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## *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* and Its Implicit Sexual Consequences: A Content Analysis

Olivia Lynn Egen  
*University of Northern Iowa*

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*THE SECRET LIFE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER* AND ITS  
IMPLICIT SEXUAL CONSEQUENCES: A CONTENT ANALYSIS

A Thesis Submitted  
In Partial Fulfillment  
Of the Requirements for the Designation  
University Honors

Olivia Lynn Egen  
University of Northern Iowa

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Jessica Moon, Director, University Honors Program

## Introduction

From the first episode when Amy Juergens and Ricky Underwood have unprotected sex to the third season when Adrian Lee accidentally becomes pregnant, the television series *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* is full of twists and turns filled with sex and its consequences. It is currently in its fourth season on the ABC Family network and is a very popular show; in the third quarter of 2011 alone, *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* averaged 1.74 million female viewers aged 12-34 across the United States (Nielsen Media Research, 2011). There are many messages inherent in this series and it is important to examine how this series portrays unplanned teen pregnancy because it may have an effect on the socialization of young women – in regard to their future sexual choices.

There have been several studies conducted on the sexual content inherent in television shows today (Aubrey, 2004; Franzblau, Sprafkin, & Robinstein, 1977; Kunkel, Cope, & Biely, 1999; Kunkel, Cope, & Calvin, 1996; Lowery & Towles, 1989). Some of these studies have focused on the amount and type of sexual acts seen in shows and how this may affect our culture (Aubrey, 2004), while others have focused on sexual health, birth control and the consequences of sexual acts (Lowery & Towles, 1989). The studies on the types of sexual acts conducted by Aubrey (2004) and sexual health and birth control by Lowery and Towles (1989) focused on programming whose main viewers were teenagers and more specifically on shows that fell in the 'prime time' television hours between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. (Central and Pacific Time) or 8:00 and 11:00 p.m. (Eastern and Mountain Time). These studies looked at the sexual content in specific television shows such as the number and types of sexual acts and if there are

more physical or emotional sexual consequences related to these sexual acts. But many of these studies failed to look at the largest consequence of unprotected sex: pregnancy.

My content analysis of *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* contributes information on the physical consequences of sexual acts to studies already conducted from content analyses of today's popular television shows. It also makes a contribution to the existing research because no one has studied this particular show. Because it is aired on a 'family network', it is specifically geared toward teens in a way other programs that have been studied have not been. The present research centers on the sexual acts of main characters, safe sex practices, types of sexual acts, gender of characters participating in these sexual acts and how pregnancy affects young men and young women unequally. From the results obtained in the content analysis, it is possible to see how *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* portrays teenage pregnancy and how the gender of the characters plays a role in such depictions.

I feel that my research would not be as beneficial as possible without the knowledge of these possible effects that the media's portrayal of sex and its consequences may have on American teenagers. Through my research I came across two major theories of how this socialization from television could occur, though I am sure there are many more. The first theory which I have already briefly described was the Social Learning Theory as outlined by Bandura. The second theory I came across was the Cultivation theory. It was best described by Morgan, Shanahan & Signorielli, "Stated most simply, the central hypothesis guiding cultivation research is that those who spend more time watching television are more likely to perceive the real world in ways that reflect the most common and recurrent messages of the television world" (Morgan, Shanahan & Signorielli, 34). Cope also added to this theory saying that the,

“Cultivation theory predicts that heavy television viewers will, over time, come to perceive the world as portrayed on television as an accurate reflection of reality” (Cope, 61). Both of these theories are adamant that television can and will socialize our youth so it is imperative that parents realize what messages their teenagers’ favorite shows are sending.

“The problem with turning to television for sexual information is that it is a constructed reality comprised of idealized and distorted images of sexual behavior” (Truglio, 9) and this can be very confusing for teenagers to grasp. But, if parents are interested in what messages television shows are sending, or teens are receiving, then it is important to realize that “the content that is most regularly viewed by the audience of interest is the best candidate for originating effects” (Greenberg et al, 29). Though *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* may not be the most viewed show on television it does have a substantial amount of viewers who could be picking up on the sexual messages inherent in this series which makes it important to study exactly what messages and information about sexual acts this show sends.

Therefore, it is important to the research I completed to keep in mind the effects that witnessing sexual content on television could have on American teenagers. Though much research has been conducted about the sexual content in media, and especially television, relatively little has focused on the consequences of sex on teenagers’ lives in these television shows. This lack of research is the driving force for my proposed study on the sexual content and consequences inherent in the ABC family drama *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*.

## Literature Review

### Background Statistics

It is valuable to review statistics on the nationwide occurrences of teenage pregnancy and sex to help highlight the importance of content analyses of popular television shows and how they affect youth. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offers statistics on teen pregnancy which were obtained from the National Center for Health Statistics. These data were then compiled by the CDC into more manageable units. Data has shown that the rate of teen pregnancy in the United States has decreased by 40 percent in the last 20 years. While the rate has gone down over time, there are still significant implications, such as, 10 percent of children born in the United States each year are children of teen parents, and on average the number of children born each day to teen mothers was 1,100 in 2009 (CDC Vital Signs, 2011).

When these statistics are viewed one also has to keep in mind that not only are children born to teen mothers more likely to become teen mothers themselves, but the costs of teenage childrearing to the United States government is very high; more than \$9 billion was spent last year alone (CDC Vital Signs, 2011). Studies were also conducted that showed that black and Hispanic teenagers were 2-3 times more likely to become teen parents than were white teenagers, and an alarming number of teenagers did not use contraceptives. Nearly 46 percent of high school students have had sexual intercourse, and of those, 12 percent did not use any form of birth control the last time they had a sexual encounter (CDC Vital Signs, 2011). With these statistics in mind one can understand the value of content analysis which have been performed to establish the amounts of sexual content in teen programming.

### Sexual Consequences

There have been many studies that have investigated the sexual messages in today's television shows, but one study based on sexual consequences, physical as well as emotional/social, is particularly useful. The study by Aubrey (2004) was a content analysis of adolescent television shows with regard to answering two questions dealing with the consequences of teenager's sexual activity. The first question they looked to answer was if social (i.e., decrease in one's social status if one were to sleep around) and emotional (i.e., upset after a sexual liaison gone wrong) consequences would be more numerous than physical consequences in regards to teenage sexual acts. The second question they looked to answer was if there was evidence to support the idea of a sexual double standard (when women are socially stigmatized after a sexual liaison when a man would not get the same stigmatization) in these programs. This study found that "physical consequences were far less common than emotional and social consequences" (Aubrey, 2004, p. 509). Aubrey also found that "scenes were significantly more likely to portray a negative consequence (for women or men) when female characters initiated a sexual reference than when male characters initiated a sexual reference" (Aubrey, 2004, p. 511).

Aubrey (2004) found that sexual consequences were more likely to be emotional rather than physical. For example, Aubrey found in her study that, out of the 220 negative consequences, only 17.5 percent ( $n=37$ ) were physical consequences. Further, she discussed the social cognitive theory in her paper and the implications which this theory has towards the sexual messages in social media today. The theory in essence argues that individuals can learn from media when the sexual act is either rewarded or punished. If a particular action or behavior has a reward, then viewers would be more likely to perceive that act as acceptable



and imitate it. If, however, a particular action or behavior was punished, viewers would be more likely to avoid this type of action. In other words, the sexual “messages can have implications for adolescent viewers’ decisions to model sexual scripts on television” (Aubrey, 2004, p. 507).

### Sexual Risk, Responsibility and Healthy Sex

Another landmark study compared the findings of three studies of sexual content on television programming (Kunkel, Cope & Biely, 1999). The studies that were compared were the Family Hour Study, the Teen Study and the V-Chip Study. They looked primarily at three specific types of sexual content: talk about sex, sexual behavior within programs, and sexual risk and responsibility concerns. The sexual risk and responsibility concerns were broken down into three subcategories: sexual patience, sexual precaution, and depiction of risks and/or negative consequences of unplanned or irresponsible sexual behavior. Kunkel et al. (1999) defined sexual patience as “waiting until a relationship matures and both people are equally ready to engage in sex” and sexual precaution as “pursuing efforts to prevent AIDS, STDs and/or unwanted pregnancy when sexually active” (Kunkel, Cope & Biely, 1999, p. 238).

The researchers’ results matched the hypothesis that teen programming would have more sexual talk and behavior than programs that were not geared specifically towards teenage audiences. A surprising result was that the Teen Study also included more scenes with risk or responsibility and a higher percentage of programs with sexual content that place primary emphasis on risk or responsibility. The results obtained showed that the percentage of programs with talk about sex were distributed as follows: 59 percent of shows in the Family Hour Study contained references, 67 percent in the Teen Study, and 57 percent in the V-Chip

Study (Composite Week). The percentage of programs which showed sexual behaviors, obtained from this comparison, showed that 61 percent of shows in the Family Hour Study contained sexual behavior, 62 percent in the Teen Study, and 28 percent in the V-Chip Study (these results are lower because of how this study was coded – they only coded sexual behavior if it was the primary focus of a scene). Finally, the researchers looked at the inclusion of talk-only scenes depicting risk or responsibility and the percentage of programs actually displaying sexual content that had a primary emphasis on risk and responsibility (in the Family Hour Study and the Teen Study only). They found that 10 percent of episodes in the Family Hour Study and 14 percent of episodes in the Teen Study included talk-only scenes depicting some risk or responsibility. The percentage of programs with sexual content that placed primary emphasis on risk or responsibility was 6 percent in the Family Hour Study and 9 percent in the Teen Study. The results showed that while teen programming does contain more references to sexual talk and behavior, it also contains more risk and responsibility concerns.

One last content analysis which was of importance was the study done by Jensen and Jensen (2007). This particular study focused on whether or not the television series *Sex and the City* had more depictions of “healthy” sex compared to the amount found in a study funded by the Kaiser Family Foundation the Sex on TV studies (Kunkel et al., 2003). The Sex on TV studies were able to “provide a baseline for interpreting depictions of sex on individual programs” (Jensen & Jensen, 2007, p.275). Jensen and Jensen were interested in whether *Sex and the City* contained more sexual talk and sexual behavior than the television shows in the Sex on TV studies. They also examined the ‘healthy sex’ aspect by looking at the amount of alcohol or

drugs in scenes that contained sexual intercourse, if sexual behavior was between partners with an established relationship, and the depictions of sexual risks and responsibilities in the series.

The authors found that *Sex and the City* contained more sexual talk and behavior and it contained, on average, fewer sexually based scenes with drugs and alcohol than, the Sex on TV studies (Jensen & Jensen, 2007). They also found that *Sex and the City* was more likely to contain an established relationship between partners in intercourse scenes and fewer cases of sexual intercourse between partners who had just met. Finally, *Sex and the City* contained more programs mentioning risk and responsibility than the Sex on TV studies and more programs with primary focus on these risk and responsibility topics (sexual patience, sexual precaution and depiction of risks and/or negative consequences of sexual behavior). These results show that though *Sex and the City* depicts more scenes of sexual talk and sexual behavior, it contains overall more 'healthy' sex behavior.

### Teenage Pregnancy

A study by Redmond (1985) is important to also include in this literature review because she conducted a study that looked at what teen fathers wanted to do in regard to unplanned teenage pregnancy and the decisions which have to be made. Her study included 74 teenage men from 12-20 of which 28 percent had been involved in a teen pregnancy and her results shed light on what males would want if (and when) they got someone pregnant. Redmond found that whether the teens were in a casual or serious relationship significantly affected their views on how they would want the pregnancy handled. The study outlined three possible overarching outcomes for a pregnancy: abortion, adoption or having a child. But, there were six options the males outlined: never tell him of the pregnancy, have the baby and depend on the

male to help raise it, have the baby and bring it up herself, have the baby and marry the male, have an abortion, or have the baby and place it up for adoption (Redmond, 1985).

As one would expect, for the most part, these answers differed depending on whether or not the male was in a serious or casual relationship with the female. Only one percent of the males would not want the female to tell them they had gotten pregnant for both serious and casual relationships. But, if one were in a serious relationship with the female who had become pregnant 32 percent would want her to have the baby and depend upon him to raise it as compared to only 16 percent of those in a casual relationship with the female (Redmond, 1985). Only five percent of the casual and three percent of the serious dating relationships would want the female to have the baby and bring it up herself. Another area where there was a vast divide was that 40 percent of the serious dating males would want the female to have the baby and marry him whereas only eight percent of the casual dating males would want this (Redmond, 1985). Abortion was also an outcome that depended on the seriousness of the relationship; only 13 percent of those in a serious relationship would want the female to have an abortion whereas 32 percent in a casual relationship would want the female to have an abortion. The last possible outcome would be to put the baby up for adoption and, as could be expected, there was another divide in opinion based on the seriousness of the relationship (Redmond, 1985). Thirty-eight percent of those in a casual dating relationship would want the child put up for adoption whereas only 11 percent of those in a serious dating relationship would want the same outcome (Redmond, 1985). These results are important to note because they show that whether or not the female takes the advice of the male, they do have opinions on what should happen to the child when teenage pregnancy occurs and Redmond's study found that two-

thirds of those males who were a part of an unplanned teen pregnancy agreed with the final solution the female chose.

### Socialization of Sexual Behaviors

One reason that content analyses of popular television shows for teenagers should be conducted is because they may have a strong socializing affect on youth. As with their peer and parents, media shapes the way teens think about sexual encounters and it is important to keep this fact in mind when looking at the results of content analyses. Brown and Keller's (2000) study on the sexual lessons the mass media are able to teach youth is one such article focused on the media's effects. Brown and Keller argue that just based on the mass amounts of media that adolescents are exposed to daily (between 6-7 hours), the media has a large effect on shaping the way youth view sexual acts. Because "adolescents rank the media with parents and peers as important sources of sexual information," many have sought an active stance against the seemingly nonexistent negative physical consequences many television programs and other media emphasize (Brown & Keller, 2000, 255). Groups such as the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation: Advocates for Youth and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy have actively worked with Hollywood scriptwriters and songwriters and encouraged them to use more healthy forms of sexuality in their multimedia. The main argument made was that "the clash between the media's depiction of sexual relations and the real-life experiences of youth contributes to their difficulties in making healthy sexual decisions" (Brown & Keller, 2000, p. 255). Though teen pregnancy has been dropping over the past couple of decades the rate of teen pregnancy is still high and it is important to question possible reasons as to why these

numbers are so high. One possible reason could be the socialization of teens by popular television shows therefore it is important to do content analyses of them to see what messages they are sending to teenagers.

