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# Sexual Activity and Contraceptive Practices Among Teenagers in the United States, 1988 and 1995

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention • National Center for Health Statistics

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# Vital and Health Statistics

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## Sexual Activity and Contraceptive Practices Among Teenagers in the United States, 1988 and 1995

Series 23:  
Data From the National Survey  
of Family Growth  
No. 21

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Health Statistics

Hyattsville, Maryland  
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# Contents

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Abstract .....	1
Highlights .....	1
Sexual Experience and Activity .....	1
Contraceptive Use .....	2
Other Aspects of Sexual Behavior .....	3
Introduction .....	3
Trends in Adolescents' Sexual Behavior and Contraceptive Use .....	4
Previous Research: Factors Associated with Adolescents' Sexual Behavior and Contraceptive Use .....	5
Sources and Methods .....	5
The National Survey of Family Growth .....	6
The National Survey of Adolescent Males .....	6
General Comparability .....	7
Comparing Male and Female Estimates .....	8
Results .....	8
Sexual Experience .....	8
Age at First Sexual Intercourse .....	10
Current Sexual Activity .....	12
Contraceptive Use at Last Intercourse .....	12
No Method Use .....	13
Condom Use .....	14
Hormonal Method Use .....	15
Contraceptive Use at First Intercourse .....	16
No Method Use .....	17
Condom Use .....	17
Hormonal Method Use .....	18
Other Aspects of Sexual Behavior .....	18
Number of Sexual Partners in Lifetime .....	18
Number of Sexual Partners in Past 3 Months .....	19
Age Differences Between Teenagers and Their Opposite-Sex Partners .....	20
Age Differences: Recent Sexual Partners .....	20
Age Differences: First Sexual Partner .....	21
Discussion .....	21
Summary .....	25
References .....	25
Appendix I .....	52
Sampling Errors .....	52
Appendix II .....	52
Definitions of Terms .....	52
Sexual Behavior and Contraceptive Use Measures .....	52
Selected Demographic Terms .....	53

Appendix III .....	54
Availability of Data and Related Sources .....	54

## Text Tables

A. Number of sample males in the National Survey of Adolescent Males and sample females in the National Survey of Family Growth aged 15–19 years on the day of interview, by survey year: 1988 and 1995. ....	7
B. Number and percent of males and females 15–19 years of age who have had sexual intercourse, by age race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	8

## Figures

1. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years who have ever had sexual intercourse by year of survey: United States, 1971–95. ....	9
2. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years who have ever had sexual intercourse by year of survey, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1988 and 1995. ....	9
3. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years who have ever had sexual intercourse by year of survey and school status: United States, 1988 and 1995. ....	10
4. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years who had sexual intercourse before 15 years of age by age at interview: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	11
5. Percent of sexually active females and males aged 15–19 years who used a hormonal method at last sexual intercourse by race: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	13
6. Percent of sexually active females and males aged 15–19 years who used a condom at last sexual intercourse by race: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	13
7. Percent of sexually active females and males aged 15–19 years who used no contraceptive method at last sexual intercourse by race: United States, 1988 and 1995. ....	14
8. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years who used no contraceptive method at first sexual intercourse by race: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	16
9. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years who used a condom at first sexual intercourse by race: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	17
10. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years with specified number of sexual partners in lifetime by age at first sexual intercourse: United States, 1995. ....	18
11. Percent of males and females aged 15–19 years with specified number of sexual partners in the 3 months prior to the survey: United States, 1995 .....	19
12. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years with specified risk by mother’s education: United States, 1995. ....	22
13. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years with specified risk by mother’s age at first birth: United States, 1995. ....	23
14. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years with specified risk by school status: United States, 1995. ....	24

## Detailed Tables

1. Number and percent of females and males 15–19 years of age who have had sexual intercourse by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995. ....	28
2. Cumulative percent of females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse before reaching selected ages by race: United States, 1988 and 1995. ....	29
3. Percent of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who had sexual intercourse before age 15 years by age at interview and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	30
4. Percent of females and males 15–19 years of age who had sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995. ....	32
5. Percent of sexually active females and males 15–19 years of age who used specified contraception during last sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by race: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	34
6. Percent of sexually active females and males 15–19 years of age who used specified contraception during last sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	35
7. Percent of females and males 15–19 years of age who ever had sexual intercourse who used specified contraception during first sexual intercourse, by Hispanic origin and race: United States, 1988 and 1995. ....	37
8. Percent of females and males 15–19 years of age who ever had sexual intercourse who used a specified method of contraception during first sexual intercourse by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	38
9. Percent distribution of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by number of opposite-sex sexual partners in lifetime, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	40

10.	Percent distribution of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by number of opposite-sex sexual partners in the past 3 months, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	42
11.	Percent distribution of sexually active never-married females 15–19 years of age by age difference between female and last male sexual partner in the past 3 months, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1995 .....	44
12.	Percent distribution of sexually active never-married males 15–19 years of age by age difference between male and last female sexual partner within the last 3 months, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1995 and 1988 .....	46
13.	Percent distribution of never-married females 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by age difference between female and first male sexual partner, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1995. ....	48
14.	Percent distribution of never-married males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by age difference between male and first female sexual partner, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	50

## Appendix Tables

I.	Standard errors for percents of females and males 15–19 years of age who have had sexual intercourse by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995.....	56
II.	Standard errors for cumulative percents of females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse before reaching selected ages by race: United States, 1988 and 1995.....	57
III.	Standard errors for percents of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who had sexual intercourse before age 15 years by age at interview and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995.....	58
IV.	Standard errors for percents of females and males 15–19 years of age who had sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	59
V.	Standard errors for percents of sexually active females and males 15–19 years of age who used specified contraception during last sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by race: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	60
VI.	Standard errors for percents of sexually active females and males 15–19 years of age who used specified contraception during last sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	61
VII.	Standard errors for percents of females and males 15–19 years of age who ever had sexual intercourse who used specified contraception during first sexual intercourse by Hispanic origin and race: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	63
VIII.	Standard errors for percents of females and males 15–19 years of age who ever had sexual intercourse who used a specified method of contraception during first sexual intercourse by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	64
IX.	Standard errors for percent distribution of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by number of opposite-sex sexual partners in lifetime and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	66
X.	Standard errors for percent distribution of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse, by number of opposite-sex sexual partners in the past 3 months and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	68
XI.	Standard errors for percent distribution of sexually active never-married females 15–19 years of age by age difference between female and last male sexual partner in the past 3 months and selected characteristics: United States, 1995 ...	70
XII.	Standard errors for percent distribution of sexually active never-married males 15–19 years of age by age difference between male and last female sexual partner within the last 3 months and selected characteristics: United States, 1995 and 1988 .....	72
XIII.	Standard errors for percent distribution of never-married females 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by age difference between female and first male sexual partner and selected characteristics: United States, 1995 .....	74
XIV.	Standard errors for percent distribution of never-married males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by age difference between male and first female sexual partner and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995 .....	76
XV.	Question wording and variable construction details for sexual activity and contraceptive use measures: National Survey of Family Growth and National Survey of Adolescent Males, 1995 and 1988 .....	78

**Objectives**

This report presents national estimates of sexual experience, contraceptive use, and selected aspects of sexual behavior among never-married males and females aged 15–19 years in the United States. Data are presented for the years 1988 and 1995 according to age, race and Hispanic origin, progress in school, and other relevant characteristics. Tables present trends over time as well as comparisons between subgroups.

**Methods**

Descriptive tables of numbers and percents are presented and interpreted. Data for females are from the National Survey of Family Growth, and data for males are from the National Survey of Adolescent Males.

**Results**

About half of all never-married teenagers, about 17.5 million, had had sexual intercourse at least once in 1995. For male teenagers, this represents a decline since 1988, and for females, the proportion was stable across the two time points. The proportion of teen females who had sex before age 15 years increased.

In 1995, 29 percent of females and 19 percent of males had unprotected *recent* sexual intercourse. About one-quarter of teens used no contraceptives during their *first* sexual intercourse. The condom remained the most popular method of contraception. Although teenagers' use of oral contraceptives dropped between 1988 and 1995, use of injectable and implant contraceptives began. Teenagers with more highly educated mothers, mothers who delayed their first birth beyond age 19 years, those from two-parent families, and those whose schooling was on schedule, were less likely to engage in sexual risk behaviors. These teenagers, along with those who were Protestant, also experienced the largest improvements across time in sexual risk behaviors.

**Keywords:** *adolescent sexual activity • adolescent contraceptive use • teenage pregnancy*

# Sexual Activity and Contraceptive Practices Among Teenagers in the United States, 1988 and 1995

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## Highlights

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This report presents detailed information on sexual activity and contraception among teenagers aged 15–19 years in the United States. Data are presented for never-married teenagers for 1988 and 1995. The report also contains discussions and interpretations of differences in sexual activity and contraception among teenagers by age, race, and other important demographic and social factors.

## Sexual Experience and Activity

About half of all never-married teenagers aged 15–19 years had had sexual intercourse at least once (referred to in this report as “sexually experienced”) in 1995. This proportion, 52 percent, represents a statistically significant decline from the proportion who were sexually experienced in 1988 (56 percent). Among males, the proportion declined significantly from 60 to 55 percent between 1988 and 1995. Among females, the proportions who were sexually experienced were similar for the two time periods, at 51 percent in 1988 and 49 percent in 1995. These patterns represent the first decline or lack of increase since national

surveys started tracking levels of sexual experience among teenagers in the early 1970's.

Among males 15–19 years old, declines in the proportion who were sexually experienced between 1988 and 1995 occurred among white youth and among younger males aged 15–17 years (7-percentage-point declines in both cases). The percent who were sexually experienced remained stable among black and Hispanic male teenagers.

Among females, sexual experience levels remained similar across these age and racial/ethnic groups. (Non-Hispanic white teenagers are referred to as “white” and non-Hispanic black teenagers are referred to as “black” for easier comprehension of the discussions. All discussions of racial and ethnic differences in the results in this report refer to estimates calculated separately for Hispanic, non-Hispanic black, and non-Hispanic white teenagers.)

Changes in the age at first sexual intercourse occurred across time for female teenagers, but not for male teenagers. Although the overall proportion of female teenagers who engage in sexual intercourse has not increased, female teenagers in 1995 had first sexual intercourse at younger ages than in 1988. Nineteen percent of female teenagers had had sex before age 15 in 1995, compared with 11 percent in 1988. This trend among females toward earlier sex was evident across *all* demographic subgroups and family

background categories. Among male teenagers, the proportion who had sexual intercourse before age 15 years held stable at 21 percent in both time periods. At both time points, black males and females began having intercourse at earlier ages than white teenagers.

In 1995, not as many teenagers were sexually active, that is, had had sex recently, as were sexually experienced (had *ever* had sex). Thirty-eight percent of all teenagers had had sex within 3 months of the survey. Among males, the proportion of those sexually active had declined since 1988, particularly among white and 15–17-year-old males. Among females, the proportion remained relatively stable across time for these race and age groups. Black teenagers, however, were more likely to be sexually active than white and Hispanic teenagers at both time points.

Adolescents' family and parental characteristics were associated with their sexual behavior. Among teenagers whose mothers had higher education, whose mothers had delayed the first birth beyond age 19 years, and who were from families with both biological or adoptive parents present in the household, lower percents were sexually experienced, were sexually active, and began sex early.

Adolescents' progress in school was also clearly associated with their propensity to engage in sexual risk behaviors. Male and female teenagers who were behind in school were more likely to be sexually experienced, have had first sexual intercourse earlier, and to be currently sexually active than their counterparts whose schooling was on schedule.

Teenagers who experienced significant declines in levels of sexual behavior are those with background characteristics associated historically with the *lowest* levels of risk. Protestant teenagers and those who attended religious services frequently, those whose mothers had higher levels of education or delayed the first birth, and those who were not behind in school, had significant declines in *sexual experience*. These same characteristics, along with growing up in a two-parent

household and in a suburban residence, were associated with significant declines in *sexual activity*. (These associations with sexual activity vary for males and females by some characteristics, see full text for details.)

## Contraceptive Use

In 1995, 29 percent of female and 18 percent of male teenagers who were sexually active within 3 months of the survey had unprotected sexual intercourse the last time they had sex. For sexually active females, this represents a significant increase in the proportion whose last sexual intercourse was without contraception, up 9 percentage points from 1988. This change is explained by a significant drop in the use of the pill, partially compensated for by the adoption of implant or injectable contraception, and by a significant increase in condom use. Males also reported significant drops in partners' pill use and increases in condom use during last sexual intercourse. However, males experienced no significant decline in the proportion whose last sexual intercourse was protected. Although still uncommon at 8 percent, the simultaneous use of a hormonal method and the condom during last sexual intercourse increased significantly among sexually active females from 1988 to 1995. A higher proportion (17 percent) of male teenagers used dual methods than did female teenagers, and the prevalence among males remained stable between the surveys.

Among females, the increase in unprotected last sexual intercourse from 1988 to 1995 occurred among white sexually active teenagers, while it remained stable among their black counterparts. Both white and black females report less pill use and more condom use during their last sexual intercourse in 1995 compared with 1988, but black teenagers also report considerable use of implants or injectables in 1995. As a result, the gap in unprotected sex evident in 1988 between black and white female teenagers closed by 1995 as white teenagers' protection levels decreased.

Estimates of contraceptive use at first intercourse are important as an indication of how well teenagers were prepared for the onset of sexual activity. In 1995, about three-quarters of teenaged males and females used some method of contraception during their first sexual intercourse. This is a significant improvement from 1988 for females, when 67 percent used contraception during their first sexual intercourse. Among male teenagers, the use of any method at first sex has remained stable. The condom is the method most commonly chosen at first sexual intercourse. In 1995, 70 percent of both females and males reported condom use at first sex, a significantly higher proportion than was true in 1988. The use of hormonal methods is very uncommon at first sex, and this was the case in both 1988 and 1995. Only 8 percent of teenaged females reported using a hormonal method at first sex in 1995. Increases in contraception at first intercourse and condom use at first intercourse were evident among both black and white teenagers, although in both 1988 and 1995, black teenagers were less likely to use a method at first sex.

Age at first sex was associated with method use at first and last sexual intercourse. Teenagers whose first sexual experience occurred at younger ages were less likely to use a contraceptive method at first intercourse. Females were also less likely to have used a contraceptive method at their last intercourse. Between 1988 and 1995, females who began having sex earlier showed improvements in using a method at *first* sexual intercourse, but decreases in using a method at their *last* sexual encounter.

For both 1988 and 1995, teenagers' contraceptive use at first and last sexual intercourse was associated with their parents' characteristics and with their progress in school. Teenagers whose mothers had higher levels of education and male teenagers whose mothers delayed their own first birth were more likely to use contraception at both their first and last sexual encounter. Teenagers who were behind schedule in their schooling had substantially higher

percents of having unprotected first and last sexual intercourse.

For females, the increase in percents having protected first sexual intercourse have been pervasive, that is, it occurred regardless of family type, mother's education, mother's age at first birth, and school status. Increases in levels of condom use at first intercourse have also occurred pervasively for both male and female teenagers, showing improvement for virtually all subgroups. Similarly, among female teenagers, the declines in any use of contraceptive method during *last* sexual intercourse and, specifically, declines in hormonal method use, occurred across all family background, religion, and school status subgroups. At the same time, the offsetting increases in condom use at last sexual intercourse occurred selectively, primarily among those with historically higher levels of condom use. Thus, gaps in prevalence of method use at last sex between teenagers with different background factors widened.

## Other Aspects of Sexual Behavior

The number of sexual partners that teenagers have over their lifetimes has an important influence on their risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease (STD), including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). According to 1995 data presented here, close to 40 percent of the sexually experienced female teenagers had had only one partner in their lifetimes. Fourteen percent had had six or more sexual partners. Sexually experienced males in 1995 tended to have more sexual partners than females, with 27 percent having had only one partner, and one-quarter having had six or more partners. Also of interest is the number of partners teenagers have within a short, recent time period. In the 3 months preceding the 1995 survey, 22 percent of sexually experienced females had had no partners, and 17 percent had had 2 or more partners. Compared with females, males had *fewer* sexual partners in the recent past: 31 percent had had no sexual partners in the 3 months prior to the survey, and

13 percent had had two or more partners. The younger the age at which first intercourse occurred, the more lifetime partners teenagers had. Males also had more *recent* partners when they had started sexual activity before they were 17 years old.

The risks associated with multiple partners appear to have decreased between 1988 and 1995 among both female and male teenagers for particular subgroups. Younger female teenagers (those aged 15 and 17 years) experienced slight improvements from 1988 to 1995 in multiple-partner risk over their lifetimes, and older females and black females experienced higher risk. Among males in 1995, those aged 18 years or who were white had lower proportions with six or more sexual partners in their lifetimes, and lower proportions with two or more partners in the 3 months before the interview, compared with their counterparts in 1988.

Recent concern about large age differences between female teenagers and older sexual partners warrants analyses of these national data. In 1995, 20 percent of females had a *first* male sexual partner 4 or more years older than they were, and 24 percent had a *last* male sexual partner (in the 3 months prior to the survey) 4 or more years older than they were. Younger age at first sexual intercourse was associated with having an older *recent* partner. Data for 1988 are not available to examine shifts over time among female teenagers.

Among male teenagers, having a first female partner who was 4 or more years older was extremely rare (6 percent). It was more common to have had a first female partner who was 1–3 years older (36 percent) or the same age (32 percent). Similar to the pattern for females, among males, younger age at first sexual intercourse was associated with having an older first partner. Between 1988 and 1995, the patterns of age difference between male teenagers and their female partners were stable.

## Introduction

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This report presents detailed information on sexual activity and contraception among never-married male and female teenagers in the United States in 1988 and 1995. Monitoring changes over time in these sexual behaviors is important because of concern about the health and social costs of pregnancy, childbearing, and sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) among this population. While aggregate national trends are of interest, previous research has found that teenagers sharing particular characteristics are more likely than others to engage in behaviors that carry risk of pregnancy and STD transmission. Therefore, this report also presents detailed breakdowns of the prevalence of sexual risk behaviors among population subgroups and examines shifts in these behaviors between 1988 and 1995. It should be noted that this report marks the first effort by NCHS to present data from the National Survey of Family Growth with data from the National Survey of Adolescent Males. The parallel information for females and males presented in this report illustrates the importance of monitoring the behavior of both sexes to provide a more complete picture of sexual health risks among teenagers.

The sexual and contraceptive behavior of teenagers has implications for their rates of pregnancy and STD infection. Recent trends have been encouraging. In 1999, the birth rate among teenagers was 49.6 per 1,000 female teenagers, a record low that is down from 62.1 in 1991 (1). The pregnancy rate (including live births, induced abortions, and fetal losses) fell 15 percent from 1991 to 1996 (2). Despite recent declines, however, the teenage pregnancy rate is 2 to 9 times higher in the United States than those in other industrialized countries (3,4). Public concern with the personal and social costs of teenage pregnancy and childbearing is reflected in the proliferation of programs to prevent these pregnancies (5) and in recent policies and legislation. For example, the Welfare Reform Act of 1996

characterizes the current rate of childbearing among teenagers as a national crisis and proclaims that reducing this rate is a “very important government interest” (6).

Each year, about 3 million teenagers acquire a sexually transmitted disease (STD) (7). One-quarter of all sexually transmitted infection cases in the United States are among teenagers. Rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, vaginitis, and pelvic inflammatory disease are all highest in adolescents and decline dramatically with increasing age (8). Adolescents are more vulnerable to STD’s than adults not only because of their higher likelihood of having had sex with multiple partners, but also because young female adolescents are biologically more susceptible to infection (7). There have been signs of improvement, however, as rates of gonorrhea among both male and female adolescents decreased between 1994 and 1998. (9). Recently, in the overall population, gonorrhea rates have increased by about 9 percent (between 1997 and 1999). However, rates among male and female adolescents have maintained a decline between 1995 and 1999 (10).

## Trends in Adolescents’ Sexual Behavior and Contraceptive Use

About one-half of all teenagers report being sexually experienced (having had sex at least once). However, recently, the percent of teenagers who are sexually experienced has declined, after steadily increasing through the 1970’s and 1980’s (3,11). This decline has occurred primarily among male teenagers (12,13). For female teenagers, the level of sexual experience has stabilized or declined slightly (14–16). Trends in the prevalence of *overall* contraceptive use among teenaged females are not clear-cut, but the use of contraceptives at *first* intercourse has increased steadily since the early 1980’s among females (13,14,17). Reports on teenaged males also show recent increases in the prevalence of condom

use, continuing the upward trend shown by data collected since the late 1970’s (12,13,18).

The recent trends in the proportion of teenagers who are sexually experienced have been previously reported using data from three separate national surveys. The National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, revealed stability between 1988 and 1995 in the proportion of female teenagers who were sexually experienced (53 and 50 percent, respectively) (14). These figures include female teenagers of all marital statuses. The National Survey of Adolescent Males (NSAM), conducted by The Urban Institute, showed an increase in the percent of those who were sexually experienced between 1979 and 1988 among never- married males and a decline from 60 to 55 percent between 1988 and 1995 (12). Finally, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, showed that among high school students in grades 9 through 12, the percent who were sexually experienced declined significantly between 1991 and 1997, from 54 to 48 percent. Examining trends by subgroups, the YRBS showed significant declines for males, for black students, and for white students (13). Recent data from the YRBS show that in 1999, 50 percent of high school students reported that they were sexually experienced (19). Males’ declines in sexual experience parallel significant changes in their attitudes about premarital sex and childbearing, toward a more conservative direction (20).

These three national surveys have also been the basis for recent reports of trends in contraceptive use among teenagers. According to NSFG data, the percent of teenaged females who used a method of contraception at *first* sex has increased through the 1980’s and 1990’s: from 48 percent in 1982 (21) to 65 percent in 1988 and to 76 percent in 1995. This increase is due primarily to an increase in condom use, while use of the pill has declined. Two other measures of contraceptive use, use at last sex and “current” use (use in the

same month as the survey), show very little change or a decline between 1988 and 1995 (22,23).

Earlier analysis of NSAM and its predecessor, the 1979 National Survey of Young Men, showed that among males aged 17–19 years living in metropolitan areas, condom use at last sexual intercourse more than doubled between 1979 and 1988. Condom use during first sexual intercourse was much more likely among males who had sex for the first time in the late 1980’s compared to those having had first sexual intercourse in the mid-1970’s to early 1980’s (18). More recently, analyses of NSAM data show that condom use at last sexual intercourse among males aged 15 through 19 years increased significantly from 57 percent in 1988 to 67 percent in 1995. In addition, the proportion of males using the condom consistently (during every sexual intercourse in the past year) increased significantly between 1988 and 1995 (12). Other recent analyses show that in 1995, 17 percent of sexually active males reported dual use (use of a condom while the female partner also used a contraceptive method), and that the amount an adolescent worried about AIDS and STD’s significantly predicted dual use (24).

Consistent with the other national surveys, recent data from the YRBS showed steady increases in condom use among sexually active teenagers (teenagers who had sexual intercourse within 3 months of the survey) for each year between 1991 and 1997. Significant increases were apparent for both males and females and for both black and white students (13). Data for 1999 show that 51 percent of female students and 66 percent of male students used a condom during last sexual intercourse (19).

These three national surveys are not directly comparable because they differ in the age range and types of youth included, the way the surveys are administered, and sampling frame. The NSFG and the NSAM are household surveys using in-person interviews while YRBS collects data from high school students through self-administered paper questionnaires completed in classrooms.

However, despite these differences, the surveys show similar trends in sexual experience and condom use among young adolescents (25).

## Previous Research: Factors Associated with Adolescents' Sexual Behavior and Contraceptive Use

Research on the antecedents of adolescents' sexual behavior and contraceptive use has demonstrated that certain characteristics and background factors correlate with sexual and contraceptive behavior among teenagers. These include age, race and Hispanic origin, mother's education, age at which the mother had her first birth, characteristics of the family in which the teenager was raised, religiosity as measured by religious affiliation and the frequency of attendance at religious services, and progress in school.

Teenagers who are younger at first sexual intercourse not only begin earlier exposure to STD's and pregnancy, but also have higher subsequent risks. They are more likely to have sexual intercourse more frequently, to have higher numbers of lifetime partners, and to accumulate partners at a faster pace (26–29), in turn increasing the odds of STD transmission and pregnancy.

Among teenagers, age is an important predictor of contraceptive use (3,18,30,31). Male and female teenagers who are younger at first sexual intercourse are less likely to have used a contraceptive method (3,14,18,32). Among male teenagers, condom use decreases and reliance on a female contraceptive method increases with age (31).

Previous studies have found racial and ethnic group differences in sexual experience and contraceptive use. Black adolescents begin sexual activity at a younger age than Hispanic and white adolescents (3,12,33,34). Black and Hispanic females and males are less likely to use contraception at *first* sexual intercourse than white teenagers (18,21). Other measures of contraceptive use (such as use at most recent sexual

intercourse) for female teenagers show, however, that black and Hispanic females are as likely as white females to use contraception. Among males, for specific measures of contraceptive and sexual risk behaviors, Hispanic and black adolescents experience greater exposure to risk than white males (12,24).

Socioeconomic status is inversely related to certain sexual risk behaviors among teenagers (35,36). For example, higher maternal education, an indicator of socioeconomic status, is associated with later initiation of sex and lower risk of unprotected intercourse, and a lower probability of birth during adolescence (14,15,35,37). Black and Hispanic youth and their families have lower levels of education, income, and access to health care and health insurance than white youth (38,39). These and related factors account for much of the difference in sexual and contraceptive behaviors among white, black, and Hispanic youth (noted above) rather than race and ethnicity per se (40,25).

Closely related to socioeconomic status is family structure, which reflects a number of related factors: experiences with family disruption, the parents or parent-figures in the household, and the number of adult income earners in the household. Female teenagers who grow up in two-parent households begin sex later, use condoms during first sexual intercourse compared with choosing another method or no method at all, and have lower probabilities of giving birth compared with those who were raised in any other type of family (14,15,37). One recent study found that both parental education and family structure influenced the likelihood of adolescents' ever having had sex, and for female adolescents, the likelihood of using a condom during recent sexual intercourse, but they were not found to be independently related to other important measures of sexual risk (41).

Research has documented a relationship between teenaged sexual and reproductive behaviors and the age of the teenager's mother when she had her first birth. Female teenagers begin sex earlier and are more likely to have a birth if their mothers had a birth during

the teenage years (15,42). Maternal teenage childbearing is also positively associated with males' propensity for sexual risk behaviors (43).

Religious affiliation and religiosity are associated with adolescents' sexual behavior (33,44,45,46,47). For example, teenagers who are more strongly religious are less likely to have premarital or early sex and less likely to use a contraceptive method at first sexual intercourse (48). Analysis of 1988 NSAM data for teenage males showed fundamentalist religious affiliation to be negatively related to sexual risk behaviors compared with nonfundamentalist religions or no religious affiliation, which were positively associated (46).

There is some evidence that academic involvement and achievement is associated with sexual behavior among adolescents (49). Some analyses suggest that adolescents who engage in risky behaviors related to academic problems may also be more likely to take risks concerning sex and contraception (50,51).

Based on the research evidence cited above, this report provides detailed information about these characteristics and the correlation of background factors with sexual and contraceptive behavior among teenagers.

## Sources and Methods

To examine changes in the sexual and contraceptive behaviors of male and female teenagers in the past decade, this report presents data from two national surveys, each administered in 1988 and 1995. The report examines a variety of sexual and contraceptive measures: the proportion of teenagers who have had sex, the age at first sexual intercourse, recent sexual activity, contraceptive method use at first intercourse and in the last 3 months, the number of opposite-sex sexual partners, and the age differences between teenagers and their opposite-sex sexual partners. The measures of sexual activity refer to heterosexual vaginal sexual intercourse. [Appendix I](#) and [appendix table XV](#)

contain the wording of the questions measuring the behaviors covered in this report.

These sexual and contraceptive behavioral outcomes were selected because they are key indicators of exposure to the risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Multiple measures of behavior also provide a more comprehensive picture of overall risk than single items. Therefore, the measures presented reflect both recent behavior and lifetime experience or first experiences.

Estimates are presented for a variety of social and demographic characteristics and background factors that were discussed in the previous section as important antecedents or correlates of teenagers' sexual and contraceptive behavior. These include age, race and Hispanic origin, parental education, the age of the teenager's mother at her first birth, the type of family in which the youth was raised, religiosity, and whether the teenager is behind in school (that is, has dropped out or is at least two grades behind the grade he/she should be in). Teenagers living in different regions of the country and in different types of communities are contrasted. Residence is presented only in conjunction with recent behaviors because current residence does not necessarily reflect residence at the time of events occurring prior to the interview.

This report shows associations between teenagers' characteristics and sexual and contraceptive behavior in bivariate tabulations. Tests of significance for differences between estimates were performed for females and for males and are denoted in the tables. If the level of significance of a difference between two estimates reached 10 percent or better ( $p < .10$ ), it was denoted in the tables with a @ symbol as significant and discussed in the text. Tests of significance were performed for the following types of comparisons: between estimates for the years 1988 and 1995; between categories of the characteristics, *within* years; and in selected cases, between males and females' estimates for the same year. Significance of the 1988-to-1995 comparisons are denoted

in the tables, but for legibility and clarity of the tables, symbols denoting significance are not presented for the other two types of comparisons. Changes are not discussed (exceptions are clearly specified in the text) if they fell below the 10-percent significance level ( $p < .10$ ).

Standard errors for all figures are presented in tables I–XIV. If an estimate fell short of the standard of reliability or precision (see appendix I: Sampling Errors for the criterion), it was not tested for significance of difference from another estimate nor discussed in the text. These estimates are denoted with an asterisk (\*) in the tables. Sample sizes are also presented in the tables to assist in identifying the subsample of analysis for each table.

It is important to note that the data presented do not control for the complex associations that occur between the various measures of teenagers' characteristics and background factors. For example, being behind in school is closely associated with family characteristics such as income. Thus, the association between being behind in school and sexual activity shown in the tables is partially due to other factors such as family income. The primary purpose of the tables is to identify subgroups' relative risk levels and how they have changed over time.

In all tables in this report, the racial and ethnic groupings are non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic. Hispanic teenagers may be of any race. However, for ease of understanding the results, non-Hispanic black teenagers are referred to as "black" and non-Hispanic white teenagers are referred to as "white" in the text figures.

## The National Survey of Family Growth

Data for females are from cycles 4 and 5 of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Both cycles were based on multistage probability samples of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of women in the United States and yield

estimates that are representative of the national population of women 15–44 years of age. For both cycles, a probability sample of women aged 15–44 years was selected from among households that had recently responded to the National Health Interview Survey, another survey conducted by NCHS. This sample served as the sampling frame for the NSFG for both cycles. For the 1988 survey, black women of all ages were oversampled, and for the 1995 survey, Hispanic women were oversampled in addition to black women. More information about the funding, mission, sample design, calculation of weights, and data collection procedures of these cycles of the NSFG are available in several published reports (52–54).

The 1988 and 1995 NSFG surveys were based on personal, in-home interviews with women 15–44 years of age. The 1988 cycle involved interviews with 8,450 women between January and August, and the 1995 cycle interviewed 10,847 women between January and October. The 1988 sample yielded 1,252 females in the subgroup aged 15–19 years: 122 Hispanic teenagers, 720 white teenagers, 375 black teenagers, and 35 teenagers of other races and ethnic origins. The 1995 data contain 1,408 teenagers: 213 Hispanic teenagers, 848 white teenagers, 293 black teenagers, and 54 teenagers of other races and ethnic origins.

The 1995 survey was the first NSFG to use computer-assisted personal interviews (CAPI), and included a small section implemented with audio-computer-assisted self-interviewing (ACASI). Earlier cycles of the NSFG were conducted using paper-and-pencil interviews (PAPI), with short paper-and-pencil self-administered sections.

## The National Survey of Adolescent Males

Data for males comes from the National Survey of Adolescent Males (NSAM), a survey initiated to fill a void in information on the sexual and reproductive behavior among teenage males in the United States. The survey, first conducted in 1988 and repeated in

1995, was designed to parallel the information on teenaged females' sexual and reproductive behavior provided by the NSFG. Together these surveys provide comparable but separately collected data for male and female teenagers at two points in time.

The NSAM was originally designed by investigators funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (18). The surveys used multistage probability samples of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of males aged 15–19 years in the United States, yielding estimates that are representative of the national population of never-married teenaged males in 1988 and all teenaged males in 1995. Like the NSFG, the NSAM included oversamples of black and Hispanic respondents to bolster the stability of the estimates for these smaller subgroups. Weights were designed to adjust for this oversampling in addition to nonresponse, so that the figures remain nationally representative. The 1988 sample yielded 1,880 never-married males aged 15–19 years: 386 Hispanic teenagers, 755 white teenagers, 677 black teenagers, and 62 teenagers of other races and ethnic origins. The 1995 data contain 1,729 male teenagers of all marital statuses: 558 Hispanic teenagers, 618 non-Hispanic white teenagers, 494 non-Hispanic black teenagers, and 59 teenagers of other races and ethnic origins.

Like the NSFG, the 1988 and 1995 NSAM surveys were conducted through face-to-face interviews by trained interviewers in the respondents' homes or other confidential locations. Both survey rounds were based on paper-and-pencil interviews (PAPI), and included a self-administered component for the most sensitive questions. The 1995 survey included an experiment contrasting information collected in an audio-computer-assisted-self-administered interview (ACASI) section to a parallel paper-and-pencil self-administered questionnaire (55). Additional information about the methods used to develop the instrument is available elsewhere (56).

Table A presents the sample sizes of NSAM and the sample sizes of the teenaged portion of the NSFG for 1988

**Table A. Number of sample males in the National Survey of Adolescent Males and sample females in the National Survey of Family Growth aged 15–19 years on the day of interview by survey year: 1988 and 1995**

	Male		Female <sup>1,2</sup>	
	1988 <sup>3</sup>	1995	1988	1995
Total . . . . .	1,880	1,729	1,231	1,396
Never-married . . . . .	1,880	1,710	1,186	1,344

<sup>1</sup>The National Survey of Family Growth sample contains females aged 15–44 years. Teenage females constitute 15 percent of the total 1988 sample and 13 percent of the total 1995 sample.

<sup>2</sup>Figures for females aged 15–19 years might not match other published reports because age is defined here as "age at the day of interview," whereas in other reports it is defined as "age at the midpoint of the interviewing period."

<sup>3</sup>The 1988 National Survey of Adolescent Males was limited to never-married males.

and 1995. The response rates for the surveys for both years have been above 74 percent. For the NSFG, the response rate for the 15–19 year old age group was 81 percent. The 1995 response rate was 83 percent for ages 15–17 years and 82 percent for ages 18–24 years. These response rates, however, do not take into account nonresponse to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), which provided the sampling frames for both NSFG surveys. The response rate for NHIS was 95 percent for both time points. (See Judkins et al., 1991 (52) and Kelly et al., 1997 (53) for more information.) Response rates for the NSAM were 74 and 75 percent for 1988 and 1995, respectively.

In addition to the percents of sexually experienced teenagers, tables B and I present the total number of male and female teenagers in the United States and the numbers corresponding to each subgroup shown in the tables. These numbers are derived using the sampling weights (described above) that were created for each of the four data sets, which are used in every table in this report.

