

**TABLE 1. Selected characteristics of sexually inexperienced 12–14-year-olds, by gender, National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997**

Characteristic	Total (N=3,632)	Female (N=1,844)	Male (N=1,788)
<b>Sexual outcomes†</b>			
Sexually active (%)	40.8	43.9***	37.6
No. of partners in past year†	1.59	1.46***	1.73
Consistent contraceptive use (%)‡	62.5	60.4	65.0
<b>Family religiosity</b>			
Parental religious attendance (range, 1–8)§	4.17	4.19	4.15
Parent prays >once daily (%)§	52.8	54.0	51.5
“God has nothing to do with what happens to me” (% agree)§	20.2	20.2	20.2
“I don’t need religion to have good values” (% agree)§	34.9	34.8	34.9
Family religious activities (days/week)	1.58	1.59	1.57
<b>Monitoring/awareness††</b>			
Mother knows adolescent’s close friends (range, 0–4)	2.51	2.60***	2.40
Mother knows friends’ parents (range, 0–4)	2.06	2.12***	2.00
Mother knows whom adolescent is with (range, 0–4)	2.86	3.00***	2.72
<b>Family routines††</b>			
No. of days/week has dinner with family	4.83	4.63***	5.04
No. of days/week does something fun with family	2.20	2.14***	2.26
<b>Relationship with parent††,‡‡</b>			
Enjoys spending time with mother (%)	20.6	22.3*	18.9
Wants to be like mother (%)	26.9	29.2**	24.7
Thinks highly of mother (%)	36.3	36.9	35.6
<b>Positive peer behaviors</b>			
Regular church attendance (range, 0–4)	2.95	2.96	2.96
Extracurricular activities (range, 0–4)	2.86	2.90**	2.81
Plans to attend college (range, 0–4)	2.78	2.82*	2.74
Volunteer activities (range, 0–4)	2.07	2.13***	2.02
<b>Negative peer behaviors</b>			
≥25% smoke (%)	60.2	65.1***	55.3
≥25% get drunk (%)	34.2	40.1***	28.2
≥25% use drugs (%)	41.5	46.0***	37.0
≥25% involved in gangs (%)	24.5	24.9	24.1
≥25% skip school (%)	52.7	56.1***	49.2
<b>Age at first sex§§</b>	16.11	16.12	16.11
<b>Social and demographic</b>			
Age	12.92	12.94	12.90
White (%)	75.2	72.9***	77.6
Hispanic (%)	11.7	12.4	11.1
Male (%)	49.8	na	na
Age at first date*†	11.46	11.41	11.51
Started puberty (%)	73.2	74.8*	71.6
Lives with both biological/adoptive parents (%)	59.2	56.3***	62.2
Enriching environment (range, 0–3)	1.89	1.92*	1.86
Physical risk environment (range, 0–7)	1.06	1.06	1.07
Parental education (years)	13.98	13.87*	14.09
Mother’s age at first birth	23.56	23.42	23.71

\*p<.05. \*\*p<.01. \*\*\*p<.001. †Measured at age 17. ‡Among adolescents who had had sex in past year. §Item answered by parent. ††Average of all rounds from 1997 to the round before age 17. ‡‡Percentage who strongly agreed with each statement. §§Among adolescents who had ever had sex. \*†Measurement based on first round at which adolescent reported dating. Notes: Unless otherwise specified, characteristics were measured at baseline, and values are means. na=not applicable.