

## HOME AND COMMUNITY INFLUENCE ON EARLY SEXUAL INVOLVEMENT

- WHEREAS, National PTA Purposes promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school and community;<sup>1</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Parents have the most influence on teen sexual decisions and 9 out of 10 teens say it would be easier to wait to have sex if they could talk to their parents about it and programs have been developed to help parents have this discussion;<sup>2,3</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Protective and risk factors in the home and community have major implications for early sexual involvement;<sup>4,5,6</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Health officials report significantly higher birth and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) rates among various ethnic groups;<sup>7,8,9</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Our children are bombarded with sexual messages through technology and the media which may affect sexual behavior;<sup>10,11,12,13</sup> now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA educate its membership about current statistics, trends, and protective and risk factors of early sexual involvement; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA work with other agencies to identify the reasons for differing pregnancy and STD rates, and explore solutions and programs adapted to cultures and ethnic groups to help reduce sexual involvement among youth; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage state and local public campaigns to create a social expectation of premarital abstinence; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage our state and national legislators to support funding of programs that provide resources for parents to assume their role as primary sex educators of their children; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA seek state and federal legislation that addresses inappropriate and suggestive messages of human sexuality through all types of media and technology.

### Documentation:

<sup>1</sup>PTA Purposes, National PTA. <http://www.pta.org/1162.asp>.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs, "Parents, Speak Up!: A Guide for Discussing Relationships and Waiting to Have Sex", Spring 2007.  
[http://www.4parents.gov/psu\\_english\\_final.pdf](http://www.4parents.gov/psu_english_final.pdf).

<sup>3</sup>Bill Albert, "With One Voice 2004: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy, An Annual National Survey, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2004.  
<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/national-data/pdf/WOV2004.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup>Robert W. Blum, Peggy Mann, "Reducing the Risk: Connections That Make a Difference in the Lives of Youth", Minnesota University, Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health, 1997.

- <sup>5</sup>Bonnie Benard, Kathy Marshall, “Protective Factors in Individuals, Families, and Schools: National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health Findings”, National Resilience Resource Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and the Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies, 2001.
- <sup>6</sup>Bill Albert, Sarah Brown, and Christine M. Flanigan, ed. “14 and Younger: The Sexual Behavior of Young Adolescents Summary”, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2003, pp. 8-9. <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/pdf/pubs/14summary.pdf>.
- <sup>7</sup>Utah Department of Health, “Utah Health Status Update: Adolescent Births Among the Latina Community”, December 2008. [http://health.utah.gov/opha/publications/hsu/08Dec\\_AdolBrthLatina.pdf](http://health.utah.gov/opha/publications/hsu/08Dec_AdolBrthLatina.pdf).
- <sup>8</sup>Utah Department of Health, “Utah Health Disparities Summary 2009, Hispanics and Latinos”, 2009. <http://health.utah.gov/cmh/data/disparitiessummary/HispanicFactSheet.pdf>.
- <sup>9</sup>Utah Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, “Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Epidemiological Profile, Utah 2003-2007”, April 2009, pp. 6, 21. <http://health.utah.gov/cdc/hivsurveillance/std%20docs/STD%20Epi%20Profile.pdf>.
- <sup>10</sup>Parents Television Council, “Facts and TV Statistics: ‘It’s Just Harmless Entertainment’ Oh really?”, <http://www.parentstv.org/PTC/facts/mediafacts.asp>.
- <sup>11</sup>Parents Television Council, “Happily Never After: How Hollywood Favors Adultery and Promiscuity Over Marital Intimacy on Prime Time Broadcast Television”. <http://www.parentstv.org/PTC/publications/reports/sexontv/main.asp>.
- <sup>12</sup>Victoria Rideout, M.A., “Parents, Children and the Media: A Kaiser Family Foundation Survey”, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, June 2007. <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/upload/7638.pdf>.
- <sup>13</sup>Jane D. Brown, Kelly Ladin L’Engle, Carol J. Pardun, Guang Guo, Kristin Kenneavy, and Christine Jackson, “Sexy Media Matter: Exposure to Sexual Content In Music, Movies, Television, and Magazines Predicts Black and White Adolescents’ Sexual Behavior”, Pediatrics: Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, 2006; 117; 1018-1027. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/117/4/1018>.