

Researchers say that results show that while sexual images in the media may influence teen sex, clear communication about sex between parents and their children can also have a major impact on teen sex.

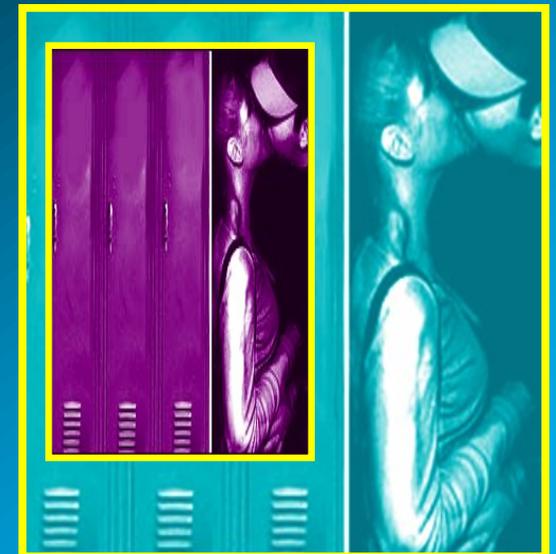
One of the biggest risk factors for early teen sex was the perception that a teen's friends were having sex. Researchers say that one of the strongest protective factors was parental attitudes about sex.

Both black and white teenagers were less likely to have sexual intercourse by the time they were 16 if they reported that their parents did not approve of them having sex at this age.

One in five children are approached by an Internet predator. Predators contact teenagers and children over the Internet through social networking sites such as chat rooms. Predators also use the Internet for the production, manufacture, and distribution of child pornography, exposing youth to child pornography and encourage them to exchange pornography or worse entice children to meet for the purpose of having sex. Most but not all victims are between the age of 12 and 15 years old.



Media Influence on Teenagers



VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES & SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

FACTS:

- The U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Army and law enforcement agencies use video games like "Doom" or Nintendo to train their people in the use of firearms.
- Lt. Col. David Grossman, a U.S. Army expert on the psychology of combat and author of the book, "On Killing", has illustrated how violent video games, in the hands of children, serve as "murder simulators".
- The 14-year-old killer in the Paducah, Kentucky school shooting had never fired a real pistol in his life. Nevertheless he fired eight shots, five of them head shots, the other three upper torso shots, killing 8 children. Where did he get the skill and will to kill? Most likely from violent video games and media violence, paired with a lack of adult guidance.
- In summary: Violent video games can train our children to kill, glorify violence, desensitize them to suffering and legitimize and trivialize violence. One must remember that there are more significant factors, such as child abuse, domestic violence, gangs in the neighborhood, or growing up in a war zone, that are likely desensitize people to violence or increase violent behavior.



BULLYING AT SCHOOL

FACTS:

- Bullying is an on-going pattern of harassment and abuse. It can be done directly by physical or verbal attacks or indirectly by exclusion, spreading rumors, etc.
- Bullies seek power through aggression and direct their attacks at vulnerable victims. Bullies lose their popularity in high school and have a high likelihood of having a criminal record as adults.
- 1 in 5 kids admit to being bullied or bullying. Every 7 minutes a child is bullied in the school setting.
- While most teachers believe they always intervene in bullying, only 25% of students report teachers' help.

Those who bully often see these kinds of actions in TV programs, movies and video games.

