

ATM Education Evaluation Report 2006-2007

All Facts Support ATM in the Evaluation Report

Annual Essay Contest Winners Announced!

Important Inserts on:

⇒ Pure Passion for Fashion Show
⇒ Upcoming Seminar

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Abstinence 'til marriage education is **evidence-based**, and **over time seriously reduces teen pregnancy rates, teen abortions and sexually transmitted diseases (STI/STDs)**. ATM Education has served up to 35 Ohio counties since 2002 but current funding allows us to serve 21 counties. ATM serves approximately 25,000 students a year with five-session classroom presentations, assemblies, web events, billboards, posters and web sites – missthemes.com and atmeducation.org. ATM serves the community with parent meetings, teacher in-service seminars and community seminars. ATM Education and its sister organization Central Ohio AEN have served over 135,000 students and over 15,000 adults since 2002. We are evaluated by The Applied Research Center of Miami University, Middletown, Ohio under the direction of Robert Seufert, Ph.D. A random sampling of our evaluations produced **23,166** matched pre- and post-surveys that serve as the basis of this report.

New vital statistics from the Ohio Department of Health Information Warehouse were released in November 2007 that included data through 2006. **In several counties where our program has experienced extensive implementation, results are dramatic.** In other counties where we are not as involved, results show the need for more abstinence education. Here are a few examples where impact is the greatest.

County	2002 Teen Births 15-17	2002 Teen Birth Rates 15-17	2004 Teen Births 15-17	2004 Teen Birth Rates 15-17	2006 Teen Births 15-17	2006 Teen Birth Rates 15-17	2004 Teen Abort -ions 10-19	2006 Teen Abort -ions 10-19	2004 All Ages STD Chlamydia	2006 All Ages STD Chlamydia	2004 All Ages STD Gonorrhea	2006 All Ages STD Gonorrhea
Allen*	73	31.3	59	25.9	60	26.1	42	19	342	112	176	158
Ashland*	19	16.5	15	13.9	14	12.9	7	9	32	55	8	2
Carroll	12	19.6	4	6.2	5	7.3	9	5	49	66	16	11
Crawford*	29	29.4	16	16.7	18	18.3	14	11	50	72	8	22
Delaware*	22	8.0	20	6.6	25	7.9	33	22	165	156	53	43
Gallia	16	24.9	13	21.7	8	12.7	2	2	27	27	3	7
Hardin*	18	28.8	12	20.2	10	16.6	12	5	48	28	6	14
Highland	27	30.6	16	17.0	23	23.2	10	9	46	42	28	8
Jackson	20	26.4	14	19.5	16	21.6	5	12	35	30	10	8
Lawrence	37	29.1	37	28.9	1	**	1	4	54	50	13	9
Licking*	65	19.3	71	21.6	51	15.2	51	39	173	249	38	54
Madison*	15	17.6	13	15.2	8	9.5	5	12	32	39	31	13
Meigs	16	30.4	15	32.7	6	12.5	2	1	17	31	1	4
Morgan*	3	8.9	1	3.0	2	5.7	0	3	11	14	3	0
Perry*	16	20.9	16	21.1	13	16.7	8	7	30	59	5	7
Pike	24	37.9	24	27.7	15	23.8	1	4	27	17	6	1
Seneca*	33	25.0	23	20.0	22	17.4	13	16	63	51	40	10
Tuscarawas	41	21.0	20	10.5	22	11.6	22	21	136	140	34	39

Teen Birth Rates are calculated per 1,000 teens

* Part of current 21 counties

** Not Reported

Continued on page 2

Essay Contest

ATM Education's Annual High School Essay Contest is an indicator of whether students understand the concept and importance of abstinence until marriage education...the answer is a resounding "yes!"

