

First Impressions: This early childhood initiative, established early in Gov. Romer's administration, was designed to focus attention on a child's first five years and stimulate activity at all levels, and create a solid infrastructure of support and assistance for parents and children. Programs include: One-stop family centers in at risk neighborhoods, the "Read to Me, Colorado" campaign to encourage parents to read to their children, and the Youth Crime Prevention and Intervention Fund that provides support to community based programs.

Bright Beginnings: (Representatives from Governor Romer's office suggested that you do not mention this program) A privately funded program, this public awareness/ public action campaign is designed with the goal of making Colorado the best state in the nation for a child to be born and grow up. The premise is that government alone cannot solve all problems families face --the community as a whole must take responsibility for helping parents raise healthy children. Gov. Romer consulted with business leaders, church organizations, the largest child advocacy group, and key legislators to develop an agenda and plan of action.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Meet and Greet with Program Participants

Governor Roy Romer	*Quinian Pozner
Bertha Lynn	*Kevin Wagner
Reverend Robert Woolfolk	*Melissa Roberts
Noel Ginsburg	*Joe Carranco
Rebecca Orona	*Kiyasha Newson
Antonio Garule	*Adam Jake Catheart
Dave DeForest Stalls	*Lia Sperandeo
Adele Phelan	*William Webster
*Tiffany Wilson	*Leo Hernandez
*Melanie Bolub	*Mac Robb
*Yen Vo	
(*Children)	

Photo with Auraria Foundation Board members and children

- Don Kortz, President and CEO of Rose Foundation
- Dean Wolf, Exec. Vice Pres. for Administration, Auraria Higher Education Center
- Mary Ferrell, Executive Director Auraria Foundation
- Marvin Buckels, Treasurer and member Auraria Foundation
- Norman Provisor, Chair, Metropolitan State College, Political Science Department
- Myrtle-Rose Greene, board member & real estate developer
- Barbara Emery, Jewish community leader & board member Auraria Foundation
- 25 children from Auraria Child Care Center

Note: Joe Ventura, 5, will present you with a gift.

Conference

-see above listed program participants

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Dean Wolf, Executive Vice President of Administration, welcomes guests and intros the Colorado Children's Chorale Choir.
- The Colorado Children's Chorale will perform.
- Bertha Lynn, Moderator, announces the program participants and Gov. Romer onto stage.
- Ms. Lynn announces HRC onto the stage.
- HRC proceeds to seat on stage next to Governor Romer.
- Ms. Lynn intros Reverend Wolfolk.
- Reverend Wolfolk gives invocation.
- Ms. Lynn intros Governor Romer.
- Governor Romer delivers remarks and intros HRC.
- HRC proceeds to podium and delivers remarks.
- Ms. Lynn intros each youth and turn the program over to Governor Romer.
- Governor Romer opens discussion with youths
- Ms. Lynn intros each adult expert
- Governor Romer opens discussion with experts.
- Q & A with Audience closely moderated by Bertha Lynn.
- Ms. Lynn asks HRC to close program.
- HRC delivers brief closing remarks.
- Martin Vadas, accompanied by 8 children, presents HRC with a gift.
- HRC will exist stage right to do a ropeline from right to left.
- HRC departs.

V. PRESS

Open press.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by June Shih.

Children's Conference: "Colorado Listens to Kids"

Sally Vogler In Gvs. office 303/866-3123 (Cindy Bradshaw, asst. 866-2145)

Breakfast -- M.C. Genova 303/825-1211 303/722-9180 (H)

-Bios: Stephanie O'Malley, Gayle Clapper

-Pull aside with Shantelle -- Exerpts from *It Takes a Village*

- Children (see participants list)

-Foundation members

-Bios program participants

-Bkgrd. Colorado Children's Chorale

-Potential Q's for children -- Jen K.

-Background on Issues -- Melanne

Budget Issues for Kids

Medicare/Medicaid

Welfare Reform

POTUS radio address 5/18

Issue briefs: children, education, crime, environment, teen pregnancy, illegal drugs, welfare reform

-Current events in Colorado

**HHS / Head Start Funding Talking Points

**Supreme Court ruling -Amendment 2 in Colorado (anti-Gay rights init)

WH Counsel: Steve Neuwirth x65115 (also gay marriages)

Sally Vogler In Gvs. office 303/866-3123 (Cindy Bradshaw, asst. 866-2145)

-Background on Colorado programs for children

-Gov. Romer accomplishments for Children

-Gov. Romer 1996 State of State (on children)

-Background on College -- Bio of Dean Wolf

-Gov Romer draft remarks

-Potential questions

-Working Mother Magazine article

-Background on award

June 13, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FROM: Brenda Costello
SUBJECT: Briefings for Friday, June 14

- Tab A Missouri Background
- Political Briefing
 - Economic Progress in Missouri
 - Bios
 - Recent articles
 - Excerpts from *It Takes A Village* referencing Kansas City
- Tab B Issue Background
- Medicare/Medicaid background
 - Welfare Reform talking points
 - Teen Pregnancy talking points
 - President Clinton's Remarks at Teen Pregnancy Announcement,
- 6/13/96
- Community College background
 - HOPE Scholarship background
 - Economic talking points, 6/13/96
 - Accomplishments
- Tab C Issue Briefs
- Children
 - Crime
 - Education
 - Environment
 - Illegal Drugs
 - Teen Pregnancy
 - Welfare Reform

Children's Conference

- Briefing
- Bios
- Recent articles on Mayor Cleaver
- Background on Mayor Cleaver's and Kansas City initiatives
- Kansas City Star series
- Adult Participant descriptions (to be forwarded)
- Youth Participant descriptions (to be forwarded)
- Background on children's choir
- Conference Audience list



Community Leaders Luncheon

- Briefing
- Bios
- List of attendees
- Talking points

Remarks

- Children's Conference
- 
- 

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN KANSAS CITY

Most of these are newer programs, while the audience will be comprised of representatives of numerous service providers involved in children's programs in the community for many years.

Greater Kansas City Community Foundation: Established in 1978, GKCCF is a public foundation comprised of more than 350 charitable funds serving the five-county Kansas City metro area. Its mission is to make a positive difference in the lives and futures of the community through grant-making, advocacy, and support of the not-for-profit sector, as well as promotion of philanthropy.

Partnership for Children: Formed in 1991, this joint initiative of the United Way and the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and Affiliated Trusts is a metro-wide children's advocacy effort. This ten year initiative is dedicated to improving conditions for children in the greater Kansas City area, Partnership for Children (PC) emphasizes a preventative approach designed to build partnerships among service providers, policy makers, volunteers, and the media. The organization issues an annual Report Card with an overall grade and grades in four areas: safety and security; health; child care; and education. (Kansas City received a 'C' on the most recent Report Card, up from a 'D-' last year.)

PC is currently sponsoring "The #1 Question Campaign," a metro-wide effort to engage the Kansas City community in efforts that advance the well being of children and youth. The #1 Question -- Is it good for the children?-- is displayed on billboards in Greater Kansas City.

"Squash it": A campaign of the Partnership for Children that seeks to stem the levels of teen violence in the Greater KC area by making it "cool and smart" to walk to away from a violent confrontation. Efforts include: "Squash It" teams being established in schools, conflict resolution training sessions for youth groups, and public awareness efforts.

YouthNet: Program Goal: that every young person in KC will have access within walking distance to a safe place to connect with caring adults and positive activities. A non-profit agency, YouthNet works with Partnership for Children in a collaboration of youth service organizations. Service providers collectively provide more comprehensive services and alternatives for young people. the program originally came together to provide an alternative to gang activity.

KCMC Child Development Corp.: This multi-faceted child development agency administers Head Start, as well as the *Child and Adult Care Food Program*. The Food program is a nutrition program which provides food and nutrition education for children in family day care homes and centers. This is a USDA program administered by the State. KCMC is one of the sponsors for the program in the Kansas City area.

"COMBAT": A Jackson County program which has been in effect for 3-4 years and recently renewed. This program is supported by the Jackson County Drug Tax, and focusses on anti-drug programming including prevention, treatment, and community action. A broad range of neighborhood, family, and youth service organizations receive funds to carry out programs. This

is a well supported program of Clare McCaskell, the Jackson County Prosecutor, who will be in the audience.

Promise Project: A collaboration between Kansas City Consensus and Junior League, a program to encourage leadership and engage youth in civic life, putting them on boards of directors, community service projects, etc. **KC Consensus** is a nonprofit, grassroots organization made up of citizen-based task forces, ie., crime, neighborhood safety.

Kansas City Star

The Kansas City Star launched an investigative series called "Raising Kansas City- Democracy and the Next Generation,"and will publish stories about the top ten issues facing area high school juniors and seniors. Topics were identified by opinion polls taken in high schools earlier this year. (see articles attached)

June 13, 1996

YOUTH TALK: A CITY LISTENS TO CHILDREN

DATE: June 14, 1996
TIME: 9:30 am - 11:55 am
LOCATION: Kansas City Convention Center
Kansas City, Missouri
FROM: Brenda Costello

I. PURPOSE

To bring together children from Kansas City with adults from every sector of the Kansas City community for a conversation on how Kansas City responds to the needs of its children.

II. BACKGROUND

Co-sponsored by the Mayor's Office and United Way, this conference will bring together children from Kansas City with adults from government, business, media, education, health care, religion, civic leaders, etc. for a conversation on how Kansas City responds to the needs of its children and will highlight programs that are working and identify challenges to be met. Following the Conference you will address a Luncheon of Community Leaders.

The nine youth participants, who were identified through the Mayor's office and United Way, are between the ages of 13-18. They will discuss what it's like to be a child growing up in Kansas City, what programs work for them, and what more needs to be done. These children have been active in community programs. The nine adult participants will be in the first row of the audience with hand-held mics, ready to discuss, from their own perspectives, how Kansas City responds to the needs of children. The moderator, Carl Boyd, will welcome the audience and introduce you and Mayor Cleaver, as well as the other participants.

See attached background on Mayor Cleaver's initiatives and other Kansas City area programs for children and youth.

Format

You will be seated with Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver II and the nine youth participants. Nine adult participants will be seated in the first row and the audience at large. The youth will talk about their experiences and programs in Kansas City. Adults and experts seated in the front row will open the discussion with the audience. Approximately 350 parents and their children, child advocates, service providers, community leaders, and local government workers will be in the audience. Prior to the conference, you will meet briefly with participants.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Meet and Greet

HRC

Mayor Cleaver

Al Sassone, President of Heart of America United Way

Carl Boyd, Producer and Host, "Both" Television talk show

-Approximately 9 Youths (see attached list)

-Approximately 9 Adults (see attached list)

Conference

HRC

Mayor Emanuel Cleaver II, Mayor of Kansas

Al Sassone, President of Heart of America United Way

Carl Boyd, Producer and Host, "Both" Television talk show

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Meet and Greet with Conference Youth Participants
- Meet and Greet with Conference Adult Respondents
- HRC proceeds with Mayor Cleaver to Conference site
- Kansas City Children's Choir will perform
- Al Sassone delivers welcoming remarks and intros Mayor Cleaver and HRC into room
- HRC and Mayor Cleaver proceed to seats on stage
- Mr. Sassone intros Carl Boyd, moderator
- Mr. Boyd explains conference format and intros Mayor Cleaver
- Mayor Cleaver proceeds to podium, delivers brief remarks and intros HRC
- HRC proceeds to podium and delivers remarks
- HRC returns to seat on stage (HRC puts on hard wire lav at this time)
- Mr. Boyd intros each youth and turns the program over to HRC and Mayor Cleaver
- Open discussion with approximately 9 youths ages 13-18
- Mr. Boyd opens discussion with 9 adult participants
- Mr. Boyd closes discussion and intros Mayor Cleaver
- Mayor Cleaver delivers closing remarks from his seat and intros HRC
- HRC delivers closing remarks from her seat
- HRC departs

V. PRESS

Open press.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by June Shih.

MAYOR CLEAVER'S INITIATIVES

"Night Hoops": This midnight basketball program began two years ago, and this past year the Mayor's office organized the first ever nationwide Midnight Basketball Tournament called MUST (Mayor's Urban Symposium and Tournament), with twelve teams from around the country. Working with the Urban League and ministerial organizations, the Mayor recruited college coaches from local and community colleges to watch games. According to the Mayor's office, there has been a 25% drop in crime in the areas where these programs take place. Overall, the number of reported crimes in Kansas City dropped 5 percent between 1994 and 1995.

"Hot Summer Nights": Program providing social opportunities for young people in alcohol and drug-free environments, targeting different neighborhood throughout the Kansas City area.

Cadet program: This new program which is just beginning, is designed to recruit more minority officers. African- American high school students will work with the police department and receive a stipend for tuition in order to continue volunteering during college in an effort to prepare them for life after college.

Youth Ambassador program: Now in its second year, 35-40 kids are selected as Good Will Ambassadors in Kansas City, usually seniors in high school or college freshman. They receive a small stipend for summer work and then funding to them and their colleges toward tuition in the fall

As you know, you referenced a Kansas City initiative in which employees are granted leave to participate in children's school activities.

June 13, 1996

COMMUNITY LEADERS LUNCHEON

DATE: June 14, 1996
TIME: 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
LOCATION: Kansas City Convention Center
Kansas City, Missouri
FROM: Brenda Costello

I. PURPOSE

To attend a luncheon for community leaders and children's advocates to thank them for their efforts and for making Kansas City a better place for children.

II. BACKGROUND

The luncheon is being sponsored by the Women's Public Service Network (WPSN) of Kansas City and the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City. WPSN is a nonprofit service organization, of which Roshann Paris is an active member. The purpose of the Luncheon is to engage a broader group of the Kansas City community in the issues of the children's conference.

Approximately 120 community leaders, child advocates and local elected officials will be in the audience. Adele Hall, Chair of the Women's Public Service Network, will introduce you. Following your remarks, you will participate in Q & A with the audience.

III. PARTICIPANTS

HRC

Adele Hall, Chair, Women's Public Service Network

Mike Morrissey, Chairman, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

HRC, Ms. Hall, and Mr. Morrissey proceed onto stage

HRC proceeds to seat next to Ms. Hall

Mr. Levy welcomes and intros Ms. Hall

Ms. Hall delivers brief remarks and intros HRC

HRC delivers remarks

HRC to take Q & A

Ms. Hall closes the luncheon

HRC exits stage left, working a ropeline left to right

V. PRESS

Closed press.

VI. REMARKS

Talking points provided by Sabrina Corlette.

Weekly Teen Survey

Question: Do you know how your parents feel about your having sex? Does it matter to you?
Dates Posted: 2/1/99-2/8/99

Results (unedited):

- Yes, I know how my parents would feel about me having sex. And no it really doesn't matter to me.
- My parents know that I had had sex. Boy where they mead. I thik that they still think I'am still haveing it, What should I do? And yes it matters to me!
- My parents feel that having sex is wrong, but I don't care. Just because a kid's parents don't want them to have sex doesn't mean that they won't.
- NO!!!!
- umm..yeah kinda i know they don't want me to have sex but really they can't stop me..i really can't stop i love it.i kinda wish i never started cause before i never wanted it and now that i did i could do it everyday...it brings me and my boyfriend closer together..but i think my parents know that i do but i doubt they would say anything to me...cause they know it would be pointless
- Yes, my parents made it a point to talk to me about the "birds and the bees". They feel that I should adopt abstinence as my way of life and it does matter because I know that my parents are wiser and have had more ex- perience, etc. I respect them and I respect their opinions, not just on sex, but on a lot of other things as well, and I will try to take what they say to heart and make abstinence my rule so that I don't run the risk of getting STD's, humiliation or a child. I know that my parents want the best for me, so naturally I will hear out their opinions. It matters to me a lot.
- My parents would hate it. It does matter so I don't have sex!
- they don't want me involve.yes
- It always matters to me how my parents feel. I am very honest with my parents about sex and they are very honest with me. Being able to communicate with my parents about sex is very important so that we can help each other understand.
- yes, yes
- My parents don't like the fact that I am having sex, but they understand that if it does happen, my boyfriend wears a condom and I am on the pill. My boyfriend and I care what they think, thats why we're am not doing it as much.

