

sextalk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

factoid 80% of UA students don't use tobacco. Myth: Students think only 57% don't use tobacco. (Health & Wellness Survey, 2007, n= 2,162)

Q. What do you think about waiting on sex until marriage?

A. For many people postponing sex until the honeymoon is a great idea that supports their personal, family, religious, or cultural values. There are plenty of UA students who are virgins: some who have passed up lots of opportunities and others who haven't yet had the chance to say, "I'm not ready for sex."

Are there many virgins on campus? Yes. According to our 2007 Health & Wellness Survey, 46% of UA freshman have never had vaginal intercourse and 90% have never had anal intercourse. The numbers among seniors are 30% and 80%, respectively. It's clear that not everyone is "doing it" and quite a few are waiting, even past graduation.

Some of the reasons that students tell us they want to wait are: 1) they are not ready for the emotional involvement that usually accompanies a more intimate sexual relationship; 2) they are concerned about health risks (pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections); 3) they want the first time to be with someone "special"; 4) they want to be in love; or 5) they feel their virginity is important enough to save for their spouse.

No matter where you stand personally on the sex/virginity issue, it's important to support (not influence or pressure) another person's decision about sexual activity. Everyone should be free to do what they feel is right in their own heart, without fear of being ridiculed or put down. Students who are waiting until marriage generally garner more – not less – respect from their friends who learn about their personal sexual convictions.

There is more to life than sex, in spite of the fact that what we see portrayed on TV, in music lyrics, magazines, and on the internet gives the impression that everyone is doing it. Sex can be an absolutely wonderful thing, especially when the people involved are ready and it feels "right".

Have a question? Send it to sextalk@email.arizona.edu

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