

# SURVEY SAYS

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN AND UNPLANNED PREGNANCY

## PADRE AND MADRE POWER

Conventional wisdom suggests that Latino parents are skittish about talking to their children about sex and downright reluctant about discussing birth control. Many have suggested that a double standard is alive and well in Latino families; one that encourages teen girls to avoid sex and pregnancy but one that simply tells teen boys to be careful. Some have even suggested that Latino families are not particularly concerned about teens getting pregnant and starting families.

### CONVENTIONAL WISDOM IS WRONG.

The results of this survey of Latino adults regarding parental influence and teen pregnancy should really come as no surprise. Previous National Campaign surveys have underscored the following: Teens—including Latino teens—consistently say that **parents most influence their decisions** about sex. This is particularly heartening news given the large body of social science research suggesting that teens who are close to their parents and feel supported by them are more likely to delay sex, have fewer sexual partners, and use contraception more consistently.

### IMPORTANT

How important is it for teen girls to  
AVOID GETTING PREGNANT?



**95%**  
IMPORTANT

(90% say very important)

How important is it for teen boys to  
AVOID CAUSING A PREGNANT?



**96%**  
IMPORTANT

(86% say very important)

### HELP PLEASE.

**87%**

of Hispanic adults agree that when it comes to talking about sex, parents often **don't know** what to say, how to say it, or when to start.

### PARENT POWER.

Who **most influences** teens' decisions about sex?

**38% PARENTS**

**29%**  
FRIENDS

**16%**  
THE MEDIA

**5%**  
TEACHERS &  
EDUCATORS

**3%**  
SIBLINGS

**2%**  
RELIGIOUS  
LEADERS

**TALK  
EARLY,**

**TALK  
OFTEN**

Fully **89%** of Hispanic adults agree that it would be much easier for teens to postpone sex and avoid pregnancy if they were able to have more open, honest conversations with their parents.

### HERE TO HELP.

IF YOUR TEEN WERE HAVING SEX WOULD YOU:

**65%**

Hope they talk to you so you can help ensure they are using birth control

**23%**

Hope they talk to you so that you can try to convince them to stop having sex

**4%**

Be angry and express disappointment

**4%**

Rather not know about it