

By the numbers

... according to the largest survey on American sexual behavior conducted in decades ... researchers at Indiana University found that only about a third of girls between 14 and 17 reported masturbating regularly and fewer than half have even tried once. When I asked about the subject, girls would tell me, "I have a boyfriend to do that," though, in addition to placing their pleasure in someone else's hands, few had ever climaxed with a partner.

**Peggy Orenstein,
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