

December 2, 2009

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am Tish Rogers, an abstinence educator and motivational speaker in the Akron, Ohio area here to give testimony to oppose House Bill 293. The organization that I currently work for has been in the Akron area for 22 years and serves 80 schools per year which is about 25,000 students a year. My testimony today is that Abstinence education should stay the same which is a medically accurate, character based abstinence program. I believe that abstinence education empowers and educates our young people to make healthy choices based on having the freedom to choose to view themselves as someone worthy to wait until marriage to have sex. Abstinence gives teenagers a chance to reach their goals and dreams without the distractions or obstacles of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Abstinence is not a protection but it is a value that many young people believe in. I have learned that in life it's not the color of your skin, where you live, or your economic status that determines who you will be in the future but it's the choices that we make. If we choose to eliminate abstinence education and allow teenagers to make a choice to have sex by using contraceptives, then what are we teaching our young people? Are we saying that they are not mature enough to exercise self-control? Are we saying that they don't need to save sex for marriage? Are we saying that if they get a broken heart just deal with it but remember to keep using contraceptives when you think about having sex? Birth control and condoms can't cover up a broken heart, they can't provide a high school education to a teenage girl who drops out of school to raise her baby alone, it

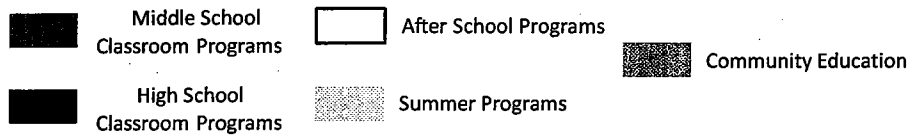
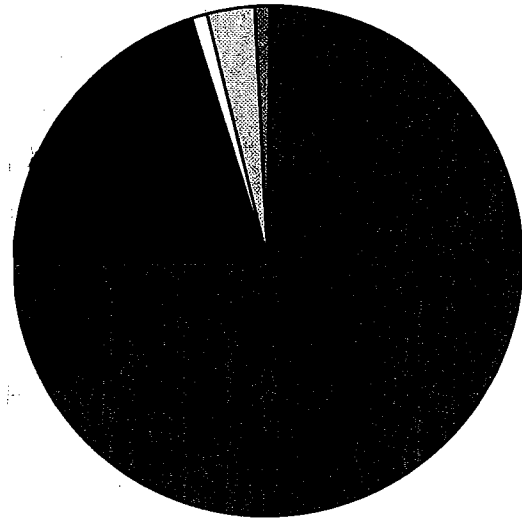
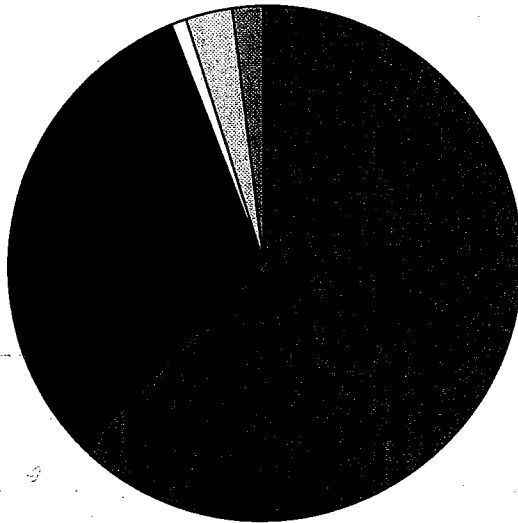
can't fix our nation's spending budget for welfare for the countless girls and families who depend on it as a means of income because they live in poverty. I believe that every child should have a choice to choose who they will become in the future and abstinence gives them that choice, the positive character traits we give and teach our young people helps them to make healthy choices. Contraceptive education gives them a choice to have sex when they are "ready", which could be at any age, it could be as early as the age of 12. Many people would argue that abstinence programs don't work. How can you say that contraceptive education does work when it has been around the longest; has no proof that teen pregnancy has declined based on teens receiving a contraceptive message; many schools only offer contraceptive and some offer both. How can you declare that abstinence is the one that doesn't work? If we really want to give someone the freedom of choice let's ask the teens being considered in this bill one simple question: Does having sex before marriage give teenagers freedom or does it take it away? Please find attached students comments made after an abstinence education class. In conclusion, the 2009 Evaluation Report of the abstinence education curriculum, RSVP, states, and I quote, "The RSVP intervention was effective in creating short-term change in 6th-8th grade students' outcome expectations, commitment to remaining abstinent in the future, and perceived social norms for sexual activity. Furthermore, the program provided additional positive impact among 6th graders in efficacy expectations and behavioral intentions to practice sexual abstinence. The fact that the control group scores did not improve in any way, and in fact regressed over time on most outcome variables, provides evidence that the positive program effects were not caused by external factors.

Thank You for giving me the opportunity to give testimony to keep abstinence until marriage programs in Ohio and to allow our youth to be able to make smart and healthy choices now and in the future.

October 2008 through September 2009
Serving Summit, Stark, Medina and Portage Counties

24,561 People Served

4,075 Classes



PROGRAM	WHAT	WHERE
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS	Responsible Social Values Peers	Youth-serving agencies Akron After School
SUMMER PROGRAMS	Positive Youth Development	Youth-serving agencies
COMMUNITY EDUCATION	Open houses RSVP parent meetings Community events Imagine Me parent/guardian student workshop	Public and private schools Churches Youth-serving agencies

TISH ROGERS

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER EVALUATION

School Wilmington Middle School Grade 8th Date 1-9-09

Gender: Please circle one: Female Male

How do you rate the speaker? High 5 4 3 2 1- Low

I think you did a
GREAT JOB!