Analyses in this report are limited to never-married males and females 15–19 years of age on the day of the interview, and the data presented come from the interviewer-administered portions of the surveys. Questions about sexual experience were asked in the interviewer-administered section because so many subsequent questions and routing throughout the questionnaires depended upon the answers to these questions. To reap the benefits of privacy that ACASI offers, interviewer-administered questions cannot follow self-administered

questions, particularly if the interviewer-administered questions imply knowledge of the self-administered answers (sexual experience status). Because the measures involve reports of sensitive behaviors to an interviewer, they may be subject to some intentional and unintentional reporting errors. According to recent research on adolescents, males' reports of sexual events, such as the timing of first sexual intercourse, are more inconsistent across interview waves than those of females (57). However, because the surveys used in this report are cross-sectional and all respondents are interviewed for the first (and only) time, the tendency to change reports at subsequent interviews should not systematically affect the trends revealed by the four surveys. Further, analyses of the consistency of the reporting of sexual experience and condom use at last intercourse for males in the NSAM within the same interview indicate high levels of internal consistency (18,56).

## General Comparability

Questions ascertaining sexual and contraceptive behavior were designed to be comparable across the survey years and between the two surveys. However, for some measures, differences between the surveys exist that limit the comparability between the male and female figures. For a very small number of measures, differences in wording or construction exist between survey years that limit interpretation of trends. Appendix I provides definitions of all the measures in the tables of this report, and table XV presents question wording, descriptions of universes who were

asked the questions, and other technical details of the primary measures used in this report.

## Comparing Male and Female Estimates

Both female and male analysis samples are restricted to individuals ages 15–19 years, but neither the male nor female teenagers necessarily draw from the 15–19 year-old population for their sexual partners. For example, in 1995 a 19 year-old female’s most recent partner was, on average, almost 2 years older than she was (20.7 years old). Among males aged 15–19 years who had sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey, 17 percent had female partners who were either younger than 15 years old or older than 19 years old. Among females, the proportion with recent male partners who were out of the age range 15–19 years was considerably higher, at 43 percent (only 0.2 percent were under 15 years old, the rest were older than 19 years). Therefore, many of the teenagers’ sexual partners, especially those of the females, are not among the group of opposite-sex teenagers covered in this report. One should, therefore, not expect congruence between males and females of the same age in their reports of the prevalence of sexual behaviors.

Meaningful contrasts of risk levels of teenage males vis-a-vis teenage females can still be made.

With the exception of the condom, use of most contraceptive methods is more easily and perhaps more accurately reported by females than by males. Females have direct experience using female contraceptive methods, while males are reporting on behalf of their partners, possibly without full information. These female methods include the pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera (implant contraceptives and injectable contraceptives, respectively, both newly introduced to the United States in 1993), and most methods included in the category “other,” such as the IUD and the diaphragm. Thus, interpretation of the contraceptive use tables will focus on the female data, with the exception of the condom-use statistics.

The results are presented in the following order for most tables. First, trends for the total sample of teenagers are discussed. Next, trends and differentials for racial and ethnic subgroups are discussed, followed by specific ages or age groups, sometimes combined with a racial and ethnic subgroup. Finally, trends and differentials in background characteristics, such as mother’s education, family structure, and status in

school, are interpreted. When a noteworthy pattern exists for the comparison of males with females, this is also discussed in the appropriate section. This order follows the order of explanatory factors listed in the tables.

## Results

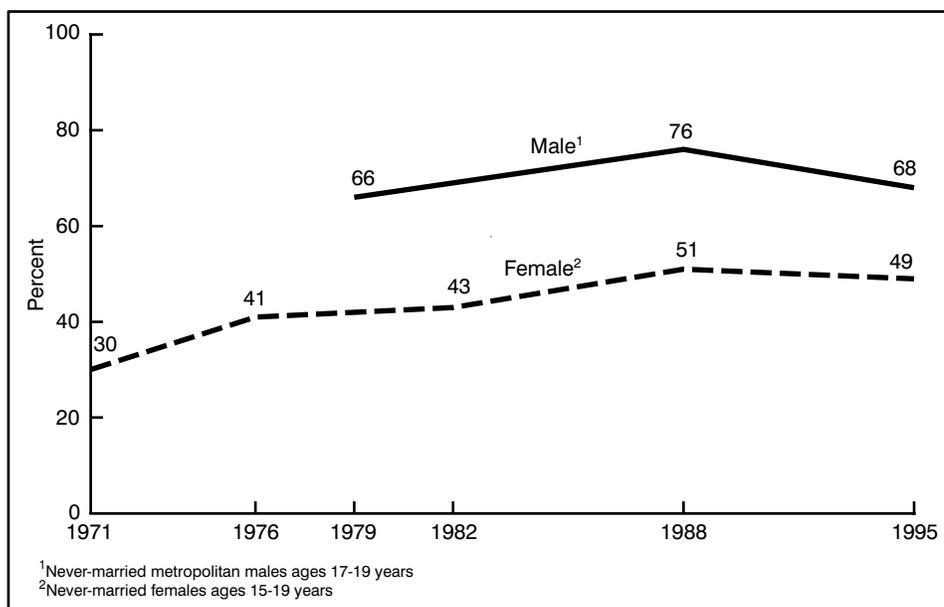
### Sexual Experience

For the first time since national surveys started tracking levels of sexual experience among teenagers, the data indicate a slight decline in the proportion of teenagers who have ever had sexual intercourse. Fifty-two percent of all never-married teenagers had had sexual intercourse in 1995 compared with 56 percent in 1988 (table B). With males and females grouped together, estimates for subgroups defined by age, race, and Hispanic origin reveal that the decline was concentrated primarily among white teenagers. There was a significant decline in the percent of sexually experienced white never-married teenagers over the 7-year period from 54 to 49 percent. The proportion of their black counterparts who were sexually experienced remained stable and increased among

**Table B. Number and percent of males and females 15–19 years of age who have had sexual intercourse by age, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	1988			1995		
	Number in thousands	Sample number	Percent	Number in thousands	Sample number	Percent
Total	17,536	3,066	55.9	17,547	3,054	@52.3
Age						
15–17 years	10,729	1,920	43.8	10,951	1,955	40.6
18–19 years	6,806	1,145	75.0	6,596	1,099	71.8
Race, Hispanic origin, and age						
White	12,604	1,434	53.7	11,751	1,418	@49.0
15–17 years	7,577	877	39.7	7,250	901	35.2
18–19 years	5,027	557	74.8	4,500	517	71.5
Black	2,615	1,039	70.4	2,656	774	69.7
15–17 years	1,645	662	63.5	1,676	501	62.1
18–19 years	971	376	82.4	979	273	82.9
Hispanic	1,755	497	53.1	2,198	749	57.1
15–17 years	1,124	320	46.3	1,358	473	49.4
18–19 years	631	177	65.3	831	276	69.2

@ Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10-percent level or better.



**Figure 1. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years who have ever had sexual intercourse by year of survey: United States, 1971–95**

Hispanic teenagers, although the increase was not statistically significant.

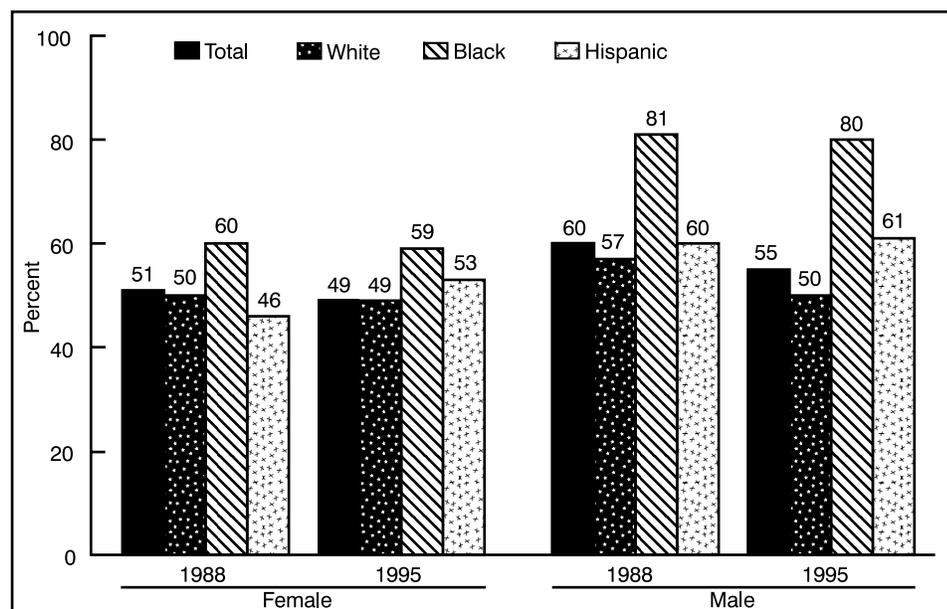
Table 1, which presents estimates separately for never-married male and female teenagers, shows that in 1995 about half (49 percent) of female teenagers and just over half (55 percent) of their male counterparts reported having had sexual intercourse at least once. The proportion of male teenagers who were sexually experienced declined by 5 percentage points between 1995 and 1998. The percent of female teenagers who were sexually experienced remained virtually stable, as shown by only slight differences between the percent in 1988 (51 percent) and 1995 (49 percent). Although the slight decline in the percent of female teenagers who were sexually experienced was not statistically significant, it nonetheless represents a departure from the long-term upward trend that has been in place since the early 1970's (3). Figure 1 is based on periodic surveys since 1971 and shows that the proportion of females aged 15–19 years who have ever had sexual intercourse steadily increased up to the 1988 survey. For males, fewer data points are available and the sample is more restricted, but the trend is similar. The share of metropolitan males ages 17–19 years who were sexually experienced rose between 1979 and

1988 and decreased between 1988 and 1995. Although these data show a recent decline, the proportion of teenagers who are sexually experienced remains higher than the proportion sexually experienced in the 1970's.

The proportion of teenagers who are sexually experienced differs markedly depending on their exact age. Table 1 shows that while three-quarters of older teenaged males (18–19 years old) reported having had sexual intercourse

in 1995, only 43 percent of younger teenaged males (15–17 years old) were sexually experienced. This proportion among younger males represents a 7-percentage-point decline from 1988. Among females in 1995, 38 percent of the younger teenagers were sexually experienced, while 68 percent of older teenagers were sexually experienced. Older female teenagers experienced a 5-percentage-point decline from the level of their 1988 counterparts, which is marginally significant, while younger teenagers (15–17 years old) experienced no change.

For both males and females, a higher percent of black teenagers were sexually experienced in 1995 than were white and Hispanic teenagers (although among females, differences between Hispanics and the other groups were not significant) (figure 2). For example, 80 percent of black males had had sexual intercourse at least once compared with 61 percent and 50 percent among Hispanic and white male teenagers, respectively. Comparisons by race and Hispanic origin show that the decline in sexual experience among males occurred primarily among younger white males (a significant decline from 44 to 35 percent). Hispanic males aged 15–17 years are the only other group showing a notable percentage-point decline, but it



**Figure 2. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years who have ever had sexual intercourse by year of survey, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1988 and 1995**

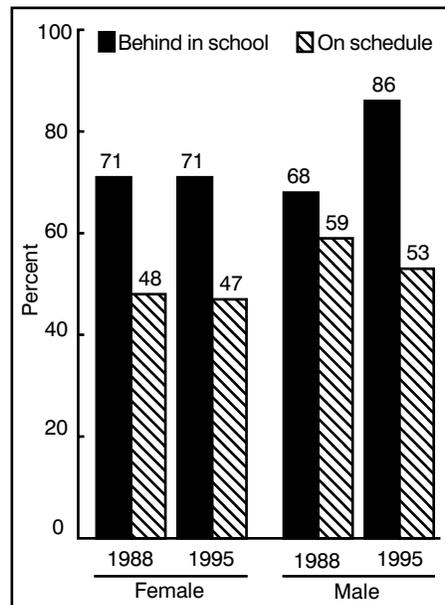
is not statistically significant. Among females, the stability or modest decline from 1988 to 1995 in percents of those sexually experienced is similar across virtually all of the age and race/Hispanic origin groups. The one exception is younger Hispanic females, among whom the proportion of those sexually experienced increased.

Teenagers with certain family background characteristics were less likely to have engaged in sexual intercourse in both 1988 and 1995.

Table 1 generally shows lower percents of sexually experienced teenagers among those whose mothers had higher levels of education, whose mothers had had their first birth after the teenaged years, and among those who were raised by both parents rather than in a single-parent or stepparent family or other family type. Among teenagers with no religious affiliation and with infrequent or no church attendance, higher proportions had engaged in sexual intercourse.

Much higher proportions of teenagers who were behind in school had engaged in sexual intercourse than was the case for those whose educations were on schedule. Among female teenagers in 1995, 71 percent of those who were at least two years behind grade level or who had left school before graduation were sexually experienced in contrast to 47 percent of those who were at grade level. Among male teenagers, 86 percent of those who were behind in school were sexually experienced compared with 53 percent of those who were at grade level. Similar large differences were evident in 1988.

Significant declines in proportions of sexually experienced teenagers occurred between 1988 and 1995 for several subgroups defined by the social and background measures presented. For females, those whose mothers had the highest educational level (16 or more years of education) and those from stepparent families experienced significant declines. Females who were Protestant or who attended religious services most frequently (once a week or more) experienced significant declines. These declines among more frequent service attenders and those with



**Figure 3. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years who have ever had sexual intercourse by year of survey and school status: United States, 1988 and 1995**

higher maternal education were accompanied by actual *increases* among the least frequent attenders and those with the lowest maternal education, resulting in a widening of the differences among these teenagers across time. Among males, significant declines occurred among those whose mothers had a high school education, those whose mothers delayed the first birth until age 20 years or older, and those who were Protestant. Males whose schooling was on schedule experienced a significant decline, while males who were behind in school actually experienced a significant *increase* in the percent of those who were sexually experienced (figure 3). These patterns suggest that teenagers from subgroups with historically *lower* levels of sexual experience have further reduced their sexual experience levels. One exception to this pattern was that females whose mothers had a teenaged first birth did not differ appreciably from those whose mothers had the first birth at a later age. Neither group experienced statistically significant declines in sexual experience across time.

## Age at First Sexual Intercourse

Table 2 shows the cumulative percent of males and females having had sexual intercourse before reaching specific ages. Based on a question asking respondents to report their age at first intercourse (see appendix II and table XV), it is different from the question underlying the estimates in table 1, which asked if the respondent had *ever* (even once) had sexual intercourse.

Very few teenagers had sexual intercourse before age 13 years. In 1995, 4 percent of males and 3 percent of females were sexually experienced by the time they turned 13 years old. By the time they turned 17 years old, about half of male and female teenagers were sexually experienced. By age 19 years, 83 percent of males and 70 percent of females were sexually experienced. This suggests that the transition to sexual experience among older female teenagers is more attenuated than among older male teenagers.

Black males and females become sexually experienced at earlier ages than white males and females. In 1995, 2 percent of white teenagers (both male and female) were sexually experienced before age 13 years. Among black teenagers, it was 6 percent for females and 14 percent for males. By age 17 years, under half of white males and females had had sex, but over 60 percent of black females and almost 80 percent of black males had done so.

Despite the overall pattern of no increase in sexual experience levels among female teenagers from 1988 to 1995, as noted in table 1, those interviewed in 1995 began having sex earlier than their 1988 counterparts. This seemingly inconsistent set of findings reflects the fact that the decrease in sexual experience was concentrated among the older teens, and was substantial enough to offset the acceleration of sexual experience among a relatively small group of younger teens. Table 2 helps demonstrate this pattern by “decomposing” by age this trend in the timing of first sexual intercourse for female teenagers between

1988 and 1995. For each individual age except ages 18 and 19 years, significantly *higher* cumulative percents had had sexual intercourse in 1995 than in 1988 (although the estimates for age 13 years within the white and black subgroups fall short of precision requirements and should not be considered reliable). For example, in 1988, 11 percent of never-married females had had sexual intercourse before turning 15 years old compared with 19 percent in 1995. However, *lower* cumulative percents of teens interviewed in 1995 had had sex before turning 19 years old compared with the 1988 cohort (77 percent and 70 percent, respectively). Thus, in the 1995 survey, transitions to sexual experience occurred more rapidly among younger female teenagers and more slowly among older female teenagers compared with 1988, and this pattern was evident for both white and black teenagers.

The pattern for male teenagers differed by race. White males show a significant increase over time in the proportion of those having had sex before age 19 years, while black males show a significant decrease in the percent having had sex at very early ages (before age 14 years).

Therefore, while the overall proportion of teenagers who were

sexually experienced declined, female teenagers started sexual activity earlier and some male teenagers, notably black teenagers, started sexual activity slightly later.

Using a set of background and sociodemographic characteristics, [table 3](#) expands the information in [table 2](#) by contrasting teenagers who experience sexual intercourse early (by age 15 years) with those who do not. One characteristic is the teenager's specific age at the time of the interview. Among female teenagers, all single-year age cohorts from ages 16 through 19 years report higher proportions beginning sexual intercourse before age 15 years in 1995 than in 1988 ([figure 4](#)). For example, among those aged 16 years in 1988, 9 percent had had sexual intercourse before they turned 15 years old, while among the 16-year-olds in 1995, 22 percent had done so, a statistically significant increase. The one exception to this pattern was among those aged 15 years at the interview.

Among male teenagers, the increase in early initiation of sexual intercourse that was observed among the females is not evident ([figure 4](#)). Twenty-one percent had sex before age 15 years in both 1988 and 1995. Although the 1995 survey showed that 17-year-olds began having sexual intercourse earlier, this

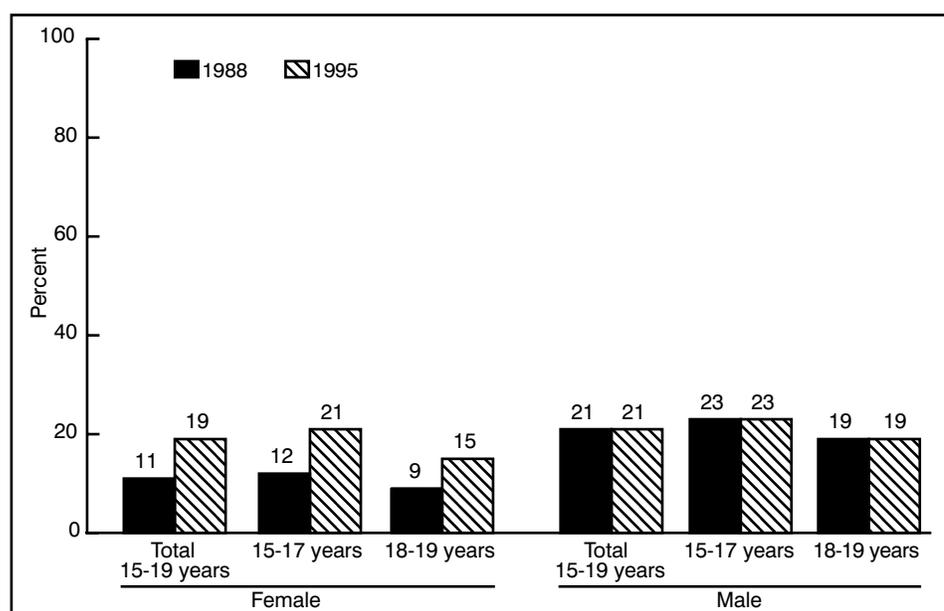
was the only specific age cohort that experienced a significant change. This pattern is roughly consistent with the interpretation of [table 2](#), although this age breakdown identifies age cohorts' contribution to the overall pattern.

Female teenagers of all three racial and Hispanic origin groups experienced significant increases in the proportions of those who were sexually experienced before age 15 years between 1988 and 1995. This was true of both younger and older teenagers within white and black subgroups.

Among male teenagers, shifts over time in the proportion of those having sex by age 15 years were not evident among white or black teenagers. However, among their Hispanic counterparts, there was a significant rise in the percent of those having sexual intercourse before age 15 years, and it paralleled the increase seen among Hispanic females.

Consistent with the patterns shown in [table 1](#), the 1988 and 1995 surveys both revealed that certain subgroups have higher proportions of those who had early sexual experience. With few exceptions, teenagers whose mothers had lower levels of education, whose mothers were teenagers when they had their first birth, who were not raised by both biological or adopted parents, who had no religious affiliation, who attended religious services infrequently, and who were behind in school were more likely in both periods to initiate sex by age 15 years than were teenagers without these characteristics.

[Table 3](#) also presents trends between the 1988 and 1995 surveys in early sexual initiation according to background and family characteristics. Among female teenagers, the significant increase between 1988 and 1995 in the proportion of those having sexual intercourse before age 15 years appears to have occurred across most of the subgroups. Significant increases are seen among teenagers regardless of maternal education, maternal age at first birth, family type, religious affiliation and attendance, and school status. The trend towards earlier initiation of sex appears to be broadly based among the female teenage population. One exception involves maternal education. Female



**Figure 4. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years who had sexual intercourse before 15 years of age by age at interview: United States, 1988 and 1995**

teenagers whose mothers had the highest education did not experience an increase in early initiation of sexual activity.

In contrast, among male teenagers, there does not appear to be such a broad-based increase in early initiation. An examination of subgroup differences between 1988 and 1995 reveals few significant trends. The only subgroup showing marginal change is males whose mothers have less than a high school education. In 1995, this group was *less* likely to report sexual initiation by age 15 years in contrast to the survey findings in 1988.

## Current Sexual Activity

Whether teenagers have ever had sex and their age at the time of their first sexual intercourse are key indicators of risk for pregnancy and STD transmission. But it is also useful to know about the recency of teenagers' sexual activity. Many teenagers have sex sporadically (2,3,29) so there may be intermittent periods of time of varying duration during which no risk of pregnancy and STD infection exists. [Table 4](#) shows the proportion of teenagers who were recently sexually active—that is, they had engaged in sexual intercourse at least once in the 3 months prior to the survey.

Not all teenagers who were sexually experienced in 1995 were sexually active. Although about half had had sex at least once, 38 percent of all teens had had sex recently. For males, this proportion was significantly smaller than it was in 1988, when 43 percent were sexually active. Among females between 1988 and 1995, the proportion of those who were sexually active went from 41 to 38 percent. However, some shifts have occurred among subgroups that are described below.

Among males, fewer younger teenagers (15–17 years old) were sexually active in 1995 compared with those in the 1988 survey, while the proportions did not shift for older male teenagers. In contrast, among females, a decline was evident among the older subgroup, although this change was not statistically significant.

In general, white and Hispanic youth were less likely to be sexually

active than black youth, but between 1988 and 1995, some shifts occurred. Among male teenagers, the proportion of those who were sexually active declined for white teenagers from 41 percent to 32 percent while remaining stable among black and Hispanic youth. Thus for males, the gap between white teenagers and black or Hispanic teenagers widened during the period. In contrast, among female teenagers, the proportion of those who were sexually active rose significantly for Hispanic females from 29 percent to 41 percent, resulting in a narrowing of the differences by race and Hispanic origin by 1995. However, significant racial differences remain in 1995 among females.

[Table 4](#) also shows that sexual activity levels among teenagers vary by family and sociodemographic characteristics, much in the same way that sexual experience levels vary, as discussed previously.

Between 1988 and 1995, males and females shared some of the same patterns in trends across family and sociodemographic characteristics, patterns that again suggest that those from backgrounds and with characteristics associated with less risk experienced the most reduction in risk. The proportion of male and female teenagers who were sexually active declined significantly among those who were Protestant, those who attended religious service at least weekly, and those who lived in the suburbs. In addition, among female teenagers, those with college-educated mothers also experienced significant declines in sexual activity. Among males, those from two-parent families, those whose mothers had a high school education, and those whose mothers had delayed their first birth also experienced significant declines in sexual activity over the period, as did those who lived in the Northeast or the South, and those who were not behind in school. In contrast, males who were behind in school actually experienced significant increases in the percent who were sexually active. Because teens with the lowest risk experienced the largest declines in recent sexual intercourse, the

gaps between teens with various characteristics widened.

## Contraceptive Use at Last Intercourse

If teenagers are sexually active, the risk of pregnancy and STD's can be offset by the use of effective contraceptive methods. [Table 5](#) shows use of contraceptive methods for teenagers who had sex in the 3 months prior to the survey. In 1995, 29 percent of sexually active female teenagers and 18 percent of sexually active male teenagers had unprotected sex the last time they had sex. Among females, the proportion using no contraceptive method at last intercourse increased significantly between 1988 and 1995 from 20 to 29 percent. The prevalence of unprotected recent sex among males stayed relatively stable across the survey years.

There have also been marked changes over the period in the type of contraceptives used by sexually active teenagers during their last sexual intercourse. The contraceptive method associated with the largest drop in use is the pill. Among females, 43 percent were using the pill during their last sexual intercourse in 1988, while only 25 percent were doing so in 1995. There was also a significant decline in pill use according to the second-hand reports of males about their partners' contraception at last sexual intercourse. The decrease in pill use was only partially offset by the adoption of the highly effective hormonal contraceptives, Norplant implants and Depo-Provera injectables, which were newly introduced before the 1995 survey. Seven percent of sexually active females reported using implants or injectables during their last sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the 1995 survey. Black female teenagers were more than 3 times more likely to be using implant or injectable contraception than their white counterparts (16 versus 5 percent) ([figure 5](#)). (Note: non-Hispanic white teenagers are referred to as “white,” and non-Hispanic black teenagers are referred to as “black,” for ease of comprehension of the discussions. All

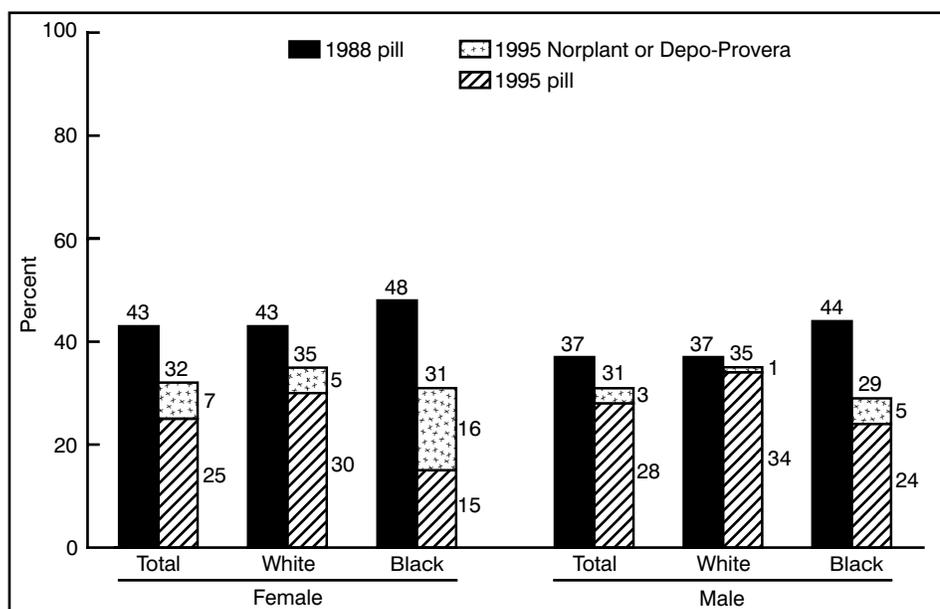


Figure 5. Percent of sexually active females and males aged 15–19 years who used a hormonal method at last sexual intercourse by race: United States, 1988 and 1995

discussion of racial and ethnic differences refer to estimates calculated separately for Hispanic, non-Hispanic black, and non-Hispanic white teenagers.)

The popularity of the condom as a method of protection against pregnancy and STD's grew between 1988 and 1995. Sexually active teenagers' use of the condom during their last sexual intercourse increased significantly between 1988 and 1995. Females' reports of their partners' condom use

during their last sexual intercourse showed an increase from 31 to 38 percent, and males' reports of their own condom use increased from 53 to 64 percent (figure 6).

Although still relatively uncommon, there was an encouraging increase in the dual use of hormonal methods and the condom reported by teenage females. Only 3 percent of sexually active females used this STD- and pregnancy-protecting combination during their last sexual intercourse,

according to the 1988 survey, but this proportion rose significantly to 8 percent by 1995. However, among male teenagers, the dual use of condoms and hormonal methods did not shift during the period, although it was twice as high as the female level. In 1995, 17 percent of sexually active males used dual methods during their last sexual intercourse.

The shifts observed in the use of contraceptive methods between 1988 and 1995 vary somewhat between white and black teenagers. During the period, the use of dual methods at last intercourse stayed about the same for white males, while it decreased significantly for black males. Two patterns common to white and black teenagers of both sexes were the increase in condom use and the decrease in pill use. However, differences in *overall* method use varied by race, most notably for female teenagers. The incidence of using no method at all at last sexual intercourse increased the most for white female teenagers. Among black females, decreased use of the pill during the period was offset somewhat by an increased use of hormonal implants and injectibles and condoms. This resulted in little overall change in levels of protection. Thus the prevalence of unprotected recent sex among black and white female teens converged, closing a very large gap that had existed during the previous decade (figure 7).

Table 6 provides further insight into shifts in contraceptive method use at last sexual intercourse among specific subgroups. Like table 5, it presents the percent using contraception at last sexual intercourse and the specific methods used among teenagers having sex within 3 months of the interview. The contraceptive methods used at last sexual intercourse have been aggregated into four categories: no method, condom, hormonal method, and "other" methods. These categories are not mutually exclusive because some teenagers used more than one method at the same time.

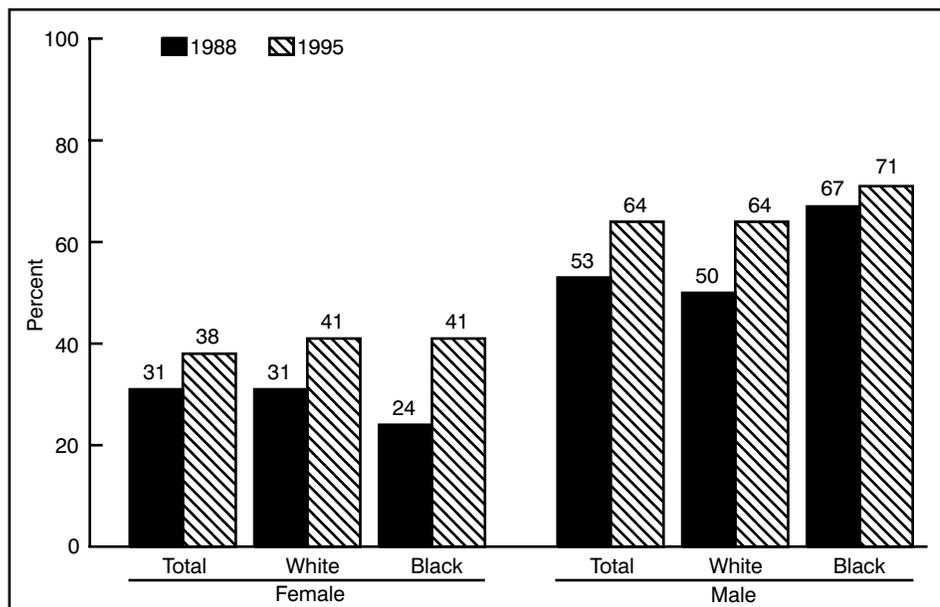
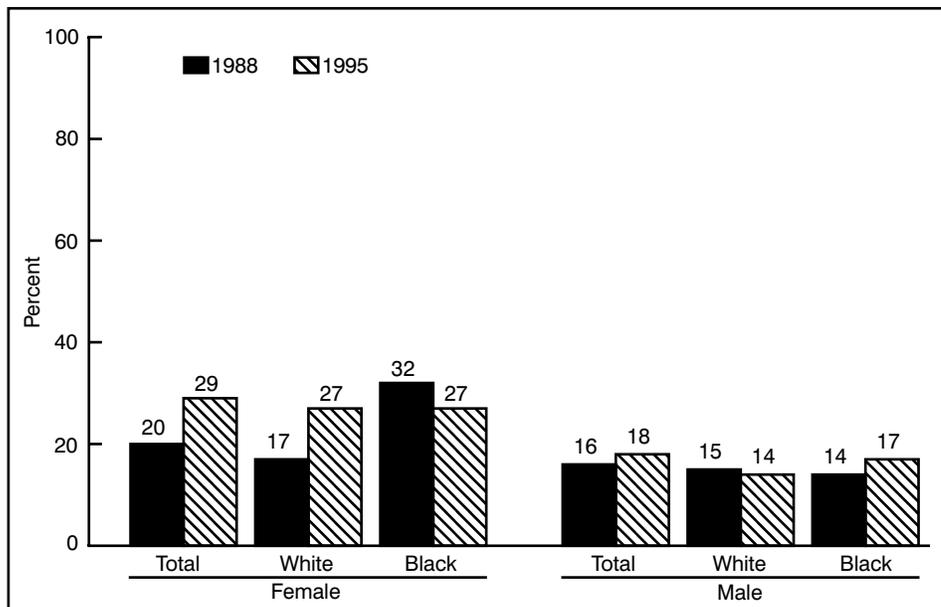


Figure 6. Percent of sexually active females and males aged 15–19 years who used a condom at last sexual intercourse by race: United States, 1988 and 1995

## No Method Use

Trends in no method use were consistent across age groups for both



**Figure 7. Percent of sexually active females and males aged 15–19 years who used no contraceptive method at last sexual intercourse by race: United States, 1988 and 1995**

female and male teenagers. The significant increase in no method use among female teenagers was evident among both the 15–17 year-old and the 18–19 year-old females. Both the younger and older males showed stability or no significant change in levels of no-method use at recent intercourse.

Examination of the trends among sexually active black and white teenage females by age group further pinpoints groups who had improvements in contraceptive use. Both younger and older white sexually active female teenagers experienced decreases in protected last intercourse, with significant decreases occurring among older females. However, sexually active younger black female youth experienced an *improvement* in protection, although the increase was not statistically significant. Among male teenagers, not much change was evident, with the exception of 18-year-olds, whose method use decreased significantly.

As a result of changes among Hispanic teenagers, significant gaps are apparent in 1995 between Hispanic and black and white teenagers, both males and females. For example, the percent of Hispanic teenagers having had unprotected recent intercourse was more than double that of both white and black males.

Female teenagers who were under 15 years old at first intercourse experienced a large, significant increase in unprotected last sexual intercourse, while those who were at least 17 years old at the time of their first intercourse had no change. In 1995, 37 percent of those whose first sexual intercourse was before age 15 years used no method during their last sexual intercourse. In 1988, it was 24 percent. Among those who delayed first sexual intercourse until they were 17 years or older, the level of unprotected last sexual intercourse remained stable at 17 percent.

Teenagers' failure to use a contraceptive method at last intercourse varies among social and demographic subgroups. This variation remained relatively constant across the two survey periods. For females, the rise in unprotected last intercourse is apparent across all demographic subgroups for which estimates were reliable. The subgroups of females that have historically had higher rates of no-method use continue to experience higher rates. The same is true of males, although their levels of unprotected last sex have changed very little.

Unprotected sex is associated with mother's education. For females in particular, higher proportions used no contraception at last intercourse if their mothers had less than 12 years of

education, compared with those whose mothers had higher education levels. This is especially true for females in 1995 for whom unprotected sex was twice as high when their mothers had less than 12 years of school, compared with those whose mothers had 16 years or more of school. Despite these differences, the estimates that meet the statistical precision criterion show that nonuse of contraception at last intercourse by female teenagers rose for at least two of the categories of maternal education: those whose mothers had less than a high school education and those whose mothers completed high school.

