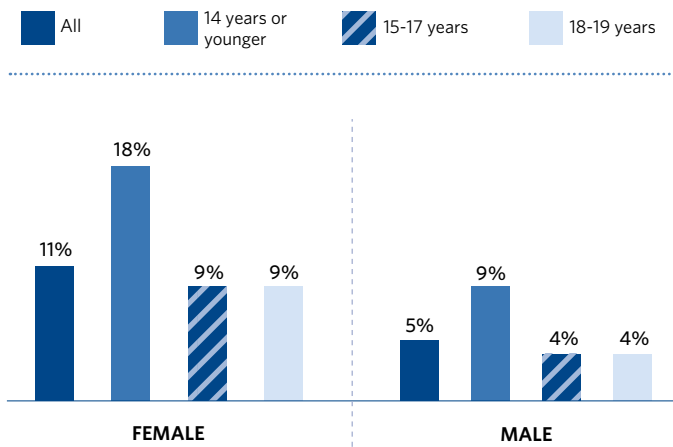
Among those who have had sex, six in 10 teens regret the timing of their first sexual experience. Non-Hispanic black teens (73%) are more likely than other teens to wish they had waited longer. Also, teen girls are more likely than teen boys to wish they had waited to have sex.

<sup>34</sup> Teenage Research Unlimited. (2011). *The TRU Study: 2012 U.S. Edition*. Retrieved from [www.truportal.com](http://www.truportal.com).

<sup>35</sup> Albert, B. (2010). *With One Voice 2010: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, A Periodic National Survey*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign.

## » DATING RELATIONSHIPS

Teens (age 15–19) who reported first sex was unwanted, by gender and age at first sex, 2006–2010<sup>36</sup> \*

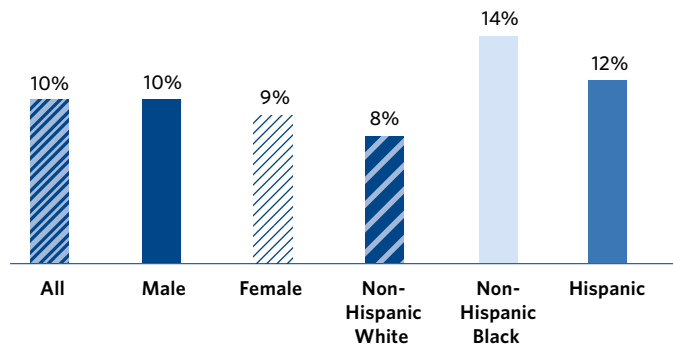


Teen girls are far more likely than teen boys to report that their first sexual experience was unwanted. Both teen girls and boys who were younger when they first had sex were also more likely to report it was unwanted. Teen girls who were 14 or younger when they first had sex report the highest proportion of unwanted first sexual experiences (18%).

Among teen girls, the relative age of their male partner is also related to whether their first sexual experience was wanted (not shown). Nearly one in five teen girls (17%) whose first male partner was three or more years older say that their first sexual experience was unwanted—a much higher proportion than among teen girls whose partners were only one to two years older (7%) or the same age or younger (10%).

High school students who have experienced dating violence, 2009<sup>37</sup>

During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?



Too many high school students have experienced dating violence. Perhaps surprisingly, teen boys (10%) and girls (9%) are equally as likely to say they have experience dating violence.

<sup>36</sup> Martinez G., Copen C.E., & Abma J.C. (2011). Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 23(31). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

\* Includes only those who responded “I really didn’t want it to happen at the time” when asked how much first sex was wanted. Question asked of respondents age 18–24 who had first sex before age 20.

<sup>37</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991–2009 *High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data*. Accessed July 2011. Available at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline>.

# SCHOOL:

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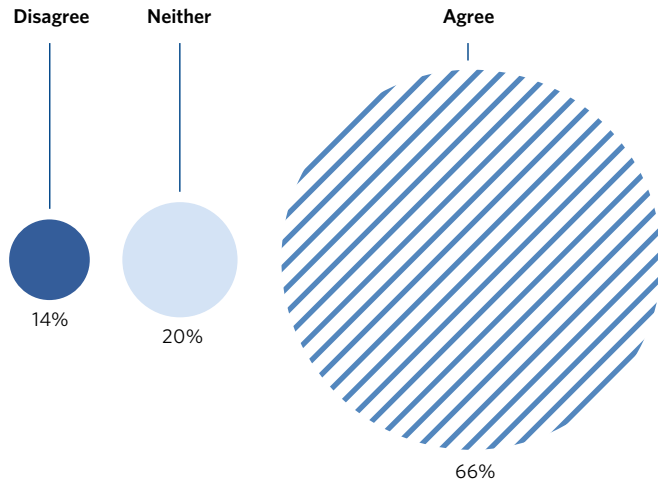
- Teens are highly engaged in school—most report that they enjoy school and often get good grades.
- The high school drop-out rate is gradually declining, and the drop-out gap between teen boys and teen girls is narrowing.
- Teens today are very motivated to succeed; most teens have aspirations to complete a two-year or four-year college program.



## » SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Level of school engagement of 12th grade students, 2010<sup>38</sup> \*

Going to school has been an enjoyable experience for me

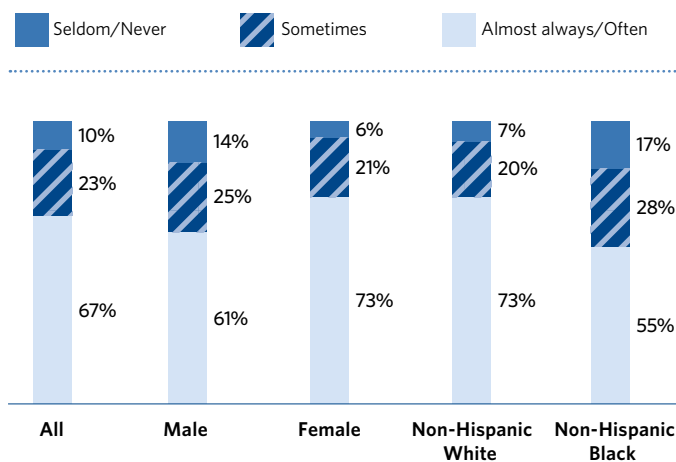


Teens are highly engaged in school (measured here by their reported enjoyment of school and academic achievement).

Fully two in three teens report that they enjoy school and only 14% say they don't enjoy it. A similar pattern is found when measuring grades that students receive—two-thirds of teens say they often or almost always received good grades; only one in 10 responded that they seldom or never did.

On average, teen girls, regardless of race (not shown), are more likely than teen boys to report that they enjoy school. The majority of teens—particularly girls—report consistently getting good grades (As or Bs); non-Hispanic black teens are substantially less likely than their non-Hispanic white peers to report that they often or almost always receive good grades.

Now thinking back over the past year in school how often did you get good grades (like As or Bs)?\*

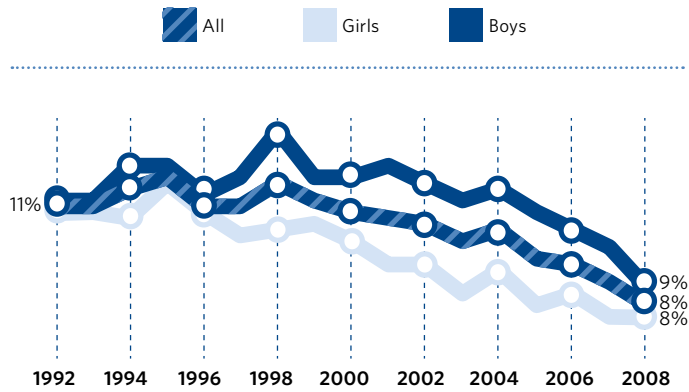


<sup>38</sup> Bachman, J. G., Johnston, L.D. & O'Malley, P.M. (2011). *Monitoring the future: Questionnaire responses from the Nation's High School Seniors*. Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan.

\* Statistics on Hispanic teens are not available.

## » HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

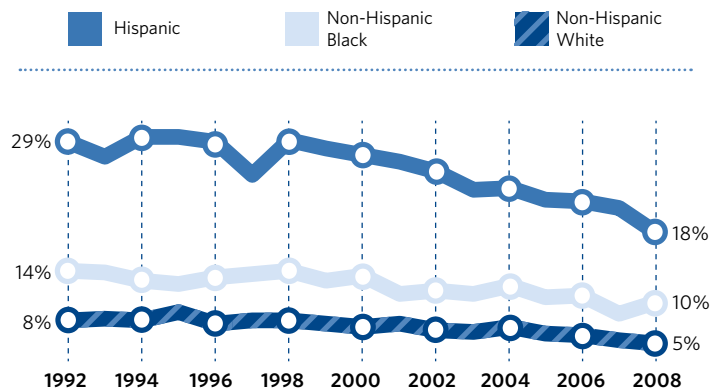
High school dropouts among 16- to 24-year-olds, by gender, 1992–2008<sup>39</sup> \*



Since the early 1990s, declines in the percentage of teens and young adults (age 16–24) who left high school without a diploma or its equivalent have been modest but relatively consistent, from 11% in 1992 to 8% in 2008. The gap in dropout rates between girls and boys widened in the mid-2000s, and then closed again near the end of the decade.

The gap in dropout rates by race/ethnicity has also narrowed, particularly for Hispanic teens—rates have fallen from 29% to 18% since the early 1990s—but substantial disparities remain. High rates for Hispanic teens largely reflect immigration patterns—the dropout rate among foreign born Hispanic teens is 33%, compared to 10% for U.S. born Hispanic teens (not shown). Since 1992, dropout rates for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black teens have fallen as well, by roughly one-third and one-quarter respectively.

By race/ethnicity<sup>39</sup>



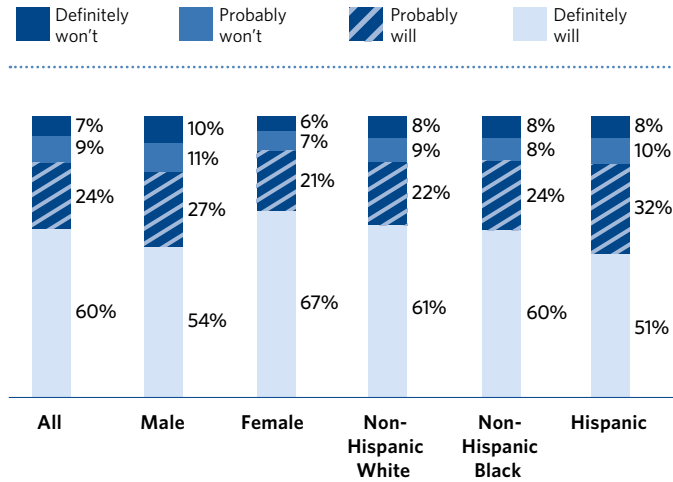
<sup>39</sup> Chapman, C., Laird, J., and Kewal-Ramani, A. (2010). *Trends in high school dropout and completion rates in the United States: 1972–2008* (NCES 2011-012). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011012.pdf>.

\* Also known as the Status Dropout Rate. This statistic measures 16- to 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and who have not completed a high school program or received a GED, regardless of when they left school. This measure excludes those in prison.

## » COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS

### Educational aspirations among 12th grade students, 2010<sup>40</sup>

How likely is it that you will do each of the following things after high school?  
Graduate from college (four-year program)



Teens have high aspirations for educational attainment. Roughly six in 10 teens believe they definitely will graduate from college and one-quarter say they probably will. Note that these findings focus on attending four year schools. The share of students expecting to complete either a two- or four-year education reaches nearly 100% (not shown). These high aspirations can be used as a motivating factor when reaching out to teens.

Teen girls are more likely than teen boys to say that they definitely will finish a four year degree. Educational aspirations vary little based on race, but do vary by ethnicity—although a similar proportion of Hispanic teens have aspirations to go to college, they are less likely to be confident that they definitely will finish a four year degree.

<sup>40</sup> Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., O'Malley, P.M. & Schulenberg J.E. (2011). *Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of American Youth (12th-Grade Survey)*, 2010 (ICPSR30985-v1) [Data file]. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. Available from <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/series/35>

# COMMUNITY

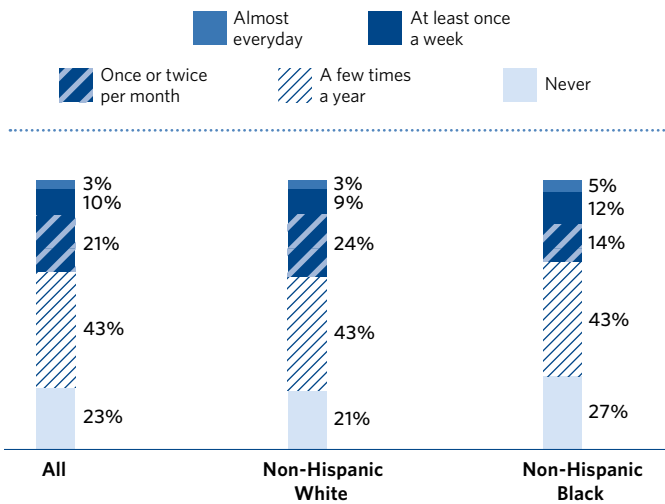
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- Most teens report doing at least occasional volunteer work, and roughly one-third volunteer once a month or more.
- A majority of teens describe religion as important to them—teen girls and non-Hispanic black teens are especially likely to consider religion important.
- Even though most teens say religion is important to them, fewer teens regularly attend religious services and there is less variation by gender and race/ethnicity.

## » VOLUNTEER WORK

### Volunteer work among 12th grade students, 2010<sup>41\*</sup>

How often do you: Participate in community affairs or volunteer work?



More than seven in 10 students in 12th grade report participating in community affairs or volunteer work. Most who volunteer do so only occasionally, although roughly one-third of all students volunteer once a month or more.

Volunteerism among teens differs somewhat by race. For example, non-Hispanic black teens are less likely to volunteer than non-Hispanic white teens, but non-Hispanic black teens who do volunteer generally volunteer more frequently. Volunteer habits also vary by gender (not shown). Teen girls (82%) are more likely than teen boys (73%) to volunteer and to volunteer more often.

<sup>41</sup> Bachman, J. G., Johnston, L.D. & O'Malley, P.M. (2011). *Monitoring the future: Questionnaire responses from the Nation's High School Seniors*. Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan.

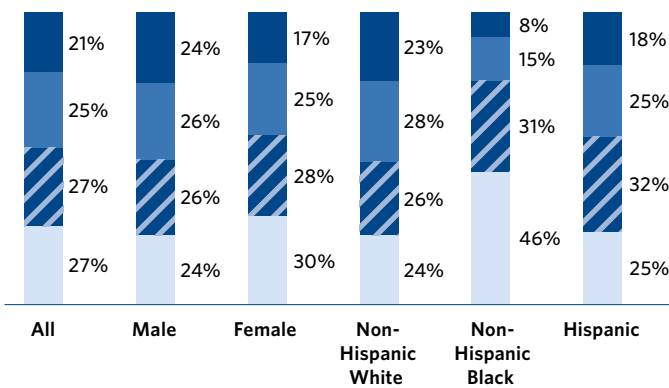
\* Statistics on Hispanic teens are not available.

## » RELIGION

Importance of religion in 12th grade students' lives, by gender and race/ethnicity, 2010<sup>42</sup>

How important is religion in your life?

Not Important
  A Little Important
  Pretty Important
  Very Important



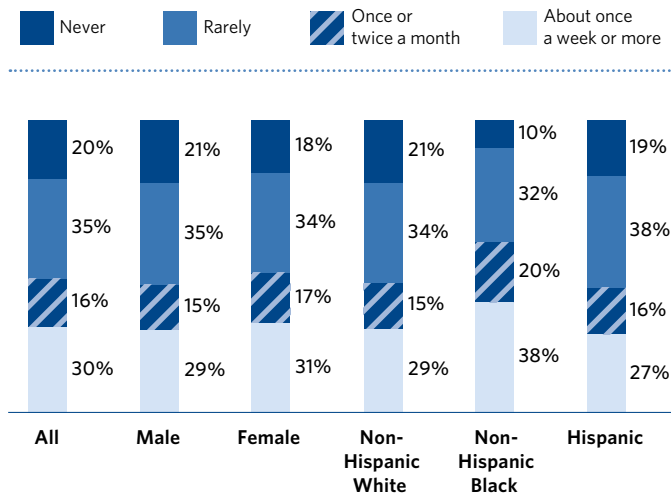
Overall, teenagers today are roughly equally divided when it comes to the importance of religion in their lives—slightly more than half of 12th grade students (54%) say that religion is very or pretty important to them; the rest describe religion as a little important to them or not at all important.

Religiosity differs by gender, as teen girls are notably more religious than boys. For example, only 17% of teen girls describe religion as not important, compared to 24% of teen boys. The importance of religion varies even more based on race/ethnicity. Three in four non-Hispanic black teens describe religion as pretty or very important, compared to slightly less than half of non-Hispanic white teens and slightly more than half of Hispanic teens (49% and 57% respectively).

<sup>42</sup> Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., O'Malley, P.M. & Schulenberg J.E. (2011). *Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of American Youth (12th-Grade Survey)*, 2010 (ICPSR30985-v1) [Data file]. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. Available from <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/series/35>

## » RELIGION

Frequency of religious service attendance among 12th grade students, 2010<sup>43</sup>



Despite the fact that more than half of teens describe themselves as highly religious, less than half of all 12th grade students regularly attend religious services (46%). Religious service attendance varies by gender and race/ethnicity—teen girls are more likely to attend than teen boys, and non-Hispanic black teens are more likely to attend than non-Hispanic white teens or Hispanic teens. However, the differences regarding religious attendance are less pronounced than the differences noted in measures of religious importance.

<sup>43</sup> Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., O'Malley, P.M. & Schulenberg J.E. (2011). *Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of American Youth (12th-Grade Survey), 2010* (ICPSR30985-v1) [Data file]. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. Available from <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/series/35>

# MEDIA:

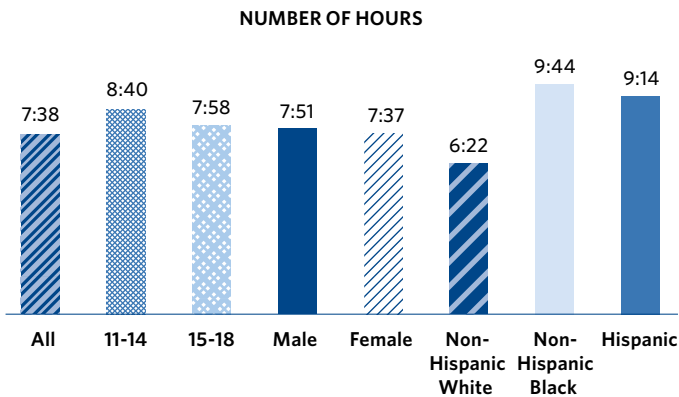
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- The amount of time teens spend using media has increased over the past decade by almost 90 minutes a day. The total amount of media teens consume each day has increased even more due to multitasking—that is, using multiple media devices at the same time.
- Most of this increase in media use occurred among non-Hispanic black teens and Hispanic teens; media use among non-Hispanic white teens has remained relatively stable over time.
- Traditional forms of media content—TV content and Music/Audio—still dominate teens’ media use, although they are using new devices to access this content. In fact, most of the growth in media use is due to accessing TV and music content through the Internet, iPods, and other devices.
- Most teens say their parents enforce at least some rules about media use—younger teens and non-Hispanic white teens are especially likely to report having rules.
- Nearly all teens have access to the Internet and more than half have access to high speed or wireless Internet.
- Not only is social networking by far the most popular activity for teens on the computer, but it also is the activity that takes up the largest portion of teens’ time on the computer.
- The majority of teens visit social networking sites daily—older teens and teen girls especially tend to spend more time on them.
- Teens activities’ on social networking sites aren’t just limited to browsing profiles—in fact, teens take advantage of a wide range of activities, from posting on friends’ walls to joining groups on social networking sites.
- Nearly all teens now own a cell phone, and smartphone use is becoming more and more common.
- The majority of teens now access the Internet on their cell phones.
- Nearly all teens have an unlimited texting plan.



