

NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

NEWS FLASH

April 2005

Welcome to the April issue of the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition's
NEWS FLASH

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A. What If? Study

[Declining Teen Birth Rates Contribute to Improvements in Child Well-Being in New Mexico
First-Ever State Specific Analysis Released](#)

(Washington, DC) — Declining teen birth rates have significantly improved overall child well-being in New Mexico, all states, and the District of Columbia, according to a new state-by-state analysis released by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Specifically, declines in the teen birth rate have played a major role in improving child poverty in New Mexico. That is, child poverty would have been worse in 2002 if the teen birth rate in New Mexico had not declined between 1991 and 2002.

Between 1991 and 2002, the national teen birth rate declined 30%. The teen birth rate in New Mexico declined 22% during the same time period (2002 is the most recent year for which state data

are available). This new research asks the question: "What if teen birth rates in each state had not declined between 1991 and 2002?" In New Mexico, if the teen birth rate had not declined:

- Over 7,700 additional children under age 18 would have been born to teen mothers between 1991 and 2002.
- Over 2,500 (or 5%) more children under age 6 would have been living in poverty in 2002. New Mexico's percentage improvement in the number of children living in poverty **ranks 40th** in the nation.
- Nearly 2,300 (or 7%) more children under age 6 would have been living in single mother households in 2002. New Mexico's percentage improvement in the number of children living in single mother households **ranks 43rd** in the nation.

The analysis also estimates that the decline in the teen birth rate in New Mexico between 1991 and 2002 resulted in:

- A 2% improvement in the state's poverty rate for children under age six in 2002, and
- A 4% improvement in the proportion of children under age six living in a single-mother household in 2002.

"National and state investments in teen pregnancy prevention pay huge dividends," said Sarah Brown, Director of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. "As this analysis clearly shows, preventing teen pregnancy is one of the most direct and effective ways states can reduce poverty and improve overall child well-being."

Despite the impressive strides all states made in reducing the teen birth rate between 1991 and 2002, and the important contribution this progress has made to improving the number of children living in poverty and in single parent families, there is still much work to be done. The U.S. still has the highest rate of teen pregnancy among comparable countries and one in three girls in this country become pregnant by age 20. "If all states can continue to bring down teen pregnancy and birth rates, the prospects of this generation of children and the next will greatly improve," said Brown.

The National Campaign's new state analysis uses methods developed by the U.S. Congress' Joint Economic Committee in a report released by the Ways & Means Committee in April 2004. It was made possible by a generous grant from the United Health Foundation.

For more information, including detailed fact sheets for each state, charts showing state rankings and racial and ethnic breakdowns, and the methodology used in this analysis, visit www.teenpregnancy.org

About the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy The National Campaign is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization supported primarily by private donations. Our mission is to improve the well-being of children, youth, and families by reducing teen pregnancy.

About the United Health Foundation United Health Foundation was established in 1999 by UnitedHealth Group as a nonprofit, private foundation. Its support of this new research is evidence of United Health Foundation's commitment to providing information to support the health and medical decisions made by physicians, health professionals, community leaders, and individuals that lead to better health outcomes and healthier communities. Visit www.unitedhealthfoundation.org for more information.

B. Lifetime Television's "Mom at Sixteen" Gives Parents and Teens a Lot to Talk About

When it comes to talking to teens about sex, sometimes the hardest part is getting the conversation started. Lifetime television's original movie "Mom at Sixteen" offers a great opportunity for parents and teens to talk about sex, relationships, and teen pregnancy. On Monday, March 21, Lifetime television aired the movie and encouraged parents to watch the movie with your teen and use our discussion guide to help you get started.

Lifetime's original movie, "Mom at Sixteen," is a moving drama about a teen mom, 16-year-old Jacey, whose well-meaning mother forces her to keep the birth a secret and decides to raise the baby as her own. A caring guidance counselor discovers Jacey's secret and tries to help. Family tension and Jacey's own struggles lead to an unexpected outcome for everyone involved.

