sion models, we examined interaction terms to determine whether effects differed significantly between delayers and anticipators. Each independent variable was interacted with a dichotomous variable (coded one if the respondent was an anticipator and zero if he was a delimiter), and the interaction term and the anticipation measure were included in the full model. All analyses were conducted with SPSS version 10.0.

RESULTS
Descriptive Data
Thirty-six percent of the sample reported expecting to initiate intercourse within one year and are thus classified as anticipators; the remainder reported not expecting to initiate intercourse within one year and are categorized as delayers. When asked to choose a reason that best described why they had not yet initiated intercourse, 25% of the young men said they were waiting until marriage, and 22% said they had not yet had an opportunity (Table 1). The next most frequent responses were postponement until an older age (19%) and a fear of contracting an STD or of causing a pregnancy (19%). Reasons were significantly different between delayers and anticipators. The most common response among delayers was a desire to wait until marriage (32%); only 12% of anticipators cited this reason. In contrast, the most common response among anticipators was not yet having had the opportunity (35%), a reason given by only 14% of delayers. Thus, delayers were more likely to report a desire to defer sexual activity, whereas anticipators often only lacked the opportunity to initiate intercourse.

The two groups also differed significantly with respect to some background characteristics (Table 2). Anticipators had engaged in significantly more risky behaviors than delayers (1.5 vs. 1.0), had had more preocital experiences (5.7 vs. 3.5) and scored higher on approval of premarital sex (3.3 vs. 2.3). Attitudes toward gender roles and influence by friends, however, were not significantly different between delayers and anticipators. Although delayers gave higher scores than anticipators to parental influence (3.4 vs. 3.2) and strictness (3.3 vs. 3.1), the family structure was not significantly different between the two groups: Roughly three-quarters of each group had lived with two parents at age 14, and about one in five reported that their mothers gave birth as teenagers. Delayers reported having better-educated mothers than anticipators, with 52% having attended at least some college, compared with 39% among anticipators. However, there was no significant difference between the two groups in terms of family income. Delayers and anticipators showed similar performance levels at school, but delayers attended church more frequently than anticipators. In both groups, 6–7% of respondents were black, and the mean age in 1988 was slightly below 17 years.

The different background profiles of anticipators and delayers suggest the presence of two contrasting contexts that influence the transition to first intercourse: Delayers appear to be more invested in deferring intercourse, and may be supported by their ties to parents and church. Anticipators, on the other hand, are not actively delaying sexual initiation, and their more liberal attitudes and behavior may predict a transition to first sex when the opportunity arises. The multivariate analyses will further explore the effects of these seemingly distinct contexts.

Initiation of Intercourse: Overall Influences
At the follow-up interview, 28% of young men reported having initiated intercourse within a year of the first survey. In general, involvement in risky behaviors and preocital sexual activity increased the likelihood of first sex (odds ratios, 1.4 and 1.3, respectively—Table 3). The more approving that young men were of premarital sex, the more likely they were to have first sex (1.8), and the more that they disagreed with traditional gender roles, the less likely first sex was to occur (0.4).

Surprisingly, parental influence and family rules increased the odds of initiating intercourse (1.5 for each), these factors were not strongly correlated with each other (r = 0.19), so multicollinearity is not an issue. Increasing family income raised the odds of sexual initiation (1.3). Achieving higher grades in school decreased the odds of first sex (0.6), as did repeating a grade (0.4). The odds of sexual initiation increased with age (1.4), but living with both parents at age 14 reduced the odds (0.4). Having a mother who gave birth as a teenager or who was educated below high school increased the odds of first sex (2.0 and 2.5, respectively). The factors included in the model accounted for 27% of the variation in sexual initiation for the full sample.