## » MEDIA CONSUMPTION

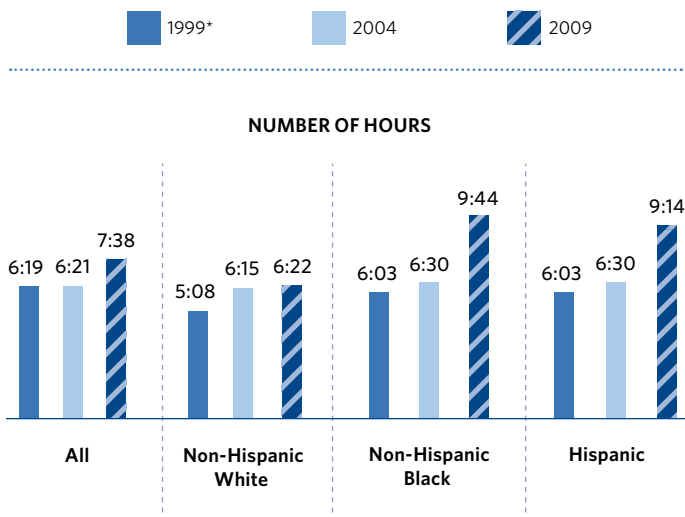
Adolescents' (age 8–18) total daily use of media, by age, gender, and race/ethnicity, 2009<sup>44</sup>



Overall, teens' use of media, defined by the number of hours they spend on media in a day, differs little by age or gender—although younger teens and teen boys spend slightly more time using media. There is very little difference in total media use between non-Hispanic black and Hispanic teens but both groups spend substantially more time on media than non-Hispanic white teens.

The difference between non-Hispanic white teens compared to their peers is a relatively recent phenomenon. Media use among Hispanic and non-Hispanic black teens increased substantially from 1999 to 2009 while the amount of time that non-Hispanic white teens spent increased minimally.

Changes in total media use among adolescents (age 8–18), by race/ethnicity, 1999–2009<sup>44,45,46</sup>



While the actual hours in the day that teens spend on media have increased substantially since 1999, the total hours of media that teens consume in a day have increased even more—from seven hours and 29 minutes to 10 hours and 45 minutes (not shown).<sup>44</sup> This increase reflects the fact that teens are increasingly likely to use more than one type of media at the same time.

<sup>44</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

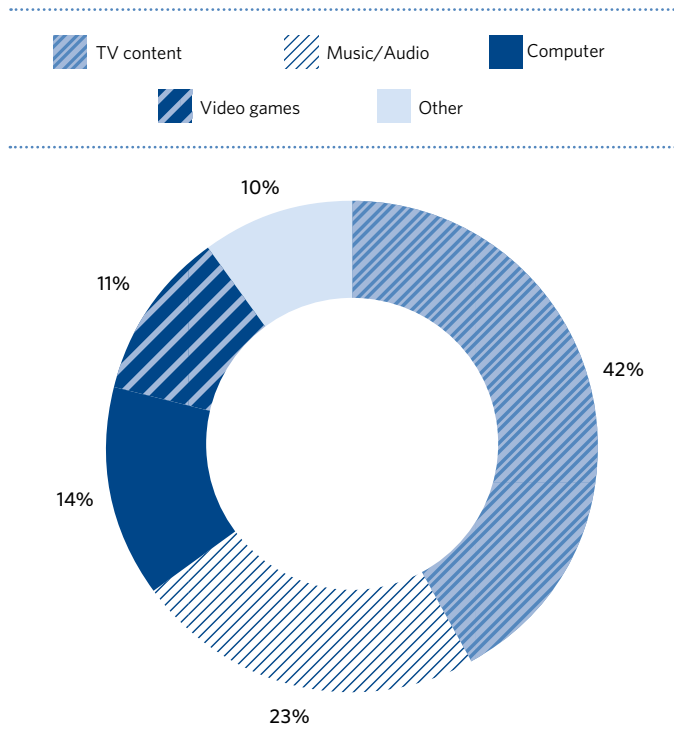
<sup>45</sup> Roberts, D.F., Foehr, U.G., Rideout, V.J., Brodie, M. (1999). *Kids and Media @ the new millennium: A Comprehensive National Analysis of Children's Media Use*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/entmedia030905pkg.cfm>.

<sup>46</sup> Roberts, D.F., Foehr, U.G., & Rideout, V. (2005). *Generation M: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/1535-index.cfm>.

\* Hispanic and non-Hispanic black teens' average total media use was combined in 1999 due to small cell size.

## » TYPE OF MEDIA USE

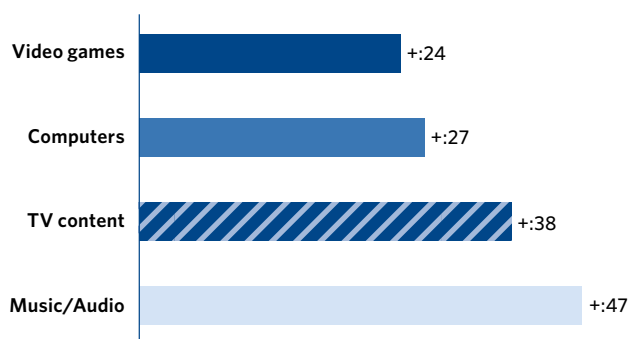
Proportion of media time spent with each type of media in a typical day among adolescents (age 8-18), 2009<sup>47</sup> \*



Despite the arrival of social networking, conventional forms of media, such as music and TV, remain the most popular forms of media with teens and the use of these types of media continues to increase. Most of the increase centers on teens accessing TV or music content on new platforms, particularly on the computer or on their cell phones

Although teens generally use the same types of media, there are slight variations across age, gender, and race/ethnicity (not shown). Older teens, Hispanic teens, and teen girls are more likely to spend more of their time with music, while younger teens and non-Hispanic white teens are more likely to spend more of their time playing video games. Non-Hispanic black teens spent a larger portion of their media time watching TV.

Changes in media use, by minutes, among adolescents (age 8-18), by type: 2004-2009<sup>47</sup>

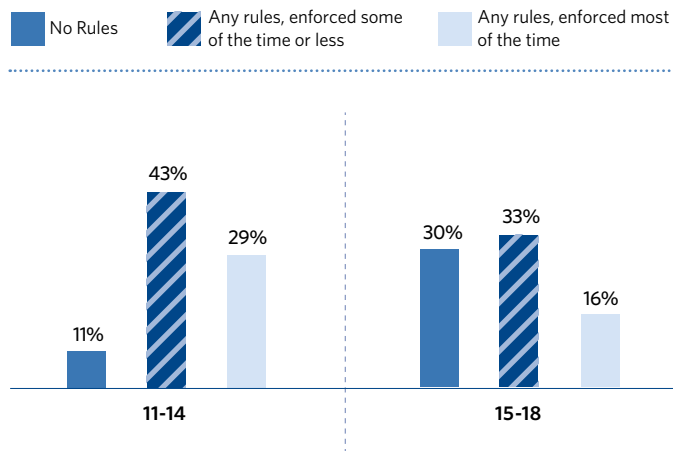


<sup>47</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

\* For this statistic, media time is measured as total media exposure.

## » MEDIA RULES

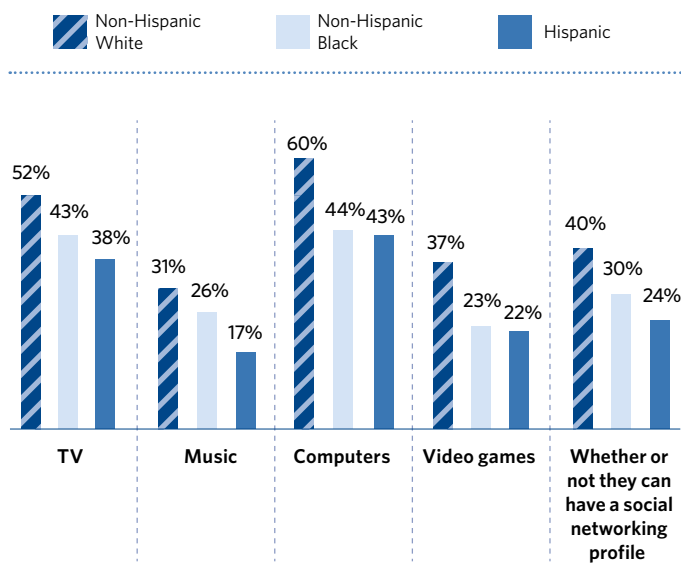
Teens (age 11-18) on enforcement of media rules, by age, 2009<sup>48</sup>



Most teens report that their parents have rules about media use. Younger teens (11-14) are more likely to have rules than older teens, and to have those rules enforced more consistently.

Many teens also report that their parents have rules about the content of the media that they use, particularly when it comes to computers. A fair number of parents also have rules about whether or not teens can have a social networking profile. Non-Hispanic white teens are the most likely to have rules about media content; Hispanic teens are the least likely.

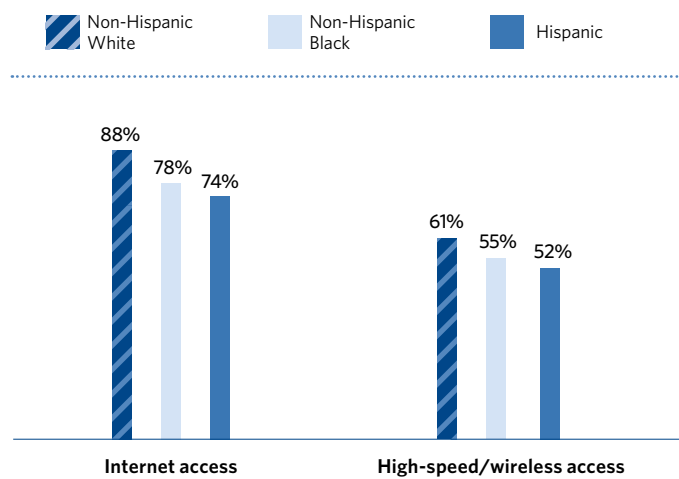
Adolescents (age 8-18) who report having rules on media content, by race/ethnicity, 2009<sup>48</sup>



<sup>48</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

## » INTERNET ACCESS

Internet access among families with adolescents (age 8-18), 2009<sup>49</sup>

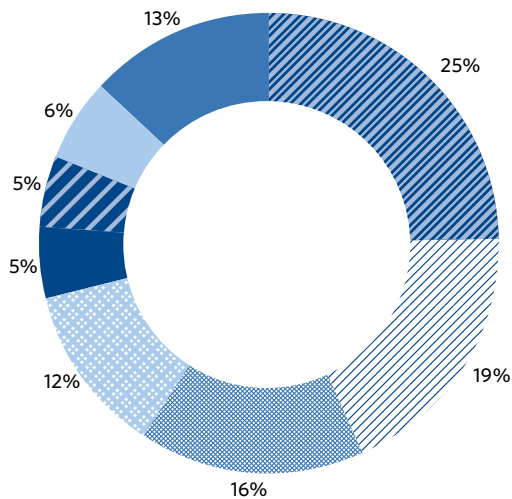
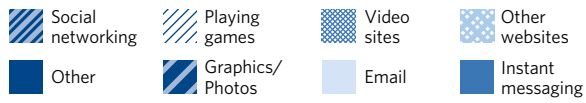


The vast majority of teens have some access to the Internet at home and even more use the Internet in locations like schools and libraries (not shown). Moreover, the majority of teens' families do have high-speed or wireless Internet access. However, a digital divide of sorts does exist regarding the *speed* and *quality* of Internet access. For example, 61% of non-Hispanic white teens have high-speed or wireless Internet access compared to just over half among Hispanic teens (52%).

<sup>49</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

## » COMPUTER/INTERNET USE

Proportion of time on the computer spent by adolescents (age 8–18) on each activity daily, 2009<sup>50</sup>



Over the past few years, social networking has emerged as the computer activity that occupies the largest share of teens' computer time, but by no means the majority of it. Additional breakouts by gender and race/ethnicity (not shown) suggest that computer usage is similar across the board with the following exception: non-Hispanic white teens and teen boys spend more of their time playing online games compared to their peers.

Most common online activities among teen Internet users (age 12–19) during the past 30 days, 2011<sup>51</sup>

Percentage who reported doing the following activities at least once a day.

1. Visited a social-networking site:	62%
2. Updated your "status" or checked a friend's "status":	43%
3. Sent an instant message:	36%
4. Listened to downloaded music:	34%
5. Sent an email:	32%
6. Listened to streaming music or audio:	30%
8. Watched streaming video:	25%
9. Played a single-player game:	21%
10. Read a tweet:	16%
11. Played a multi-player game:	15%
12. Researched for school or work:	15%

<sup>50</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

<sup>51</sup> Teenage Research Unlimited. (2011). *The TRU Study 2012: U.S. Teens and Twenty-Somethings Edition*. Available from [www.truportal.com](http://www.truportal.com).

## » COMPUTER/INTERNET USE

Most common websites visited by teen Internet users (age 12-19) during the past 30 days, 2011<sup>52</sup>

Which of the following websites, if any, have you visited in the last 30 days?  
(10 most frequent answers listed)

1. Facebook	76%
2. YouTube	70%
3. Google	58%
4. Amazon	43%
5. Yahoo!	35%
6. Apple iTunes	34%
7. Yahoo! Mail	31%
8. Gmail	28%
9. Wikipedia	27%
10. Ebay	24%

Social networking has come to dominate teens' use of the Internet—both in terms of how much time teens spend on it and the proportion of teens who have used it in the last month. Aside from social networking, teens most often use the Internet to listen to music or watch videos. Teens' use of the Internet is generally similar, regardless of race/ethnicity (not shown).

Looking for health information is not among teens' most common uses of the Internet, however many do turn to the Internet when they are seeking health information:

- One recent study reports that most teens age 15-18 (62%), especially girls (66%), say they have looked up health information online in order to learn more about an issue affecting themselves or someone they know.<sup>53</sup>
- Another study of teens age 12-17 found that 17% look for information online about a health topic that's hard to talk about, like drug use, sexual health, or depression.
- This same study found that 31% of 12- to 17-year-olds look online for health, dieting, or physical fitness information.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>52</sup> Teenage Research Unlimited. (2011). *The TRU Study 2012: The U.S. Teens and Twenty-Somethings Edition*. Available from [www.truportal.com](http://www.truportal.com)

<sup>53</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

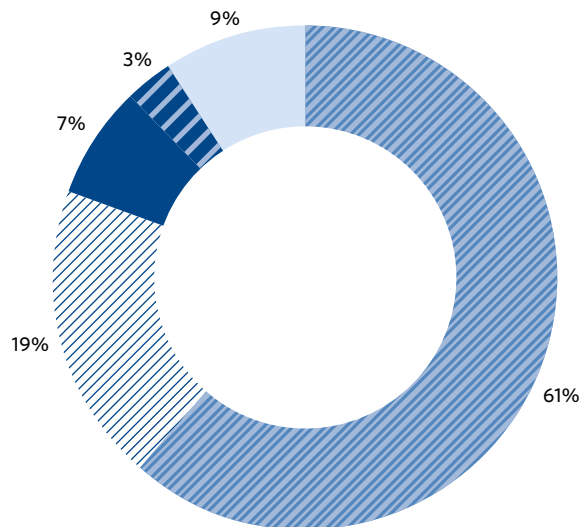
<sup>54</sup> Pew Internet and American Life Project. (2009). *Online Activities: What Teens Do Online*. Retrieved from <http://pewinternet.org/Trend-Data-for-Teens/Online-Activites-Total.aspx>. Accessed July 2011.

## » SOCIAL NETWORKING

Adolescents (age 8-18) who use social networking sites on a typical day, by demographic, 2009<sup>55</sup>

	% WHO USED SOCIAL NETWORKING THE DAY BEFORE	AVERAGE TIME AMONG THOSE WHO DID
11-14	42%	1:07
15-18	53%	:48
Boys (8-18)	40%	:47
Girls (8-18)	40%	1:01

Frequency that 12th grade students visit social networking websites like Myspace or Facebook, 2010<sup>57</sup>



In 2009, almost three-quarters of teens who use the Internet (73%) reported using an online social networking site like Facebook or Myspace.<sup>56</sup> In addition:

- Teen boys and girls are equally likely to say that they used social networking sites within the past day.
- Teen girls spend more time than teen boys on social networking sites.
- Younger teens are less likely to use social networking than older teens, but those who do generally use it for longer periods of time.

The majority of 12th grade students visit social networking websites on a daily basis. Girls generally visit social networking websites more frequently than boys. Similar proportions of non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black teens visit social networking sites daily or weekly (not shown).

<sup>55</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

<sup>56</sup> Pew Internet and American Life Project. (2009). *Online Activities: What Teens Do Online*. Retrieved from <http://pewinternet.org/Trend-Data-for-Teens/Online-Activites-Total.aspx>. Accessed July 2011.

<sup>57</sup> Bachman, J. G., Johnston, L.D. & O'Malley, P.M. (2011). *Monitoring the future: Questionnaire responses from the Nation's High School Seniors*. Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan.

## » SOCIAL NETWORKING

### Teens' (age 12–19) activities on social networking sites, 2006–2009<sup>58</sup>

We'd like to know the specific ways you communicate with your friends using social networking sites. Do you ever...?  
(Listed in order of greatest frequency)

Post comments to a friend's page or wall	86%
Add comments to a friend's picture	83%
Send private messages to a friend within the social networking site	66%
Send instant messages or text messages to a friend through the social networking site	58%
Post comments to a friend's blog	52%
Send a bulletin or group message to a group of your friends	50%
Join groups on a social networking site	37%

Given the amount of time teens spend using social networking sites, it is not surprising that young people use these sites in a variety of ways, from posting comments to sending instant messages to joining groups. While teen boys and girls use social networking sites similarly, teen girls are slightly more likely to participate in a variety of activities (not shown).

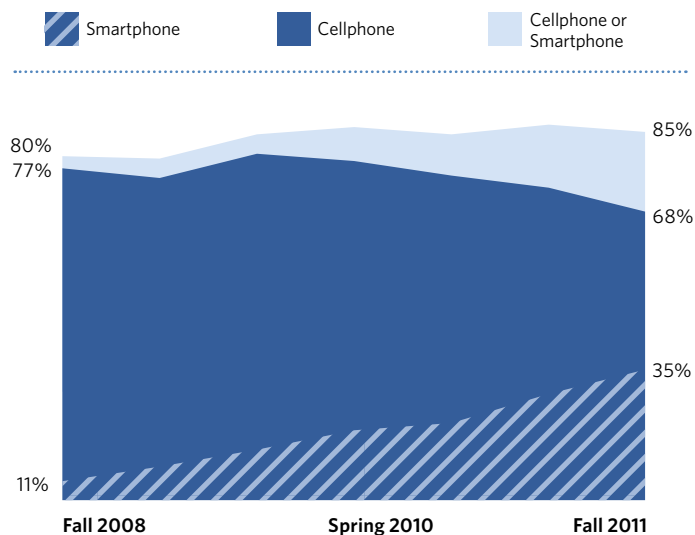
Results by race/ethnicity (not shown) indicate that more non-Hispanic white teens send private messages (73%) than non-Hispanic black (58%) or Hispanic teens (51%). They are also more likely to join groups on social networking sites (42%) than are non-Hispanic black (30%) or Hispanic teens (26%).

<sup>58</sup> National Campaign Analysis of the Teens and Mobile Phones Study (2011). Pew Internet and American Life Project. *September 2009 Teens and Mobile Phones Study, Crosstab File*. [Data File]. Retrieved from: <http://pewinternet.org/Shared-Content/Data-Sets/2009/September-2009-Teens-and-Mobile.aspx>

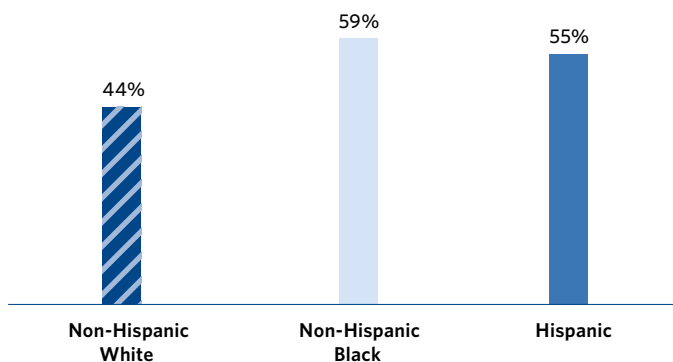


## » MOBILE PHONES

Teens (age 12-19) who own a cell phone or smartphone, by type, 2008-2011<sup>59</sup>



Teens (age 12-19) who use their mobile phones to access the Internet at least once a day, by race/ethnicity, 2011<sup>59</sup>



Nearly all teens have some type of mobile phone. While ownership of regular cell phones among teenagers is declining, smartphone use has exploded—only 11% of teens owned a smartphone in Fall 2008, but 35% did so in Fall 2011. Over this same period, net mobile phone ownership (those owning a cell phone, smartphone, or both) increased from 80% to 85%.

Results by age (not shown) indicate that older teens (age 15-19) are slightly more likely than younger teens (age 12-14) to own a cell phone (72% vs. 62%), but they are far more likely to own a smartphone (42% vs. 24%).

