

Parents...

Did You Know?

Each year about one million teens become pregnant.

In 2000, Missouri had 14,950 teen pregnancies.

In 2003, Buchanan County had 189 teen pregnancies.

In 2004, St. Joseph had 163 teen pregnancies.

What Parents Need to Know...?

Who is sexually active?

45.6% of high school students reported having had sexual intercourse.

61% of Seniors

52% of Juniors

41% of Sophomores

34% of Freshmen

What about oral sex?

40% of teenage boys and girls reported having oral sex

25% of those teens stated they had three or more sexual partners

When are teens engaging in intercourse?

56% of young people who had intercourse reported that the last time was on a weekday

18% before 3pm

17% between 3 and 6 pm

21% after 6 pm

What are the risks?

Every year 3 million sexually experienced teens (25%) acquire a sexually transmitted disease via oral sex or sexual intercourse including:

Chlamydia

Gonorrhea

Syphilis

HIV AIDS

In addition to STD's teens are also at risk for Unplanned Pregnancy

What Parents Can Do...

Make sure you know where your teens are, who they are with, and what they are doing – especially between the hours of 3 and 6:30 pm.

Make sure bedroom doors stay open and do not allow teens to be alone in bedroom with others.

Set up and enforce boundaries

Set up a meeting with your teen.

Find a time, a place to talk where you will not be interrupted.

Communicate your expectations for your teen.

Listen to your teen's concerns.

Answer you teen's questions openly and honestly.

Treat your teen with respect. This is an adult subject, treat them as adults.

Keep dialogue open.

Realize you are both uncomfortable.

Keep calm.

Realize and respect that your teen's perspective may be different from yours.

Talk to your teen again...and again... and again!

What Parents Can Do & Say...?

1. Enter their world...be curious about their interests (music, sports, movies, etc.).
2. Get to know their friends... and remember just because someone has blue hair and earring doesn't make them an ax murderer.
3. Be sure to have their attention... don't try to talk to them on the run.
4. Start conversations on a positive note... use a compliment.
5. Match their moves... if they're really down about something or excited get into it with them.
6. Ask questions which promote discussion.
7. Tell stories about your self... share some embarrassing moments relevant to their experience.
8. Make sure your conversations are give and take... you and your teen should talk equally.
9. Remind them that you care about them... even when they make a mistake.
10. Try to spend at least ten minutes a day in active conversation.

Source: www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6870839

A Final Note:

It's never too late to improve a relationship with a child or teenager. Don't underestimate the great need that children feel at all ages for a close relationship with their parents and for their parents' guidance, approval, and support.

Source www.teenpregnancy.org

Now that you know, please go talk to your teens!