## **Methodology**

The central questions of my research were:

1. How is teenage sexual behavior, namely pregnancy, portrayed on *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*?
2. How does the gender of the characters play a role in such depictions?

For my study I decided to do a content analysis, which is an in depth assessment of a primary material looking specifically at the content (Krippendorff, 1980). This was the best way to uncover the information I was looking for because it allowed me to look at quantitative and qualitative data. A study conducted by Manganello, Franzini and Jordan (2008) addressed the issue of the best way to conduct a content analysis. Their study examined how many episodes of a program would give an accurate overall account of the sexual content of the entire season. This study was further broken down into smaller studies: one focused on how many episodes were required if multiple series were used in a study, while the other focused on how many episodes were required if there was only one primary television show being studied. Because the content analysis I undertook was only focused on one popular teenage drama, I followed the set of guidelines Manganello, Franzini and Jordan (2008) outlined for conducting this type of content analysis.

Maganello, Franzini and Jordan (2008) found that if one television series was being studied in a more character-based content analysis, then the best type of sampling to use, instead of watching and coding an entire season, is the selection of seven random episodes. This number of coded episodes gave the closest values for sexual content that was found when the entire season was watched. Because there were currently three seasons of *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* out on DVD, with a total of 73 episodes, it was more plausible for the time frame given to watch 21 episodes than all 73 episodes. The seven random episodes for each season were chosen through the use of the website random.org to generate a truly random episode selection and this list can be found in Appendix 1.

The content analysis I conducted was more along the lines of a character-based content analysis, focused primarily on the main six teenagers in *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*: Amy Juergens, Ben Boykewich, Grace Bowman, Ricky Underwood, Adrian Lee and Jack Pappas. I created a profile of each character, as seen below, from the content analysis. I coded ten distinct variables: gender, sexual activity, number of sexual partners, the use of birth control, type of birth control, characters' views of pregnancy, characters' views of sex, parents' awareness of their childrens' sexual activity, parents' awareness of their childrens' use of birth control, and the parents' view of teenage pregnancy (Table 1 shows the sample coding sheet and Appendix 2 includes all of the coded sheets for all 21 random episodes). I decided on these variables for a number of reasons the biggest ones being that I was interested if the types or amount of sexual acts differed by gender, what involvement if any the parents played in this television series and if there was a difference in missed opportunities based upon gender. Sexual activity was further broken down into four subcategories: kissing, making-out, hand-

jobs/oral sex and sexual intercourse. I coded the characters' view of pregnancy and characters' view of sex as either positive or negative for individual episodes. Parents' awareness of their childrens' sexual activity and parents' awareness of their childrens' use of birth control were coded as either positive or negative while the parents' view of teenage pregnancy was coded as either yes or no.

Table 1: Sample Coding Sheet

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender						
Sexual Activity						
# of Sexual Partners						
Birth Control						
Type of Birth Control						
View of Sex						
View of Pregnancy						
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity						
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control						
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy						
Missed Opportunities*:						
School Activities						
Friendships						
Other						
*Examples*:						



The results from each of the seven random episodes were then averaged to form the results for that particular season. The results from Season 1, Season 2 and Season 3 were not averaged; this was to provide a better analysis of the views of pregnancy and sex of the characters at particular ages. For this study I did a mixed-methodology study of counting the occurrences of some of the sexual behaviors, quantitatively, and combining this with qualitative, text-based, accounts of how pregnancy is depicted and discussed in *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*.

#### Show Summary

There are six main characters in the series *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*: Amy Juergens, Ben Boykewich, Grace Bowman, Ricky Underwood, Adrian Lee and Jack Pappas. The series begins with Amy and Ricky having unprotected sex at band camp the summer before Amy is in high school and the summer between Ricky's freshman and sophomore year. Because no protection was used Amy becomes pregnant and has the baby, John, in the Season Finale.

During Season 1, Amy and Ben begin to date and even get married, illegally. Ben accepts that Amy is having someone else's baby, but wants to be a part of Amy and her baby's life anyway. Throughout the first season, they have a fairly constant relationship, but that does eventually change after Amy has the baby. Also in Season 1, Adrian and Ricky have an open relationship where they are able to see other people while still being together. Later during Season 2, Adrian wants to have a serious relationship with Ricky, but he is not ready for the commitment. Grace and Jack, the last two main characters, date during the first season.

The second season of *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* brings many more surprises; the main one is that Ben and Adrian have sex, after both of their previous relationships fall through. Grace has sex with Jack during Season 2, and at first she is very happy with her decision, but when her father dies, she begins to believe that God is punishing her for having sex before marriage.

The captivating news in Season 3 is that Ben and Adrian become pregnant when they had sex in Season 2. They then decide to move in together and get engaged so that they can be a family for their baby. Unfortunately, Adrian ends up losing the child and it seems as though their relationship is going to come to an end – except that she decides that maybe getting pregnant again would solve all of their problems. Amy and Ricky start talking about being in a relationship, but they choose to take it very slowly knowing that having John, their son, means that they must start making better decisions. Also in Season 3, Grace decides that she is ready to have sex again.

## Results

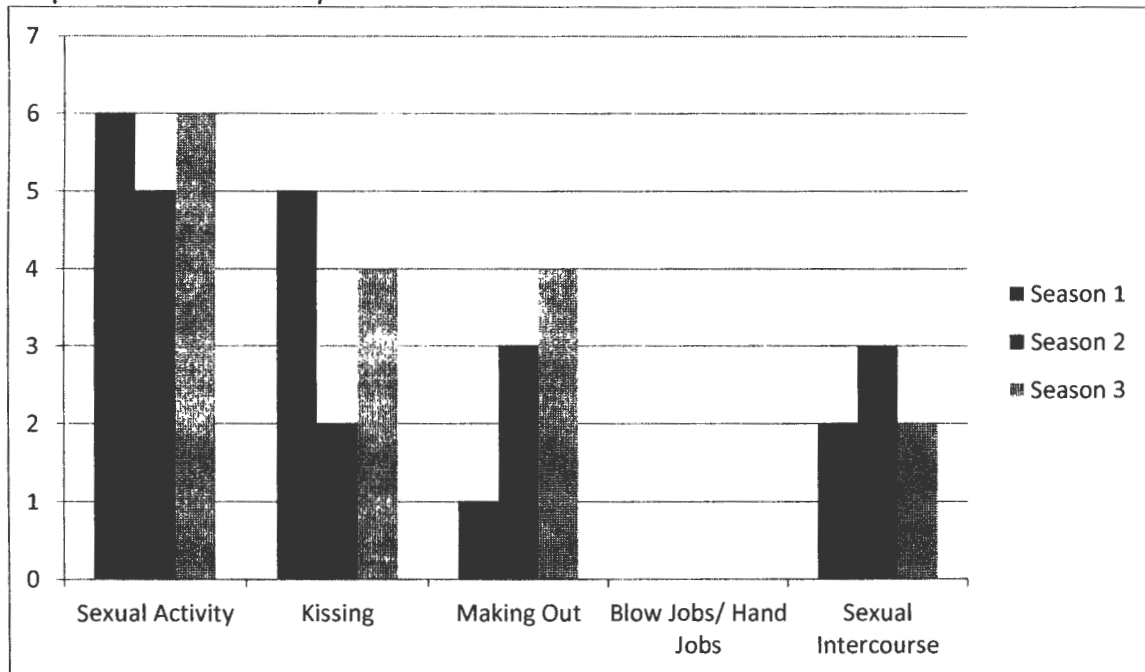
Some interesting results were found through the analysis of the 21 episodes coded for *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*.

### Sexual Activity

The sexual activity seen in *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* was broken down into four subcategories: kissing, making-out, hand-jobs/oral sex and sexual intercourse. There was only one episode when masturbation was talked about in all of the episodes I coded so that was not included in the results. In Season 1 and 3, six out of the seven episodes included some

form of sexual activity, while in Season 2, five out of the seven episodes included some form of sexual activity, as seen below in Graph 1. In Season 1, kissing was the most observed sexual activity, while making out was the least observed sexual activity. Also, in Season 1 sexual intercourse was observed twice. During Season 2, the observed sexual activities changed drastically. Kissing became the least observed sexual activity, while making out and sex became the most observed sexual activities. Finally, in Season 3, making out and kissing became the most observed sexual activities. In this season, sex became the least observed sexual activity as shown in the Graph 1 below. One finding that was out of the ordinary was that oral sex and hand jobs were not included in any of the episodes I watched from Seasons one, two and three.

Graph 1 – Sexual Activity

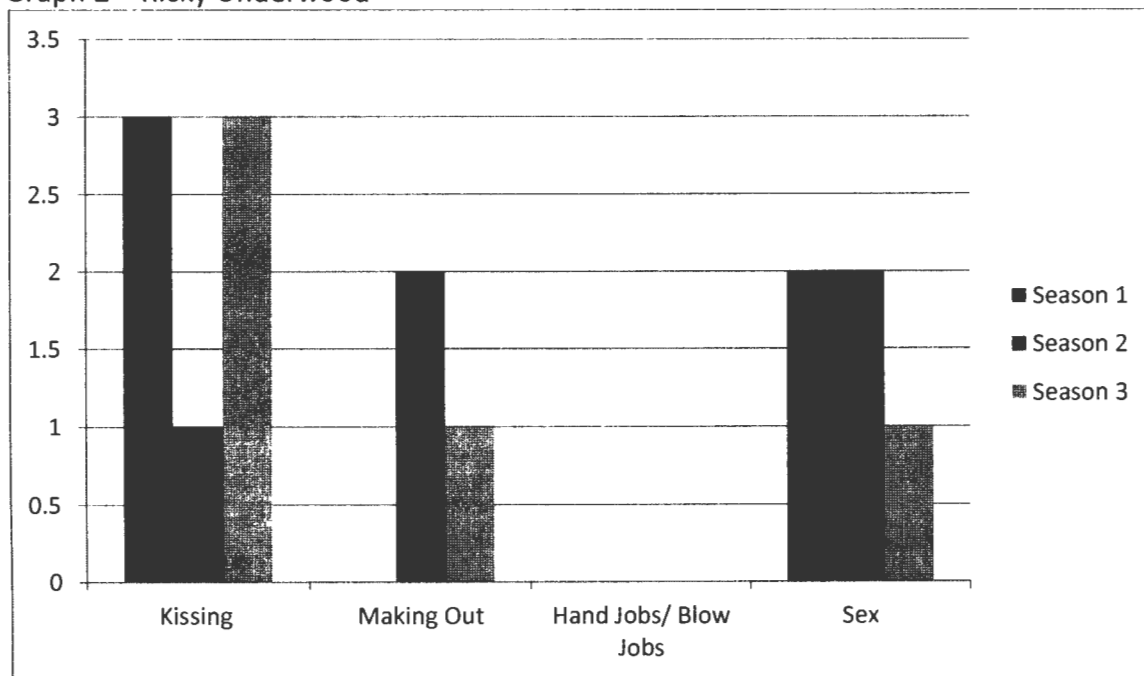


### Sexual Activity by Character

**Ricky Underwood:** During Season 1, Ricky is sexually active in four of the seven episodes and he is involved in both risky and less risky behaviors (sexual intercourse and oral sex are

both considered risky behaviors because physical consequences such as STDs or pregnancy could occur, while kissing and making out are classified as less risky because the same physical consequences do not result). During Season 2, Ricky is sexually active in four of the seven episodes coded. During Season 3, Ricky is sexually active in five of the seven episodes coded but he switches from more risky sexual behaviors to less risky sexual behaviors. I found that over the three seasons, Ricky's amount of sexual activity stayed relatively the same, but the types of sexual activities changes: as a whole he went from more risky sexual behaviors to less risky ones, as shown below in Graph 2.

Graph 2 – Ricky Underwood

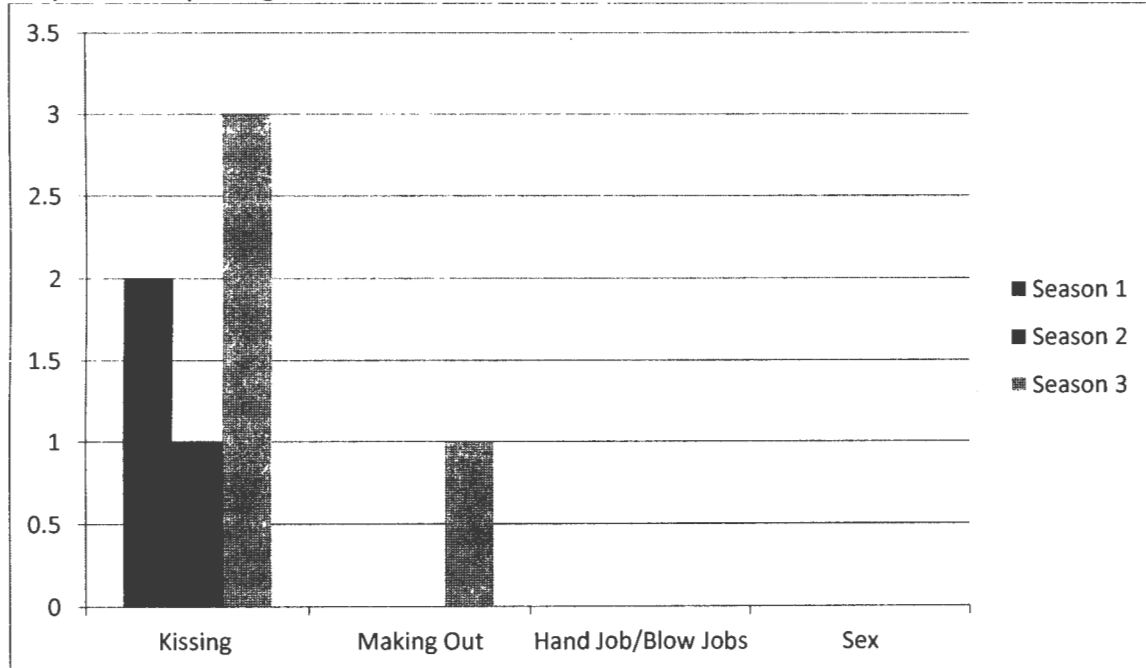


**Amy Juergens:** During Season 1, Amy is only sexually active in two of the seven episodes

I randomly coded and in both the sexual activity was kissing, as shown below in Graph 3. In

Season 2, she is only sexually active in one of the seven episodes and her sexual activity is once again kissing. In Season 3, Amy is sexually active in four of the seven episodes. As a general trend the amount of sexual activity Amy is involved in increases as the seasons progress. But, it is important to note that in none of the episodes that were coded was she involved in risky behaviors. In the selection of episodes I coded, she was only seen doing the less risky sexual activities of kissing and making out, once.