Here are a few excerpts from the top three winners in this year's contest:

- "In our class, we learned that 'Abstinence is Freedom,'" wrote 11th grader, Caitlynd, in her award-winning letter to Governor Strickland in the Annual ATM Essay Contest. She also wisely noted that "Being sexually active could also cost their diplomas and dreams. Teenagers should be taught the consequences, rather than methods of evasion." ATM Education judged her letter the best of all entries and hopes Governor Strickland listened to her and other students who have actually participated in abstinence until marriage classes.
- Ranisha, a 10th grader, wrote, "I support abstinence until marriage for many reasons. One reason is you can build a relationship with someone based on feelings and companionship rather than focusing on the physical aspects." The 17-year-old also thinks, "if you have already begun to have sex, you can still consider stopping now and waiting until marriage; it's never too late."
- Third-place winner, 17-year-old Lindsay, reinforced the idea of what pre-marital sex can cause. "When someone chooses to have sex before marriage, they are at risk of consequences like unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, financial drain from medical bills and child support, broken hearts, shattered dreams, and possibly even punishment from the law." In her concluding remarks to the Governor she writes, "I am asking you to think about all of the teenagers who were not taught abstinence and are suffering the consequences, and to warn them of these consequences by teaching abstinence in the schools of Ohio."

ATM Education applauds all the students who entered this year's contest. Caitlynd and her teacher will each win \$100; Ranisha wins \$75 and Lindsay receives \$50. Thanks for taking time to write and send your letters to Governor Strickland...hopefully, Ohio students' voices will be heard!

Evaluation Report cont.

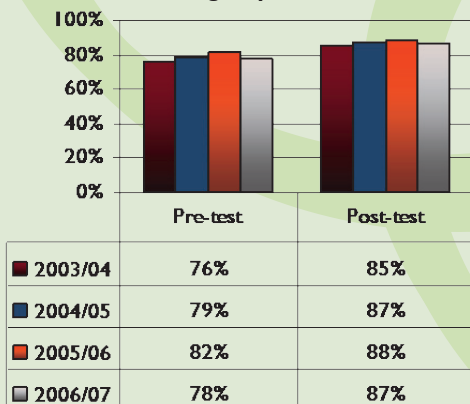
We encourage students to get tested for STI/STDs and that is part of the reason STD numbers sometimes increase.

Statistics available as far back as the late 1960s, show that out-of-wedlock teen pregnancies have steadily increased until the 1990s when they began to decrease. **The areas that show a decrease are also areas that have had significant abstinence until marriage education.** One urban high school that we served in 2001 and 2002 went from 27 pregnancies the first year down to seven the second year. Our goal was to see if we could duplicate those results in another urban area. The city schools in Allen County have participated in a pilot program with ATM to see if we can duplicate those results. Notice on the chart, Allen County teen births have steadily declined. Teen abortions in that county are down over 50% and chlamydia has decreased dramatically – almost 350 to 400 cases per year down to 112. If you look over the past several years, there has been an increase until now. Until 2004, teen pregnancy prevention was taught in those same schools. Not until abstinence until marriage education was taught to the majority of the students did rates and numbers begin to decline.

The evaluation of ATM Education shows a statistically significant increase or improvement from **per-post-survey for each of five performance measures evaluated.** The evaluator states that positive changes would occur statistically only one time in a thousand by chance for each of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau performance measures that we have continued to employ since 2001. Consequently, these results suggest that **participation in abstinence education programs for students in grades 6-12 improved outcomes regarding the components of the abstinence education initiative.** The graphs represented are from an evaluation instrument with 36 items. A five-point scale is used and for the purpose of these charts the “yes probably” and “yes definitely” are totaled. The change noted on these graphs is **statistically significant.** Actual data is available upon request.

What do students think after they participate in five sessions of classroom presentations for 6th, 7th, 8th and high school students? Here are some charts from the 2006-2007 school year with comparisons from the past school years.

Having sex before I am married, even one time can change my life forever.



Statistical significance is shown for each year at $p \leq .001$

Core Value: We believe that the whole person is composed of physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual elements. We value life, and we believe in the pursuit of truth. We want all American children to have the values of our country – life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our vision is “to turn the hearts of future mothers and fathers toward their children.”

A classroom teacher in Allen County stated, “*Excellent material and presenter! Material is very pertinent to students and the perspective of building relationships (present & future), along with possible consequences (current & future) is an approach that students can relate to. The presenter was very non-judgmental.*”

An eighth grade female student in Allen County stated, “*This program really made me think about not having sex or having only one sexual partner because I don’t want any diseases and I plan on having kids and I don’t want my kids to be affected with a disease that I got.*”

We often hear studies quoted in the news, but researchers know that it takes incredible inertia to move people even three percent on a survey. We maintain that students are so ready for this message and our survey data indicates, the pendulum swing our teenagers are experiencing.

