

# Survey: Young blacks concerned about sexual health

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A recent survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation revealed that sexual health is a major concern for most (95 percent) of African-American young people, surpassing other concerns such as violence, drug use and discrimination.

For the past four years, BET has partnered with the Kaiser Family Foundation to educate millions of young African Americans on sexual health information in the award-winning HIV/AIDS awareness campaign "Rap It Up."

The comprehensive media campaign is packed full of shows, public announcements, online information, a free booklet on sexual health issues and a toll-free hot line, where nearly half a million people have called in for questions or concerns regarding sexual health.

"It's Your (Sex) Life: Your Guide to Safe & Responsible Sex" is a 31-page free booklet with straightforward information on a range of topics such

as unintended pregnancy, birth control, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), condom use and mixing drugs and alcohol with sex. The booklet is being made available free of charge through the partnership.

"The Sexual Health of African American Adolescents and Young Adults" was in response to the high rates of HIV/AIDS and STDs among young people of color. While many young African Americans surveyed in the national study expressed great concern for their sexual health, many still do not recognize the serious health consequences of untreated STDs or hold inaccurate misconceptions about the transmission of STDs.

Researchers blame the large knowledge gap about STDs among teens and young adults of color for the increase in infections. Public health agencies estimate that every year at least one in four sexually active teens will develop an STD.

Data from the survey snapshot also indicate that about one-fifth of African-American

students in grades 9-12 have had sex before age 13, compared with 5.5 percent of whites and 9.2 percent of Latinos in the same grades. Among currently sexually active teens in grades 9-12, 70 percent of African Americans report using a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse, while 55 percent of whites and 55.3 percent of Latinos did in the same grades.

Even though African Americans represent only 12 percent of the total U.S. population, African Americans account for half of all new HIV infections and AIDS cases in the country and AIDS is the leading cause of death among African Americans aged 25 to 44, the survey states.

A portion of the national survey focused on where young African Americans are seeking answers to questions about sexual health issues. Fifty-four percent of African-American youths aged 15 to 24 reported they receive "a lot" of information on sexual topics from parents; 49 percent of those youths are sexually active and 63 percent of those youths are not sexually active. Other sources used by youths to obtain information on sexual health issues were reported as siblings, friends, boyfriends

or girlfriends/partners, doctors/health care providers, media sources and sex education classes.

Other findings include:

- African-American youths represented about 15 percent of U.S. teen-agers but account for 64 percent of new AIDS cases reported among those aged 13-19 in 2000.

- 76 percent of African-American males in grades 9-12 have had sex, compared with 45 percent of white males and 62 percent of Latino males in the same grades.

- 62 percent of African-American females aged 15 to 44 use some form of birth control, including sterilization, compared with 66 percent of white females and 59 percent of Latinos in the same age group.

- The pregnancy rate for African-American teens aged 15-19 is 170 per 1,000 teens, compared with 94 for whites and 148 for Latinos of the same age group.

- The pregnancy rate for African-American teens under age 15 is 7.7 per 1,000, compared with 1.1 for whites and 3.9 for Latinos in the same age group.

For more information visit [www.rap-it-up.com](http://www.rap-it-up.com) or call (866) RAP-IT-UP.



Although blacks represent about 15 percent of the population, they make up many of the nation's STD cases.

## Gibson

from page A8

national charities. He said more than 40 celebrities have committed to attending this year's event, which will be held Aug. 24 at Tiburon Golf Club in Omaha, Neb. Fourteen Hall of Fame Athletes - including Yogi Berra, Rod Carew, Bill Mazeroski, Ozzie Smith and Dan Dierdorf - are some of the celebrities planning to attend.

The Bob Gibson All-Star Classic is celebrating its sixth year and has raised more than \$1.5 million in net funds for Omaha charities and the Baseball Assistance Team. Host Bob Gibson is a member of the Hall of Fame and in 1999 was selected to Major League Baseball's All-Century team. During his major league career, Gibson

won two Cy Young awards, nine straight Gold Glove awards, pitched one no-hitter and helped lead the St. Louis Cardinals to two World Series championships (winning a record seven straight games).

In 1968, Gibson was the National League Most Valuable Player after posting a 22-9 record that included 13 shutouts, 268 strikeouts and a major league record 1.12 ERA.