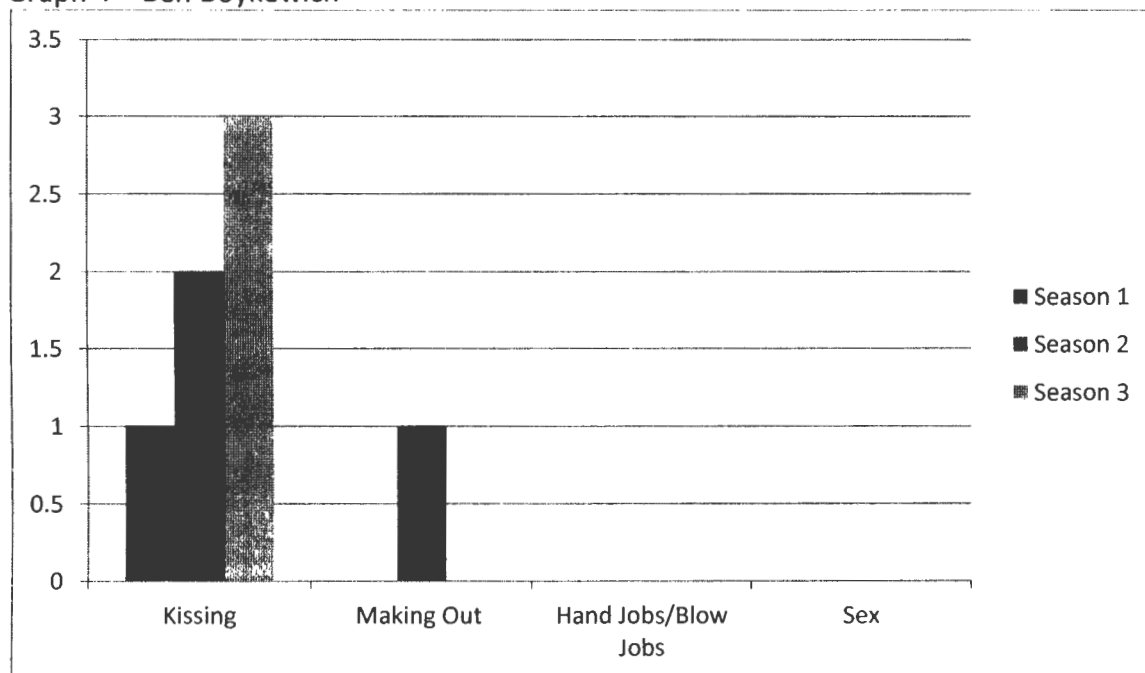
Graph 3 – Amy Juergens



**Ben Boykewich:** During Season 1, Ben is only sexually active in one of the seven episodes that were coded and that sexual activity was kissing, as seen below in Graph 4. During Season 2 his sexual activity increases to becoming sexually active in three of the seven episodes coded. During Season 3, Ben is sexually active in three of the seven episodes and all three of the

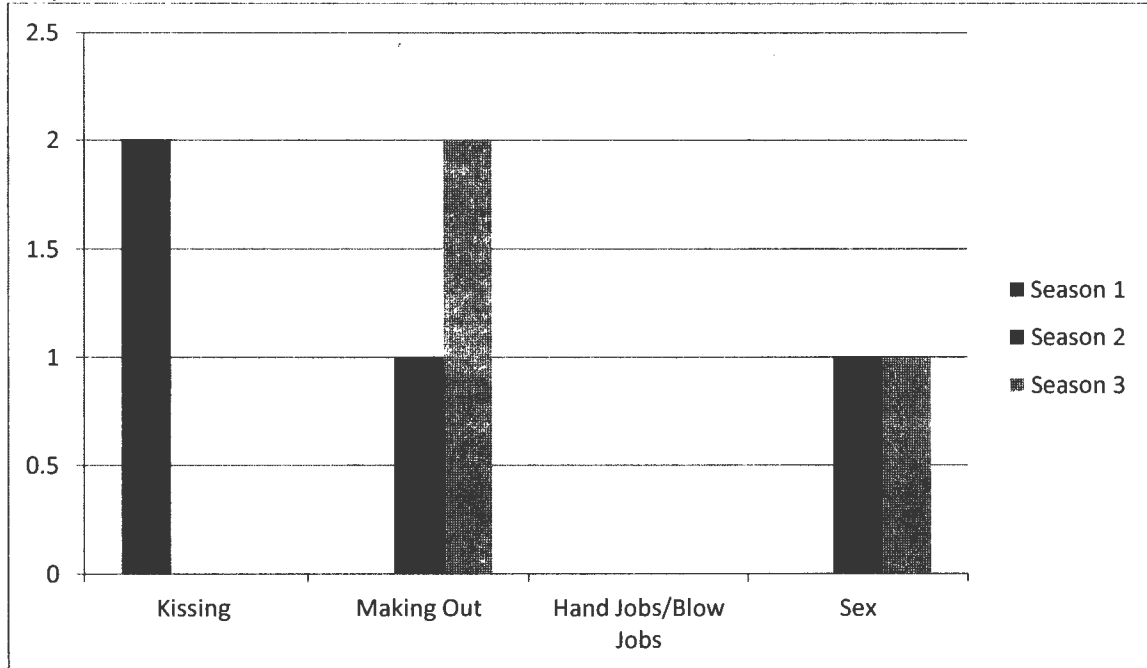
sexual activities were kissing. As a general trend, the amount of sexual activity seen for Ben increases over the three seasons coded and he is only involved in the less risky sexual behaviors of kissing and making out in the episodes that were randomly coded.

Graph 4 – Ben Boykewich



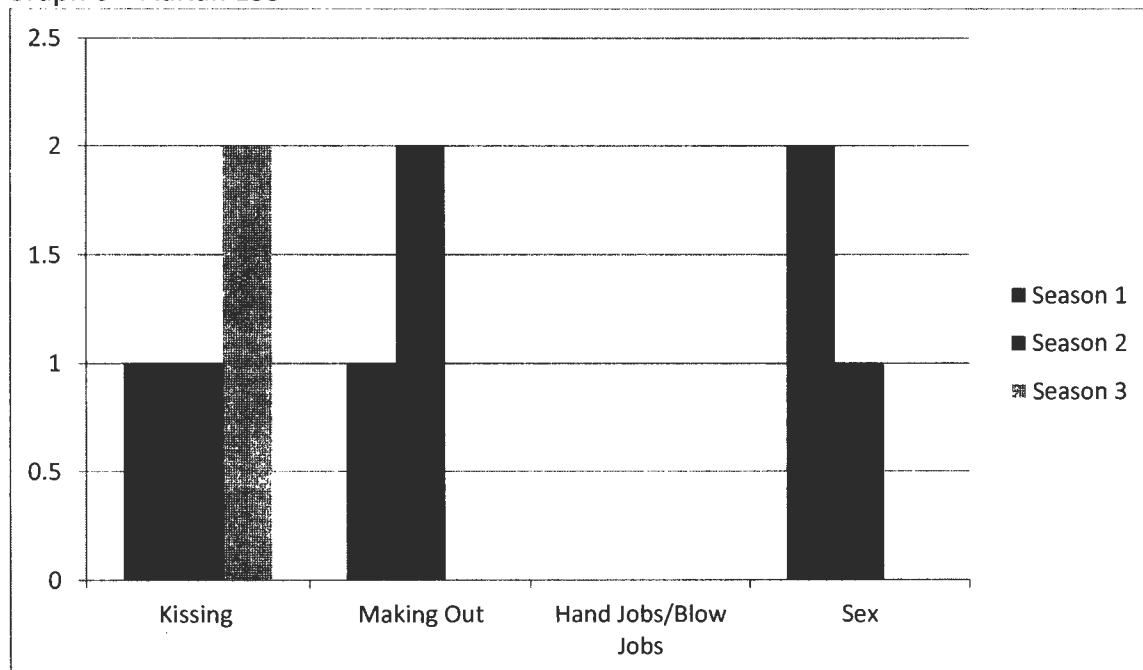
**Grace Bowman:** During Season 1, Grace is only sexually active in two of the seven episodes that were randomly coded and in both the sexual activity was kissing, as seen below in Graph 5. In Season 2 she is, once again, sexually active in two of the seven episodes. She has sex and makes out in one of the seven episodes. In Season 3, Grace is sexually active in three of the seven episodes. The general trend for Grace across the three seasons is increasing sexual activity and increasing risky sexual activity. Grace goes from less risky sexual activities in Season 1, kissing, to more risky sexual behaviors in Seasons 2 and 3, having sex.

Graph 5 – Grace Bowman



**Adrian Lee:** During Season 1, Adrian is sexually active in three of the seven episodes I randomly coded, as seen below in Graph 6. In Season 2, she is sexually active in four of the seven episodes. Finally, during Season 3 the amount of sexual activity Adrian is involved in decreases to being sexually active in two of the seven episodes. As the seasons progress the amount of risky sexual behavior Adrian is involved in decreases as does her overall sexual activity. In the initial season, she is involved mostly in risky behaviors, sex, but by Season 3 she has switched to less risky sexual behaviors, kissing.

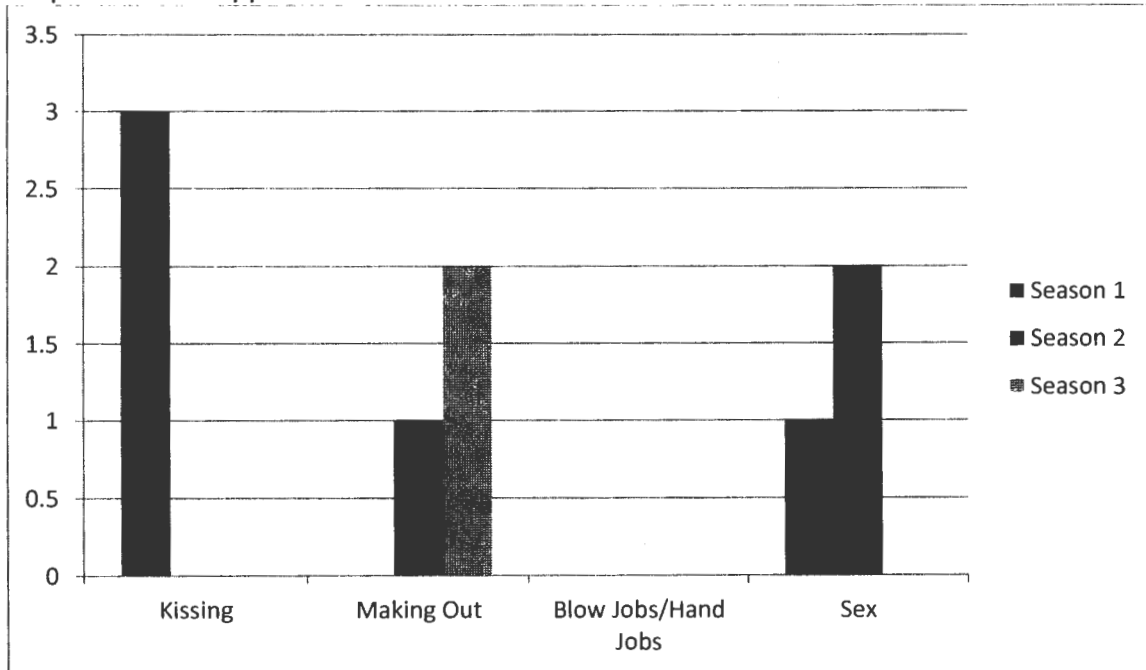
Graph 6 – Adrian Lee



**Jack Pappas:** During Season 1, Jack is sexually active in four of the seven episodes, as seen below in Graph 7. During Season 2, Jack's amount of sexual activity decreases to being sexually active in three of the seven episodes coded. Finally, during Season 3 Jack is sexually active in only two of the seven episodes. Throughout the three seasons, the amount of sexual activity Jack is involved in decreases. He also goes from having more risky sexual behaviors, sex, in Seasons 1 and 2, to less risky sexual behaviors, making out, in Season 3.