For more information about the movie, visit www.lifetimetv.com

C. Playing Catch-Up: How Children Born to Teen Mothers Fare

Children of teen mothers aged 17 and younger begin kindergarten with lower levels of school readiness than those children born to older mothers, according to new research published by the National Campaign. Playing Catch-Up: How Children Born to Teen Mothers Fare, also notes that children born to mother aged 18-19 do not perform much better on most measures than children born to mothers 17 and younger.

The report, by Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Jennifer Manlove and Kristin Moore of Child Trends, examines how children of teen mothers fare on such measures as math and reading scores, language and communication skills, social skills and physical and emotional well-being. The paper concludes that children born to mothers aged 17 and younger perform worse on 19 of 26 measures when compared to mothers age 20 and over. When taking into account such background characteristics as mother's marital status, family structure, and family socioeconomic status, the effects of the mother's age diminishes but remains important.

The 28-page publication contains a three-page summary and a one-page chart showing which measures children born to young mothers perform poorly on compared to children born to older mothers. The publication is the latest research published as part of the Campaign's "Putting What Works to Work Project" (PWWTW).

[2. New from Advocates for Youth](#)

National Summit Of Spanish Speaking Treatment Educators.

The Latino Commission on AIDS and Bienestar Inc. extend a warm invitation to the II National Summit of Spanish Speaking Treatment Educators. The theme of this year's Summit is "Educacion es Poder" (Education is Power). The Summit will be held in Los Angeles on Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18, 2005 at the West Hollywood Hyatt.

This two day Summit is an ideal venue to network with other educators and learn new strategies for HIV/AIDS treatment and adherence education. The first day will be dedicated to helping to improve your capacity to discuss and educate on the side effects of ARTs, the pipeline for new treatments, addressing neurologic and cardiologic implications of HIV and ARTs, adherence strategies, and several other relevant topics. The second day will be dedicated to building the capacity of participants to develop curricula, different education strategies, evaluation, adherence case

management and related topics. Most importantly, the overall outcome of the Summit will be to increase respect and professional treatment for Spanish speaking treatment and adherence educators and to enable participants to advocate for the needs of clients.

The entire Summit will be in Spanish. The target population for the Summit is persons who educate Latinos in Spanish on health, treatment and/or adherence issues and have at least one year of experience doing so.

There will be a reception for participants the evening preceding the Summit (Thursday June 16) and a program sponsored by the Los Angeles Welcoming Committee in the evening of the first day (June 17). To register for the Summit please go to www.latinoaids.org. A limited number of scholarships are available to cover only air transportation or hotel or summit entrance fee. The forms are also available on line. Room reservations should be made directly with the Hyatt at 1-800-233-1234. Be sure to mention II National Summit of Treatment Educators in Spanish.

If you have any questions about the Summit, please call in the East Region: Juan Carlos Sandoval Tel. 212-584-9318, email: jsandoval@latinoaids.org or Carlos Maldonado Tel. 212-584-9314, email: cmaldonado@latinoaids.org

West Region: Rigoberto Martinez Tel. 818-908-3820 ext.128, email: rmartinez@bienestar.org

3. New on SIECUS Website!

SIECUS' Culturally Competent HIV Prevention and Sexuality Education SELF-GUIDED TRAINING MODULE

As part of our cooperative agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Adolescent and School Health, SIECUS developed a self-guided training module for education and health professionals, Culturally Competent HIV Prevention and Sexuality Education. This training module is a Power Point presentation that includes information and ideas about culture as well as opportunities for participants to brainstorm ideas, reflect on personal experiences, and develop next steps. In addition, SIECUS has created a training guide that participants can print and use to follow the presentation. The training guide provides space for participants to answer questions, jot down ideas, and record ways in which they will apply what they've learned.

