

TABLE 2. Selected characteristics of sexually inexperienced 12–14-year-olds, National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997, by sexual activity, number of partners in past year and consistency of contraceptive use at age 17

Characteristic	Sexually active		No. of partner [†]		Consistent use [†]	
	No (N=2,107)	Yes (N=1,525)	0–1 (N=1,046)	≥2 (N=676)	No (N=555)	Yes (N=910)
Family religiosity						
Parental religious attendance (range, 1–8) [‡]	4.43	3.79***	3.88	3.71	3.76	3.81
Parent prays >once daily (%) [‡]	55.0	49.5**	48.4	51.4	49.6	49.4
“God has nothing to do with what happens to me” (% agree) [‡]	18.9	22.0*	21.4	21.9	21.8	21.9
“I don’t need religion to have good values” (% agree) [‡]	33.1	37.4**	37.4	36.8	35.2	38.2
Family religious activities (days/week)	1.75	1.34***	1.35	1.35	1.32	1.34
Monitoring/awareness[§]						
Mother knows close friends (range, 0–4)	2.56	2.45***	2.47	2.37*	2.43	2.48
Mother knows friends’ parents (range, 0–4)	2.12	1.97***	2.01	1.88**	1.89	2.03***
Mother knows whom adolescent is with (range, 0–4)	2.95	2.73***	2.78	2.61***	2.69	2.75
Family routiness[§]						
No. of days/week has dinner with family	5.01	4.58***	4.59	4.55	4.48	4.66
No. of days/week does something fun with family	2.30	2.05***	2.01	2.13	1.97	2.10
Relationship with parent^{§,††}						
Enjoys spending time with mother (%)	23.3	16.8***	17.1	15.5	15.9	17.4
Wants to be like mother (%)	30.3	22.1***	24.9	17.5***	21.3	22.8
Thinks highly of mother (%)	39.6	31.4***	30.2	30.7	30.4	32.1
Positive peer behaviors						
Regular church attendance (range, 0–4)	3.06	2.80***	2.89	2.70***	2.69	2.86**
Extracurricular activities (range, 0–4)	2.87	2.84	2.89	2.75**	2.87	2.83
Plans to attend college (range, 0–4)	2.85	2.69***	2.78	2.57***	2.64	2.72
Volunteer activities (range, 0–4)	2.07	2.08	2.13	2.01*	2.03	2.10
Negative peer behaviors						
≥25% smoke (%)	55.6	66.9***	65.7	66.8	69.1	65.8
≥25% get drunk (%)	29.6	40.7***	39.8	39.6	39.6	41.9
≥25% use drugs (%)	37.3	47.6***	47.2	48.1	47.5	48.2
≥25% involved in gangs (%)	21.6	28.7***	27.2	31.5	30.0	27.9
≥25% skip school (%)	49.4	57.5***	56.5	60.0	56.4	57.5
Age at first sex^{‡‡}	na	15.41	15.50	15.11***	15.26	15.48***
Social and demographic						
Age	12.99	12.83***	12.86	12.78	12.80	12.85
White (%)	78.3	70.8***	72.0	68.5	68.9	72.3
Hispanic (%)	10.7	13.2*	12.7	13.9	17.2	10.9***
Male (%)	52.5	45.9***	43.0	53.5***	42.7	47.6
Age at first date ^{§§}	12.03	10.62***	10.66	10.31	10.55	10.65
Started puberty (%)	71.1	76.2***	76.1	76.0	73.5	78.7*
Lives with both biological/adoptive parents (%)	66.6	48.6***	52.2	44.0**	46.5	50.1
Enriching environment (range, 0–3)	1.96	1.78***	1.81	1.72*	1.69	1.84***
Physical risk environment (range, 0–7)	0.91	1.29***	1.21	1.40**	1.35	1.27
Parental education (years)	14.35	13.44***	13.56	13.28*	13.28	13.55
Mother’s age at first birth	24.14	22.72***	23.00	22.38*	22.64	22.76

*p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001. †Among participants 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 participants who had ever had sex. §§Measurement based on first round at which adolescent reported dating. Notes: Unless otherwise specified, all characteristics were measured at baseline, and values are means. na=not applicable.