



## Teaching Kids How to Say "NO" V. Providing a Societal Imprimatur on Having Sex

*Abstinence Messages versus  
the Comprehensive Sex "safety net" that isn't safe*

A recent "As I See It" editorial to the *Kansas City Star* (December 21, 2007) by Pamela Crandall, a student working on her Master's Degree in social work at Kansas University shows the bias and misinformation about abstinence programs prevalent in academia as well as in the media. Pamela is only repeating what she has been taught in a liberal university that relies on the Sexuality Information and Educational Council of the U.S. (SIECUS); an organization spawned by the criminal and flawed research on human sexuality by the late Dr. Alfred Kinsey. Dr. Kinsey taught that ALL sexuality, including sex with children was normal and to be encouraged.

The editorial had several common misconceptions and distortions in her stated purpose . . . "support programs that provide . . . teens with the information they need to make responsible decisions regarding their sexuality."

**" . . . more than 85 percent of the decline in the teenage pregnancy rates was due to increased use of birth control among teens."**

This is an interesting statement that is not backed by fact. The facts are that a recent *National Center of Health Statistics* conducted a study entitled, *Teenagers in the United States: Sexual Activity, Contraceptive Use and Childbearing, 2002* which found that teens are delaying sex until they are older. In 2002, 13 percent of never-married teen females had engaged in sexual intercourse before the age of 15, significantly lower than a 19 percent rate in 1995. In 2005 a survey of nearly 14,000 high school students found that a little under half (46.8 percent) were not sexually active. Clearly the younger teens *are* delaying sexual activity while those older teens, in spite of the availability and accessibility of condoms and birth control, are not. The delay in sexual activity could account for the drop in teen pregnancy rates the past few years. However, the most recent statistics show the teen pregnancy rate went up three percent with most of the increase **being among 18 and 19-year-olds**. The pregnancy rate among girls age 10 to 17 continued to decline as it has every year since 1991. In fact, according to Dr. Janice Crouse, Senior Fellow for the Beverly LaHaye Institute, official government statistics show reversals in trend lines that were resistant to change prior to the availability of abstinence-only programs. Abstinence education has

only been around for a few years, yet the condom crowd who profit from condom sales and birth control pill sales continue to market the success of their product. It is not in their best interests to have teens be abstinent and not buy condoms.

In a study conducted by the Virginia Department of Health's Abstinence Education Initiative, over half of the students receiving abstinence education refrained from sexual behaviors. This study can be found at: <http://www.ajhb.org/2008/32-1.htm>

**" . . . more than a billion dollars has been spent on abstinence-only education. Not one dollar has been committed to comprehensive sex education at the federal level."**

This statement is completely erroneous, and if our student had done her homework, she would have found that:

- According to a Heritage Foundation study, for every \$4.50 the federal government spends promoting teen contraceptive use; it only spends \$1.00 promoting abstinence.
- According to Dr. Crouse, for every \$12 spent on condom-based programs, only \$1 is spent on funding abstinence programs.
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When one factors in the profit motive of those supporting condom sales (the largest is Planned Parenthood), it is no wonder that they are vehemently attacking programs that teach kids how to say no to sex. They certainly do not want to lose the federal largesse that adds to their bottom line.

**"If we care about the youth of this country, it is time for us to speak up and demand that money now being wasted on sex education programs that do not work be focused instead on comprehensive, medically accurate, sex education."**

We are sure that Pamela Crandall does care about the youth of our nation; however, when one examines the proliferation of sexually-transmitted and some lifelong diseases spread by promiscuous behavior among our teens and the emotional, physical toil that premature sex activity wreaks on its young subjects, it is hard not to be critical of such misinformation and pandering to the condom crowd which is in control of most institutions in this country . . . particularly in education.

**More in Part Two**