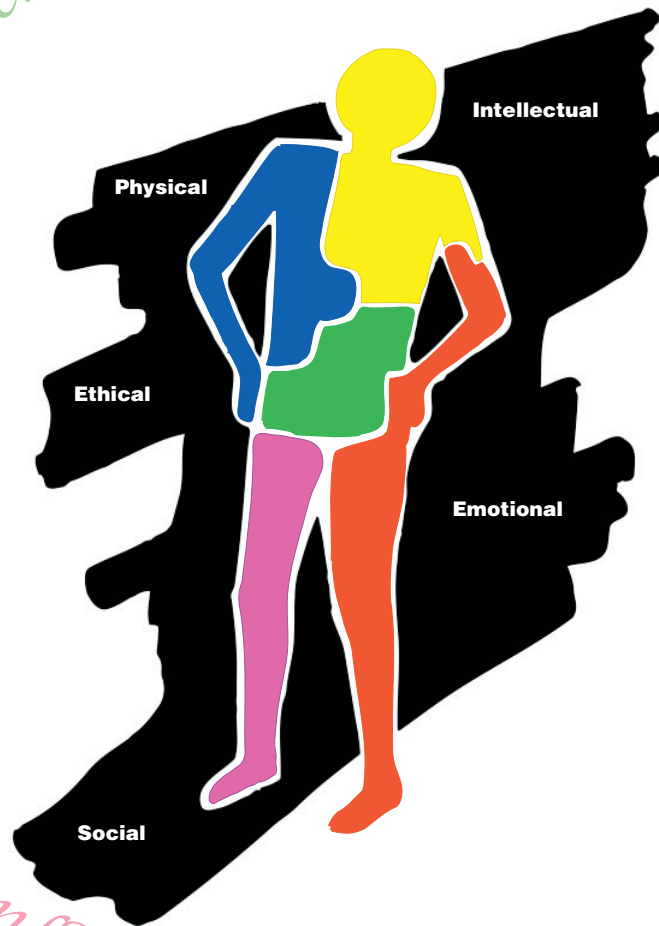


# GEAUGA TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

*personal development*

*my choices, my future*



*meaningful relationships*

*ready for the pressure*

## HOLISTIC SEXUALITY EDUCATION

[www.healthyteenrelationships.org](http://www.healthyteenrelationships.org)



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## *Geauga TPP Philosophy Statement*

*TPP was founded on the premise that adolescents are able to make healthy decisions regarding their sexuality. TPP emphasizes abstinence as the healthiest and safest choice, and as the only 100% effective method of preventing STD transmission and unwanted pregnancy.*

*However, we know historically that many youth do not always choose the safest and best road in various situations. These youth do not deserve a death sentence through HIV infection, a sexually transmitted disease, or the consequences of an unwanted pregnancy.*

*As such, TPP's primary voice is that of promoting abstinence, though contraception is not treated as taboo. STD and contraceptive units are available to schools or organizations who add them in an age appropriate section of their program.*

*School district personnel, classroom teachers, parents, youth and community leaders take a lead role in determining student needs and program content in many areas. Questions from teachers, parents and students are always answered in an honest and open manner.*

### **TPP teaches sexuality education using 4 guiding principals:**

**1) *Ages and Stages:*** Youth of all ages benefit from direct and honest information about sexuality. This information should be age appropriate, as well as school and community targeted. TPP feels elementary and middle school age youth do not have the cognitive and emotional maturity to “choose” sexual activity, thus in grades 5-8 abstinence is emphasized.

**2) *Parents are Primary:*** Parents are the primary educators of youth on the topic of sexuality. All efforts are made to include parents in TPP programming through homework assignments, parent orientation sessions, community presentations and parent newsletter. The concept that parents are the most important source of information is reinforced throughout TPP classroom curriculum.

**3) *Holistic Education:*** Quality sexuality education should be based on the holistic view of self, specifically, that all humans have emotional, physical, intellectual, social and ethical “components”. All these areas can be affected both positively and negatively by sexual decisions. Sex is not a devastating experience for all youth. However, all youth can benefit from the ability to identify the risks of early sexual involvement as well as the long-term holistic benefits of abstinence and healthy sexual choices.

**4) *Skills for Life:*** TPP believes that positive social skills are the basis for dealing with a wide range of influences such as negative peer influence, sexual pressures, relationship issues and personal stress. Skills taught and practiced through TPP include assertive communication, decision-making skills, critical-thinking skills and risk assessment. These skills if learned well can be applied to any type of relationship or peer pressure situation. “Just say no” is an ineffective strategy to teach young people how to cope with difficult decisions.



