

Talking Sex: High-Fives For Virgins

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The kids discuss sex with a degree of frankness and sophistication that would do Dr. Ruth proud.

Out of a group of seven seniors, it is established that three are virgins. They high-five each other, and everyone else agrees that they respect virginity as a choice.

One kid hasn't had sex in two years. One has just had her first orgasm. They tell stories of parents walking in on them in bed, of trying to hide in refrigerators. Boys ask what female orgasms are like, how long they last, how hard they are to achieve. Girls answer, in detail.

Neither condoms nor AIDS is mentioned. "We don't feel like we need to talk about it," one girl tells me later. "It's just innate. Everyone knows it."

They speak scornfully about drugs and sorrowfully of a classmate they've known since eighth grade who has become an aggressive drug pusher of marijuana, LSD and ecstasy - the high school drugs of choice.

"It makes me so mad to see him like that," one girl says. "I'm all like, God, what happened to him?"