

THE  
NATIONAL  
CAMPAIGN TO  
PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY  
TEENPREGNANCY.ORG

# Campaign

# Update

SPRING 2004

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## New Report Details Sexual Trends Among Low-Income Black Urban Youth

For many low-income Black urban youth, sex is seen as little more than a transaction and mainstream messages about sex, love, and relationships are having little impact in the inner city, according to a new report from MEE (Motivational Educational Entertainment) Productions, in partnership with the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. This extraordinarily frank report, *This is My Reality — The Price of Sex: An Inside Look at Black Urban Youth Sexuality*, summarizes findings from 40 focus groups conducted in ten cities in 2002, and offers many sobering insights from low-income Black youth (ages 16–20) on their

views about sex, relationships, pregnancy, abstinence and marriage. The

California Endowment and the Ford Foundation sponsored the report.

“These Black youth wanted — and needed — to be heard, and we went into their communities and listened,” said MEE President, Ivan Juzang. “For the most part, Black urban

youth are not getting the information and guidance they need to make good choices about their sexual health. They view sex as a transaction, harbor little trust for each other, and believe that adults are contributing to the problem of early, casual sex and pregnancy.” MEE Productions is an internationally recognized communications firms that develops research-based, market-driven solutions for issues facing urban and low-income populations living in at-risk environments.

In the U.S., 35 percent of girls get pregnant at least once by age 20.

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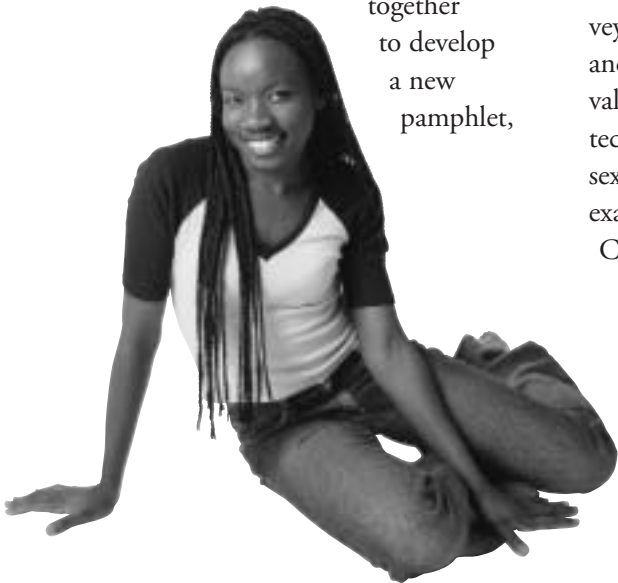
## INSIDE:

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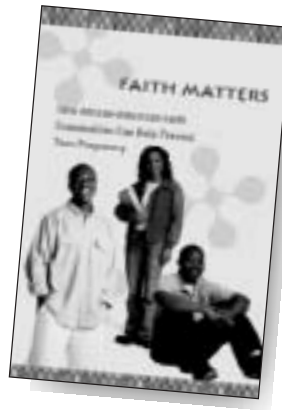
# Faith Matters

African-American congregations are already working hard to help shape the character of young people and to strengthen families and communities. To enhance these efforts and to highlight the strong connection between faith and preventing teen pregnancy, the National Campaign and the National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses have

worked together to develop a new pamphlet,



*Faith Matters: How African-American Faith Communities Can Help Prevent Teen Pregnancy.* The resource provides practical tips for faith leaders for helping young people avoid too-early pregnancy and parenthood.



American teens. Still, African-American girls are more likely than their white or Hispanic counterparts to become pregnant as a teen. In part because teen pregnancy rates remain stubbornly high in the African-

American community, it is the hope of the National Campaign and the National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses that *Faith Matters* encourages African-American congregations, in particular, to do more to address the issue of teen pregnancy directly in the context of their rich and diverse religious beliefs.

Research and public opinion surveys both show that religious faith and a individual's own morals and values play important roles in protecting young people from early sexual activity and pregnancy. For example, in a recent National Campaign survey, teens cited morals, values, and religious beliefs as the factors that most affect their decisions about sex.

