

Genes may play key role in timing of your first child, number of children you have

[W]hether you're 16 or 40 when you decide to have sex for the first time, you may think the choice comes down to your partner, the people around you and the environment you are exposed to. That's part of it — but scientists are increasingly realizing that your genes also have something to do with it.

Your genetic coding helps define the timing of that milestone moment, as well as when you first have children — and how many you have — as well as your actual functioning during sex.

"It's clear genes are an important factor," said [John Perry](#), a geneticist at the MRC Epidemiology Unit at the University of Cambridge. "People think it's all choice-driven."

"There are core biological pathways underpinning what we believe is mostly societal and cultural," he said.

Perry's team [recently conducted a study](#) in which they analyzed the genes of more than 125,000 people whose personal data are stored in the [UK Biobank](#)...

"We showed that 25% of variability was down to genetics," Perry said. "So genes do play a significant role in your reproductive behavior."

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Do your genes decide when you lose your virginity?](#)