

Advocates for Youth - Rights. Respect. Responsibility.®

WHO WE ARE

Established in 1980 as the Center for Population Options, Advocates for Youth champions efforts to help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates believes it can best serve the field by boldly advocating for a more positive and realistic approach to adolescent sexual health.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Advocates for Youth envisions a society that views sexuality as normal and healthy and treats young people as a valuable resource.

The core values of Rights, Respect, Responsibility® (3Rs) animate this vision—

RIGHTS: Youth have *rights* to accurate and complete and sexual health sexual health information, confidential reproductive services, and a secure stake in the future.

RESPECT: Youth deserve *respect*. Today, young people are largely perceived as part of the problem. Valuing young people means they are part of the solution and are included in developing programs and policies that affect their well-being.

RESPONSIBILITY: Society has the *responsibility* to provide young people with the tools they need to safeguard their sexual health, and young people have the responsibility to protect themselves from too-early childbearing and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV.

HOW WE ARE DIFFERENT

Advocates for Youth is the only organization that works both in the United States and in developing countries with a sole focus on adolescent reproductive and sexual health.

Advocates for Youth occupies a unique niche because it—

- Brings youth development strategies to the field of adolescent sexual health and sexual health strategies to the field of youth development
- Integrates strategies related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and teen pregnancy prevention, fields that often operate in isolation from one another
- Uses its domestic and [international work](#) for learning about and disseminating lessons across borders

Provides printed and electronic resources, technical assistance, and training to promote research-based best practices in the field of adolescent sexual health

CONSTITUENCIES WE SERVE

Activist Youth—Providing training and support around youth-adult partnerships, [Internet interventions](#), peer education, working with adults, community participation, and NGO management

Entertainment Industry Professionals—Offering technical advice and information on sexual health trends and attitudes among and affecting young people

Health Care Providers, Educators, and Advocates—Providing clearinghouse services and training on youth-friendly services, [HIV/STI prevention](#), sexuality education, emergency contraception, cultural competency, effective programs, and working with youth

News Media—Offering data, research, background information, and interview opportunities

Parents—Providing training and supportive materials on talking with young people about sexual health

Policy Makers—Offering statistics and information on what works, drawn from peer-reviewed, published research

International Initiatives

MISSION—Advocates for Youth’s International Division works in partnership with in-country nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to assist in building their capacity to create and sustain innovative adolescent reproductive and sexual health programs and policies. Currently, Advocates for Youth works with local NGOs in the Bahamas, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, El Salvador, and South Africa.

STRATEGIES

- **Promoting Youth's Leadership in Preventing HIV Infection among Young People**—Advocates assists young people to expand their skills and abilities as leaders in HIV/AIDS prevention interventions and to network with youth from other countries, as exemplified in the YouthLIFE (Youth Leadership in Fighting the Epidemic) program.
- **Improving Youth's Access to Contraception and Youth-Friendly Services**—Advocates for Youth promotes youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, especially youth's access to contraception with programs such as the Youth Access Initiative.
- **Facilitating South-to-South Exchange of Expertise**—Advocates facilitates the exchange of expertise between youth-serving professionals in developing nations in projects such as NIJA (Nigeria linked to Jamaica), promoting life skills exchanges for guidance counselors.
- **Promoting Community Participation in Improving Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health**—Advocates assists rural communities in identifying priorities related to adolescent reproductive and sexual health and to design, implement, and evaluate strategies to address these priorities, as exemplified by a project in Burkina Faso.
- **Encouraging the Entertainment Industry to Provide Responsible Depictions of Adolescent Sexual Health**—Through the Media Project, Advocates works with the entertainment industry throughout the Americas, encouraging the depiction of responsible sexual behavior and storylines that positively address adolescent sexual health issues.

- **Providing Web-based Interventions**—Web sites created by and for youth provide sexual health information, resources, referral, community, and support to youth worldwide.

RESOURCES

- www.youthshakers.org—A partnership of Advocates for Youth and the International Planned Parenthood Federation, providing online community for youth activists around the world, offering sexual health information, peer education resources, and opportunities for advocacy
- www.ambientejuven.org—A Spanish-language site for young men who have sex with men (YMSM), and gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (GLBTQ) youth, offering mental and sexual health information
- **The International Clearinghouse on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health**—Collecting and disseminating worldwide adolescent sexual health information, including research and educational and training materials
- **Training and Workshops**—Focusing on contraceptive access, education to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STI), youth leadership, youth-adult partnerships, community mobilization, advocacy, organizational development, life skills education, peer education, and Web-based interventions
- **Publications**—Offering materials on designing, funding, implementing, and operating adolescent reproductive and sexual health programs.

CONTACT

International Division

P: 202.347.5700

F: 202.347.2263

E: kent@advocatesforyouth.org

Web: www.advocatesforyouth.org

1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 200

Washington DC, 20005 USA