

NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

NEWS FLASH

June 2011

Welcome to the June issue of the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition's

NEWS FLASH

If you would like to be removed from the **NEWS FLASH** list, please use the connection at the end of this issue to communicate with us.

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MESSAGE FROM SYLVIA RUIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we finish another fiscal we take stock of the work that has been accomplished and recall the past year with gratitude for the many individuals who have contributed to the reductions in adolescent births in our state and the progress toward improving systems for parenting teens. While progress has been made, even if rates are declining, they are still too high!!

We are mindful of the young couple who call our agency for help a few days ago. She is 14, he is 15 and they both had been asked to leave their home by their parents because of an unintended pregnancy. When we received the call from this young couple they had already been living on the streets in Albuquerque for four days. The couples wish, was to find a facility, shelter home,

etc., that would allow them to stay together. Because of the economic environment and the drastic reduction in services for vulnerable populations we were not able to find a place that would accept the couple together. We were deeply saddened not to find a permanent resolution.... however we were able to secure Medicaid for the young woman so that she can began prenatal care immediately, WIC, food assistance, and behavioral health services were also secured. We must continue to remind policy makers that investments in adolescent Pregnancy Prevention have worked, and thus need to be continued and expanded. We continue to educate policy makers, community members, and parents that it takes years of investment, and we don't want to go back to higher rates!

Finally Muchicimas Gracias to our dedicated Board of Directors, Our FABULOUS staff, and our partners!

MESSAGE FROM THE YOUNG FATHERS PROGRAM

Young Fathers Program for the month of June went very well. We are pleased to announce the Fatherhood Training held on June 17, 2011 was a success. A concentrated effort was made to increase knowledge and resources for service providers working with young fathers. The training was designed to promote a clearer understanding of successful practices in navigating the legal processes of Filing for Visitation through District Court, Establishing Legal Paternity, Compliance and Comprehension of Child Support Enforcement and Utilization of the New Mexico Putative Fatherhood Registry. Participants from around the state were in attendance. **We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to the following presenters: Jillian Goodmacher, Child Support Enforcement, Amanda Francia, Child Support Enforcement, Gilbert Ramirez, LISW, LCSW, NMYFP - Clinical Consultant, and Rebecca Thomas, Paralegal, 2nd Judicial District Court Self Help Center.** NMYFP is in the planning stages for a second training tentatively scheduled for September. For further information you may contact our office.

Referral form for the New Mexico Young Fathers Project

If you know a struggling young father under the age of 26 – We can help! [Download the form](#) and send your referral to Jessica Tafoya, Fax (505) 254-8741 or email to comm-lia@nmtpc.org, in the **Albuquerque Area**. If you are in the **Las Cruces area**, send the referral form to Gary Madrid, gj02madrid@yahoo.com or call (575) 532-1536

For information on the Young Fathers' Project please call:

Albuquerque
Jessica Tafoya
Community Liaison
(505) 254-8737
(505) 254-8741 Fax

Las Cruces
Gary Madrid
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention
Coordinator
(575) 532-1536

Gilbert Ramirez, MSW
Clinical Consultant
(505) 254-8737

[From the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy](#)

Teen Childbearing Cost Taxpayers \$10.9 Billion

Teen childbearing in the United States cost taxpayers (federal, state, and local) at least \$10.9 billion in 2008, according to an [updated analysis](#) released today by The National Campaign. State costs in 2008 ranged from \$16 million in North Dakota to \$1.2 billion in Texas.

These public sector costs would have been considerably higher had it not been for the one-third decline in the U.S. teen birth rate between 1991 and 2008. The estimated national savings to taxpayers in 2008 alone due to the substantial decline in the teen birth rate between 1991 and 2008 is \$8.4 billion—ranging from \$3.4 million in Wyoming to \$1.4 billion in California.

"Reducing teen pregnancy not only improves the well-being of children, youth, and families, it saves taxpayer dollars," said Sarah Brown, CEO of The National Campaign to Prevent teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. "At a time when policymakers and others are intensely focused on cost-saving measures, funding proven efforts to reduce teen pregnancy is important, timely, and should be a high priority."

