

# CONVERSATION STARTERS

Ready to talk about Planned Parenthood? Here's some conversation starters to share with your guests.

## What's your funny (or cringe-worthy) story about birth control - learning about it, getting it, using it? Feel free to share a story about a friend or "a friend."

Possible answer or jumping off point:

- "The first couple times I had sex on the pill, I called my doctor \*FREAKING OUT\* convinced that I was pregnant. After the third call, she told me kindly but firmly that if I wasn't mature enough to deal with this feeling on my own, I wasn't mature enough to use the pill as my primary birth control, and I should keep using condoms until I calmed down. She was very nice about it, and eventually I got over it."

- Kate, [Byrdie.com/Birth-Control-Stories](http://Byrdie.com/Birth-Control-Stories)

## What was the craziest thing you heard about sex that turned out not to be true?

Possible answer or jumping off point:

- "You can't get pregnant if you have sex in a bath, standing up."

- 10 Mega Myths About Sex HealthForTeens.co.uk

## Who or what was your primary source of information about sex when you were growing up? How did that work for you?

Possible answer or jumping off point:

- "I was lucky to have my older sister and her best friend give me "The Talk." It was nice because I wasn't too afraid to ask them questions or talk about it with them. And I didn't have to have an embarrassing discussion with my mom."

- Claire, 24, [Wisconsin PowerToDecide.org](http://Wisconsin PowerToDecide.org)







## What words did your family use for 'penis' and 'vagina' when you were growing up? And do they make you laugh or blush to say them now?

Possible answer or jumping off point:

- "A Polish friend used "dupa" for her daughter's bottom, dupa being the Polish word for "ass."  
- [CafeMom.com/Parenting](https://www.cafemom.com/parenting)

## Why do you want to stand up for Planned Parenthood?

Possible answer or jumping off point:

- Planned Parenthood health centers provided millions of people in the U.S. with contraception, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), lifesaving cancer screenings, and safe, legal abortion. At least one in five women has relied on a Planned Parenthood health center for care in her lifetime. And no one is turned away, anyone and everyone will receive care regardless of their ability to pay.  
- [plannedparenthood.org](https://www.plannedparenthood.org)

## What do you think would happen if Planned Parenthood was defunded?

Possible answer or jumping off point:

- An example of defunding Planned Parenthood was seen in Indiana in 2013; the Indiana state government has been slashing various sources of funding to Planned Parenthood since 2011. This attack caused 5 different clinics to close across the state, none of these offered abortion services. In 2013, the Planned Parenthood in Scott County was forced to close, leaving the county's 24,000 residents without a place to receive HIV testing. This closure resulted in disaster for the county, coming to a head in 2015. An HIV outbreak overtook the county because residents were sharing opioid needles and were not getting tested. When the outbreak was at its worst, 20 new cases of HIV were being diagnosed every week. There were almost 200 cases by the time the outbreak was under control. The closing of Planned Parenthood health centers directly led to the worst HIV outbreak in Indiana history. This is one of many consequences of defunding Planned Parenthood.  
- *Defunding Planned Parenthood*





## How do you feel about Roe v. Wade being overturned?

Possible answer or jumping off point:

- 3 out of 4 Americans support access to abortion care.

## Why is Planned Parenthood important in your community?

Possible answer or jumping off point:

- “For many people, Planned Parenthood is their only source of care – making our health centers an irreplaceable component of this country’s health care system. And as experts in reproductive health care, Planned Parenthood health centers often provide family planning services that other safety-net providers simply do not offer.”

- *The Irreplaceable Role of Planned Parenthood Health Centers*,  
[plannedparenthood.org](http://plannedparenthood.org)

## If you feel comfortable, share a personal experience with Planned Parenthood.

Possible answer or jumping off point:

- “Went for concerns about my menstrual cycles. It was my first time at a Planned Parenthood and I was nervous but everyone was very welcoming and nice. My visit ended up being free, which was great and I would definitely recommend going to this location.”

- Morgan Z., *Yelp Review Planned Parenthood Mission Viejo*

## What is one thing that you can do to support Planned Parenthood?

Possible answer or jumping off point:

- Host your own house party!