

N E W M E X I C O

TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

P R E V E N T I O N • P A R E N T I N G

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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The New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition Encouraging Teens to Stop, Think, and Take Action

Albuquerque, New Mexico — The New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition has joined the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy for the **National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy**. On May 2, 2007 teens will be asked to stop, think, and take action by taking the National Day quiz.

New Mexico teens are invited to join teens around the country in taking a fun, interactive, confidential, online "quiz" that can be accessed at www.teenpregnancy.org. Unlike most quizzes teens have to take, this one includes a series of scenarios and storylines that will prompt teens to decide how they would act in risky situations involving relationships and sex. The message is simple: teens need to think about the importance of postponing pregnancy and parenthood until they are adults, and they should make a personal commitment to do so.

Why a National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy? Despite recent declines in the teen pregnancy rates, four out of ten teen girls get pregnant at least once by age twenty. Many teens still think "it can't happen to me." The National Day quiz provides a concrete activity to help break through this wall of denial and help young people understand that it *can* happen to them.

New Mexico has the 3rd highest teen birth rate in the nation. Over 4,300 New Mexico teens gave birth in 2004. Approximately 1/3 of all NM families begin with a birth to a teen parent. Babies born to teen mothers are more likely to:

- have health and developmental problems
- be physically abused, abandoned, or neglected
- have problems in school
- live in poverty
- sons are more likely to do time in jail and daughters are more likely to become teen mothers

The National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is being supported by more than 140 prominent national organizations, media outlets, businesses, associations, and youth groups. This diverse list includes founding partners *Teen People* magazine and Teen People Online, in addition to the American Medical Association, National Educational Association, American School Health Association, National League of Cities, the National Council of La Raza, March of Dimes, the National Fatherhood Initiative, Procter & Gamble, and the WB Network – to name just a few.

For more information about the New Mexico National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, contact the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition at 254-8737 or www.nmtpc.org

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