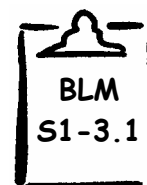


Postponing Intercourse Versus Having Intercourse



Reasons why young people choose to postpone having intercourse...	Reasons why young people choose to have intercourse...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious/cultural beliefs • Not ready • Not wanting to hide something from parents • Avoid guilt, fear, and disappointment • No worries about STIs or pregnancy (because abstinence is the only method that is 100% effective in preventing STIs and pregnancy) • More time for friends and other activities • More time for the relationship to develop • Concern about reputation • Personal belief that sex belongs only in a certain kind of relationship • Belief that sex too soon can hurt a relationship (with a partner, friends, or parents) • Had sex once before and decides s/he is not ready for a sexual relationship (for any of the above reasons: just because someone says "yes" to sex once does not mean s/he has to say "yes" again) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curiosity • Sexual attraction and desire • To demonstrate love for partner • Feeling pressured by your partner or others • "Social" pressure, feeling that everyone is doing it, and you're not quite normal if you're not • Wanting to feel loved/wanted • Feels good • To get someone to love you, to prevent the relationship from ending • Influence of alcohol and/or drugs • Not knowing how to say "no," just "going along" • Both partners really love each other, and want to express it this way • Those questioning their sexual orientation may have sex in an attempt to "figure out" if they are attracted to opposite or same-sex partners

Postponing Intercourse Versus Having Intercourse: Adapted, by permission, from resource material produced by the City of Ottawa, Public Health Branch.

Reference: Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada. *Beyond the Basics: A Sourcebook on Sexual and Reproductive Health Education*. Ottawa, ON: Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada, 2001. 277.