ConAgra Foods Inc. is one of North America's largest food companies with a strong presence in consumer grocery, as well as restaurant and food-service establishments. ConAgra Foods' consumer brands include: Hunt's, Healthy Choice, Banquet, Armour, Bumble Bee, Louis Kemp, La Choy, Lunch Makers, Knott's Berry Farm and Wesson.

## Teens

from page A8

hour, said he didn't have to work, but wanted extra spending money. He doesn't mind the teasing from his friends, many of whom are astonished he wants to work when he doesn't have to, let alone at a fast-food restaurant.

"They say, 'What is wrong with you?'" Onyebuchi said. "But I'm making money and they're not."

Americans' increasing affluence also is a factor in the rate drop of working teens, said Ron Bird, chief economist at the Employment Policy Foundation, a business-supported think tank in Washington. Both parents commonly work in today's households, meaning more money is available for teens' spending habits.

The median U.S. household income is \$42,148, compared with \$31,397 in 1967, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Nearly 22.3 million people ages 16 to 24 were employed or looking for work in July last year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said. A year earlier, 22.4 million people of that age were working or seeking jobs. Last year, more

young men worked or looked for jobs than young women, at rates of 74.2 percent and 67.5 percent, respectively. More young whites worked or looked for jobs, 73.9 percent, than young blacks, 60.4 percent.

For teens looking for jobs, the nation's rising unemployment rate shouldn't deter prospects, economists said. The rate hit 5.8 percent in May, and is expected to continue climbing to as high as 6.5 percent.

The two industries that dominate when it comes to youth employment - retail and services - aren't suffering as badly as other industries. Retailers have added 22,000 new jobs since January, Stinson said. But the services sector is still weak. Restaurants and bars, hotels and lodging places and entertainment venues have lost some jobs since last year, though not as many as other sectors, he said.

The most common jobs for teens are food preparation and service positions, such as waiters and cooks, and sales. The top jobs for girls are cashiers, waitresses and food counter jobs. For boys, they are cooks, cashiers and stock handlers and baggers.

The average hourly wage for teens last year was \$6.75 an hour.

## Hampton

from page A3

excited after a small progress, because that can interfere with future progress.

Motivation and empowerment are common themes in Cook's work. Her most recent projects include Sujay ministries, an audio and video ministry designed to meet the needs of urban professionals and youths, and Jonco Productions, established to promote her video and written motivational works.

She is also the author of five books, including her latest, "Too Blessed to Be Stressed: Words of Wisdom for Women on the Move." "Sister Strength: A Collection

of Devotions for and from African American Women" and "New Dating Attitude: Getting Ready for the Mate God Has for You."

Cook says she gets her inspiration from God and her family, and she tries to surround herself with things that help her relax, such as the sun or the ocean. She sees her family as equal partners in her works; she involves them in all her accomplishments. "I will keep a red eye just to be able to give them what they need," she said.

To keep her sanity, Cook keeps a schedule of rest breaks, pray and play.

"God worked six days out of the week, and rested on the seventh," she said. "I try to follow that same schedule."

## Byrd

from page A2

whose father was assassinated in 1968, said Byrd's stance on the execution of John King reflects the SCLC position that capital punishment violates basic human rights of all people.

"It's not a black or white issue," said King, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. "It's a right or wrong issue."

Texas has executed 257 people since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. Eighteen people have died by injection this year. Jasper County District Attorney Guy James Gray said King has unsuccessfully used every state appeals option available.

Ellis said he will file a federal District Court appeal in mid-August. That could be King's last chance unless the federal court allows him to open new appeals at the state level.

## Playtex

from page A8

to help a woman determine the appropriate size to buy, and through the years has led the way in technologically designed garments. It continues that tradition today.

"The Playtex name is synonymous with quality and innovation - two benchmarks of Sara Lee products," said Charles L. Nesbit Jr., president and chief executive officer of Sara Lee Intimates and Hosiery. "Globally, it's the No. 1 selling brand of bras, and it has one of the most highly recognized brand names of any product in the world. The Eighteen Hour name alone commands a high-

90 percent consumer awareness rating. Playtex is one of the very few intimate apparel brands that both department store and mass retailers successfully carry."

Playtex's U.S. headquarters had been in Stamford, Conn., since 1979. "Relocating to Winston-Salem allows us to take advantage of the synergies among our existing brands, which include Playtex, Bali, Wonderbra, barely there, Lovable and Hanes Her Way," Nesbit said. "We're very proud of our portfolio of outstanding intimate apparel brands, and we're delighted to have the Playtex staff in Winston-Salem."

