

# Harbinger's Column

by Sue Kaiser



Family Planning Services of Metro Toronto recently coordinated "Birth Control Week" throughout Toronto. The purpose of the many displays, open houses and educational events was to highlight the importance of continuing education in Birth control and Sexuality.

This year, the focus was on teenagers and sex, alerting teachers, doctors and other "educators" to the need to make themselves available for questions, as well as encouraging teens to ask their questions about sexuality and contraception.

In preparation for Birth Control Week, staff at Family Planning Services gathered facts about adolescent sexuality.

Many points won't surprise you, having not so recently left the ranks of adolescents. Others are alarming, when looked at as cold facts.

It is well established knowledge that young men and women are engaged in sexual activity, and alarming when you realize that sexuality education and contraceptive information is often a very low priority in school's curriculum plans. The unwillingness of educators and parents to talk about sex with growing men and women is largely responsible for the alarming rate of unplanned pregnancy.

Did your school or parents or church provide you with relevant sex education? If so, you are among the lucky ones. Go back and encourage them to continue!

•89-90% of teenage women are unprotected contraceptively at first intercourse.

- 59% of males and 45% of females aged 15-19 years have experienced intercourse. (United States)

-80% of sexually active teenagers use no birth control at least some of the time.

- 53% of pregnant teenagers never practiced birth control, but 61% said they had adequate knowledge and less than 5% had tried birth control.

-asked why they got pregnant?

- 20% "didn't know"

- 48% "didn't think they'd get pregnant" or "didn't think about it at all."

- 23% were afraid to ask for birth control

- for 65% of pregnant teenagers, the pregnancy was "purely an accident." (Hospital for Sick Children study of 1,000 teenagers).

-there were 10, 110 births to teenage women under 19 in Ontario in 1976.

-3 out of 10 teenage women who have intercourse become pregnant.

- 55% of all women giving birth are under 19.

- 1,054 teenage women become pregnant each week in Canada.

- 5,147 single teenage women gave birth in 1976 (one was under 12), and 13,000 babies were born to married teenagers. (Canada)

- for women under 19, the birth rate is increasing, although it is dropping in all other age groups. (Canada)

- 100 years ago, only 13% of teenage women would have been considered

fully fertile at age 16½; by 1975, 94% of teenage women of the same age were considered fully fertile. (Canada)

- U.S. studies show that babies of young teens are 2-3 times more likely to die in their first year of life than the infants of mothers in their 20's.

- babies born to teenagers are much more likely to be premature and of low birth weight.

- 60% more teenager mothers risk death than mothers in their 20's

- teenage mothers are more likely to have birth complications and - or become ill due to depleted nutritional reserves.

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13

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(and Canada Pension Plan Return, if applicable)

**Identification**

Family or Last Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ Social Insurance Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Usual First Name and Initials (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Province or Territory of Residence on 31st December 1977, was: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

If self-employed in 1977, please state province where business located \_\_\_\_\_

Number, Street and Apt. No., or P.O. Box No. or R.R. No. \_\_\_\_\_

On 31st December, 1977, I was: Married  Widowed  Divorced  Separated  Single

City, Province or Territory \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Usual First Name of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first Income Tax return? Yes  No

If 'No', please state year for which last return filed. 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Name on last return: same as above  or \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Spouse: same as mine  or \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Social Insurance Number \_\_\_\_\_

If you became or ceased to be a resident of Canada in 1977, please give: Date of Entry \_\_\_\_\_ or Departure \_\_\_\_\_

Name of residence \_\_\_\_\_

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Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach cheque or money order payable to Receiver General for Canada. Do not mail cash. Payment is due not later than 30th April, 1978.

If taxpayer is deceased, please give date of death \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of any individual or firm, other than the taxpayer, who has prepared this return for compensation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the information given in this return and in any documents attached is true, correct and complete in every respect and fully discloses my income from all sources.

Please sign here \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Form authorized and prescribed by the Minister of National Revenue. It is a serious offence to make a false return.

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