

## SOCIOMETRICS PROJECT No. 17

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### TRANSMITTING RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TEENS TO TEENS PHASE I

Prior to this project, there had been no systematic attempt to transmit research information about the incidence, antecedents, and consequences of out-of-wedlock pregnancy and childbearing to teenagers. This project aimed to address this gap. The feasibility of printed and microcomputer-based modes of transmitting research knowledge to teens was explored. Prototypes for six products were developed under this Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I contract, and produced under a Phase II contract (Project No. 19).

*Product 1, Letters to Dr. Know.* The Book consists of about 75 letters written by teenagers to Dr. Know. Letters and answers focused on sexual decision-making, contraceptive decision-making, pregnancy-related issues, and parenting-related questions.

*Product 2, The Illustrated Facts Book.* Words, graphs, and charts bring salient research facts home to policy makers, parents, teachers, and older teens. The goal of this product is to provide older teens, and adults who live and work with teens, with facts that might prove useful to sexual, contraceptive, pregnancy, and parenting decision-making.

*Product 3, The Index Quiz Book.* A quiz-book format transmits important facts about teenage sexuality, contraception, pregnancy, and parenting.

*Product 4, The Microcomputer Wheel Game.* This game for Apple Macintosh computers teaches teens about chance and probability. Teens go through daily life scenes making sexual and contraceptive decisions, and spin a wheel of chance reflecting real probabilities of pregnancy given the set of choices made.

*Products 5 and 6, The Microcomputer Version of Products 1 and 3.* Microcomputer-game versions of the Book of Letters and the Index Quiz Book were also produced.

The three microcomputer-based prototypes were developed on an Apple Macintosh computer using the Macintosh's Hypercard system and taking advantage of the Macintosh's graphic and sound capabilities.

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