

The guttmacher institute



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Guttmacher Institute is quite full of studies on HIV, STI??™s, or STD??™s, and let us not forget the abortion or ??? unintended??? pregnancy, depending the era one may have grown up in. birth control, condoms, the use of both condoms and some type of birth control. There are also many groups out there that are challenging the Guttmacher Institutes methods of research and the possibility of contradictory results, challenge the crystalline image that they have manifested over the years. I cannot in all honesty say that I am in agreement with some of these so called researches on contraceptives, sex response studies, abortion rates, etc??; it appears to me that most of the Guttmacher Institutes research is conducted in third world countries and in poverty stricken areas of the United States.

The United States Conference of Bishops, in 2006 stated that ??? The report (GI) tries to maintain an impossible balancing act: claiming the goal of reducing abortions, while at the same time calling for more aggressive promotion of abortion services??? (McQuade, 2006, ?¶ 02). The Guttmacher Institute appears to do most of its research in low income areas and health clinics. The Guttmacher Institute states in an article on abortion that ??? women at risk of having a repeat abortion share many of the same characteristics as women at risk of having a repeat unintended birth, including age, number of prior births, and race and ethnicity??? (Cohen, 2007, ?¶ 07).

Here in lies the age old debate of church and science clashing heads yet again. Presidential candidate, Herman Cain, was recently on the Sunday morning show, Face the Nation, in this interview Mr. Cain stated that Planned Parenthood clinics are intentionally set up in African American areas. Mr. Cain further states that these clinics ??? are intentionally placed in black neighborhoods to perpetrate genocide??? (Gray, 2011). During a question and answer period conducted by host, Bob Schieffer, Mr. Cain was asked if he had any proof to these allegations, and he quoted Margaret Sanger from back in the early 1900??™s, she stated that ??? Look at where most of them were built ??” 75% of those facilities were built in the black community??? (Gray). And while she did not use the word genocide, she referred to the fact that this would reduce the number of black births.

Mr. Gray ended his article with some ??? quick facts??? from the Guttmacher Institute. And according to the Institute, there are more Planned Parenthood clinics in predominantly white neighborhoods. That the median income for women who choose to have abortions is below the poverty level and, according to Guttmacher Institute the abortion rate is higher in white women than that of African-Americans and the Latina community (Gray, 2011). So who is right and who is wrong Guttmacher feels that they are doing a service with all this sexually related research that they are doing, what with pushing the issue of not only using some sort of birth control while having sexual relations, but also to the use of condoms at the same time to help prevent STI??™s and the spread of HIV infection. This is a good thing. The fact that the Guttmacher Institute is also educating women in third world countries

like Zambia, Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, and other countries is admirable.

Their attempt at doing research here in the United States has been limited to persons living below poverty levels, Public Health clinics, phone surveys, and some clinical research. This information has been inconclusive to say the least. The people chosen for these clinical trials on ??? safe sex??? and condom use again inconclusive; the Guttmacher Institute believes that many of their ??? subjects??? in the initial interview stage or through a written questionnaire may be entirely honest or answer according to what they feel the researchers want to see or hear (Becker, December 1999). It appears that through all the research that I went through, there is much controversy on the research methods of the Guttmacher Institute and, as they have stated themselves, that their research is inconclusive in many cases because of the limited number of social groups that partake of their research.

The Guttmacher Institute claims that ???” Behind almost every abortion in the United States is an unintended pregnancy. Therefore, efforts to reduce unintended pregnancy will reduce the number of abortions” (McQuade, 2006). To which the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops responded in part ??? To be sure, behind most abortions (and many live births) was an unintended pregnancy. But as GIs own data suggest, simply making “ efforts” to reduce pregnancies does not mean one will reduce abortions??? (McQuade).

In conclusion, while I found some articles of interest at the Guttmacher Institute, there appears to be too much controversy surrounding the validity

of their research methods and results. There is so much more to sexual research than say, contraceptives, unintended pregnancies, abortions, and HIV and STI research. While these things are naturally very important, without the validity of the research methods and it appears that all their research is geared towards minorities and third world countries. I believe that if they were able to attract a larger demographic area, poverty level participants just do not cover the population as a whole.

James 1: 14-15 states ??? But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death??? (KJV, 1984).

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