

AMY STEPHENS

Sex education: Anything goes

A doctor friend of mine called last week. He shared with me that his day consisted of telling four women they had an incurable sexually transmitted disease. His next comment hit me: "I spend hours in surgery treating incurable STDs and they want me to throw a piece of latex at my 17-year-old and say it's safe?"

Ironically, on the same day, with fanfare and subsequent media fawning, the megabucks Kaiser Family Foundation released a report titled "Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms." The report claims kids, parents and educators all want more sex education for teens — more contraceptive education, that is.

Buried among numbers not highlighted in Kaiser's press release or subsequent, uncritical media reports are some bothersome realities. When it comes to sex education, many parents don't know what is being taught in the classroom and many want their child to receive more than a latex condom

and an "anything goes" message.

A full 45 percent of parents in the Kaiser report said their schools still do not tell them what is actually being taught in their child's sex-education class. This stands to reason since 61 percent of schools don't even bother to have a parent night to discuss what they're teaching.

Ninety-four percent of parents want schools to address the pressure to have sex and the emotional consequences of becoming sexually active. Most parents also opt for some modesty, believing boys and girls should be taught sex ed separately. Many said they were not confident their values were being represented in sex-ed classes. They are right to suspect a subversion of their family's values. Consider Kaiser's sneaky survey questions: "Do you know that you can get birth control and emergency contraception without your

parent's permission or knowledge?"

The Kaiser survey also deliberately attempted to skew the contraceptives vs. abstinence debate. The survey described abstinence education as teaching teens sex was "something to fear and avoid," while contraceptive-based education portrayed sex as "normal and healthy." The question might have been answered differently if the choice was "cherished, respected and saved" vs. "take a condom and do as you please."

Unfortunately, the Kaiser survey isn't about what kids, parents or even educators want. It is about Kaiser and their social engineer friends measuring how well they have indoctrinated America's youth with a pro-condom message. What they're not measuring is their role in the tragic consequences: an epidemic of sexually

transmitted diseases, a trail of sexual exploitation and broken hearts, none of which any condom can stop.

If Kaiser really wants to help families, they would do better to repudiate the disastrous sexual revolution and help publicize the growing abstinence movement. In the past 15 years, the abstinence movement has seen more than 2.5 million teens make commitments to save sex for marriage and have seen a significant decrease in teen pregnancies, but if our culture keeps throwing latex at our kids, my doctor friend can count on delivering bad news to an ever-growing number of patients.

Amy Stephens is the manager for the Abstinence department at Focus on the Family, a Christian ministry in Colorado Springs Colo.