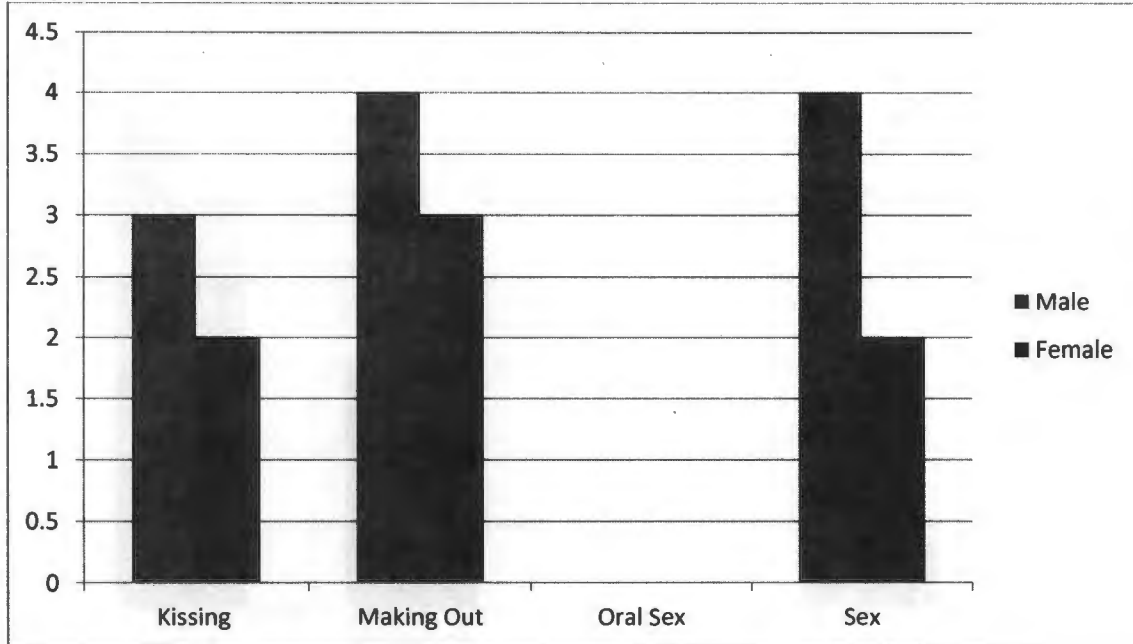
Graph 7 – Jack Pappas



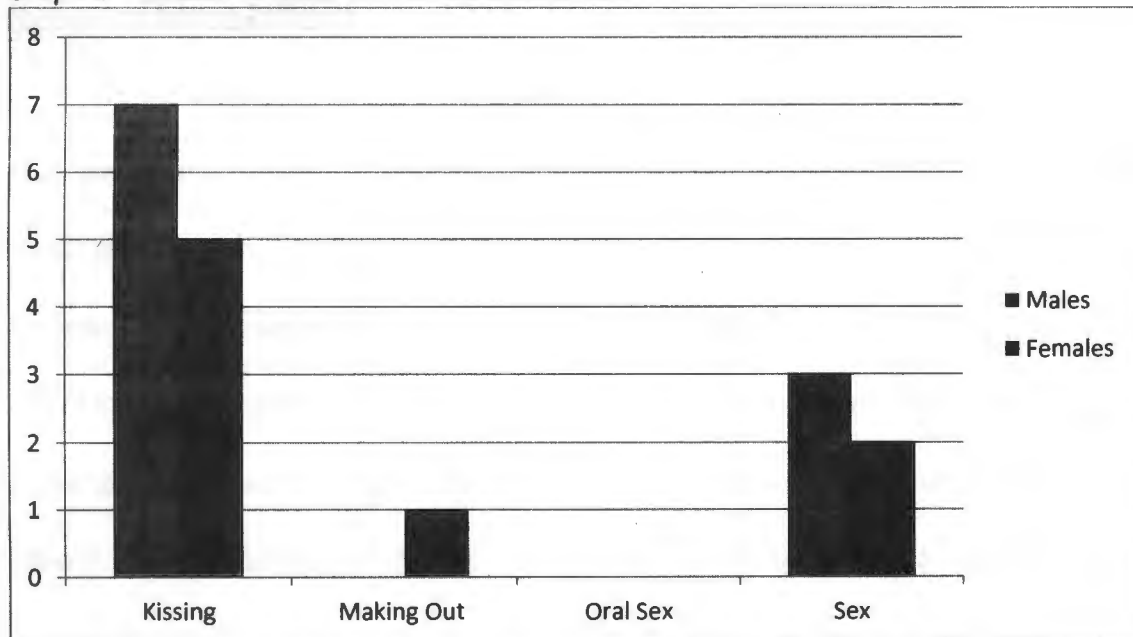
### Male vs. Female Sexual Acts

Over all, in Seasons 1 and 2, the male characters, Ricky, Ben and Jack, had a higher combined level of sexual activity and higher levels of all three sexual acts: kissing, making out and sexual intercourse, than the female characters, Adrian, Amy and Grace, shown below in Graphs 8 and 9.

Graph 8 – Season 1: Male vs. Female Sexual Acts

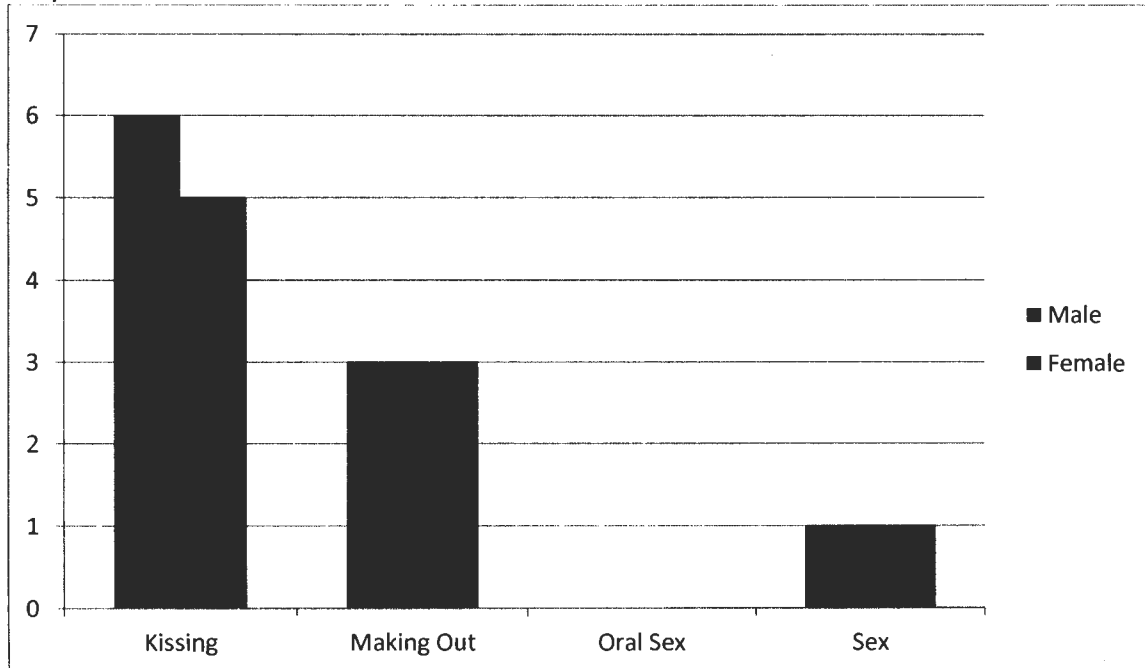


Graph 9 – Season 2: Male vs. Female Sexual Acts



During Season 3, however, the amounts of sexual activity and the number of sexual acts have leveled out between the male and female characters as shown below in Graph 10.

Graph 10 – Season 3: Male vs. Female Sexual Acts



### Number of Sexual Partners

There were only two main characters, Ricky Underwood and Adrian Lee, who had more than one sexual partner. In Seasons 1 and 2, Ricky had two sexual partners in one out of the seven episodes, and in Season 1, Adrian had two sexual partners in one out of the seven episodes. While in Season 3, none of the main characters has more than one sexual partner in any of the seven episodes that were coded. The only main characters that had more than one sexual partner were the characters that were shown to be more sexually promiscuous in the show – in the initial season at least. Though both Adrian and Ricky had more than one sexual partner in Season 1, neither of them was in an 'exclusive' relationship with anyone – they had an understanding that they could see other people. In Season 2, though, when Ricky has more than one sexual partner, he is cheating on Adrian because at that time they considered themselves a couple thereby not able to see other people.

### Use of and Type of Birth Control

None of the Season 1 episodes that were coded included any reference to birth control in relation to sexual acts (e.g., before sex none of the main characters talked about using birth control to avoid consequences) or is seen being used by any of the main characters. In Season 2, after Amy Juergens has had her baby, birth control is referenced or seen in four out of the seven episodes coded. In this season, Grace, Ricky, Adrian and Jack all talk about birth control in relation to sex (e.g., making sure they had birth control before they had sex) and Ben is shown having condoms.

In Season 3, three out of the seven episodes include references of being on birth control or using it during sex; though only Amy and Grace make any reference to birth control in the seven episodes which were coded for Season 3. Throughout the 2nd and 3rd Seasons the types of birth control seen or referenced were either birth control pills or condoms. Grace was the only character who referenced both birth control pills and condoms, while only Amy referenced birth control pills. The males (Ricky, Ben, and Jack) and Adrian all referenced condoms. No other types of birth control were referenced or used. These results show that after Amy has her baby, all of the main characters are more careful, or shown to be more careful, in Season 2. In Season 3, however, only the female characters, Amy and Grace (Adrian is pregnant and therefore has no need to be on birth control) are shown with birth control.

### Parental Supervision

Although *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* is a drama based on teenage high school students, who live with their parents, very few of the main characters' parents are seen and very little attention is paid to them by the television show. Amy is arguably the main

character of the series and only her parents were seen in every episode which was coded. Ben's father and Grace's mother were also seen in the majority of the episodes (Grace's father dies in Season 2 but before that he was a significant character). Adrian begins to have much stronger parental figures when her father comes back into her life, until that point most episodes excluded any parental supervision for her. Ricky's adoptive parents are seen in very few of the episodes, but his mother does enter the series in the 3rd Season. Jack's parents were not seen in a single episode which was coded, he is therefore not included in the following discussion.

In all three seasons, the parents are aware of their children's sexual activities in the episodes that were coded. Although Amy parents' did not know she had sex until she became pregnant nor did Ben's father know he had sex until Adrian became pregnant. Ricky, Grace, and Adrian's parents were aware they had sex without any sexual consequences (pregnancy, STDs). During Season 2, Grace's parents put her on birth control pills, and during Season 3, Amy also begins to take birth control pills. Ben, Adrian, and Ricky's parents are all aware that their children used condoms, but not necessarily every time. All of the parents began to push their children to use birth control after the parents found out that Amy and Ricky became pregnant in Season 1.

### Missed Opportunities

There are many missed opportunities for both the female and male characters, who became pregnant, throughout the three seasons of *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* which I coded. In this paper I defined missed opportunities as missing school, friends, college, or other relationships due to teen pregnancy – for this variable anything that a main character was not able to participate in or do for reasons that directly related to them either being

pregnant or having a child was coded as a missed opportunity. With that said, there was a major difference in the types of missed opportunities that the male and female characters lived through – one that was definitely gender specific. For the missed opportunities section I moved into a more qualitative assessment of the show because quantitative data for these missed opportunities really wouldn't provide any solid information because it is more subjective and therefore difficult to code. By finding and relating specific examples I was better able to create a clearer picture of the nature of the missed opportunities each character faced when they became pregnant.

Most of the missed opportunities that Amy had to face were ones that had more lasting affects – she was seriously considering moving away and living with her grandmother and she had all the decisions to make regarding taking care of the baby when it was born or putting it up for adoption. Below is an excerpt of Amy talking with her mother, Anne, and for the first time Amy realizes that life is not just going to stay the same after she has the baby; she's made a decision and she has to live with the consequences of that decision.

Anne – “Amy I think we need to talk, in just a few months you're going to have a baby.”  
 Amy – “Yeah I know.” Anne – “And it's gonna be up to you to care for that baby.” Amy –  
 “Yes.” Anne – “And care for yourself too.” Amy – “Okay.” Anne – “I mean not that I won't  
 take care of you, I'm your mother, I'll always take care of you.” Amy – “Thank you.”  
 Anne – “Just like you'll always take care of your baby, because it's your baby. *And if you  
 want to keep that baby then just know that baby is your responsibility.*” Amy – “I know  
 that mom, but I still have to go to school and go to band practice and do all the stuff I  
 normally do.” Anne – “If you can do all the stuff you normally do and take care of the  
 baby.” Amy – “*I just assumed that you'd keep the baby while I went to school.* You can do  
 that, right? Keep the baby while I'm at school.” Anne – “Amy, I have to get a job. I've  
 been looking for a job, and hopefully soon I'll have one.” Amy – “*Then where's the baby  
 gonna be, Mom, if you're at work and I'm at school?*” Anne – “Well that's up to you and  
 it's also up to you to pay for child care that comes with the baby, don't you think?” Amy  
 – “No, not really. I was hoping that you and dad would get back together and you  
 wouldn't have to work and you can keep the baby?” Anne – “Well, what if I don't want

to get back together with dad. And what if I want to work?" Amy – "Mom, you don't want to work. That's why you stay home." Anne – "Amy, you don't always get to do what you want to when you want to do it. That's not the way life works."

Once Amy has the baby she will have to miss out on school activities, such as being in marching band, and she will have to miss opportunities, that she now has, in regard to hanging out with her friends because she will need to get a job to pay for the things her baby will need. Ben and Ricky, the main male characters that dealt directly with the pregnancy, seemed to think that because Amy was the mother she was the one that had the responsibility to take care of the child. Ricky did not want the baby to be put up for adoption, but neither did he want any responsibility in taking care of their child. He felt that because Amy was now dating Ben it fell to Ben, more than himself, to be an active part of the child's life. This means that Amy will miss school, friendship, and dating opportunities because she is expected to be the primary caretaker for her child.

Ricky – "I can't take the baby, I'm in foster care, I don't even know if that's allowed. And *I don't have time for a baby.*" ... Ricky – "Just on the weekends? I don't think so. *You and Amy should keep the baby.*" ... Ben – "It is your baby." Ricky – "*No, no, no, it's Amy's baby. I'm the father but she's having the baby, so the burden of responsibility is on her..... Still she could keep the baby if she wanted to.*"

Amy finally decided that the responsibility did belong to her, and solely to her, and told Ricky that whatever she eventually wanted to do with the baby was her decision. This shows a major division in gender roles that characters portray in regard to pregnancy. Because Amy was the female it was up to her – she believed this as well as Ben and Ricky. This is highlighted in the following excerpt.

Amy – "Everything's fine. *Everything will be fine once you decide that the decision to have the baby adopted or not adopted is my decision.* And if I decide to have the baby

adopted, I will decide who the parents will be and you will go along with that. *Because it is not your life that will change, it's my life.* And I don't even know if you really care about this baby or if you're trying to impress Grace or Adrian or someone else. I don't even think you know how you really feel about this child or if you really feel anything at all. But, uh... I do. And if you think you love this child and you want the best for him let me do this my way... *And I fully accept responsibility for letting things go too far with you at that one night at Band Camp. And I also fully accept the responsibility of making all these decisions.* So please just go along with me. Please?" Ricky – "Okay. Whatever you want."