- I think that it should matter what your parents think, it matters to me, but my opinion on it matters the most do what you want to do and what you think you should do, because that's the most important.
- My mother is really not happy with the idea that I have sex, but I really don't care because it is my life and I will do what I want to whether she likes it or not. I am almost 18 years old so I think I can make my own decisions.
- I know that my parents don't agree with premarital sex, but that hasn't stopped me from doing it. It makes you feel bad sometimes because you don't want your parents to be disappointed in you, so most of the time you try to hide it from them.
- Yes, it matters to me, my parents care a lot. It doesn't even come to their minds that I could, or am thinking about having sex. They trust me.
- My parents don't want me to have sex but I don't care because I would love to get pregnant if I had a baby then I'd have someone to love me and need me.
- My mom feels very strongly about it. Since she had me when she was 18 she doesn't want me to make the same mistake. I respect her since she is older and wiser than I.
- no
- Yes. My parents feel that I shouldn't have sex until I get married. It matters because my parents probably know better, but if I get to the point where I feel that this person is the one, that's when I'll take the next step.
- My mother and father doesn't want me to have sex until marriage. I agree because of my religious beliefs. Plus I'm scared.
- Hi. I first wanted to say that I am practicing abstinence and am proud of it. I practice abstinence on my own behalf and no one has pressured me into it... not my priest, friends, teachers, or even my parents helped me to make this decision. I'm not completely sure of how my parents view pre-marital sex, and they haven't said anything to me. I'm presuming that they trust me and that I know what I'm doing. So I've chosen abstinence as the answer!
- Yes, I know how my parents feel about my having or not having sex and it does matter to me.
- I know that they would be disappointed with my choice if I chose to have sex. I do value their opinions because they have given me the freedom to make my own choice.
- My parents feel that I should wait until I'm married, but if I do decide to have premarital sex, they would like me to come to them and get the proper method of contraception. Their

views effect my decision making because if i had sex and my parents found out i would be so assamed and feel like tey lost their trust and respect for me.

- To be honest, my parents never told me how they feel about my sexual activity; they just told me the facts about it. I made the decision on my own and with an adult mentor from church not to have sex until I'm married. That will save me from a lot of stress and pressure and also preserve something very special for marriage. Even though my parents never gave me thier input about it I am confident in the decision I made.
- My parents don't want me too. Yes it matters they trust me so I won't.
- The pressure's to have sex in high school are hard. But I guess as a teenage girl you just have to think about what is right for you, and what your body is telling you. With all of the risk of STD's and pregnancy I am almost scared to have sex. I guess that's good.
- I don't know how my parents feel about me having sex because they don't know. If they knew they probably wouldn't like it. I do think about how they would feel, but it's not there decision, it's mine.
- Yes, I know how they feel about it and it does matter to me, but, no it doesn't stop me from having sex.
- Yea...they aren't trilled or should I say,they were not trilled. I had a baby at 18 and it's hard but I don't have time for relationships and they are very trilled at that fact. It really does matter to me now but it didn't used to. I guess after you have a baby and realize everything your parents said was true, and then you learn to really respect everything they have to say!
- They don't want me to have sex at all. But they told me if the tiime comes I should ask them about getting birth control.
- Yes I know how my parents feel about having sex, they dissapprove until i'm at least at a age that I can be responsible for my own actions, im 14 and had sex at the age of 13, of course my parents don't know, my own friends don't even know, I was one of the few lucky people that didn't get pregnant, and yes it does matter how my parents feel but I can't be laid a guilt trip...
- MY PARENTS NEVER TALK TO ME ABOUT SEX AND STUFF BUT MY SISTER HAS A 4 YEAR OLD KID AND SHES 19 SO I MEAN I AM SEXUALY ACTIVE BUT I KNOW THAT IF I GOT PREGENET WHICH I THOUGHT I WAS A FEW TIMES THEN MY PARENTS WOULD KILL ME MY BEST FRIENDS SISTER IS 16 ANS DONE HAD 2 ABORTIONS SO I MEAN I WOULDNT MIND IF THEY WOULD TALK TO ME I WANT BIRTH CANTROL BUT I AM SCARED TO ASK THEM U KNOW
- My parents feel that i am to young to have sex. they say i dont know what sex is. I know what sex is and it matters that i wait until i am ready and of an age where i can handle it. Age 15

is not a good age.

- My parents feel like kids will be kids. They feel that as long as you do it responsibly and without multiple partners, and as long as you truly love the person, they don't condemn it.
- Yes, I know how my parents feel about it, but it does not matter, because we are in our college aged years and we are mentally and physically mature to engage in sexual activities.
- Yes, they feel I'm too young to be having sex. Yes, it matters to me and if I could change the past I would.
- My parents have made their opinions known to me since the time I was in 5th grade. Now as a sophomore in college, I feel I have had a lot of helpful advice to help make my decisions. My parents are very knowledgeable people and I consider them to be my best friends. I can tell them anything and we talk daily about issues. We both believe it is a good thing to wait to have sex until you are ready. By ready, I mean physically, emotionally, and financially. If you as an individual lack any of these traits, WAIT!!!! You never know when an unexpected pregnancy could happen---with or without contraceptives!!! I myself am planning on waiting to become sexually active until I finish college, am married, and have an established career. A baby is a time consuming job. A husband and financial stability can greatly lessen the stress factor. My parents and I have the same morals and values and their opinion of me greatly matters. I respect them tremendously.
- I did know how my parents felt about me having sex, but I did it anyway. I didn't care what they thought. But they were right. I got pregnant at 16 and now I listen to my parents a lot more.



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08/24/98- Updated 09:43 AM ET

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Panel: Parental influence tends to fade

Fifteen-year-old Jenifer Scheyer says it is impossible for her to name just one major influence in her life.

"My life is a big mix, with so many influences. I'd like to say my parents first, and people like Michael Jordan and other athletes and movie stars when they do stuff that looks cool, and models and girls' magazines," says Jenifer, of Northbrook, Ill.

"I also have some close friends I trust to influence me and also my boyfriend. And what my parents tell me really does affect me. You have to put all these things together and make a choice yourself."

Jenifer is addressing the premise of a new book on influences on children, *The Nurture Assumption* (The Free Press, \$26).

The volume is sparking a fiery debate among child-development specialists over which influences kids more: parents or the wider world. Author Judith Rich Harris claims that what parents do, other than passing along their genes, makes little difference.

Although they may lack the perspective of the experts, members of USA TODAY's Teen Panel, including Jenifer, are eager to join the debate.

About half say nobody influences them more than their parents. The other half — mostly older panelists — aren't so sure. Parental influence was crystal-clear when they were younger, but now peers and other outsiders have the edge.

"My parents had a great deal of effect up until I was in middle

TEEN PANEL

USA TODAY's Teen Panel currently has 20 members; four are moving on to college this fall. Panelists were selected from 600 applicants.

The group reflects the USA's geographic and ethnic diversity.

USA TODAY checks with them occasionally about issues from the controversial to the mundane.

school," says Will Shelton, 16, of Knoxville, Tenn. "The things they taught me I still remember and hold to, but at this age in high school your friends have a whole lot of influence. My religion does have influence. And some teachers: My history teacher last year had a great deal of influence. He was just very honest. If he said something, he meant it."

Ari Goldberg, 16, of Boca Raton, Fla., says the swerving to peers begins sooner than middle school. "As soon as a child starts school, he is with friends and teachers from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. He's with his parents two hours over dinner, and then everyone goes to sleep."

By middle school, Ari says, the child is truly more under the influence of peers than parents and even less apt to talk with his folks about "sex, drugs and alcohol." The fallout is diverse. For the child, the lessening influence of parents is "a good thing because he is not enslaved to his parents' ideas," Ari says. "It's a bad thing because he tends to drift away from his family. And it is a natural thing because that is the way nature takes its course."

Mike Baab, 16, of Seattle says parents are very important, "but your environment totally changes how you turn out. Your friends are way up there." If parents were the most important influence on a child, siblings would turn out more alike, he says.

Body piercing seems to be a line of demarcation between parental and peer influence. "A week ago I got my tongue pierced," says Tighe Herren, of Louisville. "I was influenced by my friends who did it. I am 18, going to college, beginning my own life, and it is a statement of individuality."

Tighe says that by about age 13 parental influence is replaced by peer influence. "I think you start realizing you are your own person and can make your own decisions, consider all your options, rather than simply following blindly what your parents want you to do."

Greg Bailey, 18, of Dallas has had an eyebrow and his tongue pierced, acts that were "absolutely not influenced by my parents." He absorbs "a lot of influence from the culture I hang with around the clubs, with the band I play with," Greg says. "I definitely have a lot of influence from my friends. I'm rarely home anymore."

Peer influence is not always benign, some teens say. Even some of his friends in his advanced study program "are not totally serious about studying, and that affects me," says Mario Francisco Penalver, 17, of Puyallup, Wash. "There is peer pressure, and that tells me I should be a lot more focused."

But then again, parental influence is not always totally positive, says Jennifer Twitty, 17, of St. Louis. "That is why some cycles

can't be broken in families, with domestic violence, drinking." Some kids are so influenced by the negative behavior of parents that they perpetuate the unhealthy patterns, she says.

She is one of many panelists who believe that, although peers are important, parents are still No. 1. "Your parents instill your values. If not, you would not know what to believe, and you would believe anything," Jennifer says.

Family life is "very important" to Michelle Chin, 17, of Haworth, N.J.

"I got my values and morals from my parents, and I interpret the outside influences from that base," she says.

Monica Dupre, 16, of New Orleans says she still listens more to her parents than her peers. "I feel they are wiser than my friends, they have had more experiences, and they love me and would not lead me in the wrong direction."

Monica's dad has a particular gift for "reading people from the first or second time he meets them."

She recalls: "He told me about this boy, from the first time I brought him home, that he was trouble. And I was like, 'Oh, you don't even know him.' I found out later that he was a real weirdo."

Her parents are the most influential people in her life, says Jolina Kwong, 17, of Portland, Ore. "I go to them for everything, on school matters, on everyday problems. They have my interests at heart, and my siblings and I have a lot of respect for them."

Jason Leonard, 16, of Silver Spring, Md., cites an influence that supersedes that of his parents. "I put God at the top; second, my parents and other family members who preach to me and keep me on the right track; my grandparents, who talk to me all the time."

You can talk, Jason says, about the negative influence of movies, music and peer pressure. "But if parents raise their kids with love from just little babies and take them to church, discipline them, take control of their lives and make sure nothing bad happens to them, their children will know right from wrong." At 19, Mark Bailey of Hyde Park, Mass., is preparing for college and feels reflective. Nobody has been more influential than his folks. "I have been very lucky with my parents. Seeing how they live their lives helps me decide how to live mine."

Of course, Mark says, "everyone has problems with parents. I remember when I was 14, I thought, 'These people are crazy.' But

the older I get, the more it seems I should have listened to them more right from the beginning. They knew what they were talking about."

By Karen S. Peterson, USA TODAY

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Weekly Teen Survey

Question: Please react to the following phrase: "Parents are their children's first and best sex educators."

Dates Posted: 2/8 - 2/14/00

Responses:

- my name is xxx and i am 3 months pregnant i dont know how because i having had sex in a while but i still be kissing and hugging how can i be pregnant
- Parents have been where we are right now, and they know how kids are when it comes to sex. So, parents can give kids the right information that they want concerning the subject of sex, but kids have to be willing to ask questions and to listen to what their parents have to say. After all, your parents have probably been in many of the same situations that you have been in.
- This should be true, but many of us do not listen to our parents because we believe that they do not understand us. So we opt to listen to our friends instead.
- I think this is true because my mom was always very honest and open with me while teachers have a tendency to leave things out.
- no i don't think that is true because the parents probably don't know the information
- I think that parents should be their children's first educator about sex because if the parents really care about the child they will tell them the truth about sex. There for if the child was to go to another teacher they may not get all the truth that they need. But the parent would want their child to know the best there is to know about sex.
- My parents never talked about sex. So when i became pregnant at the age of 18, i was terrified to tell them. Instead, i put my trust in the guy, who "knew" that the only option was abortion. I'll never forgive myself for listening to him. And i wish so much that i could have talked to my mom about birth control pills, prevention is the key.
- Most teens are scared to talk to their parents that they would get really upset!
- I beleive that is true because you're parents have already been and done everything you have done or will do.
- I think the parents of children are very good people to educate their children on sex because they have experienced it. But besides knowing your parents have experienced it, teens and their parents need to talk about it and discuss it before their teen has sex- if they do at all.

- Why do teens get pregnant?
- Yes, because they've been through it and know first hand what it's like to have sex.
- Not necessarily true. Many teens these days learn more from many other factors rather than their parents. Television, movies, friends and schools all have involvement in educating teens on this subject.
- This is false because most parents try to hide these facts from their children so the kids go and find out from peers, tv, etc. Parents are the least to know what goes on in their teens life.
- My parents encouraged me to wait to have sex, but also (in an indirect way) told me to be safe if I did have sex, even though I think that they would be very disappointed in me if they knew that I did have sex and even more disappointed if I got pregnant. For that reason I have never been able to go to my mom and ask her for advice about contraceptives. I use a condom evrerytime but I wish that my parents had been less opinionated about abstinence (my mom espically) and would have made me more comfortable about coming to them for advice about contraception. I learned about contraception mostly from school. I think that because my parents were so adamant about abstinence, it cause me to wait a long time before having sex (18), but it didn't prevent me from having sex. Parents can be good sex educators but because kids want their parents to be pround of them, it's a hard topic to discuss when different views are shared.
- i don't think that statement is true at all because everything i know about sex i learned from my friends. most kids learn from each other, that may not be best but it is how it is.
- Cause their parents should be the ones that talk to them about sex.. Even though my parents didnt talk to me about it..
- I think schools should be the sex educators and parents the values educators. But this is not always how it works.
- Parents are suppose to inform their son/daughter with information they will need. I do believe that how a childern grows up is all because how their parents raised them!
- I think that some parents are't as open as others. I learned about sex in the 6th grade by a nurse coming into my school. At age 15 my mom finally told me about sex. So most parents ain't the first to let kids know.
- I dont think thats true. In a way it is but then again you learn alot in school and from other children. and parents do have some to do with it but my mom never talked to me about it so maybe thats why i disagree.

- **VERY TRUE! I TOTALLY AGREE! KID'S SHOULDN'T GET ALL OF THEIR INFO. OFF OF THE STREETS, BUT FROM THEIR PARENTS! MYPARENTS WERE DISAPPOINTED WHEN I KNEW EVERYTHING BEFORE I HAD MY "TALK."**
- yes
- Me and my boy friend didnt mean for it to happen it was all an accident
- If parents don't talk to their kids first about sex, kids will still find ways to get the information. It is highly unlikely that they will get false information. Parents should set kids straight. If parents don't talk to kids about sex. Kids probably won't come to their parents with sex related problems
- I beleive it's true because the first person a child asks "where does a baby come from?"Is its parents
- **YES IT IS TRUE**
- Very true~sometimes parents think that we are listning. And we want to hear.
- i think that if a teen is confortable talking t their parents about sex then they should, but most of the time teens aren't so they mostly talk to their friends
- I don't think that they are. My parents have never really talked about sex with me. So it's up to me to start the converstion, which can be hard to do. But I do think that parents can be their kids' first sex educators if they start early and not act so embarrassed about it. They should also keep the lines of communication open, and encourage their kids to come to them with questions.
- I've already made a firm decision that I will hold onto my virginity until marriage, but I would like it if I could talk with my mother about it. Talk about sex in our house is basically forbidden unless it's in private, which rarely happens.
- I do not agree with that very much. I think that school and fellow classmates have alot of influence on children while growing up. Maybe more than they're family.
- I guess that all depends on the situation. If my mother was a slut and got around a lot, I wouldn't trust her judgement. In my life it is hard to talk to my mother anyway, and she isn't permiscous at all. So like I said before it depends on the situation.
- that in some cases is not true many people can go to friends or siblings for help
- I have been thinking about it and im only 13 am i weird? Will it hurt?

- rubbish!!!! books and friends are!!!
- grossly wrong.. my parents were embarrassed and uninformed. My mother didnt even know what "testicles"were!!!
- No that is wrong, most little girls are whores who want to have sex
- yes they are fior the most simple fact because they are more experience then us and they tells us the safe way of haing sex, and consequence of having sex.
- It would be nice if this statement were true, however it is not. Often, children find out about sex way before their parents are even thinking about the "birds and the bees" speech. Also, many parents this day and age are either too busy or have not yet found the right way to talk to thier kids about sex. Parents need to take more time to learn the best way to help out their children because parents are the most important people in a child's life.
- My father never spoke with me about having sex and my mother was never around. I felt as if nobody cared about me and I had alot of love to give a little child of my own. my boyfriend and I tried to have a baby when i was 13 and at 14 I was pregnant with A little baby girl. I am 18 now and xxx is 3. It is so tough being a mother at a young age. I am graduating with my class, but I barely made it and most teen mothers don't. I wish everyone the best of luck - but real love waits!!!
- I believe that this statement isn't that true, parents are scared to tell their children about sex and the benefits of it. My parents never told me about it till after I had found out about it at school. We find out about it through the kids at school, teachers and other people cause I believe parents are scared that they will talk about it with us too early.
- I disagree... I'm now in high school, but I remember in 4th-5th grade, my peers were the first people that told me about sex...My parents talked to me ONCE about sex, and I honestly don't think it helped any. Maybe it's just them.
- I think that in my house the answer would be yes, but there are people with many different lifestyles and so the answer varies.
- I think this is true. My mom told me everything I wanted to know and made me feel comfortable about asking questions in the future. I trust her more than anyone in the world, so it makes sense to ask her.
- For the most part that is true,but the parents have to get to the children early enough.If they don't all their information comes from their friends.
- that is true because my parents were my sex educators and i felt most comfortable talking to my mom about this personal issue.as long as the child and the parent have a very close,

personal and understanding relationship with one another than the child will definitely be able to open up more and absorb what the parent is trying to say.

