

Postponing Intercourse Versus Having Intercourse



Reasons why young people choose to postpone having intercourse...	Reasons why young people choose to have intercourse...
<p>Religious/cultural beliefs</p> <p>Not ready</p> <p>Not wanting to hide something from parents</p> <p>Avoid guilt, fear, and disappointment</p> <p>No worries about STIs or pregnancy (because abstinence is the only method that is 100% effective in preventing STIs and pregnancy)</p> <p>More time for friends and other activities</p> <p>More time for the relationship to develop</p> <p>Concern about reputation</p> <p>Personal belief that sex belongs only in a certain kind of relationship</p> <p>Belief that sex too soon can hurt a relationship (with a partner, friends, or parents)</p> <p>Had sex once before and decided 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)</p>	<p>"Hormones"/desire/curiosity</p> <p>To demonstrate love for partner</p> <p>Feeling pressured by your partner or others</p> <p>"Social" pressure, feeling that everyone is doing it, and you're not quite normal if you're not</p> <p>Wanting to feel loved/wanted</p> <p>Feels good</p> <p>To get someone to love you, to prevent the relationship from ending</p> <p>Influence of alcohol and/or drugs</p> <p>Not knowing how to say "no," just "going along"</p> <p>Both partners really love each other, and want to express it this way</p> <p>Those questioning their sexual orientation may have sex in an attempt to "figure out" if they are attracted to opposite or same-sex partners</p>

Source: Adapted with permission from resource material produced by the City of Ottawa, People Services Department.

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.