

STARS The FORUM

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601-988-1330

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Sexual Integrity Programs Help Reduce Teen Pregnancy, According to Two New Studies*

WASHINGTON, APRIL 22, 2008 – While there is much debate over the efficacy of abstinence-until-marriage programs, the evidence in favor of these programs continues to mount.

While these findings show valuable evidence that abstinence-until-marriage programs work, the best evidence is found in hearing the success stories from the kids living the life of sexual integrity everyday,” says Leslee Unruh, President and Founder of the National Abstinence Clearinghouse, the world’s largest abstinence organization. “Abstinence-until-marriage allows youth the freedom to pursue their dreams and goals without the fear of an unplanned pregnancy, the danger of a sexually transmitted disease or the pain of a broken heart; and it allows them time to find true intimacy, not false intimacy,” she said.

Today, researchers at the National Press Club presented two new studies that highlight encouraging findings on abstinence education. The first study, conducted by Dr. Stan Weed of the Institute of Research and Evaluation, assessed the effectiveness of abstinence education in reducing the sexual activity of students in Virginia middle schools. According to Dr. Stan Weed, the evaluation shows that abstinence education programs cut the rate of sexual activity among students roughly in half. The second paper, by Christine Kim and Robert Rector of The Heritage Foundation, presented a comprehensive review of 21 prior studies of the effectiveness of abstinence and virginity pledge programs.

Dr. Freda Bush delivers a powerful point during the Parents Workshop held on May 24, 2008 at Rosemont M.B. Church. Participating parents were delighted to receive interactive sessions provided by Dr. Bush and Mrs. Tommy Morris.

These two dynamic women have conducted seminars on abstinence and other relevant topics across the country. Together, they possess decades of experience, knowledge and proven techniques that assist parents as their children and youth learn how to make wholesome life decisions.

According to Christine Kim, 16 out of 21 studies of abstinence education found youth who received abstinence education had lower rates of sexual activity when compared to youth who did not receive abstinence training.

Most parents are shocked to learn that opponents of abstinence education who promote condoms and contraceptives to youth out-fund abstinence-until-marriage programs by a rate of nearly \$12 to \$1. Yet, contraceptive programs continue to be funded with little oversight or peer reviewed evaluations to demonstrate their effectiveness. “I challenge contraceptive programs to conduct the same rigorous studies of their programs as abstinence programs do” said Leslee Unruh.

Further, she said, “Abstinence programs set a clear standard for youth while contraceptive programs ridicule abstinent teens and lower the bar for all teens. It’s like an anti-drug campaign going into the school and saying, ‘Well, doing drugs is bad, but here’s a clean needle, a little bit to get you started, and here’s where you can go when you run out of drugs, and your parents will never need to know.’ Kids don’t respond positively to a mixed message!”





STARS's staff from left, Mary Elbert, Andrea Hall, LaTonya Ervin, and Tracy Thomas in front of the State Capitol, in Jackson, MS. They were in attending the Mississippi State Department of Human Service's annual abstinence rally.

STARS STAFF: Mary Elbert, Andrea Hall, Clinton Hall, LaTonya Reed, Tracy Thomas, LeMond Roy, Floyd Wiley
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Larry McAdoo

Visit our website at www.wearestarz.com.

* Kimberly Martinez, The Abstinence Clearinghouse, April 22, 2008

'STARS Youth Rally'

On Saturday June 14, 2008, on the campus of Jackson State University in the Walter Payton Recreation and Wellness Center, middle school and high school students were treated to an afternoon of music, drama, and positive messages.

The STARS "Stop the Hatin' on the Waitin'" Youth Rally promoted positive youth values, such as being a responsible teen, how to respond to negative peer pressure, and how to avoid all risky behaviors, including the value of remaining abstinent from all sexual activity until marriage. Parents and teens, alike, enjoyed the performances and presentations from local "acts", students competing in the talent contest for prize money. A local dance ensemble, THRILL-A-GY, thrilled the Rally goers with their cool moves. Headlining the afternoon was Risque Business, a contemporary improv drama team performing skits which emphasize the consequences when teens make wholesome life choices or when they give in to peer pressure. The high energy skits had an "MTV" flavor.

Keeping "order" for the afternoon, as well as keeping the program moving was "Officer Do Right", aka Vince Gordon, who served as the MC.



Officer Do Right, aka Vince Gordon, with STARS Rally first place talent competition winners, twins Matisse and Mattie Guidioz.

STUDENTS TAKING A RADICAL STAND (STARS)
931 HIGHWAY 80 WEST
SUITE 2 C-3
JACKSON, MS 39204

Students Taking A Radical Stand



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Ministries International, Inc.