

CRC
Damascus, Maryland
www.mcpscurriculum.com
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Dear Parents:

We wanted to share with you the results of our survey of 10th grade Watkins Mill students which we recently conducted through a mailing to parents. As you may remember, we are a private parents' group. Watkins Mill was one of three county high schools which recently took part in a pilot sex education program.

Parents of tenth grade students were sent a survey. A total of 61 student responses were received. Thirty-two were from students who affirmed they attended the pilot classes. These 32 students represent 22% of the total 148 pilot class students (this 148 student number was taken from a story as reported in the Washington Post). We call these students "**The Pilot Group**". The remaining 29 students who answered our survey did not take the pilot classes and are referred to as the "Non-Pilot Students".

RESULTS:

The majority of the Pilot Students incorrectly answered each of three questions relating to the level of protection afforded condom users from STDs (sexually transmitted diseases). They displayed in their answers a mistaken confidence that condoms offer users reliable protection against STDs.

The following note preceded Question 6:

*For questions 6 through 8, please note the phrase "**reliable protection**" means **highly effective protection** - it does not mean absolute 100% protection, nor does it mean a reduction in risk where there is still the danger of a substantial risk of infection.*

PLEASE NOTE: we are assuming that anything less than a 90% reduction in risk IS NOT reliable protection. In other words, if condoms do not cut the risk of infection by 90% or more, then there is still danger of a substantial risk of infection.

Question 6. "When put on correctly and used consistently, do condoms provide reliable protection in preventing infection from most STDs?" The correct answer is "NO".

PILOT GROUP: 84% answered "YES", 16% answered "NO".

Non-Pilot Students: 55% answered "YES", 31% answered "NO", and 14% answered "Unknown". . .

Question 7 When asked: "When put on correctly and used consistently, do condoms provide reliable protection in preventing infection from "HIV" (the AIDS virus)?" The correct answer is NO. (See discussion below)

PILOT GROUP: 72% answered "YES", 25% answered "No", and 3% said "Unknown".

Non-Pilot Students: 62% answered "YES", 21% answered "No", and 17% said "Unknown".

Question 8. "When put on correctly and used consistently, do condoms provide reliable protection in preventing infection from HPV?" The correct answer is "NO".

PILOT GROUP: 44% answered "YES", 28% answered "NO", and 28% answered "Unknown".

Non-Pilot Students: 38% answered "YES", 21% answered "NO" and 3% answered "Unknown". . .

First, there is absolutely no doubt about this: condoms DO NOT offer reliable protection against most STDs. STDs affect women far more severely than heterosexual men, **causing infertility and cancer and other highly unpleasant sores, lesions and warts.** The number of STDs threatening the United States has increased dramatically over the last 30 years. Aside from male homosexuals and intravenous drug users, STDs impact young women far more severely than they impact young men, although clearly they are dangerous to both sexes.

What about Chlamydia? Chlamydia is particularly dangerous to female fertility: frequently without telltale symptoms, it can spread up to the fallopian tubes and scar them so that no babies can ever be naturally conceived. 75% of infected women have no noticeable symptoms of infection when they first contract it. There are approximately three million new cases of Chlamydia each year in the United States, with 75% of these in young people. Treating this one STD alone costs 2.4 billion dollars per year.

Women can be re-infected if their partners are not treated (men who are symptom free may still be infected and infectious). It can be given to babies by nursing mothers. **It is a giant among STDs because of its infection rate and its fertility risk.** See the government' Center for Disease Control's website: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/STDFact-Chlamydia.htm#Common>.

Here is a quote about chlamydia from the book "*Unhooked*" by Washington Post reporter Laura Sessions Stepp (Riverhead Books, 2007)

Physicians are particularly concerned about chlamydia, the most frequently reported sexually transmitted disease in the country..... Some scientists estimate that by age thirty, one out of two sexually active women will show evidence of having had chlamydia.... **several leading fertility experts project that the number of women trying unsuccessfully to conceive will double in the next decade to about one in three.** (Pg. 224-225). (emphasis added).

What about HIV, the virus that causes AIDS?

With respect to the Pilot classes, the students are told that the theoretical basis for HIV protection by condoms is 100% and "anal contact" is brought up five times in seven minutes in the condom DVD. It is not surprising that many students believe that condoms offer reliable protection against HIV generally. What is the truth here? Condoms are often cited as being very effective against HIV. In fact, condoms used in vaginal intercourse cut the HIV infection risk by approximately 80% to 85% and, while this is not 90%, HIV is not nearly as infectious as HPV or Chlamydia in normal intercourse where there are no sores or other tears or cuts. **In cases of anal sex, however, the risk of HIV infection is much greater and the effectiveness of condoms is much less.** Even though the condom DVD mentions anal contact numerous times, at no time are the students warned that anal intercourse is a high risk behavior. In fact, HIV and other STD infection occurs at a substantially greater rate in anal intercourse than in normal intercourse. Several hundred Montgomery County medical doctors signed a petition urging MCPS to warn the students that anal intercourse was too risky to practice. This petition has been ignored. You may want to make sure your child understands this.