Similarly, nonuse of a contraceptive method at last sexual intercourse was associated with having a mother who had her first birth as a teenager, living in a single-parent family, and being behind in school. For example, the percent of sexually active teenage females who had unprotected last intercourse was more than twice that of those whose schooling was not on schedule (53 percent versus 25 percent in 1995). Nonetheless, the share of female teenagers not using a contraceptive method at last sexual intercourse rose for all these subgroups between 1988 and 1995.

### Condom Use

Several patterns stand out regarding condom use at last intercourse among sexually active teenagers when specific subgroups are examined by age, race and Hispanic origin, and age at first sexual intercourse. Among sexually active white females, the increase in the proportion using condoms was concentrated primarily in the older age group (18–19 years). Among black females, both older and younger teenagers showed increases, with statistically significant increases for the younger subgroup. Sexually active females who were at least 17 years old at first intercourse had larger improvements in condom use across the period than those initiating sex at earlier ages. They showed an 18-percent increase in the proportion using condoms (33 percent in 1988 versus 51 percent in 1995).

Among sexually active white males, both younger and older teenagers

showed improvements in condom use at last intercourse, while percents were more stable across time for black males. The percent of younger black males using condoms increased, but not significantly. However, the proportion using a condom in 1988 was already comparatively high for older black sexually active male teenagers, higher than that for comparable white males. Thus in 1995, the older white male teenagers “caught up” and had levels of condom use at last intercourse similar to that of black teenagers (61 percent versus 62 percent). Younger white male teenagers, however, continued to have lower percents of those using the condom at last intercourse than their black counterparts (69 percent versus 78 percent).

Significant improvements in the rates of condom use occurred selectively among males according to age at first intercourse. Particularly notable is the significant increase of 18 percent (from 53 percent to 71 percent) among those who began having intercourse by age 16 years.

Family background factors are associated with condom use. For both sexually active females and males, the proportion of those using condoms at last intercourse is substantially higher when their mother’s education is higher. Between 1988 and 1995, condom use rose among teenagers with more highly educated mothers. For example, condom use among females whose mothers had 16 or more years of education rose from 32 percent to 48 percent.

Condom-use patterns and trends varied by maternal age at the first birth. In 1995, condom use was lower among both male and female teenagers whose mothers had been teenage mothers. Condom use significantly increased across time for both female and male teenagers whose mothers had delayed their first births beyond their teenage years.

Family structure also appears associated with changes in condom use at last intercourse. Condom use increased substantially among females raised in two-parent families (biological or adoptive) while it decreased (although not significantly) among those from families with a stepparent. Among

young men, condom use rose across all family types and significantly so for males raised in single-parent or stepparent families.

In general, lower levels of religiosity were associated with less condom use at last intercourse in both 1988 and 1995. With the exception of females in 1988, those with no religious affiliation had lower percents of those using the condom than Protestant and Catholic teenagers. Such differences are statistically significant in the case of males in 1988 and male Protestants compared with males of no religion in 1995. Sexually active male teenagers who never attended religious services were also less likely to use the condom at last sexual intercourse compared with those attending services. For males, across time, it is these groups with the lowest rates of condom use that show increases. Among the sexually active male teenagers, condom use at last sexual intercourse rose for those who had no religious affiliation and for those who attended a religious service infrequently or never. Among both males and females, Protestant youth experienced increases in condom use, and among females only, those attending religious services most frequently experienced such increases.

Of the regional subgroups, sexually active males and females living in the Northeast and females in the South experienced the largest improvements in condom use at last sexual intercourse between 1988 and 1995.

School status also strongly differentiated female teenagers in their use of condoms at last sexual intercourse. Condom use at last intercourse was higher for those who were not behind in school. Although the percentage-point difference in condom use by school status was large for males, it fell short of statistical significance due to small sample sizes. For both females and males who were not behind in school, condom use at last intercourse increased between 1988 and 1995. In contrast, males who were behind in school had more moderate increase in condom use, and their female counterparts had *decreased* condom use.

## Hormonal Method Use

Table 6 shows that the drop in use of hormonal contraception (synonymous with pill use in 1988 and primarily pill use in 1995) at last sexual intercourse occurred in virtually all subgroups of teenagers. This decline was experienced by both the younger (age 15–17 years) and older (age 18–19 years) teenage females, although it was larger and only significant among the older age group. The older teenagers had further to drop because they had much higher percents using hormonal methods at last sexual intercourse than younger teenagers in 1988. By 1995, their percents were still higher than their younger counterparts, although only slightly. Both black and white females experienced this decrease in pill use, with the exception of the younger white teenagers, who experienced virtually no change. Sexually active teenage females who began having sexual intercourse after age 16 years were the least likely to use hormonal methods and showed the largest decrease since 1988.

With few exceptions, among sexually active teenage females, hormonal method use at last intercourse decreased between 1988 and 1995 across all the categories of maternal education, maternal age at first birth, and family structure. Sexually active females remaining most likely to use hormonal contraceptives in 1995 were those whose mothers had a high school diploma and whose mothers had a birth during the teenage years. Those in two-parent families at age 14 years had higher levels of hormonal contraceptive use than those from single-parent or stepparent families.

Hormonal method use at last intercourse among sexually active teenage females also decreased for every category of religion, religious attendance, and residence, with two exceptions—those from rural areas experienced a (nonsignificant) increase in hormonal method use, and those who attended religious services 1–3 times a month (rather than more or less frequently) experienced no change.

Similar to the patterns for condom use, sexually active females who were behind in school had lower percents

using hormonal methods at last sexual intercourse than their counterparts whose schooling was on schedule. Both groups had a decline in hormonal method use between 1988 and 1995, although the shift was not statistically significant for those who were behind in school.

## Contraceptive Use at First Intercourse

Table 7 adds to the picture of overall contraceptive use among teenagers by presenting contraceptive use at first intercourse. Method use at first sexual intercourse is an important measure of how well teenagers anticipate and plan for protection at the initiation of sexual activity. Additionally, using a method at first sexual intercourse may be an indicator of an ongoing propensity to take precautions against pregnancy. Teenage males who used condoms at first intercourse are more likely to use them at most recent intercourse (58). Teenage females who used contraception at first sexual intercourse are much less likely than those who did not to have a birth during the teenage years according to analysis of the NSFG data (15).

Teenagers are generally better prepared for first intercourse, in terms of offsetting risks, than was true a decade ago. The percent of teenage females who had unprotected first intercourse dropped significantly from 33 to 23 percent, and male teenagers experienced a slight drop that was not statistically significant. Still, in 1995, about one-quarter of teenage females and males had first intercourse with no protection from pregnancy and STD's. When they do use contraception at first intercourse, teenagers tend to rely on the condom rather than hormonal contraceptives. About 70 percent of both male and female teenagers reported condom use at first sexual intercourse. This represents a significant increase over the 1988 condom-use statistics, which were 50 percent for females and 55 percent for males. Only 8 percent of teenage females in 1995 were using the pill at first intercourse, and less than 1 percent were using injectables or implants. As was the case for method

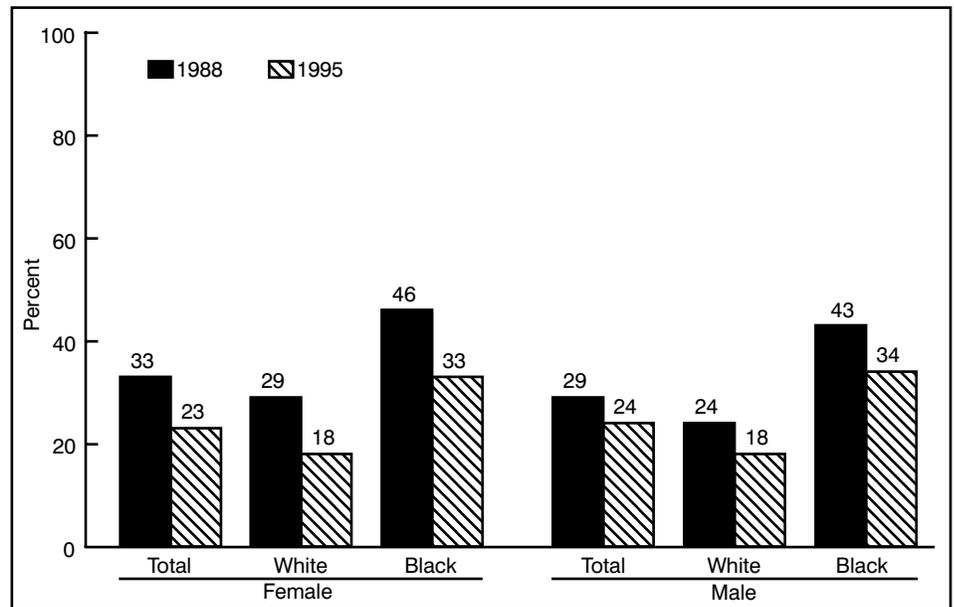


Figure 8. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years who used no contraceptive method at first sexual intercourse by race: United States, 1988 and 1995

use at *last* intercourse, dual use of the condom and a hormonal contraceptive at first intercourse is uncommon. Five percent of females used this combination at first sex in 1995. For male teenagers, dual use increased significantly from 3 percent to 7 percent between the 1988 and 1995 surveys.

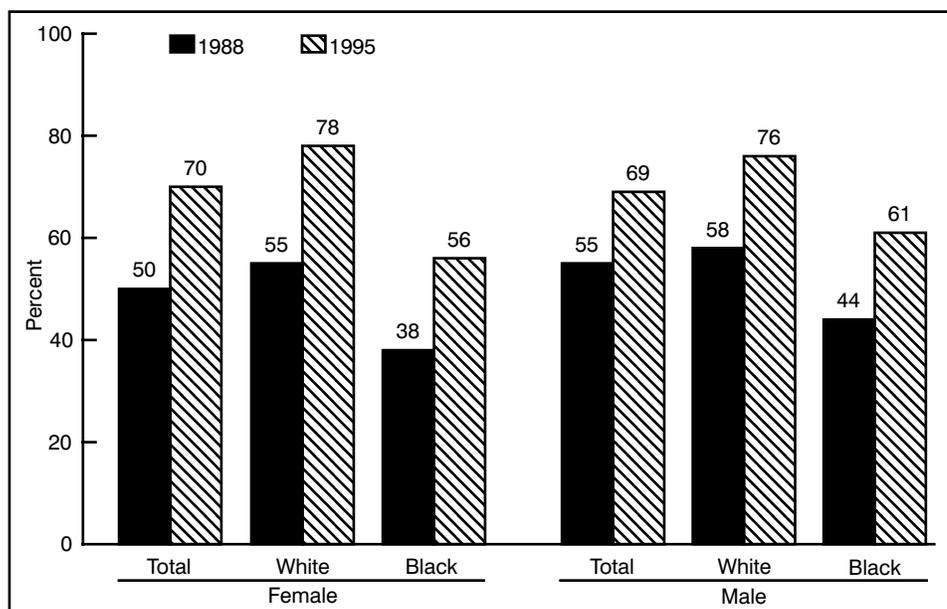
Teenagers of both races and genders have experienced improvements in protection at first sexual intercourse, although among white males it is not statistically significant. These improvements across racial groups, however, have not eliminated a persistent racial gap. Black teenagers remain more likely to have unprotected first sexual intercourse than white teenagers. Thirty-three to 34 percent of sexually experienced black teenagers used no method at first sexual intercourse compared with 18 percent of white teenagers (figure 8).

In 1988, black teenage females had substantially higher percents using the pill at first sexual intercourse than white females, but by 1995, black females' pill use dropped, and the proportions using the pill at first intercourse were similar for both white and black females. Although condom use increased and offset black teens' decrease in pill use to some degree, white teens still had

higher levels of condom use at first sexual intercourse than black teens did by 1995 (figure 9).

An important question is whether the rise in no-method use at *last* sexual intercourse among female teenagers was associated with the lack of a method at *first* sexual intercourse. Therefore, the contraceptive method used at *first* sexual intercourse among the teenagers who had sex within 3 months of the survey was examined. The analyses (not shown) revealed that these sexually active teens did not differ from the larger sexually experienced group of teenagers in either 1988 or 1995. Their use of contraceptives at first intercourse and the patterns of specific method use were very similar to those of the larger sexually experienced teen population at both time points. Thus although sexually active teenagers were less protected at the last instance of sex in 1995 than they were in 1988, they were *more* protected at first sexual intercourse in 1995 compared with 1988. This suggests a changing pattern of contraceptive use across the teen years, among individual teenagers.

Table 8 shows method use among teenagers at first sexual intercourse in 1988 and 1995 by subgroups of the population, thereby providing more detailed information on the patterns shown in table 7. Like table 6, the



**Figure 9. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years who used a condom at first sexual intercourse by race: United States, 1988 and 1995**

methods have been grouped into four categories—no method, condoms, hormonal methods, and all other methods. Again, these categories are not mutually exclusive because some teenagers used more than one method at the same time. The discussion of findings first examines differences in method use at first intercourse by age and ethnicity and then by background characteristics.

### No Method Use

The improvements in protection at first intercourse (shown in [table 7](#)) are evident among teenagers of all ages. Notably, among older white female teenagers (18–19 years old) and younger female black teenagers (15–17 years old), this increase in the percent having protected first sexual intercourse is large and statistically significant. For males, both white and black teenagers experienced increases in percents using a method. The significant improvement seen in [table 6](#) among black teenagers is concentrated among the older ages. The 18–19-year-olds decreased from 43 percent using no contraceptive method at first sexual intercourse to 32 percent. Among Hispanic teenagers, both male and female, there was no improvement in the percent of those using contraception during first

intercourse. By 1995, they were more likely than their white counterparts, and in the case of males, also more likely than their black counterparts, to have unprotected first intercourse.

Female teenagers who had sex earlier were better prepared for first sexual intercourse in the 1995 survey compared with the 1988 survey. Among females who had sex before age 15 years in 1988, 46 percent used no method of protection. In 1995, this decreased to 27 percent. Although there was improvement among females at all ages of sexual initiation, the largest improvement was among those initiating sex at these youngest ages. Note that this pattern is the opposite of the pattern characterizing use of contraceptives at *last* sex, among sexually active females ([table 6](#)). Thus, females who began sex earlier became more likely to use a contraceptive method at first sex, and less likely to use a method at last sex, between 1988 and 1995. This pattern was not evident among males who showed little change in unprotected sex across the period.

Although early female initiators were better prepared than they were in the past, use of a method at first sex is still more likely among older initiators, for both females and males. In 1995, among males who had first sex before age 15, 36 percent used no method,

compared with 17 percent for males beginning sex at age 17 or older. Contrary to prevailing patterns, males who began sex at the oldest ages (17 or older) had a slight, but nonsignificant decrease in percents using contraception at first sex.

The incidence of unprotected first intercourse is lower among teenagers whose mothers have higher levels of education, whose mothers had delayed childbearing, who lived in two-parent families and who were not behind in school. Unprotected first intercourse decreased between 1988 and 1995 in all categories of family types, mother's education, mother's age at first birth, and school status, especially for female teenagers. However, differences remain between the subgroups.

Religiosity did not appear to be associated with unprotected sex among female teenagers. However, males who had no religious affiliation and never attended religious services had larger percents having unprotected first sex in both 1988 and 1995. Additionally, there was a significant *decrease* in unprotected sex for Protestant male teenagers.

### Condom Use

The significant increases in condom use at first sex that were documented in [table 7](#) occurred for both the younger (aged 15–17 years) and the older (aged 18–19 years) cohorts of teenagers. In 1995, close to 70 percent of the sexually experienced in both age groups used a condom at first sexual intercourse. In addition, these significant increases in condom use are evident within the white and black subpopulations for both the older and younger teens. However, the resulting levels of condom use at first sex remain substantially lower in 1995 among black teenagers compared with white teenagers. For example, 51 percent of black females ages 18–19 years used a condom at first sexual intercourse compared with 78 percent of like-aged white females.

The estimates suggest that Hispanic females may have shared in the increased percent of condom use at first sexual intercourse (with the exception of those aged 18–19 years), but the

changes fall short of statistical significance. Nonetheless, their condom use at first sex was substantially lower than that among white teenagers and similar to or slightly lower than that among black teenagers in 1995.

Condom use is more prevalent among teenagers who delayed first sexual intercourse until age 17 years than it is for those who began having sex at an earlier age. Increased use of contraceptives occurred regardless of age at first sex, but those who were youngest at first sex experienced particularly large improvements in condom use. Teenagers who had first sex at a younger age were more apt to use condoms in 1995 than their counterparts in 1988.

As expected, condom use at first sex is higher among teenagers whose schooling was at grade level, whose mothers were more highly educated, and whose mothers delayed their first births (although not significant for females in 1995). Among females, condom use at first sex was lower among those from single-parent families compared with the other family types, with a statistically significant difference in the case of the stepparent family. Improvements in condom use at first sex are apparent for all teenagers whether or not they had these attributes. Thus, between 1988 and 1995, these subgroup differences persisted because all groups were equally affected.

Similarly, condom use at first sex increased notably between 1988 and 1995 regardless of religiosity. However, male Protestants experienced the largest percentage-point increase of the religious affiliation groups (19 percentage points). Among females, those who attended religious services the most frequently experienced the largest increase of the religious-attendance-frequency groups (23 percentage points).

### Hormonal Method Use

Hormonal methods are relatively uncommon as a contraceptive method used at first sexual intercourse, and no significant changes in their use were detected between 1988 and 1995. In 1995, the group with the highest percents using hormonal methods at first intercourse was black females aged 18–19 years

(16 percent). Only 9 percent of white females of the same age reported using hormonal methods at first intercourse. However, this difference by race is not statistically significant. Males' reports of hormonal method use by their partners are very similar to those of the females. Generally, because hormonal method use at first sexual intercourse is such a rare phenomenon, statistics by background and sociodemographic characteristics did not meet standards of reliability or precision.

## Other Aspects of Sexual Behavior

### Number of Sexual Partners in Lifetime

The number of sexual partners teenagers have is an important indicator of their risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease (STD), including HIV. Generally speaking, having higher numbers of sexual partners is associated with increased likelihood of encountering a partner with an STD (26,59).

Table 9 is limited to sexually experienced teenagers and shows the number of sexual partners that they reported having had in their lives for both survey years. In 1995, 37 percent of sexually experienced females had a total of one partner and 14 percent had had six or more partners. Males reported more lifetime sexual partners than females, and older teenagers have accumulated more sexual partners than younger teenagers.

Overall, there has been little change between 1988 and 1995 in the number of sexual partners that sexually experienced teenagers had accumulated, although slightly fewer teenagers were sexually experienced (table 1). (Tests of significance were conducted and are denoted in the table for trends in every category of number of partners. However, trends are discussed below for the two extreme categories only, for the clearest illustration of trends in risk.) Some shifts did occur among the females, but not among males. Sexually experienced 18- and 19-year-old females experienced a significant decrease in the percent with only one partner. Black

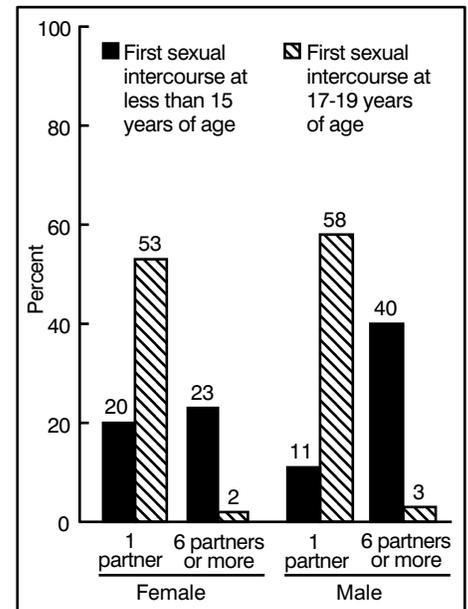


Figure 10. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years with specified number of sexual partners in lifetime by age at first sexual intercourse: United States, 1995

females, especially those 15–17 years of age, also show a significant decrease in the proportion with only one partner.

There was also little change in the proportions reporting six or more lifetime partners. Among males, there were some improvements; for the 18-year-olds and for white males overall, a significantly smaller percent had six or more partners.

Fewer sexually experienced black teenagers had a single partner in their lifetime than is true of white and Hispanic youth. In 1995, 22 percent of black females had only one partner compared with 39 and 44 percent of white and Hispanic female teenagers, respectively. This difference by race and ethnic subgroup was also apparent among male teenagers.

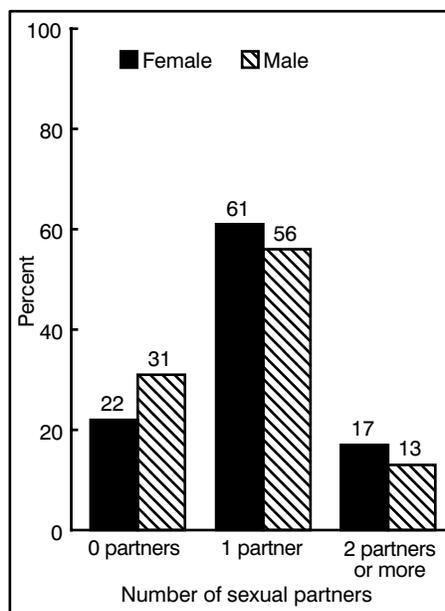
When teenagers initiate sex early, they have more opportunity to accumulate partners over their teenage years. Among male teenagers whose first sexual intercourse was at age 17 years or later, 58 percent had had only one partner compared with only 11 percent among those who had begun having sexual intercourse before age 15 years. The same pattern prevailed among females (figure 10). Although more teenage females had sexual intercourse before age 15 years in 1995 than in

1988, this trend has apparently not yet resulted in increases in the number of lifetime partners at the aggregate level.

The patterns of association between family background characteristics and the number of lifetime partners vary for female and male teenagers. Among sexually experienced females, in both 1988 and 1995, those with higher maternal education had slightly *higher*, but not significantly higher, percents with multiple lifetime partners. Thus, although not definitive, the data suggest that maternal education may not be associated with *lower* risk via fewer partners, in the same way as it was for the other sexual risk behaviors. In contrast, the anticipated pattern for males prevails: Those whose mothers had less education were more likely to have multiple lifetime partners. These patterns have not shifted appreciably between 1988 and 1995—with one exception. Whereas the association of mother's education with male teenagers having only one partner was strong in 1988, this association had disappeared by 1995.

For sexually experienced teenagers, many of the other background characteristics thought to protect them from risky behavior are indeed associated with their having fewer lifetime sexual partners. Sexually experienced females and males who were living with two biological or adoptive parents were less likely to have multiple lifetime partners than teenagers from stepparent families (females) and single-parent families (males). In addition, among the females, attending religious services one or more times a month was associated with a lower proportion of having six or more sexual partners. Among males, those whose mothers had delayed their first births and those who were on schedule academically had fewer lifetime partners than their peers without these characteristics. Over half the males who were behind academically had six or more sexual partners, compared with one-fifth among those on schedule.

Between 1988 and 1995, few changes occurred for males within the subgroups of family background and sociodemographic characteristics. Only sexually experienced males who lived



**Figure 11. Percent of males and females aged 15–19 years with specified number of sexual partners in the 3 months prior to the survey: United States, 1995**

with two biological or adoptive parents showed a significant decrease in the proportion of those having six or more sexual partners. On the other hand, this type of risk increased for sexually experienced females who lived in stepparent families, whose mothers were teens at their first birth, who were Protestant, and who were behind in school. These groups showed a significant decrease in the proportion with only a single lifetime partner.

### Number of Sexual Partners in Past 3 Months

Table 10 shows the number of sexual partners that sexually experienced teenagers had in the 3 months prior to the survey. This measure is particularly relevant for assessing STD risk because of the ease of transmission from one partner to the next when relatively short time intervals exist between partners. For females, data are presented only for 1995 because there are substantial differences between 1988 and 1995 in the ways the data were collected from respondents (appendix II and table XV).

In the 3 months before the 1995 survey, about one-fifth of sexually experienced female teenagers and one-third of sexually experienced male

teenagers had no sexual partners (figure 11). This pattern suggests that once they have begun having sexual intercourse, sex may be more sporadic for males than for females. This could be due, at least in part, to the likely younger age of their female partners. The majority of sexually experienced teenagers had a single sexual partner in the past 3 months: 61 percent of the females and 56 percent of males. A smaller proportion—17 percent of the females and 13 percent of the males—had two or more partners in the past 3 months.

Older female teenagers—those aged 18–19 years—were likely to have more recent sexual partners than younger teens aged 15–17 years. Almost a quarter of 19-year-old females in 1995 had two or more recent partners. In contrast, among males, the older teenagers were less likely to have had two or more recent partners than the younger teenagers. This pattern represents a reversal from 1988 when older male teenagers had more partners than younger ones, although that difference falls short of statistical significance.

Black male teenagers were the most likely to have multiple recent partners, consistent with their higher numbers of lifetime partners seen in table 9. Approximately one-quarter of sexually experienced black male teenagers in 1995 had two or more partners in the past 3 months. This proportion was the same for black females, although differences among females identified by race and ethnic groups are not significant. In contrast, the proportion of Hispanic teenagers with two or more recent partners was close to 15 percent for Hispanic males and females and for white females. Only 7 percent of sexually experienced white males had two or more recent partners.

Contrasting the number of recent partners between teenagers who began having sexual intercourse early with those who began later shows whether longer duration of sexual activity leads to a faster *pace* of accumulating partners. For males, early initiation does appear to be associated with faster-paced partner accumulation in both survey years. The younger a male

was at first sexual intercourse, the more likely he was to report multiple recent partners. This pattern was not evident among female teenagers in 1995. However, this pattern has been previously documented among females in analyses using the 1988 NSFG (26,27).

Among sexually experienced females, few other background characteristics differentiated those having more numerous recent sexual partners from those having fewer partners. Two exceptions were maternal education and school progress. Similar to the pattern evident for lifetime numbers of partners (table 9), higher maternal education was not associated with lower risk. In fact, the proportion of those with higher maternal education who had multiple recent partners was significantly greater than among those with lower maternal education. In contrast, females who were behind in school also were more likely to report two or more partners in the past 3 months. This latter pattern was also evident among the male teenagers.

Among sexually experienced males in 1995, those with mothers who delayed their first births, those living with two biological or adopted parents, or those living in the suburbs (compared to the central city) had lower percents with multiple recent partners compared with males without these characteristics.

Trend data are only available for sexually experienced teenage males. In 1988 and 1995, the overall distributions of males having zero, one or two, or more partners in the past 3 months look very similar. However, there appear to be significant shifts among certain subgroups. Older males (aged 18–19 years) and white males were less likely to have two or more recent sexual partners in 1995 than in 1988. This decline is consistent with the trend in number of lifetime partners (table 9).

There were also significant declines in the number of recent sexual partners among males whose mothers had less than 12 years education; whose mothers had delayed their first childbearing; who lived with two biological or adopted parents; who attended a religious service 1–3 times per month; who lived in the suburbs, rural areas, or in the South; or

who were not behind in school. Thus, for males, there appear to be substantial changes between 1988 and 1995 in the distribution of those with multiple recent sexual partners across a variety of demographic and individual characteristics.

### Age Differences Between Teenagers and Their Opposite-Sex Sexual Partners

Interpersonal dynamics between teenage sexual partners can be affected by their relative ages. Until recently, national data have not been available about age differences between teenagers who engage in sexual intercourse. Prior research using the 1995 NSFG data showed that 7 percent of sexually active females aged 17 years or younger were currently in a sexual relationship with a male who was 6 or more years older. These women were more likely to become pregnant and have a birth than women whose partners were closer to their own age (60). Only rarely have male teenagers' reports of age differences with their sexual partners been examined (61). Tables 11–14 present data on the age differences between teenagers and their opposite-gender sexual partners. Tables 11 and 12 present age differences between teenagers and their most recent opposite-sex partners in the past 3 months. Tables 13 and 14 present age differences between teenagers and their first sexual partners. For females, these data are only available for 1995, as this information was not collected in the 1988 NSFG.

#### Age Differences: Recent Sexual Partners

Sexually active female teenagers most often have recent male sexual partners who are relatively close in age. Over half have recent partners who are 1–3 years older than they are (56 percent), and an additional 20 percent have partners of the same age (table 11). However, 24 percent have recent partners who are at least 4 years older. Very rarely did females have a recent male sexual partner who was younger, but these statistics are included

in table 12 for contrast with the other data.

There is little evidence of differences between white, black, and Hispanic teenage females in age gaps with their most recent sexual partners. Apparent differences among Hispanic females cannot be considered reliable because the estimates fall below acceptable levels of reliability. The age gap between sexually active teen females and their recent male partners also does not vary systematically by most of the other social and background factors presented in the table. One exception is the age at sexual initiation. When a female had begun having intercourse early, she was more likely to have a recent sexual partner who was 4 or more years older. Among those aged 15 years or younger at first sex, 31 percent had a recent male partner who was 4 or more years older. Among those aged 17–19 years at first sex, 19 percent had older partners. Female teenagers who were behind in school also had higher percents of older sexual partners compared with those whose schooling was on schedule. However, this difference was not statistically significant.

Table 12 presents these data for male teenagers for 1988 and 1995. Sexually active teen males roughly mirror the pattern among females with regard to the relative age of their last partner. In 1995, most had female partners that were their same age (25 percent) or 1–3 years younger (46 percent).

As age increased, the percent of sexually active males having younger female partners increased. For example, among sexually active males aged 16 years in 1995, one-third had a last female sexual partner who was 1–3 years younger (13–15 years old). Among sexually active males aged 19 years, more than half (55 percent) had a last sexual partner who was 1–3 years younger (16–18 years old).

As was the case for females, the race and Hispanic origin subgroups of males in 1995 did not differ substantially with respect to age differences between them and their recent sexual partners. For each race/ethnic group, however, the

distribution was more highly skewed toward younger partners among older sexually active teenagers. Teens with different social and background characteristics varied little in terms of the age gaps between the males and their most recent sexual partners. As with the females, being behind in school was associated with the age of the most recent partner. Males who were behind academically were more likely to have younger partners than those whose schooling was on schedule.

Although the overall distribution of males' age differences with their most recent partners did not vary between 1988 and 1995, a few changes occurred in particular subgroups. Significant changes across the two time points occurred among sexually active Hispanic males. Higher proportions of them had partners of the same age in 1995 compared with 1988. By 1995, the percent of sexually active Hispanic males with a partner of the same age had risen from 15 to 28 percent, making them similar in 1995 to males of other ethnic backgrounds. Black males experienced a marginally significant increase in the percent whose recent sexual partner was 1–3 years older (from 18 to 25 percent). Other groups showing significant drops between 1988 and 1995 in the percent with partners of the same age include males with highly educated mothers, those living with a single parent at age 14 years, and those living in a central city or in the Midwest.

### Age Differences: First Sexual Partner

Table 13 shows the age differences between sexually experienced females and their first male sexual partners as reported in the 1995 survey. The majority of sexually experienced females (61 percent) had a first partner who was 1–3 years older. An additional 15 percent had a first partner of the same age and a few (4 percent) had a partner who was younger than they were. Twenty percent had a partner who was 4 or more years older. This latter proportion is similar to the share of sexually active females whose recent partners were 4 or more years older.

Differences between white, black, and Hispanic females were minimal, as

was the case for age differences with recent partners (table 11). Again, apparent differences between Hispanic females (particularly those aged 15–17 years) and their black and white counterparts cannot be interpreted with confidence because the precision of these statistics falls below acceptable levels.

With very few exceptions, age differences between female teenagers and their first sexual partners seem unrelated to the other social and background characteristics presented in the table. Females whose first sexual intercourse was before age 15 years had substantially higher percents with older first partners compared with those whose first sexual intercourse was at age 16 years, but this pattern by age at first sex is not linear across the ages. Differences appear between subgroups of religious affiliation and frequency of service attendance, but none are statistically significant.

Table 13 presents data on age differences between males and their first sexual partners for 1988 and 1995. In 1995, most males reported first sexual partners who were within 3 years of their own age. Almost a third had first female partners who were their same age, 36 percent had first partners who were 1–3 years older, and 24 percent had first partners 1–3 years younger. Only tiny percents had first female partners 4 or more years older and the percent with a female partner 4 or more years younger was not statistically reliable. A higher proportion of male teenagers' first partners were 1–3 years older compared with their recent partners (table 12). This pattern suggests a progression towards younger partners as males become more experienced.

Compared with black and Hispanic males, white males were more likely to have first female partners who were 1–3 years younger in 1995. However, this difference was only marginally statistically significant. Hispanic males had higher percents with first female partners who were 4 or more years older compared with black males (11 percent versus 5 percent).

Teenage males show a pattern similar to teenage females with regard to the age of their first sexual partner.

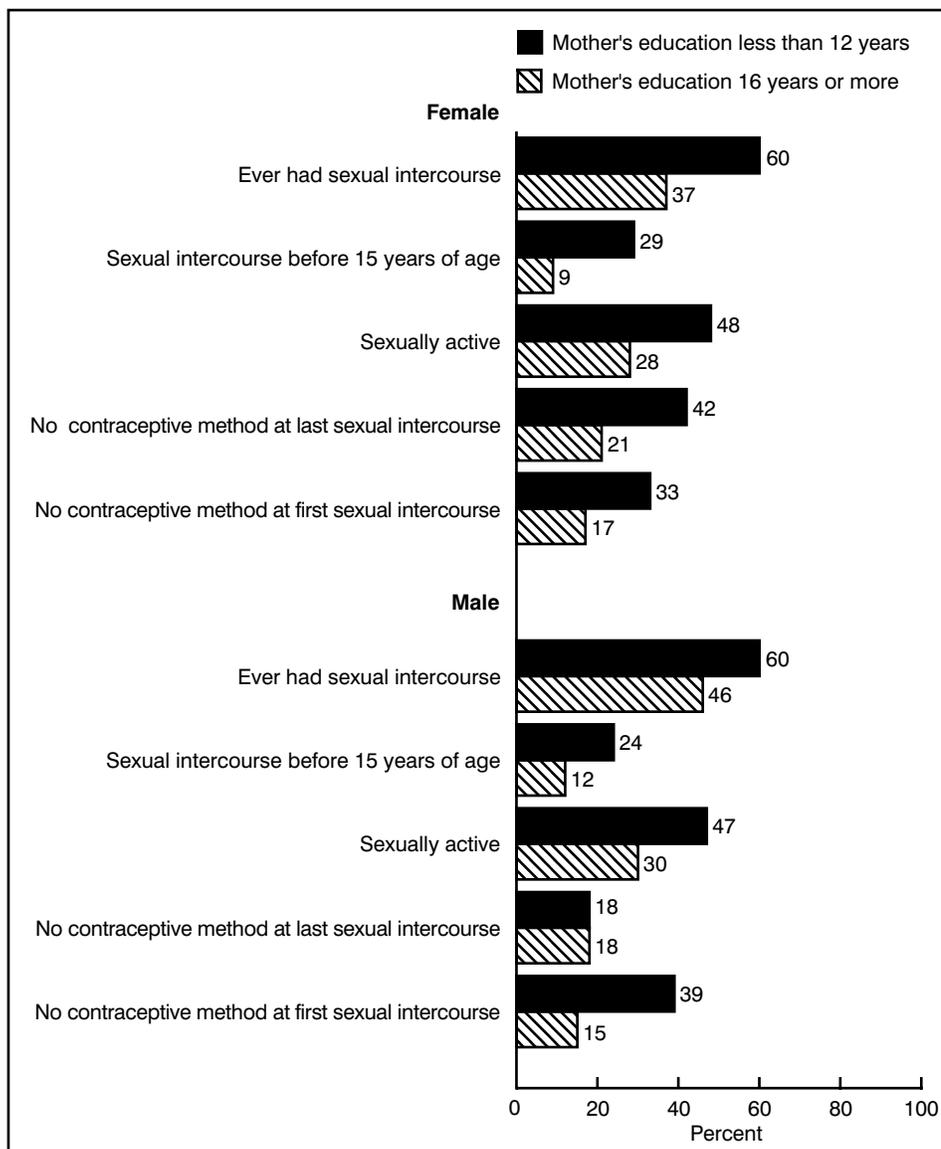
Those who were younger at sexual initiation were more likely to have had an older female partner compared with those who delayed first sex until they were older. Almost half of males initiating sex before age 15 years had a first partner 1–3 years older, and 12 percent had a partner at least 4 years older. In contrast, among those waiting until age 16 years to initiate sex, only 31 percent had an older partner.

