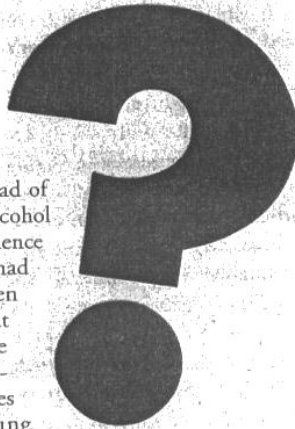


IF YOU DON'T KNOW ... ASK!

The Youth Leadership Task Force of DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy invites you to send in your questions for its monthly Adults-Only advice column. Please send your questions to jfourth@teenpregnancydc.org. In the subject line, please put Advice Column.

Q: I work with youth in the juvenile justice system. What can be done about teen violence?

A: People always think that we need more police, but the police can not be everywhere at all times. Violence often starts at school with a fistfight and then turns into something more deadly with a gun. The government needs to enforce the gun laws that they have because guns are easy to obtain. And the curfew needs to be enforced because a lot of teen violence happens after curfew - 11 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends. Teens also need more places where they can go to have fun in a safe environment, instead of hanging out on the street. Alcohol is another factor. A lot of violence happens after someone has had a lot of alcohol to drink, even though you can't legally buy it until you are 21. Maybe the government should do a better job of making sure stores don't sell alcohol to young people.



Q: I am a high school counselor, and I would like to know how teens are affected when other teens are killed?

A: It is always sad to hear about someone our age getting killed. But it happens so often that you almost get used to it. If a friend is killed, it hurts more because you knew the person, and you wonder, "why?" But if you didn't know the person, it is just another young person who was killed.

If you know a teen who would benefit from the Youth Leadership Task Force experience, please go to www.teenpregnancydc.org and download an application. ■

DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to improve the lives and well being of adolescents in Washington, DC.