

Teen Pregnancy

900,000 teens aged 15-19 get pregnant every year in the United States and 2.6 million teens become sexually active. Due to the Abstinence-Only program the rate of sexually active 15 year olds dropped from 46.6% to 31.6%. The number is decreasing year by year making the Abstinence-Only program effective for teens across the nation. Therefore abstinence is the only way to prevent teen pregnancy.

The Abstinence-Only program is an effective way to teach teens not to be sexually active until marriage. Teaching the benefits of abstaining to teens helps the teens develop characteristic traits that prepare teens for their future (Dworkin). The Abstinence-Only program helped 67% of teens that stated they haven't been sexually active ever since were in the Abstinence-Only program (Arias). 80% of parents want schools to teach youth to abstain from sexual activity until committed to an adult relationship near marriage (Block). This is why the Abstinence-Only is an great program for all schools across the nation to have.

There are many consequences for teen pregnancy. STD's are the biggest concern for teens that are sexually active. The only way to be 100% certain that kids avoid pregnancy and STD's is to stay abstinent (Zehr). Teens don't know that there is more than just getting pregnant and getting STD's. Teens who engage in sexual activity risk negative outcomes, including STD infection, emotional and psychological harm, and lower education attainment (Dworkin). Abstinence-Only programs teach that abstinence is the only certain ways to avoid pregnancy, STD'S, and other health problems (Malone, Patrick and Monica Rodriguez). Many teens think this could never happen to them but it can happen to almost anyone.

Most teen's lives change drastically after having a baby. Most teens have dreams and goals they want to achieve (Arias). For example graduating high school and going to college, but raising a child at the same time can be difficult to do. Younger mothers often lack the maturity, patience, and education a child needs (Zehr). To raise a child you need to have money to buy clothes, food, and diapers and money just doesn't appear in thin air. You need to work for the money and to earn money a job is a necessity. But getting a job won't be easy if you haven't finished high school and you can't always rely on your parents to pay for everything. You have to start getting responsible and start earning the money on your own and sometimes that can be frustrating for people.

Abstinence is the only way to prevent teen pregnancy. And abstinence is a good thing. If you're abstinent you don't have to worry about getting infections or have emotional problems. You won't have to be thinking about getting a job early and earning money for your child so you can have a meal that night. Being abstinent is a good idea; I suggest every teen should be abstinent just so they can be regular teens instead of teen moms and dads.