Declines in teen pregnancy rates over the past decade have been particularly dramatic among African-

The National Campaign wishes to express its gratitude to Vivian Berryhill, President of the National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses, for her leadership on this project, and for all of those in the National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses who helped develop *Faith Matters*. ✨

## Teen Pregnancy Rates Continue to Decline

According to data released from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the U.S. teen pregnancy rate for girls 15–19 declined 25% between 1990 and 1999. Some additional points of interest:

- The overall pregnancy rate for girls 15–19 in 1999 was 86.7 per 1,000.
- The teen pregnancy rate for girls 10–14 was 2.2 per 1,000, the rate for girls 15–17 was 55.9 per 1,000, and the rate for girls 18–19 was 131.9 per 1,000. Rates for girls

10–14 decreased 37.1%, rates for girls 15–17 decreased 30.4%, and rates for girls 18–19 decreased 18.8% between 1990 and 1999.

- The 1999 pregnancy rate for non-Hispanic White girls aged 15–19 was 59.7, the rate for non-

Hispanic Black girls was 153.8 per 1,000, and the rate for Hispanic girls was 133.1 per 1,000. The three groups saw decreases of 31.9%, 30.5%, and 14.6%, respectively, between 1990 and 1999. ✨



According to these rates, the National Campaign estimates that 25% of non-Hispanic White, 57% of non-Hispanic Black, and 51% of Hispanic teens become pregnant at least once before age 20.

# With One Voice 2003:

## Annual Survey of Adults and Teens Released

Two-thirds of teens who have had sex (67%) wish they had waited. Nearly eight in ten (77%) sexually experienced teen girls and six in ten (60%) sexually experienced teen boys report that they wish they had waited. These findings and others from the National Campaign's annual survey of adults and teens suggest that teens are more cautious about early and casual sex than perhaps is generally believed. Other results from the survey include:

### Cautious Attitudes

- The overwhelming majority of teens (85%) believe that sex should only occur in a long-term, committed relationship.
- Only 26% of teens think it is embarrassing for teens to admit they are virgins.

### Parental Influence

- Teens say parents (45%) influence their decisions about sex more than friends (31%) and other sources. Adults underestimate their own influence (only 32% of adults believe that parents are most influential) and mistakenly believe that teen's friends are most influential (48%).
- Most teens surveyed (88%) believe it would be easier for teens to post-

pone sexual activity and avoid teen pregnancy if they were able to have more open, honest conversations about these topics with their parents.

- Nearly six in ten teens (59%) say that their parents are their role models of healthy, responsible relationships.

### Abstinence and Contraception

- Most adults (94%) and teens (92%) say that it is important for teens to be given a strong message from society that they should not have sex until they are at least out of high school.
- A clear majority of adults (71%) and teens (59%) believe that teens should not be sexually active but those who are should have access to contraception.
- Most adults (74%) and teens (60%) wish that teens were getting more information about abstinence *and* contraception, rather than just one or the other. Few teens (13%) or adults (1%) believe that teens are getting enough information about abstinence and contraception.
- Stressing abstinence to teens while also providing them with informa-

tion about contraception is not viewed as a "mixed message." Most adults (68%) and teens (77%) view such a message as "clear and specific."

### Supervision

- Fully 42% of teens in grades 9–12 — and one in five of those aged 12–14 — say they have been at a party in the past six months with boys and girls where no adults were present.

**For more information.** To view the complete results of this survey — *With One Voice 2003: Americas Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy* — including the exact wording of the questions posed to respondents, please visit [www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/polling.asp](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/polling.asp).

**About the Survey.** The survey canvassed 1,000 young people age 12–19 and 1,008 adults 20 years and older and provides nationally representative estimates of each age group. The telephone surveys took place in August and September 2003 and were conducted by International Communications Research, an independent research company ([www.icrsurvey.com](http://www.icrsurvey.com)). ✨

### Contribute to the Campaign

Please consider making a financial contribution to the National Campaign and help us realize our goal of reducing the nation's teen pregnancy rate by one-third between 1996 and 2005. Making a donation is easy — simply visit our website ([teenpregnancy.org](http://teenpregnancy.org)), click on the "support the Campaign" button, and follow the easy directions.