- No, I disagree I do not get my information about sex from my parents. Most of the teens I know do not either we are each other's sex educators. The best advice you can get is from a well trusted friend we listen to our friends, and we tend to just ignore our parents even if they are right.
- yes..I believe that some parents are the best ones to ask..but some girls don't have a mom and don't want to ask their dad..they could ask someone else's mom or their school nurse..
- yes, because nobody can talk to kids like their parents can.
- I definitely agree with this statement because they are the first ones to teach us about everything, so we trust them. They are also experienced so they know what they're talking about
- Parents need to teach their children morals and values. This is done by introducing them to Christ. That is the best way to stop teen sex and pregnancy!
- Well it wasn't that way for me. I mean my parents really never had that talk with me! I know all I know from T.V and movies and other kids talking about it and from experience! my parents really didn't have much to say. Not that they are bad for not doing it. I mean they told me to wait but never really educated me much about it!!
- I believe what this quote is saying is that parents are who teach their children about sex and are the ones that can deliver what they feel is morally and ethically right. and that the child will listen to their parents and are able to open up to their parents more about the sex subject than a complete stranger
- no..because many people are unsure about their parents. It's not easy to bring a situation like that up!
- I agree that parents are the best sex educators for their children. I have five siblings all from the same two loving parents who waited to have sex until they were married. This statistic as it may be is more uncommon than ever. But isn't this the way families are supposed to be? Two people love each other and together raise a family that they made together, right? This example has been education enough for me. Want more statistics? I am an eighteen year old female student at Western Michigan University. I have been involved in a serious relationship which lasted four years and never had sex. Once again this statistic is quite unusual but it's the way it is supposed to be, as my parents taught me by the most influential teaching style of all; their example.
- I don't think that is true...The reason why I don't think that is true is because they always

tell you not to have sex until you are married or some bull shit like that...They also don't tell you what it really is...The way I found out was from school and the teachers and I think that is basically how all my friends found out...See teachers don't mind really teaching the kids about sex and stuff because these aren't their kids and the teacher doesn't have to worry about the kids, but the parents are the ones that have to worry. I bet if my mom told me what sex really was, I would want to try it out as soon as possible...That is just the way I am...So I don't think parents are children's first and best sex educator...

- no not at all! parents don't like talking to their kids about sex! we tend to rely on our health teachers for that!
- Even though this is probably not the case in today's youth due to sex education in our schools at such a young age, I think that it should still be up to the parents to teach their children the importance and the basics of sex.
- I agree...your parents make such a powerful impression on you. You pick up on their attitudes and they help you learn to respect yourself, your body, and to protect yourself. Peers are a very important influence, but your parents can shape even how you respond to your peers and how you will respond to peer pressure.
- no that is dumb
- I completely agree with this!!!
- Most teens are afraid to talk to their parents about these issues, simply because of the fact that they could get in trouble or get yelled at.
- I totally agree with this statement. My parents were the first people to tell me about sex, and talk to me about the dangers. However, I don't feel that the parents are the best sex educators. The topic of sex can sometimes be very uncomfortable, and difficult to discuss with your parents. Trying to break it to your parents that you are sexually active is very hard, I know, and sometimes it's easier to go to a teacher, and ask them for advice on contraception, and on where to go to get tested. And, sometimes parents don't know how to bring up sexual activity with their children, causing kids to want to explore on their own, and be hurt, emotionally and physically.
- "No, I feel that most parents beat around the bush or don't even bring up the subject. They leave it up to the teen to talk about, which is the wrong decision."
- Parents are not because it's not always easy to talk to your parents about having sex plus I would rather talk to a friend or an older sibling.
- "no, I think children are afraid to ask their parents because they think their parents might think they are having sex. As parents give your child a straight up answer."

- no i don't think they are because my parents are mentally disabled and don't know what they are talking about most of the time
- Yes, I believe that statement is true. My mom and dad let me watch them have sex and they say the best way to learn is by watching and participating.
- no i don't think they are because my parents are mentally disabled and don't know what they are talking about most of the time
- no i don't think they are because my parents are mentally disabled and don't know what they are talking about most of the time
- No my parents wouldn't even know. They have never had sex or at least i don't think they have.
- what is sex?
- No my two moms don't tell me much about sex.
- No, i don't have any parents. I learn everything i need to know from the discovery channel and the local YMCA
- No I learn everything and more than my parents do by watching the kids on the back of the bus.
- i believe this is so true, i trust my parents and have a close relationship with them. i trust them before i would trust or listen to anybody else. i can ask my parents anything though, a lot of teens don't have that type of relationship with their parents.
- I believe this is true, children trust their parents more than many other people in their life and if their parents tell them about sex, then children are going to trust them and that could save a lot of hurt and sickness in the future.
- There is a big pond behind my house and sometimes when it's really cold the water turns to a little village of mole people who someday are going to take over the world hahahah!!! the world is ours!!!
- No, I think that most teens learn about sex from peers or teachers. Because they may feel uncomfortable about talking to their kids about sex. Or they may think that we aren't listening to them, but we are. Now all the parents will have to do is talk. Their kids are listening.
- My parents and I have always been and always will be open with each other so I know if there is anything I need to talk or ask them about they're always there. I am extremely lucky.

Weekly Teen Survey

Question: What do you and don't you like when your parents talk with you about sex? What is most helpful? Unhelpful?

Posted: 3/10/99 - 3/18/99

Results: (unedited)

- When my parents talk to me about sex I would rather them give me alternatives rather than tell me just not to do it.
- My parents have never talked with me about sex, even though I'm four-teen, and going to be 15 in April. It seems to me that the subject is forbidden in our house. I wasn't told about anything. They have not talked with me about it.
- I hate it when they talk to me as if I'm already having sex! I'm not and it makes me feel like they think I'm already doing it so I might as well go ahead.
- I'm not being helped in the sex issue. My parents don't talk to me about it, but they do know that I'm sexually active. I think that all parents should talk to their teens about sex. Even though they don't talk about sex with me, I know enough to use protection.
- my parents never talk to me about sex. just a week ago i lost my virginity. i know if my parents knew, they'd think it wasn't a smart decision but i don't regret it. i would have been helpful if i coulda talk to my mom about everything but since i couldn't i had to find everything out on my own!
- I'm 17 yrs. old and I talk to my mother about sex. I'm still a virgin so I go to her for helpful advice. When a parent is openminded and trusting you will feel more comfortable to talk to them, i do.
- I think it is uncomfortable when they talk about things like that or when they watch shows that talk about it. A few days ago i was watching a thing about spring break and my dad walked in and i changed it because I felt different watching that with him because it talked about things like that.
- I can't stand it when my mom constantly asks if i'm sexually active. She always makes me promise her to use a condom. Sometimes I laugh at her but she yells at me because she is serious.
- I don't like the idea of just totally shifting from what's on t.v, to are you having sex. I hate how my mom's approach to "the talk", is just don't do it. i wish that my father would be the one stepping in and telling me about it. i think it would mean more coming from a man because the message would be that not everything is about sex instead of mom telling you

that all boys want is sex and just to stay away from them. i think it would give a better relationship to girl and their father sif they would talk about it together instead of automatically putting the mother in that position everytime her children get old enough to start experimenting. :o)

- It makes me uncomfortable, but i know that I need to be informed about the subject.
- I like the fact that they care about you and your Questions. I dont like when they try to make you feel bad about having sex and only tell you the negative sides of each thing.
- They always believe that I have had sex and they wont believe me when i tell them the truth because they think of as a little slutt.
- I don't like when they talk to me about sex at all, because they always mention stuff that i learned in fifth grade like how to use a condom, what the pill is and how to wait until i'm married.
- When my parents mind their own business and let me do my own thing thats what helps cause when someone tells me what to do thats the one thing I want to accomplish
- Theres nothing i dont like because my mom gets right to the point. she always says dont do it and if you do use protection .then she tells us if we do its our decision.
- i love it
- I wouldn't know. My parents never talked to me, that's why I am now a dad.
- **I WAS (AM) A TEEN MOM. I DON'T BLAME MY PARENTS FOR MY PREGNANCY. HOWEVER IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IF THEY WOULD'VE BEEN A LITTLE MORE OPEN ABOUT SEX. IT WAS NEVER DISCUSSED UNTIL THEY DISCOVERED I WAS PREGNANT. ONE OF MY SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE TO HAVE REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES ON HERE. I NEVER THOUGHT RAISING AN EIGHT YEAR OLD WOULD BE THIS DIFFICULT!!!! IT WAS SO EASY WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER. NOW I HAVE TO TEACH HIM THINGS ABOUT LIFE THAT I HAVE NOT FIGURED OUT MYSELF. WHETHER PARENTS LIKE IT OR NOT, KIDS ARE HAVING SEX. THEY HAVE TO BE OPEN AND ACCEPT WHAT THEIR KIDS DO INSTEAD OF JUST IGNORING IT. OR TELLING THEM "JUST DON'T DO IT.**
- Since it is proven that children are most likely to act like their parents did in this area, the most helpful info from our parents are stories of their sexual experiences. It helps us to understand ourselves and avoid mistakes. Also, it means that the focus is not on us like it usually is when discussing this topic and opens up trusting communication between us and our parents.

- I don't like when they show me how it is done.
- Well my parents don't talk to me about sex like parents are suppose to but I know alot about it and i know that if I make that one mistake that could ruin my life. People just think about sex like it is nothing but when they get pregnant or when they come up with a disease then they are going to quit doing what they are doing. But you know some people will still have sex and don't know that they have HIV. It is unhelpful when they just tell me what I already know.
- I really don't like it when they beat around the bush, I would like it if they came out and said what they ment. The most helpful thing to me is that I hear it from her and not from the streets. The unhelpful thing is when they start to lecture.
- I don't like how they try to insist that you are already having sex and won't admit to it. of course we wouldn't tell you but trying to bully it out of you doesnt help.

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Memorandum

To: Marisa Nightingale
From: Ingrid Sanden
Date: November 30, 1999
RE: Teen Panel for ONDCP briefing

Following is a brief bio of each of the nine teens on the ONDCP event panel December 9. The teens are the Planned Parenthood of New York's Teen Advocates and are recruited for their leadership abilities. They are trained by Planned Parenthood New York to work with other teens on teen pregnancy prevention through workshops, scripts and other activities. Their adviser is Jessica Rivera.

Yeisa Martinez is 17 years old and in twelfth grade at Dewitt Clinton High School. She is from the Bronx. She enjoys writing poetry and songs and is learning how to play the guitar and piano. She believes her job as a Teen Advocate is important because "we reach out to the teens in the community and make them aware of issues that they may not have prior knowledge." When she's not at school or work, she reads *Seventeen* and *Glamour* and watches *Road Rules* and *Real World* on MTV.

Jessica Rivera is 20 years old and attends Bronx Community College. She believes her job is important because she gets to share options with her peers when it comes to sex, and because she learns from other people's experiences. She reads *The Source* and *Vibe*, and watches *The Simpsons* and *X-Files*. She also enjoys computers, going to arcades and sleeping when she has time.

Efrain Vellon is 17 and attends the High School of Graphic Communication Arts. He's in the eleventh grade and is from the Bronx. When he's not working or going to school, he likes to write poetry or his own personal thoughts, and enjoys drawing, computer graphics, music and skating. He reads *The Source*, *Blaze*, *XXL*, *Maxim*, *Teen People* and *High Times*, and mostly listens to Hip-Hop. He watches *South Park*, *Rap City*, *the Simpsons*, *Seinfeld* reruns and MTV.

Viviana Gonzalez is 17 and is in the twelfth grade at South Bronx High School. She's originally from Puerto Rico. She believes her job is important because it gives her responsibility and opens her mind. She reads *Teen magazine*, *The Source*, and *Seventeen*, and listens to R&B, Hip-Hop and Salsa music. Her other interests include watching a lot of t.v., working on computers and dancing.

*Dubmy These teens
did a briefing w/ us
in NYC
this
winter.*

*Some info @ planned
parenthood-NYC is
attached but we'll
get you more
info on the
program
next
week.*

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Wendell D. Griffin is 18 and is a senior at Taft High School. He's from the Bronx. He feels his job is important because "there are many teens out there that don't know about all the STDs and how you can get them. It's better for a teen to give this information to another teen." When he's not at work he attends school and plays basketball. He listens to rap and R&B, and enjoys watching videos and sitcoms. He reads *Blaze*, *The Source* and other sports magazines, and his other interests include girls and getting into college.

Tahreem Drayton is 15 and is in tenth grade at Morris High School. He lives in the Bronx and when he's not at work or school, he enjoys playing basketball with friends, reading *Vibe* and watching wrestling on t.v. He listens to rap R&B and Hip-Hop and his other interests include the internet and going to movies. He feels his job is important because "it's a big responsibility for me. There are a lot of teens that need help and they'd rather talk to a teen than to an adult. So, I feel like I have to provide them with the information they want."

Melvin White is 15 and in the tenth grade at William Howard Taft High School. He is from the Bronx and feels his job is important because "there are too many uneducated people in my community and they need to know what they are doing." When he's not working he plays basketball or goes to the community center. He reads *Vibe*, *XXL*, and *The Source*, and mostly listens to rap music. His other interests include making money, playing games and having fun.

Francisco Cruz is 17 and attends Adlai E. Stevenson High School. He's from the Bronx and is interested in media communications, theater, and computers. He believes his job is important because "through theatrical workshops I, along with other teen advocates, are able to positively reach teens in my community in reducing teen pregnancy and promoting safer sex." He participates in other scholastic and community activities like youth groups when he's not at work and listens to rap, Hip-Hop, Salsa and Meringue. He watches music videos and shows on MTV, VH1, and BET, and reads *The Source*, *Vibe*, and *Blaze*.

Tai-Sheba Smith is 18 and a high school graduate. She's from New York and when she's not working she does outreach in her neighborhood by distributing condoms and pamphlets in local clothing stores. She enjoys her job because it allows her to reach out to her children in her community. She likes to read *Vibe* and *The Source*, and listens to R&B, jazz, Hip-Hop, and African soul. She doesn't have much time for television, but likes to go to the movies, dance, write poetry, act, and sing.

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What teens
say @ parents
in their lives

Parents

- Parents have to talk to their children about sex and tell them what they think is right. Parents are the ones that we listen to the most. Even if parents don't think their kids are listening you'd be amazed at how many really are.
--Teen People, female, 17
- Instead of flat-out telling their kids not to have sex, parents should go through risks, consequences, and wise decision-making skills with them. For example, instead of telling a child not to cross the street, an adult should give the kids reasons why crossing the street is dangerous and may not be worth it.
--Teen People, female, 17
- The person I talk to is my father. That's the only person I trust in this world with everything.
--Male, 17, DC Community Partnership, 11/10/98
- What is the most helpful thing my parents told me about sex? I wouldn't know. My parents never talked to me, that's why I am now a dad.
--web, male, 17
- I really don't like it when my parents beat around the bush. I would like it if they came out and said what they meant. The most helpful thing to me is that I hear it from my parents and not from the streets. The unhelpful thing is when they start to lecture.
--web, female, 14
- My parents haven't had the sex conversation with me yet. I think they just assume I'm not gonna get into that.
--Teen People, female, 17
- Because adults are *expecting* us to have sex, we are living up to expectations. They are always saying, "Oh, well, we heard so and so had sex so we have got to be prepared for when you have sex." So, what the heck? If the adults expect it, let's go for it.
--web visitor, female, 16
- My parents taught me by the most influential teaching style of all; their example.
--web visitor, female, 18
- My mom means a lot to me so I would never have sex any time soon simply because my mom would be really disappointed and my mom's done too much for me to disappoint her now.
--Teen People, female, 15
- I don't feel that the parents are the best sex educators. The topic of sex can sometimes be very uncomfortable and difficult to discuss with your parents. Trying to break it to your

parents that you are sexually active is very hard and sometimes it's easier to go to a teacher, and ask them for advice on contraception, and on where to go to get tested.

--web visitor, female, 17

- I think my parents were too nervous to talk to me about sex. Maybe they just never thought I was old enough but by the time my mom was ready for "the talk," I already knew more than she did.

--Teen People, female, 16

- You can force your kid to eat their vegetables, and you can regulate them with curfews, but you can't keep them under 24-hour surveillance. Being strict is not the solution, education and instilling the morals that you yourself now have is what is important.

--Teen People, female, 17

eh...
not exciting

- I don't think parents know much about what goes on with kids today...The best thing to do is not really try to prevent the act of sex but to teach your child to be safe.

Teen People, male, 18

- It is fine for parents to want to steer their children away from having sex as teenagers, but I think that they could at least be a little bit more understanding about it. They have been there before, doing the same things that they don't want us to do, so it would be nice for them to kind of be on our side once in a while.

