

C H O I C E

Voice

News from
Planned Parenthood
of New York City
July 2006

PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S *TEEN ADVOCATES* PROGRAM

Talking to Peers

Teenagers often get information about sex from their peers. In fact, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation poll, 76% of teenagers say they learned "a lot" or "some" information about sex from their friends. Unfortunately, the information that friends give is not always accurate. To make sure that teens have accurate information, Planned Parenthood of New York City created the Teen Advocates program.

The Teen Advocates are peer educators and role models trained by Planned Parenthood to perform interactive theatrical workshops for other teens on a variety of sexuality-related topics. Most importantly, they share information in a way that other teens can readily hear and understand. The Teen Advocates also facilitate a five-part workshop series on HIV, healthy relationships, abstinence, STDs, and contraception in neighborhoods that have the highest rates of teen pregnancy.

The Teen Advocates reach thousands of young people each year through their performances at schools, community organizations, and other settings, and through their contributions to TV shows and magazines directed to teens. Our Teen Advocates have lobbied in Albany, led workshops and conferences on peer education, and written advice columns for the newspaper *New Youth Connections*.

In 2000 the Teen Advocates received the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy recognition award for their teen pregnancy prevention work and also traveled to London to participate in a teen pregnancy prevention conference. In August 2005, the Teen Advocates linked up with the VIBE Theater Experience to perform "dot dot dot and nothing but the truth," a collaborative production of drama, songs and dances about the paucity of choices and resources for young urban women. As funding for dangerous and inaccurate abstinence-only-until-marriage programs increases in New York and across the country, the Teen Advocates' work becomes especially important.

To learn more about Planned Parenthood's Teen Advocates program, visit <http://www.ppnyc.org/services/community.html> or call us at (212) 274-7326 or 965-4834.



Wait to have sex.
Use birth control and a condom.
Get check-ups.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD
1-800-230-PLAN
www.ppnyc.org

Teen Advocates create billboard

In 2004, the Teen Advocates received a grant to sponsor a contest to create a slogan about teen pregnancy prevention and to publicize the result on billboards throughout the South Bronx. The billboards featured the winning slogan, "It's our future. We plan to stay safe," and a photograph taken by Monica Roman, one of Planned Parenthood's Teen Advocates.

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