Mobile phone ownership is similar by race/ethnicity (not shown), yet non-Hispanic black and Hispanic teens are both far more likely to use their cell phones to go online daily compared to non-Hispanic white teens. This may be related to the fact that teens from families with lower household incomes and thus less Internet access at home are more likely to go online using a cell phone than teens with higher household incomes. As a 2009 study found, 41% of teens with household incomes under \$30,000 a year access the Internet through their mobile phones, while higher income levels reported usage only in the mid-20s (average was 24%).<sup>60</sup>

<sup>59</sup> Teenage Research Unlimited. (2011). *The TRU Study 2009-2012: Teens/Teens and Twenty-Somethings*, U.S. Edition. [mTAB Crosstab Tool Data File]. Available from [www.truportal.com](http://www.truportal.com).

<sup>60</sup> Lenhart, A., Ling, R., Campbell, S., & Purcell, K. (2010). *Teens and Mobile Phones*. Washington, DC: Pew Internet and American Life Project. Retrieved from <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2010/Teens-and-Mobile-Phones.aspx>.

## » MOBILE PHONES

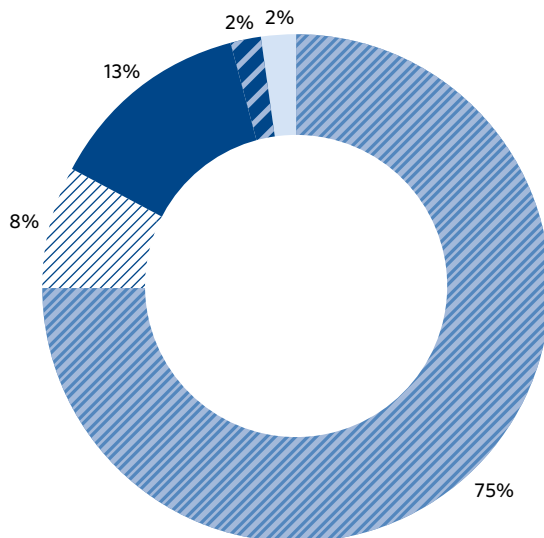
Most common mobile phone activities among teens (age 12–19) during the past 30 days, 2011<sup>61</sup>

Percentage of teens who report ever having done the following activities on their phones in the past 30 days

1. Talked to family:	98%
2. Talked to a friend:	97%
3. Sent or received text/SMS/IM messages to/from a friend:	95%
4. Sent or received text/SMS/IM messages to/from family:	94%
5. Taken photos:	93%
6. Sent photos:	83%
7. Recorded videos:	66%
8. Accessed the Internet:	65%
9. Visited a social networking site:	59%

This list above gives further evidence that teens are taking advantage of the multimedia capacities of their phones, although talking to family and friends still remain the mostly commonly reported activities, with texting close behind. Today, fully three in four teens have unlimited messaging plans on their phones, which means that texting could be an excellent method for reaching out to a large number of teens.

Teens' (age 12–17) texting plans, 2009<sup>62</sup>



<sup>61</sup> Teenage Research Unlimited. (2011). *The TRU Study 2012: The U.S. Teens and Twenty-Somethings Edition*. Available at [www.truportal.com](http://www.truportal.com).

<sup>62</sup> Lenhart, A., Ling, R., Campbell, S., & Purcell, K. (2010). *Teens and Mobile Phones*. Washington, DC: Pew Internet and American Life Project. Retrieved from <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2010/Teens-and-Mobile-Phones.aspx>.

# DATA SOURCE REVIEW

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## **CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY (CPS)**

The CPS is a cross-sectional survey primarily designed to supply estimates of employment, unemployment, and other characteristics of the general labor force, the population as a whole, and various subgroups of the population. It has been conducted monthly by the Census Bureau on behalf of the Bureau of Labor Statistics since 1942, with a number of supplements throughout the year. In addition to collecting labor force data, the CPS also collects annual data on work experience, income, and migration (the annual March income and demographic supplement), and school enrollment of the population (the October supplement). The CPS is administered monthly using a sample of 50,000 occupied households nationwide. Households are in the survey for four consecutive months, out for eight, and then return for another four months before leaving the sample permanently. Indicators in this report that use CPS data are: Family Structure.

Website: <http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/cpsmain.htm>

## **GENERATION M2: MEDIA IN THE LIVES OF 8–18 YEAR OLDS**

The data for this study, the latest in a series conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, were obtained from a survey given to a nationally representative sample of 2,002 students in grades 3–12 (aged 8–18). The sample was obtained using a stratified, two-stage national probability sample. In stage one, schools were randomly selected from a list of public, private, and parochial schools in the U.S. In stage two, grades and classes within grades were randomly selected to participate. Data from the survey were weighted to ensure a nationally representative sample of students. Results from the 2004 survey were originally reported in *Generation M: Media in The Lives of 8–18 Year Olds*, while the 1999 results were first published in *Kids in Media @ the New Millennium*. Indicators in this report that use data from the Generation M2 report are: Media Use, Type of Media Use, Media Rules, Internet Access, Computer/Internet Use, and Social Networking.

Website: <http://www.kff.org>

### **MONITORING THE FUTURE (MTF)**

MTF is a cross-sectional study conducted by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan through funding from the National Institutes of Health. Its main focus is on drug use among high school students, but it also includes measures on such topics as: education; work and leisure; sex roles and family; population concerns; religion; politics; social change; social problems; military; interpersonal relationships; race relations; concern for others; happiness; deviant behavior; and health. In addition to the yearly high school senior sample, studies of nationally representative samples of 8th and 10th graders have also been conducted annually since 1991. Approximately 50,000 students in about 420 public and private secondary schools are surveyed annually. Indicators in this report that use MTF data are: School Engagement, College Expectations, Volunteer Work, Religion, and Social Networking.

Website: <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>

### **NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH (NSFG)**

The NSFG is a cross-sectional study that has been administered by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics in several cycles, beginning in 1973. The first five cycles were based on personal interviews of a national sample of women between the age of 15 and 44 in the civilian, non-institutionalized United States. The main purpose was to provide reliable national data on marriage, divorce, contraception, infertility, and the health of women and infants. After Cycle 6 was completed in 2002, the NSFG switched from doing one year of interviews at a time to doing continuous interview over a four year period—from 2006 to 2010. These interviews were conducted over 48 weeks of each year, from June 2006 to June 2010. 22,682 interviews were conducted among men and women age 15–44—over 10,000 interviews with men and over 12,000 interviews with women. Indicators in this report that use NSFG data are: Parental Communication, Relative Age of Partner, Sex Education, Dating Relationship, Family Structure, Sexual Activity, and Contraceptive Use.

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>

## DATA SOURCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

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### **NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM (NVSS)**

The National Vital Statistics System provides data collected from registration of vital events—births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and fetal deaths. The birth data used in this report was collected by the CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics with cooperation from each state, which provides access to statistical information collected from birth certificates. Indicators in this report that use data from National Vital Statistics Reports are: Teen Births.

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss.htm>

### **PEW INTERNET & AMERICAN LIFE PROJECT**

The Pew Internet & American Life Project produces reports that explore the impact of the Internet on families, communities, work and home, daily life, education, health care, and civic and political life. The basis of the report is nationwide random digit dial telephone surveys as well as online surveys. This data collection is supplemented with research from government agencies, academia, and other experts; observations of what people do and how they behave when they are online; in-depth interviews with Internet users and Internet experts alike; and other efforts that try to examine individual and group behavior. Indicators in this report that use data from the Pew Internet & American Life Project are: Computer and Internet Use, Social Networking, and Cell Phones.

Website: <http://www.pewinternet.org>

### **SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE 2010**

This annual report published by the CDC presents statistics on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States in 2010. This report gathers information from reported cases from state and local STD control programs, from projects that monitor STD prevalence among certain populations (Infertility Prevention Projects, the National Job Training Program, the STD Surveillance Network, and the Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project), as well as other national surveys. Rates used in this report only reflect reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea, not total prevalence. Indicators in this report that use data from the Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2010 are: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats10/default.htm>

## **TRENDS IN HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT AND COMPLETION RATES IN THE UNITED STATES: 1972–2009**

This report, published as part of a series by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), provides data on high school dropout and completion rates since 1972. This report provides four measures of high school completion: the event dropout rate, the status dropout rate, the status completion rate, and the averaged freshman graduation rate. The only measure used in this report was the status dropout rate. Data were obtained from the annual October Current Population Survey (CPS), the Common Core of Data (CCD), as well as the General Education Development Testing Service (GEDTS). Indicators in this report that use data from Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 1972–2009 are: High School Completion.

Website: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/dropout08/>

## **THE TRU STUDY**

This report, published by Teenage Research Unlimited, is released in an annual report every fall and a strategic update every spring. Content covered in this survey includes topics such as teens' lifestyles, attitudes, values, trends, media use, products, and brands. 4,000 teens and 4,000 twentysomethings are interviewed each year. The survey is fielded online, and the sample is nationally representative across age, gender, ethnicity, and religion. Indicators in this report that use data from Teenage Research Unlimited are: Parental Communication, Dating Relationships, Computer/Internet Use, and Mobile Phones.

Website: <http://www.truportal.com/>

## **THE UCAN TEEN REPORT CARD**

The UCAN Teen Report Card measures adults' progress on a variety of issues affecting teenagers annually, based on grades provided by teenagers themselves. 900 teens (age 12–19) were surveyed via email, and results were weighted to reflect a nationally representative sample. The survey was conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU) using a stratified sampling design, and results are reported with a 3% margin of error. The latest survey was conducted in January and February of 2008. Indicators in this report that use UCAN data are: Parental Communication.

Website: [http://www.ucanchicago.org/site/epage/83928\\_682.htm](http://www.ucanchicago.org/site/epage/83928_682.htm)

## DATA SOURCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

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### **U.S. TEENAGE PREGNANCIES, BIRTHS, AND ABORTIONS, 2008: NATIONAL TRENDS BY AGE, RACE AND ETHNICITY**

This report, published by the Guttmacher Institute, provides estimates of the total number and rates of teen pregnancy through 2008. The total number of pregnancies was calculated as the sum of births, abortions, and miscarriages. Abortion rates were calculated using results from the Guttmacher Abortion Provider Census, as well as data obtained from state health departments. Indicators in this report that use data from U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions are: Teen Pregnancy.

Website: <http://www.guttmacher.org>

### **WITH ONE VOICE 2010: AMERICA'S ADULTS AND TEENS SOUND OFF ABOUT TEEN PREGNANCY**

Data from With One Voice were taken from two national surveys, one of young people age 12–19 and the other of adults aged 20 and over. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy conducted the survey with assistance from Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS). The survey was published by The National Campaign. The teen and adult surveys were weighted to provide a nationally representative estimate of these two groups. Field work for these surveys took place in August and September 2010. Interviews were conducted with 1,008 young people and 1,011 adults. Indicators in this report that use With One Voice 2010 are: Information About Abstinence and Contraception, Family & Peer Influence, Parental Communication, Dating Relationships.

Website: <http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org>

### **YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (YRBSS)**

The YRBSS is a cross-sectional study conducted by the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The study gathers information mainly on the negative indicators of health and risky health-related behavior among youth. Topics include tobacco use; healthy and unhealthy dietary behavior; physical activity; alcohol and drug use; sexual behavior; and violent behavior. The YRBSS includes a national survey as well as surveys conducted by state and local education and health agencies. The national surveys have been conducted every two years since 1991, and are nationally representative of students in grades 9 through 12 in public and private high schools. Indicators in this report that use YRBSS data are: Risky Sexual Behavior, Dating Relationships.

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/index.htm>

# OUR MISSION

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The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy seeks to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families and, in particular, to help ensure that children are born into stable, two-parent families who are committed to and ready for the demanding task of raising the next generation. Our specific strategy is to prevent teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy among single, young adults. We support a combination of responsible values and behavior by both men and women and responsible policies in both the public and private sectors.

If we are successful, child and family well-being will improve. There will be less poverty, more opportunities for young men and women to complete their education or achieve other life goals, fewer abortions, and a stronger nation.





**The National Campaign**

to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

[www.TheNationalCampaign.org](http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org)

[www.StayTeen.org](http://www.StayTeen.org)

[www.Bedsider.org](http://www.Bedsider.org)

# OVERVIEW:

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When it comes to making decisions about sex, teens today are doing far better than they were 20 years ago. Fewer teens are having sex, and among those who are, more teens are using contraception. The happy result is that teen pregnancy and birth rates have declined dramatically. Despite this extraordinary progress, teen pregnancy and childbearing in the United States remains higher than in all other western industrialized countries, and approximately three in 10 girls in the United States get pregnant by age 20.<sup>1,2</sup> Clearly, there is still much progress to be made.

Of course teens' decisions about sex and contraception are influenced by many factors, including their relationships, their future opportunities, and the quality, quantity, and sources of their information. Accordingly, this book of charts and statistics includes not only trends on key measures such as sexual activity, contraceptive use, and pregnancy, but also other indicators ranging from teens' relationships with parents and peers, to community involvement, educational achievement and aspirations, and media consumption. While no single volume can provide a truly comprehensive portrait of teens, this compilation of indicators presents recent trends in teen childbearing and teen pregnancy in a broader context.

*Freeze Frame* is an update to our original volume published in 2005. The update is timely given not only the extent to which teen pregnancy and childbearing continues to decline, but also given the sea change in teens' lives, particularly their interaction with media. From mobile phones to social networking with friends, these advances in technology and the way we all communicate have transformed how teens communicate with each other. Of course, these changes also provide a new and promising way to reach teens as well. *Freeze Frame* is grouped into five main categories—sex and related measures, peer and family relationships, school, community, and media.

## **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH:**

- Teens today are less likely to be sexually active than they were in the early 1990s, especially non-Hispanic black teens and Hispanic teens.
- Over the same time period, teens have become more likely to use contraception—particularly condoms.
- Fewer teens report various types of risky sexual behavior, including using drugs or alcohol before sex, having had multiple partners, or having sex for the first time at a particularly young age.

<sup>1</sup> The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2010). *Teen birth rates: How does the United States compare?* Washington, DC: Author.

<sup>2</sup> The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2011). *How is the 3 in 10 statistic calculated?* Washington, DC: Author.

**PEER AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS:**

- Although teens today have become more accepting of non-marital childbearing than previous generations, the family structure in which teens themselves are growing up has changed little in recent years.
- Teens still say that their parents are the most important influence when it comes to their decisions about sex. Even so, many teens wish they could discuss these issues more with their parents.
- Most teens say they are *not* currently in a relationship, though not surprisingly the percentage who are in a relationship is higher for older teens than younger teens. Relationships among younger teens are more likely to be casual than serious.
- The majority of teens who have had sex say they regret not waiting longer.

**SCHOOL:**

- Teens today have more ambitious goals than ever before—most report that they are highly engaged in school, and the drop-out rate is gradually declining.
- Most teens are motivated to succeed, evidenced by the aspirations that most teens have to complete a two-year or four-year college program.

**COMMUNITY:**

- Teens are very involved in their communities—most report volunteering at least occasionally.
- Religion is important to a majority of teens—particularly teen girls and non-Hispanic black teens—although less than half of all teens regularly attend religious services.

**MEDIA:**

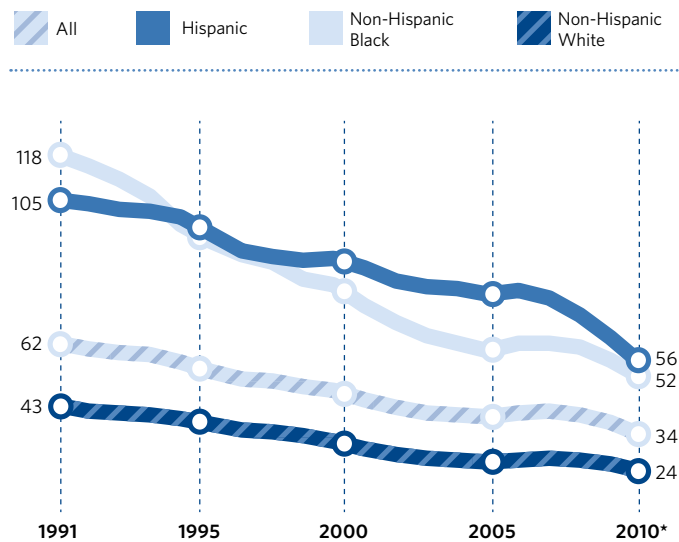
- Teens have increased the amount of media they consume since the late 1990s, largely by using new technology (such as smartphones) to access traditional TV and music content.
- Over the past decade, media use has increased for teens of all races and ethnicities, but it is particularly pronounced among non-Hispanic black teens and Hispanic teens. Non-Hispanic white teens' media use has largely remained the same.
- Social networking has become the most popular activity for teens on the computer—most visit daily. Spending time on social networks is also the one activity that takes up the largest share of teens' computer time.
- The vast majority of teens have cell phones, and are starting to transition to smartphones—the majority of teens are now taking advantage of the multimedia functions of cell phones as well.

On the whole, teens' sexual behavior has measurably improved. More teens are postponing sexual activity and using contraception when they do have sex, thereby decreasing pregnancy and birth rates—yet there are still many causes for concern. Too many teens feel that they can't discuss sex and related issues with their parents and too many teens have risky relationships with older partners, especially younger teens. A majority of teens say that they are involved in their schools, communities, and religion, but a sizeable proportion aren't engaged in their communities, leaving too many at risk. Above all, teens are spending more and more time with media, and are using social networking to interact in different ways, while some parents remain unaware and impose few rules.

Some survey totals do not equal 100% due to rounding or respondents answering "don't know/refused."

## » TEEN BIRTHS

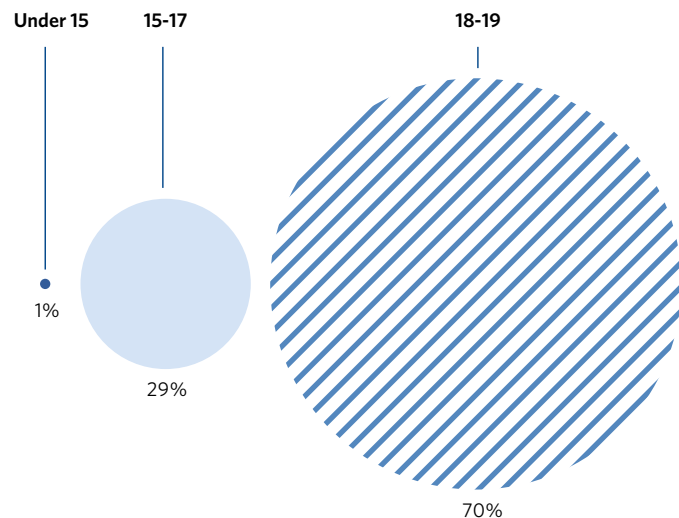
Births per 1,000 girls (age 15–19), 1991–2010<sup>3,4</sup>



The overall teen birth rate plummeted 44% between 1991 and 2010, from 62 to 34 births per 1,000 girls age 15 to 19. The steady decline over this period was interrupted only briefly, between 2005 and 2007, when the teen birth rate increased by 5%. Since 2007, rates have continued and even accelerated their decline, falling a total of 17% through 2010 (based on preliminary data), with a 9% decline in 2010 alone—the largest measured in a single year since 1946–47.<sup>4</sup>

The declines were particularly impressive among some racial/ethnic groups—the teen birth rate among non-Hispanic black teens dropped by 56% over this period, compared to 46% among non-Hispanic white teens and 47% among Hispanic teens.

Births among teen girls, by age, 2010<sup>4</sup>



Even though teen childbearing often brings to mind images of 15- and 16-year-olds, it's important to note that the majority of teen births are to older teens—age 18 to 19. In 2010, seven in 10 births to women younger than 20 were to those age 18–19. By comparison, just 29% of teen births are to those age 15–17. Childbearing among 15–17 year-olds declined by 55% from 1991 to 2010, while births to 18–19 year-olds declined by 38% (not shown).<sup>4</sup>

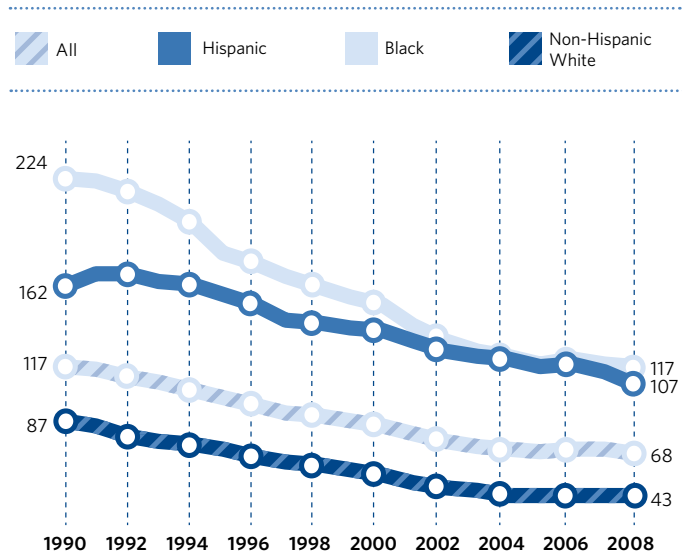
<sup>3</sup> Martin, J.A., Hamilton, B.E., Ventura, S.J., Osterman, M.J.K., Kirmeyer, S., Matthews, T.J., et al. (2011). Births: Final data for 2009. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 60(1). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60\\_01.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60_01.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Hamilton, B.E., Martin, J.A., & Ventura S.J. (2011). Births: Preliminary data for 2010. *National Vital Statistics Reports Web Release*, 60(2). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60\\_02.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60_02.pdf).

