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REPORT SAYS ABSTINENCE EDUCATION WORKS

We Hate To Say “We Told You So,” But...

A new study has confirmed what pro-family activists have known for quite some time—abstinence education works. Classes that focus on encouraging young people to remain abstinent successfully convince “a significant proportion” to delay sexual activity, reported *The Washington Post*, which noted that the findings are the result of “the first carefully designed study to evaluate the controversial approach to sex ed.”



Jemmott

“I think we’ve written off abstinence-only education without looking closely at the nature of the evidence,” said lead researcher John B. Jemmott III, Ph.D., a professor of communication in psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and director of the Center for Health Behavior and Communication Research at the Annenberg Public Policy Center.

Researchers found that one-third of sixth and seventh graders who went through sessions focused on abstinence started having sex in the next two years. But more than 50 percent of young people in other classes, including those that provided information about birth control, became sexually active. The study is the first to evaluate an abstinence program using a carefully controlled design that compared it directly to alternative strategies which heretofore had been considered effective based on “the highest level of scientific evidence.”

Even a few critics of abstinence education conceded that the study provides strong evidence in support of such programs. “This new study is game-changing,” said Sarah Brown of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, which has been a devoted advocate of the Planned Parenthood approach. “For the first time, there is strong evidence that an abstinence-only intervention can help very young teens delay sex and reduce their recent sexual activity as well.”



Brown

Many opponents of abstinence education are unwilling to accept the findings. “There is no data in this study to support the ‘abstain-until marriage’ programs, which research proved ineffective during the Bush administration,” said James Wagoner of Advocates for Youth.

Another charge by critics of abstinence education was that the study was not representative of most abstinence programs in that it “did not take on a moralistic tone as many abstinence programs do,” *The Washington Post* article said. Most notably, the sessions encouraged children to delay sex until they “are ready” (not necessarily until they are married), did not portray sex outside of marriage as never appropriate, and did not disparage condoms.



Huber

“For our critics to use ‘marriage’ as the thing that sets the program in this study apart from federally funded programs is an exaggeration and smacks of an effort to dismiss abstinence education rather than understanding what it is,” said Valerie Huber, executive director of the National Abstinence Education Association.

The new study involved inner-city students who were randomly assigned either a program that:

- urged students to delay having sex;
- focused on teaching “safe sex”;
- urged students to delay having sex but also taught about “safe sex”; or
- taught students ways to be healthy, such as eating well and exercising.

The Washington Post reported the findings:

Over the next two years, about 33 percent of the students who went through the abstinence program started having sex, compared with about 52 percent who were taught only safe sex. About 42 percent of the students who went through the comprehensive program started having sex, and about 47 percent of those who learned about other ways to be healthy did. The abstinence program had no negative effects on condom use, which has been a major criticism of the abstinence approach.

Despite the study, proponents of “comprehensive sexuality education” are not abandoning their approach.

“One of the things that’s exciting about this study is that it says we have a new tool to add to our repertoire,” Monica Rodriguez, vice president for education and training at the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), told *The Washington Post*. In other words, she makes it clear that “comprehensive sexuality education” will not be abandoned.

Jemmott, who has worked to identify strategies to reduce risky sexual behavior, agreed with Rodriguez. “Our study shows this could be *one* approach that could be used (emphasis added). He continued:

The take-home message is that we need a variety of interventions to address an epidemic like HIV, sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. There are populations that really want an abstinence intervention. They are against telling children about condoms. This study suggests abstinence programs can be part of the mix of programs that we offer.

The world’s largest public policy women’s organization, Concerned Women for America (CWA), released a statement pointing out for many years now “social scientists” have loudly and authoritatively declared that abstinence programs are ineffective. “This new study is extremely important because the earlier teens begin having sex, the more partners they have and the more likely they are to be exposed to sexually transmitted diseases,” said Penny Nance, CWA’s chief executive officer. “This evidence shines a light of truth on the myths that are promoted by Planned Parenthood and those who benefit financially from ‘comprehensive’ sex education programs at the expense of the well-being of the nation’s adolescents and pre-teens.”



