



THE ABSTINENCE NETWORK

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Do you have something to say? Post a message on the blog at blog.abstinence.net.

Let your voice be heard!

Mission Statement

To promote the appreciation for and practice of sexual abstinence (purity) until marriage through the distribution of age appropriate, factual and medically-referenced materials.

We are a clearinghouse for abstinence information and a network of abstinence advocates.

Eye on Big Pharm

If you've been watching the news in the past few months, you've likely come across a story about Gardasil, a vaccine against the sexually-transmitted human papillomavirus (HPV). Also in recent news is a new contraceptive drug on the market. Its purpose? To eliminate women's menstrual cycles. If you're not working with these issues every day, it can be hard to keep up, so here's a run down.

HPV & Gardasil

Late last year the FDA not only

approved, but recommended for universal use, the drug Gardasil, manufactured by Merck and Co. Gardasil is a vaccine intended to protect women and girls from four out of over 100 strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is a sexually transmitted disease (STD). News coverage and commercials have called this a "cervical cancer vaccine." Some supporters of the vaccine have even been so flamboyant as to refer to it as a "cure for cancer."

Two of the four strains Gardasil

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STD With no Symptoms Spreading

Mycoplasma genitalium, an STD first discovered in the 1980's and which is often without symptoms, is spreading quickly among young adults in the United States. It is shown to be more common than gonorrhea in a new study from the University of Washington in Seattle. Rates of infection were 11 times higher for cohabiting persons, seven times higher for blacks, and four times higher for those who used condoms at their last intercourse.



Mycoplasma genitalium



Purity Ball 2007

The fourth annual Purity Ball was a huge success! Fathers and daughters danced the night away while taking the time to talk about the special relationship between fathers and daughters—complete with wedding cake! Fathers made a pledge to be a positive male role model for their daughters by respecting their mothers and daughters made a pledge to remain pure until marriage. Along with the Purity Ball, we had our first mother/son event, A Knight to Remember. Mothers and sons spent the night together talking about integrity, purity and character while feasting on “groom’s cake.” Mothers took a pledge to be available for their sons, while the young men took a pledge to remain pure until marriage. The media was also out in full force with NBC, ABC, German National Radio, French TV, Al-Jazeera, and several other media sources attending the events. **Check out our online store to purchase a Purity Ball Planning Kit for only \$25 to plan your own Purity Ball!**



A girl and her dad make their pledges



Speaker Julie Laipply, Miss Virginia USA 2002 speaks to the girls and fathers at the Purity Ball.



Speaker Luis Galdamez, nationally known abstinence speaker, speaks to the Mothers and Sons at the Knight to Remember



Purity Rings at the Love & Relationship Store!

What better way to remind young people of their pledge to purity than with a purity ring? We carry rings for both men and women in all sizes, price ranges and designs. Stop by the Love and Relationship Store or visit www.abstinence.net to see the selection!



Eye on Big Pharm, cont.

targets are, in fact, carcinogenic, and are the leading cause of cervical cancer; research also suggests that the drug may protect against vaginal and vulvar cancers. Unfortunately, there are over a dozen cancer-causing strains of HPV. The larger problem, however, is not the lack of protection against these other life-threatening strains of HPV (though it is cause to stop and think); rather, the problem is that the vaccine has been grossly under-tested. As serious adverse effects crop up (e.g., blood-clotting, nerve disorders, seizures, death), it is yet unclear how common these will become. We do not yet know the long-term effect of this drug, which is being given to girls as young as nine. **One might also question why young girls are being vaccinated against an STD seven to eight years before it is even legal for them to engage in sexual activity.**

At any rate, while Merck is making money and parents are being duped into procuring an under-tested vaccine for their daughters, we're all stuck in a dreadful sort of waiting game. While the FDA has seen fit to approve a drug, its negative effects have yet to be fully revealed. Even the testing performed by Merck prior to FDA approval is shady. Key data, including how many young girls were used in testing on and the chemical levels in the placebos, has not been released. All things considered, there is considerable room for concern.

Pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline has also developed a HPV vaccine, called Cervarix. Unlike Gardasil, the FDA has declined to put Cervarix on the "fast track" to approval. GSK hopes their drug will be approved sometime in 2008.

Lybrel

In other drug news, another pharmaceutical giant, Wyeth, has developed a new form of hormonal contraception that is designed to halt a woman's menstrual cycle. Its brand name is Lybrel. According to one commentator, "We don't want to confront our bodily functions anymore. We're too busy" (quoted in the International Herald Tribune 4/20/07). It is questionable, to say the least, when a natural function of a woman's body is treated as a disease, or at least a symptom of one, which ought to be "treated" with drugs.

Lybrel also carries with it the same dangers as other hormonal contraceptives. These include, but are not limited to, bacterial infections, infertility, ectopic pregnancy, depression, and blood clots. These effects are rarely, if ever, mentioned by doctors who hand out contraceptive pills for every inconvenience from acne to cramping. This sort of "medicine" is used with a band-aid mentality, hoping that by masking symptoms we can forget about the root problems. Thus women suffer when, facing irregularities in their cycles, they are prescribed birth control to assuage their discomfort. Meanwhile, no one knows what is actually causing these irregularities.

What's more, the hormones involved with menstruation can affect the bones, as well as other organs such as the brain and skin. The obstruction of the body's natural processes will likely yield yet untold results. In other words, when you throw a wrench in the gears, consequences will follow.

Have a Comment?

Check out news and commentary at blog.abstinence.net!

Welcome new affiliates!

Name	State	Country
AAA Center for Pregnancy Counseling	Nebraska	
ACT		INDIA
Alex Community Development Corporation	Ohio	
Alpha Alternative Pregnancy Care Center	Kentucky	
Ark-La-Tex Crisis Pregnancy Center	Louisiana	
Articia Johnson	Alabama	
Ashley Gibson	Florida	
A-Team	Kentucky	
Ayinde Russell	Colorado	
Bayridge Christian Center	New York	
Bearing Fruit Communications	Oklahoma	
Bethany Christian Services	Michigan	
Birthline	Indiana	
Boys and Girls Club of Elizabethton	Tennessee	
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Memphis	Tennessee	
Boys and Girls Club of Greeneville in Green County	Tennessee	
Boys and Girls Club of Jackson-Madison County	Tennessee	
Boys and Girls Club of Morristown	Tennessee	
Boys and Girls Club of the Monroe Area	Tennessee	
BreakDown	Arizona	
Care Net Pregnancy Center of the Hudson Valley	New York	
Care Pregnancy Center	Michigan	
Carmen Pate	Texas	
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark	New Jersey	
Catholic Medical Center	New Hampshire	
Catholic Services-Infant & Maternity	Mississippi	
Chretiens Sans Frontieres		CAMEROON
Christ Community Health Services	Tennessee	
Christian Care Center	Florida	
Christine O'Donnell	Delaware	
Clarence Shuler	Colorado	
Columbus Hospital	New Jersey	

Name	State	Country
Concerned Women of America of Missouri	Missouri	
Confidential Care for Women	Tennessee	
Crittendon Youth Services	Alabama	
Crystal Mulloy	South Dakota	
David Miller	Georgia	
Faith and Flag Alliance	Delaware	
Family Leader Network	Maryland	
Family Life Christian Fellowship	California	
Frontline Youth Communications	Ohio	
Growing Up Together	South Dakota	
H.E.L.P. Crisis Pregnancy Center	North Carolina	
Heka Parish		TANZANIA
Helping Hands Pregnancy & Parenting Center	California	
Heritage of Rhode Island	Rhode Island	
His Hope Ministry Precious Treasure Club	Colorado	
Intricate Communications	New York	
Jack Abramowitz	New York	
James Glenn	Georgia	
Jewish Child Care Association	New York	
Kaiserslautern Crisis Pregnancy Center		GERMANY
Kathleen Larmore	Nevada	
King for America	Georgia	
Krystal Ivy	Illinois	
Waakisa Youth Centre		UGANDA
Wisconsin Abstinence Coalition, Inc.	Wisconsin	
World Hope International	Virginia	
X Factor Consulting, LLC	Georgia	
Zoe Group Foundation	Maryland	

Please be sure to add updates@abstinence.net to your list of "Safe Senders" to ensure the weekly E-Mail Updates and other alerts are delivered to your Inbox. If you do not currently receive weekly E-Mail Updates, please contact us at info@abstinence.net.