--Teen People, female, 16

- Often you hear about young teens who become pregnant and have a baby. I feel so sorry for them. You have to wonder where these girls' parents are.

--Teen People, female, 16

- Many kids will choose to do what they want, but if a parent can have an honest conversation with their children, they may be able to make better choices about what they do with their body.

--Teen People, female, 18

- Some kids don't feel comfortable talking to their parents about sex. So they go to their peers and sometimes get bad advice. That's why it's important to have a close parent/child relationship.

--Teen People, female, 17

- If you even ask your parents about sex, they start thinking and accusing you of having sex and they watch your every move from then on. It's so degrading.

--Teen People, male, 16

- I'm a teen mom. I don't blame my parents for my pregnancy but it would have been helpful if they had been a little more open about sex. It was never discussed until they discovered I was pregnant.

--Web visitor, female, 17

- Parents are the worst sex educators. I think parents get too embarrassed with telling their kids about sex or they keep quiet assuming their kids know what to do and all.
--Teen People, male, 14
- I hate it when they talk to me as if I'm already having sex! I'm not and it makes me feel like they think I'm already doing it so I might as well go ahead.
--web, march 1999
- My parents are the best role models I couldn't possibly had. Most important, they have taught me how to be an individual and think for myself. Because of the confidence they gave me as a child, I know I can conquer anything, and make my own decisions.
--web visitor, female, 14

Weekly Teen Survey

Question: Do you think the adults you know are good role models?

Dates Posted: August 4 - 15, 1999

Results: (unedited)

- yes
- Yes in some ways they are. But in other ways they aren't. My mom got pregnant when she was 17. And she got married when she was 16. She made alot of mistakes but by discussing them with me both she and I have learned from her mistakes.
- Some parents are good role model because they keep them out of trouble and tell what to do and they can listen to their friends advice on somethings. some of the other parents are not because of how they act and kids shouldn't take their advice they should take their friends. but not kids shouldn't listen to all what their friends say because they might get it in the wrong hands and get pregnant when they don't want to and they have to go to their parents and tell them and might get hits
- Yes. I do. My parents are always telling me to look at all the bad examples in our family and to make good examples out of them. I am a born-again teenager and I'm filled with the Holy-Ghost. My Youth Leaders are good examples for me also. Danny and Melanie tell us how we should go and that we should save ourselves for marriage. John and Mystica are also good examples and i love to follow those examples. If there was one thing I would like people to stop telling me is that it is going to happen to me. i covered under the blood and the world can't harm me! God loves you and so do I
- Who knows and who cares. parents suck. i could get along without them easily plus my dad is a pimp and my mom is a hooker. good role model ya think? i was an accident. they weren't supposed to have me. although we are rich i hate my family. i live with 27 kids. some are from my mom and all the men she has been with and some are from the ladies my dad has been with. and i still have my own room. but anyways that is not role model type. why would i wanna grow up to be that. its not good nor healthy. they ruin my life. i hate them!
- Some of them, my parents are not, but most of the adults in my church are good role models yes.
- Some. Just like some of the teens you meet may be good and others are not, some of the adults you meet are not good role models.
- Definitely...my parents, for example, are the best role models I could've possible had. I've learned so much from them. They have taught me some of the most important lessons in

life...but most of all, they have taught me how to be an individual and think for myself. Because of the confidence they gave me as a child, I know I can conquer anything, and make my own decisions. Thanks to them...I AM ME! :)

- ok
- No, I think that most adults think we are good for nothing trouble makers. I mean if we stand outside a store or diner they'll tell us to leave cause it's "bad for buissness" but if some one thier age does the same it's alright.
- some are and some aren't. the majority are but not everyone is going to be a good role model just like not everyone is going to die at the age of 83 it varies. i guess it's the luck of the draw.
- yes
- i guess
- no
- yes
- YEA BUT SOME CAN TRIP BOUT STUFF LIKE WHEN U TALK BOUT SEX AND STUFF BUT IM NOT GONA BE HAVIN SEX NE TIME SOON CUZ I WANA WAIT
- not all of them. A lot of the adults I know say one thing and do the opposite. Plus my parents will yell and scream at me about sex and stuff, but they never even sit down and try to talk to me.
- I know a lot of adults and they'er not all good role models. One woman that I paticularly look up to, isn't perfect. She has her faults but so does everyone. I know she will always be there for me, and that I can always talk to her about anything. She's done really good with her life and even though she has gone through some really rough times, she always comes out on top, which inspiers me to keep going every day.
- no.not most of them
- Yep!
- Yes, my mother got pregnant when she was just 17 and she told me how she felt and how she wished she had waited. It's not that she didn't want my sister, it's just that she wished she had waited instead of wasting some of her teen years. Every time I think about having sex with my boyfriend now I just think of my mom and what she went through when she was just 17.

- no i do not believe that the adults in my life are good role models. my parents do not get along and fight often. my brothers who are 8 and 10 years older than i am got much more freedom and trust than i do now. also i dont feel that i can confide anything in them because i am afraid of their reaction, which i am dissapointed in.
- many of the adults i know are excellent role models however there are those that are a complete mess.
- Well..honestly i think alot of them are but some arent..Some just talk sexual and do all this sexual stuff right in front of anyone...they dont care..No Respect...i think its a bad example to us kids..and teens..they should do it when we aint around..not right in front...for example " You got nice tits" i mean come on or heres another.."You havent givin me my b..j. for the day!!!! ewww. see what i mean..maybe there just jokin but still..
- Some of the adults that I know are good role models but some are downright hypocritical.
- Most of the adults I know are good role models now but looking back at some of their pasts, I would have to say, no way. But they turned their lives around and live the best ways that they can. My Mom didn't go to college and she still works at a job she enjoys very much. I think she is a good role model. She has taught me not to smoke, or drink or anything. I may have had sex but she always talked about PROTECTED sex! and I have followed that to the T. That is just the good side of adult role models. I see my father. He dropped out of school in the tenth grade and he was a druggie and he is now an alcoholic. It's hard for me to look up to him. He also cheated on my mom, beaten her and they ended up getting divorced when I was in 3rd grade. I may have been young, but I knew what he did was wrong! The best role model in my life is my Boss. He is very responsible(most of the time!) He came from a bad home and has dealt with the same things I have and grew up right. He is very successful and he works hard, sometimes to hard. He has acheived his goal and I hope that I can be the same someday when I am an adult. Over all most adults are good role models but then again so many are not.
- THE ADULTS I KNOW ARE GOOD ROLE MODELS BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS TELL ME POSITIVE THINGS
- yes. I come from a very honest family, with only a few divorces. My aunts and uncles all have morals.
- Yes i do
- Nearly all of the adults I know are excellent role models to myself and the hunderds of other teens they come into contact with (as teachers, coaches and community volunteers). However, in general they avoid or gingerly skirt the topic of sex and it's many negative consequences. Although the adults are highly respected, they rarely use this influence with tough issues like sex. Most of the time the guidance and help friends need is given

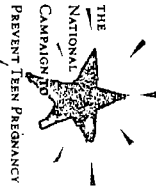
by their peers when it comes to sex, protection, pregnancy, ect. through the from of previous experience, social stigmas and religious beliefs. The adults are great people to look up to, but they tend to be examples instead of support.

- Yes i do because i'm 16 years old with a baby boy named mike after my father because i could not have done it with out my father.
- no all the adults i know smoke weed and drink alot
- I think they can be if they try. My parents have never talked to me about sex or pregnancy. I'm fifteen, and I believe they could be if they didn't always avoid the subject. I get most of my info from magazines, media, etc. They need to model good behavior and attitudes toward sex and preventing pregnancy.
- no
- **YEAH I THINK THE ADULTS I KNOW ARE GOOD ROLE MODELS BUT JUST BACUSE THEY ARE GOOD ROLE MODELS DOSE NOT MEAN YOU ARE GOING TO LOOK UP TO THEM IN EVERY GOOD WAY.**
- Some are it all depends who you are with.

Why

- I got pregnant because — with my mother having so many kids — I really didn't feel that I got all the love. I wanted to love and be loved, so that's why I had my children. And I wanted my children.
-Female, 18, Covenant House, 11/18/98
- My perspective is this. Nine out of ten girls say they got pregnant by mistake.
-Female, 17, Covenant House, 11/18/98
- No baby is an accident or a mistake.
-Male, 19, Covenant House, 11/18/98
- ~~Drinking, drugs, they play a serious role in sex. So many people have sex when they're just not really ready to because they're not thinking straight. It's sad really.~~
--female, 15
- Sometime I get so bored with my life and with the people around me that I am seriously tempted to just go out and get laid.
--Teen People, male, 17
- Boredom may not be the best reason but it is probably one of the most common reasons I have heard for people to have sex for the first time. If town had more things to do and places to go for teens then I am sure that the sexual activity rates would go down. Why not propose arcades, rec center activities, juice bars, skateboarding ramps and rinks, iceskating rink and dance clubs that allow teens.
--Teen People, female, 17
- For me, sex is something that two people share when they love each other. However, to many teens it is only a physical act and something to pass the time.
--Teen People, female, 19

Really — check this out



Teen voices
from our
web site

1. What kids
do after school

Weekly Teen Survey

Question: What do you do in your spare time during the summer? Do you think there are enough programs or activities for young people during the summer? What kinds of activities would you like to do?

Dates Posted: 7/19 - 7/27/99

Results: (unedited)

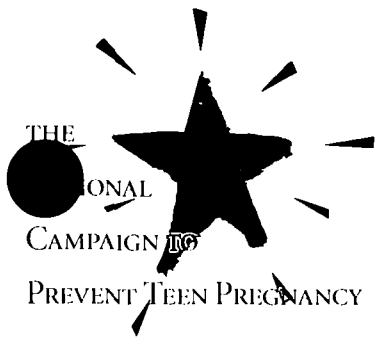
- During the summer i go to summer school and a school activity called song and dance it keeps me very occupied and it is also very fun i think that there are many things to do you just got to find the right one for you.
- Hang out with friends and chill! There are programs in the summer but, none of them are really all that appealing to teens.
- I would love to have like a building put up for teens, where a club would be placed for teens to go and dance and hang out during the summer and on weekends.
- I work and hang out on my girlfriends boat
- WELL, ON MY SPARE TIME I BRAID PEOPLES HAIR. IF I'M NOT DOING THAT THEN I'M JUST SITTING AT HOME DOING NOTHING. THERE IS NO PLACE TO GO, OTHER THAN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OR MALLS. TEENS NEED ACTIVE PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP THEM FOR THE FUTURE. BYE-BYE.
- What I like to do for the summer is to go out with my friends and family to the beach, movies, and parks. I think there are enough activities for the youth today during the summer. The kind of activities that I would like to do are going to programs where they teach us teenagers all about risks and problems facing teenagers today because some of them are so clueless as to what's going on that they end up doing stupid mistakes that will change their lives all because many adults are too scared to talk about it.
- most young teen have sex to be safe do do like i did i had sex never told my mother i slow move out in move in my boyfriend i am 19 years old i will be 20year old in march i thought i was going to have a kids i was luck i did?
- Actually during the summer I don't do anything. No, I don't think that there are enough local summer activites to be envovled in. I would like to be in a local over-night camp that's inexpensive.
- I work and attend classes at a local college. There isn't much to do in the area that I live in. Parties seem like the only place to go and therefore a lot of underage drinking occurs.

- In my spare time I like to play with my niece, nephew, and talk to my cousins. No, I don't think there are enough activities for teenagers this summer. That might be why more and more teenagers are turning to sex and drugs. A lot of teens can't get jobs or find them so they turn to selling drugs for money. What do you think? Am I right? I know I am!!! I wouldn't mind finding a job, that's what I would like to do
- I stay at home and relax i think there are a lot of programs offered for young people not only during the summer but also year round i love swimming, internet surfing, cross-stitching and reading
- Durring the summer I really don't do nothing. There really isn't much to do and the things that are to do are illegal. I'd rather do something that is wort doing and not going to get me into trouble. Activities that will prove that not all teens are bad. Insted of drinking at nights, I'd rather go to a club and go dancing. Or instead of going to the stores and stealing durring the daytime, I'd rather like to go and meet people from my community such as a community center or something. I think that there should be more stuff for the teens to do just like the adults do. We should be treated equally. Just because their older, that doesn't mean that they can be treated differently. You adults want us to act like adults, well then treat us like adults and we will.
- I do a lot of stuff in my spare time such as reading, swimming, playing with my brother, listening to the radio and other stuff and where I live we don't have a lot of stuff for the young people as for myself I don't leet nobody bother me and for the little bit that we do have it's not worth nothing and to me I think that wee will never have anything for the little people we have growing up.
- I go to church,a youth convention,or hang out with my friends. No, because they say that they have a summer program so that teens can get a job, but were I am from they did not start it this year. I would like to have a job so that I can make me some money for school and do other things.
- i like to go to movies, skating rink, mall. or any where my boyfriend wants to go to just fool around a little. or just party
- i sit around the house and do nothing. basketball and ather sport would be great I think so yes I thing there should be more things for us teens to do.
- In my spare time I like to go out with my friends and boyfriend. I do not think there is enough activities for young people to do. The activities that I would like to do is go ice-skating and go to the cinimas but it is to hard to get to as my mum and dad do not drive. I think there should be clubs that will take you right to the place you want to go I think that you should have to pay.
- I live in the middle of nowhere so there really isn't any place to go on weekdays. I think there is plenty to do though! There is so much teens could do by themselves. Example

get a job, go to the movies, bowling, groceryshop or clean the house for mom, mow the yard, make homemade icecream, read a book, watch tv, go swimming, talk to a friend on the phone, go on the net, hang with a few friends a hose and a volleyball net, go camping, take a long nap, help a neighbor, go fishing, make up a dance, learn something, cook, babysit, run, exercise, play basketball, make homemade thank you notes, rent a movie, learn another lingo, get a pet, community service, make popcorn, etc. I don't think teens should just go and waste their money (or their parents money) on just anything. I don't see how people are so bored during the summer!

- i try to stay occupied and just have fun. there are so many good programs for kids but there's never enough. i love to try new things so i'm always busy with something.
- I do cheer but i dance in the summer. i stoped dancing and got preg
- I get involved with as much as possible in the way of camps, etc., but I think there should definitely be more positive opportunities available to young people. One way I keep busy is by being involved with Youth to Youth, a positive peer leadership/drug prevention program for teens. They give me opportunities I might not otherwise have. Volunteer! Get a job! Go to camp, or a summer program at a local college! I think that they should open up a place where teenagers can just chill with their friends, in an alcohol and drug-free atmosphere, as opposed to weekend parties that kids throw.
- I usually exercise alot (I hate to exercise in the winter so I make up for it in the summer) I like to swim, read books and watch t.v. I don't think there is near enough stuff for teens to do in the summer. I would like to have a place for teens to met and have fun like a summer school just to talk or something!
- Well in the summer i like to go swimming skating and talk on the phone. i think we could use a little more activities for young people because other wise all we do is get into trouble like getting pregnant as having sex.
- No, there is not enough programs. I like to go to King's island for free if we could
- Usually during the summer I hang out with my friends. We just go to the movies or to the mall and stuff. When I'm not with my friends I like to read books because during the school year I am too busy so I like to do it in the summer. I also like to just go out and play some basketball in my driveway or go and ride my bike. I do think that there are alot of programs for young people in the summer. I just went to a sports camp at a college and it was really great. I think that stuff like that is cool because you can see alot of things and learn about what you might want to do when you get older.

3.3.2000



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Hi Barb & Shirley -

Great to see you

this week! I've pulled
together the info I

promised - I'll get

corporate names to you

next week (+ media names).

Enclosed: → Planned Parenthood Teen Advocates
info.

→ Teen voices: what teens have
told us about

> Parents

> after school involvement

~~→ Planned Parenthood~~

→ Media consumption study
& press release

→ article & fact sheet on teens
delaying sex

Hope this helps!

Marisa

the site.

See You, Hear You, Touch You

One thing teens like more than the Web is social interaction. This is an area the Internet may never overcome. Even chat rooms are cold connections when compared to the warm bond of a high-five. Teens like to be close to the action and shopping online deprives them of their inalienable right to look cool at the mall. Also, instant gratification is satisfied there, as is the hands-on involvement with the merchandise. There also are no huge shipping costs or god-awful procedures to perform when returning a product.

E-tailers can combat some of these barriers by making Web shopping as risk-free as possible, says Teen Research. Offering easy merchandise returns, product demonstrations and free shipping would help.

Additionally, a Web site doesn't have to be set up for ecommerce. It can complement its offsite counterpart by giving the user more information about the brand, where it can be purchased. Or an etailer may wish to open a dialogue between the user which can build loyalty.

(Shannon McClowry, shannonm@teenresearch.com, 847/564-3440.)