Crouse

“When informed, parents have overwhelmingly indicated that they don’t like the agenda-driven content of so-called ‘comprehensive’ sex education programs,” said Janice Shaw Crouse, Ph.D., director and senior fellow of CWA’s Beverly LaHaye Institute (BLI). “All thinking adults recognize that teen sexual activity is harmful to teens and the consequences can be life-changing (ranging from STDs to unplanned pregnancies). Yet, the left continues to offer teens the option of so-called ‘safe sex’ as though they are expected to engage in sexual activity and that it can be made ‘safe’ for their physical and psychological well-being.”

Crouse said BLI research has shown that “many of the positive reviews of comprehensive sex education—self-defined as ‘evidence based’—are misleading and biased.” She charged that leftist groups have “convinced Congress to de-fund abstinence programs based on self-serving, financially-driven myths that have been constructed without a solid foundation in fact or scientific evidence.”

Leslee Unruh, president of the National Abstinence Clearinghouse, welcomed the study’s findings. “Finally, a study that proves what those of us who have been teaching abstinence have known for years. These programs help develop self control and self-esteem, teaching kids they do not need to fall prey to the game of Russian Roulette with condoms.”



Unruh

“Abstinence programs show kids there are too many great things riding on their future to risk it to STDs, pregnancy and broken hearts,” Unruh continued. “Abstinence is a message our kids want to hear—this study shows youth are making healthier choices and changing their behavior in response...”

“Science has finally caught up with logic and what parents have known for centuries by empirically demonstrating that equipping teens to abstain from sexual activity is an effective way to prevent teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases,” said David Stevens, M.D., of the Christian Medical & Dental Associations.

Stevens said it is notable that the study’s chief researcher conceded that abstinence-only education had been “written-off” before anybody took a close look “at the nature of the evidence.” (The admission showed that Jemmott is intellectually honest.) “What we should learn from this experience is that while science itself is objective, scientists themselves can be biased and can mislead the public and policy makers.”

“It is unbelievable that diehards in the anti-abstinence education realm could reject the findings of this remarkable research,” said LDI President Douglas R. Scott, Jr. “Scientific methods were utilized and since most of them virtually worship science they should be thrilled. But when science contradicts pre-conceived notions and a worldview, it must be flawed.” The liberal *Washington Post* refused to declare victory for abstinence education. Its story on the study was headed, “Abstinence-only programs *might* work, study says (emphasis added).”

Scott pointed out that proving abstinence education works is just half the story of the research. “The study demonstrated that Planned Parenthood’s response to this issue is now and always has been a colossal failure. Simply put, scientific research shows that abstinence education works and ‘comprehensive sex education’ does not.”



What Planned Parenthood wants, Planned Parenthood gets.

The Obama Administration eliminated more than \$150 million in funding for abstinence education programs and implemented a \$114 million scheme that funds only those programs with “scientific” data to back their efficacy. In other words, projects pushed by Planned Parenthood will get the money. But *The Washington Post* conceded that abstinence programs are “relatively new” and there has not been a concerted attempt to determine their effectiveness. Nevertheless, the Administration will increase spending on its new program to \$183 million.

Stevens said many groups and individuals have been relentless in labeling abstinence education an utter failure. They used their own studies to convince many lawmakers to eliminate funding for abstinence programs, “in the process depriving teens and their parents from a potent resource that can mean a life-saving difference.”



The timing could not have been better for the release of a survey of 1,002 parents of children ages 10-16

conducted by Zogby International for the National Abstinence Education Association. The poll found that when parents are made aware of what is taught as part of “abstinence education” versus “comprehensive sex education,” support for abstinence programs jumps from 40 percent to 60 percent. On the other hand, support for comprehensive programs drops from 50 percent to 30 percent. This increase in support of abstinence education is seen across all political and economic groups.