Ben has a different sort of problem when it comes to his participation in the pregnancy. He wants to be an active part in Amy's life and that includes the pregnancy and all of the milestones associated with it. But he must miss out on all of these opportunities, doctors' appointments and Lamaze classes, that Amy's pregnancy could allow because she does not want Ben to be a part of all of things she has to go through during her pregnancy even though he wants to be a part of all of the milestones involved with pregnancy.

Ben – "So when's your appointment?" Amy – "Same time as usual as soon as I can get there after school." Ben – "So am I riding with you and your mom, or should I have my dad's driver drop me off? How does that work? Oh, and I have a digital camera, but don't worry, I won't take pictures, unless you want me to." Amy – "Um, ummm...." Ben – "Uh, you want me there, right? You said you wanted me to be there didn't you?" Amy – "No, I said I wish you could be there." Ben – "Well I can." Amy – "No, I wish you could be there like I wish we were married, legally. Like I wish this were your baby. Like I wish a lot of things." Ben – "So you don't want me to be there?" Amy – "It's kinda personal." Ben – "Yeah – I – I know, but still..." Amy – "But still think you should go?" Ben – "Yeah." Amy – "Ben, I – I don't know. You've never even seen my stomach before." Ben – "I know. It'll be the first time I see your stomach. And sure it will be awkward but I want to be there for you. *I want to see the baby. I want to be there for you when you find out whether it's a boy or a girl. And, yeah, at first, it'll be awkward, but we'll work through the awkwardness. We love each other.*" Amy – "I don't think so, Ben."

During Season 2, the argument of Ricky's legal right in regard to John, his son, came up often. Ricky finally decides that he does want to be a part of John's life and that he may have to go to court to get that right. So far, Amy has had full control of when and where Ricky could



visit their son, thus causing him to miss opportunities involving many valuable childhood experiences with his son. But during this season Ricky explores other options for guardianship of his son – with the help of an attorney, Ruben.

Ruben – “So I talked to George today at the high school. *I didn’t realize Amy has left town.*” Ricky – “It’s probably not for good, or I hope it isn’t.” Ruben – “Still, it’s got to be difficult thinking about the possibility that she could leave town and take your son with her.” Ricky – “*I can’t go to court.*” Ruben – “*You could mediate a legal agreement without going to court. You should have an agreement. And you might want to look at it as a commitment to your son.*”

Season 3 brought many new surprises to *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* with the biggest being Ben and Adrian’s pregnancy. Throughout the beginning episodes the topic of abortion was brought up frequently. Ben was not sure what to think so he looked to others for advice on whether to be on board for the abortion that Adrian wanted, or not. Below is an excerpt which highlights this.

Ricky – “*Hey if you’re just agreeing to an abortion because you don’t want anyone to ever find out Adrian was pregnant, think again my friend. It’s not going to happen.*” Ben – “*I’m not agreeing to anything, I don’t think. But, you’re for abortion right?*” Ricky – “*For? I’m not for abortion. But, I’m not against abortion. But, what I’m for is the mom and the dad deciding before the baby’s born. It’s better to decide before you have the kid than after. My parents pretty much decided I shouldn’t have been born after I was born. Look Ben, if you and Adrian don’t want Adrian to have the baby because you don’t want Amy to find out that’s probably not a good reason. If you’re looking for a reason.*” Ben – “*We don’t have a reason. We just don’t want a baby. Neither of us wants a baby. But I don’t know if Adrian having the abortion is the right thing or the wrong thing. I honestly don’t.*” Ricky – “*Stop judging. Just go with what is and stop judging. You don’t know if something bad will come of this or if something good will come of not going through with the pregnancy. I mean maybe it’s a future Mother Teresa that’s not gonna be born or maybe a future Hitler that’s not gonna be born. No one knows. You can’t know.*” Ben – “*Then what’s the right thing to do? Support her decision to not have the baby or try to talk her out of it?*” Ricky – “*Try to live with whatever decision she makes. Alright? Whatever is, is, and life goes on.*” Ben – “*Or it doesn’t.*”

Grace is strongly opposed to abortions and keeps trying to persuade Adrian against this form of action and she even goes as far as talking to Jack, who is equally religious, to see what his thoughts are about Adrian's planned abortion, but his opinion is slightly different. He believes that ultimately the choice is Adrian's. These excerpts show that it is believed by all the main characters that the choice of an abortion is up to Adrian because she is the one that is physically pregnant and therefore must make the decisions because she is the girl. This is a missed opportunity for both Adrian and Ben because it causes them to have to grow up quickly and make life altering decisions. Adrian must also live with her decision and the consequences of keeping it or aborting it, while it seems as though Ben does not really have the right to decide what should happen.

Once Adrian decides to keep the child Ben believes that it is up to him to help support and take care of his child, a vastly different view than the one Ricky took. He therefore begins to make extreme decisions in order to 'do the proper thing', though it means missing out on falling in love or being with who he really wants to be with.

Ben – "I'm thinking about marrying Adrian. I just feel compelled to marry her." Jack – "Because of the baby?" Ben – "Yeah. Sort of. And because I think it's unfair Amy's getting back with Ricky. I mean I think she is. I have a feeling she is. Why couldn't I just have gotten her pregnant instead of Adrian?" Jack – "Wasn't she already pregnant when you met her?" Ben – "Yes. Yes, she was but I fell in love with her anyway."

These are just a few of the implications that teenage pregnancy had on the high school students in this series. There were many more missed opportunities which will be discussed shortly and in more detail.

## Conclusions

Over the span of the 3 Seasons of *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* the amount of sexual activity remained fairly consistent with six of the seven episodes having some sort of sexual activity in Seasons 1 and 3 and five out of the seven episodes having sexual activity in Season 2. The types and/or of sexual activity for characters did change over the season though. The three characters whose sexual activity changed the most were Grace, Adrian and Jack. Grace went from a 'good girl' who only kissed to having sex in the 2nd and 3rd Seasons. Adrian and Jack, on the other hand, went from sex, to kissing and making out to just kissing (Adrian) or making out (Jack) in the 3rd season. This is interesting in that the lead female character that was highly sexual before becoming pregnant, Adrian, suddenly stopped once she became pregnant. Ricky, on the other hand, who was the highly sexual lead male character continued high amounts of sexual activity even after he father a child. This shows a difference in how main characters are portrayed based on gender once they became pregnant. Another finding that had less to do with gender was that over the span of the 3 Seasons the amount of sexual activity increased for the characters who started out having fewer sexual acts: Grace, Ben and Amy. On the other hand, the characters that started out having more sexual acts decreased in these sexual acts as the Seasons progressed: Adrian, Ricky and Jack. I believe they all had a decrease in the amount of sexual acts portrayed because as the show progressed they all entered into exclusive relationships and sexual acts were not needed to affirm these relationships – the label of exclusive gave them that confirmation. But, when they were just in casual relationships they needed affirmation so more sexual acts were shown.

Over all, in Seasons 1 and 2, the male characters, Ricky, Ben and Jack, had a higher combined level of sexual activity and higher levels of all three sexual acts: kissing, making out

and sexual intercourse, than the female characters, Adrian, Amy and Grace. During, Season 3, however the amounts of sexual activity and the number of sexual acts have leveled out between the male and female characters. I believe that the sexual activity leveled out between the male and female characters because the characters all paired up except for Grace and Jack so the majority of sexual activity seen was coded the same for both male and female main characters.

There was both a male and female character, Ricky and Adrian, who had multiple sexual partners in one episode which was coded from Season 1. In Season 2, though, only Ricky had more than one sexual partner (in one episode). It is interesting that during Season 1 neither Adrian nor Ricky 'cheated' because they were not in an exclusive relationship, but in Season 2 when Ricky had more than one sexual partner he cheated on Adrian. This is another instance in the show where there was a divide between behaviors for female and male characters: a male character cheated but a female main character did not. I think that they showed a male character cheating instead of a female character because it is more acceptable for the male character to cheat than it is if a female character were to cheat.

One of the most significant findings was how drastically birth control use changed from Season 1 to Season 3. In the first season, none of the episodes coded included a main character talking about or using birth control. In Season 2, though, after Amy had the baby, there was a drastic change in the number of episodes that included use or talk of birth control by every main character except for Amy – who was remaining celibate. In Season 3, there was still a high level of episodes containing a mention of or use of birth control, but only Amy and Grace made

mention of birth control in Season 3. It is significant that it went from all main characters, except Amy, to only non-pregnant female main characters who talked about birth control. (Adrian did not talk about it but this could be attributed to the fact that she was already pregnant and could not become pregnant again). This shows that it is primarily the female characters job to worry about the birth control and to be the active one in preventing pregnancy.

Throughout the three seasons of *The Secret Life* very few of the main characters parents are seen and very little attention is paid to them. The female main characters Amy, Grace and Adrian's parents had the most significant roles – especially when it came to talking about sex and the consequences of sex. But, the male main characters parents were rarely seen in any episodes throughout the three seasons, with the exception of Ben's father. Ricky's birth parents in particular were mostly harbingers of ill tidings and Ricky ended up taking care of them rather than them taking care of him. This is interesting that so few of the main characters parents are seen when the show is aired on a family network, ABC Family whose motto is 'A New Kind of Family'. This motto can also be seen in some of the relationships that the teen parents have towards one another and their children. Amy even puts it this way in Season 1, "I realize that there are a lot of different types of families and we didn't have to be married to be a family for this child. We could just be friends, do this together as friends." I think that this is a significant message that the ABC family network is trying to get across – that families come in all forms, some without parents or marriage, but in the end those who are there to support and care for you are your family.

The missed opportunities with friends, family, schooling and in general that were caused by becoming pregnant in high school also showed differences based upon gender. The first major issue that Amy had to face was that everyone expected that she would be the one that would provide complete care for the child when it was born. Her mother, Anne, highlighted the fact that once the baby was born it would be up to Amy to take care of it and that her life would no longer be the same. She would only be able to continue doing the things that she was doing in high school, marching band, hanging out with her friends, if it didn't interfere with her taking care of her baby. Both Ricky and Ben believed that it was Amy's job to take care of the baby or decide what other options there are.

In both pregnancy cases, Amy's and Adrian's, the female characters had much more of a say in what happened to the fetus. In Amy's case, she firmly told Ricky that the choice to have the baby adopted or not was her decision and her decision alone. In Adrian's case, when she was thinking of an abortion, everyone but Grace, who is religious, believed it was her decision. Ben decided that he was just going to go along with anything that Adrian decided that she wanted to do. In both cases, the female characters that became pregnant had to bear the most burden of the pregnancy. This is a reflection of what was found in the Redmond (1985) study – that depending on if the partners were in a casual relationship or in a serious relationship decided how often the male would participate in the decision making and/or raising of the child. But, even then the female held most of the responsibility.

Though the female leads tended to bear the most burdens because of the pregnancy, the male leads also had their share of missed opportunities. When Ben was still with Amy in

Season 1, and planned on staying with her, he wanted to be a part of the pregnancy as though he was the father. He wanted to go to all of the doctor appointments, take all the pictures and do the baby shopping with Amy, but she didn't want him to be as involved with the pregnancy as he wanted to be. This shows two things: first that Amy also believed that she needed to be the one to take care of the baby – that she didn't need Ben's help. It also shows that Ben wanted to be a part of the baby's life even though it was not his, but Amy would not let him, therefore, he missed out on the opportunity to experience pregnancy the way Amy did.

Later in Season 3, when Adrian was pregnant with Ben's son, he offered to marry her to do the right thing. He did this even though he was still pining for Amy. He decided that he should do the right thing and marry Adrian even though it meant that he would miss the opportunity of being with Amy. Ricky was also faced with the fact that he may miss opportunities to see his son if Amy moved away. Therefore, he wanted Amy to consent to a legal agreement before he missed any opportunities with his son.

Throughout the three seasons of *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* there were a lot of missed opportunities by both the lead male and female characters that were pregnant, but the toughest decisions and the most missed opportunities were the ones that involved the female characters showing that gender was a contributing factor in these missed opportunities. This is important to note because if this show is involved in socializing youth it is sending the message that the females are the ones that should not only bear the burden of teenage pregnancy, but will also be the ones facing missed opportunities and thus stigmatizing the female in a teen pregnancy and not the male.

I believe my research was able to start to fill some of the gaps missing in previously done research such as Aubrey's (2004) and Jensen and Jensen's (2007) research. Not only did I focus on a show that is aired on a network that is geared towards preteens and teens, the ABC Family Network, but it was also able to show that missed opportunities and the amount and type of sex acts varies greatly based upon the gender of the main character. My study was also significant because it focused more on the physical consequences of sex such as STDs and unwanted pregnancies and as Aubrey's study showed many television shows do not focus on these consequences thereby making them harder to study. All of the studies which I have explained in my literature review are important because they provided the solid basis and the issues onto which my research project was able to expand. But, previous similar studies have failed to examine how media portrays unplanned teenage pregnancy – this is mostly due to the fact that many television shows aimed towards teens do not include negative physical consequences, namely pregnancy. I believe most shows do not include these negative physical consequences because it is not the glamorous 'Hollywood' thing that should happen when teens have sex. Therefore, my research has the opportunity to fill in this gap with this content analysis of *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*.

My recommendation for future research would be to do a comparison of what I found in my results for this television show *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*, which is scripted and aired on the ABC Family Network to the results that would be found through a content analysis of another reality-based show which deals primarily with teen pregnancy, such as *Teen Mom*. I think some interesting comparisons would be found between these two shows that could shed light on the differences between what happens to teen mothers in real life verses



what happens to them when the media portrays them. Obviously, as with all 'reality television', the things seen on *Teen Mom* would not be 100 percent accurate, some things would have to be altered in order to 'sell' the show, but regardless I am very interested in what differences and similarities could be found from a comparison of this type. Since John is not Amy and Ricky's actual child it would be interesting what types of missed opportunities real mothers would have in comparison to the missed opportunities which Ricky and Amy faced because of their child. Another recommendation is that all episodes from all seasons now available, currently on its 4<sup>th</sup> Season, for *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* should be watched and coded to see if the results from my randomly selected sample do indeed show an accurate picture of the amount and types of sexual acts witnessed. Also one could see if the missed opportunities that were witnessed in my random selection of episodes gave an accurate picture of the overall types of missed opportunities. It would be interesting to see if the gender differences I found in my selection of episodes was what found overall in this television show.