To view the self-guided training module and training guide, go to:
www.siecus.org/school/trainingModules/index.html

4. New from Center for Law and Social Policy

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) recently posted new publications on its website, www.clasp.org

Senate WIA Reauthorization Bill Should Not Adopt the Administration's Consolidation or WIA Plus Proposals by Nisha Patel. The Administration has proposed two Workforce Investment Act (WIA) initiatives that would effectively eliminate requirements that existing employment and training funding streams be targeted for populations and purposes specified by Congress. This brief paper outlines the reasons the Senate should reject both proposals in its WIA reauthorization bill.
www.clasp.org/publications/oppose_wia_plus.pdf

Administration's TANF Proposal Would Not Free Up \$2 Billion for Child Care by Mark Greenberg and Hedieh Rahmanou. In recent weeks, Administration representatives have suggested that enacting the Administration's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) reauthorization proposal would free up \$2 billion for states to use for child care. This paper explains how letting states use unobligated funds for any allowable TANF expenditure would provide administrative simplification, but would not result in any new funds becoming available for child care. www.clasp.org/publications/carryover_0405.pdf

Recommendations for Senate WIA Reauthorization Legislation: Title I Provisions Affecting Disadvantaged Adults by Nisha Patel. Congress is currently considering WIA reauthorization proposals. In March, the House passed its WIA reauthorization bill, H.R. 27. In January, Senator Enzi introduced S. 9. While S. 9 contains a number of positive provisions with regard to disadvantaged adults, this document contains CLASP's key recommendations for further improvements to Title I provisions in S. 9. www.clasp.org/publications/wia_recs_040705.pdf

CLASP Audio Conference: April 15, 2004, 12:30-1:30 ET

Work and Public Housing: Encouraging Results from Jobs-Plus

A multi-year evaluation of Jobs-Plus, a place-based employment initiative in public housing, showed the program produced substantial improvements in residents' earnings. How much did residents work? How big were the effects of Jobs-Plus on their employment, earnings, and welfare receipt? Did different kinds of families have different outcomes? Did life in the housing developments change? Will Congress take note?

Guests will include: James Riccio, Senior Fellow, MDRC; Barbara Sard, Director of Housing Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; and Mark Calabria, Majority Staff, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To register for this audio conference, visit: www.clasp.org/confdescriptions.php#9

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), a national, nonprofit organization founded in 1968, conducts research, policy analysis, technical assistance, and advocacy on issues related to economic security for low-income families with children. For more information about CLASP, visit www.clasp.org

5. Announcement

New National Education Web Site Provides Critical Information and Analysis on America's Public Schools, Districts, and States

New National Education Web Site Provides Critical Information and Analysis on America's Public Schools, Districts, and States

SchoolMatters.com revolutionizes access to data for educators and policymakers to improve public education

WASHINGTON - SchoolMatters.com, a Web-based national education data service that provides in-depth information and analysis about public schools, districts and state education systems, was unveiled today by the National Education Data Partnership, a collaboration among the Council of Chief State School Officers, Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services, Achieve, Inc., and the

CELT Corporation. The National Education Data Partnership is funded by a \$45 million investment by The Broad Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

SchoolMatters.com is the largest easily searchable collection of education performance data ever assembled. In addition to student achievement information, financial data and demographic breakdowns, the service includes powerful analytical tools and objective analyses provided by Standard & Poor's that provide education leaders with the information they need to make better-informed decisions about schools and school systems.

"While much of public education is doing well, there are no easy solutions to fix the more challenging aspects facing our system," said Tom Houlihan, executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers. "SchoolMatters will provide the kind of advanced analytical tool that education leaders need to help them make the very difficult decisions they face."

Despite increased investments in per-pupil spending over the past two decades; fewer than 1 in 3 students can demonstrate proficiency in reading or math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Additionally, only 68 percent of public high school students nationally will graduate, according to a recent report from the Urban Institute, and Latino and African American students have little more than a 50 percent chance of finishing high school with a diploma. SchoolMatters.com democratizes access to information and ultimately will help fuel the national dialogue about how to improve our nation's public schools.

With this Web site, educators in a given school will be able to find schools that have similar demographics with higher academic performance. This can be a useful start for schools and districts looking to develop comprehensive improvement programs and provides a first step in identifying promising practices of school reform.

"By using SchoolMatters to identify schools with successful practices, principals can adjust instructional methods to further student achievement and help drive overall school improvement," said Brian Galdes, principal of Fisher Elementary School in Redford, Mich.

