Adolescent Reproductive Health

870,000 teens became pregnant in 1997
Just under 500,000 births
75-80% teen moms unmarried
85% “unintended”

News Flash: Good News . . .
• Lower pregnancy, birth, abortion rates
• Prevalence of most STIs decreased
• Proportion sexually experienced decreased in 1990s (67% in 1991 vs. 61% in 2001)
• Condom use increasing (46% at last intercourse in 1991 vs. 58% in 2001)
• Other contraceptive use mixed between 1988-1995 (more at first intercourse; less at most recent)
• 20-30% sexually active youth not protected from unintended pregnancy at most recent intercourse

As with births to adult women, there has been a sharp increase in the proportion of births to teens outside of marriage

Proportion of births to unmarried women (all ages)
4% in 1940
10% in 1970
17% in 1990
33% in 1999
Sexual Intercourse Experience by Race/Ethnicity, Gender and Grade Level, 2001 (YRBS)

Sexual Activity, U.S. teens 15-19, 1995, NSFG & NSAM

Sexually Active?
- 47% of >2,000 h.s. students were “virgins”
- Of these:
  - About 30% heterosexual masturbation of/by a partner in past year
  - About 10% oral sex
  - 1% anal sex
  (Schuster et al. 1996)

STIs
3-4 million teens contract one or more STI’s annually.
(That’s more than the entire population in Arkansas)

Chlamydia rates rose from 51 to 278 per 100,000 U.S. population, 1987-2001
Highest Risk:

- 18% street youth (CDC, STD Surveillance 2001)
- 15% young women in juvenile detention centers (CDC, STD Surveillance 2001)
- 50% 18-21 year olds in high drug sale/use community infected with HSV-2 (Friedman, 1997)
- African American youth
  - Chlamydia rate 7x higher among 15-19 year old women
  - HPV type 16 prevalence among women: African American (27%), white (17%), Hispanic (12%)