

**45% of Syracuse parents believe that teens are not getting enough accurate information about sex.**

**Syracuse parents attitudes and beliefs:**

- 92% believe sexuality is a natural, healthy part of adolescent development.
- 93% of Syracuse parents believe that sex education is an important part of the school curriculum.

**It's our job:**

- 89% of Syracuse parents believe that the community needs to play a significant role in helping teens to become emotionally and physically healthy adults.
- 79% of Syracuse parents believe that there should be a community-wide discussion about sex education.

**What would Syracuse parents need to make it easier to talk about sexuality with their kids?**

- Need more practice.
- Need more information.

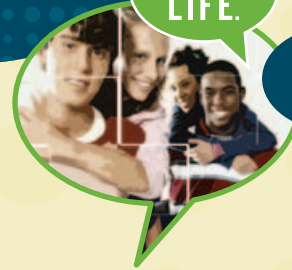
*All data from Real Life. Real Talk. Baseline Survey of Parents/Caregivers in Syracuse, New York, Conducted by the Academy for Educational Development, Summer 2008)*

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

**SUPPORTING PARENTS IN RAISING SEXUALLY HEALTHY KIDS**

**REAL LIFE.**

**REAL TALK.**



**REAL LIFE.**

**REAL TALK.**

**Real Life. Real Talk.®**  
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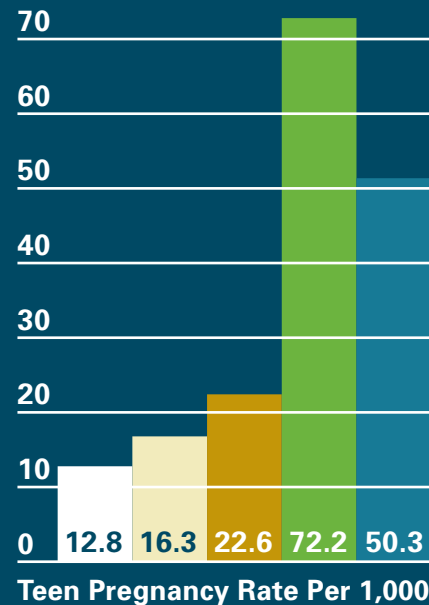
# REAL LIFE. REAL TALK.®

A BOLD, COMMUNITY-BASED,  
SOCIAL-CHANGE EFFORT

In America, we have a strange, unbalanced view of sex. It is everywhere — on TV, in movies, videos, and magazines, and is used to sell everything from jeans to yogurt. Yet, it is also taboo. Contraceptives can't be discussed in many classrooms, and condom ads are often banned from TV.

SEX IS EVERYWHERE IN OUR CULTURE, BUT HEALTHY SEXUALITY IS NOT.

Despite our high standard of living, American teens still have the highest rates of sexually transmitted infections, unintended pregnancy, and abortion in the most developed countries in the world.



- **Netherlands (2004)** - 12.8:1000
- **Germany (2003)** - 16.3:1000
- **France (2002)** - 22.6:1000
- **United States (2004)** - 72.2:1000
- **Syracuse (2006)** - 50.3:1000

*Data from Advocates for Youth - Adolescent Sexual Health in Europe and the U.S. – Why the Difference?, by Sue Alford, MLS and Deb Hauser, MPH; 3rd edition, August 2008. and The New York State Department of Health, Vital Statistics of New York State 2006.*

*Real Life. Real Talk.* is a creative initiative that works towards social change through a broad coalition of businesses and community leaders, community organizations, faith communities, doctors and educators.

*Real Life. Real Talk.* is designed to encourage a healthy dialogue about sexuality among parents, teens, families, and communities.