“These results confirm broad-based support for abstinence education, including teaching teens about developing healthy relationships and increasing self worth and self control,” said Huber. “While abstinence education has been continually misrepresented by its opponents, we were confident that parents would strongly prefer abstinence education over...comprehensive sex education after they received full, accurate information...” She said the poll “confirms that abstinence education is the preferred approach for the sex education of youth...”

The survey showed overwhelming parental support for how abstinence programs permit an age appropriate discussion of birth control within the context of promoting abstinence as the healthiest choice. A staggering 93 percent of parents said they want their children to be taught the limitations of condoms in providing complete protection against specific sexually transmitted diseases and to learn how often condoms fail in preventing pregnancy based upon typical use.

Most parents opposed the “comprehensive” approach, which focuses on promoting and demonstrating birth control use. Nearly 66 percent of parents think the importance of the “wait to have sex” message gets lost when birth control is encouraged and demonstrated.

Another important and eye-opening finding from the poll is that 59 percent of parents said more tax dollars should go to abstinence education. Only 22 percent said more money should go to comprehensive sex education.

Robert Rector, a senior researcher at the Heritage Foundation who wrote the criteria for federal funding of abstinence programs, said the study “takes away the main pillar of opposition” to abstinence education. “I’ve always known...abstinence programs have gotten a bad rap.”

The new research was published in the February 2010 edition of *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*. The article is titled, “Efficacy of a Theory-Based Abstinence-Only Intervention Over 24 Months: A Randomized Controlled Trial With Young Adolescents.”

A DIFFERENT KIND OF VALENTINE

Note: This article includes text that some people may find offensive. Please use appropriate discretion!

Sometimes it is difficult to find a Valentine’s Day card with just the right message. Planned Parenthood of the Heartland (PPH) to the rescue! “Surprise your sweetie with a one-of-a-kind Valentine’s card,” PPH urged its supporters. And there was no cost—financially, anyway. “All you need is a printer and scissors.” And just what makes a Valentine’s Day card from PPH a “one-of-a-kind”? The condom placed inside, of course.

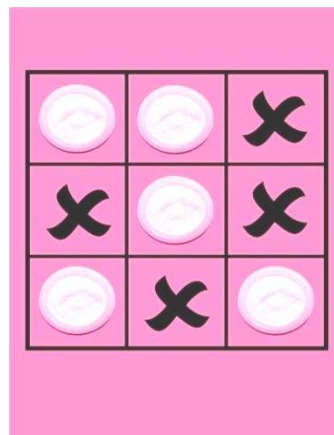
PPH offered five different cards:



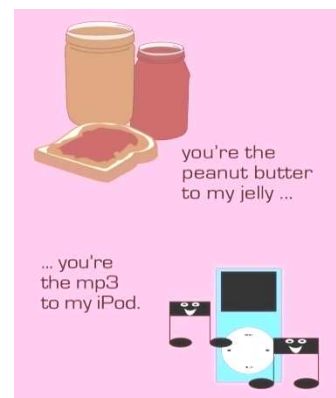
Front: “pants on the ground”
Inside: “I always stay safe with my pants on the ground.”



Front: “my heart is forever...it will always be true” Inside: “That’s why I want to stay safe and sexy with you.”



Front: tick-tac-toe using condoms for “O” Inside: “I like playing with you!”



Front: “you’re the peanut butter to my jelly...you’re the mp3 to my iPod.” Inside: “Everything is better with you.”

Okay, so where is the fifth card? It is too appalling to show here, but we will describe it. The front of the card is a caricature of a penis talking with a condom. The front of the card reads “lookin’ good, sexy thing!” The inside message is, “We are made for each other.”

Not coincidentally, National Condom Week begins on Valentine's Day. In "celebration," Planned Parenthood of Illinois (PPI) distributes free condom at its "health centers." In a press release, PPI urged "sexually active individuals to talk to their partners about the importance of using condoms to protect against sexually transmitted infections (STIs)." PPI noted that "condoms are the only form of contraception that also helps reduce the risk..."



