

SURPRISE-SURPRISE*March 2008 E-News*

William P. Wilson, MD
Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry
Duke University Medical Center,
Distinguished Professor of Counseling
Carolina Evangelical Divinity School

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There is a report in our local paper and on the Internet that reveals a recent federally sponsored Center for Disease Control (CDC) study of teenage females. It found that 26% have a sexually transmitted disease. The report said that many people in the health bureaucracy (CDC) were surprised. To be honest I was not. I have spent most of my life studying human behavior, but in 1946 I spent three months doing venereal disease control at the USPHS rapid treatment center in Charlotte, NC. Although at the time I was a medical student, I learned enough about human behavior to realize that humans are sexually promiscuous. I then practiced psychiatry for 59 years and had to deal with the consequences of sexual problems – especially fornication and adultery – in thousands of heterosexual and homosexual patients. Later, while doing mission work in the third world and especially in Africa and Asia, I found they were just as, if not more, promiscuous than persons in this country. It was no wonder to me that HIV was rampant in those parts of the world. Sexually transmitted diseases are rampant where there is promiscuity. HIV is a sexually transmitted disease.

One of the things I learned at the rapid treatment center was that some people are more highly promiscuous than others. As part of our evaluation of the patients we always asked about contacts, i.e. how many people they had sexual relations with during the time they would have been actively infectious. Our contact worker whose job was to follow up on the contacts heard almost everything, but was surprised when one man bragged "hundreds and hundreds." He even had the names and addresses of the women he had sex with. When she went through his address book he actually had only 100, and when followed up 30 of these women had been infected with syphilis by him. In those days we had a law that required infected persons to be treated so we were inundated with many new female customers the next week. Rarely did we have so many new patients infected by one person, but almost always there were usually two or three with a few going higher. These included wives and husbands. Teens today are just as promiscuous. Most high school students have had sex by the time they graduate. There is a higher incidence among college students.

These observations bring up the issue of morality. In the forties when I did this work we, as youth, were taught to be moral. That did not keep us from being immoral, but it inhibited promiscuity. We knew that adultery and fornication was a sin and that sin had consequences. My experiences at the rapid treatment center in Charlotte emphasized this. At the time we knew there were such things as the human papilloma virus (HPV) and herpes simplex virus (HSV), but they were not something we could treat. Also, we did not consider them a major problem. We did not even know about Chlamydia. I remember only

one patient with venereal warts (HPV) during the three months I worked in the center and the Mecklenburg County Health department. I only had patients with herpes years later. It was known, but did not occur in our practice. Since the sixties, when morality in our society took a nosedive, there has been a marked increase in illegitimate pregnancies and STD's in spite of sex education in the schools.

Among blacks illegitimacy accounts for 70 % of births while for whites it is 23%. A 25 % infection rate with STD's among sexually active teens is on the same order with blacks having twice the rate of whites. It is important to note that in Africa where the incidence of HIV infection may be as high as 25%, Uganda has controlled its spread by a vigorously presented abstinence program. They had an official infection rate of 15%, but they now it is only a 5% incidence. In spite of the loud protests of Planned Parenthood that abstinence education is the cause of the problem of the spread of STD's, Uganda gives lie to their assertions.

The idea that condoms protect against illegitimate pregnancies and STD's is a lie. The failure rate is 10% for pregnancy and higher for HPV and herpes. Admittedly one does not get pregnant with oral or anal sex, but STD's get transmitted with this practice. Rarely are condoms used with oral sex and occasionally with anal, therefore, HPV and HIV are regularly transmitted with oral sex and especially with anal sex. The same is true for both the HSV-1 and HSV-2 herpes viruses. Chlamydia can be transmitted by oral, anal and genital sex. Condoms reduce the incidence of infection. Finally, gonorrhea is transmitted by

oral, anal or vaginal sex. Condoms provide some measure of protection but not absolute.

Although proponents of condom protection do not admit it, it is a fact that youth do not use condoms even when they are freely available and they have been taught to use them. A study in the UK found only 45 to 50% of youth used them. Those that did only did so inconsistently. Among homosexuals, who are quite promiscuous, it was found in one study that the average male homosexual had unprotected sex with over 50 different partners in the five years after they were diagnosed with HIV. Male homosexuals are highly promiscuous. Interestingly, HIV is also more than occasionally infecting the lesbian population. They get it from bisexual male homosexuals.

There is much more that can be said about illegitimacy and STD infection in the youth of today, but as the columnist Walter Williams has observed and I have experienced, morality is the only answer to the problem. The change in our cultural attitudes about sin is responsible for the problem. There is no question that hedonistic humanism with its motto "if it feels good do it" is responsible for the decay of morality. Also the lie has been propagated that if you love someone it is all right to have sex. God gave us rules for sexual behavior. They were intended to provide good for us. Fornication, adultery, bestiality and homosexuality were forbidden. He knew as our creator what would happen if we did not obey them. Sin has always had consequences and even if humanists say that there is no such thing as sin there are still consequences. We should, therefore, not be surprised by the widespread infection of teen age girls with STD's. They are a consequence of

immorality. The CDC says that, “The surest way to avoid transmission of STDs is to abstain from sexual intercourse, or to be in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and is known to be uninfected.” I know this to be true from my own observations. Such advice is moral! We should pay attention to it.