“*I always thought it would be fine if I just waited until I got out of high school to have sex. Now I realize the only way for it to be perfect the first time is to wait until marriage. I will know that whatever happens, he won’t leave me. And I know he has no STDs. Thank you so much for coming and letting us know how much of a risk just one time would be.*” 9th grade female, Delaware County

“*Thank you so much for speaking this week. You did a fabulous job. I appreciate your program. Keep up the great work!*” 12th grade male, Morrow County

Abstinence until marriage is the healthiest choice for any person, especially teens.



Statistical significance is shown for each year at $p \leq .001$

Core Value: We acknowledge behaviors have consequences so we encourage healthy decision-making, individual responsibility and relationship education.

“*You told me a lot of good information about STDs and it has me definitely glad of the choices I have made up to this point. Thank you so much for coming in this week!*” 12th grade female, Morrow County

“*This is the third time I have taken this program, and each time it helps me to remember why it is better to wait until marriage. I want to thank everyone teaching us.*” 12th grade female, Perry County

“*This presentation made me realize that having sex doesn’t make you cool or someone special. Sex is no game. Life is nothing to play around with either. I wish I didn’t lose my virginity so early. Now people think I am easy. That is not the reputation that I wanted, but it is what I have. Thank you, I learned a lot.*” 9th grade female, Richland County

Our children are hurting and they wonder why some people want to just hand them condoms. Their cry is, “Why don’t you care if I get hurt?” The people who just hand them condoms must not care if they get Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), Herpes II (HSV) or any of a total of thirty diseases that can be contracted. The Medical Institute, a research center in Texas, estimates that 50% of sexually active teens have HPV, 20% have Herpes II and 10% have Chlamydia. Condoms provide less than a 50% risk reduction with any of these diseases.¹

Abstinence is choosing to stay away from behaviors that could hurt me.



Statistical significance is shown for each year at $p \leq .001$

Core Value: We believe in the joy of sexual intimacy. We treat sexual intimacy with respect, understanding it is best enjoyed in its perfect time and place within marriage. We encourage others to respect and honor it also keeping in mind that the individual’s emotional and physical health and well-being are affected if they do not learn self-control and act responsibly; laying the foundation for a future that can include a healthy marriage and strong family relationships.

“*I’ve always wanted the perfect little family and a very loving husband, but I never really believed it could happen someday for me until after this program. I hope one day I find the right guy.*” 9th grade female, Crawford County

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Just by reading this newsletter you can **ADD TO YOUR RESOURCES!**

While supplies last, ATM is offering a free video or book!

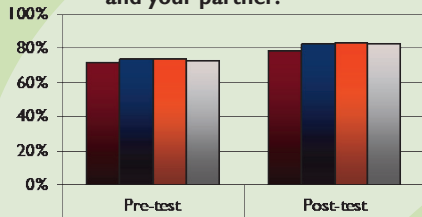
Email atmoffice@atmeducation.com or call 740-965-2046 with your name, address and phone number.

Evaluation Report cont.

You guys are cool. Now I will know what to do with future relationships." 10th grade male, Marion County

There is so much more to sex than just a physical act. Students need to understand the emotional attachments and bonding that can cause devastation, especially in young girls' lives if they are not married when they have their first sexual experience. Sex affects the whole person. *"Sex can't be detached from the other parts of our human nature without serious consequences. Emotional hurts, guilty feelings, muddled relationships, sexually transmitted diseases and broken hearts occur. We instinctively know, feel and behave as if our sexuality is more than just a physical appendage of ourselves."*¹ Our young people deserve a chance to have healthy marriages and healthy families.

Remaining abstinent shows respect for yourself and your partner.



Year	Pre-test	Post-test
2003/04	72%	79%
2004/05	74%	83%
2005/06	74%	84%
2006/07	73%	83%

Statistical significance is shown for each year at $p \leq .001$

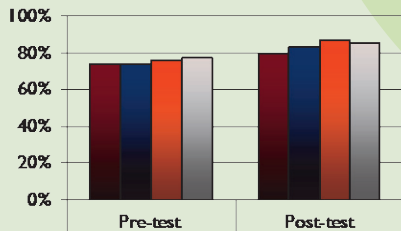
Core Value: We believe in respect and boundaries for self and others.

