

what Youth Can Do To Help

Prevent Teen Pregnancy

HELP CARRY THE MESSAGE THAT IT'S BETTER FOR EVERYONE WHEN HAVING A CHILD IS POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE TEEN YEARS.

The girl and guy can finish school, finish growing up, and have fun during their teen years. The baby will benefit the most since they will be healthier and are better off throughout their childhood. This should be done in a way that does not put down those teens who have already become parents – they might even be willing to help you in your efforts. Since none of us make the best choices all of the time, we all have to move on and learn to make better decisions in the future.

CREATE A MESSAGE THAT YOUR GROUP CAN PROMOTE.

For example: *Become an Adult Before You Become a Parent, Babies Need Adults for Parents, Enjoy Your Teen Years – Having a Baby Can Wait.* After you come up with two or three messages, interview a variety of teens in your community to get their views about which is best (include some teen parents). Brainstorm ways to publicize the message in your community.

ADVOCATE FOR COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN YOUR SCHOOLS.

Comprehensive sexuality education promotes abstinence for teens, but also gives accurate information about birth control. There is an overwhelming amount of research proving that comprehensive sexuality education does not result in more teens having sex. Brainstorm ways to encourage your school to improve their sexuality education program. But before you start, you may need to do some research to find out what actually is (or is not) happening by interviewing teachers. Find out what grades have sexuality education, what it includes and how long the program is (2 days or 4 weeks?). Decide what you can do to improve sexuality education in your schools.

ADVOCATE FOR COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN CHURCHES AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.

Interview local church leaders to find out if churches provide sexuality education. Brainstorm ways that you can encourage and assist them. What about your local youth programs like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, youth centers, 4H? Churches and youth organizations are good places to have programs that help parents and youth talk about sexuality and teen pregnancy.

ADVOCATE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES THAT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WOULD REALLY LIKE.

Kids who are busy having fun and learning new things are less likely to get involved in a teen pregnancy. Who can you influence to get more activities happening in your community? Does your community need more after school activities like dances, sports, arts and theater?