Happy Valentine's Day &
Happy National Condom Week!



In addition to free condoms, PPI's peer educators, called the Teen Awareness Group (TAG), sponsored activities at colleges and organizations to "help foster discussion about condom use among sexual partners..." This included the distribution of "goody bags" that included condoms and information about sexually transmitted diseases. TAG also used Facebook, MySpace and Twitter to spread its doctrine. TAG members are high school students who are paid to lead discussions in local schools and community groups to educate their peers about making "healthy decisions."

PPI is one of hundreds of Planned Parenthood Federation of America affiliates to "celebrate" National Condom Week. Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood (UHPP) set up a roulette wheel and people lined up to take a spin and answer questions about such issues as "safer" sex, pregnancy prevention, and proper condom use. "The reward for a right answer is a safer sex kit," UHPP said in a statement to the press. "The reward for a wrong answer is ringing laughter, and perhaps even a few boos or cat calls from those looking on. But everyone gets a second chance, often followed by loud applause, and eventually everyone gets a prize."

Patricia McGeown, UHPP's chief executive officer, said National Condom Week "is one of many activities we employ in our ongoing initiative, called 'Real Sex Ed Saves Lives', to expand and improve sex education..." said chief executive officer at UHPP. ("Real Sex Ed Saves Lives" is a slap at abstinence education, which Planned Parenthood has consistently called a failure.)

UPDATE: CORPORATE FUNDING PROJECT

Link Theory, National Semiconductor, and United Parcel Service (UPS) are no longer boycott targets.

Two corporations have new leadership. Mr. Brian T. Moynihan is now president and chief executive officer at Bank of America. Mr. David M. Cordani is now president and chief executive officer at CIGNA.

LDI received a message from the secretary to a corporate president whose company was recently removed from

The Boycott List. The secretary said that while the company had been supporting Planned Parenthood, the president has "made it clear" that the group "is never to receive anything" in the future. While a few of the letters the company received from pro-life activists were "nasty," she said most were "very polite." We were also told that the company president made his final decision about funding Planned Parenthood "after surfing LDI's website and learning that Planned Parenthood isn't just a friendly adoption agency." Your letters spurred the president to check out LDI's website to learn the truth about Planned Parenthood. Congratulations!

"HELPING" THE PEOPLE OF HAITI



"Planned Parenthood will use any excuse to get money, even when doing so is ridiculous," said Douglas R. Scott, president of LDI. "What the people of Haiti need is food, water, clothing and shelter. They do not need anything Planned Parenthood has to offer." Scott was referring to the efforts of Planned Parenthood to raise money for the "Haiti earthquake emergency."

"Planned Parenthood's deadly network wants to provide 'sexual and reproductive health to people affected by the disaster.' While there are many organizations offering essential healthcare to the people of Haiti, Planned Parenthood wants to be sure birth control and abortion, which it considers part of 'essential healthcare', are included," Scott said.

"Women and children are the most badly affected in times of crisis, yet their needs are too often overlooked," read one Planned Parenthood plea for money. "In this life-and-death situation, the time to act is now. We urgently need your support to help...continue to provide...critical, lifesaving services to the people of Haiti. Your gift will directly support the maintenance and restoration of basic services..."

Scott said he is reminded of Planned Parenthood's response to other disastrous circumstances. "This kind of self-serving opportunism is common for Planned Parenthood," he said, pointing to several examples:

- After the fall of Romania's dictator in 1989, Planned Parenthood donated \$22,000 to buy abortion equipment and arranged for an airlift of 40,000 condoms.
- Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Planned Parenthood offered a week of free "reproductive health care" (taxpayers picked up the tab).
- When the southeastern United States was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Planned Parenthood raised funds for "essential medication" and "bare necessities." Just what constitutes "essential medica-

tion” and “bare necessities”? A few Planned Parenthood affiliates donated a month’s supply of birth control pills or an emergency birth control kit while others sold the items at a reduced cost. “We want the women from Louisiana and Mississippi to know that Planned Parenthood is here to serve them in their time of need,” said one Planned Parenthood official.

