

Putting Prevention First: Honest Sexuality Education and Teen Pregnancy Prevention



Abstinence-only programs fail Ohio teens

- Last year, 13% of the female students at Timken Senior High School in Canton, Ohio were pregnant— that's 64 young women facing unintended pregnancies. Ohio has the 28th highest teen pregnancy rate in the U.S.
- Teens who sign virginity pledges are one-third less likely to use contraception when they do become sexually active, placing them at a higher risk of sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.
- Comprehensive, honest sexuality education is effective. Multiple peer reviewed studies have found that comprehensive sexuality education programs that teach teens about abstinence, contraception and disease control are effective at delaying onset of intercourse, reducing the frequency of intercourse, reducing the number of sexual partners, and increasing condom and contraceptive use, they do not encourage teens to start having sex earlier or more frequently as described by abstinence only education supporters.

You can find all of this research and more information on this topic at the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the US (SIECUS) website: www.siecus.org

Did you know?

95% of parents of junior high students and 97% of parents of senior high school students believe that birth control and other methods of preventing pregnancy are appropriate topics for sexuality education in schools.

What the Ohio Prevention First Act will do:

- Create a teen pregnancy prevention grant program focused on at-risk communities.
- Allow current teen pregnancy prevention programs to compete for grants only if the program is based on scientific research that encourages teens to delay sexual activity, teaches contraceptive use without increasing sexual activity, or reduces teenage pregnancy.
- Abstinence only teen pregnancy prevention programs are not eligible for grants if it receives federal funds.
- The information given to teenagers about HIV and contraception must be complete and medically accurate.
- Require sex education classes to provide students with medically accurate information about abstinence, contraception and condom use as ways to prevent unintended pregnancies and STDs including HIV/AIDS.



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