

FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ABSTINENCE EDUCATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

- Since abstinence-only education began in North Carolina (1996 to 2005), the state's teen (ages 15-19) pregnancy rate has dropped from 89.8 to 63.1 per 1,000 – a reduction of 30 percent. During the same period, the abortion rate has declined by 42 percent.
- From 1996 to 2005, the overall number of adolescent (ages 10-19) pregnancies fell from 22,095 to 19,597 while the number of abortions declined from 6,242 to 4,541.
- 11 of 15 studies on abstinence education found that such programs delayed the onset of sexual activity and reduced the incidence of teen pregnancy and STD infection (Kim & Rector, 2008).
- Nationwide, funding for contraception promotion exceeds abstinence funding by 12 to 1 (*Pardue et al., 2004*).
- 17 percent of N.C. middle school students claim to be having sexual intercourse (N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2007).
- The Hispanic teenage pregnancy rate is 173.1 per 1,000 – almost three times the state average and twice as high as black teen pregnancy rates.
- 96 percent of parents believe they should determine how sex-ed is taught in North Carolina's public schools; only 7 percent of parents would leave the decision to state lawmakers (N.C. Parent Opinion Survey, 2003).
- By a margin of two-to-one (60 percent to 30 percent) parents of adolescents aged 10-16 support teaching abstinence over comprehensive sex-ed (Zogby, 2007).
- Richmond County has the highest teen (15-19) pregnancy rate in the state; Tyrrell has the lowest. Both counties teach abstinence-only sex-ed.
- Nevada, which has the highest teen pregnancy rate in the country, accepts federal abstinence funds; New Jersey, which has the nation's highest abortion rate, does not.
- In Great Britain, where universal healthcare gives teens easy access to birth control, researchers have observed an increase in teenage pregnancy and STD rates (Paton, 2006).

For more information see, "Get the Facts ... On Abstinence Education" by Dr. Jameson Taylor