In total, the U.S. company employs 3,830 people in the United States, Puerto Rico and

the Dominican Republic. Playtex Europe, based in the United Kingdom, has 3,589 employees in eight countries.

Welcoming Playtex to Winston-Salem were Mayor Allen Joiner, David Piyler, vice chairman of the Forsyth County commissioners; Gayle Anderson, president of the Chamber of Commerce; and Alderman Dan Besse of the Southwest Ward, where the Healy Drive headquarters is located.

Following groundbreaking, special guests joined Mayor and the Playtex staff in a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a tour of Playtex's new offices. Guests also enjoyed ice cream on the terrace to the music of The Smyle Band.

The headquarters reloca-

tion to Winston-Salem is not the only boost that North Carolina will enjoy from Playtex, Nadeau said. "By the end of the year, we will complete the transition of Playtex's packaging and distribution operations from Dover, Del., to Kings Mountain, N.C."

Construction in King's Mountain will be completed this summer, with installation of equipment in August and September, and transfer of functions to begin in October, he said. The company will add about 250 positions in Kings Mountain.

Playtex Apparel is a market leader in women's intimate apparel. The company is part of Sara Lee Intimates and Hosiery, based in Winston-Salem.

[www.wschronicle.com](http://www.wschronicle.com)

## Office DEPOT

What you need. What you need to know.



Office Depot offers many ways for you to record music, data, and photos at a price that's right for you. Stop by your local Office Depot today.

maxell Recording Options... for Every Budget

**\$29<sup>99</sup>**



**A. CD-R 50-PK**  
700MB, 80 minute capacity. Archival life for up to 100 years in the proper storage environment. 247-698

**B. CD-R MUSIC SPINDLE 30-PK**  
Holds up to 80 minutes of music for your next trip. 144-672

**C. MAXELL® CD-R PRO SERIES WITH JEWEL CASES 10-PK**  
700MB/80-minute capacity. Triple coated and scratch resistant. 787-291

**\$14<sup>99</sup>**



**\$19<sup>99</sup>**



**FREE**

Office Depot Brand Jewel Cases 2-PK with Purchase

FREE Office Depot Brand Jewel Cases 2-PK offer good with the purchase of Maxell CD-R 50-PK, Maxell Music CD-R 30-PK, OR Maxell CD-R Pro Series 10-PK (247-698, 144-672, OR 787-291). Present this coupon at time of purchase. Limit one coupon per customer/item. Quantities limited. Sorry, no rainchecks or substitutions. Valid for in-stock items only. Offer expires 7/17/02. Coupon redeemable in store only.



Office DEPOT

(441-671) Coupon Code 5149

Different schedules... Different ways to shop:



**Call**  
1-888-GO-DEPOT  
(1-888-463-3768)  
FAX: 1-800-488-5010

**Click**  
[www.officedepot.com](http://www.officedepot.com)  
AOL Keyword: officedepot

**Come by**  
Locate a store!  
Call 1-888-GO-DEPOT  
(1-888-463-3768)

### FREE Next-Business-Day-Delivery

Order by 5 p.m. local time, and your order of \$50 or more will be delivered FREE the Next Business Day (in our local trading areas). Deliveries outside of our local trading areas will be assessed a delivery charge based on the total weight of the order (minimum charge of \$5.95). Please note: Fax orders must be received by 5 p.m. to qualify for FREE Next-Business-Day delivery. Sorry, special orders are not available for delivery in Alaska or Hawaii.

### Low Price Guarantee

Buy with confidence. Our \$12 billion buying power means guaranteed low prices every day. Plus, our limited time special offers means we can pass even greater savings on to you. In fact, if you find the same product advertised for less at any other office product supplier - even up to 7 days after your purchase - we'll match the price! Instantly! (We reserve the right to limit quantities; of course all errors, close-outs, clearances, and internet offers do not qualify.)

[www.officedepot.com](http://www.officedepot.com) > visit us on the Web and shop > 1-888-GO-DEPOT

Prices and offers good to 7/11/02 through 7/17/02 (unless otherwise noted). Some products and offers may be available in store only. Quantities limited to in-stock items only. No rainchecks or substitutions.