

Panel discusses solutions
Nicholas County teen pregnancy level being studied

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor
Seven citizens gathered in the next three months to find out about the level of teen pregnancy in Nicholas County...

The panel also agreed they wanted to take strides in the next three months to find out what is doing the teen pregnancy dilemma...

County Health Center, Kay Corneillon, Nicholas County Home Economics Extension Agent, Community Action Council's Margaret Hunter, Clifton McCreedy, Expanded Program & Nutrition Education Program funded by the USDA...

Some want answers to level of the problem. And, she still believes that, "a girl gives sex to get love and a boy gives love to get sex."

"Parents are uncomfortable. The words won't come out of their mouths. They can't talk about it."

Sex & Sexuality: A Quiz
Devoted Parents: A Parenting Guide
Programs & Resources

Questions:
1) How many teenage girls become pregnant each year in the United States?

- a) 100,000
b) 250,000
c) 500,000
d) more than 1 million
2) What is the average age for boys to become sexually active?

- a) 12
b) 14
c) 16
d) 17
3) What is the average age for girls to become sexually active?

- a) 10
b) 20
c) 30
d) 50
4) What percentage of parents have ever had a significant conversation with their children about sex?

- a) 10 percent
b) 20 percent
c) 30 percent
d) 50 percent
5) What's the average age of first menstruation for girls today?

- a) 11-12
b) 11-13
c) 12-13
d) 13-14
6) How early might a boy have his first "wet dream"?

- a) 10
b) 12
c) 13
d) 14
7) What percentage of American teens have engaged in sexual intercourse by the age of 17?

- a) slightly more than 25 percent
b) slightly more than 35 percent
c) slightly more than 50 percent
d) over 75 percent
8) What's the best age to start teaching your child about sex and sexuality?

- a) From birth
b) 5
c) 12
d) 16
9) What should you tell your child about sex?

- a) Facts about puberty
b) Facts about intercourse
c) Facts about reproduction
d) Family values about love, marriage and child rearing
e) Family views on masculinity and femininity
f) All of the above
10) Which of the following are questions asked that apply to both sexes and sexuality? Check those that apply.

- What age must a girl be before she can get pregnant?
Does a penis have to be a certain length to get a girl pregnant?
Do girls with bigger breasts have a stronger sex drive?
What's a gynecological exam?
Is there something wrong if one testicle is larger than the other?
Why does menstruation occur?
Am I normal?
How do I relate to the opposite sex?
How do I express loving feelings?

THE UNITED STATES HAS THE HIGHEST TEENAGE BIRTH RATE IN THE WORLD

Kanetzer said in her report, there are several things happening to encourage teen pregnancies. Teen mothers get on public assistance, get to leave home, and have the idea that their mother will take care of the baby in some cases...

Next, the teen mother has another child because the first one was being raised by the grandmother. Corneillon hoped parents would get more involved. Parents are embarrassed. They're uncomfortable. The words aren't going out of their mouths. They won't talk about it.

They're uncomfortable. The words aren't going out of their mouths. They won't talk about it. But they're the same ones who have a strong opinion that they won't allow their child to do anything. So if it's not the school system, who's going to tell these kids?

"I don't feel it should be up to the school but in this day and time it has to be. The school system gets in a sticky situation, Corneillon agreed. They feel like they're endorsing sex. I don't know how they could do it. Abstinence is what will teach best regardless, kids will have sex if you spoke abstinence six hours a day."

McCreedy mentioned that once teenage mothers could come talk with their peers and tell them what life is like. Kanetzer said teenage mothers don't have a glamorous life like they may imagine. She said sometimes you see the attention pregnant teens get and want that too.

Corneillon agreed as a former teacher of middle school students, fifth and sixth graders, she attested that students attend a nurse consultation on paper annually. Some of the questions were so explicit the nurse couldn't read them. Some she did read over her shoulder.

Hunter thought ministers could provide more involvement and guidance. She offered that church youth groups could form self-esteem units. However, realistically, she noted, churches won't reach all the teens.

Kanetzer said she didn't want to condone teen sex, but said birth control is available to anyone at the health department. She agreed that teen wouldn't go to the local drug stores because of the chance their parents are there having a prescription filled.

Thankfully, both Kanetzer and Kanetzer said Nicholas County teens do become pregnant later, usually their junior year in high school.

Seithers said she was required under the stipulation of the grant to write a report. She also announced that an earlier meeting in Harrison would be held to discuss the same night.

Seithers said the next meeting would be held in late February. Ministers and teen mothers are especially invited to share views.

ADOLESCENT BIRTHS & PREGNANCIES BY AGE OF MOTHER & COUNTY / DISTRICT 1993 - 1995

Table with columns for County/District, Births, Rate, Pregnancies, and Rate Rank. Includes Kentucky, Bluegrass, Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, Woodford.

Table with columns for Births, Rate, Pregnancies, and Rate Rank for 1993 and 1995. Includes Kentucky, Bluegrass, Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, Woodford.

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3
Table with columns for WSAT, WOIS, WPCO, WVAR, WOKR, WLEA, WWTY, WTVF, WSPF, WETV, WISN, WISN, WISN.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 4
Table with columns for WSAT, WOIS, WPCO, WVAR, WOKR, WLEA, WWTY, WTVF, WSPF, WETV, WISN, WISN, WISN.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5
Table with columns for WSAT, WOIS, WPCO, WVAR, WOKR, WLEA, WWTY, WTVF, WSPF, WETV, WISN, WISN, WISN.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6
Table with columns for WSAT, WOIS, WPCO, WVAR, WOKR, WLEA, WWTY, WTVF, WSPF, WETV, WISN, WISN, WISN.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7
Table with columns for WSAT, WOIS, WPCO, WVAR, WOKR, WLEA, WWTY, WTVF, WSPF, WETV, WISN, WISN, WISN.

MONDAY DECEMBER 8
Table with columns for WSAT, WOIS, WPCO, WVAR, WOKR, WLEA, WWTY, WTVF, WSPF, WETV, WISN, WISN, WISN.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9
Table with columns for WSAT, WOIS, WPCO, WVAR, WOKR, WLEA, WWTY, WTVF, WSPF, WETV, WISN, WISN, WISN.

It is estimated that more than 100 million were spent in Kentucky in 1995 as a result of adolescent childbearing. This amount is based on a study which found that each teen birth costs \$10,047 through taxes, medical and other costs.

REPEAT PREGNANCIES
26.08 percent (23,381) of women who gave birth in 1995 had prior pregnancies. The average age of women who had their second pregnancy was 29.29. 17.7 percent (15,977) of babies born in 1995 had adolescent fathers. 0.18 percent (162) had fathers age 30-39. 0.01 percent (1) had fathers age 50 plus.

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