“Planned Parenthood looks at emergency birth control the same way most people view food, water and shelter,” Scott said. “I would bet that not one person left homeless by a disaster was concerned about birth control?”

“I hate to sound cynical, but I am—and my cynicism is experience based,” Scott said. “What better fund-raising tool is there than a photograph of desperate men, women and children devastated by a natural disaster? Planned Parenthood routinely uses such events to raise money, but it fills not one true need. When people are standing outside with a hand stretched out, they do not expect someone to put a condom or birth control pill in it. Planned Parenthood officials should be ashamed.” Scott urged pro-family advocates to help the people of Haiti by supporting organizations that provide true aid.

THE PRAYER PROJECT

Join us in daily prayer for the people who are active in the Pro-Abortion Movement and those who have not been strong in their claimed pro-life convictions:

January: General **Shaw Clifton**, head of The Salvation Army, which is included in the “Dishonorable Mention” section of *The Boycott List*; February: **Nancy Keenan**, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America; March: U.S. Senate Majority Leader **Harry Mason Reid**, D-Nev.; April: **Vanessa Cullins**, vice president for medical affairs at Planned Parenthood Federation of America; and May: pro-abortion “Christian” actress **Jane Fonda**.

MAGGIE AWARDS



Sanger speaks to the Women Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Silver Lake, N.J.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) awards a “Maggie” (named in honor of Planned Parenthood founder and eugenics backer Margaret Higgins Sanger) to people in the media, arts and enter-

tainment industries in recognition of “exceptional contributions...that enhance the public’s understanding of reproductive rights and health care issues, including contraception, sex education, teen pregnancy, abortion, and international family planning.” In other words, a Maggie Award is presented to the elite who do PPFA’s bidding.

The annual awards cover several areas: magazine, music, advertising, broadcast media and video, newspaper, new media, and radio. As reported in the March-April 2009 edition of *The Caleb Report*, the Maggie for television was presented to The CW Network for an episode of “Privileged” titled, “All About the Power Position” for addressing “safer sex” and the HPV vaccine. (“Privileged” was cancelled after just one season.) Several other Maggie Awards were also presented (for work in 2008):

- *The American Prospect* for “America’s AIDS Apartheid” by Kai Wright;
- *Glamour* for “It’s Your Turn to Talk to McCain and Obama” by Editor-in-Chief Cindi Leive;
- *The New Republic* for “Life Sentence,” an article proving that John McCain did not have a “moderate” record on “reproductive rights,” by Sarah Blustein;
- Amanda Robb for “Leslee Unruh’s Facts of Life” (in *More*), a profile of “an anti-choice ideologue”;
- Fiorella Valdesolo for “Freedom From Choice” (in *Nylon*), which highlighted television’s “unrealistic portrayals of abortion”;
- Jennifer Wolff Perrine for “When There is No Good Choice” (in *SELF*), which addressed the personal, medical and legal issues surrounding second- and third-trimester abortion; and
- Deborah Kotz for several articles on “reproductive health, pregnancy, sex education, and preventive care” (in *U.S. News & World Report*).

QUOTABLE QUOTE

“The option of abortion may be the right choice for you if you do not feel you can parent at this time in your life, you are not comfortable with adoption or you do not wish to be pregnant...This decision belongs to the individual and she doesn’t need to justify it to anyone. It is hers to make... ‘Is this the right time for me to have a child?’ ...”

- Calgary Sexual Health Center (a Planned Parenthood affiliate) statement titled “The Abortion Choice”

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

LDI often provides space for its supporters and detractors to have their say about various issues. If you have a comment/opinion on any issue relating to LDI or life issues, do not be shy! Send it to us!

Appalled

Thank you guys for all you do. I am so thankful to finally find a place that has a comprehensive list of Planned Parenthood supporters. I am absolutely appalled at the culture of death we live in. Keep up the hard work.