The original research questions which I asked found interesting results through my content analysis of *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*, the overarching theme I found was that the female main character had more missed opportunities and more serious missed opportunities when they became pregnant as compared to their male main character counterparts. I also found that there was a major divide in the amount and types of sexual acts based upon if one were a female or male character. Overall it is very important to keep these issues in mind when allowing one's teenage children to watch this show and show like *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* because they have the ability to socialize children about such topics as teen sex.

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## Appendix 1

### Season 1:

- 7 – Absent,
- 8 – Your Cheatin’ Heart
- 12 – The Secret Wedding of the American Teenager
- 15 – That’s Enough of That
- 16 – Chocolate Cake
- 17 – Unforgiven
- 22 – One Night at Band Camp.

### Season 2

- 1 – The Big One
- 5 – Born Free
- 11 – Cramped,
- 13 – You don’t know what You’ve Got
- 14 – Till it’s gone
- 15 – Loved and Lost
- 22 – Good Girls and Boys

### Season 3

- 2 – Accentuate the Positive
- 5 – Which Way did she go
- 10 – My Girlfriend’s back
- 11 – Lady Liberty,
- 16 – Mirrors
- 19 – Deeper and Deeper
- 25 – To Be...

## Appendix 2 – Coding Sheets

## Season 1 Episode 7 - Absent

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity				Kissing	Kissing	
# of Sexual Partners				1	1	
Birth Control						
Type of Birth Control						
View of Sex	Negative		Negative	Positive	Positive	
View of Pregnancy	Negative	Negative	Negative – before marriage	Negative	Negative	
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity	Yes			Yes		
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control						
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy	Negative	Positive - Accepting	Negative			
Missed Opportunities*:	Yes					
School Activities	Yes			Yes		
Friendships	Yes					
Other	Yes					

\*Examples\*:

4:43 – George – “But, you really think you want to go away and live with your grandmother? I mean, you think that’s the best thing?” Amy – “Yeah.” George – “I mean was that your idea or you Mom’s idea?” Amy – “Me. I don’t wanna stay here, Dad. I don’t want to face everybody.” George – “Well what about Ben? I still wanna marry him, but Mom still thinks it’s a bad idea.”

13:08 – Ashley – “You know, don’t you think you’re taking this whole thing a little too seriously? I mean, it’s not like you’re dying. You’re just having a baby.” Amy – “Just, just having a baby? Ashley, I’m 15. I don’t wanna have a baby. I just wanna be normal like everyone else. I wanna go to a normal school and be in the band and go to high school dances and fall in love and get married and then maybe have a

baby." Ashley – "Then why did you have sex?" Amy – "I don't know. I didn't... think about it. I didn't have a good reason I just did it"

### Season 1 Episode 8 – Your Cheatin' Heart

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity						
# of Sexual Partners						
Birth Control						
Type of Birth Control						
View of Sex					Positive	
View of Pregnancy	Negative		Negative		Negative	
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity						
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control						
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy						
Missed Opportunities*:						
School Activities	yes					
Friendships	Yes – Lauren's parents won't let her see Amy because she's pregnant			yes		
Other						

\*Examples\*:

7:23 – Ben – “I only think that if I keep picturing her then... she’ll maybe show up here again. And, that could happen. I mean, she could show back up at school.” Guidance Counselor – “Ben, she could come back, but most girls like Amy go into a continuation program where they go to smaller classes at another school with other girls having babies. So even if she decided to stay at home with her parents, more than likely she’d go into the continuation program. It’s not likely she’d come back here.” Ben – “He gets to come to school every day as if nothing happened.” Guidance Counselor – “That’s right.” Ben – “No, that’s wrong. That’s just... It’s wrong.”

10:21 – Grace – “Oh, I didn’t know. I heard she wasn’t coming back to school.” Ricky – “Yeah, she’s going to her grandmother’s. She’s running ways like a child. I mean, it might be a good time to grow up. There are schools for girls like her.” Grace – “I guess it’s just a little harder for her to come to school that you because soon people are gonna be able to just look at her and just tell that she’s pregnant.” Ricky – “People are looking at me, too.” Grace – “Yeah, I guess they are. Maybe.” Ricky – “Well, it just goes with the territory. We did something we shouldn’t have and now we’re both having to suffer the consequences.” Grace – “Yes. I just hope the baby isn’t paying the consequences. Is she planning on keeping the baby?” Ricky – “I hope so, but I think she’s leaning towards adoption.” Grace – “That’s good. Don’t you think?”

### Season 1 Episode 12 – The Secret Wedding of the American Teenager

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity	Kissing	Kissing				Kissing
# of Sexual Partners	1	1				1
Birth Control						
Type of Birth Control						
View of Sex			Negative			
View of Pregnancy						
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity	Yes				Yes	
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control	N/A – didn’t use protection					

Parents' view of Mom-  
Teenage negative;  
Pregnancy Dad- positive

Missed  
Opportunities\*: Yes

School Activities Yes

Friendships Yes

Other Yes Yes

\*Examples\*:

3:01 – Anne – “Amy I think we need to talk, in just a few months you’re going to have a baby.” Amy – “Yeah I know.” Anne – “And it’s gonna be up to you to care for that baby.” Amy – “Yes.” Anne – “And care for yourself too.” Amy – “Okay.” Anne – “I mean not that I won’t take care of you, I’m your mother, I’ll always take care of you.” Amy – “Thank you.” Anne – “Just like you’ll always take care of your baby, because it’s your baby. And if you want to keep that baby then just know that baby is your responsibility.” Amy – “I know that mom, but I still have to go to school and go to band practice and do all the stuff I normally do.” Anne – “If you can do all the stuff you normally do and take care of the baby.” Amy – “I just assumed that you’d keep the baby while I went to school. You can do that, right? Keep the baby while I’m at school.” Anne – “Amy, I have to get a job. I’ve been looking for a job, and hopefully soon I’ll have one.” Amy – “Then where’s the baby gonna be, Mom, if you’re at work and I’m at school?” Anne – “Well that’s up to you and it’s also up to you to pay for child care that comes with the baby, don’t you think?” Amy – “No, not really. I was hoping that you and dad would get back together and you wouldn’t have to work and you can keep the baby?” Anne – “Well, what if I don’t want to get back together with dad. And what if I want to work?” Amy – “Mom, you don’t want to work. That’s why you stay home.” Anne – “Amy, you don’t always get to do what you want to when you want to do it. That’s not the way life works.”

### Season 1 Episode 15 – That’s Enough of That

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity				Sex	Sex	
# of Sexual Partners				1	1	
Birth Control						



## Type of Birth Control

View of Sex

Positive

Positive

View of Pregnancy

Negative

Positive

Parents' aware of Sexual Activity

Yes

Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control

N/A – didn't use protection Mom-

Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy

negative Dad- positive

Dad – negative wants money from adoption

Missed

Opportunities\*: yes

Yes – missing pregnant landmarks

## School Activities

## Friendships

Other

yes

\*Examples\*:

15:26 – Ben – “So when’s your appointment?” Amy – “Same time as usual as soon as I can get their after school.” Ben – “So am I riding with you and your mom, or should I have my dad’s driver drop me off? How does that work? Oh, and I have a digital camera, but don’t worry, I won’t take pictures, unless you want me to.” Amy – “Um, ummm....” Ben – “Uh, you want me there, right? You said you wanted me to be there didn’t you?” Amy – “No, I said I wish you could be there.” Ben – “Well I can.” Amy – “No, I wish you could be there like I wish we were married, legally. Like I wish this were your baby. Like I wish a lot of things.” Ben – “So you don’t want me to be there?” Amy – “It’s kinda personal.” Ben – “Yeah – I – I know, but still...” Amy – “But still thing you should go?” Ben – “Yeah.” Amy – “Ben, I – I don’t know. You’ve never even seen my stomach before.” Ben – “I know. It’ll be the first time I see your stomach. And sure it will be awkward but I want to be there for you. I want to see the baby. I want to be there for you when you find out whether it’s a boy or a girl. And, yeah, at first, it’ll be awkward, but we’ll work through the awkwardness. We love each other.” Amy – “I don’t think so, Ben.”

23:20 – Amy – “I don’t think she’ll get into trouble. Ever. Not after what I did. I kinda ruined her life too.” Anne – “You didn’t ruin her life or yours. Your life is just going to be different. And so is hers and so is mine and your dad’s, but not ruined. Don’t do that to yourself. Or the baby. Life is just a big adventure. And yours is just a really big adventure right now. But that’s okay. Everything is going to be fine.”

## Season 1 Episode 16 – Chocolate Cake

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity			Kissing	Sex/ Kissing	Sex/making out	Sex
# of Sexual Partners			1	2	2	1
Birth Control				N/A	N/A	
Type of Birth Control				N/A	N/A	
View of Sex				Positive	Positive	
View of Pregnancy	Negative	Positive-if Amy wants to		Positive		
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity	Yes			Yes		
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control	N/A – didn't use protection					
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy	Negative					
Missed Opportunities*:	yes	Yes				
School Activities						
Friendships						
Other						

\*Examples\*:

5:41 – Ben –“I j̄st found out that Ricky and Amy are seeing each other to talk about the baby tonight.” Guidance Councilor –“And?” Ben –“And I knew nothing about this... I just, don't want him anywhere near her.” Guidance Councilor –“Well that's his baby.” “No, that's her baby.” Guidance Councilor –“Their baby.” Ben –“I mean, don't you think I should be included? That I should have some say in this?” Guidance Councilor –“You're not really married.” Ben –“I'm more of a father to that baby than he is.” Guidance Councilor –“And so it begins.” Ben –“What begins?” Guidance Councilor –“Fighting over the kid”

12:38 – Amy – “I don’t want to talk to him. I have to talk to him. He has to go along with the adoption or there is no sense in even interviewing couples.” Ashley – “And if he doesn’t go along with it?” Amy – “Then I’ll just drop out of school, get a full time job, put the baby in daycare, and embrace teen motherhood. Sound good to you?” Ashley – “You’re so dramatic.” Amy – “I’m pregnant. I’m 15.” Ashley – “Yeah yeah, you’re not the only pregnant teenager in the world. Stop feeling so sorry for yourself.” Amy – “I’m not feeling sorry for myself! I’m doing the responsible thing by trying to find two adults who can provide my baby with a stable home and loving family.” Ashley – “If you had done the responsible thing 6 months ago...” Amy – “I’m not feeling sorry for myself! I’m trying to do the responsible thing. And in trying, I have to get the baby’s father’s permission.”

23:32 – Ricky – “I can’t take the baby, I’m in foster care, I don’t even know if that’s allowed. And I don’t have time for a baby.” Ben – “Yeah, but it’s better you than some couple we don’t even know. At least if it were you, Amy and I, we could help. We could babysit on the weekends, so you could still go out.” Ricky – “Just on the weekends? I don’t think so. You and Amy should keep the baby.” Ben – “Legally, there is no me and Amy. Unfortunately. Or else we would take the baby.” Ricky – “Yeah you’re conveniently married when you want to be and then you’re not married when you don’t wanna be. Like when you don’t want the baby.” Ben – “I want the baby. But...” Ricky – “But, what?” Ben – “It is your baby.” Ricky – “No, no ,no, it’s Amy’s baby. I’m the father but she’s having the baby, so the burden of responsibility is on her..... Still she could keep the baby if she wanted to.” Ben – “In her defense, I think that she wants to, but she can’t.”

40:57 – “Everything’s fine. Everything will be fine once you decide that decision to have the baby adopted or not adopted is my decision. And if I decide to have the baby adopted, I will decide who the parents will be and you will go along with that. Because it is not your life that will change, it’s my life. And I don’t even know if you really care about this baby or if you’re trying to impress Grace or Adrian or someone else. I don’t even think you know how you really feel about this child or if you really feel anything at all. But, uh... I do. And if you think you love this child and you want the best for him let me do this my way. Don’t you want what’s best for your son Ricky? Look in my desperation to figure this whole thing out I asked you to come over tonight just to see if there was any possibility of the two of us raising this baby together. Helping each other out just for the sake of the baby. I realize that there are a lot of different types of families and we didn’t have to be married to be a family for this child. We could just be friends, do this together as friends. But, uh. We’re not friends. And it’s just not what’s best for him – you and me. And you know that. And I fully accept responsibility for letting things go too far with you at that one night at Band Camp. And I also fully accept the responsibility of making all these decisions. So please just go along with me. Please?” Ricky – “Okay. Whatever you want.”

#### Season 1 Episode 17 – Unforgiven

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity						Kissing

# of Sexual  
Partners  
Birth Control  
Type of Birth  
Control  
View of Sex

1

View of  
Pregnancy      Negative

Positive-  
reading  
pregnancy  
book

Parents' aware  
of Sexual  
Activity      Yes

Parents' aware  
of Childrens use  
of Birth Control      N/A – didn't use  
protection

Parents' view of  
Teenage  
Pregnancy      Negative\* – want  
Amy to adopt      Positive

Missed  
Opportunities\*:

School Activities

Yes – Lauren's  
parents won't let  
her see Amy  
because she's  
pregnant

Friendships

Other

\*Examples\*:

3:21 – Ashley – “Don't get me wrong there are a lot of nights I wish I was being raised by Donovan and Leon but you can't just give the baby away to anyone. You can't, I know you. You're giving up the baby for adoption so you can keep Ben aren't you?”

20:09 – Lauren – “You have your whole life ahead of you. You can do anything, and like you said once the baby's born he won't be around. So you won't be tied to the baby or Ben, or Ricky or anyone. You can start your life over.” Amy – “Wouldn't be great if I could also start it over with Ben?” Lauren – “Think about it, this whole year has been a nightmare. Start over. Live your dreams.”

