

Preventing Teen Pregnancy Through a Sustained Community Partnership

2006-2007 Results

Presentation to CHNAC/CHNIG

May 31, 2008

Teen Panel Program

- Peer education program designed to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancies in London and Middlesex County
- Panel of 2-3 teenage parents who visit high schools to talk about the challenges and risks associated with pregnancy and parenting
- First implemented in the fall of 1990
- Community collaborative

Community Partners

- Children's Aid Society
- Merrymount Children's Centre
- Thames Valley District School Board
- London District Catholic School Board
- Teen panel trainer
- Middlesex-London Health Unit
- Tri-county Advisory Committee

Teen Panel Program

Kimiko's Story

Teen Panel Program

- Teen Panel Coordinator: Deb Bloomfield, Merrymount
- Recruitment, training and ongoing support of the teen panelists
- 3 components of the Program
 - The Teen Panel
 - Classroom presentations
 - Community/school development

Intended Outcomes

- Increase awareness of risks and consequences of sexual intercourse/ pregnancy during adolescence
- Improve attitudes/perceptions about shared responsibilities with partners
- Increase awareness of beliefs, attitudes, behaviour among peers

Intended Outcomes

- To improve teen's ability to cope with a broad spectrum of beliefs, attitudes and behaviours among peers
- To encourage “no-risk” or “low risk behaviour” and reduce frequency of “high risk behaviour”

Student Survey Results

- 77 presentations
- 2046 students
- 22 schools
- 1100 completed post-questionnaire (54%)
(Mostly female N=789 and 16 years or under)

Student Survey Results

- 91.4% found presentation good to excellent
- 83% felt comfortable asking questions
- Main messages: waiting to have sex, use birth control, take personal responsibility for sexual behaviour, teen parenting is difficult

Student Survey Results

- 58% more likely to talk to person they are dating
- 21% more likely to talk to parent, 50% no change, 29% already talk to parent
- 55% more likely to wait to have sex,
 - 16% already active or n/a and 29% no change

Student Survey Results

- 70% more likely to use birth control (15%) already using birth control
- Knowledge of sexual health services
 - Medical Services/Institutions – (N=670)
 - No response - 1/3 (N=316)
 - Don't know - (N=50)

Student Survey Results

- Teen Panel made students think about:
- How their life would change as a teen parent (85%)
- Needs and problems associated with teen parenting (71%)
- Responsible decisions around becoming sexually active (64%)

Student Survey Feedback

- Continue/expand presentation to more schools and more grades
- Makeup of panel could include male parent and teens who chose adoption or abortion
- Additional content such as STI's and contraception could be discussed

Teacher Survey Results

- 100% satisfied with content/presentation, meets curriculum objectives, good forum for learning
- 97% felt prepared
- 47% did pre sessions
- 66% did post sessions
- Student participation was good to excellent

Teacher Survey Results

- Teachers identified the key issues as being the challenges and impact of teen parenting (financial cost and emotional concerns)
- The impact of teenage pregnancy on relationships and typical teenage activities

Lessons Learned

Teen Panel Advisory Committee

- Examine and revise the evaluation form for students and teachers
- Consistent approach for administering and collecting the student and teacher questionnaires

Lessons Learned

- Actively promote the Teen Panel to Physical Education teachers responsible for male classes
- Review current learning activities to ensure that they appropriately address male/female differences

Lessons Learned

- Recruit a male panelist or a videotaped story of a teen father
- Examine strategies to ensure that students and teachers know how to access sexual health information and services

Lessons Learned

- Continue to share a summary of comments from teachers and students with the panelists
- Distribute annual report to partners with letter of commendation

Lessons Learned

- Teen panelists to inform groups of the availability of their school PHN
- Consider development of card with local resources for teen sexual health concerns

For More Information Contact:

- Jacqueline Hart, RN, BScN, BEd
 - 519 663 5317 ex 2407
 - jacqueline.hart@mlhu.on.ca
- Yvette Laforet-Fliesser, RN, MScN, CCHN(C)
 - 519 663 5317 ex 2242
 - yvette.laforet-fliesser@mlhu.on.ca