- Wendy Blake Frick

If Only We Could

As a pro-lifer in love with the unborn, I'd first like to thank you very much for all that you do for the move-

ment. I utilize your boycott list and feel that it is very important.

I think that we should start a media campaign similar in style to the Truth campaign against tobacco. The public would benefit from knowing that even when buying a bottle of shampoo, or ordering a hamburger, that they are supporting abortion.

- Mollie Hintze

If LDI had the resources, this is exactly the kind of campaign we would run. Those groups with annual budgets of \$10 million or so do not see the value in doing so as they are obviously spending the money elsewhere.

CANADA SLASHES FUNDING

An investigation by *The Interim*, Canada's pro-life newspaper, has found that over the past five years, the Federal Government has cut grants to the Canadian Federation for Sexual Health (CFSH) by more than 99 percent. Formerly known as the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada, CFSH is the Canadian member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The newspaper reported that papers filed with Canada Revenue Agency show that in 2005 CFSH received Federal Government grants totaling \$1,143,358. Its expenditures for the year totaled \$2,360,903. "In other words," *The Interim* reported, "Ottawa provided about half...of their operating budget." Grants were increased in 2006 and accounted for more than 56 percent of its budget.

AT A GLANCE			
Comparison of CFSH Budget From Federal Grants (2005-2009)			
YEAR	TOTAL IN FEDERAL GRANTS	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	PERCENT FROM GOVERNMENT
2005	\$1,143,358	\$2,360,903	48.4
2006	\$1,285,674	\$2,278,884	56.4
2007	\$743,745	\$1,655,249	44.9
2008	\$482,498	\$1,467,005	32.9
2009	\$9,381	\$815,153	1.2

CFSH began to feel the pressure in 2007. Grants from the federal government decreased so drastically that they made up 45 percent of the pro-abortion group's funding. But this was just the beginning. In 2008, the Canadian Government gave CFSH 33 percent of its total funding.

The level of decline in government funding did not continue for Canada's pro-abortion group; it got much worse. In 2009, the Federal Government gave CFSH just over \$9,000, which was slightly more than one percent of its total budget for the year.

"The best news of all is that when government funding went down, CFSH spending also decreased," said LDI President Douglas R. Scott, Jr. "This means the group was less able to spread its doctrine of death and failed programs across Canada and the rest of the world."



Hughes

"In economic times such as these, the government can save money by cutting funding to unrepresentative special interest groups," Jim Hughes, president of Campaign Life Coalition (CLC) and a member of LDI's Board of Advisors, told *The Interim*. "But in the long-term, it makes more sense to completely stop funding organizations that are reducing births, because Canada faces a demographic crisis. It doesn't make sense to promote and pay for contraception and abortion when the country faces a grey future without enough workers."

Universally recognized as one of the world's most skilled and wise pro-life leaders, Hughes said ending funding for abortion and birth control is both economically practical and morally right. CLC has campaigned for cuts to groups like CFSH for many years. Hughes hopes Ottawa will soon cut off funding to CFSH affiliates as well.

CFSH has acknowledged the harmful impact the funding cuts have had on its programs. "With no remaining government funding for CFSH," wrote John Lamont, the group's president, in its *Annual Report 2007-2008*, "and with an increasingly competitive climate for private funds, it is clear that CFSH will need to be collaborative and innovative if it is to continue to be a viable national network of organizations." One year later, he admitted that CFSH has "continued to feel the squeeze of increasingly restrictive Federal project funding for both National and International programs."



Lamont

"The United States may be the 'big dog on the block,'" Scott said, "but this big dog needs to learn some new tricks from a neighbor." He praised CLC for its role in decreasing taxpayer funding of CFSH and the Canadian Government for doing the right thing. "Led by CLC, the Pro-Life Movement in Canada is among the best organized anywhere. I am never surprised when their hard work pays off. All we need to do is sit back, smile and thank God."

Not coincidentally, the change in Government funding came about after the Conservative Party came to power in 2006. CFSH and the entire Pro-Abortion Movement had enjoyed great support under previous governments.

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