

Adolescent Contraceptive Use: Does the Opinion of Female Medical Practitioners in Nigeria differ from the rest of the world?


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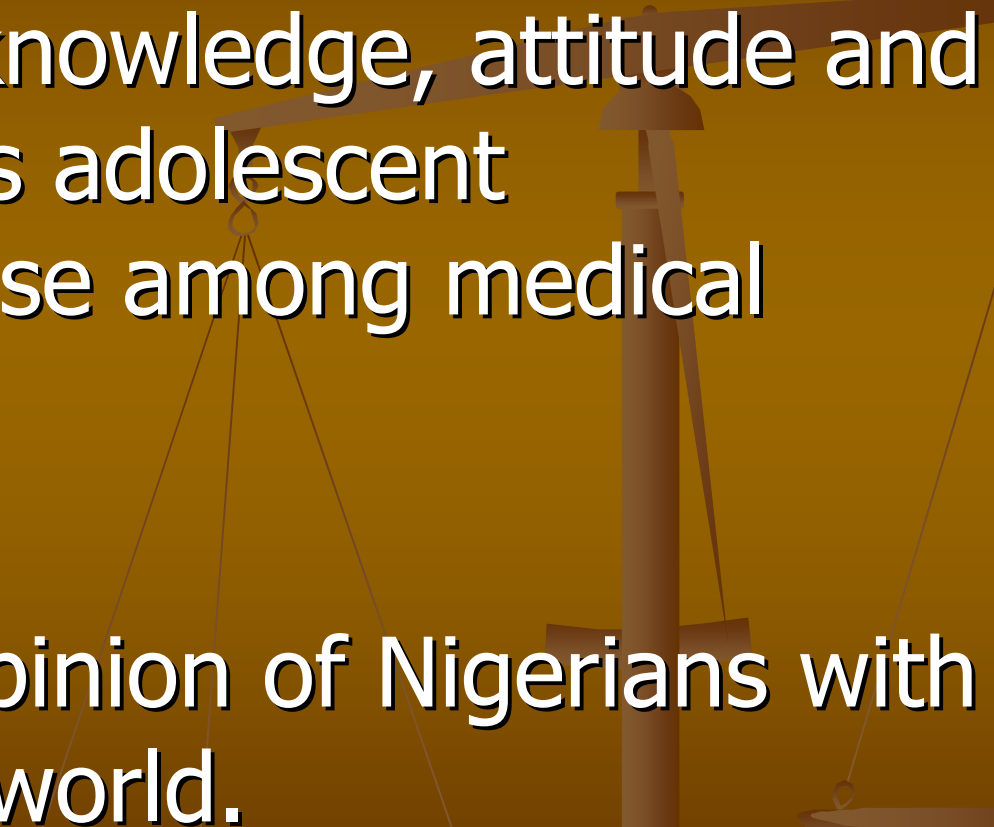
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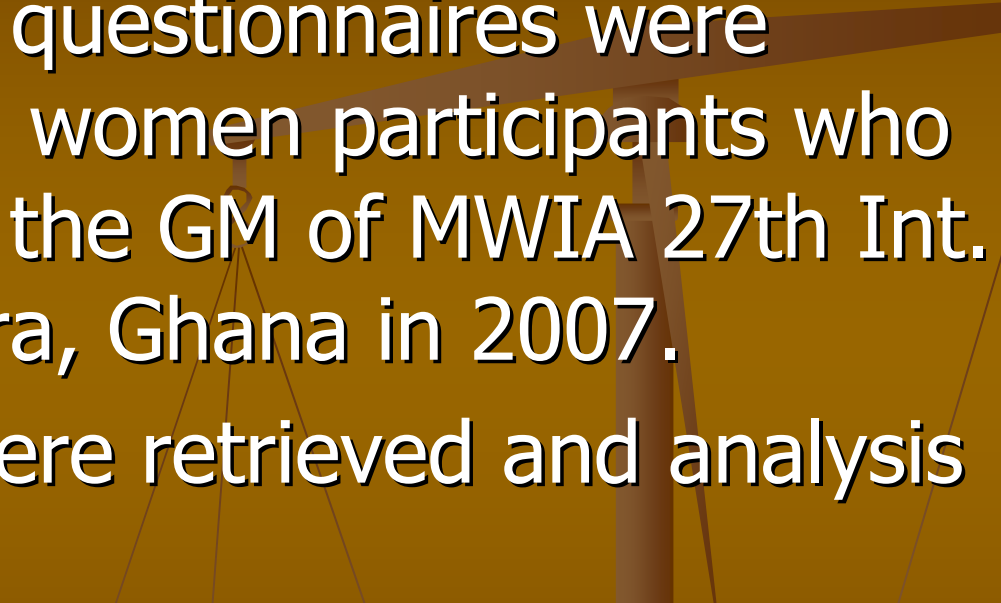
Background