The new analysis updates research originally conducted by Saul Hoffman, Ph.D. of the University of Delaware and released by The National Campaign in 2006. The new analysis provides a conservative estimate of the costs of teen childbearing and is based on the increased risk of adverse consequences faced by teen mothers, fathers, and their children as compared to mothers having children at ages 20-21, controlling for many other factors.

Please visit www.TheNationalCampaign.org/costs for more information about the public costs of teen childbearing, including a one-page summary of the data, state-specific fact sheets and press releases for all 50 states the District of Columbia, ideas for how to use the data in your community, ideas on what policymakers can do, and a recorded webinar explaining the data.

2011 National Day Was a Success!

Thanks to the work of individuals in communities, coalitions, and programs across the country and more than 200 national organizations and media outlets who served as official National Day partners, nearly 600,000 people participated in our online 2011 National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy activities—up from 550,000 in 2010.

Participants were able to take the newly-animated [National Day Quiz](#), play our [Invasion of the Myth Monsters game](#), or download a print version of the National Day Quiz from our website. In addition, National Day Quiz discussion guides for parents and teens were downloaded thousands of times.

Each year, we ask teens to tell us what they thought about the National Day Quiz in a post-quiz evaluation survey and many do. Among the findings from this year's survey:

- 72% said the Quiz made them think about what they might do in such situations;
- 62% said some of the situations in the Quiz were things that they or their friends had faced;
- 61% said they'd talk to their friends about the situations described in the Quiz; and

- 61% said the Quiz made the risks of sex and teen pregnancy seem more real to them.

Get more information about the 2011 National Day at www.TheNationalCampaign.org/national.

MTV Casting Call for *16 and Pregnant*

MTV is casting for their series [*16 and Pregnant*](#). If you know someone who is interested, that person should send contact details, including the city and state they live in, a picture, and an explanation about why they want to take part in the TV show to 16andpregnantcasting@mtvmix.com.

Funding Opportunity

On June 1, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced up to \$99 million in competitive funding under the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program as provided under the Affordable Care Act. The MIECHV competitive grants program provides two funding opportunities: (1) Expansion Grants for states and jurisdictions that have already made significant progress towards putting in place a high-quality home visiting program and are ready and able to take effective programs to scale; and (2) Development Grants for states and jurisdictions that currently have modest home visiting programs and want to build on existing efforts. **Applications are due July 1, 2011**

For more information, please visit

www.hrsa.gov/about/news/pressreleases/110601homevisiting.html.

Decisions about Funding for Teen Pregnancy Prevention are Being Made Now and Throughout the Summer – Here's What You Can Do

This summer important decisions will be made about future funding of evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs. Now is the time to educate Members of Congress on what this funding is doing in your community.

Work for FY 2012 is now underway: The House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee (which has jurisdiction over the Office of Adolescent Health Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program funding) is writing their appropriations bill for FY 2012 right now, and will debate the bill beginning July 26. We expect them to propose major funding cuts. Now is the time to tell your Members of Congress how this funding serves your community.

The House and Senate will probably not finish their work on the bill until after the August recess (August 5 to September 5) so invite your Members of Congress to visit while they are home in the state/district to learn about evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.

PREP under attack: The House Energy and Commerce Committee recently passed H.R. 1215, which would convert the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) from a mandatory five year program to a discretionary one subject to the annual appropriations process, as well as rescinding all unobligated funds. This bill could go to the House floor at any time.

Here's what you can do:

- Continue contacting your [Representatives](#) and [Senators](#) to tell them it is essential to preserve funding for programs that help prevent teen pregnancy. To do otherwise would be penny-wise and pound-foolish. Invite them to visit your program during the August recess or any time they are available this summer.
- Reach out to local media and make sure they know how these programs make a difference in your area and what would happen if they were cut or eliminated.
- Share the [new cost data](#) on teen childbearing with Members of Congress and the media.

[From the Healthy Teen Network](#)

Exhibit at *Bridging the Gender Divide!*

Healthy Teen Network's National Conference offers the unique opportunity to directly present your organization or business to hundreds of top professionals from across the nation. Check out the [2011 Conference Prospectus](#) for more details.

