

TABLE 1. Selected characteristics of sexually experienced teenagers, by gender, National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, Waves 1 (1995) and 2 (1996)

Characteristic	Males (N=606)	Females (N=862)
Consistency of contraceptive use (%)		
Never	20.7	20.2
Sometimes	17.8	21.4
Always	61.5	58.4
Characteristics of most recent relationship		
Mean no. of yrs. partner is older than respondent (range, 0–20)	0.1	2.1***
Met partner as stranger (%)	5.5	6.0
Type of relationship (%)		
Romantic	71.5	88.1**
Liked	11.2	9.0
Nonromantic	17.4	9.8
Mean no. of mos. of presexual relationship (range, –24 to 65)‡,§	4.3	4.5
Mean no. of presexual couple-like activities (range, 0–8)‡	4.9	5.4**
Discussed contraception before sex (%)‡	41.2	55.7***
Physical violence (%)	11.1	10.1
Mean no. of mos. of sexual relationship (range, 1–42)	5.0	6.3**
Sexual history		
Aged ≥15 at first sex (%)	65.3	62.8
Consistency of contraceptive use in first relationship (%)		
Never	23.4	23.4*
Sometimes	13.6	21.5
Always	63.0	55.1
Mean lifetime no. of partners (range, 2–10)	3.3	3.3
Contraceptive use in most recent relationship (%)		
Most effective method used		
Hormonal	18.3	33.6***
Condom	58.4	43.7
Other	1.8	2.0
None	21.6	20.8
Dual method use (%)	25.6	25.0
Family characteristics		
Two biological/adoptive parents (%)	40.5	41.7
Mean parental education (range, 1–7)††	4.6	4.5
Individual characteristics		
Race/ethnicity (%)		
White	61.2	67.1†
Hispanic	14.4	9.1
Black	17.9	18.6
Asian	1.8	2.2
Other	4.8	3.1
Mean cognitive test score (range, 13–131)‡‡	101.7	100.1†
Mean religious services attendance (range, 0–4)§§	1.5	1.9***
Had pregnancy/AIDS education in school (%)	87.0	88.3

*p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001. †p<.10. ‡Among the 1,297 respondents with a romantic or liked partner. §Negative numbers in the range reflect that among the teenagers in a romantic or liked relationship, some respondents reported that they had had sex with their partner at an earlier date than they considered their romantic/liked relationship to have begun. ††Highest educational level attained by a parent; 1=less than high school, 7=at least some graduate or professional school. ‡‡Modified Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test. §§0=never (or no religion), 4=at least once per week. Notes: Data are weighted. Significance tests for categorical variables measure between-group differences among all categories.