- About 16 million adolescent girls give birth each year, roughly 11 % of all births worldwide.
 - 95% of these births occur in developing countries. Nigeria has one of the highest adolescent fertility rates.
 - Nigeria also suffers from one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world.
 - A large percentage of these deaths are teenage mothers.
 - Teenage pregnancy has witnessed an increase globally and this was attributed to less effective use of contraceptives by sexually active teens.
 - Health provider's attitude has been cited as impediments to accessibility of contraceptives.
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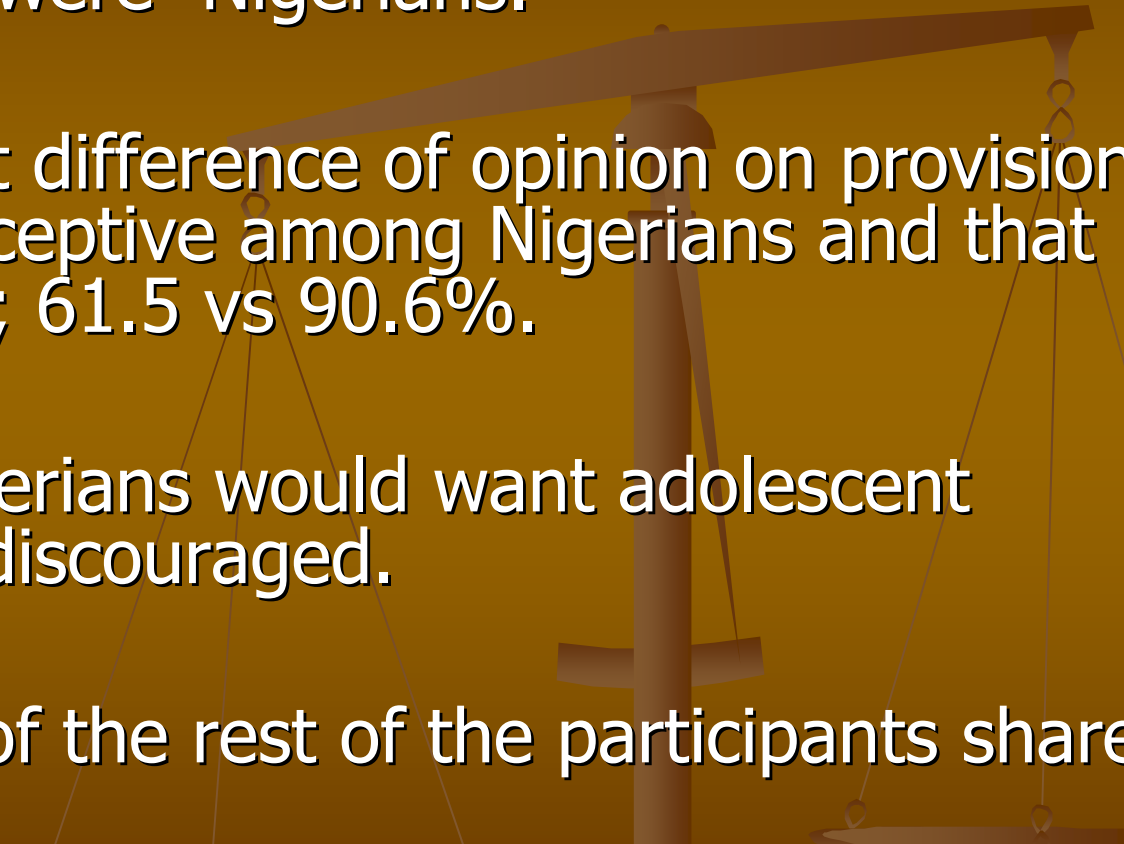
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To assess the knowledge, attitude and opinion towards adolescent contraceptive use among medical women.
 - Compare the opinion of Nigerians with the rest of the world.
