

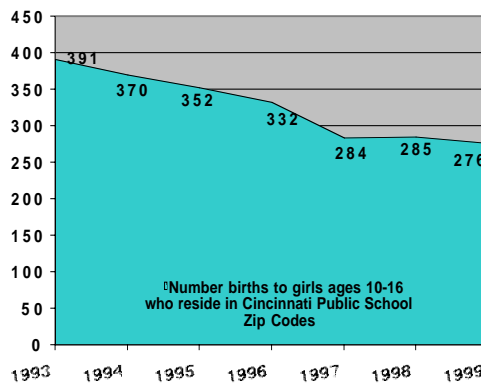
Postponing Sexual Involvement

Division of Adolescent Medicine 
Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

Washington, DC— NIH Publishes PSI Results

In 1996, Cincinnati PSI staff and teens trained the staff and teen leaders of a Washington, DC PSI initiative sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, Office of Research on Minority Health. In a forthcoming publication in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, the initiative will report the results of the program. The article, "Postponing Sexual Intercourse Among Urban Junior High School Students - -A Randomized Controlled Evaluation," reports that "At the end of the eighth grade, significantly more intervention -- than control-group females reported virginity....". The article is authored by Sigrid J. Aarons, MPH, and Renee R. Jenkins, M.D., of Howard University College of Medicine and others. The article highlights gender differences in sexual activity and the possible need for separate gender-specific intervention programs.

Cincinnati Teen Births Dropping Faster Than National Trend



The number of births to young teens in Cincinnati has declined by 29% since 1993. Nationally, the rate of births to teens ages 15 to 17 has declined by 21% since 1993*. PSI has reached 4000 sixth, seventh and eighth graders in Cincinnati annually since 1993 and 36,000 since 1990. Each class hosts an average of four PSI sessions. Although PSI cannot claim that it has caused this decline, it would be reasonable to believe that PSI and its thousands of local supporters are a contributing factor.

*Guyer B, et. al. Annual Summary of Vital Statistics 1998, *Pediatrics*, 104(6), December, 1999

PSI Testimony at Ohio General Assembly

Dr. J.L. Rauh, co-founder of Cincinnati PSI and Fletcher Beaman, PSI Teen Leader, Hughes '00, presented testimony to the Ohio General Assembly in January 2000 on the importance of peer sex education and objective measures of program effectiveness. Beaman stated: "Through sex education classes many students have the opportunity to speak their mind on the popular subject called sex. I know when I was in the seventh and eighth grade, I was afraid to bring the topic up around my mom. I thought it was being disrespectful towards her or giving her clues that I was curious about sex. Why shelter a child and let them become curious when you can answer all of their questions and fantasies before they become a reality? One thing that adults fail to adhere to is **there are no good or bad children, but only encouraged and discouraged children, whose behavior is more or less useful or useless.**"

The General Assembly tabled the issue and froze the U.S. Center for Disease Control funding for sex education.

PSI PAYOFFSM from Norwood to North Dakota

Since March 1999, PSI PayoffSM has trained PSI Teen Leaders in:

- **Norwood, Ohio**
- **Williston, North Dakota**
- **Milford, Ohio**
- **Harlem, New York**
- **Ft. Smith, Arkansas**

PSI PAYOFFSM sends Cincinnati adults and teens around the country to help establish new PSI programs in other school districts. Many of the weekend workshops have become valuable cultural exchanges between urban trainers and the suburban and rural trainees.

Advisory Committee

- Shelia Becker, Chair
- Thomas Gougeon
- Gail Slap, MD 
- Dick Meyer
- J.L. Rauh, MD
- Reginald Tsang, MD
- Susan Hiles-Meadows

Contributors

- United Way & Community Chest
- The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati
- Hamilton County Family & Children First
- March of Dimes, Southwestern Ohio Chapter
- Public Allies of Cincinnati
- Hamilton County Department of Human Services

In Their Own Words...

“I feel if I can wait to have sex then so can everyone else. My main purpose is to educate students as well as to learn things from them.”

--Walnut Hills Teen Leader

“I’ve seen it happen to many of my close friends. Maybe I can talk them into really thinking about holding off and maybe even tell their friends about holding off.”

--Aiken Teen Leader

“The only reason so many teens are sexually involved is because of curiosity. Sex is not something to be taken lightly. One way to slow them down is to sit them down like my mother did to me and talk about sex and why it is important to wait.”

--Western Hills Teen Leader

In 2000, 100% of CPS host teachers support PSI. Here’s what some of them said in our recent teacher survey:

“Seventh and eighth grade children hear a lot about sex, and are feeling strong attractions but in reality know so little. This program is huge for them.”

“Teen leaders were prepared, confident and developed a good rapport with the class.”

Ninety-nine percent of parents support PSI in 2000. Here are some of the responses from our recent parent survey:

“It helps a lot - shows both positive and negative sides. Excellent program to have teens teaching and show there are more negative sides to getting pregnant as a teen.”






“This program opened communication between myself and my granddaughter.”

Ninety-two percent of students support PSI. Here are some of the responses from the participants in 2000:

“What I liked about PSI is that it had a lot of detailed thought about sex.”

“They showed us the risks of having sex. They made PSI fun, but we also learned. They listened to you; they talk about the real things that goes on around us kids. They know how to have respect for one another and they seem like they care about us.”

Support Staff

-  • Christopher Kraus, JD, MTS, Coordinator
-  • Anthony Davis, MEd, MCP
PSI PAYOFFSM
-  • Allison White, Adult Leader
-  • Clifford Fennell, Jr. Public Ally
-  • Angie Allendorf, Secretary

Check It Out

For a list of Ways to Show Affection Without Having Sex, developed by PSI teen leaders, call the PSI office.

Want to know what teens want other teens to know about preventing teen pregnancy? Check out:

www.teenpregnancy.org

-- it's a great web site!



Want to be a member of the PSI Advisory Committee? Contact the PSI office at: 513-872-8948.