

Studies have shown that teens who receive comprehensive sexuality education – information that includes both abstinence and protection – tend to postpone sexual involvement, and if they do become sexually active, are more likely to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

In a random sample of Kitsap County adults' ages 18 and older, more than 9 in 10 supported the concept of education to prevent AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases for all junior and senior high school students.

- Nearly half of 15 to 19 year olds say they believe that the average teen does not have enough information about sexuality and reproduction.
- Teens say they get information about sex and birth control from a variety of sources including:

parents	72%
teacher, school nurses, or sex education classes	69%
friends	60%
media, including TV and movies	53%
magazines	39%
- In the United States each year, 3 million teens will contract a sexually transmitted disease, and many of these young people will suffer long-term health consequences as a result.
- An estimated half of all new HIV infections occur in people under age 25.
- Eighty four percent of all pregnancies to teenagers are unintended.
- Half of all teen pregnancies occur within the first six months of initiating intercourse.
- Teenagers wait an average of nearly one-year between initiating intercourse and making their first visit to family planning services.
- Teens report the most common reasons for not using protection were:
 - ✓ they weren't planning for sex
 - ✓ they didn't think pregnancy or infection could occur
 - ✓ their partner didn't want to use protection
 - ✓ they didn't know where to get protection
 - ✓ they didn't feel comfortable going to a clinic
 - ✓ they didn't get around to it

Source: Kitsap Sexual Assault Center
Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2006
Health Status of Bremerton Kitsap County