The type of information available on SchoolMatters.com varies state-by-state. Among the information the Web site provides:

- Student proficiency results on statewide reading and math tests, broken down by student subgroups and grades, for every public school, district and state;
- Student demographic information including socio-economic, special education and English language learner populations at the school, district and state levels;
- District and state financial data like spending allocations, revenue streams, staff compensation and long-term debt;
- Community demographic data, such as income levels, housing values, household parental status, and adult educational attainment levels.
- Standard & Poor's unique ratios that simultaneously examine academic and financial performance in demographic context.

"Better information is critical to making better policy decisions that will improve our country's education system," said Eli Broad, founder of The Broad Foundation. "Performance analysis is widely available in corporate and financial sectors, and we need the same critical information about our schools."

"Through SchoolMatters, users can learn about creative reforms throughout the country and consider whether similar efforts would benefit their local schools," said Tom Vander Ark, executive director at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"Educators and policymakers can examine the relationship between spending decisions and student achievement, which may help to identify cost-effective solutions to improve student performance."

To access SchoolMatters, go to www.SchoolMatters.com

Each month the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition provides a review of the research and policy reports distributed by National Resources for your information only. The information, and comments expressed in this newsflash 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.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Too many teens still think: "It won't happen to me."

A training opportunity is available and Free and Open to Everyone on Wednesday, May 4th, 2005 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the San Geronimo Lodge, 1101 Witt Rd., Taos, NM

Free breakfast, Great Speakers & Conversations with important information about teen pregnancy.

Come hear Alfredo Vigil, MD discuss the "Cultural Issues Surrounding Teen Pregnancy"

Come hear Carol Mendez Cassell, Ph.D. discuss "Straight from the Heart: Talking to Teens about Love and Sex"

Sponsored by the Community Wellness Center, home to Girltime, Puentes & Peer Health Education.

SHINING STARS

The New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition has been providing support services to pregnant and parenting teens since its inception in 1989. Scholarships have been given to teen parents to help them continue their education since the early 1990s. Each month one or two teens will be spotlighted as **Shining Stars** who have made the most of opportunities made available to them.

This month's shining stars participated in the Teen Parent Residential/Case Management program operated by the Eastern Plains Council of Governments in the seven northeastern Counties served by EPCOG.

- Cindy, at the age of seventeen, had two small children and dropped out of high school. She received services from the program and has turned her life around. Now at age 19, Cindy is attending a Nursing Program and is carrying a GPA of 4.0.
- Jennifer is 18, and the mother of a 9 month old child. With the support of her case manager, she is currently a senior in high school, and also attends classes at a local college.
- Erika, age 17, is the mother of a two year old child, and a high school drop-out. She has obtained her GED and is currently participating in a nursing program at TVI in Albuquerque.

Message from the New Mexico Young Fathers' Project

If you know of a young father who needs assistance with paternity issues, wants to learn to be a good father, or needs to talk to other young fathers for mutual support, please call Carl Dellinger, the YFP manager, at the main number in Albuquerque at the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition (505) 254-8737 or go to the New Mexico Young Fathers Project web page – www.youngfathers.org. (The web page is in the process of being up dated).

Services are being provided in the following cities: Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Springer, Las Cruces, Gadsden, and Silver City. Both individual and group services are available on a weekly basis to clients with an emphasis on helping these young men gain the tools to be responsible, dependable, competent fathers. For more information or the location near you, please call Carl.

Message from Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director

May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month and each year, New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition holds a press conference to update the state on the status of teen pregnancy in New Mexico. This year's event will be held at the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce on May 6 from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. The Department of Health's Epidemiologist, Tom Sharmin, will present the final information on which counties are on target to meet the Challenge 2005 goal of reducing teen pregnancy in their county. Department Secretaries will be invited to attend as much of the success is due to programs funded or sponsored by the state.

I call your attention to the New Mexico data on teen pregnancy prevention released by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy at the beginning of the News Flash. NM teen pregnancy rates have been reduced by 20% between 1990 and 2003. Much of that decrease can be tied to the myriad of prevention, education and support programs offered statewide by the consortium of agencies involved in the NM Teen Pregnancy Coalition. SB 409, which proposed funding for NMTPC to continue to serve all areas of the State, was not passed by the Legislature. Please continue to encourage your legislators to keep teen pregnancy prevention a priority.

Mil Gracias!
Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director
director@nmtpc.org

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