Don't Buy the Lie.

It is time to bring sensible balance to programs aimed at preventing STDs and teen pregnancy. Support abstinence-until-marriage education programs that give truth to youth about the only 100 percent effective protection against STDs and premarital pregnancy.

The Myth: The rate of teen pregnancy has decreased since sex education became widely available.

The TRUTH: Sex education became widely taught in schools in the 1960s. Since then, the number of premarital pregnancies and abortions has skyrocketed. It is only with the introduction of authentic abstinence education in schools during the 1990s that the rates declined.

The Myth: STDs are not common in young people.

The TRUTH: One in five Americans currently has an STD; 63 percent of all STDs occur in people younger than 25 years of age.⁵ There are 12 million new STD contractions every year. Teens contract 3.8 million STDs each year.²

The Myth: Sex is no big deal, and all teens are doing it.

The TRUTH: Of teens in ninth through twelfth grades, **54.2 percent are virgins!**⁸ And a majority of those who have had sex wish that they had not.³

The Myth: Condoms prevent HIV/AIDS and STDs.

The TRUTH: Condoms fail to prevent exposure to HIV/AIDS – a disease that is still 100 percent fatal – nearly 16 percent of the time.⁶ There is **no scientific evidence that condoms prevent transmission of chlamydia, trichomoniasis, herpes, syphilis, chancroid or human papilloma virus (HPV).**⁵

The Myth: “Comprehensive” sex education - instructions on condom usage – receives no federal funding.

The TRUTH: Some 25 federal programs contain funding for contraception-based “comprehensive” sex ed. **Funding for those programs in FY2002 was 427.7 million.**⁴

The Myth: Abstinence-until-marriage programs “only” teach abstinence.

The TRUTH: Abstinence education programs teach students about “building self-esteem, developing values/character traits, formulating goals, making decisions, avoiding risky behavior, maximizing communication, strengthening relationships, understanding development and anatomy, preventing STDs, withstanding social and peer pressure, addressing consequences/self-control, resolving sexual conflicts, learning etiquette and manners, aspiring to marriage, understanding parenthood” and medically-accurate condom/contraception failure rates.

The Myth: Teens do not want to learn about abstinence.

The TRUTH: 93% of teens believe that they should be given a strong message about abstinence.⁷

1 “Teen Pregnancy Rates in the United States, 1972-2002,” National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. 2006

2 “The Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Promote Sexual Health and Responsible Sexual Behavior,” Office of the Surgeon General, Washington, D.C. 2001

3 “The Case for the Cautious Generation,” National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. 2002.

