

# Quiz for parents

*Here is a short quiz for parents. If you don't know the answer, ask your teenager. Take the quiz with him or her, and then compare your answers. Who got the highest score?*

## True or False

- 1. Virtually all 15- to 17-year-olds have already been involved in a romantic relationship.**
- 2. Half of all 15- to 17-year-olds have already had sex for the first time.**
- 3. The four main reasons why 15- to 17-year-olds have sex for the first time are: "We're in love," "We were curious or just wanted the experience," "Because we couldn't help ourselves" and "Because we were drunk or had been taking drugs."**
- 4. Very few parents talk to their teenagers about sex.**
- 5. Most parents allow their teenagers to have sex at home.**
- 6. Three-quarters of parents are in favour of their teenager having condoms.**
- 7. Very few parents would agree to buy condoms for their teenager if the teenager was too embarrassed to do so himself or herself.**
- 8. Around 5% of 16-year-old girls have already been pregnant.**
- 9. About one teenager out of 100 has already caught a sexually transmitted infection (STI).**
- 10. Roughly 10% of teenagers used alcohol or drugs before their most recent sexual experience.**
- 11. Emergency contraception (the "morning-after pill") can be taken up to five days after unprotected sex, to avoid pregnancy.**
- 12. Some STIs, especially if not treated, can cause infertility or certain types of cancer.**

# Answers

- 1. FALSE**  
Not every teenager has already been involved in a romantic relationship. Among 15- to 17-year-olds, 75% have already been in love, but 25% have not.
- 2. TRUE**  
This means that the other half will have their first sexual experience after leaving secondary school.
- 3. TRUE**  
What do you think of this? The reasons given by teenagers who have not yet had sex include: "I'm not ready," "I haven't had the opportunity," and "I haven't met the right person yet."
- 4. FALSE**  
On the contrary, lots of parents do this. Half the parents of 16-year-olds say they often talk about sex with their children. And yet, when the same question is put to their children, only 20% say they often talk to their parents about sex.
- 5. FALSE**  
Only one parent in every three allows their teenager to have sex at home. Are you one of them? American research has shown that more than half of all young people have their first sexual encounter in their own home, or in their partner's home. Have you discussed this with your teenager?
- 6. TRUE**  
When asked, 60% of teenagers said they thought their parents would be in favour of them having condoms.
- 7. FALSE**  
More than 75% of parents would agree to buy condoms for their teenage children if they were too embarrassed to do so. However, less than 20% of teenagers would dare ask their parents to do this.
- 8. TRUE**  
Roughly two out of three of these pregnancies will be aborted, while one out of three will lead to the birth of a baby.
- 9. TRUE**  
The 15-24 age group is the one that is most affected by STIs.
- 10. FALSE**  
There are far more! About 30% of teenagers said they used alcohol or drugs before their most recent sexual encounter.
- 11. TRUE**  
However, the sooner it is taken after unprotected sex, the more effective it will be. If taken within three days of unprotected sex, it will prevent pregnancy in three cases out of four. Emergency contraception is available from drugstores, CLSCs, youth clinics, school nurses and medical clinics.

## 12. TRUE

**Chlamydia and gonorrhoea are easy to treat, but if not treated they can cause infertility in both boys and girls. The virus that causes condylomas (or genital warts) can also cause cervical cancer. In addition, some STIs are incurable – for example, herpes and the AIDS virus (HIV), which, in the latter case, can kill.**

### References:

- Canadian Association for Adolescent Health (2006) "Sexual Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviours of Canadian Teenagers and Mothers of Teens," Montréal, 2006.
- Boyce, W. et al. *Canadian Youth, Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Study: Factors influencing knowledge, attitudes and behaviours*. Toronto: Council of Ministers of Education, 2003.
- Elliott, Monique. *Le couple à l'adolescence. Enquête auprès de jeunes Montréalais. Rapport synthèse*. Direction de la santé publique, Régie régionale de la Santé et des Services sociaux de Montréal-Centre, 2003.
- Fernet, M., Imbleau, M., Pilote, F. (2002). Sexualité et mesures préventives contre les MTS et la grossesse. Dans *Enquête sociale et de santé auprès des enfants et des adolescents québécois 1999* (chapitre 12, pp. 273-291). Québec : Institut de la statistique du Québec.