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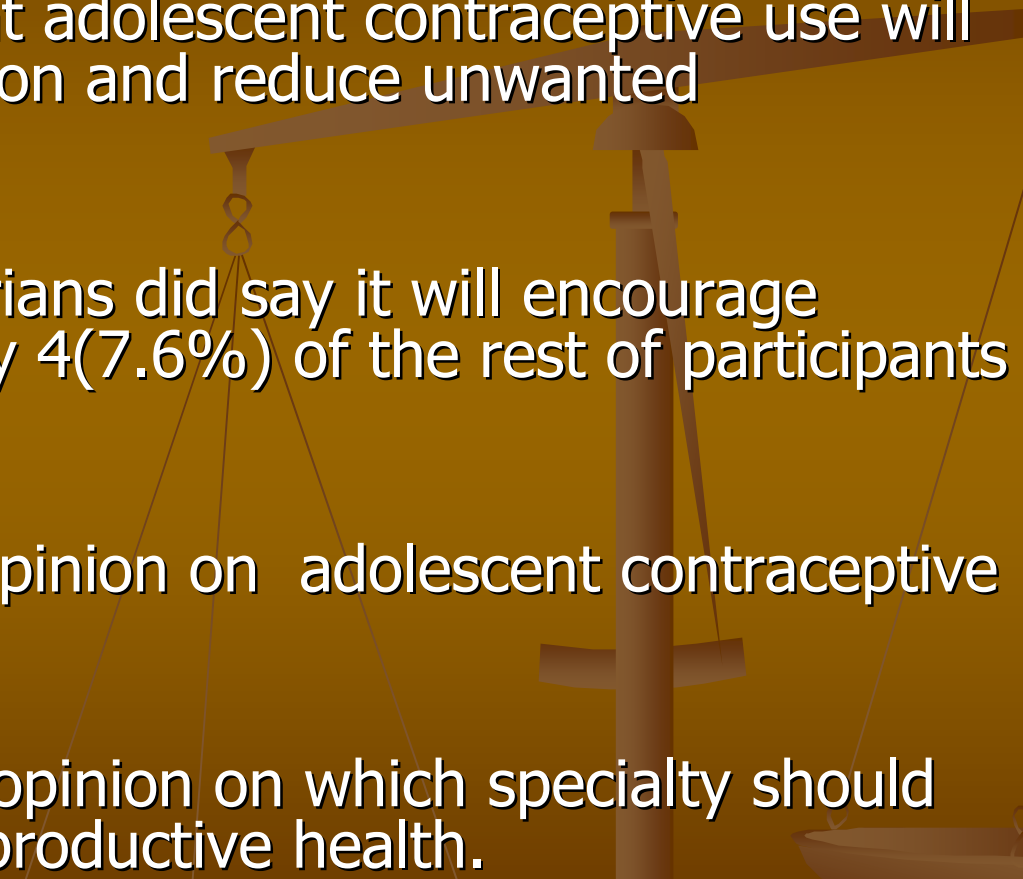
MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Semi structured questionnaires were distributed to all women participants who were present at the GM of MWIA 27th Int. congress at Accra, Ghana in 2007.
 - A total of 123 were retrieved and analysis using Epi-info.
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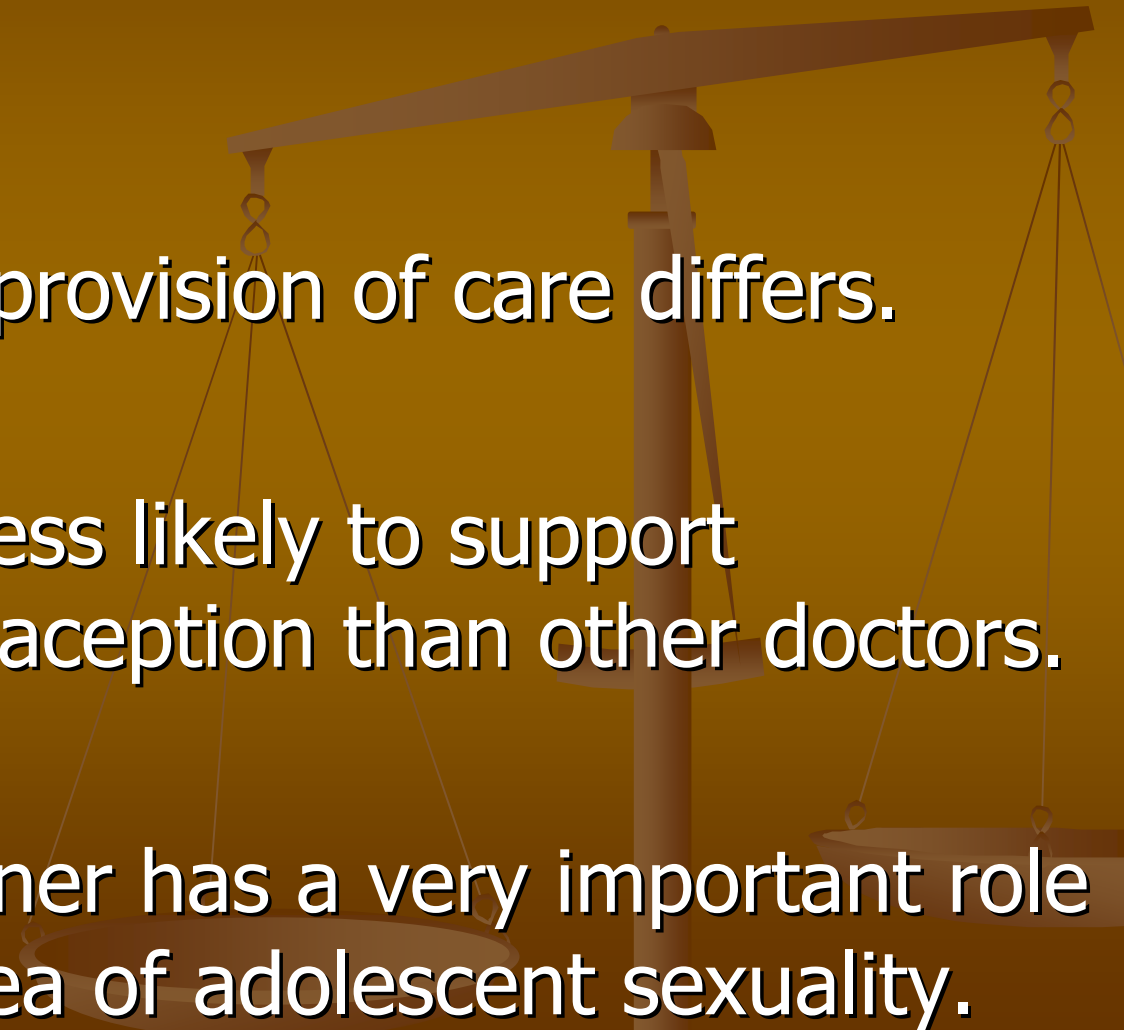
RESULTS