# Geauga TPP Programs and Services

Geauga TPP operates programs in nine school districts, and has provided services and resources to over 1000 teachers, parents and school personnel over the course of the past ten years. Two TPP programs are also distributed nationally through trade publications.

## Classroom Programs

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**5<sup>th</sup> grade: "Changes as We Grow, The Early Years"**- Done in conjunction with the State mandated Maturation-Reproduction unit, TPP introduces 'sexuality' as more than just biology.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade: "Changes as We Grow"**- Character education, social skills, and "introduction to adolescence" program. Focus is on the emotional, social and physical changes to expect and how to handle them.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade: "The Best is Worth Waiting For"**- Starts with the best and only 100% safe sexual decision--abstinence. Introduces Holistic Sexuality Education, but focuses primarily on emotional and physical considerations. Topics include media influence, unwanted touch and sexually transmitted disease.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade: "Ready for the Pressure"**- Decision making skills program utilizing integrated components from 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Adds ethical and social considerations. Topics include setting personal standards, identifying risky situations, and developing a written abstinence plan.

**9<sup>th</sup> grade: "Tell it Like It Is"**- Assertive communication program with emphasis on sexual decisions. Components include recognizing sexual pressure and influence, assessing a real relationship, and assertive communication role plays.

**10<sup>th</sup> grade: "Relationships-Risk and Reward"**- Relationship education program for teens. Focus is on gender communication differences and analyzing what it takes for healthy male-female relationships now and in the future.

**Juniors/Seniors: "Parenting 101"**- Parenting awareness program, emphasizing preparation necessary for parenthood. Topics include the challenges of parenthood, child developmental stages, and appropriate discipline.

**Sexually Transmitted Disease and Prevention programming**-. TPP integrates all key Holistic Sexuality Education components to thoroughly address the epidemic of sexually transmitted disease. Medical slides are used, and a physician or health professional discusses all methods of prevention, including abstinence, as well as recently developed vaccinations.

## School Programs

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**Peer Team:** Volunteer/Service Learning program for high school. Students are trained as peer mentors and presenters for day one of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade program, 7<sup>th</sup> grade TPP assembly, and various school-wide pro-abstinence activities. .

**Empowerment Program for Girls:** Luncheon “seminars” for juniors and seniors entering the world of work, college or about to live independently. Topics range from campus safety and acquaintance rape to banking and credit.

**Senior Writing Contest:** “*Now That I Look Back*”. Each year cash prizes are awarded to winning 500-word essays, as older teens share their wisdom and experience with younger teens on the topics of dating, sex and relationships.

**Teen Parent Panel:** Teen parents speak as a panel about their experiences and life-altering decisions. Parents are trained to include key TPP teaching points in their talks. They are also available as an informal support for pregnant or parenting students.

**School Assembly Program:** TPP offers a nationally recognized assembly speaker each year. Topics focus on key character education concepts that we hope teens will apply to many aspects of their lives.

**School Kit Program:** TPP provides resources such as in-service training, videos, posters and brochures to help each school reinforce TPP messages.

## Parent/Community Programs

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**“Dear Mom and Dad” - Teen Parents Talk to Parents of Young Teens.**

Parents get an education for a change as this program brings young teens and their parents together for an evening presented by local teen parents. The focus of the evening is “how I got here” giving parents a perspectives that will motivate them to talk more often and more meaningfully to their children about relationships and sexual decisions.

**Open House:** TPP presents at parent open houses at the beginning of the school year. Parents pick up program summaries, parent brochures and TPP newsletters.

**“Just Say Know” Newsletter for Parents.** The newsletter offers information on any topic related to communicating with teens on sexuality topics.

**Community Awareness Activities:** TPP has run PSA’s on cable, posted billboards, set up booths at local events, produced a series of brochures written by teen parents, and produced two videos for community use. Awareness activities reinforce TPP goals and promote communication between parents and teens.

**“It’s Just SEX, Right”** is a book published by Geauga County TPP in 2005. It is a collection of stories collected over the past 10 years. The book is written by young people for young teens and parents. Stories give readers a new perspective on the struggles of teen parenthood, teen relationships, first love, HIV/AIDS, and abstinence in high school.