Although the overall distributions of age differences between males and their first sexual partners look similar in the 1988 and 1995 surveys, there were a few shifts among subgroups of male teenagers. Hispanic males showed a significant increase in first partners who were at least 4 years older.

## Discussion

Compared with a decade earlier, many teenagers in 1995 were engaging in fewer sex-related risk behaviors, but risk increased among some groups.

- A smaller proportion of teenagers were sexually experienced in 1995. Among some groups, fewer were sexually active within 3 months of the survey. Although teenage males initiate sex at younger ages than females do, as seen in both 1988 and 1995, there is evidence that across this time period, females were beginning to have sex at younger ages.
- Male and female teenagers increased their use of contraception at *first sex* between 1988 and 1995. Females, however, became less likely to use contraceptives at their *last recent* sexual intercourse. The proportion using no contraception remains a cause for concern. (In 1995, 29 percent of females and 18 percent of males used no method at last sexual intercourse.)
- Teenagers' choices of contraceptive methods changed. Teenagers less often used the pill, a method with a low failure rate (62,63). Their use of condoms increased across all age and race groups (with the exception of Hispanic females at last sexual intercourse). In 1995, teenage



**Figure 12. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years with specified risk by mother's education: United States, 1995**

females had also started to use new methods (Norplant implants and Depo-Provera injectables) that analyses show are the most effective methods.

- Most teenagers do not have multiple partners within a short time period. However, 17 percent of females and 13 percent of males who are sexually experienced had 2 or more partners in the 3 months preceding the 1995 interview. For males, this risk factor did not change over time (the trend for females could not be analyzed). Males had more lifetime partners than females, but females had a larger number of recent partners than males.

- In 1995, most teenagers had sexual partners who were the same age or within 3 years of their own age. However, 27 percent of females initiating sex before age 15 years had first partners who were older than they were by 4 or more years, as did 12 percent of males initiating sex before age 15 years.

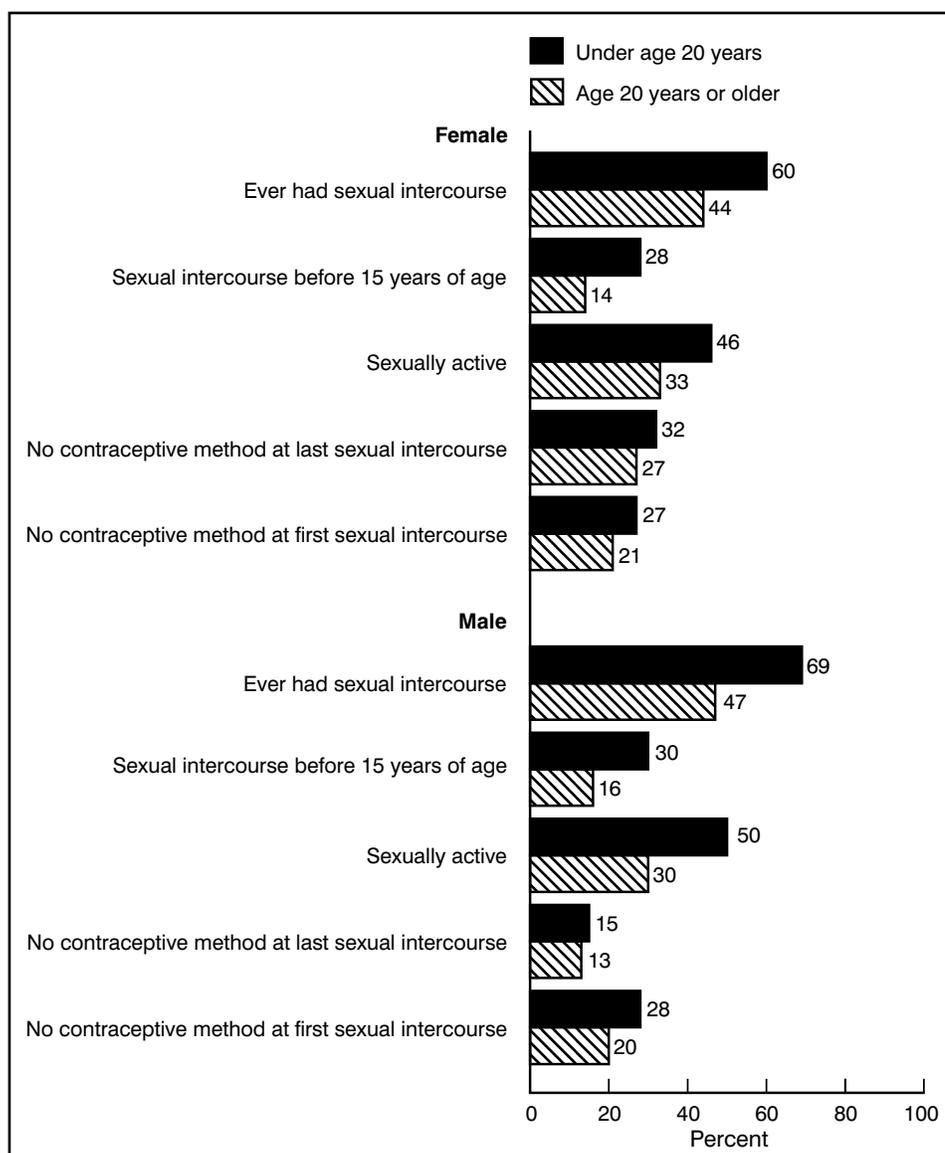
Two patterns stand out as possible sources of concern: the rise in early onset of sexual intercourse among females in 1995, and the increase from 1988 to 1995 in percents having unprotected recent sex. Early sex exposes teenagers to adverse consequences for longer periods of time.

Teenagers, particularly males, who have first sexual intercourse at a young age have more lifetime partners and higher numbers of *recent* partners. For females, younger age at first sex is linked to having older male partners at *recent* sexual intercourse. Finally, males and females who are younger at first intercourse are less likely to use contraceptives, both during the first time and at the most recent time.

The increase in the use of contraception during *first* sexual episodes and the decrease at the most *recent* sexual encounters may mean that females' better preparedness for first sex has not translated into improvements in subsequent consistent use of contraception.

Many of the sociodemographic and family characteristics examined here have clear and persistent associations with teenagers' sexual and contraceptive behaviors. Teenagers with more highly educated mothers, which is an indicator of family socioeconomic status, begin having sex later, are less likely to be sexually active, and are more likely to use contraceptives (figure 12). Whether teenagers' mothers began their own childbearing as teenagers themselves is clearly associated with these risk behaviors. Daughters and sons of former teen mothers engaged in higher levels of sexual risk behavior (figure 13). Coming from a single-parent family rather than a family with two biological or adoptive parents was associated with higher risk with respect to sexual behaviors. Finally, being behind in school (including having dropped out), was strongly correlated with higher levels of all the sexual and contraceptive risks examined, including a greater number of recent and lifetime partners (males only) (figure 14).

Across the period, teenagers coming from families with historically lower levels of teenage sexual risk behaviors appear to have experienced the highest levels of improvement. Teenagers whose mothers had higher levels of education were most likely to experience reductions in sexual activity. Females in this category were most likely to have no increase in early sexual activity. For males, improvement in these areas was also seen for those whose mothers had



**Figure 13. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years with specified risk by mother's age at first birth: United States, 1995**

delayed their first birth. Male and female teenagers who were Protestant also experienced significant improvements in condom use and reduced sexual activity. The group with the lowest levels of improvement and in some cases deterioration were the teenagers who were behind their grade level in school or who had dropped out. These patterns suggest the need to give special attention to those groups of teenagers who are lagging behind those whose levels of risk have gone down during the period. Research should further explore the mechanisms by which these factors interact and persistently affect male and female teen

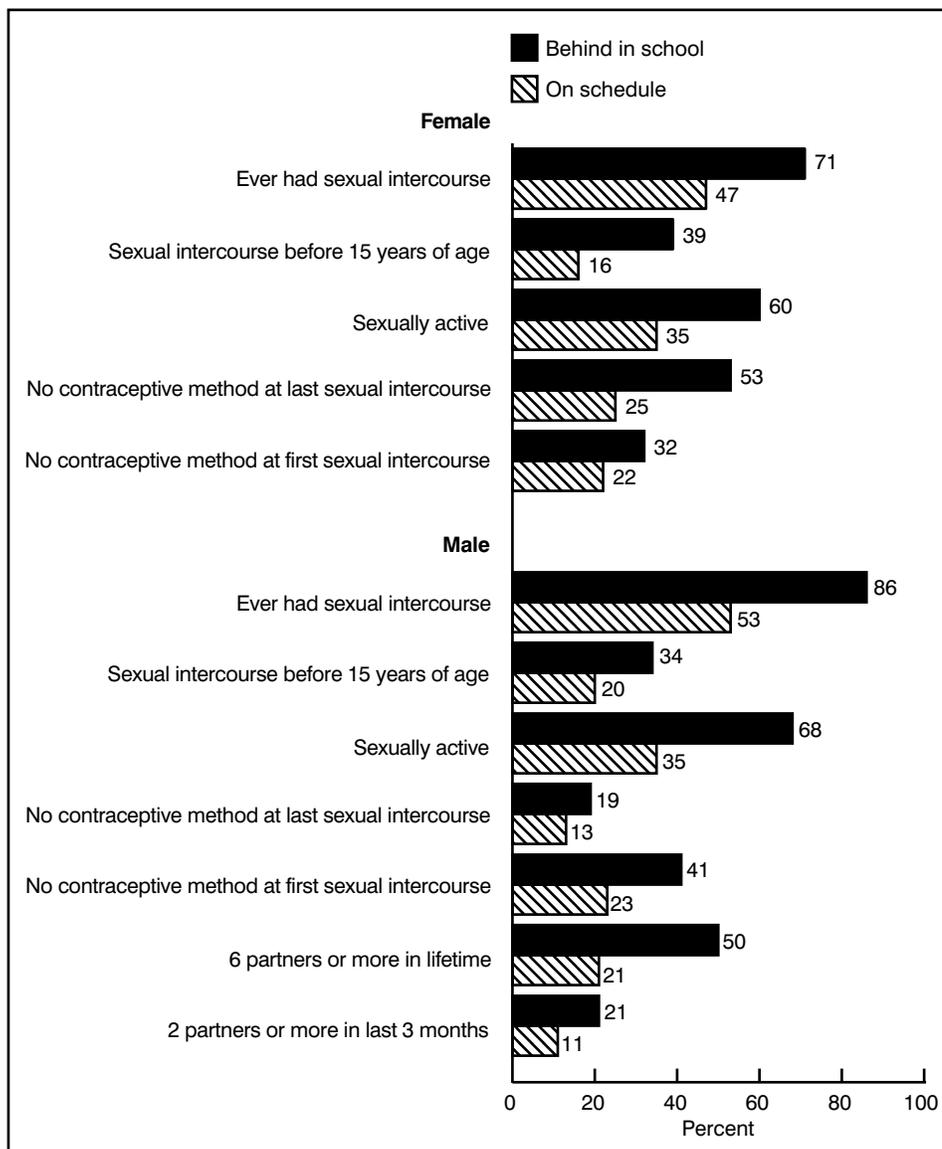
sexual and contraceptive behavior, and the ways in which their effects have changed over time.

Racial differentials in most sexual risk behaviors persisted over the decade. Black teenagers, both male and female, have higher levels of sexual experience, earlier ages at sexual initiation, higher percents who were sexually active in the 3 months before the survey, higher proportions using no method at first sex, and greater numbers of recent and lifetime partners. The decline in sexual experience and recent sexual activity among males was concentrated primarily among white males. Black females experienced increases in numbers of lifetime partners, and black males did

not share in the decreases in number of recent partners that white males experienced. On the other hand, black teenagers shared equally in the improvements in contraceptive use at first sexual union; both black and white youth had increases in condom use and in method use overall at first intercourse. Black males had higher percents than Hispanic or white males using the condom at last sexual intercourse in 1988 and 1995. Furthermore, for female teenagers, the racial gap in method use at recent sexual union closed primarily because contraception decreased among white females and remained stable among black females because of their adoption of injectable and implant contraceptives (in addition to sharing in the trend of increased condom use). Black and white teen females were equally likely to use contraception at last recent sexual intercourse, whereas 14 percentage points had separated them in 1988.

Hispanic teenagers generally had levels between those of black and white teenagers with respect to sexual risk behaviors, but shifts between 1988 and 1995 suggest that Hispanic youth may be at higher risk than in the past. Some apparent differences between Hispanics and the other two groups cannot be considered reliable due to lack of precision of some estimates. Only those that are statistically significant are discussed here unless otherwise stated. In 1995, Hispanic males had *higher* levels of sexual experience and sexual activity than white teenagers and *lower* levels than black teenagers. Hispanic males and females began having sexual intercourse earlier than white teenagers, and later than black youth, but the difference in estimates for Hispanic and black females was not statistically significant. Between 1988 and 1995, increases in sexual experience and sexual activity among Hispanic females changed the ranking of their risk levels from lowest to intermediate between those of white and black female teenagers.

Hispanic teenagers were the only group for whom the increase in condom use was not pervasive. Hispanic females declined in condom use at last sexual intercourse, and Hispanic males'



**Figure 14. Percent of females and males aged 15–19 years with specified risk by school status: United States, 1995**

condom use at first intercourse did not improve between 1988 and 1995. Hispanic teenagers, both male and female, had the highest percents using no method and the lowest percents using condoms at first and at last sexual episode in 1995.

These shifts in the sexual and contraceptive behavior of teenagers help explain declines over the past decade in their pregnancy and birth rates (2). Teenage pregnancy rates declined 15 percent between 1991 and 1996, to a low of 99 per 1,000 teenage females. During this same time period, teenagers' birth rates declined 12 percent. The most recent data show that the birth rates have declined even further, to 49.6 live

births per 1,000 teenagers in 1999 (1). The leveling of sexual experience rates and increased use of contraceptive methods at first sexual episode are consistent with this pregnancy rate decline. Decreased use of contraceptives at the most recent incident of sex among female teenagers is not consistent with the declining pregnancy rate. However, other factors, such as type of method chosen, can affect pregnancy risk among sexually active teenagers. Although not widespread at the time of the 1995 data collection, teenagers' adoption of highly effective methods such as Depo-Provera injectables and Norplant implants may have played a protective role. Indeed, black teenage females, who have

experienced the largest declines in pregnancy and birth rates, also have the largest percents using injectable and implant contraception.

Racial and ethnic differences in sexual risk behaviors help to understand the differences in their pregnancy and birth rates. Echoing the patterns of higher levels of sexual experience, earlier initiation of sexual activity and lower levels of contraceptive use (as measured by contraception at first sexual intercourse), the pregnancy rates for Hispanic and black teenagers were about twice as high as the rate for white teenagers in 1996 (2). A strategy to further understand differences in risk is to examine differences in pregnancy rates, but limited to those who were sexually active in a recent time period prior to the year of the rate. Among those who had sex within the year before the 1995 survey, the pregnancy rate was still twice as high for black and Hispanic teenagers as it was for white teenagers. This reinforces the notion that differences in contraceptive use may play a large role in differences in pregnancy rates.

Why have the changes taken place in adolescents' sexual and contraceptive behavior? There is evidence that attitudes towards teenage sexual activity may have become less tolerant. The passage of the Welfare Reform Law of 1996, for example, signaled a broad concern with the negative consequences of early sexual involvement and increased support for abstinence messages. There is evidence that teenagers' adoption of more conservative attitudes toward premarital sex is associated with reduced levels of sexual activity, at least among males (20). Programs have been developed at the Federal, State, and local level to promote postponement of sex and correct and consistent use of contraception among teenagers. Research on evaluation of the success of these programs remains largely inconclusive, although some promising prototypes have been identified (5).

Campaigns to increase public awareness of HIV/AIDS and its prevention probably account for some of the increases in condom use among teenagers since the 1980's. The 1995

NSAM and NSFG data show that the vast majority of teenagers are receiving instruction about birth control methods, how to prevent AIDS, and abstinence or how to say “no” to sex. In 1995, 88 percent of female teenagers reported receiving instruction on birth control methods, up from 72 percent in 1988. Seventy-nine percent of males received instruction on contraceptives in 1995, up slightly from the 1988 level. Instruction on how to prevent AIDS by using safe sex practices is virtually universal: 92 percent of males and 94 percent of females reported this instruction. Equally common among females is instruction on how to say “no” to sex. Ninety-three percent received such instruction, although fewer males report being taught how to say “no” (64).

## Summary

Between 1988 and 1995, the overall level of teenagers’ sexual risk-taking appears to have declined. These shifts in sexual and contraceptive behavior help explain declines over the past decade in teenage pregnancy and birth rates. However, not all teenagers have participated in the movement towards less risk-taking, and long-standing racial differences persist. In addition, across the period, teenagers coming from families with historically lower levels of sexual risk behaviors appear to have experienced the highest levels of improvement. These patterns suggest the need to give special attention to the groups of teenagers who are lagging behind their peers.

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**Table 1. Number and percent of females and males 15–19 years of age who have had sexual intercourse by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female						Male					
	1988			1995			1988			1995		
	Number in thousands	Sample number	Percent	Number in thousands	Sample number	Percent	Number in thousands	Sample number	Percent	Number in thousands	Sample number	Percent
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>	8,631	1,186	51.1	8,509	1,344	49.3	8,905	1,880	60.4	9,038	1,710	@55.2
Age												
15 years	1,586	210	27.9	1,692	252	24.3	1,790	389	32.6	1,943	400	27.1
16 years	1,719	237	34.1	1,839	281	38.3	1,692	395	49.9	1,862	389	44.6
17 years	1,939	259	47.6	1,762	273	50.8	2,004	430	65.6	1,862	360	58.4
18 years	1,700	246	65.5	1,669	280	62.3	2,030	389	71.6	1,717	327	67.0
19 years	1,687	234	79.7	1,547	258	74.0	1,389	276	85.7	1,663	234	84.0
15–17 years	5,244	706	37.2	5,293	806	38.0	5,485	1,214	50.0	5,658	1,149	@43.1
18–19 years	3,387	480	72.6	3,216	538	@68.0	3,419	665	77.3	3,380	561	75.4
Hispanic origin, race, and age												
Non-Hispanic white	6,113	679	50.4	5,650	809	48.5	6,491	755	56.8	6,101	609	@49.5
15–17 years	3,588	390	34.7	3,409	469	35.6	3,989	487	44.4	3,841	432	@34.8
18–19 years	2,525	289	72.7	2,241	340	68.0	2,502	268	76.8	2,259	177	74.7
Non-Hispanic black	1,315	362	60.4	1,355	284	59.3	1,300	677	80.6	1,301	490	80.4
15–17 years	826	224	50.2	854	177	48.9	819	438	76.6	822	324	75.4
18–19 years	490	138	77.5	500	107	77.1	481	238	87.7	479	166	89.0
Hispanic	927	111	45.8	1,050	197	52.7	828	386	59.7	1,148	552	60.9
15–17 years	625	68	35.2	662	120	@49.0	499	252	57.1	696	353	49.7
18–19 years	302	43	67.5	388	77	59.0	329	134	63.6	443	199	@78.6
Mother's education												
0–11 years	2,199	315	55.4	1,547	269	60.2	1,380	427	67.3	1,419	355	59.8
12 years	3,574	503	49.4	3,407	532	47.2	4,078	751	65.3	3,751	634	@58.0
13–15 years	1,385	184	51.2	1,655	253	55.2	1,309	232	53.9	1,627	263	57.5
16 years or more	1,473	184	48.5	1,819	276	@37.2	2,137	275	50.9	2,250	307	45.5
Mother's age at first birth												
Under 20 years	3,161	474	63.7	2,761	450	59.8	2,832	733	71.6	3,597	708	68.6
20 years or older	5,470	712	43.8	5,666	880	43.8	6,073	1,060	55.0	5,441	926	@46.8
Family structure at age 14 years												
Both biological/adoptive parents	5,547	717	44.9	4,851	738	42.5	6,278	1,171	57.0	6,173	1,024	@50.4
Single parent <sup>2</sup>	1,868	296	58.7	2,288	384	58.9	1,621	487	71.1	1,952	456	67.6
Parent and stepparent	971	117	66.2	1,082	167	@55.3	793	154	56.5	714	135	54.0
Nonparent/other	245	56	72.8	289	55	64.2	214	66	91.0	199	67	80.3
Religious affiliation												
None	693	91	61.5	1,183	189	70.1	864	178	66.0	1,301	225	66.9
Protestant	5,086	763	52.9	4,620	722	@46.4	4,719	1,064	61.4	5,314	899	@53.0
Catholic	2,686	312	45.8	2,265	369	48.2	3,010	585	58.4	2,124	520	52.1
Other <sup>3</sup>	167	20	38.7	441	64	29.2	312	44	46.4	307	50	59.1
Frequency of attendance at religious services												
Once a week or more	5,244	730	46.1	4,420	701	@40.9	4,345	953	53.4	4,085	791	46.9
1–3 times a month	1,325	196	56.2	1,383	225	52.5	1,567	372	66.2	1,762	347	62.8
Less than once a month	1,100	142	62.6	1,370	208	57.7	1,451	294	67.5	1,292	244	59.2
Never	962	118	58.2	1,332	209	65.6	1,540	258	67.5	1,898	322	62.6
Behind in school <sup>4</sup>												
Yes	975	152	71.1	873	155	71.2	1,057	301	68.0	651	117	@85.7
No	7,600	1,024	48.2	7,637	1,189	46.8	7,863	1,579	59.4	8,387	1,588	@52.5

@ Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10-percent level or better.

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.

<sup>3</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.

<sup>4</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

**Table 2. Cumulative percent of females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse before reaching selected ages, by race: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
	Percent			
All teenagers <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	51.1	49.3	60.4	@55.2
Age				
13 years . . . . .	1.0	@3.0	5.4	@3.9
14 years . . . . .	4.4	@8.0	11.0	11.0
15 years . . . . .	10.9	@18.6	21.1	21.3
16 years . . . . .	22.6	@31.9	37.6	35.2
17 years . . . . .	38.3	@47.4	57.2	52.6
18 years . . . . .	55.7	59.2	67.1	65.1
19 years . . . . .	76.5	69.7	78.0	83.4
Race and age				
Non-Hispanic white:				
13 years . . . . .	*0.6	2.1	2.9	1.9
14 years . . . . .	3.2	@5.9	7.1	7.5
15 years . . . . .	8.9	@15.7	16.1	14.1
16 years . . . . .	20.1	@27.6	32.9	28.0
17 years . . . . .	35.5	@44.8	52.7	47.1
18 years . . . . .	54.5	58.1	64.5	61.9
19 years . . . . .	77.1	69.4	74.8	@85.9
Non-Hispanic black:				
13 years . . . . .	*3.0	6.2	19.6	@14.0
14 years . . . . .	8.6	@15.4	34.2	@27.4
15 years . . . . .	16.3	@30.5	47.3	48.8
16 years . . . . .	33.2	@48.3	62.6	64.1
17 years . . . . .	55.0	62.6	77.2	78.3
18 years . . . . .	64.4	68.5	84.1	84.6
19 years . . . . .	78.7	74.0	94.0	93.5
	Number			
Total sample (denominator) . . . . .	1,186	1,344	1,880	1,710

@ Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10-percent level or better.

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (see appendix II: Sampling Errors).

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than black and white.

NOTE: The denominator for each percent includes only those having reached the specific age to which the percent pertains.

**Table 3. Percent of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who had sexual intercourse before age 15 years by age at interview and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
	Percent			
All teenagers <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	10.9	@18.6	21.1	21.3
Age				
15 years . . . . .	19.1	17.6	29.0	21.8
16 years . . . . .	8.9	@22.2	23.3	23.8
17 years . . . . .	8.4	@21.7	16.4	@22.2
18 years . . . . .	12.1	16.3	18.5	15.1
19 years . . . . .	6.7	@14.3	19.0	23.1
15–17 years . . . . .	11.8	@20.6	22.6	22.6
18–19 years . . . . .	9.4	@15.4	18.7	19.0
Hispanic origin, race, and age				
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	8.9	@15.7	16.1	14.1
15–17 years . . . . .	9.3	@17.3	16.1	13.7
18–19 years . . . . .	8.4	@13.4	16.2	14.8
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	16.3	@30.5	47.3	48.8
15–17 years . . . . .	19.0	@33.2	54.3	55.9
18–19 years . . . . .	11.7	@25.9	35.6	36.8
Hispanic . . . . .	13.0	@24.1	19.4	@27.7
15–17 years . . . . .	*12.8	29.9	21.8	29.1
18–19 years . . . . .	*13.4	*14.1	*15.7	25.4
Mother's education				
0–11 years . . . . .	12.4	@28.8	31.1	@23.5
12 years . . . . .	10.7	@18.0	23.7	26.5
13–15 years . . . . .	9.9	@20.0	19.8	19.9
16 years or more . . . . .	9.7	8.7	11.3	12.4
Mother's age at first birth				
Under 20 years . . . . .	15.1	@28.4	30.9	29.5
20 years or older . . . . .	8.4	@13.5	16.8	16.2
Family structure at age 14 years				
Both biological/adoptive parents . . . . .	7.7	@11.8	17.1	16.8
Single parent <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	15.2	@29.0	34.3	34.7
Parent and stepparent . . . . .	18.8	24.4	24.1	16.1
Nonparent /other . . . . .	*17.4	29.6	30.4	52.3
Religious affiliation				
None . . . . .	21.7	@33.2	22.0	26.0
Protestant . . . . .	10.5	@16.2	23.1	20.6
Catholic . . . . .	8.9	@15.9	18.0	19.5
Other <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	*8.3	19.3	22.2	26.5
Frequency of attendance at religious services				
Once a week or more . . . . .	8.0	@11.8	17.4	17.5
1–3 times a month . . . . .	13.4	@25.1	23.2	24.2
Less than once a month . . . . .	15.3	21.0	21.8	21.5
Never . . . . .	17.8	@32.2	29.1	26.3

**Table 3. Percent of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who had sexual intercourse before age 15 years by age at interview and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
Behind in school <sup>4</sup>				
Yes . . . . .	19.7	@39.4	27.0	33.8
No . . . . .	9.3	@16.2	20.4	19.8
			Number	
Total sample (denominator) . . . . .	1,186	1,344	1,880	1,710

@ Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10-percent level or better.

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (see appendix I: Sampling Errors).

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.

<sup>3</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.

<sup>4</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

**Table 4. Percent of females and males 15–19 years of age who had sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
	Percent			
All teenagers <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	40.8	37.9	43.2	@37.8
Age				
15 years . . . . .	20.3	17.5	19.6	16.1
16 years . . . . .	27.0	28.0	32.2	27.5
17 years . . . . .	34.9	36.4	48.5	@38.1
18 years . . . . .	53.6	48.2	52.4	49.0
19 years . . . . .	68.3	62.7	67.4	62.9
15–17 years . . . . .	27.9	27.4	34.0	@27.0
18–19 years . . . . .	60.9	55.2	58.2	55.9
Hispanic origin, race, and age				
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	41.2	37.7	40.8	@32.2
15–17 years . . . . .	27.0	25.8	29.9	@19.9
18–19 years . . . . .	61.6	55.9	58.4	53.2
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	50.0	44.8	59.6	59.2
15–17 years . . . . .	39.1	34.3	53.4	51.8
18–19 years . . . . .	68.6	62.9	70.0	71.7
Hispanic . . . . .	28.5	@41.0	40.9	43.9
15–17 years . . . . .	19.9	@38.4	37.8	34.3
18–19 years . . . . .	46.4	45.5	45.6	59.0
Age at first sex <sup>2</sup>				
Under 15 years . . . . .	77.7	78.0	73.9	72.4
15 years . . . . .	82.6	76.5	72.0	64.8
16 years . . . . .	80.7	75.6	72.9	72.1
17–19 years . . . . .	78.7	76.7	65.9	60.7
Mother's education				
0–11 years . . . . .	47.3	48.4	42.4	46.5
12 years . . . . .	38.7	35.6	48.9	@37.8
13–15 years . . . . .	41.4	41.9	39.3	39.2
16 years or more . . . . .	35.7	@28.0	34.7	30.1
Mother's age at first birth				
Under 20 years . . . . .	50.8	46.2	54.0	49.8
20 years or older . . . . .	35.1	33.3	37.9	@30.3
Family structure at age 14 years				
Both biological/adoptive parents . . . . .	36.4	32.4	40.3	@34.2
Single parent <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	46.3	46.1	53.5	47.1
Parent and stepparent . . . . .	50.8	42.0	38.7	35.8
Nonparent/other . . . . .	59.1	50.9	67.3	55.2
Religious affiliation				
None . . . . .	44.5	55.8	40.8	45.5
Protestant . . . . .	44.6	@35.2	43.3	@36.6
Catholic . . . . .	33.9	37.1	44.4	@36.0
Other <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	*21.8	22.3	36.3	35.2

**Table 4. Percent of females and males 15–19 years of age who had sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
Frequency of attendance at religious services				
Once a week or more . . . . .	37.3	@32.0	38.7	@29.5
1–3 times a month . . . . .	47.0	@36.0	48.2	45.4
Less than once a month . . . . .	43.7	45.6	50.6	43.8
Never . . . . .	48.3	51.8	43.7	44.3
Residence at interview				
Central city (MSA) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	42.2	41.7	43.7	41.2
Suburban (MSA) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	40.6	@34.3	42.4	@34.6
Rural (non-MSA) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	40.0	39.3	44.3	38.0
Region of residence				
Northeast . . . . .	36.4	41.1	50.5	@29.9
Midwest . . . . .	41.2	38.4	43.3	43.6
South . . . . .	44.6	37.5	47.8	@35.1
West . . . . .	40.7	35.2	28.0	34.6
Behind in school <sup>6</sup>				
Yes . . . . .	71.1	60.0	51.0	@68.2
No . . . . .	48.2	35.4	42.2	@35.1
			Number	
Total sample (denominator) . . . . .	1,186	1,344	1,880	1,710

@ Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10-percent level or better.

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (see appendix I: Sampling Errors).

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Denominator is "ever had sex."

<sup>3</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adult.

<sup>4</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.

<sup>5</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

<sup>6</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

**Table 5. Percent of sexually active females and males 15–19 years of age who used specified contraception during last sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by race: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Contraceptive use during last sexual intercourse	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>				
			Percent	
Hormonal contraceptives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	42.7	@32.0	37.4	31.0
Pill . . . . .	42.7	@25.0	37.4	@28.2
Implant or injectible . . . . .	---	7.0	---	@2.8
Condom <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	31.3	@38.2	53.3	@63.9
All other methods <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	9.3	9.6	13.6	10.0
Dual method (hormonal and condom) . . . . .	3.3	@8.4	15.2	16.5
No method . . . . .	20.1	@29.3	15.8	18.2
Race and contraceptive use during last sexual intercourse				
Non-Hispanic white:				
Hormonal contraceptives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	43.0	@34.5	37.2	34.8
Pill . . . . .	43.0	@29.6	37.2	33.8
Implant or injectible . . . . .	---	4.8	---	*1.0
Condom <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	31.3	@40.8	49.7	@64.1
All other methods <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	12.0	8.6	15.2	12.1
Dual method (hormonal and condom) . . . . .	*3.0	10.0	12.1	18.1
No method . . . . .	16.7	@26.7	15.4	14.4
Non-Hispanic black:				
Hormonal contraceptives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	48.3	@30.9	43.5	@29.3
Pill . . . . .	48.3	@15.3	43.5	@24.1
Implant or injectible . . . . .	---	15.6	---	*5.2
Condom <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	23.9	@41.1	66.5	71.0
All other methods <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	*1.8	*9.61	8.2	8.6
Dual method (hormonal and condom) . . . . .	*6.3	*8.07	27.8	@19.0
No method . . . . .	32.3	26.7	13.5	17.2
			Number	
Total sample (denominator) . . . . .	497	540	895	695

@ Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10-percent level or better.

--- Data not available.

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (see appendix I: Sampling Errors).

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than black and white.

<sup>2</sup>This reflects hormonal and condom use regardless of whether it was used alone or in combination with another method.

<sup>3</sup>All other methods besides condom and hormonal methods. Thus, if other method was combined with condom or hormonal method, it is not counted. Other methods include sterilization, IUD, female condom, emergency contraceptive pills, diaphragm, cervical cap, spermicidal foam, jelly, cream or suppository, sponge, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, and "other" methods.

NOTE: Figures do not add to 100 because dual users are also included in specific methods separately.