- The mean age of participants was 43.6 ± 12.48 . Age ranged from 23 to 73 years. Participants were from 22 countries. 105 (85.4%) were medical practitioners, out of which 52 (49.5%) were Nigerians.
 - There was significant difference of opinion on provision of adolescent contraceptive among Nigerians and that from other countries; 61.5 vs 90.6%.
 - 16 of 52 (30.8%) Nigerians would want adolescent contraception to be discouraged.
 - Only 2 of 53 (3.8%) of the rest of the participants share same opinion.
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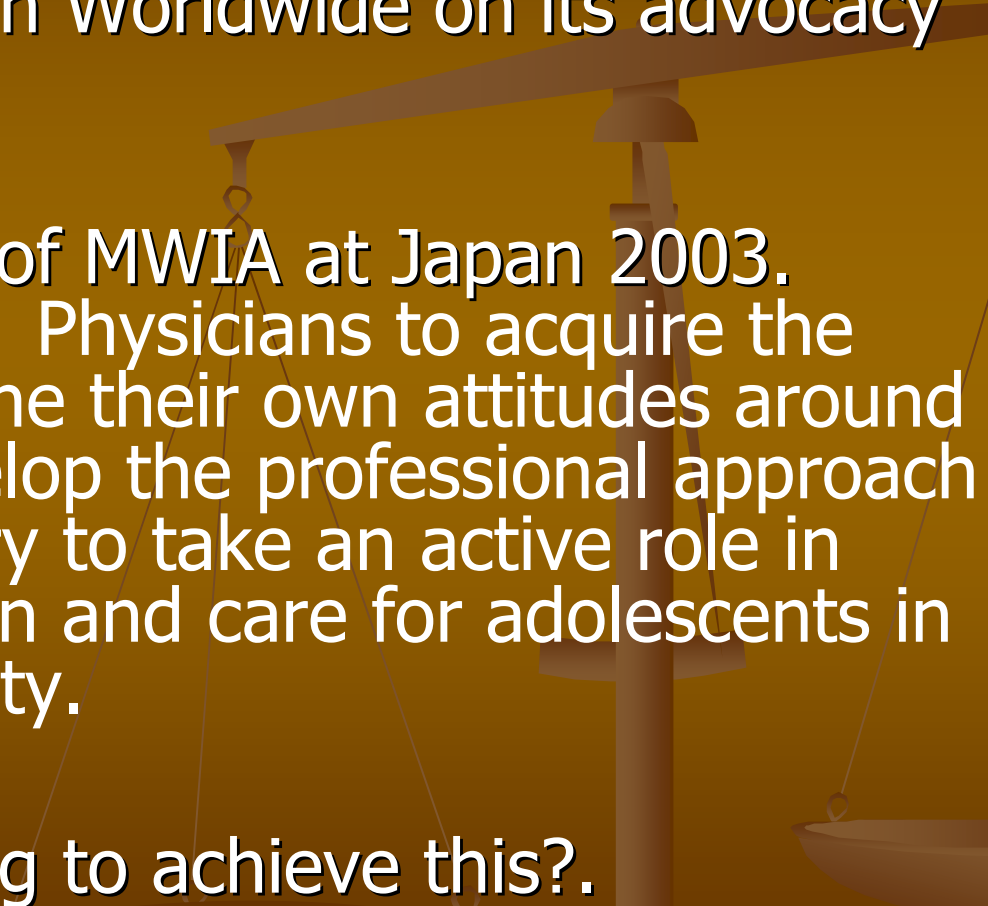
Results cont.