"The part about the strong bond formed when you have sex and if you save the first time for when you are married is what changed my mind about abstinence. That is something I would like to have with my future husband." 9th grade female, Hardin County

"I did learn a lot in this past week. Before, I knew abstinence was important but wasn't quite sure why (aside from avoiding pregnancy and STDs) I plan to be sexually abstinent and hope my friends will too." 9th grade female, Licking County

"Thank you for this wonderful opportunity (classroom presentation). I am glad there are people who take time and actually tell kids not to have sex and what it can do, because it is better to have an explanation." 8th grade female, Marion County

Using alcohol and/or other drugs makes teens more likely to have sex.



Year	Pre-test	Post-test
2003/04	74%	80%
2004/05	74%	83%
2005/06	76%	87%
2006/07	77%	85%

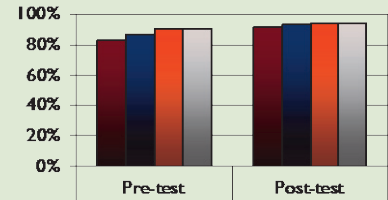
Statistical significance is shown for each year at $p \leq .001$

"I had a lot of fun learning all this stuff. I am more aware of what sex, drugs, and beer can do." 8th grade female, Hardin County

According to The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, Fact Sheets, February 2002. Teens 15 and older who drink are seven times (drug use – five times) more likely to have sexual intercourse and twice as likely to have it with four or more partners than non-drinking teens. At-risk clusters occur when drugs and alcohol are used, meaning that at-risk behaviors tend to cluster together – smoking, drug and alcohol abuse and sexual activity. These behaviors lead to lying, stealing and cheating and are followed by skipping school, disrespecting

parents and teachers – not always in that order. We often wonder which comes first – depression or risky behaviors. A study, "Sexually Active Teenagers Are more Likely to be Depressed and Attempt Suicide," Heritage Foundation, 2003; Hallfors DD, et al. indicates that sexual activity is a precursor to depression in teenagers.

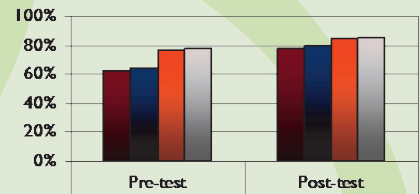
The best way to avoid an out-of-wedlock pregnancy is to wait until marriage to have sex.



Year	Pre-test	Post-test
2003/04	83%	91%
2004/05	87%	93%
2005/06	90%	94%
2006/07	90%	94%

Statistical significance is shown for each year at $p \leq .001$

Even if you have already had sex, you can choose to save sex for marriage only.



Year	Pre-test	Post-test
2003/04	62%	78%
2004/05	64%	80%
2005/06	77%	84%
2006/07	77%	85%

Statistical significance is shown for each year at $p \leq .001$

Core Value: We believe that service to others creates a strong community, and as such, we offer compassion, unconditional love, investing in people, providing hope and a vision as we serve. *"This presentation has really taught me a lot of things I never knew. It really changed my opinion on whether or not I want to have sex as a teen. This is an important program and should be taught to teen's everywhere."* 9th grade female, Franklin County

We can choose our risky behaviors, but we don't get to choose the consequences. Often we live with the consequences of our actions for a very long time. Quite a few of the students we serve are already living with difficult consequences: a pregnancy, child support for an out-of-wedlock child, sexually transmitted diseases, infertility as a result of STDs, inability to bond effectively as a result of multiple sexual partners, lost childhood, and lost hope for their futures. Our program, *Relationships Under Construction*, gives them encouragement and hope for a future they were certain would elude them. Renewed abstinence allows young people to practice abstinence again even if they made past damaging decisions. Second chances are always possible. Even if they have to live with consequences, no more damage will be done. Not only does abstinence work 100% of the time in preventing the consequences; abstinence until marriage education is far more than "just say no!" It lays the foundation for young people to understand the benefits of building safe and healthy relationships that prepare them for healthy and successful adult lives and future marriages.



¹ Scientific Review Panel Confirms Condoms Are Effective Against HIV/AIDS, But Epidemiological Studies Are Insufficient for Other STDs. 2001, July 20. www.hhs.gov/news/press/20010720.html

² McGraw, Ph.D., Onalee. *Teaching the Whole Person About Love, Sex and Marriage*. Educational Guidance Institute, 2004, Front Royal, VA. Page 30.

More info available at www.MissTheMess.com