Dear Researchers:

We have another client this week. (The economy is hopefully finally picking up!-though the Federal and state budgets are running big deficits). It’s actually two clients with the same concern. Planned Parenthood and The Children’s Defense Fund are very concerned with a proposal of the current Bush administration to eliminate funding/federal support for school based pregnancy prevention programs and services. The Feds are arguing that these kinds of programs and services don’t belong in schools; that teen pregnancy rates have been falling and such programs are no longer needed; that such programs condone & encourage active sexuality among young people who have no business engaging in sexual intimacy; and finally that such action on the part of the state is immoral since the state should be encouraging responsible sexual expression [only] in marriage.

Our clients on the other hand are certain that the need for these programs continues. Our job is to help them make that case. We need to demonstrate that teen pregnancy and births haven’t disappeared and continue to be an issue affecting teens and schools even at this millennial moment.

We want you to make such a case for two school districts, or cities/counties, in one or a couple of states. I.e., pick a state (or two); two cities/counties per group, and then two school districts within those cities/counties. I.e., two cases per group. Bear in mind that larger districts are likely to have more pregnancies than smaller ones; likewise poorer districts/counties are likely to have more of a problem than more affluent ones.

As per usual, you have a week for this. i.e., it is due next Fri. 4/2/04. This is a preliminary contract. We will pay you your usual rate, (up to $2000). If the client is satisfied with the results, a bigger contract will follow.

Joseph Bowes  
Benjamin Kerr  
Alex Piper
We will proceed as we did last week. I.e.,
1) Count off, so we have 3 person teams; the teams will consult, figure out what kind of case they need to make and what kind of information is needed to make that case.
2) Before class is over, we will come back to the whole group, compare notes, seek clarifications, etc. I’ll offer suggestions, pointers (to data & other resources). Then it’s off to the races. I recommend again, and for the umpteenth time that you consult the librarians at Bird’s Reference desk. They are the experts at finding sources and resources. If you can’t find the library, ask. If you are afraid of the librarians, take your partners with you. If you don’t know what to ask, first, think about what you need to know, try to find it, and then if/when you can’t locate what you need, you can tell the reference folks what you are trying to find and where you’ve already looked. Remember! to get the names of the folks you work with in Bird (you know I will ask you).
3) For next Wed. by 10:30 each team must email in a plan (no more than 2 pages, please) for solving this problem. NOTE: we are not asking for your draft report, rather we’re asking you to post your plan for the report; i.e., how you propose to draft it, what argument you think you can make, what data you’re going to use to make that case, any roadblocks you’ve run up against and can’t yet figure out how to resolve. We will discuss the respective plans in class on Wed., offer new suggestions, critiques, etc.
5) The final reports will be due next Fri. They should have the same design as this week’s project. E.g., cover/transmittal letter, Executive Summary, data driven analytical report · only as long as necessary (4-8pages). Include references/urls for your sources, & data.