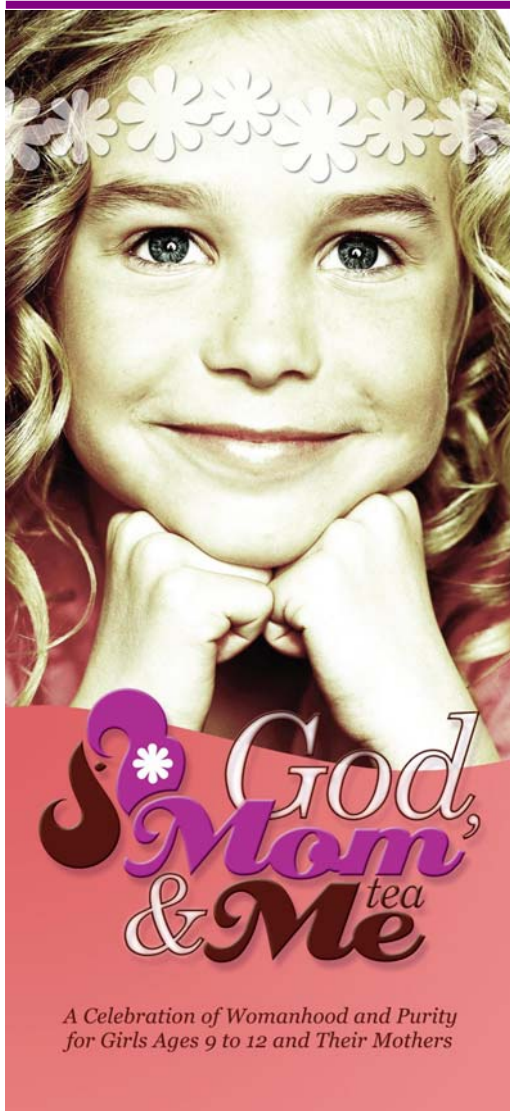
4 “2002 Federal Sex-Ed/Contraception vs. Abstinence Funding Fact Sheet,” Republican Study Committee, 2002. Available on line at <http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/Abstinence4.PDF>

5 “Scientific Evidence on Condom Effectiveness for STD Prevention,” National Institutes of Health. 2001

6 “Men With Broken Condoms: Who and Why?,” STI Online. 2006.

7 “Science Says: Teens’ Attitudes Toward Sexual Activity, 2002.

8 “2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey,” Centers for Disease Control. 2005



A Letter From Leslee Unruh

I want to take a moment to thank you for joining us at this year’s 11th Annual Abstinence Leadership Conference. These conferences bring to life the excitement of working in the abstinence education field as we step out of the pressures of daily work and celebrate our successes with educators from across the world.



This year’s conference was a close, personal event in St. Paul, MN. Sessions ranged from such in-depth topics as the newest medical information and abstinence curricula, to more light-hearted events as “Star Search” for aspiring abstinence speakers and “Abstinence Idol” for young people.

We at the Clearinghouse love what we do, and are going to do everything we can to make it worth your while.

Keep Shining,

Leslee J. Unruh
President/Founder

A God, Mom and Me Tea is the best way to talk to your little princess about puberty, life changes and abstinence until marriage. This program is for little girls and their mothers ages 9-12. A tea can be done in groups at your home or church. We can even provide a speaker for your event.

This is a great opportunity for mothers and daughters to have valuable time together to open up conversations about purity.

Call 605.335.3643 or 888.577.2966 for more information!

Tributes and Memorials

In Honor of	From
Alyssa Asleson	NAC Staff
Devan Martinez	NAC Staff
Beth, Gabbi, Aron and Eli Oaks	Jenay and Justin Hallickson
In Memory of	From
Gabe Ault	Cyndi Ault
Bishop Dudley	Louis and Rebecca Hall
Harry Harrington	Jenay and Justin Hallickson
Donald Miller	Juanita Miller
Eva Prang	Allen and Leslee Unruh

To make a donation in honor or in memory of an individual, simply send a note with your donation. We will send the Honoree a card telling of your donation. Amounts of donations will not be disclosed.



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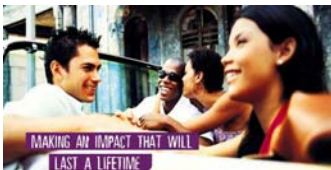
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www.truth4youth.com



www.abstinenceafrica.com

Be a part of the life-changing work of the Abstinence Clearinghouse!

The Abstinence Clearinghouse is dependent on donations to keep our programs going. You can make a direct difference in the lives of young people around the world.

To make a difference, please send your gift either by check or credit card, or donate online at www.abstinence.net.

Your gifts are greatly appreciated!

The Abstinence Clearinghouse is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



Updated Affiliate Levels!

Check out www.abstinence.net for the newest affiliate benefits.

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