# Youth Involvement



## TPP Peer Team

*TPP Peer Team is a youth volunteer core made up of students in grade 9-12 who take an active role in several TPP programs.*

*Peer Team members are abstinent high school students who believe strongly enough in their choice that they want to influence others.*

### *Peer Team Members*

- *Receive 20 hours of training a year in presentation skills, role-playing, leadership, and key knowledge related to abstinence and teen pregnancy.*
- *Present as a panel on day one of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade TPP Program*
- *Run 7<sup>th</sup> grade assemblies as a follow up to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade TPP Program*
- *Participate in annual awareness activities such as the Self-Respect Campaign and school bulletin board design.*
- *Take a lead role in the development of TPP resources like the “Ready for the Pressure” video.*
- *Participate as a panel member in the Dear Mom and Dad program for parents and students together.*

# Youth Involvement



## Teen Parent Panel

*Local teen parents, past and present also contribute to the TPP mission.*

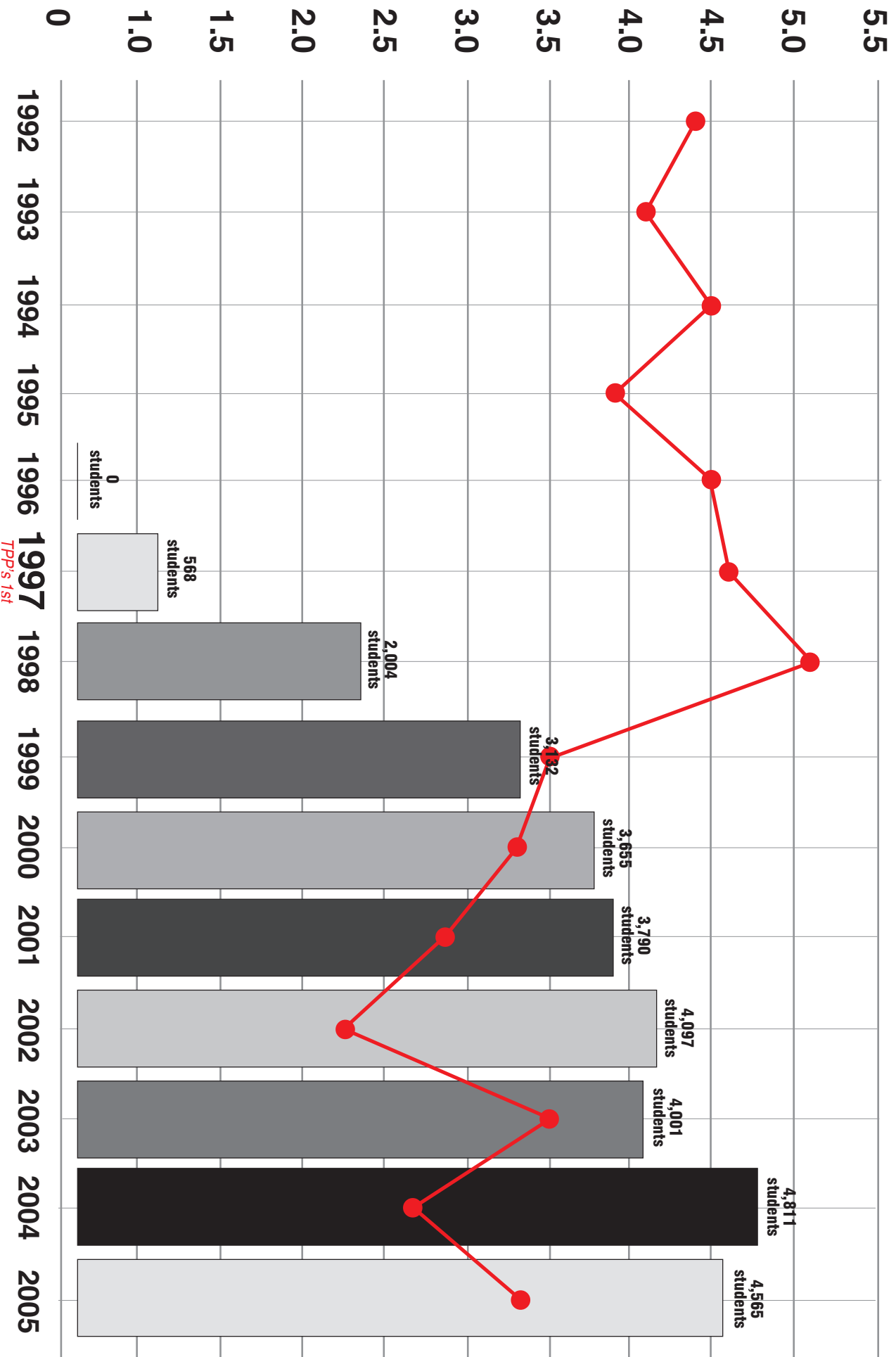
*They are the living proof that it “can happen to you” and yes, in Geauga County. Teen parents share their life stories in several programs in hopes that others will not make the same mistakes that they did.*

