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Section D

Interventions and Implications
Interventions

- Sexual and reproductive health interventions improve knowledge and attitudes; smaller effect on behaviors
- No evidence that these interventions, including sex education, increases sexual activity
- Multiple-component programs appear to be more promising, especially if community based
- Interventions usually are not rigorously evaluated
- Access to services is minimal in most countries
Policy and Program Implications

- Provide general health info and accurate sex education, both in school and out of school
- Encourage active collaboration between health and education sectors in designing multi-pronged reproductive health programs
- Promote gender equity in the arenas of marriage and parenthood for all social classes
Policy and Program Implications

- Increase access to services for sexually active adolescents (female and male)
  - Contraceptive services and supplies
  - STD/HIV testing and treatment
- Improve maternal and child health care
  - Safe motherhood is a continuing priority
- Increase funding and prioritize youth needs
- Address personal and societal barriers
Domestic Issues

- **Mathematical evaluation**
  - Abstinence—only program participants were no more likely to delay sexual initiation
  - Once sexually active, had just as many partners and were just as likely to use contraceptives as non-participants

- **Increase in abstinence only education**

- **What are teens learning?**
  - 24% of males and 21% of females received abstinence education without receiving instruction about birth control in 2002, compared with 8-9% in 1995
  - Only 62% of sexually experienced female teens received information about contraception before first sex, compared with 72% in 1995
  - Only one out of three sexually experienced black males and fewer than half of sexually experienced black females received instruction about contraception before first sex
Domestic Issues

- What are teachers teaching?
  - More than nine in ten teachers believe that students should be taught about contraception, but one in four are prohibited from doing so
  - In 1999, one in four sex education teachers taught abstinence as the only way to prevent pregnancy and STIs—a huge increase from 1988, when the fraction was just one in fifty

- What do parents want taught?
  - 82% of adults support comprehensive sex education that teaches students about BOTH abstinence and other methods of preventing pregnancy and STIs
  - Only one out of three adults surveyed support abstinence-only education, while half oppose the abstinence-only approach
International Issues

- Developed countries
  - Nations with the most sex-positive sexual instruction have the best outcomes
    - Societal acceptance of adolescent sexual relationships
    - Comprehensive information about sexuality
    - Clear expectations about preventing pregnancy and STIs
International Issues

- Developing countries
  - Adolescents’ knowledge of HIV prevention remains dangerously superficial
    - In a four country study (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi, and Uganda) at least half of 15–19 year-olds did not receive any sex education
      - Fewer than 40% could both correctly identify ways of preventing the virus and reject common myths about HIV
      - Even fewer could provide correct information about preventing pregnancy
1. What percentage of Americans are not virgins when they get married?
   a) 50%
   b) 75%
   c) 95%

2. In Uganda, where abortion is illegal under nearly all circumstances, how does the abortion rate compare to that of the United States?
   a) It is more than twice the U.S. rate
   b) It is less than half the U.S. rate
   c) There are virtually no abortions in Uganda

3. In the United States, from 1995 to 2002, the proportion of teens receiving formal instruction about birth control methods:
   a) Increased among both genders
   b) Declined among both genders
   c) Declined among males but not females
4. In the West African nation of Ghana, what percent of 15-19 year old girls think they cannot get pregnant if they have sex standing up?
   a.  1%
   b.  7%
   c.  21%

5. Among women having an abortion in the United States, what percent identify themselves with a religion?
   a.  26%
   b.  33%
   c.  78%

6. Which of the following statements about emergency contraception (EC) is true?
   a. In the U.S., EC must be kept behind pharmacy counters
   b. Women under age 18 in the U.S. still need a prescription
   c. The U.S. government does not distribute EC through its foreign aid programs
   d. All of these statements are true
Pop Quiz

7. For every $1 the U.S. government spends on family planning services under Title X, how much is saved in pregnancy-related health costs?
   a. $1.90 for every $1  
   b. $2.60 for every $1  
   c. $3.80 for every $1

8. The 24% decline in teen pregnancy in the United States between 1995 and 2002 is mainly the result of:
   a. A sharp decline in adolescent sexual activity  
   b. An increase in oral and anal sex and a decrease in vaginal sex  
   c. Improved contraceptive use  
   d. Widespread fear of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections
9. In Sub-Saharan Africa, where the AIDS epidemic has hit hardest, condom supplies amount to about how many condoms per man per year?
   a. 100
   b. 50
   c. 5

10. True or False: Fewer than half of all sexually active adult men in the United States receive any sexual or reproductive health services each year
   a. True
   b. False
1. What percentage of Americans are not virgins when they get married?
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