Web Teen and What They Purchase

Cds/cassettes	59%	55%
Concert/sports tix	36%	40%
Books/magazines	30%	37%
Clothing	25%	38%
Accessories	18%	29%
Shoes/boots	20%	26%
Computer stuff	27%	14%
Airfare/hotel	14%	22%
Sports equip.	23%	10%
Audio equip.	18%	10%
Bags/backpacks	8%	16%

source: Teen Research Unlimited

What Teens Do Online

Surf for Stuff to Buy

Boys	18%
Girls	18%

Download Stuff

Boys	58%
Girls	40%

Email Stuff

Boys	59%
Girls	58%

Research Stuff

Boys	71%
Girls	78%

Chat about Stuff

Boys 41%

Girls 49%

Play Games 'n Stuff

Boys 32%

Girls 27%

source: Teen Research Unlimited



September 30, 1999, Thursday

SECTION: Lifestyle

DISTRIBUTION: TO TECHNOLOGY AND FAMILY EDITORS

LENGTH: 729 words

HEADLINE: New Yankelovich Internet Survey Shows Big Disconnect Between Parents and Teens;
New Cyber Safety Network Formed to Help Parents Connect with Teens to Openly Discuss Best Uses of the Internet

BODY:

The Safe America Foundation, WiredKids, a new organization founded by cyber safety expert Parry Aftab, and their corporate partners announced today the formation of the Cyber Safety Network to help parents and teens openly discuss the best uses of the Internet.

The need for open Internet discussion between parents and teens is underscored by a recent Yankelovich Partners survey commissioned by the Safe America Foundation. The survey indicated that 75 percent of parents report formally discussing Internet rules with teens while only 39 percent of teenagers report having had these same discussions.

"While parents profess to having open discussions with their kids about the best uses of the Internet, the same kids have a totally different point of view," said Fred Seibert, chairman, Cyber Safety Network. "The Cyber Safety Network is all about open communications. We are developing a number of initiatives that will help parents and teens discuss the best places to visit on the Web, and the most effective ways to access them."

The survey also found that 53 percent of the teens interviewed had encountered offensive web sites that could include pornography, hate or violence. Ninety-one percent of those teens had come upon offensive sites unwittingly while engaged in benign activities, such as conducting research for school projects or merely surfing the web.

Cyber Safety Network members, industry experts and corporate executives will explore cyber safety solutions during its cyber safety summit on Oct. 6 at The Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta.

Cyber Safety Network corporate partners include MTV Networks Online, Bass Hotel and Resorts (Holiday Inn), ClickChoice.com, Delta Air Lines, the Ford Motor Company, I-Village, Travelers Insurance, Scholastics Inc. and United Parcel Service.

The Cyber Safety Network's wealth of online and child safety experts have identified a preliminary list of integrated solutions including: informative web sites such as www.safeamerica.org, which will offer free filtering software in December, and www.wiredkids.org, as well as distributing cyber safety information for educators.

Cyber Safety Network solutions specifically for children include the Youth Safety Corps and TeenAngels programs, producing a Report to Kids, developing a Youth Listening Tour and incorporating cyber safety into existing safety programs such as Safe America Month(TM) and the foundation's Safest Kid in America(TM) contest. The network will also utilize strategic partnerships to grow the reach and effectiveness of the program.

"The explosion of the Internet has given rise to new challenges for children, teens and parents," said Len Pagano, president, Safe America Foundation. "Through the Cyber Safety Network, we want to bring our expertise in creating a forum for parents and their kids to communicate about the Web."

Another tactic the Cyber Safety Network has adopted is the enlistment of youths to act as a resource to other kids. The TeenAngels program, headed by WiredKids, recruits teens to provide tips on cyber safety, to teach other teens about cyber safety resources and to educate other teens on how to have a safe and secure online experience.

"Children and teens continue to be the best resource to learn about the dangers that they encounter with their online experiences," said Parry Aftab, executive director, TeenAngels and WiredKids. "We will empower them with the solutions and tools to reach out into their communities to create safe online experiences for their peers. Helping kids to educate kids about cyber safety will be a key strategy for us. The greatest risk our children face in connection with the Internet is being denied access. There are solutions for every other risk."

For more information about the Cyber Safety Network, visit www.safeamerica.org.

SOURCE Cyber Safety Network

survey and the formation of the Cyber Safety Network will be available Thursday, Sept. 30 at 10-10:30 a.m. Eastern on Telstar 4, transponder 23 and again from 1-2 p.m. on Telstar 6, transponder 8. Both transmissions available on C band, 6.2 and 6.8 audio frequency./

CONTACT: Charles McDonald of Fleishman-Hillard, Inc., 404-659-4446, ext. 157, or mcdonald@fleishman.com, for Cyber Safety Network

Colin Twitchell, an "Invention Mentor" for the Lemelson-MIT Program and director of the Lemelson Assistive Technology Center at Hampshire College, concurs with the teens' responses: "Spending quality time with your children -- which can be very difficult to do these days -- is extremely important. Without the support, interest and encouragement that parents can give to their children to foster creativity and inventiveness, the inventive, creative nature that's inherent in kids will eventually disappear."

Besides offering advice to parents and schools on getting young people interested in learning, teens were also asked to predict future career paths for themselves and for the next generation of youth, and to choose which American inventors they think were most influential on society.

SURPRISING GENDER, CAREER CHOICES

The study revealed some surprising gender-specific choices and career outlooks. For example, while boys (26%) are significantly more interested than girls (4%) in being inventors today, 40% of teens think there will be equal interest among boys and girls ten years from now. Such findings provide clues about career areas where young people could especially benefit from role models and mentors.

Also of note was the interest that teens -- and girls in particular -- conveyed in the areas of science, genetics and medicine. Surprisingly, medicine tops the list of professions that girls select as their first choice with 35%, but is only the third choice among boys at 23%. Equally surprising is "inventor" as the boys' top career pick with 26%. The strong showing by these scientific fields suggests that science may be having as much -- or maybe more -- of an impact on teens as computers and technology. Overall, "reporter" ranked just slightly better than "politician" as a future career among teens. It was the last choice among boys (3%) and only fourth among girls (9%).

Future Career Choices, by Gender

Future Career Paths - BOYS	Future Career Paths - GIRLS
Inventor -- 26%	Doctor -- 35%
Lawyer -- 24%	Teacher -- 26%
Doctor -- 23%	Lawyer -- 19%
Teacher -- 12%	Reporter -- 9%
Other -- 6%	Inventor -- 4%
Politician -- 4%	Other -- 3%
Reporter -- 3%	Politician -- 2%

Source: 2000 Lemelson-MIT Invention Index(TM)

TEENS CHOOSE BEN FRANKLIN AS MOST IMPORTANT INVENTOR/INNOVATOR

Teens were also asked to choose the inventor or innovator they feel has changed the world the most. Benjamin Franklin is considered the most influential (39%) of a group comprised of Franklin, Thomas Edison, Bill Gates, Alexander Graham Bell, Henry Ford and Madame Marie Curie. A similar proportion cites Edison (34%), while one-quarter choose Gates (28%) and Bell (25%). In terms of the importance of these innovators, boys and girls seem to agree at the same levels. However, girls between the ages of 15 and 17 are twice more likely than girls aged 12 to 14 to cite Bill Gates as the innovator who has changed the world the most (40% vs. 21%).

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The Lemelson-MIT Invention Index(TM) has explored Americans' perceptions about inventing and innovating since 1996. Previous topics that have been covered include:

- Which inventions Americans could not live without (1996)
- What attributes inventors have (1996)
- Whether certain inventions make life easier or more complex (1997)
- Which areas of research & development American taxpayers support (1998)
- Which are the most profitable career areas for inventors (1999)

METHODOLOGY

The 2000 Lemelson-MIT Invention Index Survey was conducted by Roper Starch among a nationally representative sample of 503 12-to-17 year-olds. Interviews were conducted via telephone during December 2-5, 1999. The data were

weighted to correct any imbalances due to sampling. The margin of error for the entire sample is +/- 4 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is higher.

ABOUT THE LEMELSON-MIT PROGRAM

Based at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Lemelson-MIT Program was established in 1994 by independent inventor Jerome H. Lemelson and his wife, Dorothy. The Program celebrates inspirational role models in the fields of science, engineering, medicine and entrepreneurship, in the hope of encouraging future generations to follow their example. For more information, please visit the Program's Web site at <http://web.mit.edu/invent>.

NOTE: To request a copy of the complete 2000 Lemelson-MIT Invention Index, please contact Elliott Frieder at efrieder@mslpr.com or by phone at 212-213-7245. For more information on the Lemelson-MIT Program's outreach activities, please contact Kristin Joyce at kjoyce@mit.edu or 617-258-0632.

SOURCE The Lemelson-MIT Program

CONTACT: Mark D. Harrop, 212-213-7175, or Elliott Frieder, 212-213-7245, both for The Lemelson-MIT Program

URL: <http://www.prnewswire.com>

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 11, 2000

November 28, 1999 Sunday, SOUTHWEST FINAL EDITION

SECTION: FAMILY; Pg. 3; ZONE: SW

LENGTH: 604 words

HEADLINE: VAST WASTELAND EXPANDS ITS BORDERS TO INCLUDE COMPUTERS

BYLINE: Bob Condor.

BODY:

A new study released last week from the Kaiser health care organization showed two-thirds of American children have televisions in their bedrooms. If you ask Dr. Victor Strasberger, it wouldn't be any better if the electronic equipment in kids' private quarters were personal computers instead.

"Televisions and personal computers are exactly parallel," said Strasberger, chief of adolescent medicine at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in Albuquerque. "Both can be good, bad, indifferent, harmful and useful depending on how parents control it. Left to their own devices, kids can get into as equal amounts of trouble on a personal computer or TV cable system."

Statistics help make his case--and can leave parents wincing. In January, Strasberger was co-author of a American Academy of Pediatrics analysis that reported kids watch 16 to 17 hours per week of television, beginning at age 2. The number can reach 35 to 55 hours weekly for some teenagers when videos and video games are included.

Advertising industry research shows nearly two-thirds of kids 6 to 12 now have personal computers and 42 percent of U.S. home are hooked up to the Internet. Kids under 12 with computer access are logging on to the Internet an average of 10 hours per month, while teens are at 13 hours. Computer use among kids is up 25 percent in the last five years. But TV still commands 47 percent of children's weekly media time. Computers occupy 10 percent.

No wonder marketing consultants are telling clients that the typical U.S. teenager views 100 images every 30 seconds and remembers 60 percent of it.

"When parents say, 'Go to your room,' it has a whole different meaning these days," said Strasberger. "I wouldn't mind being a kid with a TV, PC, CD-ROM, VCR, DVD and giant screen in my bedroom."

In his study, published in the Pediatrics journal, Strasberger and his co-author, Edward Donnerstein, a psychologist at the University of California-Santa Barbara, concluded "American media contribute more to adverse health outcomes than to positive or prosocial ones."

Although lack of physical activity and obesity are frequently mentioned as fallout from too much time in front of a screen, doctors and child development specialists are equally concerned with negative effects on learning and behavior. For instance, researchers examined nearly 10,000 hours of television programming over a three-year period, finding 61 percent contained violence and children's programming was the biggest offender.

"We learn and establish attitudes about violence before age 8," said Strasberger. "Our opinions about sex and drugs are more likely to gel at ages 8 to 14."

So parents with younger children might attend most to the violent nature of any program or video game, while parents with preteens should be clear about the sexual content of what their kids are visiting on-line.

"The most effective solution is putting electronics equipment in a common room," Strasberger said. "It provides a built-in regulation system." If children have computers in their bedrooms, he recommended that they not have Internet connections. These should be limited to computers in common rooms, he said.

Studies show many parents are not doing their part to monitor kids' media use. Only a quarter of parents "co-view" television with their kids. The number is speculated to be less with computer use, especially as children become teens.

"Parents need to realize media can be electronic parents," he said. "If parents don't talk about drugs, sex and violence, the media will pick up the slack."

Family Health.

October 29, 1999

SECTION: Vol. 6, No. 22

LENGTH: 791 words

HEADLINE: Consider this when Tapping Teen Shopping Online

BODY:

Teens and the Net go together like peanut butter and jelly, green eggs and ham, or Hollywood and cosmetic surgery. All of them, a natural counterpart to the other. Yet getting teens to purchase something off their newfound friend is a bit daunting.

First off, teens are not all alike. In the broadest of categories there are two types. There's the Joe-cool type who has little or no reservation about shopping online. And there's a more passive, reflective Joe who buys nothing over the Web. Yet, in more cases than not, both surf the same spots and react similarly online, giving marketers no real clues on how to decipher between the two.

Why? Because the buying Joe-cools actually browse more than shop, says Teen Research Unlimited, a firm that studies the online shopping habits of youths.

The firm says this inactivity stems from parents not surrendering their credit cards to their kids. And, unlike the tobacco industry, credit card folk refrain from pushing their wares onto impressionable minds because it's a very traceable offense (i.e. kid gets a credit card without a parent's consent, said kid spends a bundle, company's name glossed across the card must now hire a defense for the prosecution.)

But some kids are finding ways to shop online. In fact, 10 million of them will buy online by 2002, says eMarketer in its eRetail Report. That's up from the 2 million who bought online in '98. And sites like Rocketcash.com and flooz, which cater to teens, work around the credit card thing and still allow their users to buy online at stores like CDNOW, Outpost.com, and planetRx.

"There are two different ways to do it," says Shannon McClowry, research coordinator for Teen Research. "The kids can actually send a check or money order to the site and have, let's say, \$200 on hand to make purchases. Or their parents can set up an online account for them."

As long as the parents consent to their child giving your site money, there will be no potential run-in with Johnny-law. But lesser known sites have a harder time getting that permission.

"Parents are more prone to let their kids shop at an Amazon.com because it's a site they have heard of," says McClowry. "We had a couple of kids in here talking about spending on an unknown site. Their parents usually look at the site to determine if their child can shop there."

Which means, lesser-known sites have a parent factor to deal with. Using far-out designs or questionable content to lure teens might seem objectionable to adults and deny their children the right to shop there. So, best keep the parents in mind when constructing

Delaware

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON RAISING RESPONSIBLE TEENS

Agency Response

I. Themes

Agriculture Department: Food and Nutrition Service

- Healthy eating patterns for teens and their families
- Childhood obesity and overweight issues
- Educating teens about nutrition information and services
- Teen pregnancy-low birth weight and infant mortality

Agriculture Department: Cooperative Research Education and Extension Service

Corporation for National Service

- Youth as Resources: we must ask more of teens

Education Department

- Hope: How does society give teens hope
- Early Childhood
- Critical transitions [from junior high to high school]; reforming the HS
- Search for Identity: especially among boys with the lack of responsible definitions of manhood
- Growing up alone: lack of parental involvement and supervision in teen years
- Parental adult substitutes
- Creating a responsible values system with character education and religion

Health and Human Services

- **Healthy Habits: Setting the Course for Adulthood** (What are the social dimensions of health and fitness as kids grow into adulthood? How can we work with young people to help them make wise choices about their bodies and their behaviors? Highlight the Healthy People 2010 indicators around adolescent health.) [Sec. Shalala, DHHS]
- **Mental Health and Adolescents** (What do we know about the mental health needs of young people? What do young people say are their main mental health issues/needs? How do we provide supports to help young people develop a positive sense of self and belonging, and help them avoid violence against themselves or others?) [Surgeon General Satcher]
- **Joining a Community: Effective Ways to Engage Youth** (How can we enlist youth as committed partners in building communities and their own futures? [Gen. Colin Powell, America's Promise])

Other suggested topics:

- **Aiming High: Helping Teens Set Goals and Achieve Them** (What motivates young people to aim high? How do we get youth involved in community building, educational and career pursuits, creative expression, athletics, and developmental experiences in and beyond the classroom?) [Sec. Riley, ED]
- **Preparing Youth for the World of Work: Concerns and Opportunities** (what opportunities do youth believe they have in terms of education, training and work? What

Invites

body good

motivates young people to seek a career and take the steps necessary to make it a reality? What concerns youth about inequalities in the labor market?) [*Sec. Herman, DOL*]

- **Building Local Capacity for Community Youth Development** (What is the role of community, faith-based, and volunteer organizations in building up youth's responsibility and commitment? How do we break through bureaucracies to get results for our kids?) [*Sec. Cuomo, HUD*]
- **Conflict Resolution and Alternatives to Violence** (How do young people learn to resolve conflicts? How can parents, mentors and other adults involved with teens build a positive foundation of social skills that will enable youth to deal with anger or conflict productively?) [*Attorney General Reno, DOJ*]
- **Communication: Valuing the Perspectives of Youth** (Are kids ready to talk? Are adults ready to hear them? How can parents and other adults who work with teens learn to speak and listen in ways that allow youth to express themselves and be understood?) [*Member of Congress/Youth Organization Leader/Foundation Leader*]
- **Peer Learning** (What can low-risk and high-risk youth learn from one another? How can young people resist learning negative habits from peers?) [*Member of Congress/Youth Organization Leader/Foundation Leader*]
- **The Values We Teach** (How do young people develop their own values? What values are kids learning today and who is teaching them? How do family values, customs and conversations make a difference in a youth's maturation?) [*Member of Congress/Youth Organization Leader/Foundation Leader*]

Housing and Urban Development

- Partnerships in Public Housing (Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, Girl Scouts of American, etc.);
- Providing Safe Environments through Gun Violence Reduction Initiatives;
- After School Program;
- Tutoring and Mentoring;
- Government and Private Partnerships

Justice Department

- **Developing Positive Youth/Adult Partnerships.** It is important to focus on the development of positive communication skills between youth and adults, parents and children. For your information, two promising youth/adult partnership curriculums have been developed: one by the National 4-H Council and another by the National Boys and Girls Clubs.
- **Recognizing What Parents Do Right.** Though the conference needs to highlight the difficulties that parents face, it will also be important to focus on how parents are successful.
- **Highlighting Effective Programming.** The conference should be utilized as a vehicle to educate parents, practitioner and other conference attendees about the availability of effective programming which strengthens families.

