



# **Healthy Choices: Considering the FCSB Sex Education Curriculum**

Board Workshop    March 14, 2011

# Why are we looking at this?

- Data, data, data
- Flagler County Health Dept. (data collected 2006-08)
  - Flagler County Average # of Births to mothers ages 15-19 (yearly) 85
  - Flagler County Average # of REPEAT 15-19 y/o mothers (yearly) 13

Florida had 1,183,800 females age 15 to 24 in 2007. That year there were 88,322 births to this age group, representing 36.9 percent of all Florida births.

# Teen Pregnancies resulting in Live births Flagler County

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- | Mother's Age            | Year | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | Total |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 0-14                    |      | 1    | 1    | 0    | 2     |
| 15-17                   |      | 25   | 20   | 35   | 80    |
| 18-19                   |      | 53   | 68   | 55   | 176   |
| % Repeat births (15-19) |      | 9    | 17   | 12   | 38    |

- Source: Florida DOH; Office of Vital Statistics

# Flagler Health Dept.

- In 2009, the Flagler County health department saw 587 teenagers for “Family Planning” services.
- Condoms (male or female) were given to 43 of those patients (4 were <15).
- Oral Contraceptives were given to 293 of those patients (18 were <15).
- Depo-Provera was administered to 77 of those patients (6 were <15).
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- Only 3 of the patients reported abstinence as their primary method of Birth Control!
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- 96 of those patients were either pregnant or seeking to get pregnant (1 was <15 y/o, 28 per under 18 y/o).

## Sexually Transmitted Infection Data

### Data from 2006-2008 of Teens aged 15-19 years

Bacterial STDs (Per 100,000 people): Flagler County had a rate of 1716 cases (To add perspective-Volusia County had a rate of 1668.5 cases and Miami-Dade County had a rate of 1480.6 cases) So for our population, we are seeing way more cases than we should!

• Chlamydia (Females 15-19)	2006	2007	2008	2009*	
• # of reported cases:	43	66	82	9	*January - February 2009
• Gonorrhea (Females 15-19)	2006	2007	2008		
• # of reported cases:	10	19	11		
• HIV Cases (total)	2006	2007	2008		
• # of reported cases:	3	8	11		

• Most People diagnosed with AIDS before the age of 30 were infected with HIV in their teens or early 20s.

• Almost 16% of high school students report having sex with four or more partners.

• ½ of all sexually active youth catch an STD by age 25.

# Data continued...

- **2009 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey**
  - Given in Florida high schools
- 50.6% noted they had ever had sex
- 8.3% noted their first time of having intercourse was prior to age 13
- 45.4% noted they had had oral sex
- Of students who had sexual intercourse in the last 3 month, 65% said they had used a condom
- 16.4% of sexually active females reported using birth control pills
- 19.7% of sexually active teens reported using alcohol or drugs prior to intercourse

# What are other counties doing?

(Information provided by Sue Nocella)

## Volusia County

- Information from Bill Poniatowski, PE/Health Curriculum Specialist
- Reviewed data
- Convened a sub-committee of their SHAC comprised of representatives from:
  - School District Central Office
  - Health Department
  - Community Agencies
  - Parents
  - Clergy
- Held town meetings to share data and options
- School Board members had the opportunity to hear from members of the sub-committee and community members

# Volusia continued...

- School Board voted to implement “abstinence plus” which includes . . .
  - Contraceptives
  - HIV/Aids
  - Teen pregnancy
  - Teen sexuality
- Using Personal Fitness course
  - Required for graduation
  - Often taken in 9<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Taught by PE teachers
- Teachers received specific professional development during the summer prior to implementing the changes



# Seminole County

- Mary Lane, PE/Health Curriculum Specialist
- Reviewed data
- Convened focus groups from various parts of the county
  - School District Central Office
  - Health Department
  - Community members including parents
- School Board members had the opportunity to hear from the focus groups
- School Board voted to implement “abstinence plus”
- Using Biology 1 course
  - Required for graduation
  - Already includes units on human growth & development and human reproduction
  - Taught by science teachers
- Teachers received specific professional development during the summer prior to implementing the changes

# St. Johns County

- Mark Lewis, PE Curriculum Specialist
- Current policy is “abstinence only”
- No one has asked him to research data related to their current policy
- He will not initiate the review of data

# What have we done so far?

- We held 5 parent/student seminars using “Talking to Your Teen About Difficult Topics Like Sex” as the draw. At these seminars, we recruited parents who would like to give input on April 7.
- We informally surveyed the teens at these seminars with their parents/guardians, and reaffirmed that most teens do NOT talk about sex, pregnancy, or STD’s with parents in a serious way to avoid these issues.
- We recruited a panel who will be making recommendations to the Board on April 7, 2011. (clergy, parents, students, DOH and SHAC)

# May we now ?

- Give a survey to middle and high school students with parent passive permission slip which asks these types questions: (or we could make it available online). Input?
  1. Are you sexually active? Yes or No
  2. If yes, at what age did you have your first sexual experience?
  3. Do you or did you use condoms?
  4. If not, what was the main reason?
    1. They cost too much.
    2. Not able to get to the store where they are sold.
    3. Too embarrassed to purchase them.
    4. I didn't know I was going to have sex, so I didn't have one with me.

# Survey Ideas con't.

5. I know someone my age who is sexually active.
6. Yes or No: I understand that STD's can be passed by ways other than intercourse.
7. Yes or No: I would take a free condom from the clinic at my school if it were offered to me.
6. Yes or No: I think schools should teach more information about having sex and what to do to stay healthy.
7. What age should student be taught about making healthy choices about sex?

# May we more broadly survey parents?

- Possible questions?
  1. Do you and your child regularly discuss sex, STD's, teen pregnancy, and your expectations?
  2. Would you like your child to receive educational information at school about healthy choices regarding sexual activity?
  3. What age is an a good age to begin educating the students on these topics?
  4. Are you aware 50% of Florida teens report having sex?
  5. Are you aware of the teen who report having sex, over 8% of them had their first experience before age 13?

# Questions posed by Parents

- What exactly would be included in the curriculum?
  - Will the curriculum discuss sexuality issues? (This is a major issue in our schools today.)
    - This would be determined after we hear a direction from the Board.
  - Would parents be offered an “opt out” option?
    - Yes. Passive permission forms.
  - What grade would you start?
    - It has been recommended to make it be grade 6.
  - Will schools give out condoms through the clinics?
    - This would also be at the direction of the Board. Some other schools around the state do...
- What class would you teach this in? (science?)

- Direction from the Board at this time?
  - Note: While this has not received widespread publicity, it has been in the newspaper, and the parent meetings were advertised with auto call messages, there have been no negative communications about the change to include “plus” into the curriculum.
  - Abstinence as the “best method” could still be taught.
  - SB 0108 (Ring) deletes the requirement to teach abstinence from sex outside of marriage as the expected standard. (Eff. Date 7-1-11)