

# NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

## NEWS FLASH

April 2008

Welcome to the April 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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New Mexico Commission for Community Volunteerism  
From the Rio Grande Sun  
State Asks Public for Input on Health Priorities

#### **Message from the Young Father's Project**

#### **MESSAGE FROM SYLVIA RUIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The annual NMTPC Conference will be held on Friday May 2, 2008. We hope you are planning on coming as we have some wonderful, informative workshops and an excellent opportunity to network with your fellow practitioners from around the State. It is so important that all of us involved in teen pregnancy prevention and support services for teens have an opportunity to share information and inspiration.

**NMTPC & NM SHARE Conference & Summit 2008**

**Friday May 2, 2008**

***Working Together on What Matters: Reducing Youth Risk Behaviors***

**Radisson Hotel & Conference Center**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**Conference & Summit 2008 Goal:**

To provide current information on adolescent health and safety

**Objectives**

- § To explore promising approaches to reduce negative risk-taking behavior among school-age youth
- § To provide an update on how New Mexico is doing to reduce teen pregnancy rates
- § To discover and celebrate the successes of prevention programs in New Mexico
- § To provide an opportunity to explore and collaborate on a “common ground” in prevention principles
- § To provide an opportunity to network with adults involved in similar programs around the state

**Featuring Keynote Speaker Cynthia Lightfoot, Ph.D**

*Professor and Program Director of Human Development and Family Studies at Penn State University, Brandywine.*

Her publications and professional presentations focus on adolescent peer culture, risk-taking, and identity development. Recent publications include [The Culture of Adolescent Risk-Taking](#) (1997, Guilford Press)

I hope to see you there.

Hasta Luego,

Sylvia Ruiz  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition  
505-254-8737  
505-254-8741 Fax

**[1. New from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unintended Pregnancy](#)**

In this issue of the National Campaign EGRAM:

- [More Evidence that Abstinence-Plus Education Works](#)**
- [New Teen Pregnancy Data Now Available](#)**
- [What's Your Relationship Reality? Contest](#)**
- [National Campaign Launches New Pregnant Pause Blog](#)**
- [Science Says #34 Now Available](#)**

## **More Evidence that Abstinence-Plus Education Works--and that Parents Want it**

Just want to let you know about 3 important articles in the April 2008 Journal of Adolescent Health (<http://journals.elsevierhealth.com/periodicals/jah/issues/contents>):

\* The first study (Kohler PK, et al.) found that adolescents in the National Survey of Family Growth who received comprehensive (i.e., Abstinence-Plus) sex education had a lower risk of pregnancy than adolescents who received Abstinence-Only or no sex education. Importantly, teaching about contraception was NOT associated with increased risk of sexual activity or STD. Also, they found that Abstinence-Only education was not significantly associated with reduced teen pregnancies-and it did not reduce the likelihood of engaging in vaginal sex.

\* The second study (Eisenberg ME, et al) found that parents of school-age children overwhelmingly (89%) support comprehensive sex education. This was a widespread finding among many subgroups.

\* The editorial (Constantine NA) highlights the importance of the Kohler findings: "For the first time, a sophisticated epidemiological analysis based on a major national dataset has been applied to this question, and the evidence is compelling: adolescents who reported receiving [comprehensive sex education] had half the risk of teen pregnancy compared to those who reported [Abstinence-Only] education and 40% of the risk compared to those who reported no sex education."

These papers add to the body of evidence that shows that Abstinence-Plus education can help our young people make healthy decisions about sex. As we know from this study and numerous others, Abstinence-Plus education does NOT increase sexual activity. Notably, the vast majority of parents want their children to be taught the positives of contraception, in addition to getting a strong message about abstinence.

Unfortunately, the Abstinence-Only approach does not promote abstinence effectively. And it leaves our children without key knowledge they need to protect themselves.

Project WORTH supports strong abstinence messages, and we also support balanced and accurate information about contraception. And Project WORTH knows that parents are the most important teachers for their children.

When it comes to sex, we need to give our young people good information-as well as all the support, tools, and encouragement they need to want to USE the information!

## **New Teen Pregnancy Data Now Available**

The teen pregnancy rate declined 5% between 2002 and 2004 according to data released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for

Health Statistics.

For more information, including the NCHS press release and the full National Campaign statement, please click [here](#).

### **What's Your Relationship Reality?**

There's still time to help the budding actor or actress in your house win \$500! [StayTeen.org](#) the National Campaign's teens-only website has just launched a new web feature that allows teens to submit their own video masterpieces using the Stay Teen message. The What's Your Relationship Reality? Video Mash-Up Contest deadline to submit has been extended to June 30.

Anyone 13-19 is eligible, so send them to [StayTeen.org](#) for full contest details including info on how to enter, what Stay Teen is all about and, most importantly, what prizes are up for grabs.

### **Don't Forget to Take a Pregnant Pause**

The National Campaign has just launched a new blog, Pregnant Pause, and we want you to become a regular reader and contributor.

The blog will feature entries from National Campaign staff and guest writers as well as contributions from people like you; practitioners, policymakers, and others concerned about teen and unplanned pregnancy and related issues. Getting involved is easy, just click and contribute.

Visit us at [www.TheNationalCampaign.org](#) and click on the box labeled Blog. Let us know what you think, early and often.

### **Science Says #34: Unplanned Pregnancy and Family Turmoil**

Parents who have a birth resulting from an unplanned pregnancy are less likely to be in a committed relationship, less likely to move into a more formal union, and more likely to have high levels of relationship conflict and unhappiness than those parents who have a birth resulting from a planned pregnancy.