**Table 6. Percent of sexually active females and males 15–19 years of age who used specified contraception during last sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female								Male							
	1988				1995				1988				1995			
	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>2</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>2</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>2</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>
	Percent															
All teenagers <sup>3</sup>	20.1	31.3	42.7	9.3	@29.3	@38.2	@32.0	9.6	15.8	53.3	37.4	13.6	18.2	*63.9	31.0	10.0
Age																
15 years	*12.9	50.2	28.6	*14.1	35.9	41.4	20.9	*12.3	*26.1	51.8	*12.1	*20.2	*19.3	66.1	35.0	*16.3
16 years	29.1	41.0	21.4	*10.2	38.8	46.3	15.8	*5.2	18.8	67.8	26.0	*10.5	15.2	75.0	*19.4	7.3
17 years	27.6	26.8	45.8	*2.1	28.3	32.4	40.6	*8.3	15.5	55.5	36.5	*7.0	17.3	68.3	@25.4	*7.4
18 years	13.9	31.7	50.8	*6.8	@24.8	31.1	@36.5	17.8	10.7	47.1	47.7	16.3	@21.5	52.5	35.9	14.2
19 years	19.0	24.3	46.9	13.6	26.6	@42.6	@34.4	@5.3	16.2	50.0	42.8	*16.5	17.4	@64.0	35.3	*7.9
15–17 years	24.8	36.4	34.3	7.3	@33.5	39.2	27.8	8.0	18.5	58.4	28.8	10.5	17.0	@70.1	25.4	9.2
18–19 years	16.8	27.6	48.6	10.7	@25.8	@37.4	@35.4	11.0	13.2	48.4	45.5	16.4	19.2	@58.9	@35.5	10.7
Hispanic origin, race, and age																
Non-Hispanic white	16.7	31.3	43.0	12.0	@26.7	@40.8	@34.5	8.6	15.4	49.7	37.2	15.2	14.4	@64.1	34.8	12.1
15–17 years	20.3	38.9	33.6	10.6	29.6	42.0	32.3	*5.1	18.7	54.7	25.5	11.8	14.5	@68.8	26.9	*12.3
18–19 years	14.5	26.5	48.9	12.8	@24.6	@40.0	@36.0	11.0	12.6	45.6	47.0	18.0	14.4	@61.0	39.8	12.0
Non-Hispanic black	32.3	23.9	48.3	*1.8	26.7	@41.1	@30.9	*9.6	13.5	66.5	43.5	8.2	17.2	71.0	@29.3	8.6
15–17 years	40.6	21.2	39.6	*1.5	27.6	@45.8	26.4	*10.3	14.0	69.5	39.0	7.6	17.7	78.2	@22.0	8.7
18–19 years	24.4	26.5	56.6	*2.1	26.0	36.7	@35.0	*9.0	12.8	62.6	49.3	8.9	16.7	62.3	38.0	*8.6
Hispanic	*26.7	40.4	27.9	*5.0	48.6	@18.3	23.8	*11.5	25.9	46.7	32.8	*12.0	29.1	53.2	23.9	3.5
15–17 years	*28.3	*48.6	*23.0	–	57.7	20.9	*14.0	*10.7	*30.7	55.4	31.9	3.9	20.0	58.7	29.3	3.4
18–19 years	*25.3	*33.1	*32.3	*9.3	35.2	*14.5	37.8	*12.5	*19.7	35.7	33.9	*22.3	37.4	48.2	19.0	3.6
Age at first sexual intercourse																
Under 15 years	24.5	27.8	41.4	*9.9	@36.9	33.1	30.9	7.8	19.3	52.7	33.3	30.3	15.4	@64.2	33.1	11.6
15 years	24.2	30.5	43.4	*4.2	28.8	40.2	34.9	*6.3	14.4	51.3	36.6	28.9	*14.7	56.0	33.6	13.0
16 years	16.0	31.1	47.0	*10.0	25.7	35.1	@34.5	*12.6	*13.3	52.7	43.6	22.0	*6.5	@71.3	@25.9	6.4
17–19 years	16.8	34.5	39.4	12.7	*16.8	@50.5	@27.1	14.6	*13.7	59.0	38.4	34.7	*19.0	62.5	29.8	7.5
Mother's education																
0–11 years	32.8	29.5	33.3	*7.5	42.3	30.9	24.5	*7.0	24.5	43.7	38.8	37.5	*17.5	46.5	39.0	9.2
12 years	18.2	31.5	44.5	10.7	25.5	36.2	36.5	11.1	14.7	55.3	35.6	25.4	12.3	@66.1	28.9	8.8
13–15 years	*13.9	33.2	45.7	*8.6	27.4	43.2	@30.9	*9.5	*10.3	49.3	63.4	29.3	*4.5	@67.1	@29.3	@13.5
16 years or more	*7.0	32.2	52.9	*9.7	21.0	@47.7	@31.8	*9.6	*12.5	58.7	25.7	27.2	18.0	72.8	34.1	12.9
Mother's age at first birth																
Under 20 years	28.1	28.4	37.6	9.3	32.3	31.9	36.1	7.3	19.2	54.1	36.6	35.6	14.8	59.2	31.4	7.9
20 years or older	13.5	33.7	46.8	9.2	@27.3	@42.7	@28.7	11.1	13.2	54.5	36.7	24.6	13.1	@68.6	30.6	12.7
Family structure at age 14																
Both biological/adoptive parents	18.1	27.9	45.7	10.2	24.1	@40.2	@35.3	9.2	15.6	53.1	38.0	25.4	12.2	61.2	33.4	10.1
Single parent <sup>4</sup>	23.0	33.9	43.1	*4.8	@34.7	35.6	@28.7	10.3	16.3	58.5	37.3	32.0	*11.9	@70.0	26.9	10.8
Parent and stepparent	19.0	44.6	31.9	*11.9	@34.6	34.9	25.4	*11.3	*20.5	40.7	36.9	31.6	*18.8	@69.2	32.1	@2.4
Nonparent/other	*34.8	*17.8	*33.8	*13.7	*29.0	@45.0	39.9	*4.4	*6.9	*48.3	*32.6	57.4	*36.3	65.1	*20.3	2.4

**Table 6. Percent of sexually active females and males 15–19 years of age who used specified contraception during last sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female								Male							
	1988				1995				1988				1995			
	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>2</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>2</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>2</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>
<b>Religious affiliation</b>																
None . . . . .	*21.4	39.5	33.5	*12.8	34.5	33.6	33.6	*7.6	*28.9	34.0	41.0	25.1	*13.1	@50.8	28.5	12.9
Protestant . . . . .	20.6	30.8	43.6	7.8	24.3	@41.1	@35.5	9.1	12.3	52.6	43.3	33.7	14.7	@67.8	@31.6	9.4
Catholic . . . . .	18.9	29.1	43.4	12.0	@34.3	36.5	@25.3	11.6	16.0	58.5	28.8	21.7	12.2	61.9	29.3	8.3
Other <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	*9.6	*46.7	*43.7	0.0	*37.0	36.7	*18.8	*14.4	*38.5	*49.2	*31.2	*33.8	*13.9	71.0	55.6	6.4
<b>Frequency of attendance at religious services</b>																
Once a week or more . . . . .	19.0	30.8	44.1	9.9	@26.3	@39.8	@31.0	10.6	14.3	58.9	39.1	30.5	11.4	66.9	@29.4	13.6
1–3 times a month . . . . .	25.3	40.1	29.3	*9.2	28.2	43.7	28.6	*8.7	14.7	55.8	31.3	26.1	14.6	65.0	36.8	@5.5
Less than once a month . . . . .	*18.0	25.0	48.8	*10.2	28.9	35.9	@33.3	*12.7	*12.2	55.9	45.3	25.9	*10.3	@71.8	@29.7	8.6
Never . . . . .	*20.3	27.8	48.1	*5.8	36.6	33.1	@35.0	*5.5	24.7	32.3	32.0	29.5	*21.7	@52.6	29.1	10.3
<b>Residence at interview</b>																
Central city (MSA) <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	25.7	25.7	41.9	*8.7	32.0	@36.1	@29.5	8.9	21.2	53.3	38.8	26.8	9.7	63.1	31.9	6.2
Suburban (MSA) <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	14.4	32.8	47.2	9.0	@30.9	37.0	@30.4	10.7	15.3	53.2	35.1	27.8	13.8	@65.1	33.4	11.2
Rural (non-MSA) <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	27.6	25.0	33.0	10.5	22.5	@43.4	38.4	*9.0	*8.7	53.3	40.2	32.3	18.8	63.5	@27.3	13.1
<b>Region of residence</b>																
Northeast . . . . .	*20.7	26.3	42.7	*13.5	25.9	@41.5	@26.7	14.3	16.7	45.4	35.4	22.9	15.6	@74.3	37.4	@3.4
Midwest . . . . .	21.7	32.2	40.1	7.6	28.7	34.6	36.2	*9.7	10.9	60.4	41.4	28.4	@9.7	61.8	@30.7	6.9
South . . . . .	20.7	28.5	44.4	10.7	27.1	@44.2	@32.8	*6.1	13.6	56.0	38.0	34.9	16.0	65.4	34.6	19.8
West . . . . .	*15.5	38.5	45.2	6.0	36.8	29.1	@31.3	*10.3	*29.8	45.0	31.6	18.3	*9.3	61.3	23.1	8.3
<b>Behind in school<sup>7</sup></b>																
Yes . . . . .	42.0	24.0	33.3	*2.5	53.2	16.5	25.8	*8.8	25.2	44.9	31.6	*38.2	*18.9	54.0	31.5	4.7
No . . . . .	15.3	33.1	44.6	10.6	@24.7	@42.4	@33.1	9.8	14.3	54.5	38.3	*15.1	12.7	@65.5	@30.5	11.0
<b>Number</b>																
Total sample (denominator) <sup>8</sup> . . . . .	497	...	...	...	540	...	...	...	895	...	...	...	695	...	...	...

@ Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10-percent level or better.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (see appendix I: Sampling Errors).

– Quantity zero.

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>This reflects hormonal and condom use regardless of whether it was used alone or in combination with another method.

<sup>2</sup>All other methods besides condom and hormonal methods. Thus if other method was combined with condom or hormonal method, it is not counted. Other methods include sterilization, IUD, female condom, emergency contraceptive pills, diaphragm, cervical cap, spermicidal foam, jelly, cream or suppository, sponge, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, and "other" methods.

<sup>3</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.

<sup>4</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.

<sup>5</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.

<sup>6</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

<sup>7</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

<sup>8</sup>Total across all four categories of contraceptive use.

**Table 7. Percent of females and males 15–19 years of age who ever had sexual intercourse who used specified contraception during first sexual intercourse by Hispanic origin and race: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Contraceptive use at first sexual intercourse	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>				
	Percent			
Hormonal contraceptives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	8.0	8.3	9.5	10.5
Pill . . . . .	8.0	7.8	9.5	10.3
Implant or injectible . . . . .	---	*0.5	---	*0.4
Condom <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	50.4	@69.7	55.0	@69.3
All other methods <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	10.0	@4.3	10.6	@4.4
Dual method (hormonal and condom) . . . . .	*1.8	5.2	2.6	@6.8
No method . . . . .	33.1	@23.4	28.6	24.3
Race and contraceptive use during last sexual intercourse				
Non-Hispanic white:				
Hormonal contraceptives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	6.5	8.5	9.8	10.8
Pill . . . . .	6.5	8.0	9.7	10.6
Implant or injectible . . . . .	---	*0.5	---	*0.3
Condom <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	54.7	@77.5	57.9	@75.6
All other methods <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	11.9	*2.8	11.9	*3.0
Dual method (hormonal and condom) . . . . .	*1.8	5.8	*2.0	6.4
No method . . . . .	28.8	@17.5	23.8	18.0
Non-Hispanic black:				
Hormonal contraceptives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	16.3	12.5	9.7	12.5
Pill . . . . .	16.3	11.4	9.7	12.2
Implant or injectible . . . . .	---	*1.1	---	*0.7
Condom <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	37.7	@56.0	43.5	@61.2
All other methods <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	*3.0	*4.6	8.0	@5.1
Dual method (hormonal and condom) . . . . .	*2.7	*6.4	*4.2	10.3
No method . . . . .	45.5	@33.4	43.4	@34.3
	Number			
Total sample (denominator) . . . . .	618	700	1,263	1,015

@ Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10-percent level or better.

--- Data not available.

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (see appendix I: Sampling Errors).

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than black and white.

<sup>2</sup>This reflects hormonal and condom use regardless of whether it was used alone or in combination with another method.

<sup>3</sup>All other methods besides condom and hormonal methods. Thus, if other method was combined with condom or hormonal method, it is not counted. Other methods include sterilization, IUD, female condom, emergency contraceptive pills, diaphragm, cervical cap, spermicidal foam, jelly, cream or suppository, sponge, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, and "other" methods.

NOTE: Figures do not add to 100 because dual users are also included separately in specific methods.

**Table 8. Percent of females and males 15–19 years of age who ever had sexual intercourse who used a specified method of contraception during first sexual intercourse, by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female								Male							
	1988				1995				1988				1995			
	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>
	Percent															
All teenagers <sup>3</sup>	33.1	50.4	8.0	10.0	@23.4	@69.7	8.3	@4.3	28.6	55.0	9.5	10.6	24.3	@69.3	10.5	@4.3
Age																
15 years	19.5	53.2	*9.9	*15.0	27.3	68.3	*6.6	*1.7	26.3	59.3	*4.1	*14.1	23.7	@74.9	13.2	*2.8
16 years	35.2	48.9	*5.2	*10.7	25.1	@73.2	*4.5	*1.0	35.3	54.2	*5.3	6.7	25.8	@72.2	10.0	*1.8
17 years	32.7	56.0	9.0	*6.3	@22.6	@68.3	9.1	*4.9	24.4	59.4	10.4	*11.5	24.0	68.7	10.2	*4.5
18 years	41.2	48.9	*4.7	*5.1	@19.9	@70.3	@13.3	*5.6	25.1	54.9	8.1	14.4	21.4	@72.9	*9.3	*4.2
19 years	30.3	47.6	10.5	14.5	24.7	@68.4	6.0	*5.8	33.9	48.7	15.8	*6.0	26.4	@62.9	*11.2	*6.4
15–17 years	30.5	53.2	8.1	9.6	24.4	@70.1	7.0	*2.9	28.2	57.7	7.5	10.6	24.6	@71.2	10.8	@3.2
18–19 years	35.2	48.2	7.9	10.3	@22.4	@69.3	9.5	@5.7	29.0	52.1	11.5	10.6	24.1	@67.4	10.3	@5.4
Hispanic origin, race, and age																
Non-Hispanic white	28.8	54.7	6.5	11.9	@17.5	@77.5	8.5	*2.8	23.8	57.9	9.8	11.9	18.0	@75.6	10.8	*3.0
15–17 years	23.8	60.5	*6.3	11.5	19.7	@76.9	7.7	*0.5	22.9	61.1	8.3	12.0	17.1	@78.5	10.6	*2.1
18–19 years	32.2	50.7	6.6	12.1	@15.7	@78.0	9.2	*4.7	24.6	55.0	11.2	11.9	18.7	@73.2	*11.0	*3.7
Non-Hispanic black	45.5	37.7	16.3	*3.0	@33.4	@56.0	12.5	*4.6	43.4	43.5	9.7	8.0	@34.3	@61.2	12.5	5.1
15–17 years	44.4	39.3	*13.8	*5.2	@28.1	@60.4	*9.4	*5.9	43.5	43.9	5.1	10.0	36.1	@60.5	@13.7	@3.8
18–19 years	46.6	36.0	19.1	*0.6	39.0	@51.2	15.8	*3.3	43.2	43.0	16.3	*5.1	@31.8	@62.2	10.8	7.0
Hispanic	40.3	44.5	*4.4	*8.3	39.4	53.8	*2.5	*6.8	35.0	52.4	*9.5	*7.8	36.1	55.3	9.1	*7.4
15–17 years	38.0	41.7	*8.5	*7.1	40.2	59.6	*2.2	*2.1	29.3	63.6	*9.3	*4.4	30.6	64.3	9.1	5.4
18–19 years	42.8	47.5	–	*9.6	38.4	45.6	*2.8	*13.2	42.8	37.3	*9.7	*12.4	41.4	46.3	9.2	*9.3
Age at first sexual intercourse																
Under 15 years	45.9	35.3	*8.2	*10.5	@27.0	@66.9	7.0	*3.2	42.0	44.2	5.2	10.6	36.4	@60.2	7.7	*2.7
15 years	35.3	50.0	3.8	10.7	@22.3	@71.4	8.2	*3.7	24.7	57.6	*5.8	13.4	17.4	@76.9	*9.5	*2.6
16 years	29.9	54.0	*5.6	12.7	24.2	@66.5	13.3	*5.0	21.7	57.8	14.5	10.4	15.9	@74.2	13.0	*7.8
17–19 years	25.1	58.1	13.2	*7.0	@16.0	@77.2	*5.1	*6.9	14.2	71.9	*17.3	*6.5	16.7	73.6	*15.3	6.0
Mother's education																
0–11 years	46.5	41.7	7.7	*5.5	@33.1	@61.0	11.1	*3.0	41.7	45.9	3.3	11.9	38.5	55.5	*13.0	*2.4
12 years	28.7	53.8	6.6	12.8	25.3	@65.5	8.1	@5.2	29.9	54.9	9.1	9.1	24.1	@70.5	9.0	*3.8
13–15 years	29.1	53.2	*5.1	12.6	@15.6	@79.5	*7.6	*4.4	19.0	56.3	*11.6	*16.9	19.9	70.2	*11.7	*7.8
16 years or more	25.4	54.3	14.5	7.9	17.4	@76.9	*5.9	*4.5	17.7	64.4	*12.5	*11.9	14.8	@78.8	*10.3	*4.4
Mother's age at first birth																
Under 20 years	37.6	46.0	8.1	9.5	@26.9	@66.1	11.5	*3.1	37.6	47.1	8.9	9.7	@27.9	@66.7	10.0	@3.2
20 years or older	29.4	54.2	7.8	10.4	@21.4	@71.7	6.2	*5.3	22.2	60.4	9.7	11.7	20.2	@72.4	11.1	@5.5
Family structure at age 14 years																
Both biological/adoptive parents	33.3	52.2	7.1	8.4	@21.7	@70.8	7.6	6.0	24.5	59.9	10.0	9.3	22.7	@71.7	9.3	@4.0
Single parent <sup>4</sup>	39.7	42.1	10.5	11.7	@26.6	@65.0	10.6	*2.9	33.1	47.9	*7.6	15.3	26.7	@66.2	11.8	@5.1
Parent and stepparent	21.0	58.8	*5.6	*14.6	21.6	@75.7	*5.5	*2.2	35.1	48.1	12.2	*8.1	*21.3	@69.5	*15.5	*1.6
Nonparent/other	*34.8	47.4	*12.7	*5.1	*24.3	@71.4	*8.1	*3.3	57.4	*26.6	*4.6	*12.9	42.9	55.6	*11.5	*4.4

**Table 8. Percent of females and males 15–19 years of age who ever had sexual intercourse and used a specified method of contraception during first sexual intercourse, by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female								Male							
	1988				1995				1988				1995			
	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>
<b>Religious affiliation</b>																
None . . . . .	37.7	45.4	*12.3	*6.7	25.3	@68.5	*7.2	*4.3	37.0	50.9	*10.5	*11.6	28.9	59.6	*13.1	*2.6
Protestant . . . . .	30.8	52.4	8.3	9.8	@21.6	@70.7	10.5	*4.2	28.3	55.5	7.9	10.7	@21.1	@74.2	11.0	*4.5
Catholic . . . . .	38.1	47.3	*4.8	11.1	@23.6	@70.6	*5.2	*4.1	27.6	53.7	11.5	11.0	27.5	@65.3	*8.2	*5.3
Other <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	*5.4	*62.3	*24.7	*16.1	*38.0	52.2	*4.6	*9.8	*13.9	72.1	*13.9	*1.7	*32.9	61.3	*6.6	*5.8
<b>Frequency of attendance at religious services</b>																
Once a week or more . . . . .	32.9	48.6	7.9	12.4	@20.7	@71.3	9.2	@5.4	26.0	58.0	9.4	9.5	25.3	@67.7	10.5	5.6
1–3 times a month . . . . .	41.7	46.4	*3.9	*9.9	@25.7	@68.7	*5.9	*2.4	25.1	52.9	11.4	13.6	21.8	@75.3	13.3	*1.5
Less than once a month . . . . .	26.4	60.8	*10.2	*3.6	19.9	71.8	*8.0	*5.3	28.2	52.4	*11.3	12.2	22.1	@67.4	*7.9	*37.4
Never . . . . .	30.9	50.9	*11.0	*7.2	30.3	@65.1	*8.7	*2.9	37.4	53.6	*6.1	8.8	26.6	@67.3	9.8	*3.2
<b>Behind in school<sup>6</sup></b>																
Yes . . . . .	57.9	29.9	*6.8	*5.5	@32.3	@57.9	11.0	*4.8	49.3	40.9	*7.4	*5.6	40.6	49.4	*11.9	*1.6
No . . . . .	27.9	55.0	8.0	11.0	@21.8	@71.7	7.8	@4.3	25.4	57.2	9.8	11.4	22.5	@71.5	10.5	@4.8
<b>Number</b>																
Total sample (denominator) <sup>7</sup> . . . . .	618	...	...	...	700	...	...	...	1,263	...	...	...	1,015	...	...	...

@ Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10-percent level or better

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (see appendix I: Sampling Errors).

– Quantity zero.

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>This reflects hormonal and condom use regardless of whether it was used alone or in combination with another method.

<sup>2</sup>All other methods besides condom and hormonal methods. Thus if other method was combined with condom or hormonal method, it is not counted. Other methods include: sterilization, IUD, female condom, emergency contraceptive pills, diaphragm, cervical cap, spermicidal foam, jelly, cream or suppository, sponge, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, and other in "other category."

<sup>3</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.

<sup>4</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.

<sup>5</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.

<sup>6</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

<sup>7</sup>Total across all four categories of contraceptive use.

**Table 9. Percent distribution of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by number of opposite-sex sexual partners in lifetime, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female								Male							
	1988				1995				1988				1995			
	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 or more partners	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 or more partners	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 or more partners	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 or more partners
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>	40.9	15.6	28.7	14.9	36.9	@22.2	27.1	13.8	27.7	16.9	28.6	26.7	26.9	18.1	30.8	24.3
Percent																
Age at interview																
15 years	41.8	*20.5	23.0	*14.8	@60.3	*11.2	17.8	*10.8	37.0	*10.0	36.3	16.6	33.8	18.5	36.6	11.1
16 years	46.8	15.1	25.5	*12.6	44.2	21.6	20.0	*14.2	28.5	20.9	33.1	17.5	29.3	24.1	28.4	18.2
17 years	47.6	12.5	24.5	15.4	37.1	@25.1	29.9	@7.9	27.0	18.6	31.9	22.5	32.1	15.0	25.3	27.6
18 years	39.3	17.7	25.5	17.6	34.3	23.5	27.0	15.2	25.9	18.3	22.9	32.9	27.4	23.3	30.8	@18.5
19 years	34.8	14.4	37.4	13.3	26.4	@23.0	32.5	18.2	25.5	14.1	24.8	35.6	18.3	*12.5	34.4	34.8
15–17 years	46.0	15.1	24.4	14.4	44.2	@21.1	24.0	10.7	29.6	17.5	33.2	19.7	31.5	18.9	28.8	20.9
18–19 years	36.8	15.9	32.1	15.2	@30.1	@23.2	29.9	16.7	25.7	16.4	23.8	34.1	22.4	17.3	@32.8	27.5
Hispanic origin, race, and age																
Non-Hispanic white	40.2	13.6	30.2	16.0	39.1	@21.6	26.1	13.2	30.6	18.7	27.6	23.2	34.0	19.2	29.2	@17.6
15–17 years	44.6	15.4	25.0	15.0	49.5	21.2	19.7	9.7	33.2	19.2	35.0	12.7	41.5	20.7	@24.8	13.1
18–19 years	37.2	12.4	33.8	16.6	30.7	@21.9	31.3	16.1	28.3	18.2	20.7	32.9	28.1	18.0	@32.7	@21.2
Non-Hispanic black	38.1	22.2	28.1	11.6	@22.3	27.0	35.7	15.0	16.7	10.0	31.8	41.5	12.9	13.3	32.1	41.6
15–17 years	43.1	18.7	22.9	15.3	@23.0	25.6	@39.4	*12.0	16.6	9.8	32.9	40.7	15.1	14.8	33.3	36.8
18–19 years	32.6	26.0	33.9	*7.6	21.6	28.5	31.7	18.2	16.7	10.3	30.2	42.8	9.8	*11.2	30.3	48.7
Hispanic	51.0	*15.1	*17.9	*16.0	44.3	16.4	24.4	14.9	22.1	21.3	30.4	26.3	21.5	17.8	28.5	32.2
15–17 years	60.2	*7.2	*18.8	*13.9	47.4	13.2	24.7	*14.7	28.8	25.8	24.6	*20.8	27.6	18.9	28.2	25.4
18–19 years	41.4	*23.3	*17.1	*18.2	40.2	*20.8	*24.0	*15.1	*13.0	*15.1	38.2	33.7	15.4	16.8	28.8	39.1
Age at first sexual intercourse																
Under 15 years	18.1	11.7	39.9	30.4	20.2	@17.8	38.7	23.4	10.8	10.4	34.6	44.2	10.6	13.9	35.9	39.6
15 years	35.2	16.0	33.4	15.4	38.8	24.0	@23.7	13.5	21.7	15.6	37.1	25.5	22.5	19.7	35.2	22.6
16 years	45.3	12.9	26.0	15.8	51.0	@25.5	@16.4	@7.1	35.6	23.1	25.8	15.5	35.2	21.2	27.8	15.8
17–19 years	58.6	20.0	18.9	*2.6	53.4	25.4	19.7	*1.6	64.2	24.8	*4.5	*6.6	58.0	21.6	*17.4	*2.9
Mother's education																
0–11 years	39.9	16.2	30.4	13.6	39.6	12.7	32.6	15.1	16.4	21.6	28.5	33.6	25.3	16.1	35.5	23.1
12 years	45.1	13.2	30.0	11.7	40.1	@24.2	24.6	11.1	25.7	18.2	28.3	27.9	27.6	14.7	30.8	27.0
13–15 years	43.4	18.3	23.9	*14.5	32.7	@28.5	25.5	13.3	27.8	22.3	19.9	30.0	22.9	19.5	@34.6	23.0
16 years or more	30.2	17.7	27.1	25.0	32.8	21.7	25.2	20.4	43.4	*8.8	32.0	15.8	31.9	24.1	25.9	18.1
Mother's age at first birth																
Under 20 years	44.1	13.3	28.7	14.0	@33.0	@23.8	30.8	12.5	20.6	17.3	30.6	31.5	24.8	15.5	30.3	29.3
20 years or older	38.3	17.5	28.7	15.5	39.9	21.1	24.0	15.1	31.3	17.4	27.2	24.2	29.1	20.2	31.6	19.2
Family structure at age 14																
Both biological/adoptive parents	43.2	16.2	26.3	14.3	40.2	20.8	26.0	13.1	29.2	17.5	28.4	24.8	29.9	20.8	32.5	@16.8
Single parent <sup>2</sup>	35.2	16.9	32.0	15.9	34.7	21.7	27.0	16.7	23.1	13.4	33.1	30.4	21.7	12.4	27.9	38.0
Parent and stepparent	43.2	*9.0	30.4	*17.4	@27.2	30.3	29.8	12.7	*30.2	25.4	26.3	*18.0	27.7	20.4	28.8	23.0
Nonparent /other	35.9	*21.6	*36.0	*6.5	48.9	*15.3	*31.2	*4.6	*24.1	*9.3	*12.2	54.3	*13.6	*16.3	*22.7	47.4

**Table 9. Percent distribution of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by number of opposite-sex sexual partners in lifetime, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female								Male							
	1988				1995				1988				1995			
	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 or more partners	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 or more partners	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 or more partners	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 or more partners
<b>Religious affiliation</b>																
None . . . . .	25.0	*9.8	40.0	25.1	36.9	19.5	@24.8	18.9	29.3	16.7	28.0	*26.0	23.8	21.5	26.4	28.3
Protestant . . . . .	41.5	16.4	29.3	12.9	@34.9	@25.3	29.3	10.6	29.1	16.5	27.7	26.7	29.6	15.7	30.1	24.6
Catholic . . . . .	44.4	16.0	24.2	15.3	42.1	18.7	23.4	15.8	25.6	19.2	27.3	28.0	24.3	19.7	34.9	21.0
Other <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	*52.1	*10.3	*16.1	*21.6	*28.7	*16.5	*35.9	*18.9	*21.1	*2.4	62.4	*14.1	*14.9	*23.2	40.7	*21.1
<b>Frequency of attendance at religious services</b>																
Once a week or more . . . . .	42.0	16.1	28.1	13.8	38.7	@23.0	27.8	10.5	28.6	18.0	27.0	26.3	27.4	17.5	33.0	22.1
1–3 times a month . . . . .	45.6	*15.7	27.1	11.7	37.0	23.7	30.4	8.9	33.4	19.9	23.5	23.1	30.7	16.1	30.0	23.2
Less than once a month . . . . .	37.9	*17.2	27.3	17.6	35.9	20.7	23.1	20.4	24.9	12.7	35.8	26.5	28.1	15.8	27.2	28.9
Never . . . . .	33.8	*11.3	34.8	20.1	34.1	20.6	26.5	18.8	22.8	15.7	30.8	30.6	21.9	22.5	30.1	25.5
<b>Behind in school<sup>4</sup></b>																
Yes . . . . .	35.5	16.6	30.4	17.5	@23.5	20.4	39.0	*17.1	15.0	13.7	25.6	45.7	*16.1	*7.0	*26.6	50.3
No . . . . .	42.2	15.3	28.3	14.2	39.3	@22.5	25.0	13.2	29.9	17.5	29.1	23.5	28.6	19.6	30.6	21.2
<b>Number</b>																
Total sample (denominator) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	618	...	...	...	700	...	...	...	1,263	...	...	...	1,015	...	...	...

@ Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10-percent level or better.  
 \* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (see appendix I: Sampling Errors).  
 ... Category not applicable.  
<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.  
<sup>3</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.  
<sup>4</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.  
<sup>5</sup>Total across all categories of number of partners.

**Table 10. Percent distribution of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by number of opposite-sex sexual partners in the past 3 months, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female <sup>1</sup>			Male					
	1995			1988			1995		
	0 partners	1 partner	2 partners or more	0 partners	1 partner	2 partners or more	0 partners	1 partner	2 partners or more
	Percent								
All teenagers <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	22.1	60.5	17.4	28.1	55.1	16.9	31.4	55.8	@12.8
Age at interview									
15 years . . . . .	30.0	57.0	*13.0	40.0	48.8	*11.1	40.4	48.3	11.3
16 years . . . . .	26.0	56.7	17.3	35.3	51.6	13.1	38.5	46.3	15.2
17 years . . . . .	28.5	57.0	14.6	25.8	57.8	16.4	34.8	48.6	16.6
18 years . . . . .	16.3	68.7	15.0	26.7	54.1	19.2	26.7	62.3	@11.0
19 years . . . . .	16.2	59.9	23.9	21.0	58.9	20.1	25.1	64.5	@10.4
15–17 years . . . . .	27.9	56.9	15.2	31.8	53.9	14.3	37.3	47.7	15.0
18–19 years . . . . .	16.2	64.2	19.6	24.1	56.2	19.6	25.9	63.5	@10.6
Hispanic origin, race, and age at interview									
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	20.8	63.2	16.1	28.0	57.6	14.4	34.9	58.4	@6.7
15–17 years . . . . .	26.5	60.1	13.4	32.6	57.3	10.1	42.7	49.1	*8.3
18–19 years . . . . .	15.6	65.9	18.5	23.7	57.8	18.5	28.8	65.8	*5.4
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	21.8	53.9	24.3	25.1	50.7	24.2	26.4	45.5	28.1
15–17 years . . . . .	30.9	44.8	24.3	29.9	46.7	23.4	31.3	41.3	27.4
18–19 years . . . . .	*11.3	64.4	24.4	17.8	56.7	25.4	19.4	51.4	29.2
Hispanic . . . . .	23.9	60.9	15.3	31.1	51.0	17.9	28.0	55.8	16.1
15–17 years . . . . .	24.0	62.1	*14.0	33.2	49.3	*17.5	31.0	52.5	16.5
18–19 years . . . . .	*23.7	59.2	*17.1	28.3	53.4	*18.4	25.1	59.1	15.8
Age at first sexual intercourse									
Under 15 years . . . . .	23.9	55.6	20.5	26.1	47.6	26.3	27.7	51.1	21.2
15 years . . . . .	20.4	60.9	18.7	28.0	53.8	18.2	35.2	55.1	9.8
16 years . . . . .	23.4	66.8	9.8	27.1	62.4	*10.4	27.9	63.5	8.6
17–19 years . . . . .	18.8	63.0	18.1	34.1	63.0	*2.9	39.3	58.1	2.6
Mother's education									
0–11 years . . . . .	20.5	65.1	14.4	37.0	43.5	19.5	@22.2	@65.1	12.7
12 years . . . . .	24.2	62.4	13.4	24.8	56.9	18.3	@34.9	51.8	13.3
13–15 years . . . . .	20.3	60.2	19.5	26.2	55.5	18.3	31.8	56.3	@12.0
16 years or more . . . . .	22.4	49.7	27.9	31.4	56.2	12.4	33.8	55.7	10.5
Mother's age at first birth									
Under 20 years . . . . .	22.4	62.4	15.2	24.5	55.5	20.0	27.5	56.2	16.3
20 years or older . . . . .	22.2	58.8	19.0	30.6	54.2	14.3	35.2	55.7	@9.1
Family structure at age 14									
Both biological/adoptive parents . . . . .	23.9	57.9	18.3	29.0	55.3	15.7	32.2	58.1	@9.7
Single parent <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	18.6	63.0	18.4	24.4	56.7	18.8	30.4	50.0	19.6
Parent and stepparent . . . . .	21.9	64.0	14.0	31.5	58.0	*10.5	34.1	53.4	*12.5
Nonparent/other . . . . .	*27.4	61.1	*11.6	*26.1	*38.8	*35.2	31.2	59.4	*9.3
Religious affiliation									
None . . . . .	19.7	61.7	18.6	38.2	48.6	*13.2	31.8	54.3	13.9
Protestant . . . . .	23.5	58.4	18.1	28.9	54.7	16.4	30.9	56.9	12.1
Catholic . . . . .	21.2	64.1	14.8	24.0	57.3	18.8	30.8	54.6	14.6
Other <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	*19.8	59.6	*20.6	*21.7	64.3	*14.1	40.4	51.1	*8.5

**Table 10. Percent distribution of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by number of opposite-sex sexual partners in the past 3 months, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female <sup>1</sup>			Male					
	1995			1988			1995		
	0 partners	1 partner	2 partners or more	0 partners	1 partner	2 partners or more	0 partners	1 partner	2 partners or more
Frequency of attendance at religious services									
Once a week or more . . . . .	21.1	62.2	16.7	27.1	56.3	16.6	@37.3	47.6	15.1
1–3 times a month . . . . .	30.3	53.6	16.1	27.1	57.0	15.9	27.7	63.5	@8.8
Less than once a month . . . . .	17.2	61.9	20.9	24.7	59.4	15.9	26.0	59.3	14.6
Never . . . . .	21.3	61.8	16.9	34.9	46.9	*18.3	29.2	59.2	11.6
Residence at interview									
Central city (MSA) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	24.7	57.0	18.3	30.1	52.6	17.3	32.2	50.4	17.4
Suburban (MSA) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	23.0	60.9	16.2	28.4	55.8	15.8	30.3	60.8	@8.9
Rural (non-MSA) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	16.3	65.4	18.3	24.0	57.3	18.7	31.7	56.8	@11.5
Region of residence									
Northeast . . . . .	21.9	61.4	16.7	19.9	64.0	16.2	@41.6	@47.1	11.3
Midwest . . . . .	22.8	60.9	16.2	31.5	53.4	15.1	29.5	54.8	15.6
South . . . . .	21.1	59.0	19.9	23.7	54.2	22.1	30.1	58.6	@11.2
West . . . . .	23.2	61.5	15.3	42.9	48.8	*8.3	31.4	60.2	8.4
Behind in school <sup>6</sup>									
Yes . . . . .	*18.3	51.3	30.4	22.9	51.4	25.6	20.5	59.0	20.6
No . . . . .	22.5	61.6	15.9	28.9	55.7	15.4	33.2	55.4	@11.4
Number									
Total sample (denominator) <sup>7</sup> . . . . .	700	...	...	1,263	...	...	1,015	...	...

@ Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10-percent level or better.

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (see appendix I: Sampling Errors).

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Question design differences between 1988 and 1995 render the measures noncomparable, so 1988 percents are not presented.

<sup>2</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.

<sup>3</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.

<sup>4</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.

<sup>5</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

<sup>6</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

<sup>7</sup>Total across all categories of number of partners.

