

# Factors Associated with Teenage Abstinence

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# Research

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the study was to investigate which of 14 factors were related to sexual abstinence with students in grades 7 through 12.

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# Subjects

566 Students

Grade 7:  $n = 33$

Grade 8:  $n = 166$

Grade 9:  $n = 77$

Grade 10:  $n = 161$

Grade 11:  $n = 101$

Grade 12:  $n = 26$

No grade level identified:  $n = 2$

7 schools in Southwest Idaho

The number of students surveyed at each school ranged from 25 to 183 with a mean of 81

Age range of 11 to 19 years with a mean age of 15

51% Female and 49% Male

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# Sex Can Wait

75 ITEM SURVEY

**Peer Self-Concept--** I have at least as many friends as other people my age.

**Home Self-Concept--** My parents are proud of the kind of person I am.

**School Self-Concept--** I am usually proud of my report card.

**Knowledge--** Fertilization of the egg usually occurs in the a) vagina b) uterus c) fallopian tubes d) ovaries).

**Age--** 11 to 19 years-old

**Gender--** Male or Female

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**Decision Making**– When you have to make a decision, how often do you think hard about the consequences of each possible alternative?

**Intent to Remain Abstinent**– What are the chances that you will have sexual intercourse in the next year?

**Parental Communication**-- I feel comfortable talking to my parents about sexual issues.

**Religious Attendance**-- How often do you attend religious services, church, temple or synagogue?

**Religious Self-Perception**– How religious do you feel that you are?

**Finish High School**-- I plan to finish high school.

**Plan to Attend College**– I plan to attend college.

**Recent Conversation or Discussion with Parents about Sex**– During the last 4 weeks, how many times have you had a conversation with your parents about sex?

Have you ever had sexual intercourse? (Sexual intercourse means the male penis is in the female's vagina) a) yes **b) no**

How would you describe your current sexual situation?

**a) I have not had sexual intercourse and choose not to at this time in my life (sexual abstinence)**

**b) I have not had sexual intercourse but am now ready to change that status. (I would like to have sex but haven't yet)**

c) I have had sexual intercourse before but choose not to have sexual intercourse at this time in my life

d) I have sexual intercourse but not very often (less than once a month)

e) I have sexual intercourse regularly (more than once a month)

My feelings about my sexual situation are

**a) I have never had sexual intercourse and that is fine with me**

**b) I have never had sexual intercourse and am displeased with this situation**

c) I have had sexual intercourse and am pleased that I am no longer a virgin

d) I have had sexual intercourse, but wish I were still a virgin

# Results

**416 Sexually Abstinent**

**114 Not Abstinent**

**36 Inconsistent**

**566 Total**

- Mean Differences Between those Students Who were Abstinent and Those Who Were Not
- Logistic Regression Model with Intent to Remain Abstinent
- Logistic Regression Model without Intent to Remain Abstinent

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## Mean (Standard Deviation) Values or Frequencies for Predictor Variables

Variable	Not Abstinent ( $n = 114$ )	Abstinent ( $n = 416$ )	$t$ (528)
Age	<b>15.83 (1.23)</b>	14.61 (1.41)	9.09***
Religious Attendance (5-points scale)	1.93 (.93)	<b>2.30 (1.09)</b>	3.65***
Perceive as Religious (5-point scale)	1.65 (1.67)	<b>2.72 (1.81)</b>	5.94***
Gender			
Female	21.1%	78.9%	
Male	21.9%	78.1%	
Finish High School (4-points scale)	2.84 (.39)	2.84 (.50)	.02
Attend College (4-point scale)	2.41 (.76)	<b>2.58 (.71)</b>	2.06*
Recently Discuss Sex (5-point scale)	<b>1.01 (1.30)</b>	.48 (.82)	4.10***
Parental Communication (4-point scale)	1.39 (.95)	<b>1.57 (.83)</b>	1.83
Sexual Knowledge (20 possible points)	<b>13.97 (2.69)</b>	13.63 (3.18)	1.17
School Self-Esteem (4-point scale)	1.73 (.52)	<b>2.01 (.51)</b>	5.40***
Peer Self-Esteem (4-point scale)	<b>2.18 (.47)</b>	2.09 (.48)	1.72
Home Self-Esteem (4-point scale)	2.14 (.50)	<b>2.28 (.51)</b>	2.66**
Decision-Making (4-point scale)	2.33 (.73)	<b>2.57 (.59)</b>	3.30**
Intend Not to Have Sex (5-point scale)	1.06 (1.12)	<b>3.05 (1.03)</b>	17.99***

### Summary of Logistic Regression Model Predicting Teenage Sexual Abstinence with Intent

Variables	<u>B</u>	<u>SE</u>	Odds ratio	Wald statistic
Age	-.62	.12	.54	25.07***
Intent to be Abstinent	1.45	.15	4.25	94.87***
School Self-Concept	.72	.31	2.06	5.59*
Gender	-1.10	.32	.33	11.92***

\*  $p < .05$ . \*\*\*  $p < .001$ .

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### Logistic Regression Model Predicting Teenage Sexual Abstinence with Intent

**$X^2(4) = 258.36, p < .001$**

**Cox and Snell  $R^2 = .39$**

**Nagelkerke  $R^2 = .60$ .**

**Correctly predicted the sexual abstinence status of 89% of the students in the study.**

**We made correct predictions for 95% of the abstinent students and 68% of the non-abstinent students.**

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**Summary of Logistic Regression Model Predicting Teenage Sexual Abstinence without Intent**

Variables	<u>B</u>	<u>SE</u>	Odds ratio	Wald statistic
Age	-.63	.11	.53	33.45***
Decision-Making	.42	.21	1.51	3.78*
Recent Parental Discussion about Sex	-.57	.10	.57	32.90***
Perception of Self As Religious	.23	.07	1.34	9.45***
Peer Self-Concept	-.78	.32	.46	6.12*
School Self-Concept	1.18	.30	3.24	15.14***

\*  $p < .05$ . \*\*\*  $p < .001$ .

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**Logistic Regression Model Predicting Teenage Sexual Abstinence without Intent**

**$X^2(6) = 169.07, p < .001$**

**Cox and Snell  $R^2 = .28$**

**Nagelkerke  $R^2 = .43$ .**

**Correctly predicted the sexual abstinence status of 83% of the students in the study.**

**We made correct predictions for 93% of the abstinent students and 46% of the non-abstinent students.**

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