35:10\* – Anne – “Maybe we should have waited to have Amy talk to the guys.” George – “Waited for what? You wanted an adoption.” Anne – “Do you really object George?” George – “It's not my decision. I

mean I can't blame Amy for wanting to get on with her life. She's not cut out to be a mother at 15 so... It's not what I want, but I guess it's the best thing." Anne –"I guess." George –"You guess? You better be sure and Amy better be sure. Once she signs the papers..." Anne –"I know." George –"You know Anne I can't blame you for wanting to get on with your life either."

### Season 1 Episode 22 – One Night at Band Camp

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity	Kissing		Kissing	Kissing		Kissing
# of Sexual Partners	1		1	1		1
Birth Control						
Type of Birth Control						
View of Sex	Negative					
View of Pregnancy	Negative	Positive		Positive		
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity	Yes					
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control	N/A					
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy						
Missed Opportunities*:	Yes					

School Activities

Friendships

Other

\*Examples\*: Flashbacks to when Ricky and Amy have sex and get pregnant, Amy in the hospital getting ready to have baby

11:33 – Anne- “Amy, I really don’t think this is the time to be resentful.” Amy -“Well, when would be? I’m thinking the rest of my life.” Anne -“Don’t go there.” Amy -“I’m hungry, and I’m tired and I don’t want to do this.” Anne -“Well I don’t really think you have much choice.”

### Season 2 Episode 1 – The Big One

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity	Kissing	Kissing	Sex	Kissing	Kissing	Sex
# of Sexual Partners	1	1	1	1	1	1
Birth Control			Yes			Yes
Type of Birth Control			Birth Control Pill/ Condom			Condom
View of Sex	Negative	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
View of Pregnancy				Positive		
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity	Yes		No		Yes	
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control	N/A		Yes – they put her on the pill			
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy	Positive					
Missed Opportunities*:	Yes					
School Activities						
Friendships						
Other	Yes					
*Examples*:						

17:29 Grace –“You make me so angry sometimes I want to spit.” Adrian –“Better than being so angry you have sex before you’re ready.” Grace –“I am ready!” Adrian –“I know why you’re doing this. Because

you're parents told you they don't want you doing this." Grace – "No. My dad doesn't want me to do this. My mom doesn't want me to do it either, but. She's a woman. She understands." Adrian – "I don't understand. You're a Christian. You're suppose to wait until you're married." Grace – "I can be a Christian and have sex before I'm married. I'm in a committed relationship. I'm in love. And one day, I'm going to marry Jack." Adrian – "This is the only guy you've ever dated." Grace – "Hello Ricky?" Adrian – "What about Ricky? You never really dated him. You've never dated anyone but Jack." Grace – "Fine. Going with that logic, I've never dated anyone but Jack and I never will. Adrian, this is between Jack and me, not you and me. And Jack is okay with this." Adrian – "Of course he's okay with it. He's a guy. All guys are okay with it. Look, listen to me Grace; you are a good example for every girl who wants to wait to have sex until they're married." Grace – "I'm not a poster girl for virginity, okay? I'm not some spokesman for abstinence. I'm just me. And I understand these life choices and I have been a proponent of waiting until marriage. However, I can no longer wait." Adrian – "Because?" Grace – "Because I need sex." Adrian – "Oh." Grace – "I want sex. I feel like having sex! And you know what Adrian those feelings come from love. And God is love. I feel sure God is okay with my making love with Jack." Adrian – "But why are you in such a hurry?" Grace – "I'm not in a hurry. We've been thinking about having sex for the whole school year." Adrian – "Jack's been doing more than thinking about it. He's been having sex for the whole school year." Grace – "Not with me." Adrian – "I get it now if you have sex with Jack you think he won't have sex with anyone else." Grace – "He won't." Adrian – "He might."

### Season 2 Episode 5 – Born Free

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity						
# of Sexual Partners						
Birth Control		Yes				
Type of Birth Control		Condoms				
View of Sex		Positive	Negative	Positive	Positive	
View of Pregnancy						
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity		N/A – not having sex, optimistic		Yes	Yes	

Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control	Yes – has condoms besides bed	
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy		Negative
Missed Opportunities*: Yes	Yes	Yes

## School Activities

## Friendships

Other	Yes	Yes	Yes
*Examples*:			

1:33 – Ashley – “Only you’re not going to Bologna. You know you’re not going, right?” Amy – “Yes, I am going.” Ashley – “No, you’re not. Look Amy you need to face the facts. Young men of a certain age do not go abroad with a celibate girlfriend and baby in tow.” Amy – “Ben asked me to go and John, too. Why would he ask us if he didn’t want us to go?” Ashley – “So, that he wouldn’t have to carry around is guilt in a backpack all summer.” Amy – “I don’t care why, okay.” Ashley – “He knew you wouldn’t be able to go. That’s why he asked you.” Amy – “And why wouldn’t I be able to go? Because you love him and you’re happy that he can get away for the summer even though you can’t.” Amy – “But I can. I can if I want.” Ashley – “Just let the guy sow his wild oats.” Amy – “I’m not going to Bologna because I’m afraid Ben will do something I don’t want him to do. I’m going because it’s what’s best for my son. Every day is an opportunity for John to be exposed to other cultures. I want John to be exposed to other cultures. We were never exposed to other cultures. Mom and Dad never took us to Europe or Asia or Africa or anyplace like that. They never even thought of exposing us to other cultures.”

15:32 – Grace – “All I can think about is sex and death. And death and sex.” Adrian – “Well, it’s normal, Grace.” Grace – “Is it?” Adrian – “Yeah especially after what you’ve just been thorough.” Grace – “Yeah I guess. I just don’t understand why God puts us here to have sex and then die. I mean is everybody so screwed up sexually?” Adrian – “Oh, yeah. Everyone. Some more than others, of course. But, that’s why I feel so blessed because I am not that screwed up. Although I’m going to be if I don’t have some alone time with Ricky.” Grace – “Adrian, you know I think sex before marriage is wrong.” Adrian – “And you know I don’t think sex before marriage is wrong. Well not for me. Look if I don’t have sex with Ricky soon he’s going to have sex with someone else. Even though he doesn’t want me to.” Grace – “It’s wrong for everyone. Everyone who’s not married. And sometimes it’s even wrong when you’re married. Or if you’re married and you’re about to get divorced.”



## Season 2 Episode 11 – Cramped

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity			Making out			Making out
# of Sexual Partners			1			1
Birth Control					Yes	
Type of Birth Control				Condoms – usually had them		
View of Sex			Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive
View of Pregnancy						
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity			No			
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control						
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy						
Missed Opportunities*:						
School Activities						
Friendships						
Other						

## \*Examples\*:

4:29 – Ricky – “I just dropped by because I figured we could have sex one last time. One for the road.” Adrian – “Aw, Mr. Sentimental.” Ricky – “We had a lot of good times in here.” Adrian – “Yeah.” Ricky – “Laying out there, and on the patio and in the parking lot.” Adrian – “And still, you’re not in love with me. And we’re never going to get married. So I’m never going to have sex again. With you.” Ricky – “Come on. You know you want to.” Adrian – “I want to, but I’m not going to.” Ricky – “You bought a house so we could do it and so that I wouldn’t be doing it with anyone else.” Adrian – “Yeah, well, I still like the house. I just don’t like you.” Ricky – “Come on, don’t hurt my feelings.” Adrian – “You don’t have feelings. Well not feelings for me anyway.” Ricky – “Oh come on, you know I care about you. I love you Adrian.” Adrian

–“No. No, you don’t. You don’t love me. You just tell me you love me when you’re trying to have sex with me.” Ricky –“I know you love me, Adrian.” Adrian –“Yeah, well, I will love again.... Let’s just be friends, okay?” Ricky –“Friends with benefits? I’m okay with that.” Adrian –“Well I’m not. I’m going to find a new beneficiary and you should too. I’m moving. I’m changing my life. I’m starting over. I don’t just want sex anymore. I want someone to love. Someone who is the someone. Someone I can marry someday. Someone that I can have children with someday. I think I deserve that.”

### Season 2 Episode 13 – You Don’t Know what You’ve Got

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity				Making out	Making out	
# of Sexual Partners				1	1	
Birth Control						
Type of Birth Control						
View of Sex			Negative			Positive
View of Pregnancy						
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity			Yes – found out they have oral sex			
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control						
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy			Negative			
Missed Opportunities*:	Maybe – might leave town	Yes – being with other women		Maybe – Amy might leave town		
School Activities						
Friendships						
Other						

**\*Examples\*:**

24:20 – Adrian – “Then let her start a new life. Who cares?” Ricky – “Who cares? I care. That’s my son.” Adrian – “Yeah. That is your son. That’s why I told you to get a court order so she couldn’t take him out of the state.” Ricky – “She’s not taking him out of state. She’s just taking him far enough that I can’t see him every day.” Adrian – “What the hell happened?” Ricky – “I don’t know. All of a sudden, she and her mother want to move to Palm Springs to take care of her grandmother who’s got Alzheimer’s.” Adrian – “So the two of them left town to take care of the grandmother.” Ricky – “Yeah to take care of the grandmother.” Adrian – “Wait, isn’t that. Isn’t that where Mrs. Juergens is renovating a house with her boyfriend? In Palm Springs?” Ricky – “I don’t know. I don’t know anything. Amy didn’t even tell me she was going there until after she’d left. And then she called me and told me I didn’t need to come around last night or tonight or tomorrow night. And we got in an argument, and it turned into maybe she’s not coming back at all. She’s looking at schools and daycare and all that stuff.” Adrian – “She can’t just move without your permission.” Ricky – “Yes she can. She can do anything she wants. She’s the mother and we’re not married.” Adrian – “That doesn’t make a difference. That’s you son Ricky. Claim your son. You have rights.” Ricky – “Maybe I don’t look at it that way. It’s a privilege for me to see my son, and I don’t want my privileges revoked.”

37:01 – Mrs. Bowman – “Here’s the thing honey. I know you have raging hormones, but if you really have to have sex and you just can’t go without it, why can’t you just masturbate?” Grace – “Oh, that’s a word nobody wants to hear their mothers say.” Mrs. Bowman – “Grace I know this is an uncomfortable conversation to have but I’m just thinking that if you could... uh, take matters into your own hands you might be... saner?” Grace – “That’s kinda funny taking matters into my own hands.” Mrs. Bowman – “I’m glad you think it’s funny because you know what sometimes sex is funny. And we have to laugh at our own pathetic situations. We do, and I’m a widow and I like – and I want to have sex, and I am crazy about Jeff. But I don’t want to get married again, right now. I mean, not that he’s asked.” Grace – “So you?” Mrs. Bowman – “Oh, yeah.”

40:12 – Ruben – “So I talked to George today at the high school. I didn’t realize Amy has left town.” Ricky – “It’s probably not for good, or I hope it isn’t.” Ruben – “Still, it’s got to be difficult thinking about the possibility that she could leave town and take your son with her.” Ricky – “I can’t go to court.” Ruben – “You could mediate a legal agreement without going to court. You should have an agreement. And you might want to look at it as a commitment to your son.” Ricky – “I might want to look at it that way, but what it is is a message to Amy that she can’t do anything she wants and I’m not so sure that she shouldn’t be able to do anything she wants. She’s his mother and I’m not contributing much in the way of money, so.” Ruben – “So what? You’re not a father? You’re afraid at 16 if you can’t make some sort of payment to Amy, you can’t get rights to see the baby, so you’d rather not risk it and wait until you have the money. It’s not about the money. I’m not saying you should be financially responsible when it comes to your son but I always paid child support for Adrian. I was just never there for her. So what kind of father am I? A father that never knew his daughter until she was 16. Children need things but that also need you time, your help and your love. Learn from my mistakes Ricky. Find a way to be in your kid’s life. You’re a dad. And you’re a good dad. You and Amy will find a way to do what’s best for John.”

## Season 2 Episode 14 – Till It's Gone

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity		Making out	Masturbation	Making out/ Sex	Making out	
# of Sexual Partners		1		2	1	
Birth Control				Yes		
Type of Birth Control				Condom		
View of Sex		Positive	Positive - masturbation	Positive	Negative	
View of Pregnancy						
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity		Yes	Masturbation – yes told her to		Yes	
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control		Yes – know he has condoms in bedside table				
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy						
Missed Opportunities*:	Yes			Yes – Amy has been out of town		
School Activities	Skipped school for 5 days					
Friendships						
Other				Yes - Not seeing John		

\*Examples\*:

41:36 – Ricky – “John is my son.” Amy – “Yes, and John is my son, too, and I felt like getting away from you and Ben and everyone else.” Ricky – “You can get away all you want, but not with my son. I want my son and I’m going to court to make sure you don’t just take off with him ever again. Adrian’s dad is going to help me; I just want to let you know I’m going to get some kind of legal agreements so that John doesn’t just disappear anytime you feel like taking off.”

## Season 2 Episode 15 – Loved and Lost

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male Implied
Sexual Activity		Kissing		Implied sex	Implied sex	sex
# of Sexual Partners		1		1	1	1
Birth Control						
Type of Birth Control						
View of Sex		Positive		Positive	Positive	Positive
View of Pregnancy		Positive – not while teen though				
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity				Yes		
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control						
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy						
Missed Opportunities*:	Yes			Has to work to help pay for John	Can't be with Ricky because Amy doesn't trust her being around her child	
School Activities						
Friendships						
Other	Can't be with Ben because she has a baby with Ricky			Wants partial custody of John.		

\*Examples\*:

41:43 – Amy –“I know you want to talk. I know you want some kind of agreement and I’ve been thinking about that. About what you said.” Ricky –“Yeah, I’ve been thinking about that, too, and I’m sorry. I’m sorry I even brought it up. It’s just that when you left town without telling me, I got scared that I was never going to see John again.” Amy –“I get scared that you’ll take off and never see John again. You’re interested in seeing him now, but maybe someday you’ll change your mind. Maybe you’ll want to move around and you won’t be here to take care of him.” Ricky –“No, I’m not going to do that.” Amy –“What if you got the chance to go to Alaska and make a million dollars, driving on ice roads, but you’d have to be

gone for 6 months." Ricky – "I don't like the cold. But, what if you get a scholarship to Juilliard and you take off for New York and you take John with you?" Amy – "Yeah, well if anything like that ever happens than we'll sit down, talk about it and figure out what's best for John. And us." Ricky – "So, you're acknowledging that there is a us." Amy – "Yeah, I guess it's time be both realized that we are a family, even though you and I are not a couple." Ricky – "So you broke up with Ben?" Amy – "I broke up with him, or he broke up with me. We broke up with each other. It's been coming for awhile but he's been in John's life all this time. I still want him to see John if he still wants to see John." Ricky – "So do I."

