Percentage of students (15-17) who had engaged in intercourse dropped from 54.1% in 1991 to 48.4% in 1997. Most of this drop is attributed to more boys remaining virgins longer.

“Boys’ sexual behavior is becoming more like girls’ behavior…. Our best sociological informed guess is that the cultural norms for girls’ sexuality have dramatically changed. Girls are now presumed sexually active inside, but not outside, romantic relationships. Boys are therefore now much more likely to begin their sexual lives with a girlfriend” rather than during “a furtive encounter with a girl outside their social circle.” This is due to “girls’ increased influence in intimate relationships.”

The sexual revolution has changed the meaning of sex. “Teenaged sexuality challenges both the public and the research community because teen sex is obviously not about reproduction or long-term mating behavior in kin groups—or even about love. Teen sex makes adults admit that sex may be purely about play and pleasure.”

Risman and Schwartz challenge the assumption that teen sexuality should be viewed as problematic.