What about HPV? HPV is a highly contagious STD and condoms do not provide reliable protection against HPV. Certain strains of HPV (aka the "wart virus") are responsible for almost all cases of cervical cancer. **In the United States, cervical cancer (caused by HPV) results in as many deaths in women as HIV.** There are approximately one million new cases of HPV each year and while many of these may remit spontaneously (disappear on their own), a significant number of the more dangerous strains will not remit, and will persist and may cause cervical cancer. If the HPV does not disappear on its own, there is no cure for it. Twenty million Americans are currently infected with HPV.

STDs are ever increasing in their infection rates among our youth. Condoms may offer a reduction in risk (even that is unknown with respect to some STDs) but that is an entirely different concept from "reliable protection".

Students are not being warned that condom use is usually NOT consistent. This is true even among highly motivated adults including adult monogamous partners where one is known to be HIV infected. Teens are even less consistent in their actual use of condoms. If teens are taught to believe that condoms are going to protect them from highly risky STDs, and they choose to engage in "safe recreational sex" rather than waiting for their adulthood for a faithful committed partner, many of them will find out that they have been sadly mistaken.

To learn more about this issue check our website below.

Sincerely,

CRC

www.mcpscurriculum.com

<http://www.4parents.gov/topics/std.htm#prevention>

STD Prevention

Twenty-five percent of Americans are infected with a sexually transmitted disease and 8000 adolescents contract an STD each day. Therefore, preventing their spread is critical. True prevention of sexually transmitted diseases involves not participating in activities that can result in exposure. Abstinence from oral, anal, and vaginal sex and intimate sexual contact prevents STDs. Condoms may reduce the risk of infection in some cases but cannot be considered totally safe. In reality "safe sex" does not exist outside of a committed, monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner, preferably marriage.

Adolescents and STDs

Sexually transmitted diseases have reached epidemic proportions across the globe, affecting people in every country, economic class, and age group. However, sexually active adolescents are at a higher risk than adults for contracting a sexually transmitted disease. In the United States, teenagers account for only 10 percent of the population but historically represent 25 percent of new STD cases each year. (8)

The two most important factors related to an adolescent's risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are:

1. Age of sexual initiation.
2. Total number of sexual partners in a lifetime

Each year adolescents delay sexual involvement it decreases their risk of contracting an STD.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), adolescents (10 to 19-year-olds) and young adults (20 to 24-year-olds) are at higher risk for acquiring STDs for a number of reasons (8):

- They may be more likely to have multiple sexual partners.
- They may be more likely to engage in unprotected intercourse.
- They may select partners at higher risk.

There are additional factors related to high rates of STD infection among adolescents: Adolescent girls are especially susceptible to STD infection because their reproductive organs and immune systems are not fully developed.

- Adolescents treated for STDs are likely to become re-infected due to continued sexual risk taking.
- Many sexual encounters among adolescents involve the use of alcohol and other drugs, which lower inhibitions and make them more likely to take chances.
- Overall, adolescents report inconsistent use of condoms, decreasing their use with age, and continuing to have different sexual partners.

<http://www.4parents.gov/talktopics/table.htm>

Talk Topics

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STDs

	Bacterial Sexually Transmitted Diseases			Viral Sexually Transmitted Diseases		
Common STDs	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	Syphilis	HSV: Herpes Simplex	Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and Genital Warts	HIV/AIDS
Where is it found?	Vagina, cervix, urethra, throat and anus	Vagina, cervix, urethra, throat and anus	Genital area and/or on mouth	Vagina, cervix, urethra, anus, mouth, throat and all genital areas	Vagina, cervix, urethra, anus, scrotum, mouth, throat and all genital areas	Blood, semen, vaginal fluid, breast milk
What are the possible symptoms?	May or may not have early symptoms, discharge from penis and vagina, chronic low stomach pain, pelvic infection/fever, infertility may result (mostly in women), can infect babies	Vaginal or penile pain and discharge, chronic low stomach pain, pelvic infection/fever, infertility may result (mostly in women), can infect babies	Painless chancre (sore), untreated it can spread to the brain and/or heart, can cause birth defects and lesions on infants' skin and other problems with their organs	Painful blisters, fever, swollen glands, symptoms reoccur throughout life, can infect babies	Few early symptoms, may cause warts, can cause cancer of the cervix, anus and penis, can infect babies	No early symptoms, destroys immune system, multiple severe infections, no known cure, fatal illness, can infect babies
How can it be spread?	Oral, anal and vaginal sex, and mother to child	Oral, anal and vaginal sex, and mother to child	Oral, anal and vaginal sex, contact with sores, mother to child	Oral, anal and vaginal sex, contact with infected skin, mother to child	Anal and vaginal sex, contact with infected skin, mother to child (rare)	Oral, anal and vaginal sex, IV drug use, mother to child
Can condoms help if always used (100% of the time)	Condom use is associated with some decreased risk. (Risk reduction is	Condom use is associated with some decreased risk. (Risk reduction is	Condom use is associated with some decreased risk. (Risk	Condom use is associated with some decreased risk. (Risk reduction is	No evidence that condom use reduces	Condom use decreases the risk of HIV/AIDS transmission by