*Teen parents present day two of the Tell it Like It Is program for 9<sup>th</sup> graders, sit as a panel member on a generational panel of parents for “Parenting 101” and are the heart of the Dear Mom and Dad program for parents and teens. They also provide “Teen Parent Panel” and open forum for youth to learn about the lives and decisions of teen parents.*

*Parents have produced such TPP resources as the Dear Mom and Dad parent brochure, are contributors to the “Just Say Know” newsletter, and authored the book “It’s Just SEX, Right?” soon to be available in stores.*

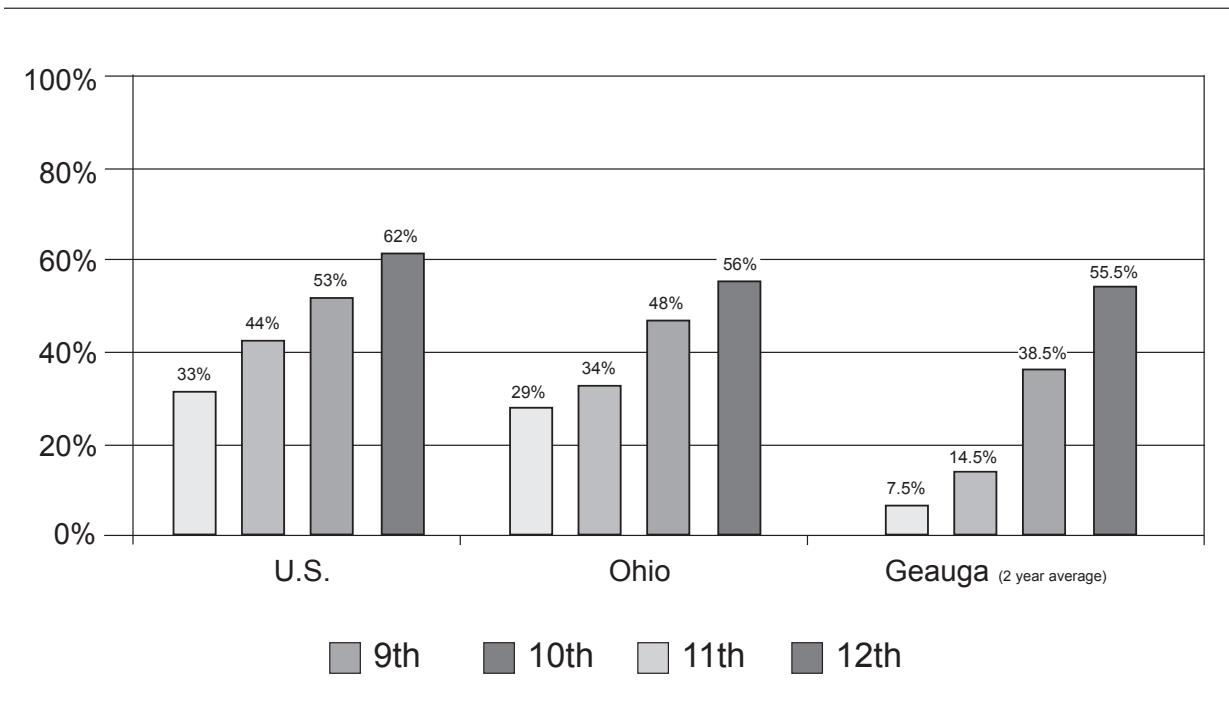
# GEAUGA COUNTY

## Births to teens compared to youth served by TPP



TPP's 1st

## PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO EVER HAD SEX GRADE 9-12 COMPARISON

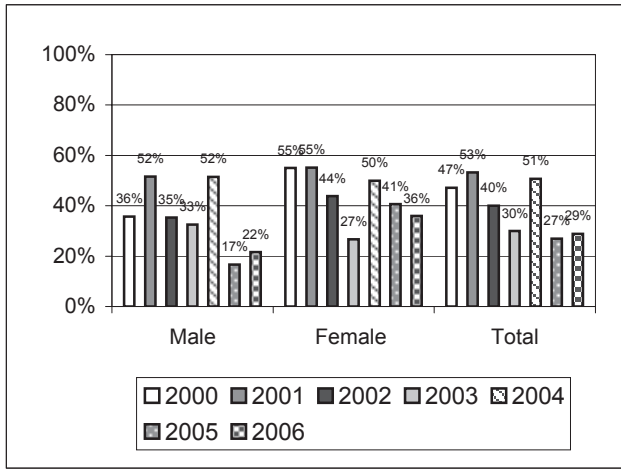


Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2003 and TPP Survey 2004

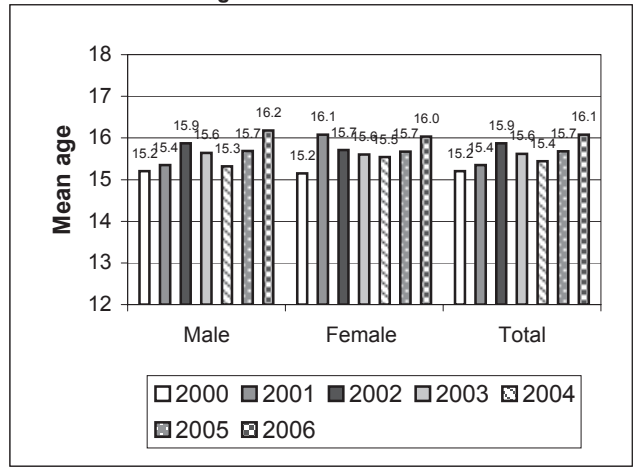


**Cardinal - 11th Grade - Classes of 2000 to 2006**

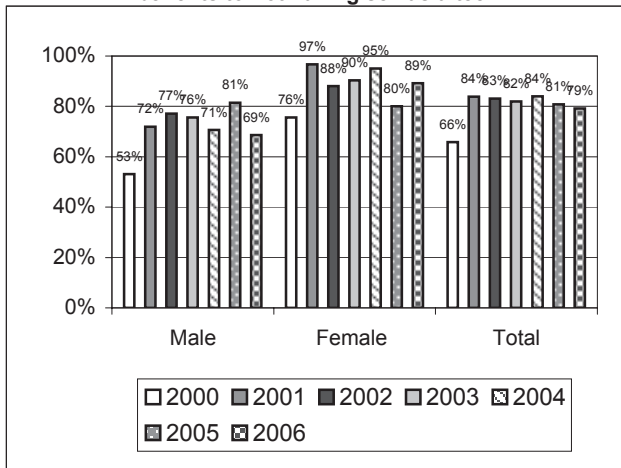
**Percent who have had sexual intercourse**



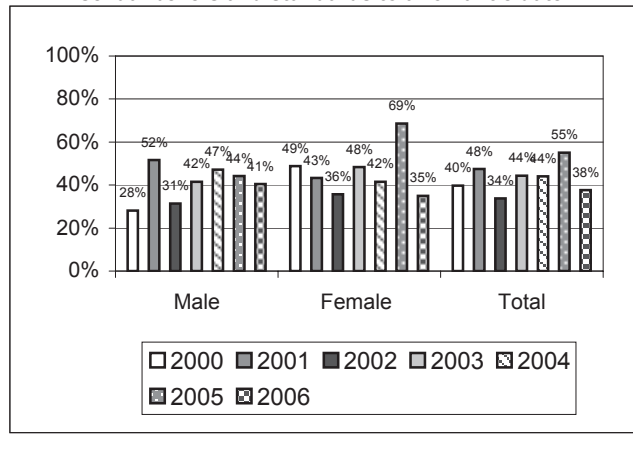
**Mean age at first intercourse among those who have had sex**



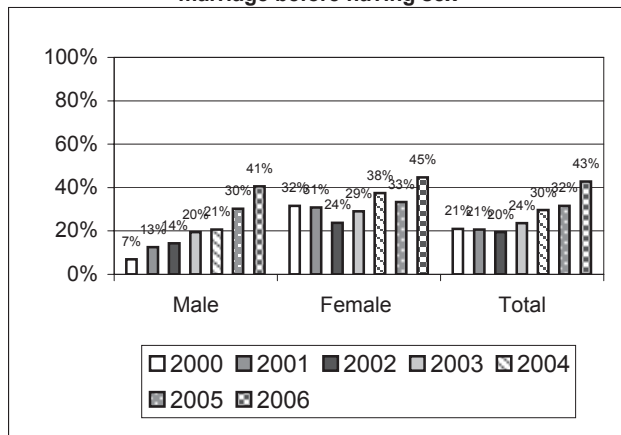
**Percent who agree that there are benefits to not having sex as a teen**



**Percent who are comfortable expressing their sexual beliefs and standards to a romantic date**



**Percent who plan to wait until marriage before having sex**



**Percent who have had only one sexual partner among those who have had sex**

