

## Teens and Sex: The Facts

### Sex and Media

- The average young viewer is exposed to more than 14,000 sexual references on television each year, but only 165 of these references mention birth control, abstinence, or the risk of pregnancy or STDs.
- Adolescents ranked the media second only to school sex education programs as their leading source of information about sex.

### Disease, Pregnancy & Violence

- Every day, 8,000 teenagers in the United States become infected by a sexually transmitted disease—that's 3 million cases. 1/4 of sexually active adolescents become infected with an STD.
- In 2000: 240,000 children were born to girls aged 18 or younger. Nearly all these teenage mothers were unmarried. These mothers and their children have an extremely high probability of long-term poverty and welfare dependence.
- 80 per 100,000 women are sexually assaulted each year—the peak incidence for these assaults are among 16-19 year-old girls.

### Teen Sex & Emotions

- When compared to teens who are not sexually active, teenage boys and girls who are sexually active are significantly less likely to be happy and more likely to feel depressed "a lot of the time" or "most of the time."
- When compared to teens who are not sexually active, teenage boys and girls who are sexually active are nearly 10 times more likely to attempt suicide.

This information comes from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP.org)  
The Heritage Foundation (Heritage.org)  
And the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health