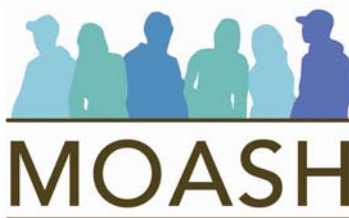


***Introducing...***



## **Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health**

### **Our mission:**

To provide statewide leadership on adolescent sexual health, including pregnancy prevention and parenting, through education, advocacy, capacity-building and creative partnerships.

### ***Adolescent sexual health is important to our state.***

Adolescent pregnancy and other issues related to adolescent sexual health affect all of us – in our families, our faith communities, our schools, and our businesses.

The personal, societal and economic costs of teen pregnancy and adolescent sexual risk-taking are undeniably high, placing huge burdens on our education, health, welfare, and social service systems.

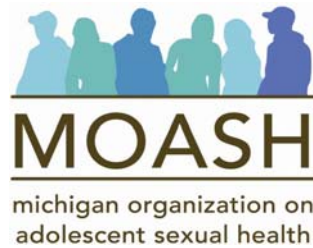
There is much work to be done: rates for pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases are unacceptably high and disproportionately burden some of our most vulnerable youth.

### ***A statewide organization is part of the solution.***

#### **As a statewide organization, MOASH will:**

- Provide statewide leadership on adolescent sexual health, including pregnancy prevention and parenting;
- Bring together diverse traditional and non-traditional stakeholders including academics, health care providers, business people, the media, parents, youth, and faith organizations;
- Raise public awareness of issues related to adolescent sexual health in Michigan;
- Disseminate national expertise and cutting-edge information to local communities and organizations;
- Strengthen social norms and values supporting pregnancy-free adolescence;
- Increase the capacity of local organizations for effective, science-based programs to support abstinence, and prevent teen pregnancy, HIV and STI in their communities; and,
- Advocate for, develop, strengthen and support research-based policies to address adolescent sexual health concerns.

MOASH is a non-profit corporation in the State of Michigan with federal 501(c)3 status.



## **Core Beliefs**

### ***We believe that:***

- 1) Adolescent pregnancy and other issues related to adolescent sexual health affect all of us.
- 2) Sexuality is a natural and important lifelong aspect of the human experience; sexual health and healthy relationships are central to a healthy and productive life.
- 3) Teen sexual behavior is complex and requires responses that address multiple risk and protective factors.
- 4) Parents and caregivers are important sexuality educators of their children who need information, resources and reassurance.
- 5) Investing resources in young people and young parents supports the development of healthy families and strengthens communities.
- 6) It is a matter of social justice to address the health disparities in pregnancy, sexually transmitted infection, and HIV among youth of color, low-income, and sexual minority youth.
- 7) Youth have the right to: accurate and complete information; caring and knowledgeable adults; confidential, youth-centered reproductive/sexual health services; and approaches that respect cultural norms, values and beliefs.
- 8) Effective policies, programs and services are factual, data-driven, evidence- based, developmentally appropriate, grounded in abstinence and comprehensive in scope.
- 9) It is essential to collaborate and partner with individuals and organizations from diverse disciplines, backgrounds and interests to address adolescent sexual health.
- 10) Young people are positive assets in their communities who should be involved in shaping the policies and programs that affect their lives.
- 11) Both male and female partners are equally responsible for making healthy decisions with respect to their sexual and reproductive health.

### **Contact:**

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Empowering young people in Michigan to make informed decisions on sexual health, including pregnancy prevention and parenthood.