# Putting What Works to Work

As part of the National Campaign's continuing efforts to help states and communities improve their teen pregnancy prevention efforts, the National Campaign is pleased to make available the following resources, developed as part of the ongoing Putting What Works to Work (PWWTW) project.

Produced in partnership with Child Trends, *A Good Time: After-School Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy* provides detailed descriptions of those after-school programs that have been shown through careful research to have a positive impact on adolescent sexual behavior (available late February). *No Time to Waste: Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy Among Middle School-Aged Youth* — also developed with Child Trends — examines programs that have been shown to be effective with young adolescents (available in mid-March). In addition to providing results from program evaluations, both publications contain practical information

on the costs and availability of program curriculum and lengthy descriptions of what is covered in each curriculum. Both publications join the expanding base of program evaluation literature from which communities can draw in making their decisions about what programs they might consider using.

Published under the banner *Science Says*, two new research briefs examine, (1) American public opinion on teen pregnancy and related issues, and (2) parental influence and teen pregnancy. In total, eight *Science Says* briefs are now available. The new briefs will be available in early March.

The hallmark of all products developed as part of the PWWTW project is that they provide the latest research in straightforward, easy-to-understand language and provide clear implications for policy, programs, and parents.

For more information, or to download PWWTW materials,



please visit, [www.teenpregnancy.org/works](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/works). PWWTW is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is supported by cooperative agreement U88/CCU322139-01. Materials developed as part of this project are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC. ★

## Parent Power: Materials That Can Help

Two decades of quality research makes clear that parents have a very important influence on their teenagers' decisions about sex. The National Campaign has many materials for parents and those who work with them. All of the following can be found at [www.teenpregnancy.org/parent](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/parent).

- **Parent Power.** This pamphlet compiles much of what is known about parental influence and offers parents practical things they can do to

help their children delay sexual activity and avoid teen pregnancy. Available in English and Spanish.

- **Online parent quiz.** See how much you know and learn how to make a difference.
- **PowerPoint.** Download the "Parent Power" PowerPoint presentation.
- **Video.** Watch a video of a Capitol Hill forum on *Parent Power*, featuring



Screenshot of the online parent quiz available at [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org).

ing Senators Hillary Clinton and Barbara Boxer, and Representative Nancy Johnson. ★

# Chatting Our Way to Adulthood *by Sarah Brown*

*The following op-ed, written by National Campaign Director Sarah Brown, appeared in The Washington Post.*

If you are the parent of a teenager, you may feel as though you have been talked to death about, well, talking. Non-profit organizations, advocates, and national nannies of all stripes plead with parents to talk to their children and teens in order to steer them away from the temptations of adolescence. For example, public service ads from Phillip Morris urge parents to address teen smoking with the catch phrase, “Talk. They’ll Listen.” Even Anheuser-Busch is in the act, encouraging parents in an ad that appeared in newspapers nationwide to “keep talking” to their children about alcohol.

In our collective zeal to get parents around the kitchen table talking with their kids about the dangers of (fill in the blank: sex, pregnancy, drugs, alcohol, violence), I wonder if we may have inadvertently given desperately-seeking-solutions parents the wrong impression. At a time in their children’s lives when parents most fear they have lost their kids to the influence of peers and popular culture, have we sold parents a bill of goods by telling them that the remedy lies in simply talking with their sons and daughters?

Talking to your kids is absolutely essential. But it is also absolutely insufficient. Two decades of top-notch research — including the widely-respected National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health funded by the federal government — clearly show that it is the overall depth and texture of relationships

(“connections”) between parents and kids that make all the difference. This research also shows that setting fair limits and expectations — and enforcing them — is critical. It’s the good, the bad, and the ugly of parenting that really matters, not just the talking. It’s telling your children not just about what’s safe, but also about what’s right. It’s setting high expectations as well as curfews. It’s knowing what is going on in *their* lives, and spending time with them engaged in activities that suit their interests. It’s demonstrating love and affection clearly and often. And it means striving for a relationship with children and teens that is warm in tone, firm in discipline, and rich in communication. Doing this without alienating your children is not for the weak of heart, but it can be done. Sociologists call it authoritative (not authoritarian) parenting, meaning that the adults believe they are in charge and act that way, with mutual trust and respect.

