

Teen Pregnancies

Some reasons why

- ◆ Advertising, television, movies and videos give messages that promote sex and the idea that it “just happens”. There aren’t many messages about respecting ourselves and taking responsibility for our behaviour. Many couples don’t talk about intercourse, condom use, birth control and pregnancy -- it’s easier just to have sex than to talk about it.
- ◆ Some people believe that planning for sex means they’re “easy”. They may not have condoms or other birth control with them because they feel guilty planning for sex ahead of time.
- ◆ Drugs and alcohol can affect judgment so even a couple who plans to use birth control can get ‘carried away’ and have unplanned intercourse or forget to use their birth control.
- ◆ Sometimes a couple uses birth control but they don’t use it correctly. Even when used correctly, birth control can fail -- no method is 100% effective.
- ◆ Some people worry about using birth control, especially the Pill, because they are afraid of possible side effects.
- ◆ Some people believe using birth control is wrong because of their own moral or religious beliefs.
- ◆ Sometimes a pregnancy happens because of a sexual assault.
- ◆ Birth control is not easily available to teens in all communities. They may not know how or where to get it. If they do know where to get it, they may worry that other people will find out.
- ◆ Some teens act out against parents during a time of conflict or try to be more grown up by getting pregnant.
- ◆ Some young women have a baby because it makes them feel like they’ve accomplished something in life. Some young men feel important because they’ve fathered a child.
- ◆ Everyone wants to be loved and needed by someone: some people believe a baby will meet this need.