Pre-Conference Institutes

On Tuesday, October 11, Healthy Teen Network will host Pre-Conference Institutes where attendees can choose from four intensive all-day sessions on different topics in the field.

Topics this year include: **Muy Caliente: Tapping into the Dynamic Latino Culture for Successful Pregnancy Prevention;** **You, Me, and Baby Makes Three: Encouraging Adolescent Parents to Co-Parent;** **Real Education for Real Teens;** and **The Teen Years Explained: Taking Everyday Action to Support Healthy Development.** Full descriptions of each Pre-Conference Institute can be found in the [Preliminary Conference Brochure](#).

The fee to attend a Pre-Conference Institute is \$150 and is not included in the price of regular conference registration. Since space is limited for each institute, advance registration is highly recommended.

Plenary Sessions

Plenary sessions will be held on the following topics:

Gender Matters: Working with Youth to Explore Views of Masculinity and Femininity and Their Impact on Health Outcomes

This session, led by Engender Health, is designed to help health educators, program managers, and public health professionals understand the associations between harmful notions of masculinity and femininity and a range of poor health outcomes. The session will define what it means for a health intervention to be classified as "gender transformative" and will share examples of how programs can work with young men and women to question and redefine harmful gender norms. By the end of the session, participants will be better prepared to develop programs that address gender norms as a key determinant in preventing teenage pregnancy, improving reproductive health, reducing gender-based violence, challenging homophobia, reducing substance abuse, and improving fatherhood involvement.

What's the Real Deal about Gender, Power, and Healthy Teen Relationships?

As young people grow up, they struggle with the confines of what has been called "traditional masculinity" and "traditional femininity" whether that involves the pressure on young men to succeed in athletics, hide one's emotions, be a provider, "scoring" sexually, taking risks, or achieving power in the work world or in gang life. Young women, on the other hand, struggle with how to navigate norms that influence their experience of sexuality and desire, their autonomy and safety, and their goals and dreams. During this plenary session, the Scenarios USA Director of Education, Ernestine Heldring, and one of Scenarios USA's REAL DEAL writers and filmmakers will share highlights and lessons learned from the curricula and films. They hope to consolidate the participants' learning from the conference into ideas for practical ways to put gender and youth voice at the heart of adolescent health and violence prevention programs.

Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown

The Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown is the official hotel of *Bridging the Gender Divide*. As all workshops and conference events are being held at the Wyndham, we recommend all attendees take full advantage of the special rates offered there.

The reserved room block is expected to sell out, so we recommend you [book your room](#) as soon as possible to secure the discounted rate.

Call for Awards Nominations

Healthy Teen Network invites [nominations for awards](#) for programs, groups and individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to promote the health and well being of youth through their personal or professional efforts. **The deadline to submit nominations is June 30th.**

About Healthy Teen Network

Healthy Teen Network builds capacity among professionals and organizations through education, advocacy, and networking so that they can assist all adolescents and young adults, including teen parents, to have access to the services and education that allow them to make responsible choices about childbearing and family formation, and are supported and empowered to lead healthy sexual, reproductive, and family lives. Not yet a member? [Join today!](#)

Questions about the conference? Visit www.HealthyTeenNetwork.org or e-mail conference@healthyteennetwork.org.

Save \$100

Register by September 9, 2011 to secure the Early Bird Registration rate. After this date, all registration fees increase by \$100.

[From the Fathers and Families Coalition of America](#)

- **Fatherhood Fact:** Over 30,000,000 children in the U.S. do not have a father living with them and over one-third will not see their father at all in the next twelve months.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes.

- **Fatherhood Fact:** Over 71% of high school drop outs are from fatherless homes.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** Young children growing up without father's involvement are ten times more likely to be extremely poor.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** 85% of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders are from fatherless homes.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** The majority of teen mothers come from homes without fathers.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** 70% of juveniles in state operated institutions come from fatherless homes.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** 85% of all youths sitting in prisons grew up in a fatherless home.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** 20,000,000 children live in single parent households.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** If a father is engaged with the child for the first two years of their life 80% will stay involved.
- **Fatherhood Fact:** If we can educate parents on the differences and benefits we can have improved outcomes for children and reduce fatherlessness.