*Talking to your kids is absolutely essential. But it is also absolutely insufficient.*

Full disclosure here: I am not above reproach on the “talk is enough” front. As director of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, I have spent a fair amount of time encouraging parent/child communication. In fact, the Campaign recently released *Parent Power: What Parents Need to Know and Do To Help Prevent Teen Pregnancy* that, among other things, tells parents to “talk with their children early and often about sex and be

specific.” Still, seeing the growing number of billboards, pamphlets, and public service announcements employing the “t” word has given me pause.

All this was brought home to me recently when I asked a friend of many years standing who has raised seven children what she would do differently if she had it to do all over again. She said that although she remained a great believer in being an approachable, open mom, willing to talk about all subjects great and small, she said “I really wish I had told my children more often what I thought was *right*, and then tried to make it happen. I was so concerned about being a flexible friend that I sometimes forgot to be a parent.”

Fellow parents-in-need, it’s more complicated and messy than just talking. Research shows that parents must have a point of view, and some spine to go with it. So by all means, talk to your kids. But do not be lulled into believing that talking alone is what is going to help your child successfully navigate adolescence. We cannot just chat our children to adulthood. Would that it were so simple as wiling away the hours at Starbucks or KFC shooting the breeze with the kids! At the end of the day, parents must not avoid the job that parents have always had — to say what they think about the challenges of the day, to create environments and rules for their children and teens that reflect those views, to offer concrete guidance and set standards about sexual behavior, drug and alcohol use, and all the rest.

Parents must be more than talkers. Parents must be parental. ✨

# National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

## May 5, 2004

The third annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy takes place on May 5, 2004. The purpose of the National Day is to focus the attention of teens on the importance of avoiding teen pregnancy and other serious consequences of sex. On the National Day, teens nationwide are asked to take short, online quiz that asks them to reflect on the best course of action in a number of sexual situations.

*Nearly 300,000 teens in all 50 states took the 2003 National Day quiz.*

**Why a National Day?** Despite encouraging declines in teen pregnancy and birth rates over the past decade, 35 percent of young women in the U.S. still become pregnant at least once by age 20. Too many teens

still think: "It won't happen to me." The National Day Quiz helps young people understand that it can't happen to them.

**Who sponsors the National Day?** The National Day is sponsored by the National Campaign and supported by National Day founding partners *Teen People* magazine and [teenpeople.com](http://teenpeople.com).

**How do teens participate?** Participating in the National Day is easy, simply log onto [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org) and take the National Day Quiz. The online Quiz will become available on May 5, 2004 and will be available in English and Spanish. A hard copy version of the Quiz will also be available so that teens without internet access can still participate.

**Making a difference.** A survey of some of the teens that participated in the 2003 National Day indicates:

### Top Five Ways to Recognize the National Day:

1. Provide a link to the National Day Quiz or run a web banner on your website.
2. Alert others about the National Day through listservs and buddy lists.
3. Distribute National Day promotional materials.
4. Organize a local event.
5. Stay informed. Sign up to receive regular updates about National Day plans and resources.

- 57 percent of teens said that the National Day Quiz made the consequences of sex more real to them.
- 70 percent said the Quiz made them think about what they would do in such situations.
- 46% said they learned something new from the Quiz.
- Nearly half said they would discuss issues raised in the Quiz with their friends. ✨

### How We Can Help You:

Here are some of the resources available to help promote the National Day. All will be available on the National Day website at [www.teenpregnancy.org/national](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/national).

1. National Day postcards (available in English and Spanish), pens, stickers, temporary tattoos, and brochures.
2. Sample newsletter and listserv notices.
3. National Day web banners.
4. Generic and customizable print public service announcements (PSAs).
5. Sample PSA radio scripts
6. Ideas to help teens promote the National Day.
7. Quiz discussion guides.



