

No first kiss for record number of Japan teens

7th November 2024



A new study suggests that the number of Japanese teenagers who have experienced a first kiss is at a record low. A national survey was conducted by the Japan Association for Sex Education. High schoolers answered

questions on their sexual experiences and behaviour. The researchers found that just one in five high school boys has experienced kissing. This is the lowest figure since records began in 1974. The number of girls who have kissed is also on the decline. Just a quarter of Japan's female high school students have done so. The numbers for both sexes have been on the decline since their peak in 2005. Researchers analyzed data from 12,562 questionnaires.

The researchers said there were several reasons why fewer and fewer Japanese teens are kissing. A big reason is the coronavirus pandemic. A researcher suggested that: "The limited contact with others during the coronavirus outbreak may have lowered the rate of sexual activity among junior and senior high school students." Researcher Professor Yusuke Hayashi said there was a "combination of school closures and restrictions on face-to-face contact" during the pandemic. Professor Hayashi said another reason could be smartphones. More young people are choosing to interact with their phones rather than with each other. This trend could worsen Japan's already low birth rate.

Sources: mainichi.jp / theguardian.com / independent.co.uk

Writing

Our first kiss is something we should think seriously about before doing. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

teenagers / first kiss / survey / high school boys / high school girls / decline / peak / researcher / coronavirus / pandemic / school closure / smartphone / trend / birth rate

True / False

- 1) The survey said Japan's teenagers kiss less than anyone in the world. T / F
- 2) Japan first started recording high schoolers' first kisses in 1954. T / F
- 3) A third of Japan's female high schoolers have never had a first kiss. T / F
- 4) Researchers looked at over 12,000 questionnaires in their study. T / F
- 5) The article says there are seven reasons for boys not kissing. T / F
- 6) A researcher said there is less kissing because of coronavirus. T / F
- 7) A researcher said there was less kissing because of smartphones. T / F
- 8) The article says kissing could worsen Japan's low birth rate. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. conducted | a. decrease |
| 2. figure | b. meet |
| 3. decline | c. poll |
| 4. peak | d. cause |
| 5. questionnaire | e. throughout |
| 6. reason | f. high point |
| 7. combination | g. movement |
| 8. during | h. done |
| 9. interact | i. mix |
| 10. trend | j. number |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How important and special is a first kiss?
- c) How did coronavirus affect kissing?
- d) Should kissing be banned in public?
- e) How are smartphones changing human interaction?
- f) What do you think of songs about kissing?
- g) How can countries improve birth rates?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Phrase Match

1. A national survey
 2. This is the lowest figure since
 3. Just a quarter of Japan's
 4. been on the decline since
 5. Researchers analyzed data from
 6. The researchers said there were several
 7. The limited contact with others during
 8. face-to-face contact"
 9. interact with their phones rather
 10. This trend could worsen Japan's already
- a. female high school students
 - b. than with each other
 - c. their peak in 2005
 - d. the coronavirus outbreak
 - e. was conducted
 - f. low birth rate
 - g. during the pandemic
 - h. 12,562 questionnaires
 - i. reasons why
 - j. records began in 1974

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of teenagers?
- b) At what age should a person's first kiss be?
- c) Why do people kiss?
- d) What are the good and bad things about kissing?
- e) Should schools educate children about kissing?
- f) Is the figure of one in five boys too high or too low?
- g) Should people kiss only the person they marry?
- h) Should kissing at high school be banned?

Spelling

1. A new study sseugstg that
2. A national revsyu
3. experiences and uvhebrioa
4. the lowest gruefi since records began
5. on the eidelnc since their peak in 2005
6. Researchers ayenzld data
7. there were slverea reasons why
8. during the coronavirus ketboura
9. school esocsulr
10. during the dcnimepa
11. choosing to ieanrctt with their phones
12. This trend could snrowe

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. j	3. a	4. f	5. c
6. d	7. i	8. e	9. b	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Kindergarten

You think kindergarten is the best place to be at school. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their schools. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): elementary school, high school or university.

Role B – Elementary School

You think elementary school is the best place to be at school. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their schools. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): kindergarten, high school or university.

Role C – High School

You think high school is the best place to be at school. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their schools. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): elementary school, kindergarten or university.

Role D – University

You think university is the best place to be at school. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their schools. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): elementary school, high school or kindergarten.

Speaking – Schools

Rank these with your partner. Put the best school at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Kindergarten
- Elementary school
- Junior high school
- High school
- University
- Graduate school
- Sunday school
- After hours school

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.