Fathers & Families Coalition of America in Review

We are proud to provide the nation's premiere and largest attended fatherhood and families conference with attendees National, U.S. Territories and Internationally. We have developed FFCA Affiliates to facilitate our vision to improve opportunities for service providers and their communities. In less than two years, we expanded with over thirty FFCA Affiliates and we invite you to join these leaders to make a difference in the lives of children and their parents. Please review the entire website, interact and develop partnerships with FFCA and our Affiliates.

The Year of RENEW-REBUILD-RESTORE-REFLECT

In 2011, the theme for Fathers & Families Coalition of America is based on four pillars for the year: **Renew –Restore –Rebuild –Reflect**. The need to help fathers, mothers, children families and communities and to restore strong families that are the fabric which our communities are built upon caused me as the humble leader of Fathers and Families Coalition to reflect on our strengths and where we can grow as an agency; collaborative relationships, and effective leaders who desire better lives for children. In 2011, we will take on new initiatives such as "The Family Man Movement," as a demonstration on the necessary renewal of a man to be righteous, responsible, and involved in his children's development. Moreover, we will offer new benefits for members that include: Savings for health care insurance, 403(b) plans, AFLAC, bi-monthly fatherhood magazine, grant development and an outstanding national evaluation team.

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

In the past year, this site had well over one million (1,250,000) hits and over 75,000 visitors monthly. These visitors represent over 80 countries, six continents and every state in the United States. Join us in supporting families as one of our new sponsors,

MISSION

FFCA has a mission to enhance the capacity of service providers throughout the nation, so they will be better equipped to effectively serve fathers, mothers and children.

VISION

FFCA strives to provide the premiere national services for those working with fathers and families. We do this by providing professional development training. We differentiate ourselves through our distinctive capacity to connect to diverse organizations and populations nationwide and internationally. This is accomplished through unique networking forums, our national

conference, professional development venues, advocacy, and collaboration development.

VALUES

1. **Relationships:** Fathers & Families Coalition was formed through the development of professional and organizational relationships in rural Arizona and we are committed to foster relationships with colleagues nationally and internationally.

2. **Trust:** We value the level of interconnectedness of our collaborative relationships. We aim to help everyone strive to make a difference in the lives of children, parents, families, and communities, as well as to build on the reliance of integrity, ability, and character of all staff, board of directors and affiliate directors who are committed to the same.

3. **Diversity:** Through the development of relationships, trust, and best practices we address opportunities for all people and communities. This diverse approach includes: rural, urban, suburban, and tribal communities working with multi-ethnic families and professionals.

4. **Best Practice:** FFCA is committed to assisting our colleagues through the highest quality professional development opportunities that we anticipate will facilitate best practice organizations and services for fathers, mothers, children families and communities.

Each month the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition provides a review of the research and policy reports distributed by National and Local Resources for your information only. The information, and comments expressed in the News Flash as well as any of the information distributed do not necessarily reflect the position of the NMTPC or its funders. Therefore, NMTPC assumes no responsibility for the concepts expressed in this [NEWS FLASH](#).

[From New Mexico Voices for Children](#)

Dangerous and Unfair Proposals in Congress must be Stopped!!

Time Frame: This Week – Vote may be Today!

Issue: This week, the US Senate will be considering three dangerous proposals. We must contact our senators and urge them to vote “NO” on these plans because they are bad for kids, bad for families and bad for the country.

Background:

1. The House-Passed Budget –The Senate will be debating the House-passed budget (known as the Ryan plan) that includes the proposal to slash Medicaid and replace Medicare with vouchers, while extending tax breaks for millionaires.
2. Global Spending Cap -This proposal would impose a global limit on federal spending. While this may not sound like a bad idea, it is a drastically one-sided approach to cutting the national debt that puts the burden on middle-class and working families by requiring deep cuts instead of increased revenues. This cap would also make it more difficult for

the country to rebound after another economic recession; it curtails essential government programs that preserve jobs and spending power during economic decline.

3. The Toomey budget proposal -Senator Toomey (R-PA) has drafted a budget that cuts even more than the House plan. It targets human-needs programs like food stamps/SNAP, Unemployment Insurance, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families by setting fixed annual spending caps, and slashing domestic programs back to FY 2006 levels, a deeper cut than the House budget proposes. This plan also reduces tax rates for the wealthiest and for corporations.