**Table 11. Percent distribution of sexually active never-married females 15–19 years of age by age difference between female and last male sexual partner in the past 3 months, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1995**

Characteristic	Male partner's age relative to female's age				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
			Percent		
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>	*0.4	–	19.5	55.9	24.3
Age					
15 years	–	–	*10.0	76.8	*10.3
16 years	–	–	19.2	55.2	*25.5
17 years	–	–	17.9	58.8	23.4
18 years	–	–	19.3	50.5	30.2
19 years	*1.4	–	25.0	50.0	23.6
15–17 years	–	–	16.6	62.3	21.2
18–19 years	*0.7	–	22.1	50.3	27.0
Hispanic origin, race, and age					
Non-Hispanic white	*0.5	–	20.5	54.8	24.1
15–17 years	–	–	17.9	61.6	20.5
18–19 years	*1.0	–	22.5	49.6	26.9
Non-Hispanic black	–	–	17.5	55.8	26.7
15–17 years	–	–	*16.3	65.7	*18.1
18–19 years	–	–	*18.8	45.8	35.4
Hispanic	–	–	*16.0	58.6	*25.4
15–17 years	–	–	*10.8	58.0	*31.3
18–19 years	–	–	*23.3	59.6	*17.1
Age at first sexual intercourse					
Under 15 years	*0.9	–	13.0	54.8	31.2
15 years	–	–	15.8	63.3	20.9
16 years	–	–	32.6	47.9	19.5
17–19 years	–	–	23.1	58.2	18.7
Mother's education					
0–11 years	–	–	21.4	52.6	26.0
12 years	–	–	17.3	59.1	23.6
13–15 years	*1.6	–	17.5	53.6	27.3
16 years or more	–	–	23.5	54.8	21.7
Mother's age at first birth					
Under 20 years	–	–	17.0	59.6	23.4
20 years or older	*0.6	–	20.7	53.4	25.3
	–	–			
Family structure at age 14 years					
Both biological/adoptive parents	–	–	22.9	56.0	21.1
Single parent <sup>2</sup>	–	–	18.1	55.6	26.3
Parent and stepparent	*2.4	–	*13.7	59.5	24.3
Nonparent/other	–	–	*9.9	42.3	47.9
Religious affiliation					
None	–	–	19.3	58.1	22.6
Protestant	*0.7	–	19.6	54.7	25.0
Catholic	–	–	20.6	56.9	22.5
Other <sup>3</sup>	–	–	*10.0	51.7	*38.2

**Table 11. Percent distribution of sexually active never-married females 15–19 years of age by age difference between female and last male sexual partner in the past 3 months, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Male partner's age relative to female's age				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
Frequency of attendance at religious services					
Once a week or more . . . . .	*0.8	–	19.7	57.2	22.3
1–3 times a month . . . . .	–	–	18.7	54.8	26.5
Less than once a month . . . . .	–	–	15.8	61.0	23.3
Never . . . . .	–	–	23.4	48.8	27.8
Residence at interview					
Central city (MSA) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	–	–	17.0	60.1	23.0
Suburban (MSA) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	*0.9	–	21.0	57.1	21.0
Rural (non-MSA) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	–	–	20.5	47.5	32.0
Region of residence					
Northeast . . . . .	–	–	17.2	49.3	33.5
Midwest . . . . .	*1.5	–	21.7	54.3	22.6
South . . . . .	–	–	19.0	57.0	24.1
West . . . . .	–	–	20.3	63.1	16.6
Behind in school <sup>5</sup>					
Yes . . . . .	–	–	23.3	46.2	30.5
No . . . . .	*0.4	–	18.9	57.3	23.4
Number					
Total sample (denominator) <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	540	...	...	...	...

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (see appendix I: Sampling Errors).

– Quantity zero.

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.<sup>3</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.<sup>4</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area.<sup>5</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.<sup>6</sup>Total across all categories of age differences.

**Table 12. Percent distribution of sexually active never-married males 15–19 years of age by age difference between male and last female sexual partner within the last 3 months, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1995 and 1988**

Characteristic	Female partner's age relative to male's age									
	1988					1995				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
	Percent									
All teenagers <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	*0.4	44.8	30.0	21.6	3.2	*2.0	45.7	25.2	22.1	5.1
Age										
15 years . . . . .	–	23.5	52.2	22.9	*1.4	–	24.5	35.1	34.6	*5.8
16 years . . . . .	*0.3	33.0	31.2	34.0	*1.4	–	33.3	39.1	26.7	*0.9
17 years . . . . .	*0.2	45.2	33.5	18.3	*2.8	–	39.2	31.3	27.1	*2.4
18 years . . . . .	–	53.5	23.5	18.7	*4.3	*0.1	54.1	22.7	16.8	*6.4
19 years . . . . .	*1.3	49.7	24.4	20.6	*4.0	*6.4	55.9	@13.2	16.9	*7.6
15–17 years . . . . .	*0.2	37.5	36.4	23.8	*2.2	–	34.3	34.7	28.5	*2.6
18–19 years . . . . .	*0.6	51.8	23.9	19.6	4.2	*3.6	55.1	17.4	16.8	7.1
Hispanic origin, race, and age										
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	*0.1	43.8	30.3	22.8	3.1	*3.4	47.8	23.1	21.7	*4.0
15–17 years . . . . .	*0.1	37.6	36.1	24.5	*1.7	–	32.2	35.0	30.8	*2.0
18–19 years . . . . .	–	49.0	25.5	21.3	*4.3	*5.6	57.9	*15.3	15.8	*5.4
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	*0.2	46.8	32.4	17.5	3.1	–	43.2	26.7	@24.6	5.5
15–17 years . . . . .	*0.4	36.6	39.3	22.1	*1.6	–	37.4	28.9	31.0	*2.7
18–19 years . . . . .	–	59.7	23.6	11.6	*5.0	–	50.2	24.0	16.8	9.0
Hispanic . . . . .	–	53.5	14.7	27.0	*4.9	*0.2	45.3	@27.7	24.2	*2.7
15–17 years . . . . .	–	48.0	*17.1	27.9	*7.0	–	36.2	32.5	26.7	*4.6
18–19 years . . . . .	–	60.3	*11.6	25.9	*2.2	*0.3	53.7	23.3	21.8	*0.9
Age at first sexual intercourse										
Under 15 years . . . . .	*0.2	43.1	33.5	20.0	*3.1	*0.9	44.3	26.8	24.8	*3.3
15 years . . . . .	–	43.3	33.0	21.6	*2.2	*3.7	35.8	23.1	27.2	*10.2
16 years . . . . .	–	46.5	24.1	25.4	*4.0	–	51.6	26.9	17.8	*3.7
17–19 years . . . . .	*2.2	49.1	25.5	19.4	*3.7	*5.6	55.2	20.1	14.2	*4.9
Mother's education										
0–11 years . . . . .	–	46.3	24.5	26.7	*2.5	*6.5	42.3	18.1	24.0	*9.2
12 years . . . . .	–	49.6	29.7	18.5	*2.3	*2.0	46.5	26.5	20.2	*4.8
13–15 years . . . . .	–	38.1	24.5	32.5	*5.0	–	40.5	30.4	25.7	*3.5
16 years or more . . . . .	–	30.5	43.6	22.9	*2.9	–	@49.1	@25.4	22.6	*2.9
Mother's age at first birth										
Under 20 years . . . . .	*1.0	47.6	26.7	20.6	*4.1	*2.3	46.4	25.5	20.3	*5.6
20 years or older . . . . .	–	43.3	31.4	22.7	*2.7	*1.8	45.2	24.5	24.4	*4.1
Family structure at age 14 years										
Both biological/adoptive parents . . . . .	*0.1	45.5	28.5	22.4	3.5	*2.7	49.1	24.7	18.2	*5.3
Single parent <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	*1.6	44.0	38.5	14.6	*1.4	*1.3	41.0	@26.2	@29.0	*2.6
Parent and stepparent . . . . .	–	37.7	28.8	26.8	*6.7	–	35.3	35.0	18.4	*11.2
Nonparent/other . . . . .	–	48.8	*9.2	40.8	*1.2	–	59.0	*9.5	20.9	*10.6
Religious affiliation										
None . . . . .	–	47.7	25.3	26.1	*0.8	*6.9	40.2	25.4	13.4	*14.1
Protestant . . . . .	–	47.5	28.2	21.2	3.1	*1.4	47.5	24.3	23.3	*3.5
Catholic . . . . .	*1.1	39.6	33.2	21.8	*4.3	–	43.0	30.3	23.9	*2.8
Other <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	–	*39.0	*45.1	15.8	–	–	61.7	*3.7	34.7	---
Frequency of attendance at religious services										
Once a week or more . . . . .	*0.2	40.7	34.5	21.6	*3.0	*1.0	42.4	26.5	27.0	*3.2
1–3 times a month . . . . .	–	48.4	31.2	19.4	*1.1	*3.4	53.6	20.5	20.2	*2.4
Less than once a month . . . . .	–	45.0	28.6	19.8	*6.6	–	47.7	27.6	21.8	*2.8
Never . . . . .	*1.8	50.1	19.1	26.5	*2.4	*3.5	41.5	25.9	17.4	*11.8

**Table 12. Percent distribution of sexually active never-married males 15–19 years of age by age difference between male and last female sexual partner within the last 3 months, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1995 and 1988—Con.**

Characteristic	Female partner's age relative to male's age									
	1988					1995				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
<b>Residence at interview</b>										
Central city (MSA) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	*0.1	42.0	32.3	20.7	4.9	*2.3	49.5	@20.8	23.9	*3.5
Suburban (MSA) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	*0.8	42.8	30.9	23.3	*2.3	*2.4	41.6	29.7	21.5	*4.8
Rural (non-MSA) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	–	53.4	24.6	19.3	*2.7	*1.1	45.7	25.3	20.6	*7.2
<b>Region of residence</b>										
Northeast . . . . .	*0.2	43.3	26.3	26.2	*4.0	*7.8	45.9	30.2	@12.3	*3.9
Midwest . . . . .	*1.3	39.6	37.1	20.4	*1.6	*0.7	45.1	@22.8	25.6	*5.9
South . . . . .	–	48.8	28.2	19.7	3.4	–	43.5	29.1	21.6	*5.9
West . . . . .	*0.3	44.9	28.7	22.0	*4.1	*4.9	50.8	23.1	18.8	*2.4
<b>Behind in school<sup>5</sup></b>										
Yes . . . . .	*2.6	55.3	17.2	21.0	*4.0	*6.6	61.9	*12.4	@6.3	*12.8
No . . . . .	–	43.2	32.0	21.7	3.1	*1.3	43.2	26.8	24.7	4.0
<b>Number</b>										
Total sample (denominator) <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	895	...	...	...	...	695	...	...	...	...

@ Change from 1988 to 1995 is significant at the 10-percent level or better.

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (see appendix I: Sampling Errors).

– Quantity zero.

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.

<sup>3</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.

<sup>4</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

<sup>5</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

<sup>6</sup>Total across all categories of age differences.

**Table 13. Percent distribution of never-married females 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by age difference between female and first male sexual partner, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1995**

Characteristic	Male partner's age relative to female's age				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
			Percent		
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>	*0.1	3.6	15.0	61.2	20.1
Age					
15 years	–	*2.0	*14.7	66.5	17.0
16 years	–	*1.7	17.4	58.1	22.9
17 years	*0.5	*3.2	14.2	65.0	17.1
18 years	–	*5.2	14.2	60.8	19.9
19 years	–	*4.4	14.8	58.6	22.1
15–17 years	*0.2	*2.4	15.4	62.9	19.1
18–19 years	–	4.8	14.5	59.7	21.0
Hispanic origin, race, and age					
Non-Hispanic white	*0.2	3.8	16.7	58.6	20.7
15–17 years	*0.4	*4.0	20.0	58.7	17.0
18–19 years	–	*3.7	14.2	58.5	23.6
Non-Hispanic black	–	*3.1	11.4	69.6	16.0
15–17 years	–	–	*11.2	72.5	16.3
18–19 years	–	*6.5	*11.6	66.3	15.6
Hispanic	–	*3.1	*11.0	61.8	24.0
15–17 years	–	–	*4.1	61.8	34.1
18–19 years	–	*7.4	*20.6	61.9	*10.2
Age at first sexual intercourse					
Under 15 years	*0.3	*1.8	7.8	62.8	27.3
15 years	–	*3.8	16.3	63.8	16.1
16 years	–	*1.8	21.1	67.1	9.9
17–19 years	–	*9.7	21.0	46.7	22.6
Mother's education					
0–11 years	–	*1.1	18.5	60.7	19.7
12 years	*0.3	*2.8	14.3	63.2	19.4
13–15 years	–	*7.4	10.0	61.9	20.7
16 years or more	–	*4.3	19.4	55.4	20.9
Mother's age at first birth					
Under 20 years	*0.3	*2.1	13.8	63.4	20.4
20 years or older	–	4.8	16.1	59.5	19.7
Family structure at age 14 years					
Both biological/adoptive parents	–	5.0	16.6	57.7	20.6
Single parent <sup>2</sup>	*0.4	*3.0	11.3	67.1	18.2
Parent and stepparent	–	*1.6	15.2	61.9	21.3
Nonparent/other	–	–	21.7	54.8	*23.6
Religious affiliation					
None	*0.6	*3.0	11.1	64.1	21.2
Protestant	–	*2.8	14.1	62.7	20.4
Catholic	–	*4.8	21.3	57.2	16.7
Other <sup>3</sup>	–	*12.3	–	52.6	*35.2

**Table 13. Percent distribution of never-married females 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by age difference between female and first male sexual partner, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Male partner's age relative to female's age				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
Frequency of attendance at religious services					
Once a week or more . . . . .	*0.3	*4.6	15.6	61.8	17.8
1–3 times a month . . . . .	–	*2.1	14.2	66.5	17.2
Less than once a month . . . . .	–	*2.2	12.2	62.9	22.8
Never . . . . .	–	*4.3	16.7	54.2	24.9
Behind in school <sup>4</sup>					
Yes . . . . .	*0.8	*2.7	19.4	57.2	*20.0
No . . . . .	–	3.8	14.2	62.0	20.1
			Number		
Total sample (denominator) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	700	...	...	...	...

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision (see appendix I: Sampling Errors).

– Quantity zero.

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.<sup>3</sup>“Other” religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.<sup>4</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.<sup>5</sup>Total across all categories of age differences.

**Table 14. Percent distribution of never-married males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by age difference between male and first female sexual partner, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female partner's age relative to male's age									
	1988					1995				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
	Percent									
All teenagers <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	*0.3	21.3	36.2	35.8	6.3	*1.7	23.6	32.6	36.1	6.1
Age										
15 years . . . . .	–	*10.0	29.5	53.3	7.1	*0.6	*16.7	31.5	47.4	*3.9
16 years . . . . .	*0.6	20.5	33.2	39.3	6.4	*0.9	20.1	41.1	31.7	6.2
17 years . . . . .	–	17.9	41.1	39.1	*1.9	–	19.2	32.0	42.6	6.2
18 years . . . . .	–	24.1	36.3	33.1	6.5	–	30.5	35.5	25.8	8.2
19 years . . . . .	*1.0	27.9	36.2	24.3	10.6	*5.0	25.9	26.8	@37.3	*5.0
15–17 years . . . . .	*0.2	17.0	36.2	42.2	4.4	*0.4	19.0	34.9	39.9	5.7
18–19 years . . . . .	*0.5	25.8	36.3	29.2	8.3	*2.9	27.8	30.4	32.5	*6.4
Hispanic origin, race, and age										
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	–	21.8	36.2	35.0	7.0	*1.3	26.5	33.7	32.7	*5.8
15–17 years . . . . .	–	*15.3	37.5	42.3	4.9	*0.5	21.3	36.7	36.7	*4.9
18–19 years . . . . .	–	27.7	35.1	28.2	9.0	*1.9	30.6	31.4	29.7	*6.4
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	*0.3	19.1	35.9	38.8	5.9	*0.4	17.5	32.4	@45.0	4.8
15–17 years . . . . .	*0.5	15.9	34.4	44.6	4.6	*0.6	*14.9	31.7	48.4	4.4
18–19 years . . . . .	–	23.8	38.2	30.2	7.7	–	21.2	33.2	@40.2	*5.4
Hispanic . . . . .	*0.4	25.3	31.8	38.8	*3.6	*0.3	17.5	29.6	41.9	10.9
15–17 years . . . . .	*0.7	*31.5	32.3	34.0	*1.6	–	*13.8	28.7	44.7	12.7
18–19 years . . . . .	–	*16.6	31.2	45.6	6.5	*0.5	21.2	30.4	39.0	8.9
Age at first sexual intercourse										
Under 15 years . . . . .	–	*7.4	32.4	48.7	11.5	*0.3	*8.4	30.2	49.0	12.0
15 years . . . . .	*0.1	22.7	37.7	34.2	5.2	*3.7	20.6	34.7	37.2	3.8
16 years . . . . .	*0.3	25.1	38.4	33.6	*2.7	*0.3	29.1	39.6	28.6	2.4
17–19 years . . . . .	*1.4	44.5	38.9	*13.1	*2.1	*3.8	55.3	26.3	*14.4	0.3
Mother's education										
0–11 years . . . . .	–	*15.3	35.4	35.8	13.5	*9.3	17.8	33.2	31.6	8.1
12 years . . . . .	*0.1	18.4	38.6	37.5	5.3	*0.2	@25.7	31.6	34.3	*8.2
13–15 years . . . . .	–	*26.2	34.7	35.8	*3.3	–	*21.6	34.3	41.0	*3.2
16 years or more . . . . .	*0.2	24.3	35.5	34.0	*6.0	*0.6	27.0	29.7	40.4	*2.2
Mother's age at first birth										
Under 20 years . . . . .	*0.6	19.0	34.0	37.1	9.3	*2.0	24.8	32.0	33.6	*7.6
20 years or older . . . . .	*0.1	22.6	36.6	36.1	4.7	*1.5	22.5	33.4	37.9	*4.7
Family structure at age 14 years										
Both biological/adoptive parents . . . . .	*0.1	20.7	37.4	36.8	5.1	*2.7	24.4	33.3	34.0	*5.6
Single parent <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	*1.3	*18.8	39.8	35.1	4.9	–	24.3	@29.1	40.4	6.2
Parent and stepparent . . . . .	–	32.8	*23.6	35.7	*7.9	–	*17.5	37.6	38.6	*6.3
Nonparent/other . . . . .	–	23.6	17.7	*25.2	33.6	*1.9	*17.2	27.5	35.8	17.6
Religious affiliation										
None . . . . .	–	*14.2	28.6	49.2	8.0	*8.6	*22.8	21.2	41.2	*6.1
Protestant . . . . .	*0.1	24.0	37.3	31.1	7.6	*0.4	25.8	33.4	35.9	4.4
Catholic . . . . .	*0.8	20.6	35.9	40.8	*1.9	–	*16.4	39.2	34.3	10.2
Other <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	–	*11.1	*41.8	*18.0	29.1	–	*43.0	24.7	*26.1	6.2
Frequency of attendance at religious services										
Once a week or more . . . . .	–	20.7	40.2	34.2	4.9	*0.1	22.5	35.3	36.8	5.3
1–3 times a month . . . . .	*0.2	29.3	31.3	34.5	4.8	*0.7	24.4	33.8	38.8	*2.3
Less than once a month . . . . .	–	*22.0	42.1	33.4	*2.5	–	21.1	37.9	34.9	6.2
Never . . . . .	*1.5	*14.5	26.3	43.3	14.4	6.1	26.3	23.6	33.4	*10.5



## Appendix I

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### Sampling Errors

Because the statistics presented in this report are based on sample surveys, they may differ from the statistics that would have resulted if all of the millions of teenagers represented by the surveys had been interviewed. The standard error of an estimate is a measure of such differences. Standard errors were estimated with software that adjusted for the complex sample designs of the NSAM and the NSFG. Standard errors are presented for all estimates in [tables I–XIV](#), with the table number indicating the table containing the corresponding estimates. For the 1988 and 1995 NSAM and the 1995 NSFG, SUDAAN was used to produce standard errors (66). For the 1988 NSFG, WESVAR was used (67).

Tests of significance were conducted for differences between estimates for 1988 and 1995 within each survey. Significance was determined using a two-tailed *t*-test for proportions, permitting an assumption of unequal variances. The @ symbol in the tables denotes whether the test yielded differences significant at the 10-percent level. Such tests were conducted and are denoted in the tables for each category of each independent variable. Tests of significance were also conducted for differences between the categories of the independent variables *within* the survey years, although they are not denoted in the tables. When such comparisons are mentioned in the text, they are statistically significant unless otherwise qualified. Lack of comment on a comparison does not mean that significance was ruled out.

Statistics in this report may also be subject to nonsampling error, that is, errors or omissions in responding to the interview, recording answers, and processing data. The NSFG and the NSAM data for each survey year have been adjusted for nonresponse by adjustment to the sample weights assigned to each case. Other types of nonsampling error in the NSFG were

minimized by a series of quality control measures that have been described elsewhere (52–54).

A test of precision was conducted for every statistic presented in this report. If the relative standard error (or, RSE, the standard error divided by the proportion) was less than 30, the statistic was considered reliable. Statistics with an RSE equal to or greater than 30 were not considered reliable, not tested for significance, and are denoted with an asterisk (\*) in the tables.

## Appendix II

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### Definitions of Terms

#### Sexual Behavior and Contraceptive Use Measures

The measures of sexual behavior and contraceptive use were designed to be parallel between the NSFG and the NSAM. However, some differences exist in wording and other aspects of questions used to construct the measures. Some differences also exist between survey years within data systems. Some measures were created “directly,” meaning from direct questions, and others were created from “calendar data,” meaning from dates the respondent supplied when asked to enumerate events or partners within a specific time period. [Table XV](#) shows the wording of the questions and describes the measure construction for each of the primary outcome measures used in this report for both survey years for the NSFG and the NSAM. A brief discussion of each follows.

*Ever had sexual intercourse*—This was ascertained from a single question for each year for both surveys. Wording of the question was comparable across time points and across surveys. The question was designed to ask about vaginal sexual intercourse only, and slang terms were used (such as “gone all the way”) in addition to formal terms in hopes of increasing understanding by young respondents.

*Age at first sexual intercourse*—This was ascertained directly from several questions in the NSFG and one question in the NSAM. The NSFG measure was based on a question asking for the respondent’s age at first intercourse, and in cases where age was not provided, it was based on the respondent’s report of the date of first intercourse. When both answers were unknown, it was based on the respondent’s estimate of her age at first intercourse (i.e., between 15 and 18 or between 18 and 20). The wording of the primary question asking for age at first sexual intercourse was consistent across time periods and surveys.

*Had sex in the 3 months prior to the interview*—This measure was constructed from calendar data in both survey years for both surveys. However, the root questions differed between surveys: the NSFG measure is based on dates of sexual intercourse itself, and the NSAM measure is based on dates of last sex with female partners. See [table XV](#) for details. It is possible that the cognitive processes required to recall these dates differed between the surveys. However, the measures construction was consistent across the years for each survey.

*Contraceptive use at last sex*—This measure was based on direct questions for both surveys for both time points. The questions’ wording was consistent from year to year within surveys. Females in the NSFG were asked one set of questions about method(s) used by herself or her partner. Males in the NSAM were asked two sets of questions, one asking about method(s) he used and the other asking about method(s) his partner used. [Table XV](#) shows the slight difference in ascertaining use of a continuous method at last sexual intercourse in the 1995 NSFG. Because more than one method may be used at one instance of sexual intercourse, some categories of the measure are not mutually exclusive. It was classified to capture *any* use of a hormonal method and *any* use of the condom, regardless of whether it was used by itself or in combination with another method. The category “All other methods” is a residual category capturing the use of a method other than

a hormonal method and the condom and does not include “other” methods combined with a hormonal method or with the condom. This also applies to “Contraceptive use at first sex.”

*Contraceptive use at first sex*—Questions differ only slightly between surveys and between years within surveys. NSFG respondents were asked about the first time they ever used a contraceptive method, and then its timing in relation to first sexual intercourse was ascertained. NSAM respondents were asked directly about contraceptive method use at first sexual intercourse.

—The 1995 NSFG questions, unlike the 1988 NSFG, allowed for reporting of method use beginning *before* first sex, in addition to that beginning after first sex. The 1995 NSFG questions also contained explicit wording describing dual method use. Finally, the 1995 NSFG asked about contraceptive use during first voluntary sex only, whereas the 1988 NSFG did not distinguish voluntary and nonvoluntary first sexual intercourse. (Only 4 percent of never-married females aged 15–19 had nonvoluntary first sex as reported in 1995.)

—Whereas the 1988 NSAM had only one question, the 1995 NSAM provided two question alternatives, which depended on the number of lifetime sexual partners the respondent had had. One question variant asked about contraception used at first intercourse. The other question variant asked about contraceptive method(s) used at first intercourse with a specific partner.

See “Contraceptive use at last sex,” second paragraph, for additional information about the classification of this measure into categories.

*Number of sexual partners in lifetime*—This is ascertained from one direct question in both surveys in both survey years. The wording is different between the surveys and years, but the differences are minor. In 1995, both surveys added wording to enhance recall and understanding. (See [table XV](#).)

*Number of sexual partners in 3 months prior to interview*—This measure was constructed consistently

across the surveys and years, with the exception of the NSFG in 1988. In 1988, NSFG contained a question asking for the number of sexual partners the respondent had in the last 3 months in which she was having intercourse. The 1995 NSFG and both years of the NSAM used data from their partner histories, totaling the number of “dates of last sex with a partner” that fell within the 3 months of the interview date. Because of the uniqueness of the measure from the 1988 NSFG, it may not be comparable and is not analyzed here.

*Age of last sexual partner (in the past 3 months)*—This is determined from calendar data in the 1995 NSFG and from direct questions in both years of NSAM. This information was not collected in the 1988 NSFG.

—The 1995 NSFG measure used the same strategy as that used for “number of sexual partners in 3 months prior to interview,” with the additional steps of determining the one partner who was the *most recent* in the last 3 months, then determining his age.

—In the NSAM, the question was worded slightly differently between 1988 and 1995. (See [table XV](#).)

*Age of first sexual partner*—This was ascertained from direct questions in the 1995 NSFG and the 1988 NSAM. It was not collected in the 1988 NSFG. In the 1995 NSAM, it was ascertained from a direct question for respondents who had had three or more partners in their lifetime. For those with two or fewer partners, it was calculated using the first partner’s age at *last sex* with the respondent. Wording of the questions differ slightly between the NSFG and the NSAM and between years of the NSAM.

## Selected Demographic Terms

*Age at interview*—This is the respondent’s age on the day of the interview. This was the eligibility criterion for NSAM. Eligibility for the NSFG was determined by the age at the calendar midpoint of the interview period. Therefore, some NSFG respondents were 14 on the day of the

interview and are excluded from the NSFG universe used in this report.

*Behind in school*—This measure was designed to capture whether respondents were 2 years or more behind in school for their age. A respondent was considered “*not behind*” if he/she had a high school diploma (because the oldest respondents were 19 years old, this would always be an acceptable rate of school progress if they already had a diploma), if the respondent had a general equivalency diploma (GED), or if the difference between his/her current age and the highest grade he/she completed was less than 8. For example, a 19-year-old whose highest grade completed was 11 (and had neither a high school diploma nor a GED) was considered “behind.” An 18-year-old whose highest grade completed was 11 was *not* considered “behind.” The variables with which this measure was calculated and the number of missing cases on the variables differed somewhat between the NSAM and the NSFG and between 1988 and 1995. However, the four measures were constructed as comparably as possible, and percent distributions across “not behind” and “behind in school” were very similar between surveys and years. This measure has been used in prior analyses of male teenagers (43).

*Family structure at age 14 years*—In the NSFG, this measure was created differently in 1995 than in 1988. In 1988, respondents were asked directly whether they were living with both their “own mother” and “own father” at age 14 years. If they responded “no,” they were asked with whom they were living at age 14 years and were presented with seven combinations of parents and parent-figures. In 1995, the NSFG enumerated the parents and parent-figures with whom the respondent lived and whom she considered to have raised her from birth to the time she left to be on her own. The dates of changes in parent(s)/parent-figure(s) were compared with the respondent’s age. The last parent(s) or parent-figure(s) that the respondent reported before she turned 14 years old yielded the “family structure at age 14.” In the NSAM, the measure was created from direct questions in both 1988 and 1995. In the

1988 NSAM, the respondents were asked if they were living with both of their biological parents at age 14 years. If they answered “no,” they were asked with whom they were living at age 14 years, and were presented with eight choices of combinations of parents and parent-figures. If they responded, “Neither mother nor father,” they were then presented with seven choices of other living arrangements such as living with a grandparent or grandparents, other relatives, foster parents, in a group home, in a residential facility/institution, or with an adoptive parent(s). In the 1995 NSAM, the respondents were asked if they were living with their biological or legally adopted parents at age 14 years. If they answered “no,” they were asked with whom they were living most of the year when they were 14 years old, and were presented with 10 choices of combinations of parents and parent-figures. If they responded “Neither mother nor father,” they were asked with whom they lived most of the year when they were 14 years old, and were presented with five choices of other living arrangements: living with a grandparent or grandparents, other relatives, foster parents, in a group home, or in a residential facility.

*Frequency of attendance, religious services*—In both the NSFG and the NSAM, for both survey years, this was ascertained by a direct question, and respondents were presented with four or five collapsed “frequency” categories, enabling the comparable categorization that appears in this report. In the NSFG and the NSAM, in both 1988 and 1995, respondents were asked, “When you were 14, about how often did you usually attend religious services?”

*Mother’s age at first birth*—In both 1988 and 1995, the NSFG respondents were asked directly about their mother’s age at her first birth, and were given a range of ages (including “20 or older” or “under 20”) if they did not know her exact age. There are minor differences between the 2 years. In 1995, respondents answered questions about the woman whom they considered raised them. In most cases, this was the biological mother. However, for a minority of respondents, it was a different female parent-figure. They

were also given the option of identifying *no* female parent-figure, in which case they skipped past the questions about the female parent-figure. This occurred only very rarely. In the 1988 NSFG questionnaire, respondents were asked this question about their “mother” with no qualification. NSAM also ascertained this information from direct questions about the respondent’s mother (unqualified) in both survey years. Similar to the NSFG, they were given a range of ages if they did not know her exact age at the first birth.

*Mother’s education*—In both the NSAM and the NSFG, this was determined from a question asking for the highest grade of regular school or college that the respondent’s mother had completed. In the NSFG, minor differences exist between 1988 and 1995 that stem from the same differences as described above for “Mother’s age at first birth.”

*Race and Hispanic origin*—In the NSFG and the NSAM for both survey years, this measure was based primarily on two questions: one ascertaining whether the respondent was of Hispanic or Spanish origin, and another ascertaining which of four race groups best described his/her racial background. Respondents who reported more than one of the four race groups were asked to select one group that “best described” them. Because of limited sample size, males and females who identified themselves as Asian, Pacific Islander, Alaskan native, or American Indian were not presented separately in the tables, although they are included in the “total” rows. Racial and ethnic subgroups presented in this report were constructed as follows: a) white, excluding Hispanics; b) black, excluding Hispanics, and c) Hispanics. In the text, non-Hispanic white teenagers are referred to as “white” and non-Hispanic black teenagers are referred to as “black” for easier comprehension of the discussions.

*Region of residence*—For both the NSFG and the NSAM for each survey year, this measure classifies the respondents’ residence at the time of the interview into four major regions of the country: Northeast, Midwest, South, and West. The classification of States into

these regions corresponds to the classification used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. More details are available in the Public Use Data File Documentation for the NSFG Cycle 5: 1995 (65).

*Religious affiliation*—In 1988, both the NSFG and the NSAM asked, “Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, or something else?” In 1995, the NSFG and the NSAM asked the respondents what their religious affiliation was and provided a list of major religious denominations. Males and females who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Roman Catholic were classified as “other” religion. These are shown separately. However, they lack sufficient numbers of cases to support statistics in many tables.

*Residence at interview*—This categorizes respondents’ place of residence at the time of the interview according to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget’s definition of metropolitan statistical areas and Census population counts. Residences are categorized as being within central cities of metropolitan areas, suburban parts of metropolitan areas, or nonmetropolitan areas. The 1995 NSAM and NSFG classifications were based on 1990 Census population counts, and the 1988 surveys were based on 1980 Census population counts.

## Appendix III

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### Availability of Data and Related Sources

Public use data files containing data from the 1998 and 1995 NSFG are available from the National Technical Information Service. The data are also available on CD-ROM. The CD-ROM’s and paper copies of reports using NSFG data can be ordered from the U.S. Government Printing Office. Information on ordering the data and reports can also be obtained by contacting the Data Dissemination Branch at (301) 458-4636. Finally, ordering information and selected reports can be found on the NCHS homepage at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>.

Public use data files containing data from the 1995 NSAM are available through the Sociometrics Corporation: DAAPPP Data Set No. 07, available from the Data Archive on Adolescent Pregnancy and Pregnancy Prevention Programs, Sociometrics Corporation, 170 State St., Los Altos, CA 94022-2812, telephone (415) 949-3282. See Sonenstein et al., 1998 (68).

There are other major sources of national data relevant to the topics in this report. Annual reports are published by NCHS on live births, birth rates, and pregnancy rates based on certificates of live birth. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) monitors trends in adolescent sexual behaviors and is conducted by the Centers for Disease Control's Division of Adolescent and School Health (13). The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Ad Health), conducted in 1995, includes information allowing the study of sexual and contraceptive behavior among adolescents (47). The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY), conducted annually or biennially since 1979, includes information on sexual activity and contraceptive use among the original cohort and its offspring. NLSY is conducted by the Center for Human Resource Research at The Ohio State University and funded by the U.S. Department of Labor with support from the NICHD.

In 1988, the field work for the NSAM was conducted by the Institute of Survey Research at Temple University and in 1995 by the Research Triangle Institute. In 1988, the field work for NSFG was conducted by Westat and in 1995, by the Research Triangle Institute.

**Table I. Standard errors for percents of females and males 15–19 years of age who have had sexual intercourse by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>	1.71	1.43	1.99	1.97
Age				
15 years	3.71	2.88	3.90	2.83
16 years	3.49	3.46	4.00	3.04
17 years	4.13	3.16	3.45	3.22
18 years	3.58	2.76	3.78	4.06
19 years	3.01	3.30	3.16	2.88
15–17 years	2.44	1.78	2.40	1.91
18–19 years	2.52	2.09	2.60	2.69
Hispanic origin, race, and age				
Non-Hispanic white	2.19	1.82	2.59	2.74
15–17 years	3.21	2.32	3.05	2.73
18–19 years	2.93	2.54	3.31	3.47
Non-Hispanic black	3.14	3.06	2.43	1.87
15–17 years	4.56	4.22	2.82	2.84
18–19 years	5.24	4.22	4.42	2.76
Hispanic	6.21	4.03	4.36	3.82
15–17 years	6.77	4.88	5.00	4.31
18–19 years	8.77	6.11	6.93	4.31
Mother's education				
0–11 years	3.30	3.83	3.44	4.41
12 years	2.77	2.27	2.95	2.70
13–15 years	3.63	3.35	5.49	4.59
16 years or more	3.68	3.08	4.02	3.97
Mother's age at first birth				
Under 20 years	2.75	2.79	2.88	2.34
20 years or older	2.30	1.61	2.43	2.59
Family structure at age 14 years				
Both biological/adoptive parents	2.22	1.83	2.36	2.58
Single parent <sup>2</sup>	3.13	2.84	3.79	2.56
Parent and stepparent	4.25	4.24	5.94	5.03
Nonparent/other	7.66	7.04	3.44	6.00
Religious affiliation				
None	6.41	3.51	5.75	3.08
Protestant	2.34	1.83	2.65	2.20
Catholic	3.23	3.02	2.96	4.21
Other <sup>3</sup>	13.73	5.49	8.62	8.70
Frequency of attendance at religious services				
Once a week or more	2.21	1.90	3.19	3.25
1–3 times a month	4.62	3.67	3.97	3.90
Less than once a month	4.58	3.51	4.36	4.33
Never	4.90	3.16	5.47	3.47
Behind in school <sup>4</sup>				
Yes	4.41	4.13	5.12	4.60
No	1.92	1.50	2.09	2.00

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults<sup>3</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.<sup>4</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 1.

