

## “PREGNANCY 101”

### Some Startling Facts about Teen Sexuality & Pregnancy

■ Kids from all walks of life are becoming pregnant, not just inner-city kids. In fact, every year in the United States over 1 million teens become pregnant. That means about 3,000 U.S. teens gave birth today.

In a movement that began in the 60s teens began to gain easy access to contraceptives. Despite this easy availability of contraceptives the teen pregnancy rate continued to rise steadily until the mid-1990s.

The early 1990s saw the first of the nationwide, abstinence-based programs enter our schools. Since 1991, the birthrate for young teen agers has declined an amazing 29% (source CDC).

The number of schools allowing abstinence-based education programs has increased steadily since the early 1990s.

The teen pregnancy rate and the teen abortion rate has declined for the fourth straight year.

Teen pregnancy is one of the leading causes of lifetime poverty. Pregnant teens have a very high dropout rate, usually become welfare recipients. Most go on to be single parents and those that do marry, more often than not, end up divorced.

Over one-third of the 1.6 million abortions performed in the U.S. last year were performed on teens. It is important to remember that abortion does not solve the teen pregnancy - it destroys it!

It is interesting to note that legalizing abortion did nothing to reduce the teen pregnancy rate. Only the recent inclusion of “abstinence only” education in our schools has had the direct effect of reducing both the teen pregnancy rate and the teen abortion rate!

Remember that “self-control” is more important than “birth control” and that “saved sex” is more important than “safe sex.”

Do you know what they call teens who practice “safe sex”? Parents. Most contraceptives have a high failure rate. Condoms, even if used properly, fail between 10 and 18 percent of the time (Warner, et. al. "Assesing condom use practices. Implications for evaluating method and user effectiveness" Sexually Transmitted Diseases. 1998 25:273-277). Other contraceptives, such as the pill, have dangerous side effects besides doing nothing to prevent the spread of STDs.