and correctly)?	50% or less.)	50% or less.)	reduction is 50% or less.)	50% or less.)*	risk of HPV infection. Some evidence that condoms reduce the risk of HPV-associated diseases.	approximately 85%.
How many infected teens are reported?	3-14% of women age 15-24 who visited family planning clinics (2002)	0.1 to 2.8% of women age 15-24 who visited family planning clinics (based on reporting states)	In 2002, there were about 350 cases of primary and secondary syphilis in 15-19 yr olds	The most recent estimates show that depending on race/ethnicity, 4.5 - 8.8 percent of teens 12-19 are infected with Herpes	About 28 to 46% of women under 25 are estimated to be infected with HPV	By the end of 2002, about 36,000 individuals age 13 to 24 had been diagnosed with AIDS
What are the treatments?	Antibiotics (permanent damage may have occurred)	Antibiotics (permanent damage may have occurred)	Antibiotics (permanent damage may have occurred)	Symptom control, but no cure	Monitor through pap smears for cancer changes, Surgery for warts and cervical growths	Symptom control with AIDS Medicines (antiretroviral drugs) No Cure

Notes: *This takes into account as yet unpublished data, which were presented at the 2002 National STD Conference, sponsored by the CDC. See below for citation.

Sources:

Ahmed S, Lutalo T, Wawer M, et al. "HIV Incidence and Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevalence Associated With Condom Use: A Population Study in Rakai, Uganda, " AIDS. 2001, 15: 2171-2179.

Baeten JM, Nyange, PM, Richardson BA, et al. "Hormonal Contraception and Risk of Sexually Transmitted Acquisition. Results from a Prospective Study.," American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. 2001; 185: 380-385.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2002. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, September 2003.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Tracking the Hidden Epidemics: Trends in STDs in the United States 2000.](#)

National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention, Divisions of HIV/AIDS Prevention, [Basic Statistics: Cumulative AIDS Cases by Age.](#)

Wald A, Langengerg AG, Link K, et al. "Effect of Condoms on Reducing the Transmission of Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 From Men to Women," JAMA. 2001; 285: 3100-3106.

<http://www.4parents.gov/talktopics/table.htm>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Here are some books you may want to read (go to amazon.com for a more complete listing) (many have a Christian perspective... if you are aware of similar books from other religious traditions, please let us know):

“Unhooked” by Laura Sessions Stepp (Washington Post Reporter and area parent)
“Unprotected” by Anonymous (aka Dr. Miriam Grossman, UCLA campus psychiatrist),
“Standing with Courage” by Mary-Louise Kurey (Miss Wisconsin 1999) (this one follows her bid for Miss America while promoting chastity),
“If You Really Loved Me”, by Jason Evert
“The Thrill of the Chaste: Finding Fulfillment While Keeping Your Clothes On” by Dawn Eden (2006),
“Kissed the Girls and Made Them Cry” by Lisa Bevere.

Here are some valuable and interesting websites:

www.gravityteen.com,

This is an excerpt from Gravity Teen, which is a great site for teens who are open to a positive message.:

[What's so great about abstaining from sex?](#)

[What is Secondary Virginity?](#)

[How do I start over if I'm not a virgin anymore?](#)

[What if my boyfriend/girlfriend won't agree?](#)

[Yeah... but what about practical dating advice?](#)

[Do teens really stick by their abstinence pledges?](#)

[Make the GravityTeen pledge here »](#)

This is an excerpt from www.medinstitute.org :

Consistent condom use (100%) during vaginal sex reduces your risk for:

- HIV by 85% [18-22]
- Gonorrhea by about 50% [18,25-28]
- Chlamydia by about 50% [18,25-28]
- Herpes by about 50% [18,27-28]
- Syphilis by about 50% [16,18,25-27]
- HPV by 50% or less [18,22-24]

(note: This medical institute has a practical rebuttal of the recent criticisms of abstinence education.)

Other good websites for STD information are www.4parents.gov and www.cdc.gov.

For parents of children who may be experiencing same-sex attraction, www.pfox.com and www.narth.org offer real support and helpful information. Also books by Dr. Nicolosi or one by former lesbian Leane Payne. Please note that MCPS is teaching students that homosexuality is innate(immutable) which has profound repercussions for the way they perceive their homosexual attractions which may be more correctly viewed as fluid and subject to change.

You are welcome to contact us with your comments at SusanAnnSFO@verizon.net.

If you are interested in signing a petition against the pilot lessons, please visit the CRC website: www.mcpscurriculum.com.