

Risk Behaviors among Adolescents

Sexual risk behaviors

- **3% of first single dates lead to PMS**
- **11% of PMS were of the same-sex nature.**
 - **Same-sex is more common among the boys, in-school youth, and younger adolescents**

Risk Behaviors among Adolescents

Sexual risk behaviors

- **33% of first sex experiences were not planned.**
 - ***This is more common among females and students.***
- **42% of first sex experiences were wanted and planned.**
 - ***This is more common among males and working youth.***

Risk Behaviors among Adolescents

Sexual risk behaviors

- **Casual sex is practiced more by males than females.**
 - **54% of sexually active adolescents had sex with the same partner.**
 - **Males tend to have more than one sexual partner than females (49% vs. 11%).**
- **1/5 of first sex and 1/4 of last sex episodes are protected.**

Risk Behaviors among Adolescents

Multiple risk behaviors

- **Risk behaviors are not done in isolation, rather they are interconnected**
 - **Those who smoke, drink and use drugs are more likely to have sex.**
 - **PMS is most strongly linked with drug use.**

Where do risk behaviors lead adolescents to?

- *Other risk behaviors*
- *Accidental, unwanted and unsafe pregnancies*
 - *Maternal mortality rate among pregnant adolescents is 2-4 times higher than for women over age 20.*
 - *Infant mortality rate is 30% higher for infants born to mothers ages 15-19 than for those women 20 years or older.*

Where do risk behaviors lead adolescents to?

Young Filipino women are reproductively-challenged

- 162,000 or 10% of all births occur to teenage mothers (15-19)***
- at age 18, 10% are already mothers***
- at age 20, 25% are mothers***
- at age 24, 50% are mothers, and 1/3 of Filipino young women have 2-3 children already***
- Young pregnant women are prone to pregnancy complications***

Where do risk behaviors lead adolescents to?

- ***Sexually transmitted diseases***
 - ***For females, 6% have ever had abnormal discharges, with the idle group having elevated proportions and the in-school group the least prone to the condition.***
 - ***19% of females had experienced painful urination.***
 - ***Among males, 3% reported having penile discharge, and another 3% complained about warts or ulcers in their penis.***
 - ***23% of males had painful urination.***

Where do risk behaviors lead adolescents to?

- ***Abortion***

- ***5% of ever-pregnant adolescent had at least one abortion experience.***

Reasons why adolescents engage in risk behaviors

- **Adolescents are becoming less & less connected with their families and religion**
- **They are doing more experimentation with their peers**
- **Pornographic media is taking a larger space in their time and attention**

Reasons why adolescents engage in risk behaviors

- **Adolescents now have more liberal attitudes on sex and sex-related matters.**
- **They are more approving of live-in arrangements and PMS.**

Reasons why adolescents engage in risk behaviors

- **They are in support of divorce law, accepting of homosexuals and women getting pregnant without marriage.**
- **Students display the most liberal attitudes.**

Summary

Adolescents today are:

- facing sexual and non-sexual risks
 - Boys are more into riskier behaviors
 - “Idle” (out-of-school/work) youth are more challenged in many ways

‘when you have it, you have it all’

Summary

Ill-consequences of risk behaviors are already apparent

- Many are not even aware of the consequences or of the risks
- They are ill-prepared for the consequences

‘Better informed, better equipped’

Summary

There are signs of breaking down of adolescent –protective connections

- Family
- School
- Church

At the same time,

- Closeness to peers
- 'Bad' media taking more significance

'transforming risk factors to protective factors, HOW?'

- **In view of the foregoing, what kinds of actions are needed to support healthier adolescent development?**
- **Who should be joining the efforts?**
- **What kinds of strategies are effective?**

maraming salamat po.

Visit www.yafs.com