These proposals are utterly damaging to America's kids, families, working class, and New Mexico's future, and as such they are unacceptable. They hurt the people who are already hurting and help those who need help the least of all. This is not what the public trust that is democracy is all about. The only way to responsibly close the deficit is to roll back tax cuts for the rich – not to pull the rug out from the rest of us.

Action Needed:

- Sign this [petition](#) by Families USA urging the Senate to vote NO on the Ryan proposal passed by the House.
- Send this [letter](#) by the Coalition on Human Needs to oppose the Toomey budget proposal.
- CALL, FAX or EMAIL your Senators:
- E-mail Sen. Jeff Bingaman at senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov; call 202-224-5521; or fax 202-224-2852.
- E-mail Sen. Tom Udall via a form on his website (<http://tomudall.senate.gov/contact/contact.cfm>); call 202-224-6621; or fax 202-228-3261.

What you Might Say: *As your constituent, I do NOT SUPPORT drastic cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and other human-needs programs while increasing tax breaks for the super rich. Please stand up for kids, working families, and the future of our county by voting **NO** on the House Budget, Global Spending Cap, and Toomey Proposal. Thank you!*

New Mexico Voices for Children
2340 Alamo Ave. SE, Suite 120
Albuquerque, NM 87106-3523
p 505-244-9505
f 505-244-9509

[From Parents Reaching Out](#)

Family to Family Health Information Center (F2FHIC) Celina Murchio, F2FHIC Specialist

Health care reform and the economy are producing rapid changes in our health care systems.

At the F2FHIC we are here to help you figure out what these changes mean for you and your family. As we get updated information on health care reform we are adding it to our program's web page - <http://www.parentsreachingout.org/programs/f2fhic/> so keep checking back for updates. If you would like individual help to find out what health care reforms mean for you and your family, give the F2FHIC a call at Parents Reaching Out – 1-800-524-5176.

The Affordable Care Act will be implemented in various phases through 2014. Some provisions of the new law took effect for health plans beginning on or after September 23, 2010. Here are some highlights of the provisions that are already in place:

- Children under the age of 19 who have pre-existing conditions and have been denied health insurance are now eligible for coverage through the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool, Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan. To get more details, you can visit the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool website - <http://www.nmmip.org>. This office also administers the high-risk pool for individuals who have been unable to get insurance due to a “high risk” condition/diagnosis.
- Young adults under 26 are allowed to stay on their parents' health insurance plans.
- Insurance Companies can not take away coverage or deny payment for services due to an error, or other technical mistake, on a customer's application.

In addition, there are now protections against annual and lifetime limits on insurance coverage. The government has developed a website devoted to providing information about health care reform. On the website - <http://www.healthcare.gov/index.html> you can find a timeline which details when other elements of the Affordable Care Act will be in effect as well as links to information about insurance options in each state.

On November 19, 2010 the New Mexico Department of Health announced cuts to the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Program. The DD Waiver Program is an optional Medicaid program that provides services to about 3,700 people with developmental disabilities in New Mexico so they can live as independently as possible in the community. Some changes will begin on January 1, 2011. Individuals' annual budgets will be cut 8%, which will be offset by a 5% rate reduction for all providers, including residential care and non-residential care such as therapies, skill building, and care during the day. The cuts will also eliminate many goods and services, such as club memberships and certain types of devices and supplies (batteries for hearing aids, books, and computers).

The F2FHIC participates in public meetings run by the New Mexico Department of Health which is in charge of making long-term changes to the DD Waiver Program that will go into effect in 2011. We will keep you updated through emails and our website as the year progresses.

Parents Reaching Out
1920 B Columbia Dr. SE
Albuquerque, NM, 87106
1 (800) 524-5176 or (505) 247-0192

Back issues of **NEWS FLASH** are available at our web site.

If you want to be **removed** from the **NEWS FLASH** monthly list serve, [click here to email us](#)

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NEWS FLASH is funded by grants from
New Mexico Department of Health Family Planning Program