**Table II. Standard errors for cumulative percents of females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse before reaching selected ages by race: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
All teenagers <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	1.71	1.43	1.99	1.97
Age				
13 years . . . . .	0.29	0.43	0.69	0.47
14 years . . . . .	0.82	0.75	1.08	0.89
15 years . . . . .	1.02	1.27	1.33	1.19
16 years . . . . .	1.59	1.39	2.42	1.95
17 years . . . . .	2.05	1.83	2.40	2.68
18 years . . . . .	2.62	2.24	2.76	2.92
19 years . . . . .	3.12	3.42	4.02	2.87
Hispanic origin, race, and age				
Non-Hispanic white:				
13 years . . . . .	0.28	0.48	0.80	0.51
14 years . . . . .	0.76	0.82	1.25	1.08
15 years . . . . .	1.15	1.40	1.56	1.54
16 years . . . . .	1.97	1.68	3.01	2.59
17 years . . . . .	2.49	2.36	3.18	3.87
18 years . . . . .	2.91	2.74	3.60	3.57
19 years . . . . .	3.85	3.76	5.29	3.89
Non-Hispanic black:				
13 years . . . . .	0.99	1.59	2.03	1.52
14 years . . . . .	2.00	2.22	2.45	2.09
15 years . . . . .	2.27	2.84	2.37	2.51
16 years . . . . .	3.50	3.63	2.84	2.77
17 years . . . . .	4.30	4.21	3.27	2.72
18 years . . . . .	5.77	5.06	4.55	3.36
19 years . . . . .	5.82	11.60	2.60	3.51

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than black and white.

NOTES: The denominator for each percent includes only those having reached the specific age to which the percent pertains. This table shows the standard errors for table 2.

**Table III. Standard errors for percents of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who had sexual intercourse before age 15 years, by age at interview and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>	1.02	1.27	1.33	1.19
Age at interview				
15 years	2.88	2.73	3.96	2.44
16 years	2.12	2.87	3.25	2.87
17 years	1.79	2.54	1.90	2.63
18 years	2.47	2.36	2.48	2.45
19 years	1.82	2.15	2.95	3.67
15–17 years	1.44	1.64	1.81	1.27
18–19 years	1.62	1.59	2.01	2.20
Hispanic origin, race, and age				
Non-Hispanic white	1.15	1.40	1.56	1.54
15–17 years	1.63	1.87	2.13	1.51
18–19 years	1.88	1.93	2.46	2.83
Non-Hispanic black	2.27	2.84	2.37	2.51
15–17 years	3.57	3.97	3.39	2.96
18–19 years	3.37	4.26	4.27	4.41
Hispanic	3.18	3.82	2.97	3.44
15–17 years	4.04	4.90	3.90	3.77
18–19 years	5.58	4.27	4.76	4.25
Mother's education				
0–11 years	1.75	3.44	3.41	2.94
12 years	1.62	1.63	2.21	2.09
13–15 years	2.21	3.22	3.56	2.68
16 years or more	2.56	1.80	2.46	1.98
Mother's age at first birth				
Under 20 years	1.02	1.37	2.87	1.82
20 years or older	1.99	2.58	1.48	1.63
Family structure at age 14 years				
Both biological/adoptive parents	1.03	1.26	1.78	1.41
Single parent <sup>2</sup>	2.46	2.55	2.86	3.16
Parent and stepparent	4.18	3.16	4.66	4.30
Nonparent/other	5.46	6.18	10.48	8.39
Religious affiliation				
None	4.96	3.86	4.43	3.54
Protestant	1.22	1.45	1.66	1.63
Catholic	1.71	2.25	2.23	3.14
Other <sup>3</sup>	6.74	4.79	8.78	7.95
Frequency of attendance at religious services				
Once a week or more	0.99	1.21	1.92	1.67
1–3 times a month	2.90	3.08	3.08	3.42
Less than once a month	3.39	3.17	3.10	2.98
Never	3.85	3.35	4.69	2.74
Behind in school <sup>4</sup>				
Yes	3.72	4.60	3.04	7.25
No	0.99	1.24	1.44	1.10

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.<sup>3</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.<sup>4</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 3.

**Table IV. Standard errors for percents of females and males 15–19 years of age who had sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
All teenagers <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	1.54	1.43	2.07	1.90
Age				
15 years . . . . .	3.71	2.74	3.26	2.38
16 years . . . . .	3.20	3.15	3.60	3.23
17 years . . . . .	3.65	2.96	3.55	3.01
18 years . . . . .	3.84	3.34	4.26	4.58
19 years . . . . .	3.26	3.79	4.29	4.00
15–17 years . . . . .	2.20	1.69	2.21	1.69
18–19 years . . . . .	2.63	2.44	3.35	2.93
Hispanic origin, race, and age				
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	1.90	1.76	2.63	2.57
15–17 years . . . . .	2.90	2.07	2.77	2.30
18–19 years . . . . .	2.96	2.87	4.33	4.03
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	3.29	3.21	2.49	2.83
15–17 years . . . . .	3.83	4.12	3.23	3.35
18–19 years . . . . .	6.22	4.96	4.72	4.48
Hispanic . . . . .	4.89	4.01	4.36	3.43
15–17 years . . . . .	4.69	4.83	5.65	3.52
18–19 years . . . . .	9.50	6.44	6.19	5.90
Age at first sexual intercourse <sup>2</sup>				
Under 15 years . . . . .	3.90	2.66	3.08	3.20
15 years . . . . .	3.50	3.35	4.04	4.23
16 years . . . . .	3.84	4.27	4.26	5.05
17–19 years . . . . .	3.46	4.41	5.76	5.84
Mother's education				
0–11 years . . . . .	3.39	3.71	3.81	4.89
12 years . . . . .	2.68	2.07	3.06	2.77
13–15 years . . . . .	3.69	3.45	5.60	3.36
16 years or more . . . . .	3.75	2.81	4.28	3.58
Mother's age at first birth				
Under 20 years . . . . .	2.83	2.77	3.29	2.90
20 years or older . . . . .	2.07	1.57	2.45	2.47
Family structure at age 14 years				
Both biological/adoptive parents . . . . .	1.90	1.72	2.26	2.61
Single parent <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	3.19	2.94	4.56	2.92
Parent and stepparent . . . . .	4.87	3.77	6.16	6.07
Nonparent/other . . . . .	8.36	7.75	12.70	7.82
Religious affiliation				
None . . . . .	6.30	4.17	6.02	4.89
Protestant . . . . .	2.24	1.92	2.73	2.39
Catholic . . . . .	3.15	2.64	3.23	3.71
Other <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	10.21	4.91	9.77	9.26
Frequency of attendance, religious services				
Once a week or more . . . . .	2.01	1.94	2.94	2.18
1–3 times a month . . . . .	4.67	3.76	4.20	3.98
Less than once a month . . . . .	5.03	3.45	4.76	4.25
Never . . . . .	4.88	3.62	6.01	3.95

**Table IV. Standard errors for percents of females and males 15–19 years of age who had sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
Residence at interview				
Central city (MSA) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	3.95	2.49	2.55	2.76
Suburban (MSA) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	2.06	2.09	3.28	3.01
Rural (non-MSA) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	3.81	3.00	5.03	3.60
Region of residence				
Northeast . . . . .	3.47	2.17	5.51	5.61
Midwest . . . . .	3.01	3.01	3.80	2.54
South . . . . .	3.50	2.65	2.94	4.29
West . . . . .	3.59	3.08	3.68	4.05
Behind in school <sup>6</sup>				
Yes . . . . .	4.80	4.71	5.28	6.29
No . . . . .	1.74	1.44	2.18	1.79

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.<sup>2</sup>Denominator is "ever had sex."<sup>3</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.<sup>4</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.<sup>5</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area.<sup>6</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 4.

**Table V. Standard errors for percents of sexually active females and males 15–19 years of age who used specified contraception during last sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by race: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Contraceptive use at last sexual intercourse	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>				
Hormonal contraceptives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2.49	2.12	2.37	3.19
Pill . . . . .	2.49	1.94	2.37	3.14
Implant or injectible . . . . .	---	1.22	---	0.63
Condom <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2.36	2.23	2.82	2.75
All other methods <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1.33	1.46	2.14	1.66
Dual method (hormonal and condom) . . . . .	0.82	1.29	1.57	2.29
No method . . . . .	2.27	2.40	2.29	2.48
Non-Hispanic white:				
Hormonal contraceptives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	3.10	2.75	3.06	4.76
Pill . . . . .	3.10	2.62	3.06	4.68
Implant or injectible . . . . .	---	1.22	---	0.62
Condom <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2.85	2.92	3.72	4.28
All other methods <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1.91	1.65	2.72	2.52
Dual method (hormonal and condom) . . . . .	1.03	1.78	2.02	3.58
No method . . . . .	2.67	2.67	3.08	3.19
Non-Hispanic black:				
Hormonal contraceptives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	5.12	5.31	3.02	3.76
Pill . . . . .	5.12	3.37	3.02	3.49
Implant or injectible . . . . .	---	3.96	---	1.71
Condom <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	4.10	5.39	2.93	3.87
All other methods <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1.15	3.22	1.31	1.98
Dual method (hormonal and condom) . . . . .	2.18	2.91	2.76	2.84
No method . . . . .	4.79	4.86	2.11	3.35

--- Data not available.

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than black and white.<sup>2</sup>This reflects hormonal and condom use regardless of whether it was used alone or in combination with another method.<sup>3</sup>All other methods besides condom and hormonal methods. Thus, if other method was combined with condom or hormonal method, it is not counted. Other methods include sterilization, IUD, female condom, emergency contraceptive pills, diaphragm, cervical cap, spermicidal foam, jelly cream or suppository, sponge, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, and "other" methods.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 5.

**Table VI. Standard errors for percents of sexually active females and males 15–19 years of age who used specified contraception during last sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female								Male							
	1988				1995				1988				1995			
	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>
All teenagers <sup>3</sup>	2.27	2.36	2.49	1.33	2.40	2.23	2.12	1.46	2.29	2.82	2.37	2.14	2.48	2.75	3.19	1.66
Age																
15 years	5.64	10.10	7.81	6.69	6.90	7.17	6.15	4.87	8.57	9.58	3.77	8.29	6.67	8.00	6.72	6.73
16 years	6.24	7.31	5.85	4.50	6.67	5.96	4.36	3.42	5.01	5.75	4.55	3.46	4.22	5.40	6.00	1.73
17 years	4.87	4.96	5.21	1.55	4.69	5.06	5.03	3.63	3.44	6.07	5.10	2.28	4.05	5.15	4.49	3.18
18 years	3.13	4.65	4.47	2.69	3.71	4.17	3.87	3.34	2.73	5.10	4.84	3.96	5.07	5.10	6.13	3.07
19 years	4.58	3.80	5.46	2.94	4.29	4.26	4.38	1.56	3.97	6.44	5.86	5.66	4.38	5.37	6.96	3.36
15–17 years	3.21	3.74	3.07	2.02	3.31	3.20	3.03	2.23	2.94	4.12	3.23	2.14	2.68	3.22	3.77	2.29
18–19 years	2.92	2.96	3.60	1.81	3.05	3.28	3.04	1.96	2.87	4.12	3.42	3.11	3.34	3.80	4.62	2.20
Hispanic origin, race, and age																
Non-Hispanic white	2.67	2.85	3.10	1.91	2.67	2.92	2.75	1.65	3.08	3.72	3.06	2.72	3.19	4.28	4.76	2.52
15–17 years	4.01	4.80	4.51	3.07	4.32	4.33	4.27	2.35	4.16	5.89	4.41	3.13	4.21	5.73	6.45	4.24
18–19 years	3.41	3.66	4.32	2.44	3.05	4.17	3.68	2.30	3.76	5.52	4.44	4.00	3.46	5.16	6.18	3.13
Non-Hispanic black	4.79	4.10	5.12	1.15	4.86	5.39	5.32	3.22	2.11	2.93	3.02	1.31	3.35	3.87	3.76	1.98
15–17 years	6.30	5.09	6.62	1.52	6.26	7.60	6.65	4.93	3.06	3.97	3.69	1.58	3.97	3.84	3.28	2.51
18–19 years	6.99	5.11	7.43	1.72	6.94	6.99	7.21	4.20	2.58	3.93	4.81	2.33	4.61	5.71	6.73	2.84
Hispanic	8.75	9.58	7.92	3.04	5.58	4.22	5.33	4.37	6.20	6.76	6.18	4.18	3.55	4.48	3.29	1.21
15–17 years	14.57	16.83	12.32	–	7.19	5.81	5.34	6.15	9.54	9.86	8.58	1.66	4.03	5.84	5.39	1.44
18–19 years	12.61	11.14	12.94	5.95	9.38	5.00	8.69	7.10	6.11	7.30	8.69	8.38	6.28	6.22	3.98	1.49
Age at first sexual intercourse																
Under 15 years	5.12	4.35	5.17	3.29	3.73	3.47	3.80	2.11	3.04	3.80	3.51	2.96	2.87	3.08	4.25	2.53
15 years	4.47	4.98	5.24	2.40	4.78	4.42	4.37	2.46	4.02	5.93	5.36	5.18	5.89	7.00	5.43	3.43
16 years	4.09	4.19	4.89	3.40	4.64	4.80	4.59	4.19	4.25	5.96	5.74	2.58	4.27	5.05	4.37	2.91
17–19 years	4.11	4.51	4.63	3.19	5.05	5.76	4.88	3.51	5.98	7.28	7.54	7.08	5.35	7.23	7.30	3.55
Mother's education																
0–11 years	4.54	4.45	4.32	2.54	4.99	4.17	4.17	2.64	6.32	6.51	6.34	8.29	6.13	6.24	6.68	3.43
12 years	3.46	3.95	3.69	2.58	3.20	3.43	3.57	2.61	3.78	4.36	3.82	2.49	3.51	3.75	4.21	1.97
13–15 years	4.22	6.44	6.83	3.14	4.51	5.11	4.67	2.94	3.90	7.93	6.62	1.51	3.75	4.81	5.96	5.11
16 years or more	4.25	6.02	6.83	3.95	4.88	5.72	5.57	3.46	5.22	6.89	5.56	4.90	5.98	6.62	8.01	4.54
Mother's age at first birth																
Under 20 years	3.75	3.64	3.96	2.06	3.66	3.55	3.53	1.86	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.74	3.87	3.83	3.77	2.11
20 years or older	2.65	3.23	3.47	1.87	2.98	3.11	2.63	2.05	2.35	3.97	3.66	2.73	2.24	3.58	4.64	2.95
Family structure at age 14																
Both biological/adoptive parents	3.05	2.95	3.53	1.77	2.95	3.14	3.11	1.83	3.14	3.77	3.40	2.20	3.25	3.67	4.12	2.26
Single parent <sup>4</sup>	4.09	4.84	4.10	2.33	4.05	4.05	3.23	2.66	2.79	4.25	4.71	3.60	3.06	4.17	4.69	2.81
Parent and stepparent	3.61	7.82	6.65	4.38	5.93	5.89	5.27	4.26	8.55	8.82	9.17	7.47	8.67	9.04	6.88	1.44
Nonparent/other	11.86	9.32	11.04	8.84	9.31	10.23	9.35	4.47	3.95	18.23	14.55	22.18	10.71	11.96	9.93	1.72

**Table VI. Standard errors for percents of sexually active females and males 15–19 years of age who used specified contraception during last sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female								Male							
	1988				1995				1988				1995			
	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>
<b>Religious affiliation</b>																
None . . . . .	9.02	9.01	8.41	5.26	5.16	4.75	4.80	3.28	9.55	7.12	9.34	5.76	7.25	6.77	6.61	5.59
Protestant . . . . .	2.96	3.13	3.28	1.77	2.89	3.39	2.81	1.99	2.47	3.37	3.41	3.48	3.25	3.51	3.74	1.79
Catholic . . . . .	3.86	4.94	4.69	3.41	5.39	4.13	3.90	3.04	2.94	4.56	4.27	3.13	4.49	5.37	5.56	3.30
Other <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	21.01	31.22	31.11	–	12.21	10.65	9.12	8.54	18.10	16.35	13.13	12.08	5.68	11.93	14.35	6.31
<b>Frequency of attendance at religious services</b>																
Once a week or more . . . . .	2.53	2.98	3.10	2.26	3.51	3.40	3.39	2.10	3.62	4.49	3.79	2.76	4.23	4.30	4.26	2.86
1–3 times a month . . . . .	4.96	6.15	5.07	4.11	5.38	5.89	4.97	3.35	3.77	6.20	5.84	4.29	3.22	5.50	6.03	2.50
Less than once a month . . . . .	6.43	6.74	8.01	4.32	5.10	5.38	4.88	4.31	3.64	6.52	5.70	4.83	5.21	6.11	5.95	2.51
Never . . . . .	6.84	6.46	6.28	2.93	5.54	5.11	4.56	2.86	5.76	5.57	7.07	6.60	5.63	5.64	5.30	4.18
<b>Residence at interview</b>																
Central city (MSA) <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	4.71	4.17	4.66	3.43	3.97	3.48	3.93	2.32	3.60	4.52	3.75	2.28	2.87	4.31	3.20	1.85
Suburban (MSA) <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	2.86	3.55	3.97	2.19	3.68	3.66	3.61	2.40	3.53	4.55	3.69	3.73	3.18	3.95	7.17	3.18
Rural (non-MSA) <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	4.67	5.80	5.75	2.92	4.13	4.70	4.59	2.76	4.31	5.48	5.14	3.88	5.96	6.41	5.52	3.72
<b>Region of residence</b>																
Northeast . . . . .	7.97	5.88	7.87	4.29	5.04	5.33	4.01	2.92	4.81	5.23	5.25	3.90	4.72	3.94	7.20	1.66
Midwest . . . . .	3.58	4.38	3.70	2.16	4.33	3.68	4.81	2.91	2.94	6.16	4.78	2.57	3.95	4.00	4.20	1.59
South . . . . .	3.66	4.22	5.14	2.77	3.97	4.07	3.78	1.97	2.90	4.14	3.34	4.14	5.06	6.54	8.97	4.90
West . . . . .	5.43	5.92	5.49	1.54	6.25	5.00	4.50	4.06	9.75	8.14	8.01	3.63	5.13	5.92	4.07	3.61
<b>Behind in school<sup>7</sup></b>																
Yes . . . . .	7.13	6.09	5.86	1.53	5.63	3.47	5.78	3.71	5.72	8.34	6.90	8.19	8.98	9.30	9.05	3.37
No . . . . .	2.18	2.72	2.88	1.81	2.41	2.52	2.17	1.59	2.25	2.85	2.49	2.02	2.46	2.94	2.87	1.80

– Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>This reflects hormonal and condom use regardless of whether it was used alone or in combination with another method.<sup>2</sup>All other methods besides condom and hormonal methods. Thus, if other method was combined with condom or hormonal method, it is not counted. Other methods include sterilization, IUD, female condom, emergency contraceptive pills, diaphragm, cervical cap, spermicidal foam, jelly, cream or suppository, sponge, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, and "other" methods.<sup>3</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.<sup>4</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.<sup>5</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.<sup>6</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area.<sup>7</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 6.

**Table VII. Standard errors for percents of females and males 15–19 years of age who ever had sexual intercourse who used specified contraception during first sexual intercourse by Hispanic origin and race: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Contraceptive use at first sexual intercourse	Female		Male	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>				
Hormonal contraceptives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.13	1.06	1.44	1.42
Pill . . . . .	1.13	1.04	1.44	1.40
Implant or injectible . . . . .	---	0.36	---	0.19
Condom <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2.50	1.95	2.04	2.15
All other methods <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1.22	1.03	1.48	0.85
Dual method (hormonal and condom) . . . . .	0.56	0.88	0.70	1.12
No method . . . . .	2.07	1.76	2.01	2.04
Race and contraceptive use at last sexual intercourse				
Non-Hispanic white:				
Hormonal contraceptives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.20	1.45	1.89	2.08
Pill . . . . .	1.20	1.40	1.89	2.06
Implant or injectible . . . . .	---	0.49	---	0.25
Condom <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2.97	2.21	2.87	2.79
All other methods <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1.53	0.96	2.00	1.03
Dual method (hormonal and condom) . . . . .	0.73	1.24	0.87	1.57
No method . . . . .	2.42	1.86	2.76	2.41
Non-Hispanic black:				
Hormonal contraceptives <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	3.08	2.59	1.75	1.92
Pill . . . . .	3.08	2.51	1.75	1.91
Implant or injectible . . . . .	---	0.77	---	0.41
Condom <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	4.79	4.33	3.05	3.44
All other methods <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	1.46	2.05	1.41	1.12
Dual method (hormonal and condom) . . . . .	1.32	2.02	1.29	1.82
No method . . . . .	4.34	4.10	2.68	3.30

--- Data not available.

<sup>1</sup>Includes races other than black and white.

<sup>2</sup>This reflects hormonal and condom use regardless of whether it was used alone or in combination with another method.

<sup>3</sup>All other methods besides condom and hormonal methods. Thus, if other method was combined with condom or hormonal method, it is not counted. Other methods include sterilization, IUD, female condom, emergency contraceptive pills, diaphragm, cervical cap, spermicidal foam, jelly, cream or suppository, sponge, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, and "other" methods.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 7.

**Table VIII. Standard errors for percents of females and males 15–19 years of age who ever had sexual intercourse, who used a specified method of contraception during first sexual intercourse by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female								Male							
	1988				1995				1988				1995			
	None	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	None	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>
All teenagers <sup>3</sup>	2.07	2.50	1.13	1.22	1.76	1.95	1.06	1.03	2.01	2.04	1.44	1.48	2.04	2.15	1.42	0.85
Age																
15 years	5.41	7.70	4.28	6.27	6.42	6.67	3.20	1.68	5.66	6.70	2.05	5.14	4.87	4.85	3.41	1.02
16 years	6.02	6.15	2.84	3.54	5.36	5.46	1.99	0.95	5.40	5.90	2.10	1.82	4.15	4.18	2.70	0.70
17 years	4.52	5.36	2.42	2.42	3.70	4.07	2.45	2.23	4.07	4.68	2.74	3.52	3.36	4.21	2.66	1.64
18 years	4.55	4.72	1.69	1.86	2.89	3.45	2.63	1.89	3.52	3.45	2.10	3.22	3.75	4.34	3.09	1.76
19 years	3.50	3.73	2.28	3.10	3.19	3.35	1.64	1.94	5.92	5.44	4.65	2.09	4.11	5.35	3.81	2.03
15–17 years	3.23	3.89	1.72	2.23	2.80	3.04	1.43	1.14	2.81	3.15	1.51	2.03	2.37	2.47	1.88	0.81
18–19 years	2.76	2.80	1.45	1.79	2.20	2.50	1.49	1.44	3.41	3.18	2.31	2.07	2.98	3.44	2.35	1.44
Hispanic origin, race, and age																
Non-Hispanic white	2.42	2.97	1.20	1.53	1.86	2.21	1.45	0.96	2.76	2.87	1.89	2.00	2.41	2.79	2.08	1.03
15–17 years	3.85	4.75	1.92	3.15	2.97	3.36	2.06	0.50	4.04	4.64	2.16	3.01	3.12	3.43	2.81	1.11
18–19 years	3.16	3.10	1.63	2.18	2.52	2.85	1.91	1.66	4.48	4.44	2.98	2.80	3.63	4.45	3.60	1.61
Non-Hispanic black	4.34	4.79	3.08	1.46	4.10	4.33	2.59	2.05	2.68	3.05	1.75	1.41	3.30	3.44	1.92	1.12
15–17 years	5.81	7.05	4.22	2.78	5.82	5.77	3.12	3.43	3.59	3.86	1.00	2.13	3.82	3.93	2.61	1.01
18–19 years	5.76	5.79	4.41	0.59	5.96	6.15	3.93	2.03	3.48	3.85	3.96	1.71	4.53	4.60	2.76	1.99
Hispanic	7.44	7.94	3.34	4.13	6.67	5.91	1.72	2.76	5.23	5.51	3.17	2.97	4.78	4.72	1.61	2.40
15–17 years	10.62	12.06	6.81	5.49	8.87	8.69	2.18	2.04	6.14	6.51	4.71	1.38	5.98	5.90	2.49	1.74
18–19 years	9.70	9.96	–	6.32	7.38	8.03	2.74	5.68	6.93	6.22	3.83	6.26	5.38	5.51	2.18	4.24
Age at first sexual intercourse																
Under 15 years	4.90	4.88	2.51	3.14	2.96	2.90	1.57	1.16	2.93	3.15	1.33	2.09	3.57	3.36	1.81	0.98
15 years	4.28	4.73	1.56	2.65	3.72	3.80	2.29	1.62	4.87	4.97	2.26	3.50	3.32	4.09	3.07	1.14
16 years	4.06	4.62	1.86	3.19	3.72	4.14	3.00	2.13	4.67	5.54	3.09	2.92	3.73	4.64	3.23	2.57
17–19 years	3.92	4.29	2.79	2.17	3.57	4.02	1.93	2.64	3.76	5.59	5.66	2.79	4.53	5.69	5.17	2.13
Mother's education																
0–11 years	4.30	4.64	2.15	1.78	4.70	4.66	2.67	1.59	5.44	5.18	0.97	3.17	5.02	5.45	3.90	1.05
12 years	3.50	4.57	1.62	2.79	2.98	2.99	1.69	1.52	2.72	2.89	1.78	2.15	2.98	3.15	2.07	1.22
13–15 years	4.88	5.75	2.04	3.29	3.05	3.26	2.51	1.72	4.54	6.20	3.64	5.34	4.39	5.75	3.61	3.36
16 years or more	4.40	5.47	4.10	1.87	3.83	4.53	2.15	2.53	4.12	5.43	3.72	3.96	3.73	4.55	3.53	1.92
Mother's age at first birth																
Under 20 years	3.38	3.58	1.69	1.93	2.91	3.15	1.90	1.12	3.45	3.43	2.06	2.31	2.96	3.14	2.09	0.86
20 years or older	2.73	3.16	1.38	1.64	2.14	2.55	1.18	1.57	2.20	2.99	1.82	2.11	2.38	2.97	2.08	1.41
Family structure at age 14 years																
Both biological/adoptive parents	2.90	3.42	1.60	1.58	2.22	2.67	1.64	1.71	2.57	2.51	1.71	1.49	2.60	2.99	1.69	1.17
Single parent <sup>4</sup>	4.58	5.43	2.64	2.92	3.67	3.85	1.86	1.15	4.12	3.98	3.54	4.14	2.99	3.46	3.06	1.62
Parent and stepparent	4.54	6.48	2.72	5.21	4.35	1.39	2.02	1.35	6.26	7.01	3.27	3.82	6.33	7.50	6.57	1.29
Nonparent/other	11.90	11.14	6.21	4.96	7.29	8.26	4.66	3.21	14.15	10.15	2.26	8.07	10.07	9.95	3.98	2.33

**Table VIII. Standard errors for percents of females and males 15–19 years of age who ever had sexual intercourse, who used a specified method of contraception during first sexual intercourse by selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female								Male							
	1988				1995				1988				1995			
	None	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	None	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>	No method	Condom <sup>1</sup>	Hormonal method <sup>1</sup>	All other methods <sup>2</sup>
<b>Religious affiliation</b>																
None . . . . .	7.76	8.11	4.68	3.33	4.84	4.77	2.32	2.01	7.63	7.05	3.69	4.10	4.90	5.86	4.32	1.46
Protestant . . . . .	2.73	3.51	1.62	1.55	2.28	2.48	1.60	1.31	2.42	2.73	1.55	1.95	2.58	2.91	2.06	1.33
Catholic . . . . .	4.79	5.16	1.84	2.84	2.82	3.58	1.64	1.82	3.81	4.28	3.02	3.03	4.61	4.54	2.46	1.79
Other <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	11.93	24.73	21.59	18.65	11.61	11.66	4.51	6.51	5.42	10.95	9.27	1.61	10.09	10.74	4.93	4.34
<b>Frequency of attendance at religious services</b>																
Once a week or more . . . . .	2.81	3.73	1.44	1.82	2.17	2.45	1.64	1.51	2.89	3.28	1.96	2.22	3.46	3.39	2.05	1.59
1–3 times a month . . . . .	5.09	5.01	1.80	3.67	3.61	3.98	2.35	1.74	4.23	4.65	2.57	3.84	4.06	3.98	2.74	0.66
Less than once a month . . . . .	4.80	5.75	3.28	2.08	4.00	4.68	2.36	2.30	4.32	5.17	5.14	3.48	4.17	5.20	3.06	3.45
Never . . . . .	6.56	6.66	4.14	3.45	5.51	5.36	2.69	1.43	6.10	5.45	2.61	2.57	3.89	4.14	2.87	1.34
<b>Behind in school<sup>6</sup></b>																
Yes . . . . .	5.77	5.21	3.06	2.55	4.91	4.92	3.05	2.29	6.77	6.55	3.08	2.53	7.29	6.63	5.81	1.37
No . . . . .	2.29	2.77	1.26	1.35	1.87	2.07	1.18	1.13	2.14	2.38	1.50	1.62	2.15	2.36	1.47	0.94

– Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>This reflects hormonal and condom use regardless of whether it was used alone or in combination with another method.

<sup>2</sup>All other methods besides condom and hormonal methods. Thus, if other method was combined with condom or hormonal method, it is not counted. Other methods include sterilization, IUD, female condom, emergency contraceptive pills, diaphragm, cervical cap, spermicidal foam, jelly, cream or suppository, sponge, periodic abstinence, withdrawal, and “other” methods.

<sup>3</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.

<sup>4</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.

<sup>5</sup>“Other” religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.

<sup>6</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 8.

**Table IX. Standard errors for percent distribution of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by number of opposite-sex sexual partners in lifetime and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female								Male							
	1988				1995				1988				1995			
	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 partners or more	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 partners or more	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 partners or more	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 partners or more
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>	2.13	1.59	2.09	1.79	1.64	1.55	1.60	1.31	2.06	1.90	2.19	1.83	1.82	1.70	2.38	1.89
Age																
15 years	8.42	6.59	6.54	6.12	6.50	3.82	4.97	4.34	6.91	3.16	6.70	4.66	4.73	4.42	5.31	2.86
16 years	7.29	4.30	5.88	4.43	4.57	4.41	4.35	4.69	5.32	4.60	4.68	3.21	4.51	4.59	4.19	3.36
17 years	5.06	2.89	3.99	3.71	4.14	3.69	4.10	2.30	3.93	3.62	4.18	3.51	4.00	3.13	3.67	3.38
18 years	4.18	3.70	3.25	3.91	3.56	3.31	3.47	2.77	4.60	3.46	4.01	3.53	4.14	4.09	4.06	2.47
19 years	4.01	3.34	4.35	3.01	3.29	3.35	4.02	2.87	4.70	3.79	4.21	5.85	4.04	4.08	5.95	4.24
15–17 years	3.77	2.43	2.72	2.65	2.57	2.30	2.64	2.18	3.24	2.49	2.91	2.07	2.43	1.99	2.49	2.18
18–19 years	2.74	2.36	2.84	2.52	2.37	2.14	2.68	1.94	3.06	2.52	2.94	3.17	2.55	2.82	3.70	2.72
Hispanic origin, race, and age																
Non-Hispanic white	2.86	1.82	2.83	2.44	2.35	1.94	2.15	1.68	2.83	2.64	3.06	2.42	2.85	2.53	3.40	2.31
15–17 years	5.12	3.07	3.71	3.92	3.74	2.99	3.45	2.39	4.64	3.69	4.15	2.53	4.26	3.16	3.71	3.13
18–19 years	3.49	2.54	3.65	3.14	3.48	2.69	3.25	2.50	4.03	3.28	3.80	4.00	3.89	4.05	5.18	3.29
Non-Hispanic black	3.67	3.79	3.85	2.65	3.43	4.32	4.21	2.81	2.08	1.41	2.28	2.84	2.04	2.12	2.78	3.24
15–17 years	5.63	5.06	4.50	3.73	4.52	5.33	6.35	4.04	2.68	1.66	3.38	3.70	2.85	2.64	3.21	4.02
18–19 years	6.39	5.44	6.11	2.61	5.17	6.80	6.62	4.29	3.48	2.06	3.67	4.06	2.87	3.34	3.82	4.05
Hispanic	7.64	5.31	6.04	5.65	5.43	4.11	4.11	4.00	3.63	4.39	5.05	4.82	3.16	2.83	2.81	4.18
15–17 years	13.12	5.33	9.43	8.93	8.06	4.42	5.73	8.31	5.54	6.65	6.17	7.49	4.59	4.67	4.05	5.81
18–19 years	8.90	9.63	7.28	7.80	7.62	7.24	7.40	5.90	3.93	5.93	7.34	6.79	2.77	4.28	4.29	4.66
Age at first sexual intercourse																
Under 15 years	3.99	2.71	4.35	3.98	2.61	2.37	2.87	2.61	2.43	2.00	3.30	3.07	1.42	2.45	3.68	3.62
15 years	4.14	3.33	3.90	3.62	4.59	3.67	3.69	2.84	3.62	3.13	4.55	4.72	3.25	3.61	4.48	3.68
16 years	4.51	3.68	4.09	4.26	4.19	3.55	3.15	2.04	4.84	4.50	4.00	3.69	4.96	4.21	4.00	2.73
17–19 years	4.51	3.45	3.67	1.46	5.26	4.50	4.11	1.31	5.20	4.86	2.01	2.65	6.95	5.51	6.40	2.43
Mother's education																
0–11 years	4.52	3.32	4.32	3.12	4.47	3.20	3.70	2.90	2.81	4.39	4.18	5.14	4.88	3.55	6.04	4.15
12 years	3.93	2.72	3.22	2.52	3.00	2.59	2.74	1.90	3.47	3.11	3.46	2.56	2.62	2.50	3.64	2.94
13–15 years	6.27	4.20	5.22	4.32	4.32	4.21	4.19	3.61	7.07	5.53	4.46	5.49	4.97	4.86	5.76	4.55
16 years or more	4.27	4.37	4.41	5.04	5.00	4.54	4.84	4.31	5.42	3.41	5.36	3.84	4.57	4.48	4.40	3.48
Mother's age at first birth																
Under 20 years	3.50	2.13	3.32	2.38	3.03	2.89	2.60	1.96	2.81	2.87	3.32	3.18	2.50	2.25	3.26	3.14
20 years or older	2.87	2.27	3.07	2.61	2.51	2.12	2.22	2.07	2.94	2.30	2.85	2.49	2.69	2.83	3.11	1.95
Family structure at age 14 years																
Both biological/adoptive parents	3.07	2.34	3.01	2.27	2.68	2.24	2.59	1.83	2.48	2.00	2.62	2.17	2.51	2.56	3.31	2.44
Single parent <sup>2</sup>	4.85	3.23	3.37	3.48	3.54	2.93	3.30	2.95	4.08	3.27	4.15	3.09	2.88	3.07	3.93	3.96
Parent and stepparent	5.44	3.37	5.87	5.36	4.55	4.81	4.60	3.41	9.13	6.67	7.01	5.34	4.99	6.21	6.53	6.65
Nonparent/other	7.85	8.99	13.17	5.11	7.96	4.94	9.26	3.34	13.40	4.08	6.30	15.12	5.36	9.70	7.29	9.98

**Table IX. Standard errors for percent distribution of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by number of opposite-sex sexual partners in lifetime and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female								Male							
	1988				1995				1988				1995			
	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 partners or more	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 partners or more	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 partners or more	1 partner	2 partners	3–5 partners	6 partners or more
<b>Religious affiliation</b>																
None . . . . .	6.35	4.41	7.26	7.31	4.74	3.32	3.76	3.77	6.67	4.66	5.64	7.69	4.47	4.37	5.18	5.06
Protestant . . . . .	2.98	2.31	2.70	2.09	2.45	2.71	2.67	1.55	3.05	2.64	2.79	2.14	5.47	2.49	3.60	2.34
Catholic . . . . .	4.26	3.14	4.10	3.70	3.74	3.01	3.03	2.51	3.98	3.20	3.72	3.63	6.47	3.82	3.37	4.23
Other <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	27.88	15.11	18.65	20.73	10.05	8.08	10.87	8.38	10.38	1.81	12.95	9.36	8.02	10.95	11.16	10.87
<b>Frequency of attendance at religious services</b>																
Once a week or more . . . . .	2.91	2.22	3.32	2.30	2.58	2.70	2.79	1.82	3.00	2.63	2.91	2.65	3.20	2.72	3.33	2.82
1–3 times a month . . . . .	5.53	4.84	5.14	3.42	4.60	4.03	4.26	2.59	5.00	4.24	4.03	3.99	4.09	3.88	4.89	3.07
Less than once a month . . . . .	6.97	5.21	5.70	5.00	4.54	4.05	4.14	3.98	4.68	2.74	5.41	4.46	4.67	4.05	4.96	5.48
Never . . . . .	7.21	3.96	6.89	5.54	4.37	3.89	4.11	3.58	5.23	3.79	5.84	6.27	3.97	4.09	4.44	4.50
<b>Behind in school<sup>4</sup></b>																
Yes . . . . .	5.40	4.58	5.41	4.48	4.30	4.36	4.95	5.29	3.81	3.93	4.41	7.01	6.00	2.86	8.84	9.86
No . . . . .	2.35	1.69	2.25	1.91	1.80	1.75	1.78	1.34	2.31	1.88	2.34	1.88	2.14	2.03	2.46	1.74

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.