\* Birth data from 2010 are preliminary.

## » TEEN PREGNANCY

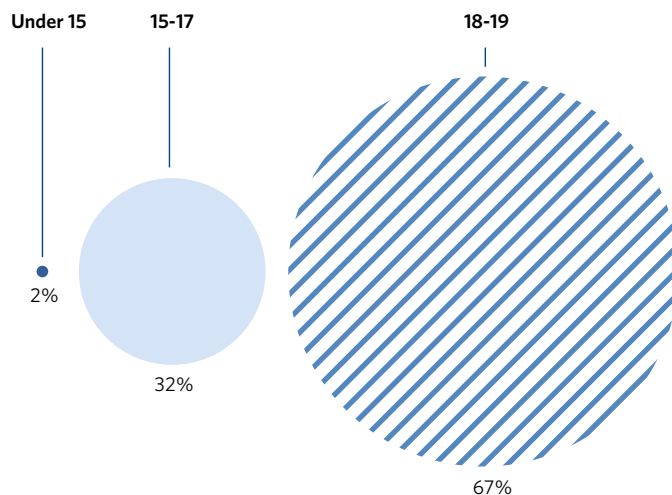
Pregnancies per 1,000 girls (age 15-19), 1990-2008<sup>5,6</sup>



Declines in the teen birth rate are *not* the result of fewer pregnant teens giving birth, but rather fewer teens getting pregnant to begin with. The teen *pregnancy* rate (which includes not only births but also abortions and miscarriages), has also decreased significantly over the past two decades, falling by 42% between 1990 and 2008. The pregnancy rate fell by 50% among non-Hispanic white teens, 48% among black teens, and 34% among Hispanic teens.

Similar to the composition of teen births, the majority of teen pregnancies occur to older teens. Two-thirds occur to teens age 18 to 19 and nearly one-third occur to teens age 15 to 17.

Pregnancies among teen girls, by age, 2008<sup>5</sup>

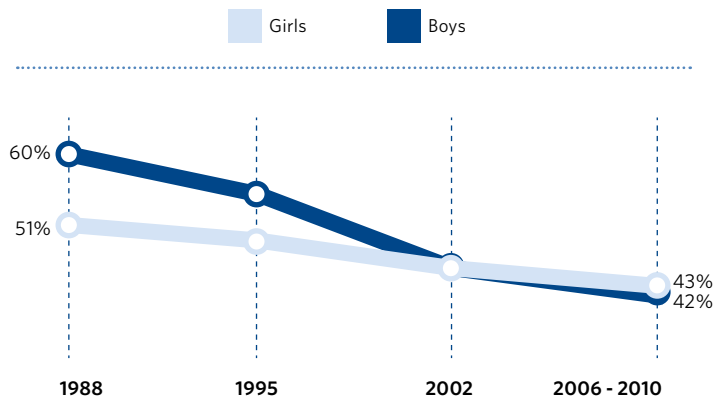


<sup>5</sup>Kost, K., & Henshaw, S. (2012). U.S. teenage pregnancies, births and abortions, 2008: National trends by age, race and ethnicity. New York: The Guttmacher Institute. Retrieved from <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends08.pdf>

<sup>6</sup>Note that pregnancy data from the Guttmacher Institute refer to black teen girls and pregnancy and birth data from the National Center for Health Statistics refer to non-Hispanic black teen girls. In general there is little difference in the rate between non-Hispanic black and black teen girls. For example, in 2008 the birth rate among black teen girls was 60.1 per 1,000 and the birth rate among non-Hispanic black teen girls was 60.4 per 1,000. For more information about the data sources, refer to the Data Source Review.

## » SEXUAL ACTIVITY

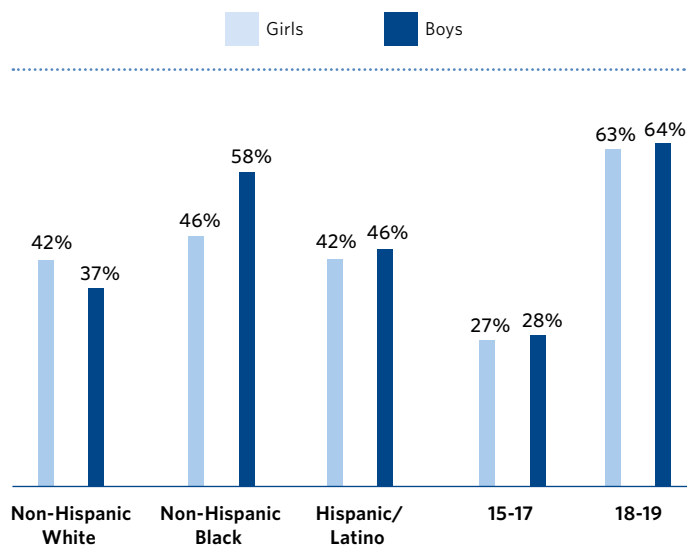
Never married teens (age 15-19) who have ever had sexual intercourse, 1988-2010<sup>7</sup>



As might be expected, during this same 20 year period there has also been a substantial decline in the percentage of teens who have ever had sex—especially among younger teens. Traditionally, teen boys had generally been more likely to report having had sex than teen girls. Declines in sexual activity have been more pronounced among teen boys than girls so that by 2009, boys and girls were equally likely to report having had sex (42% for boys, 43% for girls).

While rates of sexual activity among teens do vary somewhat by race/ethnicity, these levels vary more among teen boys than among teen girls. Not surprisingly, the percentage of teens who have ever had sex is higher among older teens, and this varies little by gender.

By race/ethnicity and age, 2006-2010<sup>7,8</sup>

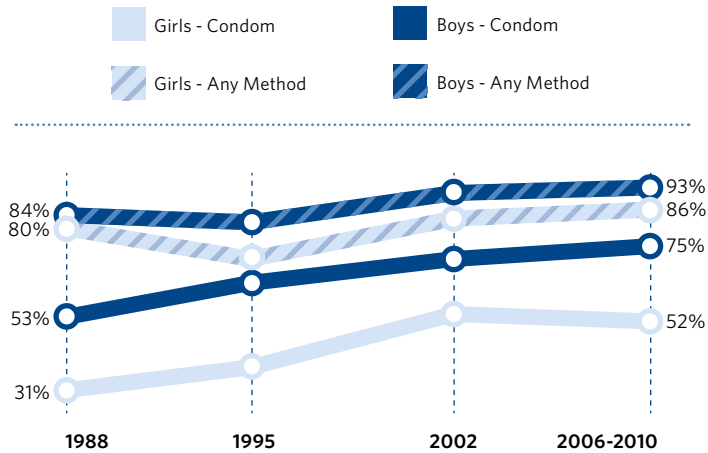


<sup>7</sup>Martinez G., Copen C.E., & Abma J.C. (2011). Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006-2010 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 23(31). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

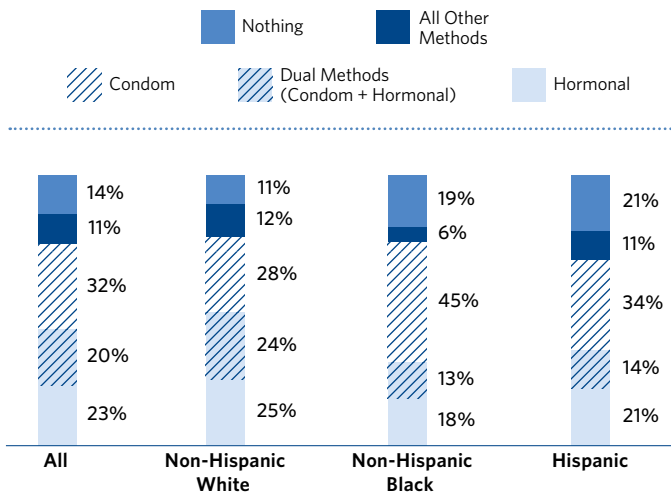
<sup>8</sup> Findings are based on the 2006-2010 panel of the National Survey of Family Growth and thus approximate an average over the 2006 to 2010 period.

## » CONTRACEPTIVE USE

Never married teens (age 15–19) who used a condom or any method of contraception during last sex in the prior three months, 1988–2010<sup>9</sup>



Contraceptive use among never married teen girls (age 15–19) during last sex in the prior three months, by race/ethnicity and method used, 2006–2010<sup>9,10</sup>



The vast majority of sexually active teens use some method of contraception. Fully 93% of boys and 86% of girls reported using some type of contraception the last time they had sex. Condom use in particular has been improving over the past 20 years. This improvement has been especially impressive among teen girls—roughly half (52%) reported using a condom at last sex between 2006 and 2010, while less than one-third did in 1988 (31%). Rates of condom use also increased among teen boys. More than half (53%) of teen boys reported using a condom the last time they had sex in 1988, while three in four (75%) did between 2006 and 2010.<sup>9</sup>

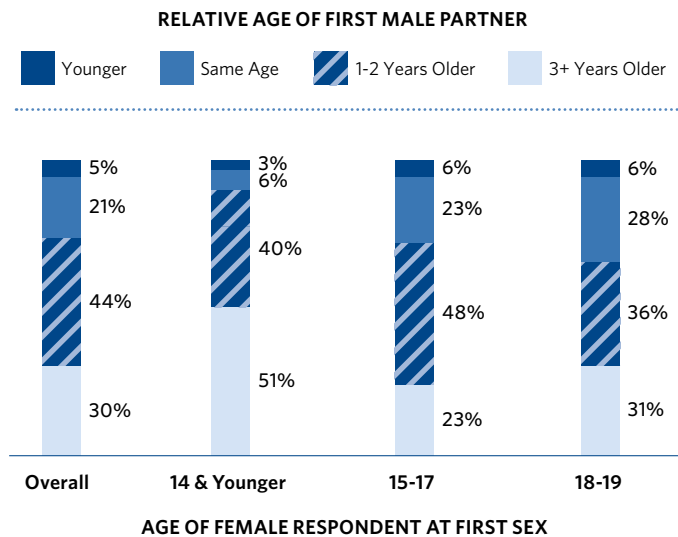
While condoms are the most popular form of contraception among teen girls, nearly half of teen girls are using a hormonal method (43%), either alone or in addition to a condom. Among all users of hormonal methods (including dual method users), some are pill users and some are users of other hormonal methods like the patch, the ring, and the shot (not shown). Among non-Hispanic white teens, the majority (80%) of hormonal method users rely on the pill, while the rest (20%) rely on all other hormonal methods (not shown). This is in contrast to non-Hispanic black and Hispanic teens, who are evenly split between the pill and other hormonal methods

<sup>9</sup> Martinez G., Copen C.E., & Abma J.C. (2011). Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 23(31). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

<sup>10</sup> “Hormonal” methods include the birth control pill, injectables, implants, emergency contraception, the contraceptive patch, and the contraceptive ring. “All other methods” include withdrawal, sterilization, IUD, female condom, diaphragm, cervical cap, calendar rhythm method, and others, but does not include those who used one of these methods along with a condom or a hormonal method.

## » RELATIVE AGE OF PARTNER

Age difference between teen girls and their first male partner, by girls' age at first sex, 2006–2010<sup>11,12</sup>



Many are concerned about age differences between teens and their partners, given that teen girls who have older partners (three or more years older) are much more likely to have sex without using contraception and to report that sex was unwanted.<sup>13</sup> Fortunately, most young women who first had sex as a teenager were relatively close in age to their first male partner, although three in 10 had a first male partner who was three or more years older. Generally, teen girls are the same age or slightly younger than their first male partners.

However, teen girls who were particularly young when they first had sex—14 or younger—almost always had an older male partner. Fully 51% of teen girls who were 14 or younger when they first had sex had a male partner who was three or more years older.

<sup>11</sup> *Unpublished National Campaign Analysis of the National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2010* [Data File]. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>.

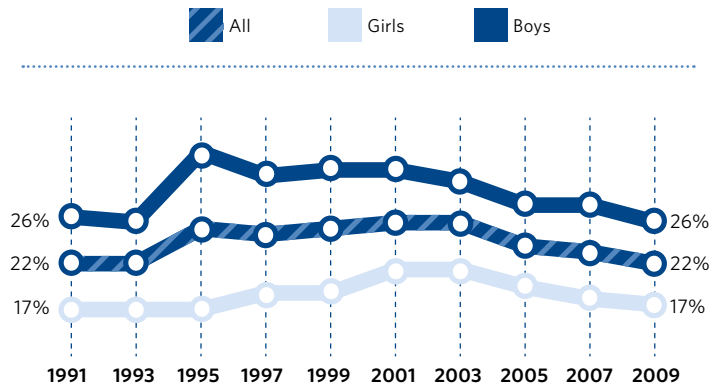
<sup>12</sup> Respondents were between 18 and 24 years old at time of the survey. Results were limited to those who reported having first sex at age 19 or younger.

<sup>13</sup> Martinez G., Copen C.E., & Abma J.C. (2011). Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 23(31). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.



## » RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

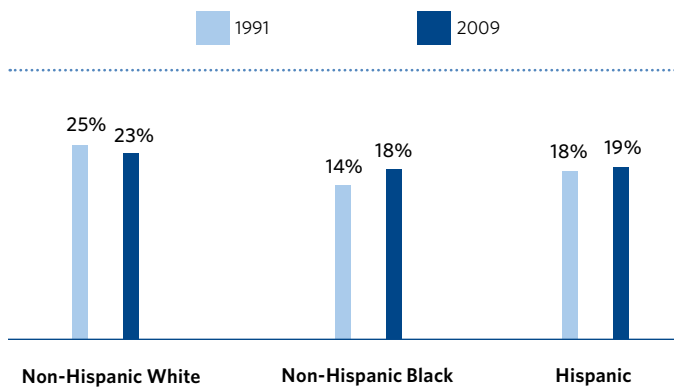
Currently sexually active high school students who drank alcohol or used drugs before last sex, 1991–2009<sup>14</sup>



Trends in the use of alcohol or drugs before sex, another risk factor for unprotected sex, show early increases followed by gradual declines for both girls and boys. While rates went up initially (in the mid-1990s for boys and through the early 2000s for girls), by 2009 the percentage of students who used drugs or alcohol before sex dropped to 1991 levels (26% for boys, 17% for girls, and 22% overall).

Trends by race/ethnicity, however, are more mixed, with the percentage using drugs or alcohol falling slightly over the period for non-Hispanic white teens and rising for non-Hispanic black teens—thus we see racial/ethnic differences narrowing over time. Even so, in 2009, fully 23% of non-Hispanic white teens reported using alcohol or drugs before the last time they had sex, while fewer than one in five non-Hispanic black or Hispanic teens did. The proportion using drugs or alcohol before sex is fairly similar for both young and older sexually active teens (not shown).

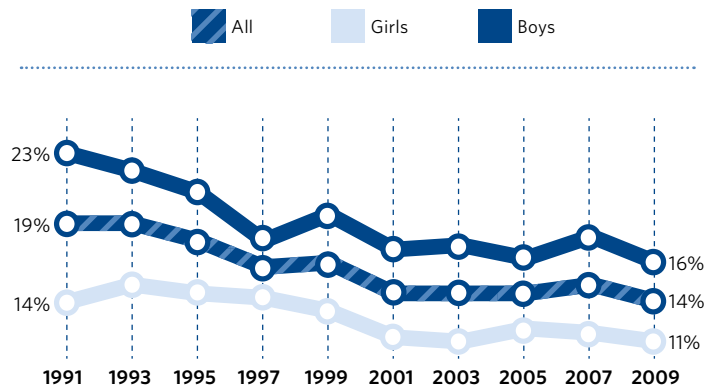
By race/ethnicity<sup>14</sup>



<sup>14</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991–2009 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available from <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline>. Accessed July 2011.

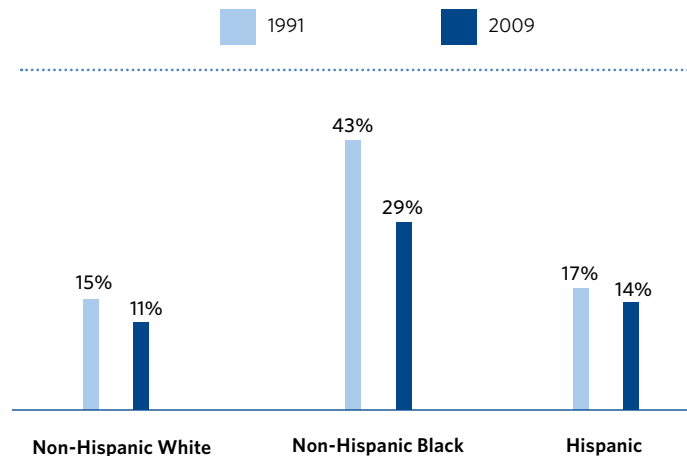
## » RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

High school students who have had sex with four or more partners in their life, 1991–2009<sup>15</sup>



The proportion of teens who have had more than four sexual partners in their lives has decreased fairly steadily since 1991, reaching a new low of 14% in 2009. Teen boys (16%) are more likely than teen girls (11%) to have had several partners. While the proportion of teens who have had four or more sexual partners declined across both genders and all race/ethnicities, this decline was particularly evident among teen boys and non-Hispanic black teens. Not surprisingly, as teens age, they are more likely to have had four or more sexual partners (not shown).

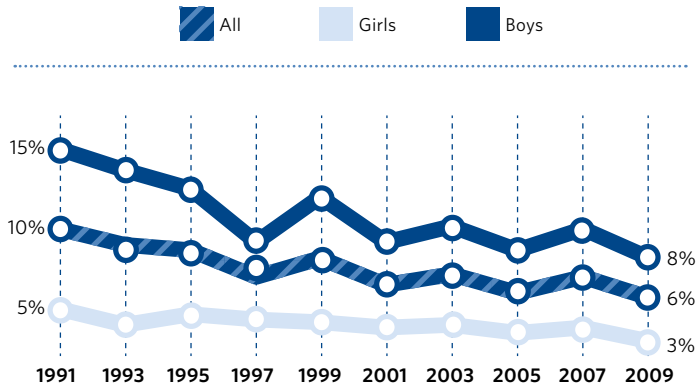
By race/ethnicity<sup>15</sup>



<sup>15</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991–2009 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available from <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline>. Accessed July 2011.

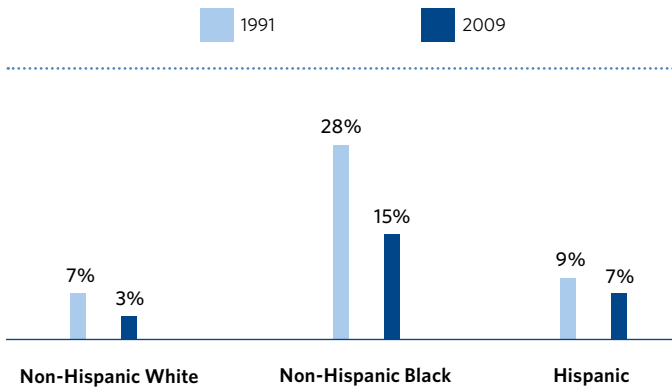
## » RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

High school students who first had sexual intercourse before age 13, by gender, 1991-2009<sup>16</sup>



As the incidence of risky sexual behavior has fallen, differences by race/ethnicity, age, and gender have narrowed somewhat but remain pronounced. Teen boys (8%) are nearly three times as likely to have had sex before age 13 than teen girls (3%). Fully 15% of non-Hispanic black teens report having sex before age 13, compared to 7% of Hispanic teens and 3% of non-Hispanic white teens. These differences have narrowed over time, as the most impressive declines occurred among teen boys and non-Hispanic black teens.

By race/ethnicity<sup>16</sup>



<sup>16</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991-2009 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline>. Accessed July 2011.

## » SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs)

Chlamydia and gonorrhea rate per 100,000 people among teen girls (10–19), by age and race/ethnicity, 2010<sup>17</sup>

CHLAMYDIA				
Age	Total	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic
10-14	132	31	353	71
15-19	3,378	1,172	7,719	2,226

GONORRHEA				
Age	Total	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic
10-14	26	4	93	8
15-19	571	119	2,032	192

Among teen girls, rates of sexually transmitted infections vary substantially by race/ethnicity. The rate of reported chlamydia cases among non-Hispanic black teen girls (age 15–19) is more than six times higher than the rate among non-Hispanic white teen girls. Rates among Hispanic teen girls of the same age group were almost twice as high as among non-Hispanic white teen girls. Even though reported cases of gonorrhea infection are less prevalent than chlamydia, disparities by race/ethnicity remain.<sup>17</sup> The rates presented here are based on reported cases among individuals who get tested, and the total incidence in the population may be higher. Differences by subgroup in these rates may reflect, to some extent, variable rates of testing among subgroups.

It is also the case that changes in the rates of STIs over time are influenced by increased screening efforts, the adoption of more sensitive laboratory tests, and more complete nationwide reporting.<sup>17</sup> Also, comparing rates of chlamydia infection between teen boys and girls is inherently difficult, as teen boys are less likely to be tested due to screening recommendations.<sup>17,18</sup> Therefore, rates by gender and over time are not reported here. However, one recent study estimated that the *total prevalence* of chlamydia in the population was 6.8% among sexually active teen girls age 14 to 19 (4.4% among non-Hispanic whites and 16.2% among non-Hispanic blacks) between 1999 and 2008.<sup>19</sup>

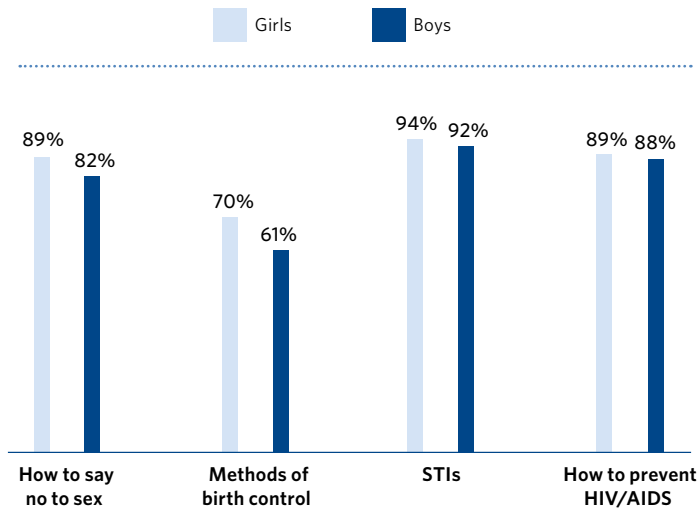
<sup>17</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2011). *Sexually transmitted disease surveillance, 2010*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<sup>18</sup>The CDC recommends that all sexually active women less than 26 years old receive an annual chlamydia screening.

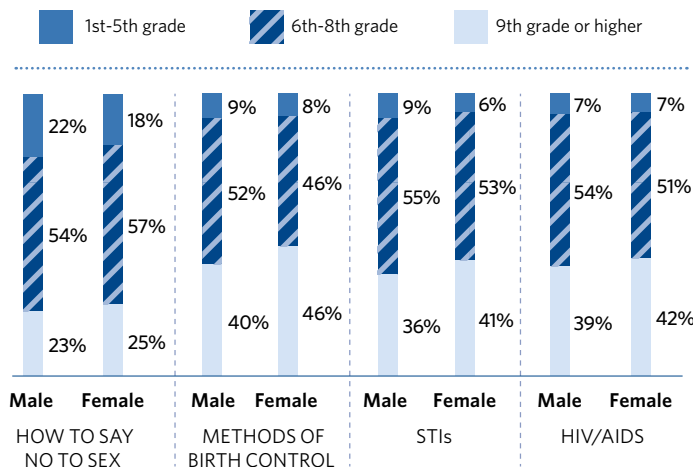
<sup>19</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2011). CDC Grand Rounds: Chlamydia prevention: Challenges and strategies for reducing disease burden and sequelae. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, 60(12), 370–373.

## » SEX EDUCATION

Teens (age 15-19) who have received formal sex education, by subject and gender, 2006-2010<sup>20</sup>



Grade when teens (age 15-19) first received formal sex education, by subject and gender, 2006-2010<sup>20</sup>



The majority of today's teens say they have received some formal sex education. Almost all teenagers learn about sexually transmitted infections, and the vast majority of teens say they have been taught about how to say no to sex, as well as how to prevent HIV/AIDS. Fully three in 10 girls and four in 10 boys say they have *not* been given formal education about birth control methods. Earlier studies suggest that teens' formal sex education has remained relatively unchanged since 2002. However, roughly twice as many teens today say they have received formal sex education on the topics noted above as compared to 1995 (not shown).<sup>21</sup>

Teen girls are slightly more likely than boys to report receiving sex education on most topics. The most notable differences between girls and boys center on instruction on how to say no to sex and methods of birth control. Differences by race/ethnicity (not shown) are similarly small across most topics.

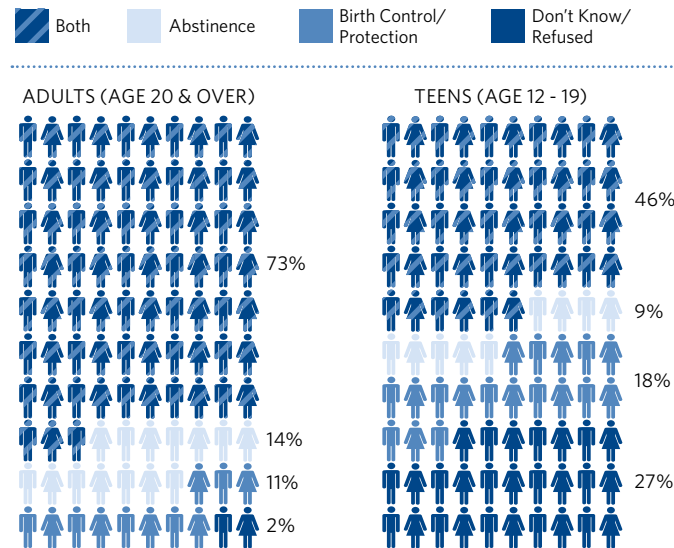
<sup>20</sup> Unpublished National Campaign Analysis of the National Survey of Family Growth, 2006-2010 [Data File], Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>

<sup>21</sup> Lindberg, L.D., Santelli, J.S., & Singh, S. (2006). Changes in Formal Sex Education: 1995-2002. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 38(4), 182-189.

## » INFORMATION ABOUT ABSTINENCE AND CONTRACEPTION

Teens' and adults' opinions on whether teens are getting enough information about abstinence and contraception, 2010<sup>22</sup>

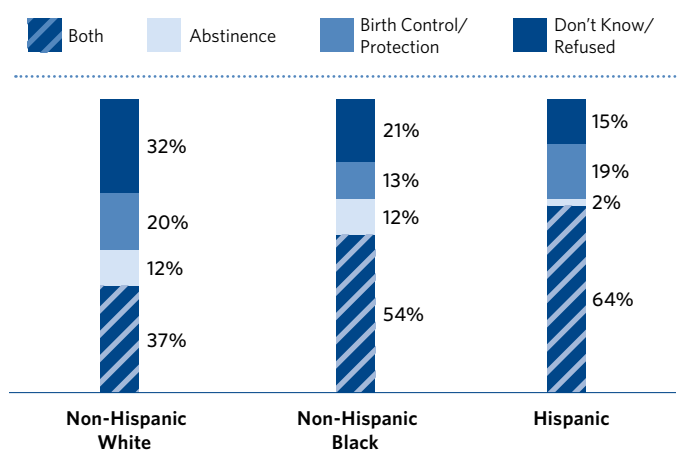
Do you wish you/teens were getting more information about abstinence, more information about birth control or protection, or more information about both?



More than seven in 10 adults and nearly half of teens agree that teens need more information about both contraception and abstinence, rather than either/or. Teens, however, are more likely than adults to favor more information about contraception alone and less likely to favor additional information about abstinence alone. Since the last time this survey was conducted in 2007 (not shown), the proportion of teens who responded that they favored more information about contraception alone doubled (9% to 18%), while results for adults remained mostly the same.<sup>22,23</sup>

As a general matter, teens say they want more information about abstinence and contraception. However, teens' opinions varied substantially based on race/ethnicity. Nearly two-thirds of Hispanic teens wanted more information about both contraception and abstinence (64%), while roughly half of non-Hispanic black teens (54%) and only 37% of non-Hispanic white teens did.

Teens (age 12-19), by race/ethnicity, 2010<sup>22</sup>



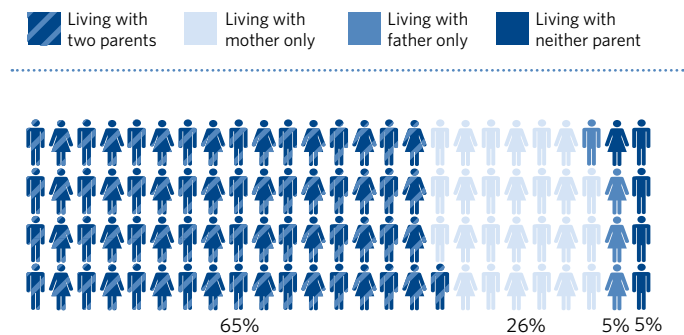
Hispanic teens (19%) and non-Hispanic white teens (20%) were also more likely than non-Hispanic black teens (13%) to want more information about birth control alone. Far fewer Hispanic teens (2%) than non-Hispanic black or non-Hispanic white teens (12%) wanted more information about abstinence alone.

<sup>22</sup> Albert, B. (2010). *With One Voice 2010: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, A Periodic National Survey*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign.

<sup>23</sup> Albert, B. (2007). *With One Voice 2007: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, A Periodic National Survey*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign.

## » FAMILY STRUCTURE

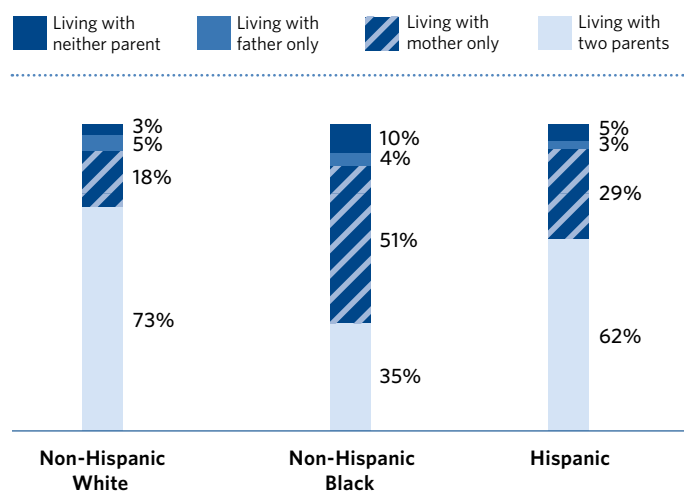
Adolescents (age 12-17), according to their family structure, March 2011<sup>24</sup>



Currently, nearly two-thirds of teens live with two parents (65%), and of those, most live with their biological parents (84%, not shown). Approximately one in four teens live with their mother only (26%). Since the early 1990s, family structure has remained largely unchanged; the percentage of teens living with two parents has declined only slightly<sup>24,25</sup>

Family structure varies based on race/ethnicity. Nearly three-quarters of non-Hispanic white teens (73%) and six in 10 Hispanic teens (62%) live with two parents. Only about one-third of non-Hispanic black teens live with two parents (35%) and more than half live with their mother only (51%).

By race/ethnicity<sup>24</sup>



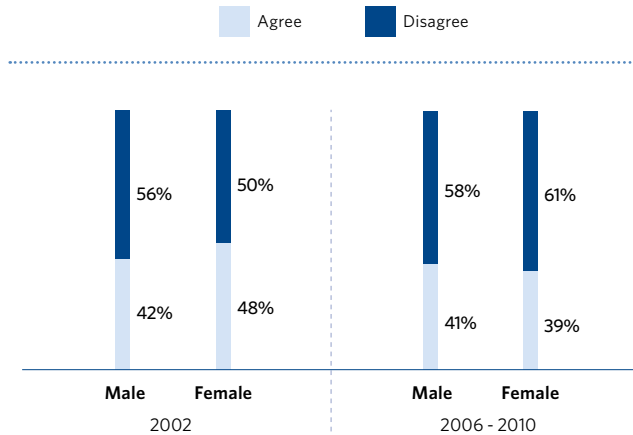
<sup>24</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. (2011). *Current Population Survey. Annual Social and Economic Supplement, March 2011*. [Data file]. Available from <http://www.census.gov/cps/>.

<sup>25</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. (2011). *Current Population Survey. Annual Social and Economic Supplement, March 1992*. [Data file]. Available from <http://www.census.gov/cps/>.

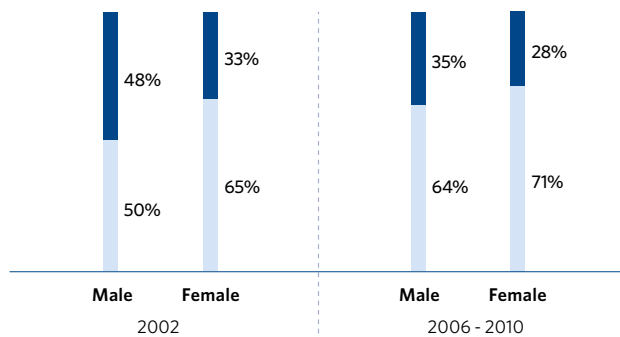
## » FAMILY STRUCTURE

Teens' (age 15–19) opinions on family structure and family formation, 2002 and 2006–2010<sup>26</sup>

**Divorce is usually the best solution when a couple can't seem to work out their marriage problems**



**It is okay for an unmarried female to have a child**



Over the past few years, teens' attitudes towards family structure have shifted. In 2002, teen girls were somewhat more likely than teen boys to agree that divorce was the best solution to a problematic marriage (48% compared to 42%). By 2006–2010, the gender gap regarding divorce had narrowed; teen boys' attitudes remained largely unchanged and the percentage of girls who thought divorce was the best solution to a problematic marriage fell to 39%—nearly equal to that for boys.

Teens have also become more accepting of non-marital childbearing over time. This change was particularly pronounced among teen boys. When asked if it was okay for an unmarried female to have a child, the percentage of teens who agreed increased from 65% to 71% among teen girls and from 50% to 64% among teen boys.

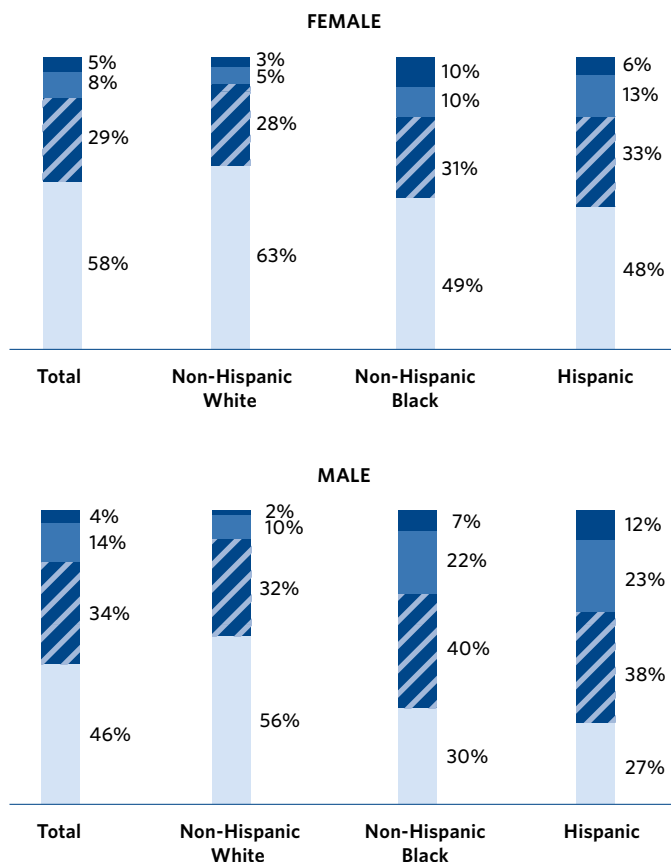
<sup>26</sup> *Unpublished National Campaign Analysis of the National Survey of Family Growth, 2006–2010* [Data File]. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>.



## » FAMILY STRUCTURE

Never married teens (age 15–19) on how they would feel if they got pregnant/got a female pregnant now, by gender and race/ethnicity, 2006–2010<sup>27</sup>

Very Pleased
  A Little Pleased
  A Little Upset
  Very Upset



Even though the vast majority of teens would be upset if they found out they were pregnant, some teens have a neutral or even positive attitude towards early pregnancy. Overall, teen girls are more likely than boys to be upset if they were to get pregnant/cause a pregnancy—58% of girls and 46% of boys report they would be *very* upset.

Among teen girls, attitudes towards early pregnancy vary little by race/ethnicity. Although non-Hispanic white teen girls are more likely than their peers to say that they would be very upset if they got pregnant at this time in their lives, nearly all teen girls are eager to avoid pregnancy.

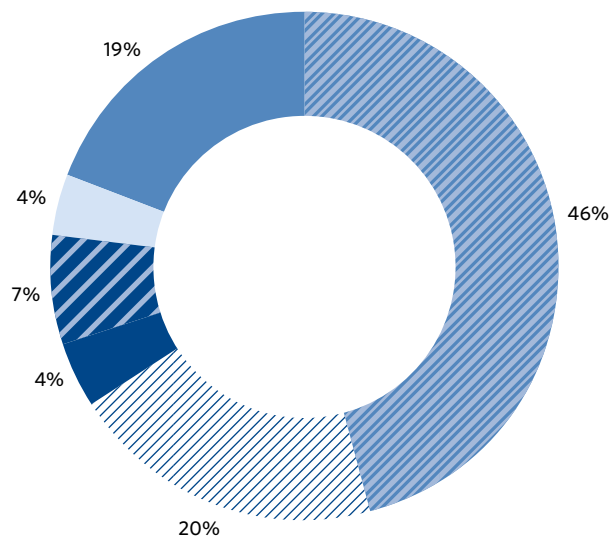
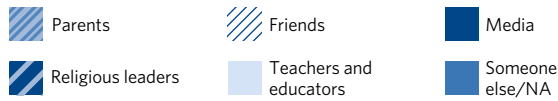
However, attitudes vary strongly by race/ethnicity among teen boys. An alarming 35% of Hispanic teen boys and 29% of non-Hispanic black teen boys responded that they would be a little or very pleased if they got a female pregnant now, compared to just one in 10 non-Hispanic white teen boys.

<sup>27</sup> Martinez G., Copen C.E., & Abma J.C. (2011). Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 23(31). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

## » FAMILY AND PEER INFLUENCES

### Influences on teens' decisions about sex (age 12–19), 2010<sup>28</sup>

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



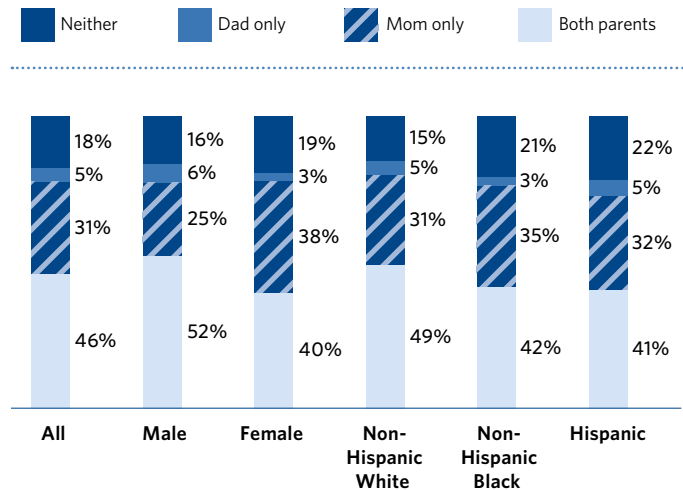
Despite what parents may believe, teens say that parents *most* influence their decisions about sex. Teen girls (51%) are especially likely to say that parents are most influential compared to teen boys (41%, not shown), and younger teens (57% of those 12–14) are more likely to say that parents are most influential compared to older teens (39% of those 15–19, not shown). Hispanic (55%) and non-Hispanic black teens (50%) are more likely than non-Hispanic white teens (42%) to say their parents are most influential (not shown).

<sup>28</sup> Albert, B. (2010). *With One Voice 2010: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, A Periodic National Survey*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign.

## » PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

Teens (age 12-19) who say they can talk with their parents about serious issues, 2010<sup>29</sup>

Can you talk to your mom or dad openly, honestly, and with detail about serious issues like drugs, sex, and drinking?



Nearly half of all teens say that while they can talk to both of their parents about serious issues, they are generally more comfortable confiding in their mothers than in their fathers. About half of teen boys and 40% of teen girls feel they can discuss serious issues with both parents. For their part, teen girls (38%) are more likely than teen boys (25%) to discuss serious issues only with their mother or with neither parent (19% for girls, 16% for boys).

Non-Hispanic black teens (35%) are more likely than Hispanic (32%) or non-Hispanic white teens (31%) to feel they can discuss serious issues only with their mothers. However, non-Hispanic white teens are more likely than other teens to discuss serious issues with both parents (49%). As teens age, the proportion of teens who report they can't discuss issues with either parent increases (not shown).

Increasing parent-teen communication could be an important goal for those seeking to reduce risky behavior among teens, given that nearly one in five teens do not feel as though they can discuss serious issues with either parent (18%).

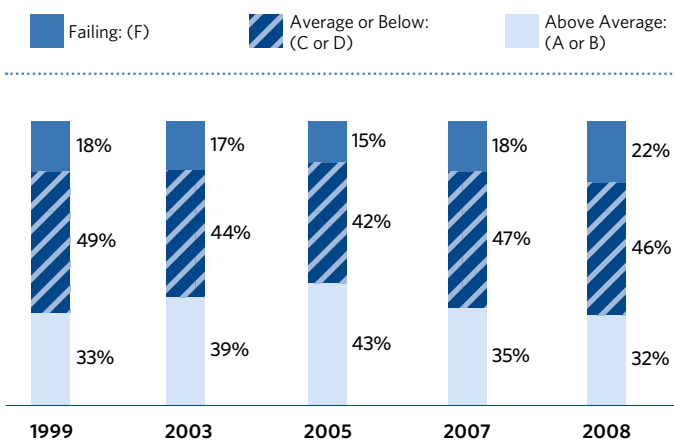
<sup>29</sup> Teenage Research Unlimited. (2010). *The TRU Study 2011: U.S. Edition*. [mTAB Crosstab Tool Data File]. Available from [www.truportal.com](http://www.truportal.com).

## » PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

Grades that teens (age 12-19) give parents for “understanding the realities of teen sex,” 1999-2008<sup>30,31</sup>

Let's suppose you could give adults grades (A,B,C,D, or F).  
How would you grade adults, as a group, on how they're doing at each of the following...

Understanding the realities of teenage sex



The percentage of teens who gave their parents an above average grade (A or B) for “understanding the realities of teen sex” increased between 1999 and 2005, however the grades that teens give their parents have been falling since then. In 2008, only one-third of teens gave adults an above average grade (A or B) for “understanding the realities of teen sex,” and about one in five (22%) gave parents a failing grade (F). Overall, this pattern was the same among teens across all race/ethnicities (not shown).

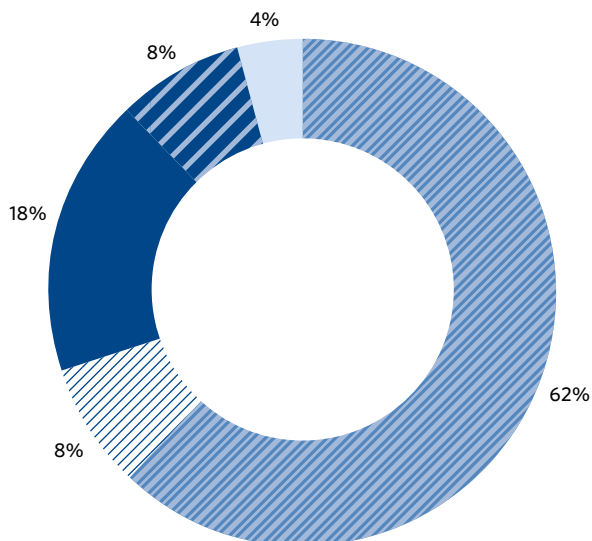
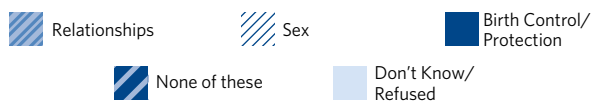
<sup>30</sup> Uhlrich Children's Advantage Network (UCAN). *The UCAN Teen Report Card, 2007 and 2008*. [Complete Data Files]. Retrieved from [http://www.ucanchicago.org/site/epage/83928\\_682.htm](http://www.ucanchicago.org/site/epage/83928_682.htm). Accessed July 2011.

<sup>31</sup> Uhlrich Children's Advantage Network (UCAN). (2005). *The UCAN Teen Report Card*. Retrieved from <http://www.ucanchicago.org/reportcard/>. Accessed 2005.

## » PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

Topics that teens (age 12-19) wish they could talk more openly about with their parents, 2010<sup>32</sup>

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.



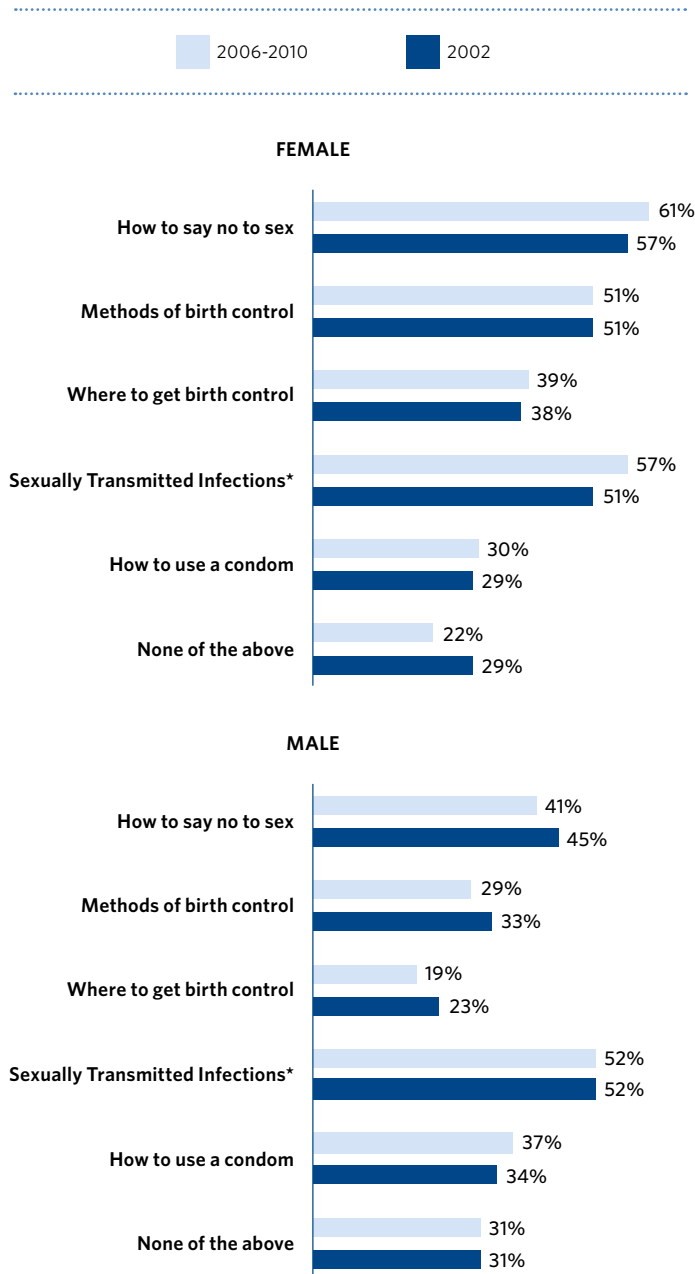
Teens are far more likely to want to freely discuss relationships with their parents (62%) than sex (8%) or birth control (18%). Clearly, relationships could be a useful conversation starter for parents who want to talk to their teens about avoiding pregnancy.

Teen boys (65%) are more likely than teen girls (60%) to want to discuss relationships with their parents most, while teen girls are more likely than boys to want to discuss birth control or protection (21% vs. 14%, not shown). Hispanic (34%) and non-Hispanic black teens (31%) are more likely to want to discuss sex or birth control compared to non-Hispanic white teens (22%, not shown).

<sup>32</sup> Albert, B. (2010). *With One Voice 2010: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, A Periodic National Survey*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign.

## » PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

Teens (age 15-19) who report that they have ever discussed sex and related issues with their parents before age 18, 2002 & 2006-2010<sup>33</sup>



Most teens, regardless of gender, do communicate with their parents about sex and related issues. However, the topics covered vary between boys and girls. Teen girls are more likely than teen boys to report discussing how to say no to sex (61% vs. 41%), as well as methods of birth control and where to get them (51% vs. 29% and 39% vs. 19%, respectively). Similarly, teen boys are more likely than teen girls to report discussing with their parents how to use a condom (37% vs. 30%), and to report not discussing any of these topics (31% vs. 22%).

Since 2002, the way parents talk to their teens about sex has remained largely unchanged. Still, the gap between the topics parents discuss with their sons and the topics they discuss with their daughters seems to be widening, particularly with respect to discussing how to say no to sex. Also, an examination of younger teens (not shown) shows a decline in the discussion of several sex-related topics, which could be the leading edge of a downward trend.

<sup>33</sup> Unpublished National Campaign Analysis of the National Survey of Family Growth, 2002 and 2006-2010 [Data Files]. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>.

\* The category "Sexually Transmitted Infections" includes those who discussed STIs or HIV in 2006-2010, but just those who discussed STIs in 2002. Therefore, this figure may not be comparable across time.

## » DATING RELATIONSHIPS

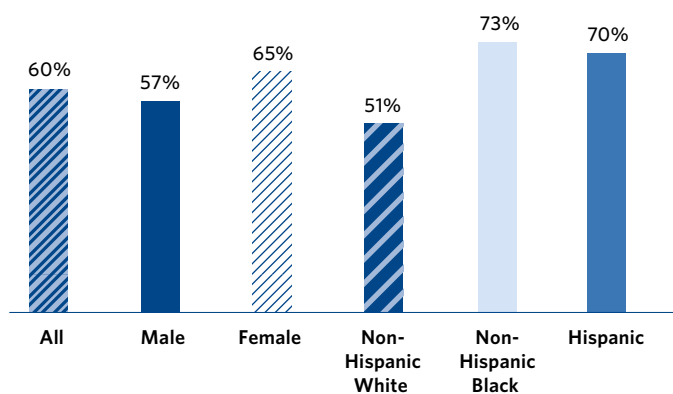
Teens (age 12-19), by relationship status, 2011<sup>34</sup>

	TOTAL	12-15	16-17	18-19
Single	72%	86%	66%	54%
Casually dating	15%	11%	21%	14%
Seriously dating	12%	3%	13%	29%
Engaged	1%	0%	0%	3%
Married	1%	1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Most teens describe themselves as single—that is not dating or in any other kind of relationship. Not surprisingly, however, teens are more likely to date or enter into serious relationships as they get older. Casual dating peaks around age 16-17 and more teens are in serious relationships by age 18 or 19.

Teens (age 12-19) who regret not waiting longer to have sex, 2010<sup>35</sup>

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



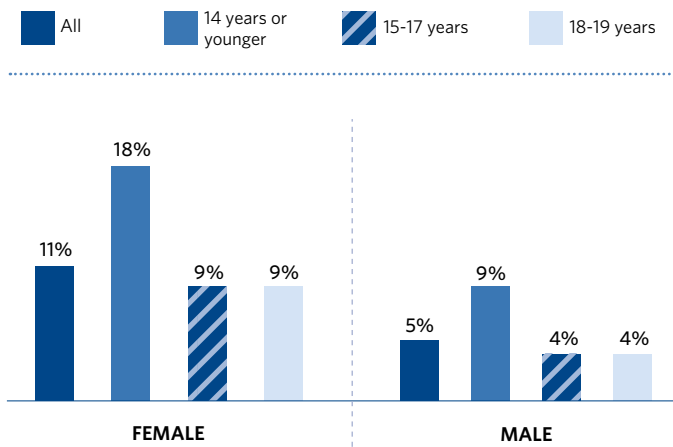
Among those who have had sex, six in 10 teens regret the timing of their first sexual experience. Non-Hispanic black teens (73%) are more likely than other teens to wish they had waited longer. Also, teen girls are more likely than teen boys to wish they had waited to have sex.

<sup>34</sup> Teenage Research Unlimited. (2011). *The TRU Study: 2012 U.S. Edition*. Retrieved from [www.truportal.com](http://www.truportal.com).

<sup>35</sup> Albert, B. (2010). *With One Voice 2010: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, A Periodic National Survey*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign.

## » DATING RELATIONSHIPS

Teens (age 15–19) who reported first sex was unwanted, by gender and age at first sex, 2006–2010<sup>36</sup> \*

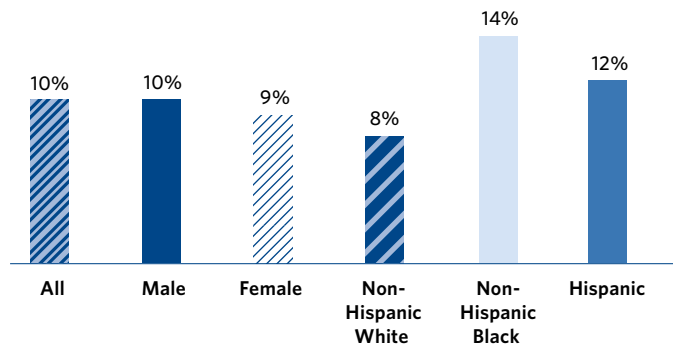


Teen girls are far more likely than teen boys to report that their first sexual experience was unwanted. Both teen girls and boys who were younger when they first had sex were also more likely to report it was unwanted. Teen girls who were 14 or younger when they first had sex report the highest proportion of unwanted first sexual experiences (18%).

Among teen girls, the relative age of their male partner is also related to whether their first sexual experience was wanted (not shown). Nearly one in five teen girls (17%) whose first male partner was three or more years older say that their first sexual experience was unwanted—a much higher proportion than among teen girls whose partners were only one to two years older (7%) or the same age or younger (10%).

High school students who have experienced dating violence, 2009<sup>37</sup>

During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?



Too many high school students have experienced dating violence. Perhaps surprisingly, teen boys (10%) and girls (9%) are equally as likely to say they have experience dating violence.

<sup>36</sup> Martinez G., Copen C.E., & Abma J.C. (2011). Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 23(31). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

\* Includes only those who responded “I really didn’t want it to happen at the time” when asked how much first sex was wanted. Question asked of respondents age 18–24 who had first sex before age 20.

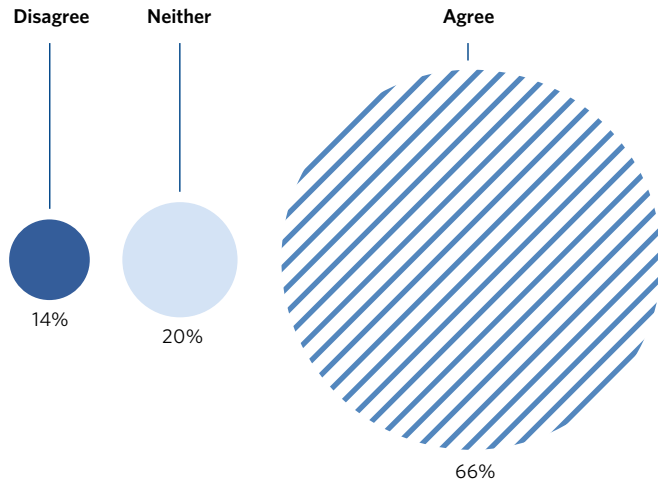
<sup>37</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991–2009 *High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data*. Accessed July 2011. Available at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline>.



## » SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Level of school engagement of 12th grade students, 2010<sup>38</sup> \*

Going to school has been an enjoyable experience for me

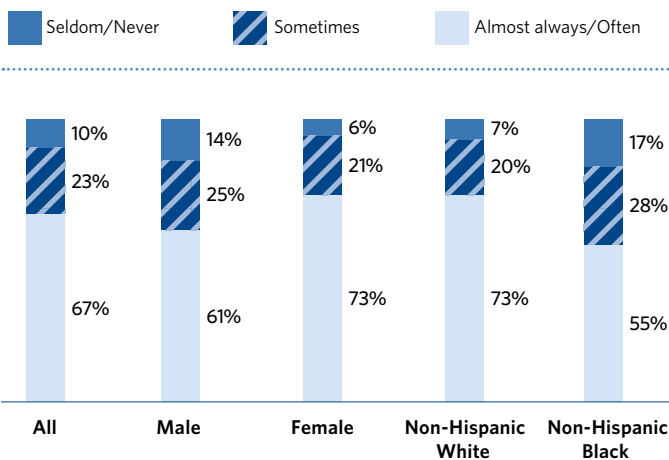


Teens are highly engaged in school (measured here by their reported enjoyment of school and academic achievement).

Fully two in three teens report that they enjoy school and only 14% say they don't enjoy it. A similar pattern is found when measuring grades that students receive—two-thirds of teens say they often or almost always received good grades; only one in 10 responded that they seldom or never did.

On average, teen girls, regardless of race (not shown), are more likely than teen boys to report that they enjoy school. The majority of teens—particularly girls—report consistently getting good grades (As or Bs); non-Hispanic black teens are substantially less likely than their non-Hispanic white peers to report that they often or almost always receive good grades.

Now thinking back over the past year in school how often did you get good grades (like As or Bs)?\*

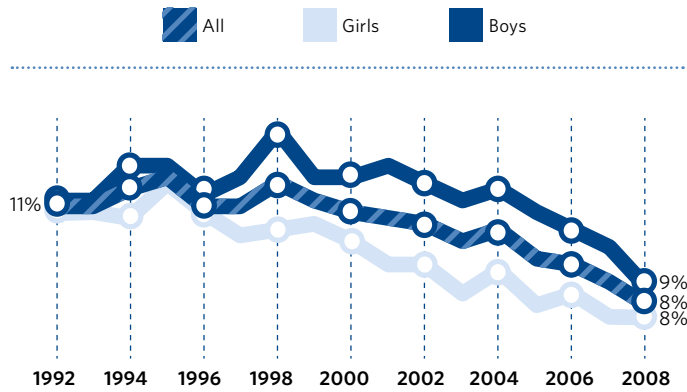


<sup>38</sup> Bachman, J. G., Johnston, L.D. & O'Malley, P.M. (2011). *Monitoring the future: Questionnaire responses from the Nation's High School Seniors*. Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan.

\* Statistics on Hispanic teens are not available.

## » HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

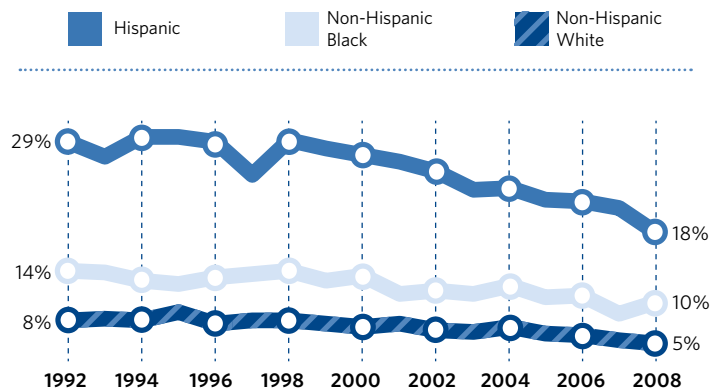
High school dropouts among 16- to 24-year-olds, by gender, 1992–2008<sup>39</sup> \*



Since the early 1990s, declines in the percentage of teens and young adults (age 16–24) who left high school without a diploma or its equivalent have been modest but relatively consistent, from 11% in 1992 to 8% in 2008. The gap in dropout rates between girls and boys widened in the mid-2000s, and then closed again near the end of the decade.

The gap in dropout rates by race/ethnicity has also narrowed, particularly for Hispanic teens—rates have fallen from 29% to 18% since the early 1990s—but substantial disparities remain. High rates for Hispanic teens largely reflect immigration patterns—the dropout rate among foreign born Hispanic teens is 33%, compared to 10% for U.S. born Hispanic teens (not shown). Since 1992, dropout rates for non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black teens have fallen as well, by roughly one-third and one-quarter respectively.

