

## Early Sexual Activity Facts

- ◆ **Problematic for heterosexual and homosexual activity.**
- ◆ **Adolescents involved in delinquency and substance abuse are at a higher risk to engage in early sexual activity.**
- ◆ **Number of forces at work as the adolescent matures – physical changes, emotional changes, peer influences.**
- ◆ **Sexually abused children are at higher risk for early sexual activity.**

## **Early Sexual Activity Facts (continued):**

- ◆ **Strong association between age at first intercourse and the number of sexual partners.**
- ◆ **Having sex tends to lead toward more sexually permissive attitudes and expectations in all races and gender groups.**
- ◆ **Becoming sexually active can lower importance of school grades and college.**
- ◆ **Female teens who begin sexual intercourse earliest in studies were more likely to form a family through giving birth rather than through marriage.**

## **Early Sexual Activity Facts (continued):**

- ◆ **Cultural influences impact at what age an adolescent begins sexual experimentation.**
- ◆ **Effective treatment with adolescents involved in early sexual activity needs to be sensitive to both the similarities and differences between adolescents, such as onset of puberty, familial expectations, peer influences.**
- ◆ **U.S. has one of the highest adolescent pregnancy rates in the developed world with no plan to reduce rates.**

## Early Sexual Activity Facts (continued):

### *Early Sexual Activity Intervening Activities Include:*

- ◆ Modeling.
- ◆ Prescribing and reinforcing behavior.
- ◆ Parent control and supervision.
- ◆ Social sanctions.
- ◆ Instilling values about acceptable and unacceptable sexual behavior.