*"The National Day Quiz was awesome. I finally thought for myself without all the pressure from my friends."*

—15-year-old girl

## 2004 National Day Partners

Well over 100 national organizations have signed on as official National Day partners. Examples of some of those partners include:

**Media Powerhouses.** *Teen People* magazine, teenpeople.com

**Top Teen Websites.** gURL.com, kiwibox.com

**Health Sector Leaders.** Society for Adolescent Medicine, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics

**Faith-Based Groups.** Covenant House, National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses, Presbyterian Church USA, National Ministries Division

**Youth-Serving Groups.** Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Students

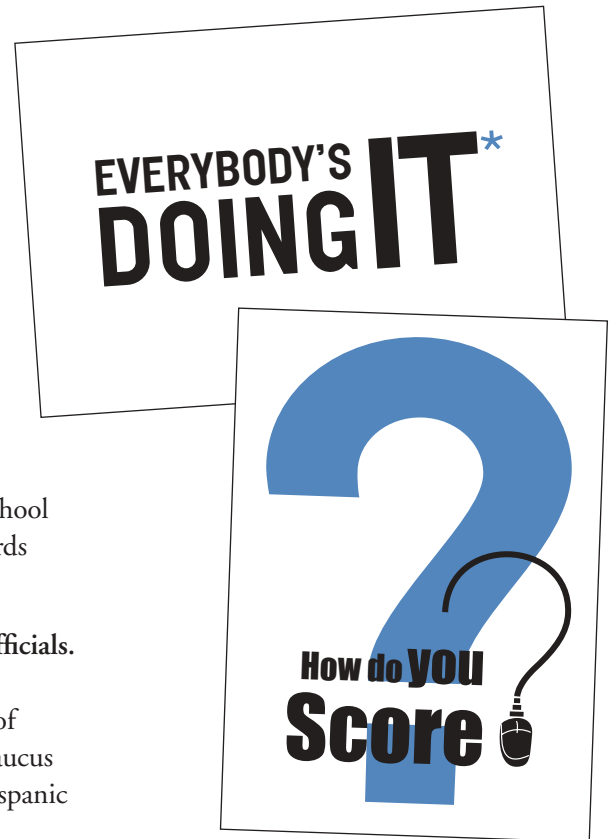
Against Destructive Decisions, National 4-H Council, Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

**Parenting Groups.** National Parenting Association, National Fatherhood Initiative

**Education Leaders.** National Education Association, Afterschool Alliance, National School Boards Association

**Groups Representing State Officials.** National Conference of State Legislatures, National League of Cities, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute

For a full list of partners, please visit [www.teenpregnancy.org/national](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/national). ✨



Set of postcards designed to promote the National Day.

## Breaking Ground

In 1995, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched a groundbreaking initiative called the Community Coalition Partnership Programs for the Prevention of Teen Pregnancy (CCPP). Under the auspices of the CCPP, CDC provided funding to 13 communities across the country with higher-than-average teen birth rates to demonstrate that community partners could organize local resources in support of teen pregnancy prevention programs that were community-wide,

comprehensive, effective, and sustainable. A new publication from the National Campaign, *Breaking Ground*, spotlights the approaches that worked and the challenges encountered during the first two years of CCPP.

*Breaking Ground* is the National Campaign's first "Internet-only" publication. To download *Breaking Ground*, please go to: <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/pdf/BreakingGround.pdf>. ✨



## New Report

*continued from page 1*

Despite recent declines, the U.S. still has the highest teen pregnancy and birth rates of any Western industrialized nation. African-Americans have achieved some of the steepest declines in both teen pregnancies and births. Between 1990 and 1999 (most recent data available), teen pregnancy rates for Black teens (aged 15–19) declined 30 percent, compared to 25 percent for the nation as a whole.

“This is a very widespread problem touching all teens,” said Sarah Brown, Director of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. “However, given our goal of reducing the national teen pregnancy rate by one-third, we need to provide special support to groups whose rates

*I thought [having sex] would keep him with me, but after — he was gone.*

— Teen girl, Chicago, IL

are highest. The teens in the MEE study represent a group that is at particularly high risk for pregnancy — so it is critical that we understand them better,” Brown said. “This report is a vital step in that direction and is unlike any we’ve seen in its depth, candor and insight. We are proud to help MEE Productions share these young peoples’ insights with those who work with teens across the country.”