By race/ethnicity<sup>39</sup>



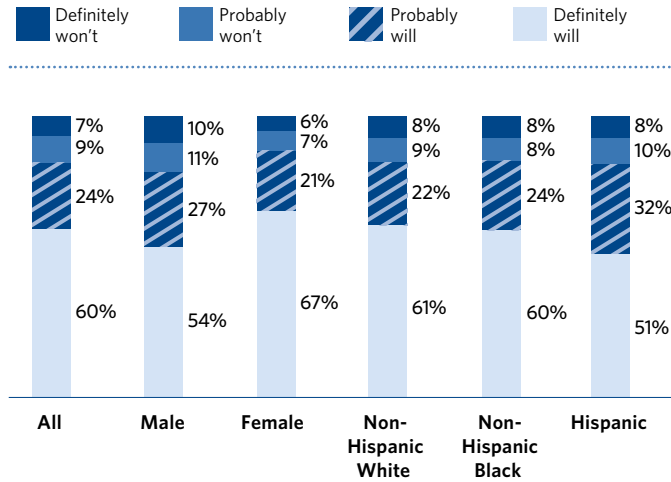
<sup>39</sup> Chapman, C., Laird, J., and Kewal-Ramani, A. (2010). *Trends in high school dropout and completion rates in the United States: 1972–2008* (NCES 2011-012). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011012.pdf>.

\* Also known as the Status Dropout Rate. This statistic measures 16- to 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and who have not completed a high school program or received a GED, regardless of when they left school. This measure excludes those in prison.

## » COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS

### Educational aspirations among 12th grade students, 2010<sup>40</sup>

How likely is it that you will do each of the following things after high school?  
Graduate from college (four-year program)



Teens have high aspirations for educational attainment. Roughly six in 10 teens believe they definitely will graduate from college and one-quarter say they probably will. Note that these findings focus on attending four year schools. The share of students expecting to complete either a two- or four-year education reaches nearly 100% (not shown). These high aspirations can be used as a motivating factor when reaching out to teens.

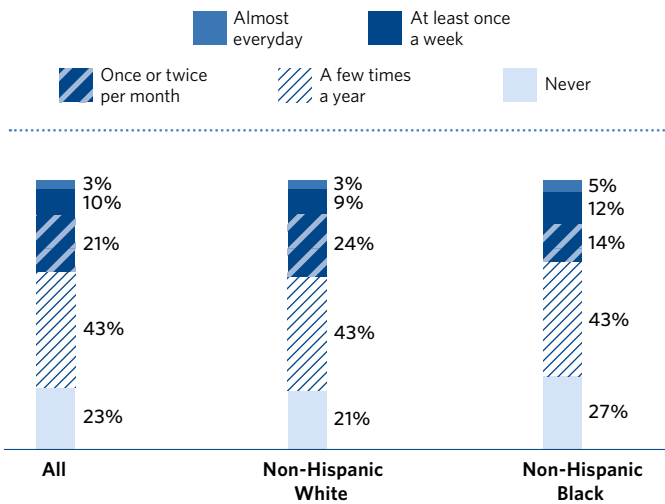
Teen girls are more likely than teen boys to say that they definitely will finish a four year degree. Educational aspirations vary little based on race, but do vary by ethnicity—although a similar proportion of Hispanic teens have aspirations to go to college, they are less likely to be confident that they definitely will finish a four year degree.

<sup>40</sup> Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., O'Malley, P.M. & Schulenberg J.E. (2011). *Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of American Youth (12th-Grade Survey)*, 2010 (ICPSR30985-v1) [Data file]. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. Available from <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/series/35>

## » VOLUNTEER WORK

### Volunteer work among 12th grade students, 2010<sup>41\*</sup>

How often do you: Participate in community affairs or volunteer work?



More than seven in 10 students in 12th grade report participating in community affairs or volunteer work. Most who volunteer do so only occasionally, although roughly one-third of all students volunteer once a month or more.

Volunteerism among teens differs somewhat by race. For example, non-Hispanic black teens are less likely to volunteer than non-Hispanic white teens, but non-Hispanic black teens who do volunteer generally volunteer more frequently. Volunteer habits also vary by gender (not shown). Teen girls (82%) are more likely than teen boys (73%) to volunteer and to volunteer more often.

<sup>41</sup> Bachman, J. G., Johnston, L.D. & O'Malley, P.M. (2011). *Monitoring the future: Questionnaire responses from the Nation's High School Seniors*. Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan.

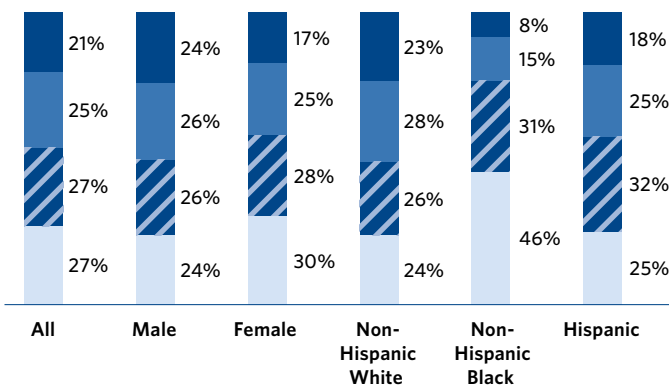
\* Statistics on Hispanic teens are not available.

## » RELIGION

Importance of religion in 12th grade students' lives, by gender and race/ethnicity, 2010<sup>42</sup>

How important is religion in your life?

Not Important
  A Little Important
  Pretty Important
  Very Important



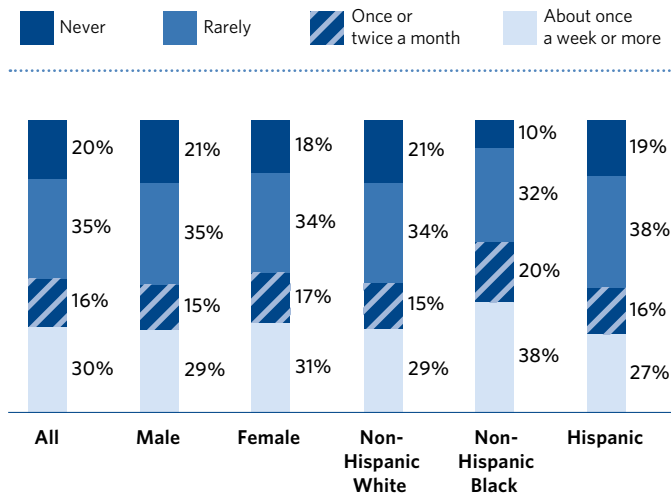
Overall, teenagers today are roughly equally divided when it comes to the importance of religion in their lives—slightly more than half of 12th grade students (54%) say that religion is very or pretty important to them; the rest describe religion as a little important to them or not at all important.

Religiosity differs by gender, as teen girls are notably more religious than boys. For example, only 17% of teen girls describe religion as not important, compared to 24% of teen boys. The importance of religion varies even more based on race/ethnicity. Three in four non-Hispanic black teens describe religion as pretty or very important, compared to slightly less than half of non-Hispanic white teens and slightly more than half of Hispanic teens (49% and 57% respectively).

<sup>42</sup> Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., O'Malley, P.M. & Schulenberg J.E. (2011). *Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of American Youth (12th-Grade Survey)*, 2010 (ICPSR30985-v1) [Data file]. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. Available from <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/series/35>

## » RELIGION

Frequency of religious service attendance among 12th grade students, 2010<sup>43</sup>

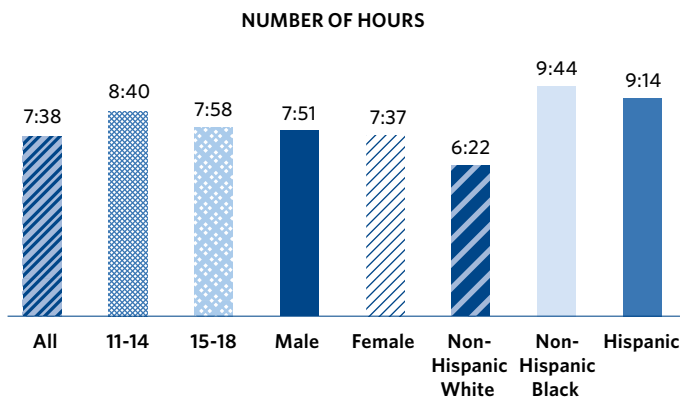


Despite the fact that more than half of teens describe themselves as highly religious, less than half of all 12th grade students regularly attend religious services (46%). Religious service attendance varies by gender and race/ethnicity—teen girls are more likely to attend than teen boys, and non-Hispanic black teens are more likely to attend than non-Hispanic white teens or Hispanic teens. However, the differences regarding religious attendance are less pronounced than the differences noted in measures of religious importance.

<sup>43</sup> Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., O'Malley, P.M. & Schulenberg J.E. (2011). *Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of American Youth (12th-Grade Survey), 2010* (ICPSR30985-v1) [Data file]. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research. Available from <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/series/35>

## » MEDIA CONSUMPTION

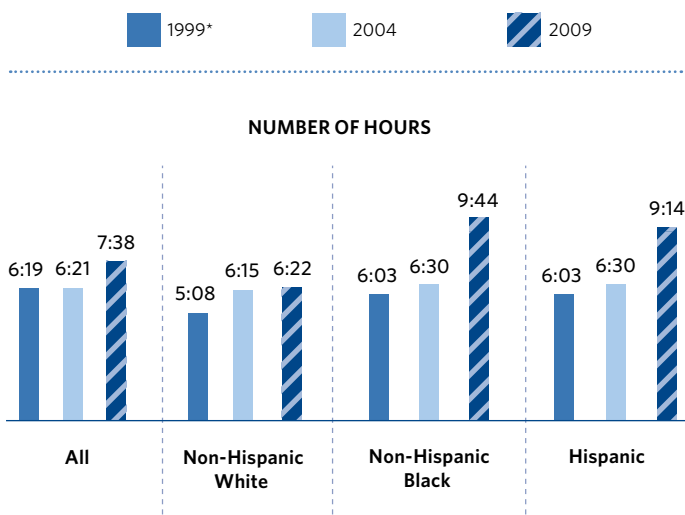
Adolescents' (age 8–18) total daily use of media, by age, gender, and race/ethnicity, 2009<sup>44</sup>



Overall, teens' use of media, defined by the number of hours they spend on media in a day, differs little by age or gender—although younger teens and teen boys spend slightly more time using media. There is very little difference in total media use between non-Hispanic black and Hispanic teens but both groups spend substantially more time on media than non-Hispanic white teens.

The difference between non-Hispanic white teens compared to their peers is a relatively recent phenomenon. Media use among Hispanic and non-Hispanic black teens increased substantially from 1999 to 2009 while the amount of time that non-Hispanic white teens spent increased minimally.

Changes in total media use among adolescents (age 8–18), by race/ethnicity, 1999–2009<sup>44,45,46</sup>



While the actual hours in the day that teens spend on media have increased substantially since 1999, the total hours of media that teens consume in a day have increased even more—from seven hours and 29 minutes to 10 hours and 45 minutes (not shown).<sup>44</sup> This increase reflects the fact that teens are increasingly likely to use more than one type of media at the same time.

<sup>44</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

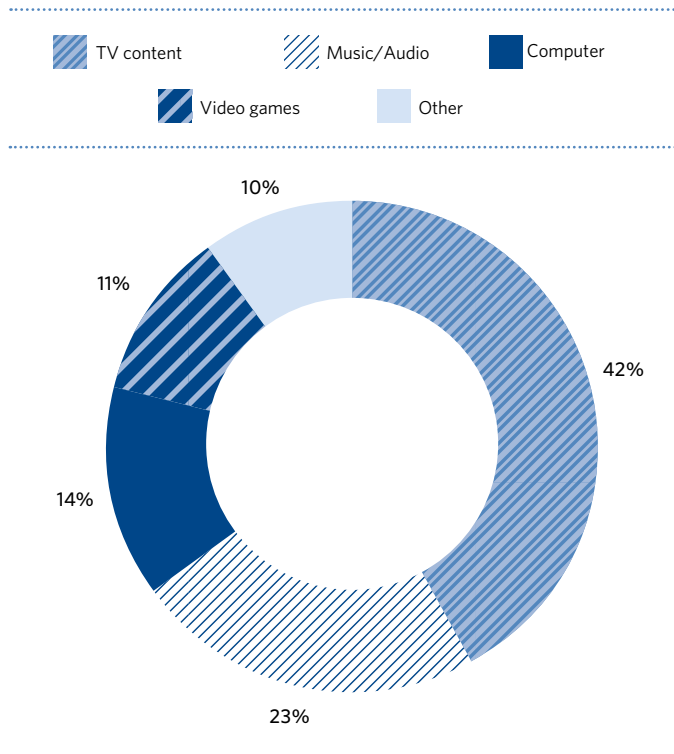
<sup>45</sup> Roberts, D.F., Foehr, U.G., Rideout, V.J., Brodie, M. (1999). *Kids and Media @ the new millennium: A Comprehensive National Analysis of Children's Media Use*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/entmedia030905pkg.cfm>.

<sup>46</sup> Roberts, D.F., Foehr, U.G., & Rideout, V. (2005). *Generation M: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/1535-index.cfm>.

\* Hispanic and non-Hispanic black teens' average total media use was combined in 1999 due to small cell size.

## » TYPE OF MEDIA USE

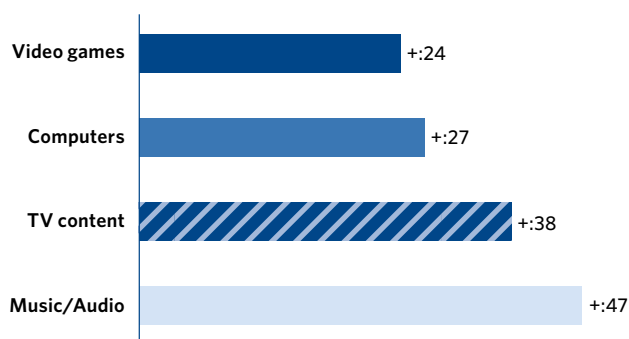
Proportion of media time spent with each type of media in a typical day among adolescents (age 8-18), 2009<sup>47</sup> \*



Despite the arrival of social networking, conventional forms of media, such as music and TV, remain the most popular forms of media with teens and the use of these types of media continues to increase. Most of the increase centers on teens accessing TV or music content on new platforms, particularly on the computer or on their cell phones

Although teens generally use the same types of media, there are slight variations across age, gender, and race/ethnicity (not shown). Older teens, Hispanic teens, and teen girls are more likely to spend more of their time with music, while younger teens and non-Hispanic white teens are more likely to spend more of their time playing video games. Non-Hispanic black teens spent a larger portion of their media time watching TV.

Changes in media use, by minutes, among adolescents (age 8-18), by type: 2004-2009<sup>47</sup>



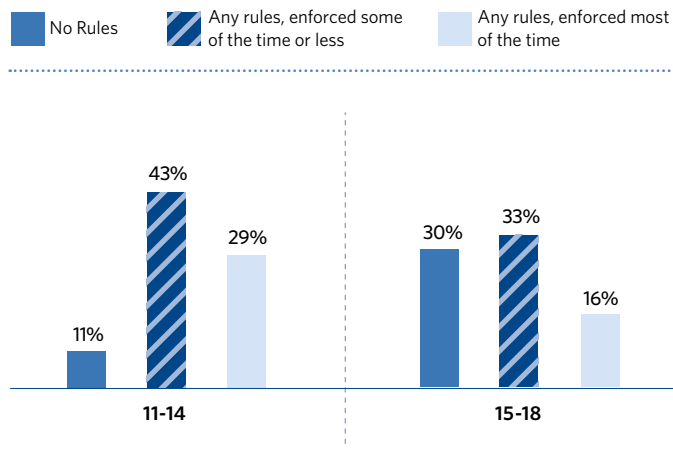
<sup>47</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

\* For this statistic, media time is measured as total media exposure.



## » MEDIA RULES

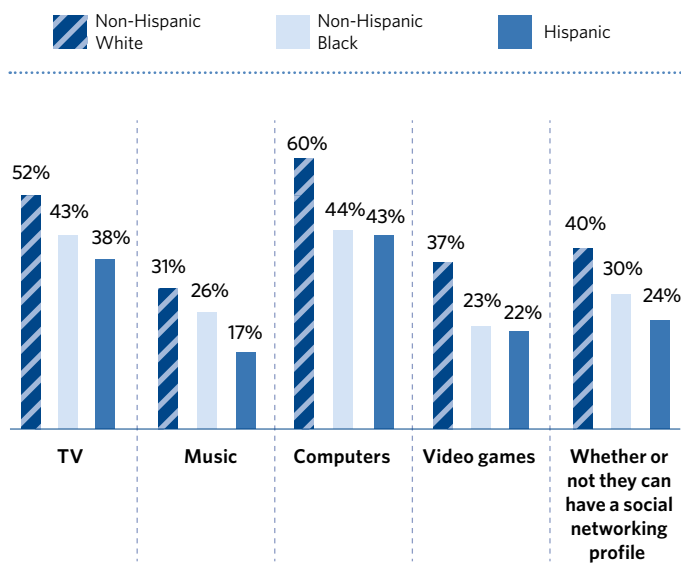
Teens (age 11-18) on enforcement of media rules, by age, 2009<sup>48</sup>



Most teens report that their parents have rules about media use. Younger teens (11-14) are more likely to have rules than older teens, and to have those rules enforced more consistently.

Many teens also report that their parents have rules about the content of the media that they use, particularly when it comes to computers. A fair number of parents also have rules about whether or not teens can have a social networking profile. Non-Hispanic white teens are the most likely to have rules about media content; Hispanic teens are the least likely.

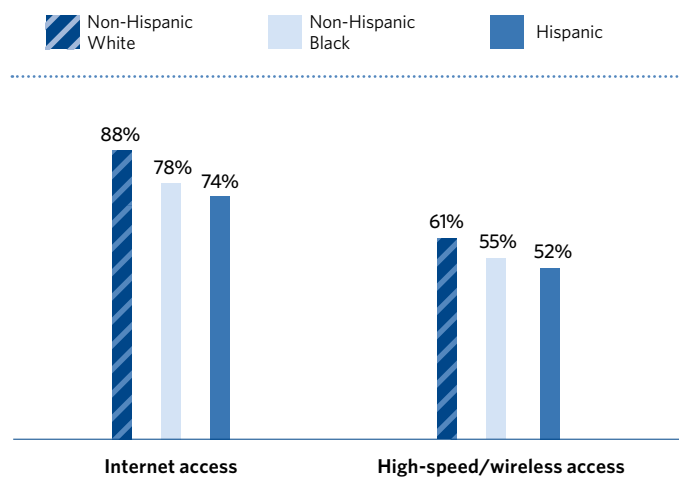
Adolescents (age 8-18) who report having rules on media content, by race/ethnicity, 2009<sup>48</sup>



<sup>48</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

## » INTERNET ACCESS

Internet access among families with adolescents (age 8-18), 2009<sup>49</sup>

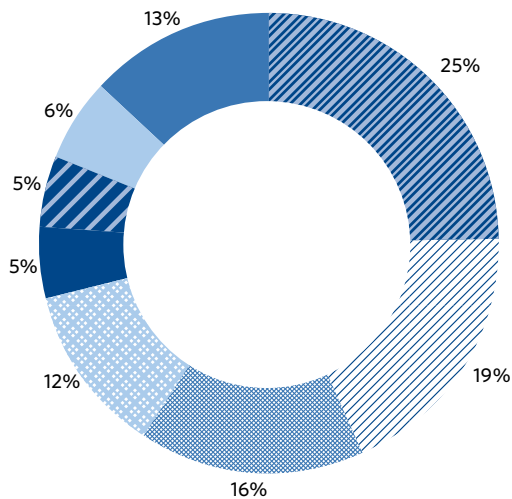
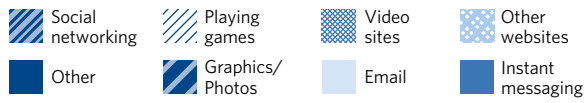


The vast majority of teens have some access to the Internet at home and even more use the Internet in locations like schools and libraries (not shown). Moreover, the majority of teens' families do have high-speed or wireless Internet access. However, a digital divide of sorts does exist regarding the *speed* and *quality* of Internet access. For example, 61% of non-Hispanic white teens have high-speed or wireless Internet access compared to just over half among Hispanic teens (52%).

<sup>49</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

## » COMPUTER/INTERNET USE

Proportion of time on the computer spent by adolescents (age 8–18) on each activity daily, 2009<sup>50</sup>



Over the past few years, social networking has emerged as the computer activity that occupies the largest share of teens' computer time, but by no means the majority of it. Additional breakouts by gender and race/ethnicity (not shown) suggest that computer usage is similar across the board with the following exception: non-Hispanic white teens and teen boys spend more of their time playing online games compared to their peers.

Most common online activities among teen Internet users (age 12–19) during the past 30 days, 2011<sup>51</sup>

Percentage who reported doing the following activities at least once a day.