Labor Department

- At-risk youth
- Partnerships, i.e. DOL/DOJ on youth offender
- Coordination of resources

NICHD

- Adolescent sexual behavior.
- Youth violence is much in the news these days. Different interest groups point to different possible causes of the seeming increase in such violence. The NIH has recently set aside several million dollars of funding and issued a call for research on this topic.
- Help young people grow both roots and wings: A continued investment in research-based, theoretically grounded and culturally appropriate intervention studies designed to help youth avoid risky behaviors and maintain healthy ones, with appropriate evaluation and long term follow-up will provide guidance to parents, schools, churches and other community organizations.

II. Deliverables

Agriculture Department: Food and Nutrition Service

- Joint statement of Medical Associations on the role of schools in the promotion of healthy eating behaviors.

Agriculture Department: Cooperative Research Education and Extension Service

Corporation for National Service

- Announce National Youth Summit in June
- Recognize recipients of President's Student Service Awards and/or President's Student Service Scholarships
- Recognize newly named National Service-Learning Leader Schools
- Highlight recently signed Youth Service Compact

Education Department

- Growing Up Drug Free: A Parents Guide to Prevention. The publication is being printed in Spanish and will be ready for distribution in April.

Health and Human Services

- **State-by-state birth rates broken down by ethnicity.** Every May, DHHS works with the White House to create an event commemorating teenage pregnancy prevention month. As in past years, CDC will have new state-by-state birth rates broken down by ethnicity to announce. It is expected that this will be the seventh year in a row that teen birth rates will have gone down. Additionally, the Administration has worked with the Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy to recognize their annual award recipients --- national and community leaders from a variety of fields who have made a real difference in helping teens avoid pregnancy. This conference would be a natural venue for these announcements.
- **Preliminary announcement Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence.** Although the Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence will not be complete until December 2000, there may be a way to make a preliminary announcement about this project.

Although the following may not be substantial enough to constitute announcements, we would suggest that the White House may want to consider making available for the first time (in either the morning session or an appropriate break-out):

with cost on boys teens
reparable, rehabilitate
ready for the ^{system} time
nation's top experts

- A pamphlet for adult community members on *Preventing Tragedies Involving Young People: How You Can Help*.
- A handout for youth called *Express Yourself*, which will be available in both English and Spanish.
- A small handout with anecdotes about vulnerable youth who have been helped by youth programs operated through the runaway and homeless youth system.

Housing and Urban Development

- HUD issued its Super Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) on February 24, 2000. The SuperNOFA contains a wide variety of programs relating to children. Contract awards will not be made until later in the year. HUD would be willing to provide training on the SuperNOFA to conference participants.
- HUD partners with 3,400 housing authorities and CDBG block grant cities through and fund a wide variety of programs for teens and their families. Many of these programs have been recognized for their outstanding work with young people. Provided is a list of programs/services offered to teens through HUD.

Justice Department

- **Parenting Website.** OJJDP and the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention are developing a national website for parents. Similar to the children with disabilities website, the parenting website will provide a catalog of information currently available for parents through the Internet and will provide links to all the major Federal agencies for accessing this information. This website will also provide Internet links to various foundations, private and public organizations, and other groups which provide information for parents through the Internet. This website is under production. It will not be fully available by the date of the conference (early May). However, the development of the website and its pending availability could be announced at the conference. → when?
- **Juvenile Justice Journal.** OJJDP produces a publication entitled the "Juvenile Justice Journal". OJJDP would like to offer the September edition for focusing on issues related to parenting. As a lead article for the September edition, we propose to highlight the conference and its proceedings, perhaps with an article lead-in from the First Lady or the President.

Labor Department

- At-Risk Youth Grant competition announcement of winners (\$9 million total)
- Numbers day on youth (5/5) – (trying to figure out what this is)
- Herman/Reno day together around the issues of youth
- violence/reentry/job training [are there grants?]

NICHD

- Ann Siegal at DHHS/ASPE has a number of copies of the booklet produced from the early findings of the AddHEALTH Study. "Reducing the risk: Connections that make a difference in the lives of youth." This is an appropriate, interesting and useful contribution from NIH-funded research.

put in 10
mg
to 2000
days

Syllabus

Deliverables Ideas

- jobs for youth
- kids + work

links for
parent website

Polls

- Time - use survey

- Communication

- Media influence

internet, video games

- Steve ~~Carl~~bertson
vol, religion

- Ad Council: Under Tool

Strategies to get youth involved

YMCA



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Office of the First Lady
FROM: Eden Fisher Durbin
YMCA of the USA Public Policy
SUBJECT: White House Teen and Youth Conference
DATE: 03/09/00

Dedicated to building strong kids and families, YMCAs serve more than 9 million kids a year in the non-school hours. We run a wide range of youth programs—from literacy education and mentoring programs to day camps and juvenile delinquency prevention programs. Ys collectively are the largest providers of pre-school and after-school child care programs in the United States. But it is a new initiative that has the YMCA movement buzzing—the **Teen Action Agenda**.

YMCAs currently serve 1 in 10 teens nationwide, but Ys have come together to do even more for teenagers in this country. Our national Teen Action Agenda aims to serve 1 in 5 teens by 2005. It's an enormous goal—for an enormously important cause.

BACKGROUND ON TEEN ACTION AGENDA

This nationwide initiative emphasizes:

1. giving teens opportunities to be responsible (beginning with planning their own activities)
2. giving teens opportunities for community service and leadership (creating a sense of unity, community and belonging for teens and giving them meaningful roles in their community)
3. emphasizing the importance of adult role models (both in communicating with their parents and establishing mentoring relationships with caring Y volunteers and staff)

Over 100 YMCAs have signed onto the YMCA Teen Action Agenda and in doing so have agreed to:

1. double the number of teens they serve and support the YMCA of the USA's goal of serving 1 in 5 teens by 2005
2. offer at least one program in each of the following areas:
 - leadership/community service
 - education/life skills
 - health/safety/well-being

YMCA of the USA • Public Policy • 1701 K Street, N.W., Suite 903 • Washington, D.C. 20006

202-835-9043 • toll-free: 800-932-9622 • fax: 202-835-9030 • <http://www.ymca.net>

YMCA mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

3. achieve and measure teen program guidelines and objectives and conduct self-assessment surveys annually
4. Subsidize all memberships for teens across the country

RESOURCES THE YMCA CAN OFFER

1. New nationwide commitment to teens
- ✓ 2. Subsidized membership to all teens
3. Access to 17 million people, 9 million youth through:
 - Fax Alerts (every 2 weeks to 4,000 CEOs and CVOs)
 - *Discovery* Magazine (seen quarterly by 17 million people)
 - *Y Member News* (monthly wall poster seen by 17 million people)
- ✓ 4. Web site chat room or resource section for teens
5. First national conference for teen workers in August
- ✓ 6. New curriculum for middle-school programs
- ✓ 7. Speakers:
 - Urban: Paula Gavin, CEO, YMCA of Greater New York
 - Rural: Mike Haynes, Kentucky YMCA Youth Association
 - National: Ken Gladish, National Executive Director, YMCA of the USA
8. Compilation of teen program evaluations from across the country

POSSIBLE IDEAS FOR CONFERENCE

- * 1. National poll by the YMCA (\$1,000 per closed question, \$1,500 per open question) released by the White House
2. National "teen card"—a membership card youth can use at any participating youth-serving organization
- ✓ 3. "Web Chat" with celebrities who then refer kids to web sites of youth-serving organizations, all of which will be linked
- ✓ 4. Video to open the conference—first showing people talking about their needs and dreams (both teens and parents) and then zeroing in on what needs to happen within society to meet and achieve everyone's needs and dreams
- ✓ 5. Resource guide for parents that highlights opportunities for teens and families, ways to talk to teens, etc.



General Assembly
June 28 - July 1, 2001
New Orleans

Did you know?

- 400 YMCAs work with juvenile courts, 300 with public housing developments, and over 3000 with schools.
- YMCAs serve people of all incomes, all ages and all abilities.
- YMCAs are volunteer founded, volunteer based, and volunteer led. We wouldn't exist without our volunteers!
- YMCAs serve more than 16 million people each year, including 9 million children.
- YMCAs are collectively the nation's largest child care provider.

YMCA of the USA • Public Policy
1701 K Street NW, Suite 903 • Washington, DC 20006
202.835.9043/800.932.9622 phone • 202.835.9030 fax

ymca
Video
Poll
Samples
speakers

Fax Cover Sheet

Date March 16 # pages (including this one) 4

To Mary Ellen McGuire

Company _____

Fax 202.456.6244

Phone _____

From Eden Fisher Durbin

MESSAGE:



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

Memorandum

To: Mary Ellen McGuire
From: Eden Fisher Durbin
Date: 03/16/00
Re: White House Conference on Youth

Mary Ellen, my e-mail has been down since last Friday – if you can believe it – so I am faxing this to you instead. If you have e-mailed me since the meeting, understand that I haven't received the message yet and may not until next week. If it is urgent, please don't hesitate to call me at (202) 835 9043.

Below are the answers to your questions –

Conference Program – Top 2-3 Issues/Themes

- Providing information/opportunities/new venues for developing stronger connections between teens and their parents or guardians (finding ways to help teens and parents “connect”)
- ✓ • Providing resources/information to teens to help them “connect” to safe places with positive, caring adults (e.g., youth-serving organizations, churches, etc.)

Research/Supporting Documents

The Search Institute – their research states:

- The more assets youth have, the better off they will be ✓
- Assets can be explained very simply as: a safe place, an opportunity to be with a caring adult, an opportunity to perform community service, etc. ✓
- In the 100,000 kids assessed, the Search Institute found that those experiencing 31-40 assets: ✓
 - Only 2% had problems in school
 - Only 6% engaged in violent behavior (carried a gun, fought, etc.)
 - Only 3% engaged in sexual activity and alcohol use
 - Only 1% engaged in drug use
 - 75% volunteered in their community

March 16, 2000

Community Counts: How Youth Organizations Matter for Youth Development – Kids in community-based organizations are: ✓

- 20% more likely to report having received recognition for good grades
- nearly 20% more likely to rate their chance of graduating from high school as "very high"
- 20% more likely to rate the likelihood of their going to college as "very high"

Deliverables

- New YMCA nationwide commitment to teens – Y Teen Agenda ← copy of
- National poll by the YMCA released by the White House
- National "teen card" – a membership card youth can use at any participating youth-serving organization (through our Y Teen Agenda, the YMCA has already committed to subsidizing all memberships to teens)
- "Web Chat" with celebrities who then refer kids to web sites of youth-serving organizations, all of which will be linked
- Compilation of teen program evaluations from across the country
- Video to open the conference—first showing people talking about their needs and dreams (both teens and parents) and then zeroing in on what needs to happen within society to meet and achieve everyone's needs and dreams
- Resource guide for parents that highlights opportunities for teens and families, ways to talk to teens, etc. ✓

Speakers (all extremely articulate, could "woo" a crowd, and give a professional, comprehensive speech)

- Representing Urban Areas: Paula Gavin, CEO, YMCA of Greater New York
- Representing Rural Areas: Mike Haynes, Kentucky YMCA Youth Association (Audrey will know him)
- Representing National Organizations: Ken Gladish, National Executive Director, YMCA of the USA (an extremely adept and dynamic speech giver, who thinks well on his feet)

March 16, 2000

Invitees

- Ken Gladish, National Executive Director, YMCA of the USA
Represents the largest youth-serving and teen serving organization
YMCAs currently serve 1 in 10 teens, our goal is to serve 1 in 5 by 2005
YMCAs currently serve 9 million kids in out-of-school time
YMCAs currently partner with 300 public housing authorities, 400 juvenile courts, and 1500 elementary schools
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- Paula Gavin
Chair, YMCA National Teen Agenda
President
YMCA of Greater New York
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FAX: (212) 630-9604

steady income and high hopes for their three young daughters.

But when they applied for a plot of land in a handsome new suburban neighborhood under construction near their village in 1994, the Kaadans were turned down flat. Arabs were not welcome, they were told. And the Kaadans, like one in six Israeli citizens, are Arabs.

"We thought this would be an opportunity

appointment, Israel's High Court of Justice stepped in today. Overturning a half-century of policy, practice and entrenched discrimination, the court ruled that Arabs cannot be barred from living in certain types of cooperative communities. Similarly, the court forbade Israelis from establishing exclusively Jewish communities on state land.

See ISRAEL, A20, Col. 2

Key Brain Growth Goes On Into Teens

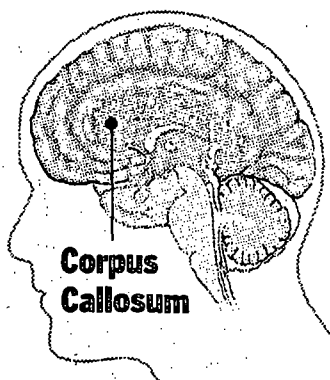
Study Disputes Old Assumptions

By CURT SUPLEE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Scientists have discovered that the brain undergoes surprisingly dramatic anatomical changes between the ages of 3 and 15, a finding that may not amaze parents of mercurial children but shatters some traditional assumptions about neural development.

During key periods, a research team reports in today's issue of the journal *Nature*, the amount of gray matter in some areas can nearly double within as little as a year, followed by a correspondingly drastic loss of tissue as unneeded cells are purged and the brain continues to organize itself.

"It's remarkable," said



neurologist Arthur Toga of the University of California at Los Angeles' School of Medicine. "Even though the overall size of the brain is relatively mature, we're still seeing changes" in the form of "very local and discrete patterns."

As recently as a decade ago, it was widely assumed that such major growth spurts and subsequent cutbacks took

See BRAIN, A14, Col. 1

INSIDE

Museum Woes

Smithsonian chief tells Congress more money is needed to repair "shabby" facilities.

STYLE, Page C1

Four Are Slain In Rampage

A massive search was underway last night for a man charged with killing three people and suspected of killing a fourth during a two-day shooting rampage in Baltimore County. His girlfriend, whom he is charged with abducting, turned up unharmed.

METRO, Page B1

Gas Pains

Oil prices are hurting pizza-delivery drivers and causing a boost in cab fares—and that's just a start.

BUSINESS, Page E1

Key Brain Growth Continues Into Teens

BRAIN, From A1

place in the womb or very early in childhood, and that the overall structure of the brain changed very little, if at all, after the age of 5 or 6.

At that point, the brain usually has reached about 95 percent of the average adult volume, having increased fourfold in size since birth. Of course, extensive internal re-wiring takes place during childhood. The gross structure, however, was thought to be generally fixed. That led educators and child development experts to focus on the first few years of life as crucial for proper brain development.

"Basically, the theory said that the amount of gray matter went downhill from about age 3," said Jay N. Giedd, a child psychiatrist with the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda who participated in both the new study and a similar one last fall. "The idea was that it's a zero-sum game. The frame and structure of the house was complete, and the furniture was just being rearranged."

The new brain scan results, and two similar studies of slightly older age groups published last fall, are the first brain-imaging studies to show that the process continues.

"We now know that there are these sorts of critical periods," said UCLA neuroscientist Elizabeth R. Sowell, a coauthor of one of the earlier papers. "But I don't think anybody has yet figured out a way to make this clinically relevant.... Still, we're all hoping that perhaps the experts in education or psychology will see these things that we're showing them and find ways to make those connections."

Neuroscientists had long known that a two-stage process of growth and attrition is typical of brain development from the fetal period through early childhood.

First, the brain overproduces gray matter—bulk neurons that are not yet permanently "wired" into neural circuits. These cells begin to arrange themselves into patterns depending on which connections are reinforced by mental or physical activity. Thereafter, the least-used cells and path-

ways die out in a phenomenon called "pruning" as white matter (chiefly fibers interconnecting nerve cells) forms to firm up the most robust connections.

In the new research, Toga, Giedd and colleagues from UCLA and McGill University in Canada conducted repeated three-dimensional brain scans of several normal children over intervals as short as two weeks and as long as four years.

