

## Virginity and Waiting

According to a survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, nine in ten teens agree young people should wait to have sex until they are older. 64% of those surveyed felt strongly about waiting and 26% felt somewhat strongly on this issue. (Kaiser Family Foundation, Sex Smarts September 2000 [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)).



Teens are showing signs of being more conservative sexually. Close to six in ten teens surveyed recently said sexual activity for high school-age teens is not acceptable even if precautions are taken against pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. In fact, the vast majority of teens (73 percent) surveyed said they do not think it is embarrassing for teens to admit they are virgins. (National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy [www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/teens/facts](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/teens/facts)).

Will children listen to their parents? According to the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health, kids whose parents talked to them about tough topics like sex, drugs, and peer pressure were more likely to turn first to their parents in difficult situations such as when they are feeling pressure to have sex, thinking about having sex, or worrying about a possible pregnancy. To view the entire study, access the web site at: [www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/](http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/).

Are strong messages important? Nearly all of those surveyed (83% of adults and 72% of teens) believe it is important that teens be given a strong message from society that they should abstain from sex until they are at least out of high school. (National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, With One Voice survey available on the web at: [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)).