Some key findings from the report:

- **Trust and communication are rare, and young Black girls in particular do not feel valued.** In the focus groups, males said that they

*We are culpable as a society when we will allow a 13-year-old to feel her only vision is having a child. We have failed, not the 13-year-old.*

— Dr. Henry Foster,  
MEE Expert Panelist

don’t trust females and females said that they don’t trust each other; many noted frequent relationships between young girls and adult men; and males and females both reported a high level of derogatory sexual terms used to describe women. Young men frequently said that one reason they did not have having a single, steady partner is that they don’t trust girls to be faithful. Both sexes said that cheating was rampant and that many guys had both a regular girlfriend (“wifey”) and casual sex partners (“shortys”) — and that condom use was more prevalent with casual sex partners than in steady relationships.

- **Becoming a teen parent seems more realistic than abstaining from sex, getting married, or having a successful future.** Young people in the study report that they are growing up in environments where sex is commonplace, marriage is rare, and teen parenthood is the norm. Teen parenthood carries little stigma; in fact, for many having a child at an early age is seen as a positive step. Many young people believe that “everyone is doing it,” a message that they said was constantly reinforced by the media.

- **Parents can help, but they often don’t.** Many in the study say that adults are contributing to the problem of early, casual sex by (1) trying to act “young” and engaging in risky sexual behavior themselves, (2) offering overt or tacit approval for early sex, pregnancy, and parenthood, or (3) refusing to discuss sex and related issues with their children. Teens in the study agree with teens nationwide: their parents are their most preferred source of information about sex.

“The young people who shared their views in the MEE study are beacons of hope, not just causes for concern,” Brown said. “Even though their life experiences are quite different, teens in this study hold views about sex that are strikingly similar to what we are hearing from teens across the nation,” Brown said. “Regardless of income, race or residence, the teens in this study — like all teens — want parental support and guidance but say that the adults often let them down. They feel a lot of pressure to have sex, find that pressure hard to counter, and say that they wish they’d waited longer to

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*There used to be a time when dating meant you were getting to know each other. Now what it means is that sometimes kids are having sex to get to know their partners.*

— Dr. Gail Wyatt,  
MEE Expert Panelist

## New Report

continued from page 8

*Parents should not be  
afraid to talk about sex.  
The more kids know, the  
less curious they are.*

— Teen boy, New Orleans, LA

become sexually active — as do two-thirds of teens nationwide.”

The full report includes a literature review; interviews with 10 experts on sexuality, the media and public health; and a media consumption and lifestyles survey of 2,000 African American teens and young adults. The young people who participated in this study live in households with less than \$25,000 in annual income. Research sites were Baltimore, Maryland; New York City,

New York; Los Angeles/Long Beach and Oakland/Richmond, California; Chicago, Illinois; New Orleans, Louisiana; Detroit, Michigan; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Atlanta, Georgia. The report is accompanied by a documentary video featuring excerpts from the focus groups and expert interviews.

“Before anyone judges these youth for their sexual behavior, understand that this is their reality, and that these young people are products of the socioeconomic and cultural influences in their environment. There’s no higher priority than educating these youth so that they can make better choices about their bodies and their lives,” said Dr. Robert Ross, CEO of the California Endowment, a co-sponsor of the report.

**For more information:** The National Campaign is providing a brief summary of the report that pulls out themes and findings that are most relevant to preventing teen pregnancy. To view the National Campaign’s summary of *This Is My Reality — The Price of Sex: An Inside Look at Black Urban Youth Sexuality*, to listen National Public Radio coverage of the report, or to read selected newspaper coverage, please visit: [www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/This\\_Is\\_My\\_Reality](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/This_Is_My_Reality).

To purchase the full report and video, please visit MEE Productions website: [www.MEEProductions.com](http://www.MEEProductions.com). ✨



## Findings from *This is My Reality*

*The following is an interview with MEE Productions President Ivan Juzang concerning the findings of the This Is My Reality report.*

**1. You found three distinct relationship patterns in your study; can you talk a little bit about those?**

The first type of relationship is the “wifey/shorty” model, where a young man develops a “wifey” relationship with one girl who plays the role of the traditional girlfriend, and a “shorty” relationship with another girl, which is strictly for casual sex. The main girl meets the parents. She gets the Red Lobster meal. Your shorty gets McDonald’s. With your main girl, you don’t use condoms;

“wifey” use the pill or Depo-Provera. You use condoms with your “shorty,” to protect yourself since she’s probably sleeping with other guys too. Using condoms (with your main girl) can mean that you’ve been messing around.