The group concentrated on size and shape changes in a complex nerve fiber network called the corpus callosum, which connects the two hemispheres and is a reliable indicator of the level of activity in different parts of the brain.

The results indicate that from ages 3 to 6, the most rapid growth takes place in frontal-lobe areas involved in planning and organizing new actions, and in maintaining attention to tasks.

By contrast, during the period from 6 to puberty, the scientists found, the gray-matter spike shifts to the temporal and parietal lobes that play a major role in language skills and spatial relations. The growth rate then falls off fast, which may explain why, as a rule, the ability to learn languages declines sharply after the age of 12.

As children age, the growth moves in a sort of wave from the front of the brain to the rear, the team found. "We were quite surprised," Giedd said, "to see this unexpected increase in gray matter in the front part of the brain right before puberty," which occurs around age 11 in girls and 12 in boys.

Last fall, researchers reported in the journal *Nature Neuroscience* that they had found an unexpected increase in gray matter at the onset of adolescence, followed by a substantial loss in the frontal lobes from the mid-teens through the mid-twenties.

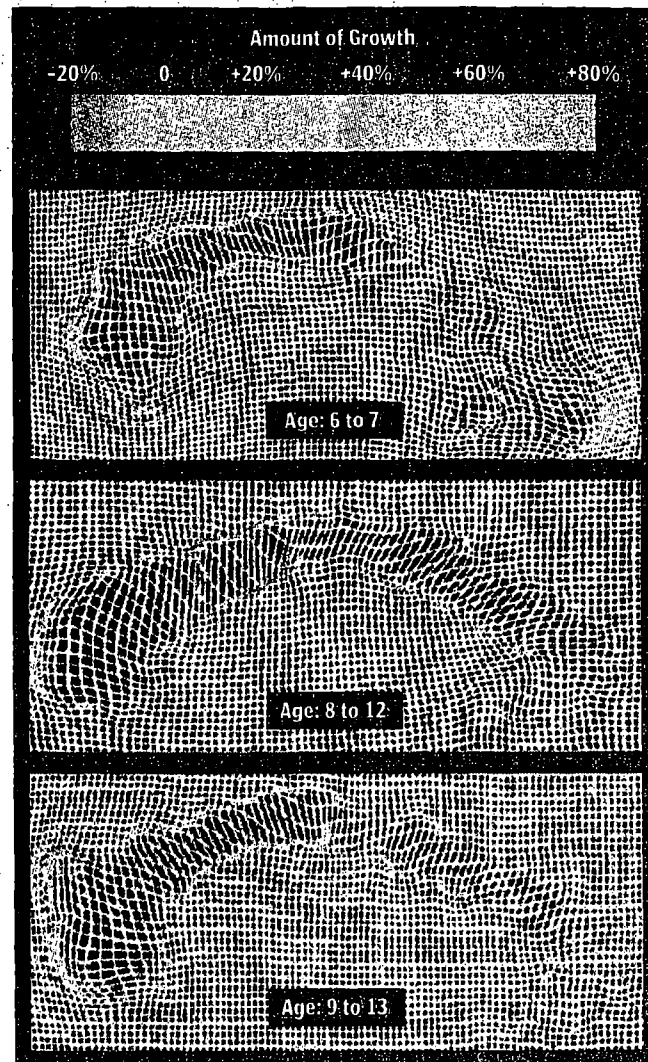
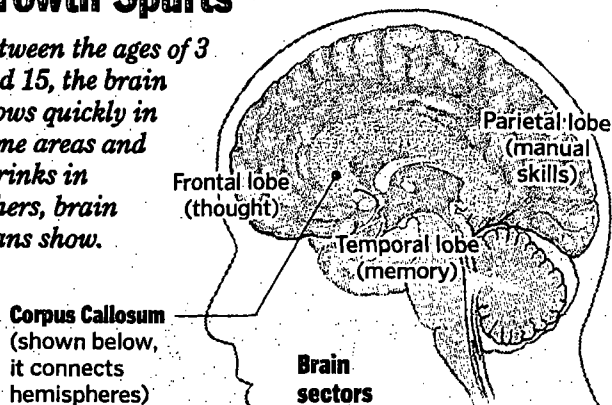
The frontal lobe of the brain is essential for inhibiting impulses, regulating emotion and planning and organizing behavior—all of which can be critical issues for teenagers and their parents.

Giedd believes the growing evidence of brain-structure mutability should be welcome news to teenagers.

"In the womb and during the first 18 months of life," when the

Growth spurts

Between the ages of 3 and 15, the brain grows quickly in some areas and shrinks in others, brain scans show.



SOURCE: UCLA School of Medicine

THE WASHINGTON POST

brain undergoes its most drastic changes, "an infant doesn't have much say about the way things turn out. But during the teenage years, "a person has a lot to say" about the way his brain develops, Giedd said.

In that critical interval, he said, the rule for brain structures appears to be "use it or lose it. What we think then happens is that if a

person is doing sports or academics or music, then those are the abilities that are going to be hard-wired" as the circuits mature. "The teenage years are a kind of critical time to optimize the brain."

Teenagers who recognize that tend to "feel empowered," Giedd said, especially if they "realize that the stakes are pretty high."

FAX TRANSMISSION

THE HENRY J. KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

2400 SAND HILL ROAD
MENLO PARK, CA 94025
650/854-9400
FAX: 650/854-7465

To: NIRA TANDEN
Fax #: 202/456-2878
From: Matt Jones

Date: 5/7/99
of Pgs: 9

As Promised —

Memorandum

To: Nira Tanden/Office of the First Lady
CC: Drew Altman, Vicky Rideout, Ruth Wooden, Ashley Koff, Tina Hoff
From: Matt James
Date: 05/07/99
Re: Talking With Kids Campaign

Thank you for your interest in the Talking With Kids About Tough Issues campaign. What follows is a brief summary of the campaign.

Talking With Kids About Tough Issues is an ongoing national campaign to encourage and support better parent/child communication on the hard issues kids face every day. It is based on research that shows that open and honest communication between parents and children - - particularly children between the ages of 8 and 12 - - can build trust in families and help kids avoid dangerous behavior.

The campaign is an ongoing effort of the Advertising Council, The Kaiser Family Foundation and Children Now. Major elements of the campaign include television and radio ads, a free guide for parents on how to have effective conversations with their children, a Talking With Kids website and 800 number, and a series of ongoing parenting seminars.

To date, more than 200,000 parents' guides have been issued.

The campaign is endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Girls Incorporated, the National PTA, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Council of Churches, the National Council of La Raza and the National Association of Secondary Principals. The campaign's honorary committee includes Linda Ellerbee, Rosie O'Donnell, Nickelodeon President Herb Scannell, Dr. Alvin Poussaint and others.

The Kaiser Family Foundation, the Advertising Council and Children Now will work with the Administration to provide the resources to expand the existing campaign to help parents improve communication with their kids. This includes producing a new set of ads for print, radio and television, providing all callers to our

May 7, 1999

800 number for an updated version of the campaign's parent guide and hosting a national conference on how to improve parent/child communication.

Over the past few days, the Ad Council has worked hard to secure commitments from the television industry to participate in broadcasting a new set of Talking With Kids ads that would be created following the White House summit on Monday. To date, all the major networks have indicated that they are positively predisposed to broadcast such ads, depending on the final scripts for the spots. In addition, the National Association of Broadcasters has said they would distribute ads to nationwide to local affiliates using local talent, such as news anchors. Also, the Recording Industry Association of America signed on today to the campaign and has committed to working with the Foundation to furthering the campaign nationally.

This campaign has been very positively received and has operated successfully for over two years. I've attached a more detailed brochure on the campaign and some survey findings on the need for the campaign that might also be helpful.

If the White House were to significantly get behind the Talking With Kids campaign, I feel confident that we will be able to secure significant media commitment to furthering the campaign and showing new ads. This will mean many more parents will be helped and supported through the campaign.

Please feel free to call me at 650-854-9400 (ext. 204) or over the weekend at 650-854-7018 if you or anyone in the First Lady's office has questions. I will also be in Washington on Monday for the White House summit.

Talking With Kids About Tough Issues

The Issues

In today's world, kids are confronting issues about sex, relationships, violence, alcohol, drugs, and other tough issues at increasingly early ages. Experts identify ages 8-12 as an important "window of opportunity" when children want to hear about tough issues from their parents.

Parents want to protect their kids, educate them, and impart their values, but they often express uncertainty about how and when to do so. Having conversations with a child about sex and other tough issues can be difficult for parents, but it is essential.

The *Talking With Kids About Tough Issues* campaign helps parents take advantage of the "window of opportunity" and gives them tools to have open and honest talks with their kids.

10 Tips for Talking With Kids About Tough Issues

1. Start early
2. Initiate conversations with your child...
3. ...Even about sex and sexuality
4. Create an open environment
5. Communicate your own values
6. Listen to your child
7. Try to be honest
8. Be patient
9. Use everyday opportunities to Talk
10. ...about it again. And, again.

The Campaign

Talking With Kids About Tough Issues is a national initiative by Children Now and the Kaiser Family Foundation to encourage parents to talk with their children earlier and more often about tough issues like sex, HIV/AIDS, violence, alcohol and drugs.

The campaign includes a national media component that has resulted in significant coverage of this issue over the last two years, public service messages that have appeared in major media outlets from *The New York Times* to prime time television broadcasts, corporate and media partners, and event sponsorship through organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs and PTAs.

Most importantly, the campaign provides resources for parents, including the *Talking With Kids* guide, a mini-booklet, and listings of national and local parent resources. These are available by calling 1-800-CHILD44 or on the internet at www.talkingwithkids.org.

In the first two years, some 250,000 booklets have been distributed through the campaign, and the advertising has received more than \$56.6 million in donated media time and space.



...before everyone else does.

The Components

- A free parent guide offered through the campaign's toll free number:
1-800-CHILD44
- Radio, print, television public service announcements, posters and a video to create awareness for our message
- Information and campaign materials available online at:
www.talkingwithkids.org
- Fact sheets with up-to-date information on sex, HIV/AIDS, alcohol and drugs, violence and the importance of parent/child communication

The Collaboration

The Campaign is a collaboration between Children Now, a non-partisan child-advocacy organization grounded in innovative research and communications strategies, the Kaiser Family Foundation, a foundation that focuses on major health issues that face our nation, and the Advertising Council, the leading producer of public service advertising in the United States. The print, television, and radio messages used in this campaign were designed by J. Walter Thompson of New York.



005
KFF
05/07/99
FRI 11:16 FAX 650 854 7465

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Nick at Nite*

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Child About a Troubled World"*

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Family Foundation*

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Boys & Girls Clubs of America
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Jennifer Moore,
Campaign Manager

VISIT THE WEB SITE:
www.talkingwithkids.org

FOR A FREE BOOKLET CALL:
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TALKING WITH KIDS ABOUT TOUGH ISSUES
1212 Broadway, Fifth Floor
Oakland, CA 94612



CHILDREN
NOW



...before everyone else does.



...before everyone else does.

Talking With Kids About Tough Issues
A National Campaign to Support
Parents by Children Now and the
Kaiser Family Foundation

Chart Pack

1999

THE HENRY J.
KAISER
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

EXCERPTS FROM:

THE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION/CHILDREN NOW

**TALKING WITH KIDS ABOUT TOUGH ISSUES:
A NATIONAL SURVEY OF PARENTS AND KIDS**

006

KFF

05/07/99 FRI 11:17 FAX 650 854 7465

ARE PARENTS WAITING TOO LONG...TO TALK?

Percent of Parents of 6-15 Year Olds Who Say...

"...Children Are Better Prepared to Make Wise Choices When Parents Talk to Them Openly About Sensitive Subjects from an Early Age"

89%

YET, Also Agree...

Most Parents Wait "Too Long" to Talk About...

63%

62%

50%

49%

Alcohol and
drugs

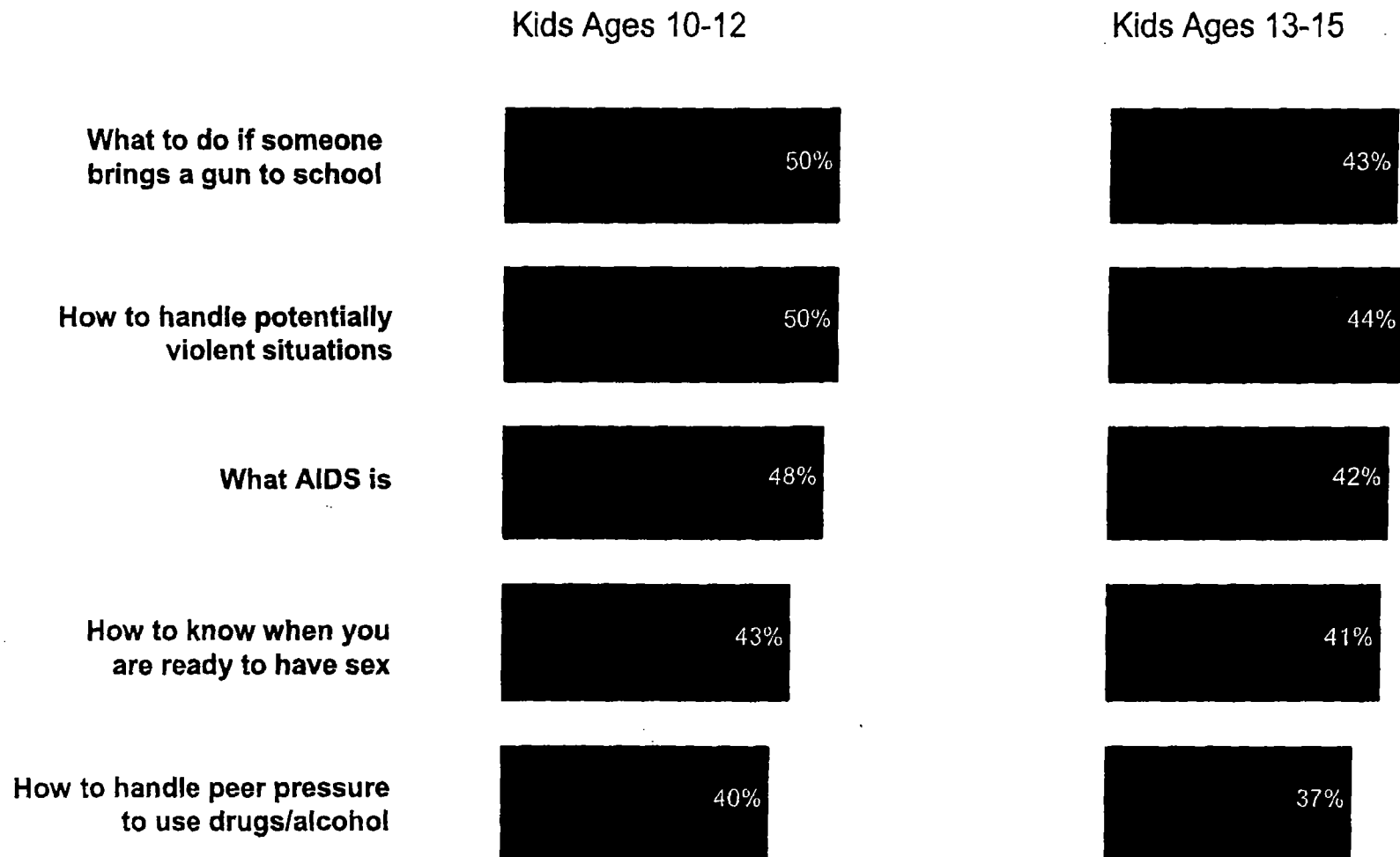
Pregnancy
prevention
and STDs

AIDS

Handling
potential
violence

KIDS WANT TO TALK...MORE!

Percent of Kids Who Say They *Personally* Want More Information About...



A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

Top Five Sources Kids Say Their Peers Find Out "A Lot" about
Issues Like Violence, Alcohol and Drugs, and Sex...

Kids Ages 10-12

Mothers

38%

TV, movies, other
entertainment media

38%

Schools and
teachers

38%

Fathers

34%

Friends

31%

Kids Ages 13-15

Friends

64%

TV, movies, other
entertainment media

61%

Schools and
teachers

44%

The Internet

40%

Mothers

38%



NPR Coverage:

How Computers and the Internet Have Changed Your Life
Talk of the Nation
 February 29, 2000

Overview: Widespread Usage and Enthusiasm All Things Considered
 February 29, 2000

The "Digital Divide"
Morning Edition
 March 1, 2000

Planning for the Future All Things Considered
 March 1, 2000

Kids vs. Adults
Morning Edition
 March 2, 2000

When Old Technologies Were New: The Telegraph All Things Considered
 March 2, 2000

Schools and Technology
Morning Edition
 March 3, 2000

Government Regulation All Things Considered
 March 3, 2000

France: Not Everyone Is Excited About the Internet
Weekend Edition Saturday
 March 4, 2000

Survey Shows Widespread Enthusiasm for High Technology

Americans Love Their Computers and the Internet; 'Digital Divide' Still Exists, but There Is Good News, Too

Read the results from the ADULTS and CHILDRENS survey. Join the discussion.

