

Late bloomer? Genes can predict when you lost your virginity, new study finds

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As many a pining high schooler could attest, the age at which people lose their virginity is determined by a host of factors, not least of all finding a sexual partner. But researchers say genes matter, too.

Now, scientists have homed in on [regions of the genome](#) that appear to play a role in influencing when people first have intercourse, as well as when they go through puberty and have their first child.

Societal and family factors still outweigh genetic factors, researchers say, so teenagers who are genetically predisposed to have sex earlier won't if their parents don't let them out of the house or if they are committed to abstinence. In contrast, adolescents who are biologically inclined to wait could have sex earlier in the face of peer pressure.

But John Perry, a University of Cambridge geneticist and a senior author on a [paper published](#) in Nature Genetics, said DNA plays more of a role than people assume. If some people have sex at 15 years old and others wait until 20, genetics account for 25 percent of that difference, Perry said.

The results of the study, known as a [genome-wide association study](#), are correlational, meaning these particular genetic differences might not necessarily be causing someone to have sex earlier or later than others. The analysis also might not have picked up on every genetic variant involved in reproductive timing.

Read full, original post: [How you look in those jeans – and your genes – can influence when you lose your virginity](#)