

## Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Summary of Panel Review  
Review Date: March 2004

### *Sex Smart for Teens: STIs* (2004)

Format: Video (25 minutes)

Target Audience: Ages 13-21

Cost: \$199.95

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The Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel **Recommends** the use of this video for the following reasons and with the following reservations:

#### Review Summary:

*Sex Smarts for Teens: STIs* is a part of a three-video series that addresses teen issues around sex. This video focuses on how STIs are transmitted, general symptoms and the consequences of STIs, the curable and incurable STIs, how to talk about STIs with your partner, testing and prevention. There is a teacher's guide and sample student handouts to supplement the video. This video uses teen actors to talk about STIs, encouraging their peers to talk with their friends and partners about STIs, testing and treatment.

The panel found the information on STIs to be clear, accurate and thorough. The video emphasizes testing, with less emphasis on prevention and protection. Panel members noted that the video gives a strong, positive message about abstinence but does not clearly define what abstinence means. It offers little information about prevention until the end and contains no information on contraception. The video addresses common excuses and social pressures related to sexual activity, offering examples of ways to start conversations about STIs. Some panel members, however, felt the video gave simplistic answers to complex issues and questions.

The panel felt that the video was appropriate for ages 13-21, depending on the audience. They felt that the video does a good job of portraying different types of families, youth of varying ages and cultural backgrounds, and teens in same-sex relationships.

Panel members felt that the discussion guide was a useful tool and good supplement to the video. It is easy to use and offers many specific activities that support and expand upon the information presented in the video.

Overall, the panel *recommends* the use of *Sex Smart for Teens: STIs* as a tool to address STIs within the context of a comprehensive sexuality education program.

*Sex Smart for Teens: STIs (2004)*

| <b>Assessment Criteria</b>   | <b>Mean Score</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
|--|-------------------|---|
| <b>Accuracy of Information</b> - Provides basic, accurate information about the risks of teen sexual activity and about ways to avoid intercourse or use methods of protection against pregnancy and STDs. | 4.7               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thorough information about STIs, but little or no information about prevention until the end</li> <li>▪ No mention of contraception—pregnancy prevention not the focus of the video</li> </ul>                       |
| <b>Focus</b> - Focuses on reducing one or more sexual behaviors that lead to unintended pregnancy or HIV/STD infection.  | 4.9               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Content good</li> <li>▪ Emphasis is on testing</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Messages</b> - Delivers and consistently reinforces a clear message about abstaining from sexual activity and/or using condoms or other forms of contraception.   | 4.4               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clear message about abstinence though not clearly defined.</li> <li>▪ Includes needles from drugs and tattoos, abstinence, condom/dental dam use</li> <li>▪ No information on contraception</li> </ul>               |
| <b>Addresses Social Pressures</b> - Includes activities that address social pressures that influence sexual behavior.  | 3.7               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Same sex and opposite sex relationships included.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Communication Skills</b> - Provides examples of and practice with communication, negotiation and refusal skills   | 3.7               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addresses common excuses or pressures and gives ways to begin conversations on STIs</li> <li>▪ Simplistic answers for complex issues</li> <li>▪ Facilitator could add more communication skills for youth</li> </ul> |
| <b>Teaching Methods</b> - Employs a variety of teaching methods designed to involve participants and have them personalize the information.  | 4.0               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion guide is easy to read and makes connections between video content and practical application.</li> <li>▪ Discussion questions and journal entries have varied and practical ideas</li> </ul>               |
| <b>Appropriateness for Audience</b> - Incorporates behavioral goals, teaching methods, and materials that are appropriate to the age, sexual experience, and culture of the students.                      | 4.1               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Could also be used with college-aged students and adults as well.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Multicultural Perspective</b> - Does this resource address the needs of communities of color; and/or issues of sexual orientation, gender, and disability?  |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes teens of varying cultures, ages and sexual orientations.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Addresses needs of diverse learners.</b>  |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No specific adaptations.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Teacher-Friendly</b> - Is well organized with clear, thorough instructions or discussion guide. Minimal assembly or preparation time required.  | 3.7               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specific and easy to implement video guide.</li> <li>▪ Could be used with handouts, other curriculum materials.</li> <li>▪ Minimal assembly or prep-work required.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Facilitation Skills Required</b> - How knowledgeable and skilled must the facilitator be to use this resource effectively?  |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requires facilitator with moderate content knowledge and group skills – Needs skills to facilitate questions and discussion afterwards and basic knowledge of STIs.</li> </ul>                                       |
| <b>Presentation Quality</b> – How appealing is the product (e.g. visual quality, sound quality, graphics, etc.) ?  | 3.9               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Colorful—flashy &amp; fast-paced.</li> <li>▪ Music and vocabulary appropriate to teenage audience.</li> <li>▪ Interview part was a bit dull, cheesy in the beginning.</li> </ul>                                     |
| <b>Overall Recommendation</b>  |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Recommend Highly - 1</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Recommend - 8</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Reject - 0</b></li> </ul>  |