Americans love the technological revolution. A new poll by National Public Radio, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government shows that people overwhelmingly think that computers and the Internet have made Americans' lives better.

Although people recognize some dangers in what they see (and would like the government to protect them from these dangers), they are not particularly bothered by potential perils like information overload or phones, faxes and e-mails that never stop. They are buying computers at a fast pace, they are hooking up to the Internet from home, and, for the most part, they like what they see. A separate survey of children age 10-17 shows that they are even more positive than adults, and nearly all of them have access to modern technology at school.

Enthusiasm for computers and the Internet runs wide and deep, across all incomes, all regions of the country, all races, all political ideologies, and most age groups. Of course, there are people who find themselves on the other side of the "digital divide" - especially those with lower incomes, less education, and over the age of 60. For instance, only about half of employed Americans under age 60 with incomes less than \$30,000 per year use a computer at work, compared with four out of five of those with higher incomes; and lower-income Americans are less than half as likely as those with higher incomes to have an Internet connection at home. Nevertheless, a surprisingly high proportion of poorer families now have computers, and many lower-income people do have access to the Internet from home. Only older Americans, as a group, seem out of the loop.

Key findings include:

The Love Affair

Americans over 60 are only half as likely to have ever used a computer as younger people. In fact, so few older Americans have any experience at all with the latest technological advances (only 22% have ever even used the Internet) that overall attitudes are clearer when one looks at the under-60 group. Focusing on them, it is apparent that some kind of threshold has been crossed: Computers are part of everyday life for most Americans, and the Internet is close behind.

Virtually all Americans under age 60 say they have used a computer (92%), and most of them have used the Internet (75%) or sent an e-mail message (67%) at some point in their lives. In addition, more than 8 in

Digital Divide
Weekend Edition
Sunday
March 5, 2000

Elderly and Computers
Weekend All Things Considered
March 5, 2000

message (67%) at some point in their lives. In addition, more than 8 in 10 Americans under age 60 currently use a computer at home or work (81%).

Americans under age 60 are enthusiastic about computers and technology. Nearly 9 in 10 (87%) say computers have made life better for Americans, and more than 7 in 10 (72%) say the Internet has made life better. About three-quarters of Americans under age 60 report they like having so much information to choose from (78%) and like the way new technologies allow them to keep in touch (76%). By contrast, only 20% say they are overloaded with information, and only 23% say they don't like the way new technologies let people get in touch with them all the time.

Americans say computers are a necessity at work. More than two-thirds (68%) of working Americans use a computer at work, and 84% of them say it is essential for their jobs. About one-third of working Americans (34%) have access to the Internet at work, and of those who do, 63% say it is essential for their jobs.

Americans under age 60 are rapidly adopting new technologies in their homes. More than half (52%) of those who have a computer at home bought their first computer in the past five years. More than half (53%) of Americans under age 60 now have Internet or e-mail access at home.

The Concerns

Despite their overall positive attitudes, Americans do see some problems with computers and technology. They worry about potential dangers on the Internet, and they want the government to do something about their concerns. Across the board, women are more concerned than men about potential problems of the Internet and even more likely to favor government regulation.

Concerns About Inequality

- ***Polarization.*** Americans are more likely to say computers widen the gap (45%) in income and opportunity between the haves and have nots in society than to say computers narrow the gap (11%) or do not make much of a difference (39%).
- ***Lending a hand.*** Most (57%) believe the government should help low-income people get access to computers and the Internet (and 78% say the government should help low-income children).

Concerns About Content

- ***Internet fears.*** Americans' worries about potential dangers of the Internet include the possibility of dangerous strangers making contact with kids (85% say this is a "major" problem); the availability of pornography to children (84%); and information on how to build bombs (73%). There may be justification for some of these worries; nearly a third (31%) of kids age 10-17 from

households with computers (24% of all kids 10-17) say they have seen a pornographic web site.

- **Concern translates to support for government involvement.** More than three-quarters of Americans say the government should do something about the potential for dangerous strangers to make contact with children (79%), the availability of pornography to children (75%), and information on how to build bombs (75%). Americans also say the government should regulate false advertising (62%), the ability to purchase guns (61%), pornography (61%), and hate speech (53%). Furthermore, more than half (57%) of Americans say that "the federal government needs to regulate what is on the Internet more than television and newspapers because the Internet can be used to gain easier access to dangerous information."

Concerns About Personal Impacts

- **More than half say computers have led people to spend less time with their families and friends (58%).** Furthermore, slightly fewer than half (46%) of Americans say that computers have given people less free time, although 24% say computers have given people more free time and 28% say computers haven't made much of a difference.
- **Privacy concerns are high.** More than half of Americans worry that an unauthorized person might gain access to their financial records or personal information on the Internet (59%), with 21% saying they are "very worried." And over half (54%) say the government should do something about loss of privacy on the Internet. Few (4%), however, have experienced such problems themselves.

Digital Divide

Americans over age 60

Americans over age 60 are the most likely to be left out when it comes to computers and technology, but they do not appear to be worried about being left behind. Only around a quarter of Americans over age 60 have computers at home (27%) and use the Internet or e-mail at home (24%). But while three-quarters (75%) of Americans over age 60 recognize that they are being left behind when it comes to computers, only 11% say that not having a computer is a problem for them. The most common reason over-60s without computers give for not having a computer at home is that they don't need one (64%). Nonetheless, more than half of Americans over age 60 say that computers (69%) and the Internet (50%) are making life better for Americans.

Americans under age 60

The "digital divide" also exists among certain groups of people under age 60.

- **Income and education are key.** Americans under age 60

with incomes under \$30,000 per year and those with a high school education or less are considerably less likely to use a computer than their higher income and more educated counterparts. For example, 54% of lower-income employed Americans use a computer at work, compared with 81% of those with higher incomes. Furthermore, only 18% of employed people with lower incomes use the Internet at work.

- ***These gaps may be narrowing.*** Nearly half (48%) of Americans under age 60 who make less than \$30,000 now have a computer at home, and 31% have access to the Internet at home. Moreover, the most recent computer owners are more likely to come from the groups who have historically been less likely to be computer owners. Recent computer owners under age 60 (those who purchased their first computer within the past two years) are more likely than longer-term owners to be low-income (30% versus 14%) and to have a high school education or less (59% versus 33%).
- ***Racial differences.*** While there has been much talk about the digital divide by race, we find that gaps between blacks and whites under age 60 are more pronounced in the home than at work. We also find they are more pronounced at lower-income levels than at higher-income levels. There is a gap of 11 percentage points between blacks and whites using computers at work (46% vs. 57%); but there is a larger, 22 point gap between blacks and whites who have a computer at home (51% vs. 73%). Similarly, a gap of 8 points exists between blacks and whites using the Internet at work (21% vs. 29%) compared with a larger 19 point gap in access to the Internet or e-mail at home (38% vs. 57%). Although there is a 17 percentage point gap in home-computer ownership between low-income blacks and low-income whites, the differences virtually disappear at upper-income levels.
- ***"Have nots" under age 60 generally share positive views about technology with the "haves."*** The majority of people without computers under age 60, like people with computers, tend to say that computers (76%, 89%) and the Internet (56%, 76%) are making life better for Americans. Most "have nots" and "haves" say that computers will widen the income/opportunity gap (42% and 47%) or make no difference (43% and 38%), though a few say that computers will narrow the gap (13% and 13%). Further more, the "have nots" (85%) and "haves" (87%) say they are not concerned they might lose their jobs because of advances in technology. While "have nots" (74%) are more likely to say they are being left behind by technology than "haves" (35%), only around quarter of "have nots" feel left out because they do not use a computer at work or at home (25%) or feel that not having a computer is a problem for them (24%). The main reason that "have nots" under age 60 give for not having a computer is that they are too expensive (44%).

Kids Are Even More Positive about Computers

Children are more enthusiastic about and comfortable with computers. Eighty-five percent (85%) of kids report that they are keeping up when it comes to computers; only 14% think they are being left behind. Adults, by contrast, are evenly split: 49% say they're keeping up; 49% say they're being left behind. Compared with adults (38%), kids have more trust in the information on the Internet (56%) and less concern about violent games (39% for kids, 56% for adults). On the other hand, kids do admit that computers affect kids' lives. While half (50%) of kids believe computers haven't made much difference in the amount of time kids spend with friends and family, a majority (61%) do believe that the use of computers has led kids to spend less time outdoors, and 63% say they know kids who are addicted to video or computer games.

Kids without computers are more concerned that they are missing something than adults are. Kids without computers at home are far more likely than such adults (42% to 23%) to think that not having a computer at home is a problem, and kids are more likely (37% to 17%) to feel left out because they don't have a computer.

Many kids do see pornography on the Internet. Almost one-third (31%) of kids age 10-17 with computers at home have seen a pornographic website, even if by accident. This is truer for older users: 45% of those 14-17 years old compared with 15% of those 10-13 years old.

Parents are more likely than their kids to think they have rules in place about what their kids can do on the computer. More than three-quarters (76%) of parents say they have rules, but only 57% of their own children agree. More than half of kids (53%) say their parents know "a lot" about the things they do and the sites they visit, but this is considerably truer for younger kids (67% of 10-13 year olds) than for older kids (38% of 14-17 year olds).

Schools appear to be playing an important role in equalizing access to computers for kids. While African-American kids (44%) and kids from lower income households (41%) are considerably less likely to use a computer at home than white kids (76%) or kids from higher income families (83%), virtually the same percent of all kids have used a computer at school (55% of white kids, 60% of African-American kids, 56% of high-income kids, and 59% of low-income kids). Furthermore, kids give their teachers and schools good marks on their ability to teach kids about computers - 87% say their teachers know how to use computers, and 75% say their school has done a pretty good job teaching them about computers.

Methodology

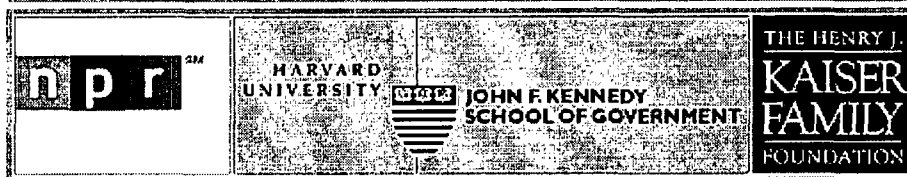
The NPR/Kaiser/Kennedy School Poll is an ongoing project of National Public Radio, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Representatives of the three sponsors worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and to analyze the results, with NPR maintaining sole editorial control over its broadcasts on the surveys. The project team includes:

From NPR: Marcus D. Rosenbaum, Special Projects Editor

From the Kaiser Family Foundation: Drew Altman, President and Chief Executive Officer; Mollyann Brodie, Vice President, Director of Public Opinion and Media Research; Rebecca Flournoy, Research Associate

From the Kennedy School: Robert J. Blendon, a Harvard University Professor who holds joint appointments in the School of Public Health and the Kennedy School of Government; John Benson, Deputy Director for Public Opinion and Health/Social Policy at the Harvard School of Public Health

The results of this project are based on two telephone surveys conducted between November 15 and December 19, 1999, with nationally representative samples. The first survey interviewed 1,506 adults, 18 years or older, including an over-sample of African-Americans (results are listed for the total population and for the 1,237 adults under the age of 60 years). The second interviewed 625 children age 10-17 years, including an over-sample of African-American children. (For each survey, the results are weighted to reflect the actual distribution in the nation.) The fieldwork was conducted by ICR/International Communications Research. The margin of sampling error for the adult survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points, and plus or minus 5 percentage points for the survey of children. For results based on subsets of respondents, the margin of error is higher.



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News Release

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL:

9:30 a.m. EST, Tuesday, December 14, 1999

For further information contact:

Amy Weitz

Tel: 650 854-9400

Fax: 650 854-4800

2400 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, California 94025

New National Survey of Principals:

MOST SECONDARY SCHOOLS TAKE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO SEX EDUCATION

Abstinence-Only Curriculum Stirs Limited Debate in Local Communities

MENLO PARK, CA. -- Abstinence-only sex education may be a hot political topic, but it is not the choice of most schools, according to a new national survey of public secondary school principals by the Kaiser Family Foundation. While the study found messages about abstinence included in almost all sex education, it showed that most junior and senior high schools today take a more comprehensive approach, also including information about contraception and safer sex, rather than promoting abstinence until marriage as the *only* option.

A majority of principals -- 58 percent -- describe their schools' sex education program today as comprehensive, teaching that "young people should wait to have sex but if they do not, they should use birth control and practice safer sex." A third (34%) say their schools' main message is abstinence-only, that is: "young people should *only* have sex when they

are married." Principals of schools in the South are more likely than those elsewhere in the country to take an abstinence-only approach (42% in the South vs. 29% elsewhere). Two thirds of principals (66%) say teaching abstinence as the *only* option has not come up for discussion in their schools in recent years; a third (31%) reported having considered either instituting or dropping an abstinence-only curriculum.

"Although abstinence-only sex education has been stirring debate at the state and national level, the issue appears more settled in local communities," said Tina Hoff, Director of Public Health Information and Communication, Kaiser Family Foundation.

How comprehensive sex education actually is, however, is open to interpretation. While the large majority of public secondary schools -- 94 percent -- discuss abstinence as part of their sex education, and most cover HIV (97%) and other sexually transmitted diseases (96%), fewer than half provide information about where to get and how to use birth control (45%) and condoms (39%). As many as one in two schools do not bring up more controversial topics, such as abortion (48%) and sexual orientation (50%), in their sex education programs.

Talk ... Not A Lot of Change

Half (48%) of principals of public secondary schools report a recent public debate about some aspect of sex education. Most of these discussions were described by principals as "calm" (39% "very" and 37% "somewhat"), and just a third (34%) resulted in any change in curriculum. In addition to discussing whether or not to teach abstinence-only, among the other topics that came up in schools across the country "over the last couple of years at a PTA meeting, school board, or some other public gathering:"

- What topics to teach in sex education (26%);
- How parents give permission for students to take sex education (26%);
- Whether or not to teach sex education at all (17%); and
- Whether sex education should be single-sex or co-ed (16%).

Who Determines What Gets Taught?

Input on sex education comes from many different places. Most principals report that the school district and/or local government has influence on sex education curriculum (57% a "great deal" and 31% "some"). A number of public secondary schools also get direction from state government (27% "great deal" and 43% "some"). The large majority of principals (85%) say their school is required to follow local or state guidelines for sex education, including 43 percent who term the oversight "strict."

Although most schools do not take an abstinence-only approach to sex education, a third of principals report having felt at least some effect as a result of federal funds for the promotion of abstinence-unless-married messages: eight percent reported that the funding provided under the 1996 welfare law for both community and school-based programs had a "great deal of influence" on their school's curriculum; another 23 percent

say "some." Schools in the South were most likely to feel the effects of this funding (42% "great deal" and "some" vs. 24% elsewhere).

When a specific topic is not taught in sex education, principals often cite a school or district "policy." For example, the leading reason given by principals for not covering abortion and sexual orientation was a school or district "policy" (38% and 29%, respectively) followed closely by actual or perceived pressure from the community (25% and 24%).

While three out of four schools (74%) use standard materials provided by the school district, in many communities teachers and parents also play a role in shaping how sex education is taught. Most principals say teachers (57% "very" and 31% "somewhat") and parents (23% "very" and 45% "somewhat") are at least somewhat involved in determining what is taught at their school. Principals say both teachers and parents are also supportive of their school's approach to sex education (69% say teachers are "very supportive" and 28% "somewhat," and 58% say parents are "very supportive" and 36% "somewhat").

Although more than half of principals (55%) say enough time is spent on sex education, 42 percent think it is too little. Just three percent feel that too much time is spent on these issues.

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Public Secondary School Principals: The Politics of Sex Education is a national telephone survey of 313 principals of public secondary schools in the U.S., including middle, junior high, and high schools (with focus on sex education curriculum offered in grades 7 through 12). The survey sample was drawn to produce a representative sample of public secondary school principals in the continental U.S. The sample of schools is a proportionate stratified random sample drawn from a national database of public schools.

The survey was designed by staff at the Foundation and Princeton Survey Research Associates (PSRA), and conducted by telephone by PSRA between March 15 and May 13, 1999. The overall response rate for the study is 41 percent. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 6 percent for the total sample, and may be higher for some of the sub-sets.

* * *

The Kaiser Family Foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, is an independent national health care philanthropy and is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.

Over the coming months, the Foundation will release additional reports on sex education in America, reporting on the views of students, parents and teachers across the nation. The questionnaire and topline results are available online at www.kff.org.

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DISPLAY FORMAT: FULL

SEND TO: RICHTER, ANNA
OPD - DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL
ROOM 308
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 20502-0308

*****06591*****