Also prevalent is the adult male-teen female relationship. This has been going on for years but not as openly as now. Sex becomes a transaction: If girls don’t believe they will be taken care of at home, or any other way, they know they can get what they need — material things mainly — through sex.

The third type we saw in these focus groups was female on female

relationships. There’s a lot of experimentation, young people referring to themselves as “try-sexuals” — they’ll try anything once and if they like it they’ll try it again.

**2. Were all the findings negative? Did anything encouraging come out of this study?**

What is most hopeful is that these teens want positive adult input in their lives. The more parents talk about sexual health, the less sex kids



*Ivan Juzang*

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# Resources Available from the National Campaign

For a complete listing of Campaign resources, visit [teenpregnancy.org](http://teenpregnancy.org)

## Parent Power

This accessible publication brings together all of the latest research on parent influence; the ten things teens most want parent to know about preventing teen pregnancy; and practical advice for parents on how to help their children avoid too-early pregnancy and parenthood. 1–100 copies, \$1.00 each; 101 or more copies, 70 cents each.

## 14 and Younger: The Sexual Behavior of Young Adolescents

111 pages, seven chapters. A separately-bound 22-page summary is also available. Full report, including summary, \$15.00/Summary \$5.00

## Emerging Answers: Research Findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy, by Douglas Kirby, Ph.D.

This publications provides a comprehensive review of evaluations research offering the latest information on “what works” to prevent teen pregnancy. Full report, including summary \$15.00/Summary \$5.00

## Thinking About the Right Now: What Teens Want Other Teens to Know About Preventing Pregnancy

Available in English and Spanish, this pamphlet is for teens, from teens. 1–100 copies, \$1.00 each; 101 or more copies, 70 cents each. ✨



## Findings

*continued from page 9*

have, and it is when parents don't discuss health and values that these kids do what their bodies are telling them to do. Youth who do communicate with their parents seem more confident about who they are, as they are able to get needed information and guidance from their parents at anytime about anything.

Many teens in this study say that adults are contributing to the problem of early casual sex and pregnancy. Parents and adults in the community have a real opportunity here — the Black community at any point can change this negative behavior. The Black church, parents and leadership can change this issue. Like teens across the country, the young people

in this study want more from the adults in their lives.

It is also true that while parents are still critically important because of their credibility, they also need support to help them communicate more effectively with their children about sex and other complex issues.

### 3. What is it about sex education and health care that these teens feel is not working for them?

Virtually all of the young people in this study had access to health care. But access isn't enough. These teens talked about horrible experiences with the health care system. They find that the services are not user-friendly, culturally competent, and there's no confidentiality. This

one teen who'd been through the juvenile detention system and had a whole host of other issues, said the worst experience of his life — now he'd seen just about everything, but the worst experience of his life, was at a health clinic. The system in place is just failing these teens, they are having to wait for long periods of time, are not being treated in a sensitive way, so they're telling their friends not to bother going. The sex education they get is too little too late. By the time they hear anything in a classroom, they've already seen a lot more themselves, or through their friends. We need to invest in better services for these young people, and understand what it's like for them if we're going to really be effective. ✨



# THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

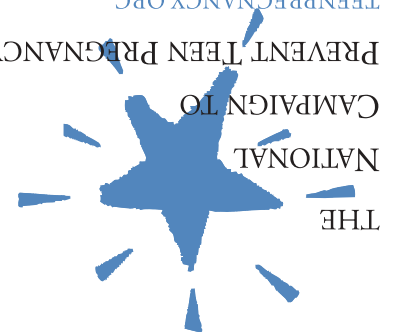
is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization supported largely by private donations. The Campaign's mission is to improve the well-being of children, youth, and families by reducing teen pregnancy. Our goal is to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy by one-third between 1996 and 2005.

For more information, contact the Campaign at:  
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