- Majority indicated that adolescent contraceptive use will prevent unsafe abortion and reduce unwanted pregnancy.
 - Eleven (12.1%) Nigerians did say it will encourage promiscuity while only 4(7.6%) of the rest of participants shared same opinion.
 - Specialty influences opinion on adolescent contraceptive use.
 - There was divergent opinion on which specialty should handle adolescent reproductive health.
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DISCUSSION

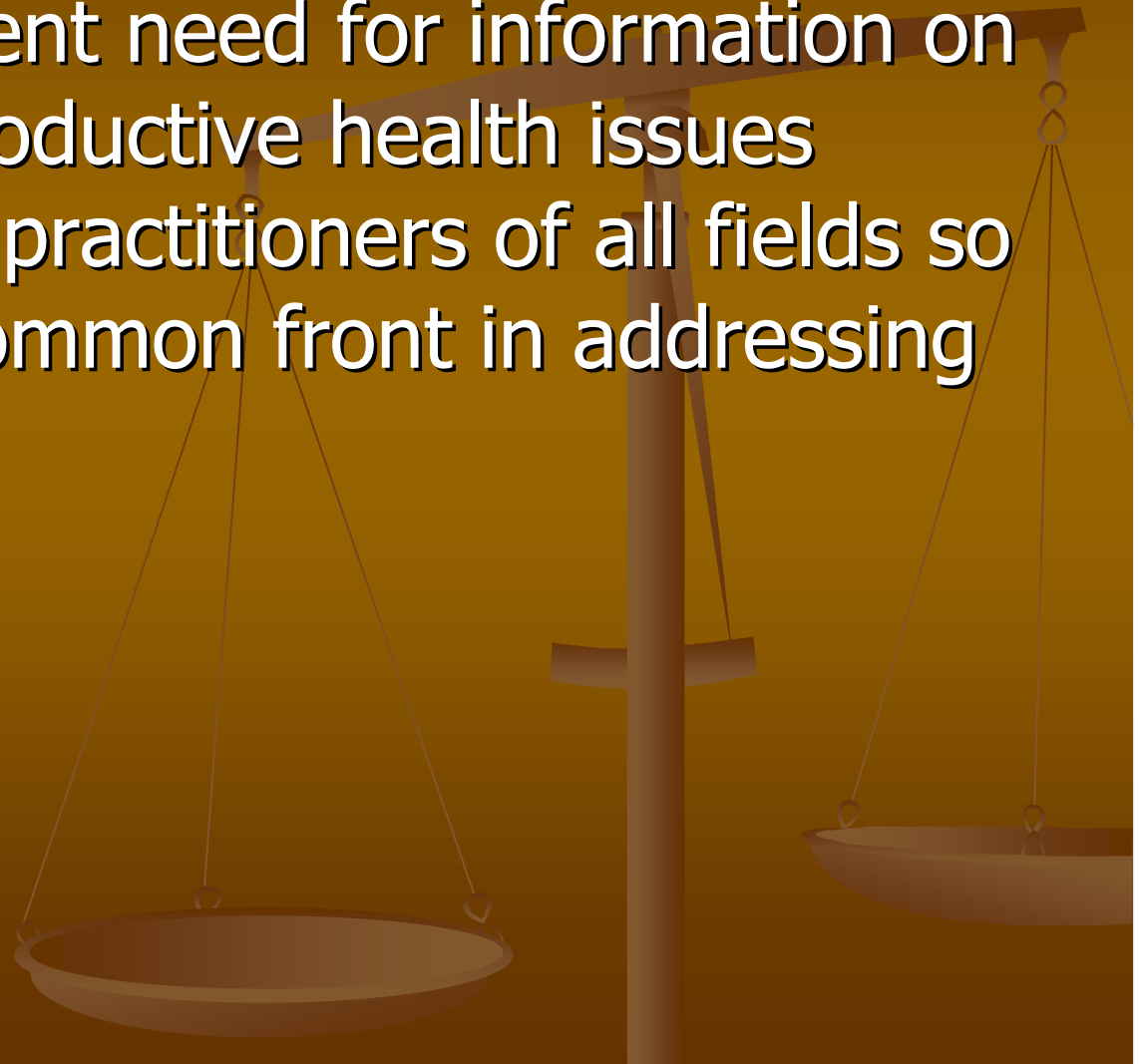
- knowledge of adolescent reproductive health issue is high among female doctors round the world,
 - Opinion on the provision of care differs.
 - Nigerians were less likely to support adolescent contraception than other doctors.
 - Medical practitioner has a very important role to play in the area of adolescent sexuality.
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DISCUSSION CONT.

- Where there is porous information on this issue there is bound to be counter productivity on the effort of the Medical Women Worldwide on its advocacy work.
 - The 3rd resolution of MWIA at Japan 2003. MWIA encourages Physicians to acquire the knowledge, examine their own attitudes around sexuality and develop the professional approach and skills necessary to take an active role in providing education and care for adolescents in the area of sexuality.
 - What are we doing to achieve this?.
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CONCLUSION

- There is an urgent need for information on adolescent reproductive health issues among medical practitioners of all fields so as to present common front in addressing these issues.





THANK YOU

REFERENCES

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 - Susan Tortolero, PhD, director, Center for Health Promotion & Prevention Research, University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston.
 - Valerie Huber, executive director, National Abstinence Education Association.
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