

### Realities of Adolescent Sexual Health

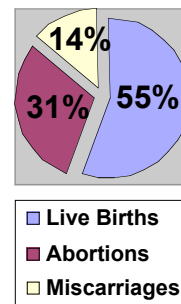
- ❖ Nationwide, **46.7%** of students grades 9-12 have had sexual intercourse. Of these, **63%** reported using a condom the last time they had sex.<sup>i</sup> In Chicago, **55.1%** of teens have had intercourse and **66.6%** reported using a condom.<sup>ii</sup>
- ❖ Nearly **one in four** sexually active young people contract a sexually transmitted disease (STD) every year, and **one-half** of all new HIV infections in this country occur among people under the age of 25.<sup>iii</sup>
- ❖ While a third of adolescents (including three fourths of sexually active adolescents) say they have engaged in oral sex, **one in five** does not know that STI transmission can occur through oral sex and **two in five** considers oral sex to be “safer sex.” About a quarter of sexually active adolescents also report engaging in oral sex as a strategy to avoid sexual intercourse.<sup>iv</sup>
- ❖ **6.3%** of Chicago students identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.<sup>ii</sup>
- ❖ In a recent survey, **33%** of gay, lesbian, and bisexual high school students reported attempting suicide in the previous year, compared to **8%** of their heterosexual peers.<sup>v</sup>
- ❖ Nationwide, **27.8%** of students drank alcohol for the first time before age 13. **9.9%** tried marijuana for the first time before they were 13.<sup>i</sup>
- ❖ Among Chicago 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students, **20.7%** report using alcohol or other drugs during their most recent sexual encounter.<sup>ii</sup>

### Teen Pregnancy

- ❖ Nationwide, the teen pregnancy rates and teen birthrates **decreased** by 2% between 1999 and 2000, however the teen pregnancy rate (per 1,000) among 15-19 year

olds in Illinois is 87 compared to the national teen pregnancy rate of 84.<sup>vi</sup>

**Teen Pregnancy Outcomes in Illinois, 2004 (Out of 37,480 teen pregnancies)**



- ❖ The national teen abortion rate has **declined** from 34 per 1,000 in 1994 to 25 in 2000, the biggest decline being among 15-17 year olds.<sup>vii</sup>
- ❖ One survey found that **26%** of pregnant and parenting teens in Illinois live in unstable or unsafe conditions, which puts these youth at serious risk of homelessness. In urban areas, this number is as high as **54%**.<sup>viii</sup>
- ❖ Only **64%** of teen mothers complete high school or receive their GED.<sup>ix</sup>

### Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

- ❖ Among youth, minorities are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. Nationwide, young African Americans represented **65%** of AIDS cases reported among 13-19 year olds in 2002; Latino teens represented **20%**.<sup>x</sup> As of December 2001, African Americans accounted for **58%** of reported AIDS cases in Illinois adolescents ages 13 to 19.<sup>xi</sup>
- ❖ Other STIs are also taking their toll on youth, especially females. One study found that the highest age-specific rates of reported chlamydia in 2003 were among 15- to 19-year-olds

(2,687.3 per 100,000 females) and 20- to 24-year-olds (2,564.4 per 100,000 females). Untreated chlamydia can lead to Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) in women that can cause infertility.<sup>xii</sup>

### Poverty

- ❖ The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) estimates that over the course of a year, approximately **26,000** youth in Illinois experience homelessness. A CCH survey found that **42%** of youth seeking shelter from state-funded Homeless Youth programs were turned away in 2000 due to lack of resources.<sup>xiii</sup>

### Talking with teens: Adult Sources of Sexual Health Information

- ❖ Only **one in four** teens has ever discussed their sexual history with a health care professional.<sup>xiv</sup> **60%** of sexually active teens 15-17 years old have ever visited a health care professional for sexual health information or care.<sup>iii</sup>
- ❖ Sex education in school is an important source of sexual health information for young people – **68 percent** have learned at least “some,” including 45 percent who say they have learned a lot, from sex education.<sup>iv</sup> Only **34%** of Illinois sex education teachers, however, teach students how to correctly use a condom.<sup>xv</sup>
- ❖ **75%** of adolescents say at least “some” of their sex education has come from their parents.<sup>iv</sup>

### References:

- <sup>i</sup> CDC, Youth risk behavior surveillance summary – United States, 2003, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, May 2004, 53(2).
- <sup>ii</sup> 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Chicago High School Survey.
- <sup>iii</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, **Fact Sheet: Teen Sexual Activity**, January 2003.
- <sup>iv</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, National Survey of Adolescents and Young Adults: Sexual Health Knowledge, Attitudes, 2003.
- <sup>v</sup> Advocates for Youth, **Fact Sheet: GLBTQ Youth: At Risk and Underserved**, July 2005. Original citation from: Massachusetts Dept. of Education. *Massachusetts High School Students and Sexual Orientation: Results of the 1999 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*. Boston, MA: The Dept. 1999.
- <sup>vi</sup> The Alan Guttmacher Institute. (2004). *U.S. teenage pregnancy statistics: Overall trends, trends by race and ethnicity and state-by-state information*.
- <sup>vii</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, **Fact Sheet: Teen Sexual Activity**, January 2003. Original statistic cited in Jones RK et al., Patterns in the Socioeconomic Characteristics of Women Obtaining Abortions in 2000-2001, Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Sept/Oct 2002, 34(5).
- <sup>viii</sup> Helene Marcy, Center for Impact Research. No Place to Grow: The Unsafe and Unstable Housing Conditions of Illinois Pregnant and Parenting Youth and their Children, 2003.
- <sup>ix</sup> Illinois Poverty Summit 2004 Report on Teen Poverty, Breaking the Cycle of Poverty for Illinois Teens.
- <sup>x</sup> CDC, HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents, L265 Slide Series (through 2002).
- <sup>xi</sup> Illinois Department of Public Health, **Fact Sheet: African-American Adolescents: Living in a High-Risk Population**.
- <sup>xii</sup> CDC, STD Surveillance 2003.
- <sup>xiii</sup> Youth on the Streets and on Their Own: Youth Homelessness in Illinois Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, September 2001.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation and Seventeen, SexSmarts: Sexual Health Care and Counsel, 2001.
- <sup>xv</sup> Illinois Campaign for Responsible Sex Education, Illinois Health Curriculum Study, March 2005.

### Graph:

Source: The Alan Guttmacher Institute, Contraception Counts Illinois, 2004.