

# Teens and Sexual Behavior Statistics

(Finer LB and Philbin JM, Sexual initiation, contraceptive use, and pregnancy among young adolescents, Pediatrics, 2013)

- 2% of teens have had sex by the time they reach their 12th birthday
- 16% of teens have sex by age 15
- 33% of teens have sex by age 16
- 48% of teens have sex by age 17
- 61% of teens have sex by age 18
- 71% of teens have sex by age 19

(Stephen Gray Wallace, associate research professor and director of the Center for Adolescent Research and Education (CARE) at Susquehanna University, Senior Advisor at SADD, and director of counseling and counselor training at the Cape Cod Sea Camps.)

- 1/4 of middle school students and 2/3 of high school students sexually active
- The Center for Disease Control indicates that 1 in 4 teenage girls, not 1 in 4 sexually active teenage girls, but 1 in 4 teenage girls has an STD or an STI
- Concern about the mental health effects of early intimate sexual behavior
- Majority of kids who engaged in those behaviors reporting later that they wish they hadn't been that they wish they had waited
- Research at S. A. D. D., linked intimate sexual behavior with stress and depression among young people

(Science Daily)

- Youth who start having sex before age 14 are much more likely to have multiple lifetime sexual partners, use alcohol or drugs before sex and have unprotected sex, all of which puts them at greater risk for getting a sexually transmitted disease (STD) or becoming pregnant

(The University of Texas Health Science Center)

- *1/3 of middle school students experienced sexual touching 12% of students experienced sex by age 12*
- *7.9% of middle school students experienced oral sex by age 12*
- *6.5% of middle school students experienced non traditional sex by age 12*
- *4% of middle school students experienced all three types of sex by age 12*

***It takes tact, grace, and wisdom to discuss these things with students without offending or embarrassing them or their parents. It is challenging but worth it. It is much easier for a middle school minister to teach a preventive message than it is for a high school minister to rewire students' established bad habits.***

***–Kent Shaffer, churchrelevance.com***