What other topics would you like to be covered?

None it was mostly
all covered

How have your opinions changed after participating today?

I will stop having sex
because I would rather wait.
And I don't want a baby at 13.

Comments:

I think your program is a
great thing, and you open the
eyes of many teens.

Stay Encouraged, Abstinence is Freedom!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Abstinence The Better Choice, Inc.

1815 West Market St. Suite 107

Akron, Ohio 44317

(330) 864-1359

Tish Rogers
Motivational Speaker Evaluation

School: Northwes t Grade: 8 Date: 4/21

Gender: (circle one) Female Male

How do you rate the speaker? High 5 # 3 2 1 Low

What other topics would you like to be covered?

Tobacco.

How have your opinions changed after participating today?

All the bad choices I have made in life
I know its not to late and I can shut the
door on them and its not to late.

Comments:

Mrs. Rogers was a really good speaker
she can help influence a lot of kids, because she
really helped me!

Stay Encouraged... Abstinence is Freedom!!!!

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TISH ROGERS

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER EVALUATION

School Roosevelt High School Grade 10 Date 11/24/09

Gender: Please circle one: Female Male

How do you rate the speaker? High 5 4 3 2 1- Low

What other topics would you like to be covered?

I think it was good the way it was.

How have your opinions changed after participating today?

Before, I was thinking about having sex with my boyfriend, but now I realize that that I don't want that anymore. Thank you. ☺

Comments:

I think that you are very strong and I really admire your strength. ☺

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TISH ROGERS

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER EVALUATION

School Kimpton (Stow) Grade 8th Date 1/9/08

Gender: Please circle one: Female Male

How do you rate the speaker? High 5 4 3 2 1- Low
5

What other topics would you like to be covered?
You got them all.

How have your opinions changed after participating today?

This Presentation really made me think about my goals and dreams, and how to achieve them. I know now what consequences can occur after making a wrong decision.
Comments:

This had to be one of the best speeches I ever heard, thank you.

Stay Encouraged, Abstinence is Freedom!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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TISH ROGERS

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER EVALUATION

School Twinsburg Grade 9 Date 9/5/08

Gender: Please circle one: Female Male

How do you rate the speaker? High 5 4 3 2 1- Low

What other topics would you like to be covered? I think she covered all the topics that are important and are needed to discuss.

How have your opinions changed after participating today?

After participating today, I want to be abstinent till marriage. My goals and dreams in my life are very important and I shouldn't let sex stand in the way of them.

Comments:

you seriously changed my outlook on premarital sex. you were a great motivational speaker and the way you rose out of your situation was amazing. I really respect you.

Stay Encouraged, Abstinence is Freedom!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Executive Summary

An Evaluation of The Responsible Social Values Program 2008-2009 School Year

Purpose

The purpose of this evaluation study was to assess the impact of The Responsible Social Values Program (RSVP) as implemented during the 2008-2009 school year by The Alliance for Healthy Youth, Inc. of Akron, Ohio. The evaluation was conducted by Drs. Timothy R. Jordan and Joseph A. Dake and their evaluation team from the University of Toledo, Health Education Division.

Methods

A quasi-experimental, pretest/post-test design was employed to evaluate the effects of the RSVP program. A purposive sample of 6th-8th grade students who received the RSVP intervention (N = 1,226) and a non-equivalent control group (N=328) were assessed using a written survey instrument consisting of 47 items. The survey consisted of 8 subscales based on the Theory of Planned Behavior and the Theory of Self Efficacy. Evaluators measured eight outcome variables: 1) commitment to sexual abstinence in the future, 2) efficacy expectations regarding sexual abstinence, 3) perceived self efficacy of resistance skills, 4) outcome expectations regarding sexual abstinence, 5) behavioral intentions to pursue education, 6) behavioral intentions to practice sexual abstinence, 7) perceptions of social norm for sexual involvement, and 8) attitudes toward sexual involvement.

Results

A total of 1,293 students from 4 public schools in the Akron Ohio area received an average of 5 sessions of the RSVP curriculum during the 2008-2009 school year. A total of 1,226 matched pretest and post-test surveys were analyzed (95% match rate)

Pre to Post Change Scores

Change in pretest to posttest mean scores on eight subscales were measured for both the intervention and control groups to determine program impact. In terms of program impact, RSVP had the greatest impact on 6th grade students. Sixth graders had statistically significant positive change in the desired direction on 5 of 8 outcome variables: outcome expectations; efficacy expectations; behavioral intentions for abstinence; commitment to abstinence in the future; and perceived social norms for having sex. In comparison, 7th and 8th grade students in the RSVP intervention group had statistically significant change in the desired direction for 3 of the 8 outcome variables: outcome expectations; commitment to abstinence in the future; and perceived social norms. In contrast, the control group did *not* show positive change on any of the eight outcome variables. In fact, the control group showed statistically *negative* shifts in scores on 4 of 8 outcome variables: outcome expectations; perceived self-efficacy for resistance skills; behavioral intentions for abstinence; and attitudes toward sexual involvement,

Conclusion

The results of the current study provide strong evidence that the RSVP intervention was effective in creating short-term change in 6th-8th grade students' outcome expectations, commitment to remaining abstinent in the future, and perceived social norms for sexual activity. Furthermore, the program provided additional positive impact among 6th graders in efficacy expectations and behavioral intentions to practice sexual abstinence. The fact that the control group scores did not improve in any way, and in fact regressed over time on most outcome variables, provides evidence that the positive program effects were not caused by external factors.