## Season 2 Episode 22 – Good Girls and Boys

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity						
# of Sexual Partners						
Birth Control						
Type of Birth Control						
View of Sex		Positive	Negative			
View of Pregnancy						
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity		Yes – knows he has sex with Adrian	Yes – in the past		Yes – knows she slept w/ Ben	
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control						
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy				Positive – want to be involved with John		
Missed Opportunities*:		Can't be with Amy because jealous of baby		Yes – mad at Amy/Ben/Adrian so left town		
School Activities						
Friendships	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		

Other

Can't see John

\*Examples\*:

13:57 – Dr. Zegay - “You’re not married, you’ve never even been engaged and you’ve had fun.” Grace - “Yes, but I’m never having fun again. Because I’m not married or engaged and it’s just wrong.” Dr. Zegay - “Even if two people agree to have fun and be responsible and do all the right things like use birth control and condoms?” Grace - “Even then.” Dr. Zegay - “You’re mom seems to think that you’re flip-flopping on the issue of having fun before marriage.” Grace- “Maybe, but the important thing now, is that I have landed. I’m being good” Dr. Zegay - “You’re not talking about being good fun; you’re talking about being a good girl, right?” Grace- “Yes.” Dr. Zegay - “Well Grace there’s a lot of good girls just like you that have fun in high school even though they think they really shouldn’t” Grace- “Oh, do they?” Dr. Zegay - “Yes, they do. They lack the courage to stand up to what they believe in. There might be opposing viewpoints that lead to conflict and girls do not like conflict so they usually talk themselves into going along with the crowd.” Grace- “Is that so.” Dr. Zegay - “That is so. So they continue on in life; good girls inability to stand for what she believes in. Good girl’s need to gain approval and attention and avoid conflict. So as she leaves high school and goes into college and then med school, she gets less and less successful every year because avoiding conflict in life doesn’t work because there is always going to be conflict.” Grace- “What do you know about being a good girl?” Dr. Zegay - “I make it my business to know, you know. I’m a doctor for women... I like women. I love your mother.” Grace- “Wow, I actually liked what you had to say. Thank you.” Dr. Zegay - “You’re welcome.” Grace- “It’s kinda freeing to think that I don’t have to be the good girl. Because to be honest I don’t think that I was that good at being the good girl to begin with. This is even better.” Dr. Zegay - “I – I – I’m not saying that you should go out and have fun. I mean fun as we know has consequences. You know, STD’s unplanned pregnancies, heartbreaks. So you know not all of its good.” Grace- “No, I know that. But, now I know that I can have fun. And I feel better about that. Much better.”

## Season 3 Episode 2 – Accentuate the Positive

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity	Kiss	Kiss				
# of Sexual Partners	1	1				
Birth Control	Yes					
Type of Birth Control	Birth Control Pills					
View of Sex						

View of Pregnancy		Negative	Negative	Negative
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity		Yes	Yes – past; when she had sex w/ Jack	
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control	Yes	N/A		
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy		Negative		
Missed Opportunities*:	Yes	Yes	Yes	
School Activities	Can't go to a summer program in NY			
Friendships		Mad at the insinuations that Adrian is pregnant	Upset about Adrian's decision to possibly have an abortion	
Other				
*Examples*:				

34:15 – Grace – “Do you think there’s any chance that Adrian could be lying. I mean, do you think that she could be pregnant?” Jack – “Is there any chance that Adrian would lie? Is that what you’re asking? If she is capable of telling a lie?” Grace – “No, I know she’s capable of telling a lie, but why would she tell me she’s pregnant and then lie that she’s not pregnant.” Jack – “I would assume because she plans to get an abortion. She knows from past conversations that you wouldn’t be supportive of that.” Grace – “She wasn’t at school today.” Jack – “Can I sit next to you on this – this bed?” Grace – “Yeah I guess.” Jack – “Grace I heard Adrian wasn’t at school but no one is thinking she’s pregnant or off to get an abortion. People don’t know. Maybe people shouldn’t know. Maybe we shouldn’t know. If that’s what Adrian did today then it’s over. It’s between her and God. It’s not for us to judge, I really believe that.” Grace – “So we’re too late?” Jack – “Maybe, I mean if she did lie and she was pregnant and she did get an abortion. But we don’t know that that’s happened, and if she wants to tell us that that’s what happened then she’ll tell us. If she doesn’t tell us then we’ll leave it at that, maybe someday she will. I think in the meantime, is be there for her and not be judgmental so that if one day she wants to talk about it, she’ll talk about it and if she doesn’t she doesn’t. I think that’s the best way to be a friend to her now.”



## Season 3 Episode 5 – Which Way did she Go

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity				Kissing		
# of Sexual Partners				1 - Ashley		
Birth Control						
Type of Birth Control						
View of Sex						
View of Pregnancy		Negative	Positive	Positive	Negative - have an abortion	
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity		Yes			Yes	
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control						
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy		Positive – wants Adrian to decide for herself what to do			Positive(mom) – accepts Adrian’s decision whatever it is Positive(Dad) – doesn’t want Adrian to have an abortion	
Missed Opportunities*:		Yes Missed school to go to abortion			Yes	
School Activities					Missed school for abortion Yes – b/c Grace won’t accept that Adrian wants an abortion	
Friendships						
Other						

\*Examples\*:

14:54 – Ricky – “Hey if you’re just agreeing to an abortion because you don’t want anyone to ever find out Adrian was pregnant, think again my friend. It’s not going to happen.” Ben – “I’m not agreeing to anything, I don’t think. But, you’re for abortion right?” Ricky – “For? I’m not for abortion. But, I’m not against abortion. But, what I’m for is the mom and the dad deciding before the baby’s born. It’s better to decide before you have the kid than after. My parents pretty much decided I shouldn’t have been

born after I was born. Look Ben, if you and Adrian don't want Adrian to have the baby because you don't want Amy to find out that's probably not a good reason. If you're looking for a reason." Ben – "We don't have a reason. We just don't want a baby. Neither of us wants a baby. But I don't know if Adrian having the abortion is the right thing or the wrong thing. I honestly don't." Ricky – "Stop judging. Just go with what is and stop judging. You don't know if something bad will come of this or if something good will come of not going through with the pregnancy. I mean maybe it's a future Mother Teresa that's not gonna be born or maybe a future Hitler that's not gonna be born. No one knows. You can't know." Ben – "Then what's the right thing to do? Support her decision to not have the baby or try to talk her out of it?" Ricky – "Try to live with whatever decision she makes. Alright? Whatever is, is, and life goes on." Ben – "Or it doesn't."

### Season 3 Episode 10 – My Girlfriend's Back

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity	Making out		Making out	Making out		
# of Sexual Partners	1		1	1		
Birth Control	Yes					
Type of Birth Control	Birth Control Pills					
View of Sex				Positive		
View of Pregnancy		Negative			Positive	
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity		Yes	Yes		Yes	
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control		N/A			N/A	
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy		Positive – want Ben to marry Adrian Yes – missed being in relationship w/ Amy b/c having			Positive (dad) – want Adrian to marry Ben Yes – missed being in relationship w/ Ricky b/c having	
Missed Opportunities*:						

a baby w/ Adrian

a baby w/ Ben

## School Activities

Yes – not  
friends with  
Amy

## Friendships

## Other

\*Examples\*:

Amy got to go to a band program in New York because she was a teenage mother – an opportunity that she wouldn't have had if she weren't a teenage mother.

42:17 – Amy – “I would want an exclusive relationship. And even then I would insist you to get test for HIV and anything else before we had sex again. And I would still want to use condoms.” Ricky – “Well I would want you to be one the Pill.” Amy – “I am on the Pill.” Ricky – “Why, why are you on the Pill?” Amy – “Because of you. Because I know what can happen, and it's never going to happen unintentionally again.”

## Season 3 Episode 11 – Lady Liberty

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity			Making out	Sex		
# of Sexual Partners			1	1		
Birth Control						
Type of Birth Control						
View of Sex						
View of Pregnancy		Positive			Positive	
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity		Yes	Yes*			

Parents' aware  
of Childrens use  
of Birth Control

N/A

Parents' view of  
Teenage  
Pregnancy

Positive

Missed  
Opportunities\*:

School Activities

Madison not  
friends with Amy  
– thinks she's a  
bad influence

Yes – not  
friends with  
Amy anymore

Friendships

Other

\*Examples\*:

32:47 – Ben – “I’m thinking about marrying Adrian. I just feel compelled to marry her.” Jack – “Because of the baby?” Ben – “Yeah. Sort of. And because I think its unfair Amy’s getting back with Ricky. I mean I think she is. I have a feeling she is. Why couldn’t I just have gotten her pregnant instead of Adrian?” Jack – “Wasn’t she already pregnant when you met her?” Ben – “Yes. Yes, she was but I fell in love with her anyway.”

\*34:15 – Grant – “We could have a pants-off dance off.” Grace – “Really? That sounds fun.” Grant – “Or we could just dance, because I have a feeling if anything comes off we’ll get ourselves into a situation we can’t get out of.” Grace – “And what situation would that be?” Grant – “That situation would be sex.” Grace – “Yeah. I don’t wanna have sex.” Grant – “I wanna have sex but it may be a little early in the relationship to have sex. Besides we have the whole summer to have sex at med camp.” Mrs. Bowman – “Do they even check to see if the car’s in the driveway? No. They hear we’re out for the evening, and they think we’re out for the evening. Did you hear that?” Dr. Zegay – “No I didn’t hear that. What didn’t I hear?” Mrs. Bowman – “He said they have the whole summer to have sex at med camp. Yeah, that’s what he said that –that Grant.” Dr. Zegay – “Well, he’s right, you know? They do.”

## Season 3 Episode 16 – Mirrors

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity						
# of Sexual Partners						
Birth Control						
Type of Birth Control						
View of Sex	Positive		Negative	Positive		
View of Pregnancy		Positive			Positive	
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity		Yes		Yes (adopted)– knows he got tested for STI's		
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control		N/A				
Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy						
Missed Opportunities*:		Yes –wants to marry Adrian b/c she's pregnant		Yes – w/ Nora (mom) b/c he doesn't want his mom to cause any custody problems (felony)		
School Activities						
Friendships						
Other						
*Examples*:						

10:35 – Adrian –“Oh, just go get the test if that's what Grant wants.” Grace –“No. And I'm not showing my face at that school.” Adrian –“Oh, Grace, come on.” Grace –“No, you come on.”

31:33 – Grace –“I'm like some disease-carrying skank. I don't know why you want to talk to me.” Grant –“Disease-carrying skank, huh? Will you be using terms like that with your patients?” Grace –“What patients? Why do you think I'm gonna be a doctor?” Grant –“I just spent six weeks with you at med camp. It's a camp with accelerated classes for qualified students who have an interest in medicine.”

Grace – “Well I don’t have an interest anymore. I feel stupid and dirty.” Grant – “Wow.” Grace – “You can go now.” Grant – “I’m not going anywhere. Am I suppose to say that I don’t care what Jack said? We should just ignore what he said? Because I can’t ignore what he said, and obviously you can’t ignore what he said. He was being honest. He’s been exposed to some infection, so best to see if you were exposed and then if you were, you take care of that and then move on. But, it’s not likely that you were.” Grace – “But, I might have been.” Grant – “Yeah. That happens. But, even if it did happen best to know. It wouldn’t change anything between us.” Grace – “Just knowing I had a reason to get tested for an STI changes everything between us. Because it changes how I feel about myself alright?” Grant – “No, not alright, you can’t let Jacks adventures wreck your self-esteem Grace, come on. Yeah this is that part in the lecture from your mom when she mentions emotional damage. Sex in high school leading to emotional damage. Come on this STI thing is the downside, but there’s definitely an upside to having sex.” Grace – “I’m never going to take that chance again so if that’s all you want, just stay away from me okay? Stay away from me.”

42:00 – Ben wants to get married to Adrian

### Season 3 Episode 19 – Deeper and Deeper

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male Making out
Sexual Activity	Kiss	Kiss	Sex	Kiss	Kiss	
# of Sexual Partners	1	1	1	1	1	1
Birth Control			Yes			
Type of Birth Control			Pill & Condoms			
View of Sex	Positive		Positive	Positive	Positive	
View of Pregnancy		Positive	Positive		Positive	
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity		Yes	Yes		Yes	
Parents' aware of Childrens use of Birth Control		N/A	Yes		N/A	

# Parents' view of Teenage Pregnancy

Missed  
Opportunities\*:

Yes – moving out  
of his house into  
a condo

Not going to  
go to college –  
going to work.

Yes – moving out  
of her house into  
a condo

## School Activities

## Friendships

## Other

\*Examples\*:

21:00 – Grace actually talks to her mother about having sex and what she thinks about it.

40:00 – Amy's parents view of her living with Ricky and the whole situation.

## Season 3 Episode 25 – To Be...

	Amy Juergens	Ben Boykewich	Grace Bowman	Ricky Underwood	Adrian Lee	Jack Pappas
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sexual Activity	Kissing	Kissing		Kissing	Kissing	Making out
# of Sexual Partners	1	1		1	1	1
Birth Control						
Type of Birth Control						
View of Sex	Negative	Positive		Positive	Positive	
View of Pregnancy		Positive			Positive	
Parents' aware of Sexual Activity				Yes – knows Ricky wants to have sex with Amy		

Parents' aware  
of Childrens use  
of Birth Control

Parents' view of  
Teenage  
Pregnancy

Missed  
Opportunities\*:

Yes – can't  
sleep

Yes – can't  
sleep

School Activities

Yes – late for  
school

Yes – late for  
school

Friendships

Lauren  
doesn't like  
Ricky.

Other

\*Examples\*:

36:00 – Sex was wrong for our relationship. Dating without sex – could it work?