1. Visited a social-networking site:	62%
2. Updated your "status" or checked a friend's "status":	43%
3. Sent an instant message:	36%
4. Listened to downloaded music:	34%
5. Sent an email:	32%
6. Listened to streaming music or audio:	30%
8. Watched streaming video:	25%
9. Played a single-player game:	21%
10. Read a tweet:	16%
11. Played a multi-player game:	15%
12. Researched for school or work:	15%

<sup>50</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

<sup>51</sup> Teenage Research Unlimited. (2011). *The TRU Study 2012: U.S. Teens and Twenty-Somethings Edition*. Available from [www.truportal.com](http://www.truportal.com).

## » COMPUTER/INTERNET USE

Most common websites visited by teen Internet users (age 12-19) during the past 30 days, 2011<sup>52</sup>

Which of the following websites, if any, have you visited in the last 30 days?  
(10 most frequent answers listed)

1. Facebook	76%
2. YouTube	70%
3. Google	58%
4. Amazon	43%
5. Yahoo!	35%
6. Apple iTunes	34%
7. Yahoo! Mail	31%
8. Gmail	28%
9. Wikipedia	27%
10. Ebay	24%

Social networking has come to dominate teens' use of the Internet—both in terms of how much time teens spend on it and the proportion of teens who have used it in the last month. Aside from social networking, teens most often use the Internet to listen to music or watch videos. Teens' use of the Internet is generally similar, regardless of race/ethnicity (not shown).

Looking for health information is not among teens' most common uses of the Internet, however many do turn to the Internet when they are seeking health information:

- One recent study reports that most teens age 15-18 (62%), especially girls (66%), say they have looked up health information online in order to learn more about an issue affecting themselves or someone they know.<sup>53</sup>
- Another study of teens age 12-17 found that 17% look for information online about a health topic that's hard to talk about, like drug use, sexual health, or depression.
- This same study found that 31% of 12- to 17-year-olds look online for health, dieting, or physical fitness information.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>52</sup> Teenage Research Unlimited. (2011). *The TRU Study 2012: The U.S. Teens and Twenty-Somethings Edition*. Available from [www.truportal.com](http://www.truportal.com)

<sup>53</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

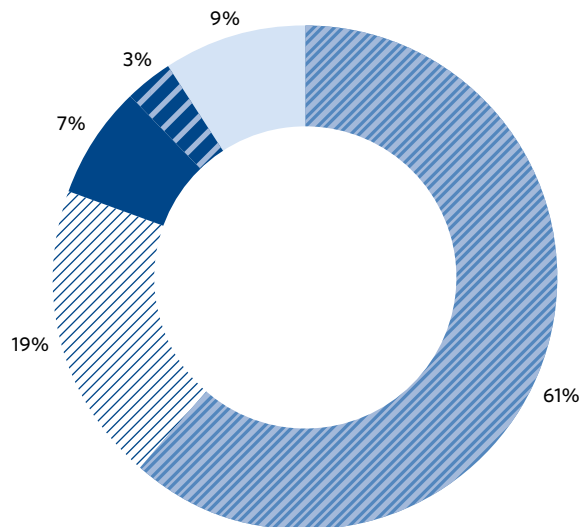
<sup>54</sup> Pew Internet and American Life Project. (2009). *Online Activities: What Teens Do Online*. Retrieved from <http://pewinternet.org/Trend-Data-for-Teens/Online-Activites-Total.aspx>. Accessed July 2011.

## » SOCIAL NETWORKING

Adolescents (age 8-18) who use social networking sites on a typical day, by demographic, 2009<sup>55</sup>

	% WHO USED SOCIAL NETWORKING THE DAY BEFORE	AVERAGE TIME AMONG THOSE WHO DID
11-14	42%	1:07
15-18	53%	:48
Boys (8-18)	40%	:47
Girls (8-18)	40%	1:01

Frequency that 12th grade students visit social networking websites like Myspace or Facebook, 2010<sup>57</sup>



In 2009, almost three-quarters of teens who use the Internet (73%) reported using an online social networking site like Facebook or Myspace.<sup>56</sup> In addition:

- Teen boys and girls are equally likely to say that they used social networking sites within the past day.
- Teen girls spend more time than teen boys on social networking sites.
- Younger teens are less likely to use social networking than older teens, but those who do generally use it for longer periods of time.

The majority of 12th grade students visit social networking websites on a daily basis. Girls generally visit social networking websites more frequently than boys. Similar proportions of non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic black teens visit social networking sites daily or weekly (not shown).

<sup>55</sup> Rideout, V.J., Foehr, U.G. & Roberts, D.F. (2010). *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*. Menlo Park, CA: The Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/mh012010pkg.cfm>.

<sup>56</sup> Pew Internet and American Life Project. (2009). *Online Activities: What Teens Do Online*. Retrieved from <http://pewinternet.org/Trend-Data-for-Teens/Online-Activites-Total.aspx>. Accessed July 2011.

<sup>57</sup> Bachman, J. G., Johnston, L.D. & O'Malley, P.M. (2011). *Monitoring the future: Questionnaire responses from the Nation's High School Seniors*. Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan.

## » SOCIAL NETWORKING

### Teens' (age 12–19) activities on social networking sites, 2006–2009<sup>58</sup>

We'd like to know the specific ways you communicate with your friends using social networking sites. Do you ever...?  
(Listed in order of greatest frequency)

Post comments to a friend's page or wall	86%
Add comments to a friend's picture	83%
Send private messages to a friend within the social networking site	66%
Send instant messages or text messages to a friend through the social networking site	58%
Post comments to a friend's blog	52%
Send a bulletin or group message to a group of your friends	50%
Join groups on a social networking site	37%

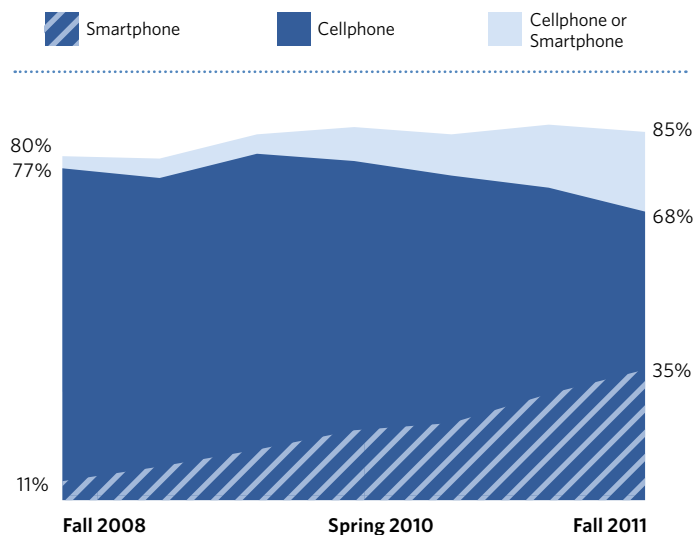
Given the amount of time teens spend using social networking sites, it is not surprising that young people use these sites in a variety of ways, from posting comments to sending instant messages to joining groups. While teen boys and girls use social networking sites similarly, teen girls are slightly more likely to participate in a variety of activities (not shown).

Results by race/ethnicity (not shown) indicate that more non-Hispanic white teens send private messages (73%) than non-Hispanic black (58%) or Hispanic teens (51%). They are also more likely to join groups on social networking sites (42%) than are non-Hispanic black (30%) or Hispanic teens (26%).

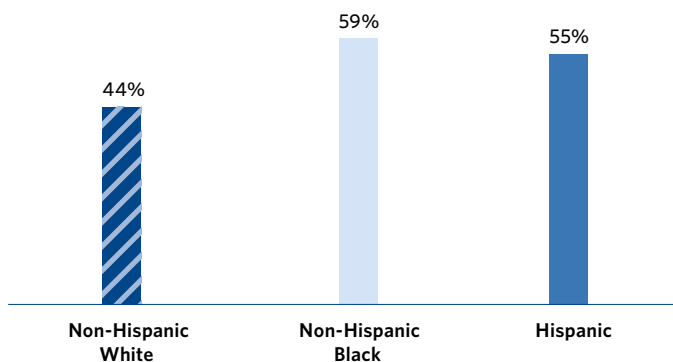
<sup>58</sup> National Campaign Analysis of the Teens and Mobile Phones Study (2011). Pew Internet and American Life Project. *September 2009 Teens and Mobile Phones Study, Crosstab File*. [Data File]. Retrieved from: <http://pewinternet.org/Shared-Content/Data-Sets/2009/September-2009-Teens-and-Mobile.aspx>

## » MOBILE PHONES

Teens (age 12-19) who own a cell phone or smartphone, by type, 2008-2011<sup>59</sup>



Teens (age 12-19) who use their mobile phones to access the Internet at least once a day, by race/ethnicity, 2011<sup>59</sup>



Nearly all teens have some type of mobile phone. While ownership of regular cell phones among teenagers is declining, smartphone use has exploded—only 11% of teens owned a smartphone in Fall 2008, but 35% did so in Fall 2011. Over this same period, net mobile phone ownership (those owning a cell phone, smartphone, or both) increased from 80% to 85%.

Results by age (not shown) indicate that older teens (age 15-19) are slightly more likely than younger teens (age 12-14) to own a cell phone (72% vs. 62%), but they are far more likely to own a smartphone (42% vs. 24%).

Mobile phone ownership is similar by race/ethnicity (not shown), yet non-Hispanic black and Hispanic teens are both far more likely to use their cell phones to go online daily compared to non-Hispanic white teens. This may be related to the fact that teens from families with lower household incomes and thus less Internet access at home are more likely to go online using a cell phone than teens with higher household incomes. As a 2009 study found, 41% of teens with household incomes under \$30,000 a year access the Internet through their mobile phones, while higher income levels reported usage only in the mid-20s (average was 24%).<sup>60</sup>

<sup>59</sup> Teenage Research Unlimited. (2011). *The TRU Study 2009-2012: Teens/Teens and Twenty-Somethings*, U.S. Edition. [mTAB Crosstab Tool Data File]. Available from [www.truportal.com](http://www.truportal.com).

<sup>60</sup> Lenhart, A., Ling, R., Campbell, S., & Purcell, K. (2010). *Teens and Mobile Phones*. Washington, DC: Pew Internet and American Life Project. Retrieved from <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2010/Teens-and-Mobile-Phones.aspx>.

## » MOBILE PHONES

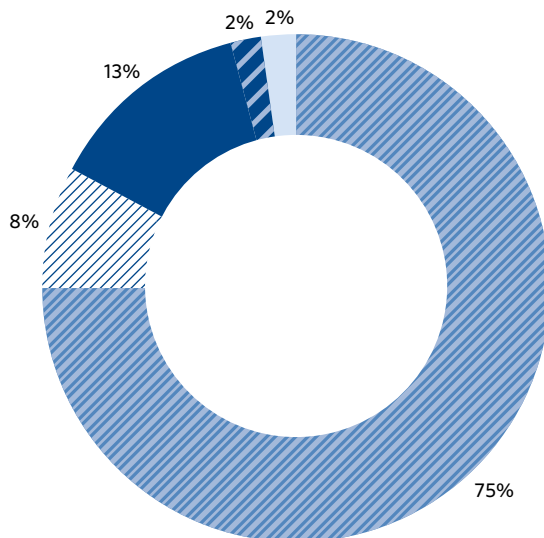
Most common mobile phone activities among teens (age 12–19) during the past 30 days, 2011<sup>61</sup>

Percentage of teens who report ever having done the following activities on their phones in the past 30 days

1. Talked to family:	98%
2. Talked to a friend:	97%
3. Sent or received text/SMS/IM messages to/from a friend:	95%
4. Sent or received text/SMS/IM messages to/from family:	94%
5. Taken photos:	93%
6. Sent photos:	83%
7. Recorded videos:	66%
8. Accessed the Internet:	65%
9. Visited a social networking site:	59%

This list above gives further evidence that teens are taking advantage of the multimedia capacities of their phones, although talking to family and friends still remain the mostly commonly reported activities, with texting close behind. Today, fully three in four teens have unlimited messaging plans on their phones, which means that texting could be an excellent method for reaching out to a large number of teens.

Teens' (age 12–17) texting plans, 2009<sup>62</sup>



<sup>61</sup> Teenage Research Unlimited. (2011). *The TRU Study 2012: The U.S. Teens and Twenty-Somethings Edition*. Available at [www.truportal.com](http://www.truportal.com).

<sup>62</sup> Lenhart, A., Ling, R., Campbell, S., & Purcell, K. (2010). *Teens and Mobile Phones*. Washington, DC: Pew Internet and American Life Project. Retrieved from <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2010/Teens-and-Mobile-Phones.aspx>.



# DATA SOURCE REVIEW

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## **CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY (CPS)**

The CPS is a cross-sectional survey primarily designed to supply estimates of employment, unemployment, and other characteristics of the general labor force, the population as a whole, and various subgroups of the population. It has been conducted monthly by the Census Bureau on behalf of the Bureau of Labor Statistics since 1942, with a number of supplements throughout the year. In addition to collecting labor force data, the CPS also collects annual data on work experience, income, and migration (the annual March income and demographic supplement), and school enrollment of the population (the October supplement). The CPS is administered monthly using a sample of 50,000 occupied households nationwide. Households are in the survey for four consecutive months, out for eight, and then return for another four months before leaving the sample permanently. Indicators in this report that use CPS data are: Family Structure.

Website: <http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/cpsmain.htm>

## **GENERATION M2: MEDIA IN THE LIVES OF 8–18 YEAR OLDS**

The data for this study, the latest in a series conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, were obtained from a survey given to a nationally representative sample of 2,002 students in grades 3–12 (aged 8–18). The sample was obtained using a stratified, two-stage national probability sample. In stage one, schools were randomly selected from a list of public, private, and parochial schools in the U.S. In stage two, grades and classes within grades were randomly selected to participate. Data from the survey were weighted to ensure a nationally representative sample of students. Results from the 2004 survey were originally reported in *Generation M: Media in The Lives of 8–18 Year Olds*, while the 1999 results were first published in *Kids in Media @ the New Millennium*. Indicators in this report that use data from the Generation M2 report are: Media Use, Type of Media Use, Media Rules, Internet Access, Computer/Internet Use, and Social Networking.

Website: <http://www.kff.org>

### **MONITORING THE FUTURE (MTF)**

MTF is a cross-sectional study conducted by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan through funding from the National Institutes of Health. Its main focus is on drug use among high school students, but it also includes measures on such topics as: education; work and leisure; sex roles and family; population concerns; religion; politics; social change; social problems; military; interpersonal relationships; race relations; concern for others; happiness; deviant behavior; and health. In addition to the yearly high school senior sample, studies of nationally representative samples of 8th and 10th graders have also been conducted annually since 1991. Approximately 50,000 students in about 420 public and private secondary schools are surveyed annually. Indicators in this report that use MTF data are: School Engagement, College Expectations, Volunteer Work, Religion, and Social Networking.

Website: <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>

### **NATIONAL SURVEY OF FAMILY GROWTH (NSFG)**

The NSFG is a cross-sectional study that has been administered by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics in several cycles, beginning in 1973. The first five cycles were based on personal interviews of a national sample of women between the age of 15 and 44 in the civilian, non-institutionalized United States. The main purpose was to provide reliable national data on marriage, divorce, contraception, infertility, and the health of women and infants. After Cycle 6 was completed in 2002, the NSFG switched from doing one year of interviews at a time to doing continuous interview over a four year period—from 2006 to 2010. These interviews were conducted over 48 weeks of each year, from June 2006 to June 2010. 22,682 interviews were conducted among men and women age 15–44—over 10,000 interviews with men and over 12,000 interviews with women. Indicators in this report that use NSFG data are: Parental Communication, Relative Age of Partner, Sex Education, Dating Relationship, Family Structure, Sexual Activity, and Contraceptive Use.

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm>

## DATA SOURCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

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### **NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM (NVSS)**

The National Vital Statistics System provides data collected from registration of vital events—births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and fetal deaths. The birth data used in this report was collected by the CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics with cooperation from each state, which provides access to statistical information collected from birth certificates. Indicators in this report that use data from National Vital Statistics Reports are: Teen Births.

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss.htm>

### **PEW INTERNET & AMERICAN LIFE PROJECT**

The Pew Internet & American Life Project produces reports that explore the impact of the Internet on families, communities, work and home, daily life, education, health care, and civic and political life. The basis of the report is nationwide random digit dial telephone surveys as well as online surveys. This data collection is supplemented with research from government agencies, academia, and other experts; observations of what people do and how they behave when they are online; in-depth interviews with Internet users and Internet experts alike; and other efforts that try to examine individual and group behavior. Indicators in this report that use data from the Pew Internet & American Life Project are: Computer and Internet Use, Social Networking, and Cell Phones.

Website: <http://www.pewinternet.org>

### **SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE 2010**

This annual report published by the CDC presents statistics on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States in 2010. This report gathers information from reported cases from state and local STD control programs, from projects that monitor STD prevalence among certain populations (Infertility Prevention Projects, the National Job Training Program, the STD Surveillance Network, and the Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project), as well as other national surveys. Rates used in this report only reflect reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea, not total prevalence. Indicators in this report that use data from the Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2010 are: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats10/default.htm>

## **TRENDS IN HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT AND COMPLETION RATES IN THE UNITED STATES: 1972–2009**

This report, published as part of a series by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), provides data on high school dropout and completion rates since 1972. This report provides four measures of high school completion: the event dropout rate, the status dropout rate, the status completion rate, and the averaged freshman graduation rate. The only measure used in this report was the status dropout rate. Data were obtained from the annual October Current Population Survey (CPS), the Common Core of Data (CCD), as well as the General Education Development Testing Service (GEDTS). Indicators in this report that use data from Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 1972–2009 are: High School Completion.

Website: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/dropout08/>

## **THE TRU STUDY**

This report, published by Teenage Research Unlimited, is released in an annual report every fall and a strategic update every spring. Content covered in this survey includes topics such as teens' lifestyles, attitudes, values, trends, media use, products, and brands. 4,000 teens and 4,000 twentysomethings are interviewed each year. The survey is fielded online, and the sample is nationally representative across age, gender, ethnicity, and religion. Indicators in this report that use data from Teenage Research Unlimited are: Parental Communication, Dating Relationships, Computer/Internet Use, and Mobile Phones.

Website: <http://www.truportal.com/>

## **THE UCAN TEEN REPORT CARD**

The UCAN Teen Report Card measures adults' progress on a variety of issues affecting teenagers annually, based on grades provided by teenagers themselves. 900 teens (age 12–19) were surveyed via email, and results were weighted to reflect a nationally representative sample. The survey was conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU) using a stratified sampling design, and results are reported with a 3% margin of error. The latest survey was conducted in January and February of 2008. Indicators in this report that use UCAN data are: Parental Communication.

Website: [http://www.ucanchicago.org/site/epage/83928\\_682.htm](http://www.ucanchicago.org/site/epage/83928_682.htm)

## DATA SOURCE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

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### **U.S. TEENAGE PREGNANCIES, BIRTHS, AND ABORTIONS, 2008: NATIONAL TRENDS BY AGE, RACE AND ETHNICITY**

This report, published by the Guttmacher Institute, provides estimates of the total number and rates of teen pregnancy through 2008. The total number of pregnancies was calculated as the sum of births, abortions, and miscarriages. Abortion rates were calculated using results from the Guttmacher Abortion Provider Census, as well as data obtained from state health departments. Indicators in this report that use data from U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions are: Teen Pregnancy.

Website: <http://www.guttmacher.org>

### **WITH ONE VOICE 2010: AMERICA'S ADULTS AND TEENS SOUND OFF ABOUT TEEN PREGNANCY**

Data from With One Voice were taken from two national surveys, one of young people age 12–19 and the other of adults aged 20 and over. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy conducted the survey with assistance from Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS). The survey was published by The National Campaign. The teen and adult surveys were weighted to provide a nationally representative estimate of these two groups. Field work for these surveys took place in August and September 2010. Interviews were conducted with 1,008 young people and 1,011 adults. Indicators in this report that use With One Voice 2010 are: Information About Abstinence and Contraception, Family & Peer Influence, Parental Communication, Dating Relationships.

Website: <http://www.TheNationalCampaign.org>

### **YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (YRBSS)**

The YRBSS is a cross-sectional study conducted by the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The study gathers information mainly on the negative indicators of health and risky health-related behavior among youth. Topics include tobacco use; healthy and unhealthy dietary behavior; physical activity; alcohol and drug use; sexual behavior; and violent behavior. The YRBSS includes a national survey as well as surveys conducted by state and local education and health agencies. The national surveys have been conducted every two years since 1991, and are nationally representative of students in grades 9 through 12 in public and private high schools. Indicators in this report that use YRBSS data are: Risky Sexual Behavior, Dating Relationships.

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/index.htm>