<sup>3</sup>“Other” religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.

<sup>4</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 9.

**Table X. Standard errors for percent distribution of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by number of opposite-sex sexual partners in the past 3 months and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female <sup>1</sup>			Male					
	1995			1988			1995		
	0 partners	1 partner	2 partners or more	0 partners	1 partner	2 partners or more	0 partners	1 partner	2 partners or more
All teenagers <sup>2</sup>	1.85	2.24	1.80	2.03	2.38	1.91	2.27	2.60	1.21
Age									
15 years	6.48	6.81	4.44	6.58	6.83	3.68	6.00	5.96	3.19
16 years	4.47	5.47	4.14	5.68	5.70	2.83	5.20	6.08	3.56
17 years	4.43	4.66	3.47	3.80	4.09	3.34	4.37	4.97	3.26
18 years	3.33	4.06	2.91	3.96	4.55	3.58	4.05	3.61	2.39
19 years	3.36	4.88	4.26	3.69	5.41	5.47	4.44	4.81	2.17
15–17 years	3.09	3.15	2.30	2.86	3.25	1.90	3.23	3.44	2.05
18–19 years	2.35	3.21	2.65	2.97	3.53	3.33	2.83	3.26	1.47
Hispanic origin, race, and age									
Non-Hispanic white	2.43	2.89	2.31	2.68	3.10	2.47	3.45	3.99	1.47
15–17 years	4.06	4.01	2.75	4.16	4.42	2.46	5.23	5.44	2.77
18–19 years	2.84	4.10	3.39	3.84	4.70	4.46	3.88	4.31	2.11
Non-Hispanic black	4.34	5.03	4.36	2.24	2.83	2.16	2.74	3.61	2.86
15–17 years	6.41	6.74	6.06	3.11	3.69	3.10	3.21	3.80	3.37
18–19 years	4.43	6.54	6.07	2.85	4.31	3.86	4.43	5.44	3.65
Hispanic	5.57	6.17	3.59	4.40	5.62	5.03	3.35	2.85	2.25
15–17 years	6.55	6.37	5.65	6.45	7.59	7.60	3.76	5.79	4.56
18–19 years	8.67	9.86	6.84	6.54	7.36	6.34	5.46	5.70	3.64
Age at first sexual intercourse									
Under 15 years	2.99	3.46	2.96	3.08	3.44	2.71	3.20	3.24	2.38
15 years	3.72	4.57	3.69	4.05	5.29	4.55	4.23	4.44	2.70
16 years	4.42	4.71	2.77	4.26	4.66	3.34	5.05	4.79	2.71
17–19 years	4.52	6.03	5.26	5.76	6.22	1.78	5.85	5.81	0.78
Mother's education									
0–11 years	4.01	5.08	3.32	4.78	4.77	5.35	3.85	4.74	2.68
12 years	3.18	3.63	2.33	2.63	3.29	2.57	3.14	3.32	2.00
13–15 years	3.66	4.47	3.95	6.10	6.59	4.48	6.42	5.63	2.82
16 years or more	4.82	5.49	5.34	5.57	5.63	3.95	4.84	6.19	2.97
Mother's age at first birth									
Under 20 years	3.19	3.87	2.57	2.98	3.23	2.87	2.75	3.22	2.20
20 years or older	2.28	3.12	2.62	2.88	3.04	2.28	3.62	3.86	1.45
Family structure at age 14 years									
Both biological/adoptive parents	2.77	3.12	2.62	2.18	2.88	2.08	3.30	3.69	1.41
Single parent <sup>3</sup>	3.06	4.32	3.56	3.99	4.32	2.86	3.63	4.23	2.64
Parent and stepparent	4.91	5.40	3.96	9.03	8.79	3.48	8.88	9.15	5.04
Nonparent/other	10.15	9.23	6.01	13.56	13.40	17.47	8.68	8.77	3.99
Religious affiliation									
None	4.27	4.85	4.17	6.05	6.55	4.17	6.32	6.66	3.65
Protestant	2.86	3.47	2.53	2.92	3.37	2.14	2.81	3.04	1.60
Catholic	3.38	3.96	2.77	3.23	4.35	3.33	4.39	4.26	3.02
Other <sup>4</sup>	10.34	12.60	10.60	12.10	13.88	9.35	12.03	12.69	3.64
Frequency of attendance at religious services									
Once a week or more	2.85	3.40	2.59	2.79	3.49	2.50	3.69	3.98	2.01
1–3 times a month	5.31	6.23	3.74	4.37	5.08	3.42	4.15	4.28	2.02
Less than once a month	4.12	5.55	4.60	4.50	5.04	3.67	4.65	5.94	4.29
Never	4.04	5.20	4.16	6.10	6.38	6.06	4.72	5.13	2.44

**Table X. Standard errors for percent distribution of never-married females and males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by number of opposite-sex sexual partners in the past 3 months and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female <sup>1</sup>			Male					
	1995			1988			1995		
	0 partners	1 partner	2 partners or more	0 partners	1 partner	2 partners or more	0 partners	1 partner	2 partners or more
Residence at interview									
Central city (MSA) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	3.25	3.43	3.09	2.93	3.33	2.52	3.30	3.35	1.98
Suburban (MSA) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	2.90	3.56	2.49	3.47	3.91	3.45	4.11	4.91	1.88
Rural (non-MSA) <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	3.89	4.82	4.23	3.52	4.33	3.65	4.10	4.86	2.38
Region of residence									
Northeast . . . . .	3.50	4.25	3.51	3.91	4.17	2.37	7.93	7.99	2.52
Midwest . . . . .	3.44	4.17	3.47	2.59	4.15	3.39	6.12	6.99	2.83
South . . . . .	3.65	4.48	3.44	3.33	4.39	4.05	2.10	3.05	1.84
West . . . . .	3.88	4.34	3.60	5.66	5.37	2.80	5.61	5.84	2.37
Behind in school <sup>6</sup>									
Yes . . . . .	5.65	6.21	5.98	4.52	6.43	7.36	6.00	7.32	4.75
No . . . . .	1.97	2.35	1.90	2.28	2.47	1.78	2.46	2.61	1.26

<sup>1</sup>Question design differences between 1988 and 1995 render the measures noncomparable, so 1988 percents are not presented.

<sup>2</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.

<sup>3</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.

<sup>4</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.

<sup>5</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

<sup>6</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 10.

**Table XI. Standard errors for percent distribution of sexually active never-married females 15–19 years of age by age difference between female and last male sexual partner in the past 3 months and selected characteristics: United States, 1995**

Characteristic	Male partner's age relative to female's age				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>	0.35	–	1.94	2.56	2.50
Age					
15 years	–	–	5.20	6.51	4.50
16 years	–	–	5.44	8.11	8.65
17 years	–	–	4.28	5.51	4.86
18 years	–	–	3.80	4.43	4.52
19 years	1.34	–	4.50	5.54	4.47
15–17 years	–	–	2.90	4.19	3.86
18–19 years	0.66	–	2.65	3.24	3.20
Hispanic origin, race, and age					
Non-Hispanic white	0.54	–	2.52	3.23	2.73
15–17 years	–	–	4.18	5.23	4.07
18–19 years	0.94	–	3.15	3.80	3.74
Non-Hispanic black	–	–	4.07	4.85	4.64
15–17 years	–	–	5.71	6.89	5.62
18–19 years	–	–	5.98	7.74	7.05
Hispanic	–	–	5.28	7.71	8.91
15–17 years	–	–	5.03	12.22	12.99
18–19 years	–	–	9.50	8.85	7.90
Age at first sexual intercourse					
Under 15 years	0.91	–	2.48	4.17	3.99
15 years	–	–	4.26	5.32	4.29
16 years	–	–	5.12	5.68	4.35
17–19 years	–	–	4.58	6.28	4.77
Mother's education					
0–11 years	–	–	4.62	5.63	4.70
12 years	–	–	3.14	4.17	3.20
13–15 years	1.59	–	4.53	6.25	6.03
16 years or more	–	–	5.13	6.08	4.72
Mother's age at first birth					
Under 20 years	–	–	2.51	3.17	3.03
20 years or older	0.58	–	3.03	3.68	3.51
Family structure at age 14 years					
Both biological/adoptive parents	–	–	2.94	3.60	2.93
Single parent <sup>2</sup>	–	–	3.32	4.62	4.76
Parent and stepparent	2.38	–	4.56	6.92	5.54
Nonparent/other	–	–	6.72	9.01	9.29
Religious affiliation					
None	–	–	4.87	6.48	5.29
Protestant	0.68	–	2.84	3.51	3.05
Catholic	–	–	3.92	5.66	3.97
Other <sup>3</sup>	–	–	7.34	13.11	13.21

**Table XI. Standard errors for percent distribution of sexually active never-married females 15–19 years of age by age difference between female and last male sexual partner in the past 3 months and selected characteristics: United States, 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Male partner's age relative to female's age				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
Frequency of attendance at religious services					
Once a week or more . . . . .	0.79	–	3.07	3.62	3.14
1–3 times a month . . . . .	–	–	4.75	6.36	5.47
Less than once a month . . . . .	–	–	4.53	6.20	5.20
Never . . . . .	–	–	4.46	5.78	5.17
Residence at interview					
Central city (MSA) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	–	–	3.46	4.44	4.75
Suburban (MSA) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	0.84	–	3.01	3.61	3.12
Rural (non-MSA) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	–	–	4.17	5.99	4.75
Region of residence					
Northeast . . . . .	–	–	4.78	5.96	7.42
Midwest . . . . .	1.43	–	3.45	5.14	4.15
South . . . . .	–	–	3.38	4.39	3.51
West . . . . .	–	–	3.98	4.99	4.40
Behind in school <sup>5</sup>					
Yes . . . . .	–	–	6.83	7.21	8.53
No . . . . .	0.41	–	2.11	2.71	2.45

– Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.<sup>3</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.<sup>4</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area.<sup>5</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 11.

**Table XII. Standard errors for percent distribution of sexually active never-married males 15–19 years of age by age difference between male and last female sexual partner within the last 3 months and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female partner's age relative to male's age									
	1988					1995				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>	0.23	2.41	2.22	2.09	0.67	0.82	2.27	1.89	1.97	1.18
Age										
15 years	–	5.86	6.75	6.45	0.65	–	4.51	6.07	6.45	3.04
16 years	0.19	4.57	5.72	4.91	0.75	–	4.20	5.95	4.43	1.21
17 years	0.12	4.06	3.81	3.91	1.67	0.09	4.19	3.90	3.52	0.78
18 years	–	4.80	4.40	3.97	1.44	0.22	5.39	4.77	3.25	2.07
19 years	1.01	4.82	4.87	4.69	1.60	2.83	5.66	3.65	4.74	3.15
15–17 years	0.08	2.77	3.10	2.97	0.86	0.04	2.63	1.89	1.97	0.85
18–19 years	0.45	3.70	3.31	3.00	1.05	1.59	3.97	2.87	2.65	2.04
Hispanic origin, race, and age										
Non-Hispanic white	0.04	3.27	2.93	2.83	0.91	1.36	3.58	2.93	3.03	1.49
15–17 years	0.09	3.94	4.20	4.21	1.17	–	4.19	4.72	4.42	1.39
18–19 years	–	4.82	4.30	3.95	1.40	2.42	5.70	5.24	3.51	2.13
Non-Hispanic black	0.15	2.75	2.93	1.64	0.77	0.24	3.10	2.76	2.71	0.95
15–17 years	0.26	3.30	3.70	2.53	0.78	0.16	3.11	3.52	3.75	0.91
18–19 years	–	3.51	3.30	2.14	1.59	0.53	5.52	4.13	4.00	2.10
Hispanic	–	5.58	4.08	4.27	1.95	0.12	3.94	2.50	2.75	1.16
15–17 years	–	7.77	6.08	6.02	3.42	–	5.62	4.69	3.62	2.00
18–19 years	–	7.26	6.28	5.49	1.16	0.25	5.39	4.11	4.11	1.19
Age at first sexual intercourse										
Under 15 years	0.12	3.23	3.23	3.04	0.98	0.63	2.96	3.08	2.96	1.41
15 years	–	4.30	4.30	4.17	1.39	2.40	4.13	3.39	4.48	3.57
16 years	–	4.58	4.58	4.59	1.75	–	5.27	4.51	3.97	1.56
17–19 years	1.45	6.66	6.66	4.65	1.69	3.34	5.57	3.91	3.67	1.90
Mother's education										
0–11 years	–	5.46	4.35	5.70	1.30	3.62	4.41	3.58	4.43	4.60
12 years	–	3.56	3.19	2.86	0.82	1.29	3.86	3.02	3.12	1.72
13–15 years	–	6.64	5.00	7.55	2.73	0.11	5.00	4.36	4.55	1.28
16 years or more	–	5.28	6.60	4.76	1.41	–	4.86	5.38	3.40	1.09
Mother's age at first birth										
Under 20 years	0.61	3.78	3.33	3.01	1.38	1.19	3.15	3.51	2.49	1.73
20 years or older	–	2.81	2.87	2.63	0.76	1.15	2.97	2.61	3.15	1.30
Family structure at age 14 years										
Both biological/adoptive parents	0.04	2.83	2.95	2.56	0.95	1.26	3.08	2.35	2.60	1.51
Single parent <sup>2</sup>	1.04	4.10	4.78	3.80	0.53	0.87	4.19	4.51	3.71	0.63
Parent and stepparent	–	6.89	6.65	6.85	2.61	0.26	6.92	7.62	4.36	6.00
Nonparent/other	–	13.89	13.35	17.83	2.31	–	9.94	5.60	7.45	8.41
Religious affiliation										
None	–	7.41	6.27	6.65	2.35	3.38	6.05	5.17	3.37	5.06
Protestant	–	3.33	2.57	3.20	0.82	0.96	3.11	2.51	2.21	1.09
Catholic	0.69	4.21	4.49	3.81	1.39	–	5.06	3.86	4.86	1.14
Other <sup>3</sup>	–	12.73	14.54	9.85	–	–	10.40	7.10	11.25	–

**Table XII. Standard errors for percent distribution of sexually active never-married males 15–19 years of age by age difference between male and last female sexual partner within the last 3 months and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female partner's age relative to male's age									
	1988					1995				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
Frequency of attendance at religious services										
Once a week or more . . . . .	0.10	3.49	4.11	2.99	0.92	0.62	2.69	2.75	2.99	0.97
1–3 times a month . . . . .	–	5.42	5.31	3.77	0.51	2.44	5.53	4.21	3.83	0.71
Less than once a month . . . . .	–	5.91	4.86	5.42	2.29	0.12	5.33	4.52	4.66	2.16
Never . . . . .	1.13	4.95	5.06	5.59	2.01	2.28	5.03	4.03	3.53	3.90
Residence at interview										
Central city (MSA) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	0.09	3.24	3.22	2.67	1.39	1.57	3.23	2.82	3.19	1.28
Suburban (MSA) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	0.49	3.77	3.90	3.33	0.79	1.64	3.88	3.47	2.97	1.79
Rural (non-MSA) <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	–	4.87	3.40	4.25	1.61	0.73	4.74	4.20	2.78	2.73
Region of residence										
Northeast . . . . .	0.15	5.32	4.87	4.56	1.70	4.51	5.73	5.78	4.55	0.94
Midwest . . . . .	0.88	4.33	4.75	4.26	1.25	0.52	3.35	2.61	3.16	1.90
South . . . . .	–	4.49	3.09	3.44	0.98	–	3.94	4.21	4.24	2.46
West . . . . .	0.18	4.31	5.89	4.69	1.73	3.06	6.38	3.32	3.66	2.78
Behind in school <sup>5</sup>										
Yes . . . . .	1.71	5.83	4.29	6.23	2.07	4.94	8.91	4.25	4.82	6.45
No . . . . .	0.03	2.46	2.40	2.16	0.71	0.67	2.21	2.00	2.14	0.99

– Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.<sup>3</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.<sup>4</sup>MSA is metropolitan statistical area.<sup>5</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 12.

**Table XIII. Standard errors for percent distribution of never-married females 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by age difference between female and first male sexual partner and selected characteristics: United States, 1995**

Characteristic	Male partner's age relative to female's age				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
All teenagers <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	0.11	0.77	1.45	1.74	1.75
Age					
15 years . . . . .	–	1.89	4.52	5.79	4.83
16 years . . . . .	–	1.65	3.71	4.80	5.01
17 years . . . . .	0.53	1.60	3.25	4.20	3.60
18 years . . . . .	–	1.96	2.57	4.17	3.68
19 years . . . . .	–	1.54	2.57	3.72	3.45
15–17 years . . . . .	0.24	0.95	2.27	2.71	2.59
18–19 years . . . . .	–	1.21	1.93	2.63	2.59
Hispanic origin, race, and age					
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	0.17	1.01	1.95	2.29	2.05
15–17 years . . . . .	0.39	1.57	3.49	3.63	3.09
18–19 years . . . . .	–	1.30	2.24	3.37	3.20
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	–	1.78	2.59	4.00	2.93
15–17 years . . . . .	–	–	3.59	5.25	4.55
18–19 years . . . . .	–	3.72	4.21	6.25	4.18
Hispanic . . . . .	–	1.78	3.48	5.97	6.56
15–17 years . . . . .	–	–	2.18	8.90	9.66
18–19 years . . . . .	–	4.07	7.09	9.11	4.33
Age at first sexual intercourse					
Under 15 years . . . . .	0.30	0.89	1.77	3.07	3.10
15 years . . . . .	–	1.72	3.69	4.59	3.08
16 years . . . . .	–	1.09	3.69	3.80	2.40
17–19 years . . . . .	–	2.99	3.84	4.76	4.45
Mother's education					
0–11 years . . . . .	–	0.79	3.65	4.56	3.40
12 years . . . . .	0.30	1.21	2.23	2.95	2.53
13–15 years . . . . .	–	2.24	2.53	4.39	4.13
16 years or more . . . . .	–	2.18	3.70	5.29	4.54
Mother's age at first birth					
Under 20 years . . . . .	0.29	0.97	1.92	2.44	2.34
20 or older . . . . .	–	1.18	2.20	2.96	2.47
Family structure at age 14 years					
Both biological/adoptive parents . . . . .	–	1.29	2.16	2.78	2.50
Single parent <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	0.35	1.30	2.38	3.71	3.32
Parent and stepparent . . . . .	–	1.57	3.72	4.76	4.38
Nonparent/other . . . . .	–	–	6.24	8.78	7.94
Religious affiliation					
None . . . . .	0.58	1.48	2.85	4.41	4.09
Protestant . . . . .	–	0.97	1.85	2.67	2.44
Catholic . . . . .	–	1.88	3.40	3.97	2.86
Other <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	–	8.24	–	10.14	10.56

**Table XIII. Standard errors for percent distribution of never-married females 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by age difference between female and first male sexual partner and selected characteristics: United States, 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Male partner's age relative to female's age				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
Frequency of attendance at religious services					
Once a week or more . . . . .	0.26	1.38	2.21	2.93	2.62
1–3 times a month . . . . .	–	1.67	3.30	4.39	3.22
Less than once a month . . . . .	–	1.30	3.27	4.71	3.85
Never . . . . .	–	1.73	2.96	4.00	3.87
Behind in school <sup>4</sup>					
Yes . . . . .	0.77	1.60	4.44	6.04	6.09
No . . . . .	–	0.89	1.52	2.01	1.83

– Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.<sup>3</sup>“Other” religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.<sup>4</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 13.

**Table XIV. Standard errors for percent distribution of never-married males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by age difference between male and first female sexual partner and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995**

Characteristic	Female partner's age relative to male's age									
	1988					1995				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
All teenagers <sup>1</sup>	0.32	3.10	2.67	2.52	0.85	1.16	2.52	2.22	2.07	1.51
Age										
15 years	–	8.26	9.41	6.50	1.07	–	6.77	6.86	7.04	4.92
16 years	0.29	5.78	6.33	5.91	0.61	–	5.14	7.42	6.02	0.39
17 years	0.17	5.10	4.83	4.41	1.83	–	4.92	4.63	4.66	1.14
18 years	–	6.29	5.14	4.73	1.97	0.10	5.96	5.61	3.39	2.26
19 years	1.31	5.51	5.36	5.55	1.99	3.72	5.88	3.38	3.95	4.01
15–17 years	0.12	3.59	3.93	3.50	1.00	–	2.94	3.48	3.45	1.14
18–19 years	0.60	4.65	3.73	3.61	1.38	2.11	4.20	3.18	2.22	2.45
Hispanic origin, race, and age										
Non-Hispanic white	0.06	4.10	3.50	3.44	1.15	2.05	3.91	3.57	3.50	1.88
15–17 years	0.13	4.94	5.19	4.94	1.28	–	5.12	5.71	6.57	2.00
18–19 years	–	6.03	4.99	4.77	1.83	3.32	6.07	4.87	3.14	2.32
Non-Hispanic black	0.21	3.17	2.93	1.83	0.86	–	4.02	3.45	3.50	1.21
15–17 years	0.38	4.19	4.50	2.83	0.79	–	4.45	4.48	4.81	1.27
18–19 years	–	3.92	3.19	2.34	1.74	–	5.93	4.67	4.30	2.47
Hispanic	–	6.60	2.86	5.49	2.94	0.17	4.09	2.84	3.07	1.33
15–17 years	–	10.26	4.69	8.51	5.07	–	6.80	6.35	4.23	2.67
18–19 years	–	8.32	3.59	6.41	1.62	0.32	5.95	4.23	4.79	0.67
Age at first sexual intercourse										
Under 15 years	0.16	3.97	3.92	3.01	1.29	0.82	3.76	3.42	3.06	1.50
15 years	–	5.70	5.34	5.11	1.39	3.61	5.62	3.54	5.71	5.21
16 years	–	5.92	5.77	5.81	2.35	–	6.37	4.83	5.08	2.08
17–19 years	2.25	8.05	6.58	6.10	2.58	5.33	7.25	5.95	4.79	2.97
Mother's education										
0–11 years	–	7.27	5.12	7.99	1.83	4.53	5.20	3.56	5.26	5.81
12 years	–	3.97	3.67	3.34	1.09	1.93	3.97	3.45	2.93	2.10
13–15 years	–	8.03	5.44	8.71	2.82	–	6.83	5.79	5.99	1.76
16 years or more	–	7.05	8.56	6.08	2.08	–	5.75	5.12	5.30	1.56
Mother's age at first birth										
Under 20 years	0.81	4.60	3.52	3.54	1.59	1.64	3.45	3.61	2.92	2.36
20 years or older	–	3.82	3.57	3.49	1.07	1.72	3.83	2.80	3.33	1.45
Family structure at age 14 years										
Both biological/adoptive parents	0.06	3.73	3.58	3.26	1.25	1.81	3.55	3.03	2.42	2.11
Single parent <sup>2</sup>	1.39	5.02	5.87	3.44	0.66	1.24	4.55	4.17	4.76	0.86
Parent and stepparent	–	8.04	8.67	7.63	3.68	–	9.43	8.18	6.51	7.55
Nonparent/other	–	18.29	4.38	21.00	1.27	–	10.65	4.69	8.85	4.87
Religious affiliation										
None	–	8.36	6.99	8.60	0.61	4.75	7.47	5.58	4.29	6.61
Protestant	–	4.26	3.06	3.35	1.13	1.37	3.60	2.70	2.77	1.29
Catholic	0.91	4.82	5.03	4.50	1.82	–	6.03	5.53	3.75	1.57
Other <sup>3</sup>	–	15.92	17.60	12.21	–	–	15.24	2.88	15.46	–

**Table XIV. Standard errors for percent distribution of never-married males 15–19 years of age who have ever had sexual intercourse by age difference between male and first female sexual partner and selected characteristics: United States, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Characteristic	Female partner's age relative to male's age									
	1988					1995				
	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older	4 years or more younger	1–3 years younger	Same age	1–3 years older	4 years or more older
Frequency of attendance at religious services										
Once a week or more . . . . .	0.14	4.28	4.95	3.63	1.28	0.96	3.65	3.41	3.21	1.44
1–3 times a month . . . . .	–	6.49	6.67	4.77	0.58	3.28	6.05	4.32	4.83	0.97
Less than once a month . . . . .	–	7.04	5.69	6.55	2.96	–	5.85	5.13	5.82	1.97
Never . . . . .	1.78	6.02	5.31	7.10	2.44	3.11	6.04	4.87	4.36	5.06
Behind in school <sup>4</sup>										
Yes . . . . .	2.27	6.71	4.40	7.41	2.73	6.12	9.41	5.50	2.98	7.57
No . . . . .	0.05	3.22	3.02	2.67	0.90	0.99	2.29	2.46	2.27	1.23

– Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>Includes teenagers of other race and origin groups not shown separately.<sup>2</sup>Includes parent and girl/boyfriend and parent and other adults.<sup>3</sup>"Other" religion includes teenagers who identified with a religion other than Protestant or Catholic.<sup>4</sup>Age minus grade is greater than 8, or not enrolled in school and no high school diploma or GED certificate.

NOTE: This table shows the standard errors for table 14.

Table XV. Question wording and variable construction details for sexual activity and contraceptive use measures: National Survey of Family Growth and National Survey of Adolescent Males, 1988 and 1995

Question	National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)		National Survey of Adolescent Males (NSAM)	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
Ever had sexual intercourse	"At any time in your life, have you ever had sexual intercourse with a man, that is, made love, had sex, or gone all the way?"	"At any time in your life, have you ever had sexual intercourse with a man, that is, made love, had sex, or gone all the way?"	"Have you ever had sexual intercourse with a girl (sometimes this is called 'making love,' 'having sex,' or 'going all the way')?"	"Have you ever had sexual intercourse with a girl (sometimes this is called 'making love,' 'having sex,' or 'going all the way')?"
Age at first sexual intercourse	"When did you have sexual intercourse for the first time -- what month and year was that?" and "How old were you at that time?"	"Please look at the calendar and think back to the very first time in your life that you ever had sexual intercourse with a man. In what month and year was that?" and "Thinking about the very first time in your life that you had sexual intercourse with a man, how old were you?"	"How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?"	"How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?"
Had sex in the 3 months prior to interview	Constructed from calendar data: date of first sex or beginning and ending dates of periods of nonintercourse within the 5 years prior to survey <sup>1</sup>	Constructed from calendar data: beginning and ending dates of periods of nonintercourse within the 5 years prior to survey <sup>1</sup>	Constructed from calendar data: dates of last sex with recent partners <sup>2</sup>	Constructed from calendar data: dates of last sex with recent partners <sup>2</sup>
Contraceptive use at last sexual intercourse	"The last time you had intercourse, did you or your partner use any method of birth control or family planning?" "What method on Card 10 was that?"	"The last time you had intercourse, did you or your partner use any method of birth control or family planning?" "Which methods on Card E-12 did you use?" <sup>3</sup>	"The last time you had intercourse, did you yourself use any method of contraception?" "What method did you use?" "The last time you had intercourse, did your partner use any of the contraceptive methods listed on this card?" "What method did she use?"	"The last time you had sex with (INITIALS of last partner), did you yourself use any method of contraception -- that is, something to prevent pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases?" "What method did you use?" "The last time you had sex with (INITIALS of last partner), did she use any of the contraceptive methods listed on this card?" "What method did she use?"
Contraceptive use at first sexual intercourse	"Thinking back, the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, or had intercourse with a partner who was using a method, which method on Card 10 was that?" "When did you (or your partner) use (method) for the first time?" (Responses include "first time R had intercourse.")	"The very first time you ever used a birth control method, which method on Card E-3 did you use? If you used more than one method that first time, please tell me about each one. For example, a woman's partner might use a condom and she might use the pill on the same occasion." "Please look at Card E-4. Thinking again of the very first time you ever used a method of birth control, was it. (Responses include "first time R had [voluntary] intercourse.") If first method use was before first sex: "Did you use any birth control method the first time you had [voluntary] intercourse?" "Which method did you use the first time you had [voluntary] intercourse? The methods are listed on Card E-6. If you used more than one method at the same time, please tell me about that."	"The first time you had intercourse, did you or your partner use any of the methods listed on this card?"	Respondents with 3 or more partners in lifetime: "That first time you had intercourse, did you or (INITIALS of first partner) use any of the methods of contraception listed on this card?" "What method did you or your partner use?" Respondents with 1 or 2 partners in lifetime: "Thinking back to the first time you had intercourse with (INITIALS of first partner), did you or she use any of the methods of contraception listed on this card?" "Which method or methods did you and (INITIALS of first partner) use the first time you had intercourse with her?"

**Table XV. Question wording and variable construction details for sexual activity and contraceptive use measures: National Survey of Family Growth and National Survey of Adolescent Males, 1988 and 1995—Con.**

Question	National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)		National Survey of Adolescent Males (NSAM)	
	1988	1995	1988	1995
Number of sexual partners in lifetime	“Thinking back, with how many men have you had intercourse in your life?”	“Counting all your male sexual partners, even those you had intercourse with only once, how many men have you had sexual intercourse with in your life?”	“How many different partners have you ever had intercourse with?”	“How many different females have you ever had intercourse with? This includes any female you had intercourse with, even if it was only once, or if you did not know her well.”
Number of sexual partners in 3 months prior to interview	“In the last 3 months (in which you were having intercourse), with how many men did you have intercourse?” <sup>4</sup>	Constructed from calendar data: dates of last sex with partners in the last 5 years. <sup>5</sup>	Constructed from calendar data: dates of last sex with recent partners. <sup>6</sup>	Constructed from calendar data: dates of last sex with recent partners. <sup>6</sup>
Age of last sexual partner (in the past 3 months)	n.a. <sup>7</sup>	Constructed from calendar data <sup>8</sup>	“How old was your last partner, that is (INITIALS of last partner)?”	“How old was (INITIALS of last partner) when you last had intercourse with her?”
Age of first sexual partner	n.a. <sup>7</sup>	“How old was your first partner when you had sexual intercourse with him that first time?”	“Now I have a few questions about the very first time you had sexual intercourse. That first time you had intercourse, how old was your partner?”	Respondents with 3 or more partners in lifetime: “I have a few questions about the very first time you had sexual intercourse. That first time you had intercourse, how old was your partner?” Respondents with 1 or 2 partners in lifetime: constructed using age of partner at last sex and duration between first and last sex <sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>In the NSFG, the question ascertaining periods of nonintercourse was worded: “Many women have times when they are not having intercourse at all, for example, because of pregnancy, separation, not dating anyone, illness, or other reasons. Since [appropriate wording for beginning point], have there been any times when you were not having intercourse at all for one month or more?” “What months and years were those?”

<sup>2</sup>In the NSAM, the respondent was asked for the dates of first and last sexual intercourse with a maximum of six women with whom he had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months. This measure indicates whether at least one of these dates was within 3 months of the interview.

<sup>3</sup>In the NSFG, if respondent was using a “continuous” method, that is, Norplant implants, Depo-Provera injectables, female sterilization, IUD, partner’s vasectomy, or partner’s sterility, in the 3 months prior to the survey, she was not asked this question. Contraceptive use at last sexual intercourse is coded as the continuous method that she was using, based on responses she provided earlier in the questionnaire to questions asking for contraceptives used each month in the past 5 years.

<sup>4</sup>In the NSFG, if respondent did not have sexual intercourse in the 3 months prior to the survey, the number of sexual partners in the past 3 months was set to 0.

<sup>5</sup>In the NSFG, the respondent was asked for the dates of first and last sexual intercourse with each man with whom she had had sex in the 5 years prior to the survey. This measure represents the total number of men for whom date of last sexual intercourse was within the 3 months prior to the interview.

<sup>6</sup>In the NSAM, the respondent was asked for the dates of first and last sexual intercourse with a maximum of 6 women with whom he had sex in the past 12 months. This measure represents the total number of women for whom date of last sexual intercourse was within the 3 months prior to the interview.

<sup>7</sup>n.a. is not available.

<sup>8</sup>In the NSFG, the respondent was asked for the dates of first and last sexual intercourse with each man with whom she had had sex in the 5 years prior to the survey. For these partners, his age at first intercourse with the respondent was ascertained. The number of years from the first intercourse to the last intercourse was added to this age. This measure reflects the age of the last man with whom she had intercourse at the time of the last intercourse restricted to the 3 months prior to the interview.

<sup>9</sup>In the NSAM, respondents who had only had one or two partners, age of first sexual partner was calculated using that partner’s age at last sexual intercourse and the dates of first and last sexual intercourse. The number of years (if any) between first and last sexual intercourse was subtracted from partner’s age at last sexual intercourse with the respondent, resulting in partner’s age at first sexual intercourse.

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