Most children born following an unplanned pregnancy are conceived outside of marriage. And even though it is often thought that an unplanned birth among unmarried parents may lead to a more formal union (marriage, in particular), new research contained in Science Says #34 suggests that this is rarely the case.

[Click here](#) to download a copy.

## **[2. New from Healthy Teen Network](#)**

### **Healthy Teen Network's 2008 National Conference**

#### ***Speaking Many Languages: Respecting Diversity, Believing in Equity***

This year, the conference will be held **October 29- November 1, 2008**, in **Albuquerque , NM** at the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque.

**For more information, visit the HTN Conference site at**

**<http://healthyteenconference.org/default.aspx>.**

#### **NEW Fact Sheet**

### **Opportunity Knocks: Using Teachable Moments to Convey Safer Sex Messages to Young People**

With accurate information and adequate support, young people can make healthy and responsible decisions about having sex and using contraception. Adults can be most effective by providing the information and support needed to promote responsible decision-making in youth and help ensure transition to adulthood is safe and healthy.

**[For more information and to download "Opportunity Knocks," click here.](#)**

### **STD Prevention Month**

April is STD Awareness Month, an annual observance to raise public awareness about the impact of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) on the lives of Americans and the importance of individuals discussing sexual health with their health care providers and if sexually active, their partners.

For more information on National STD Awareness month 2008, please visit

**[www.cdcnpin.org/stdawareness](http://www.cdcnpin.org/stdawareness).**

While adolescents represent approximately 25% of the sexually active population, they account for about one-half of all new sexually transmitted infections (STIs). **For more information, check out Healthy Teen Network's *Fast Facts* fact sheet on [Sexually Transmitted Infections](#).**

Healthy Teen Network provides many resources and services to aid professionals in their work with youth.

## **[3. New from Advocates for Youth](#)**

### **CDC Press Release: Pregnancy Rate Drops for Women Under Age 25**

**- April 14, 2008**

Full report here:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/08newsreleases/pregnancydrop.htm>

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Contact: CDC National Center for Health Statistics  
April 14, 2008 Office of Communication,  
301-458-4800

### **Pregnancy Rate Drops for U.S. Women Under Age 25**

Pregnancy rates for females under age 25, including teenagers, in the United States declined in 2004 compared to 1990, according to a report released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The report says nearly 38 percent of pregnancies in 2004 were to women under age 25, down from nearly 43 percent in 1990. The proportion of pregnancies among teens under age 20 dropped from 15 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 2004.

The report, "Estimated Pregnancy Rates by Outcome for the United States, 1990-2004," prepared by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, shows there were almost 6.4 million pregnancies in 2004 among women of all ages, about 6 percent fewer than the nearly 6.8 million in 1990. The 2004 total included 4.11 million live births, 1.22 million induced abortions, and 1.06 million fetal losses (such as stillbirths and miscarriages). In 1990, there were 4.16 million live births, 1.61 million induced abortions and 1.02 million fetal losses.

"This latest pregnancy outcome report finds that there was little change in births and fetal loss numbers between 1990 and 2004. However, abortions fell 24 percent over this time period," said Stephanie Ventura, head of the Reproductive Statistics Branch at CDC/NCHS.

Other findings of the report:

- \* Nearly half (45 percent) of the 6.4 million pregnancies in 2004 occurred among unmarried women. Pregnancy totals for unmarried women increased from over 2.7 million in 1990 to over 2.8 million in 2004.

- \* Pregnancy totals among married women declined from 4.1 million in 1990 to 3.5 million in 2004.

- \* The average U.S. woman is expected to have 3.2 pregnancies in her lifetime at current pregnancy rates; black and Hispanic women are expected to have 4.2 pregnancies each, compared with 2.7 for non-Hispanic white women.

- \* Seventy-five percent of pregnancies among married women ended in a live birth in 2004, while 19 percent ended in fetal loss, and 6 percent ended in abortion. For unmarried women, slightly over half of pregnancies (51 percent) ended in live birth, an increase from 43 percent in 1990. Thirty-five percent of these pregnancies ended in abortion and 13 percent ended in fetal loss.

- \* More than two-thirds of pregnancies for non-Hispanic white (67 percent) and

Hispanic women (69 percent) and half of pregnancies to non-Hispanic black women ended in live birth.

\* More than a third (37 percent) of pregnancies for black women ended in abortion compared with 12 percent for non-Hispanic white women and 19 percent for Hispanic women.

The full report is available at [www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Advocates for Youth's Youth of Color Initiative

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#### **Feature: 17 Common Characteristics of Effective Programs**

In 2006, ETR's Senior Research Scientist, Douglas Kirby, PhD, and his colleagues, B.A. Laris, MPH, and Lori Roller, MSW, MPH, published a report titled *Sex and HIV Education Programs for Youth: Their Impact and Important Characteristics*. That report identified 17 common characteristics of programs found to be effective in changing behaviors that lead to STD, HIV and unintended pregnancy among young people. To identify those characteristics, Kirby and his colleagues conducted a systematic review of 83 studies of HIV prevention and sex education programs from both the developed and developing world.

Following are the 17 identified characteristics of effective programs:

#### ***The process of developing the curriculum:***

1. Involve multiple people with different backgrounds in theory, research and sex and STD/HIV education to develop the curriculum.
2. Assess relevant needs and assets of target group.
3. Use a logic model approach to develop the curriculum that specifies the health goals, the behaviors affecting those health goals, the risk and protective factors affecting those behaviors, and the activities addressing those risk and protective factors.
4. Design activities consistent with community values and available resources (e.g., staff time, staff skills, facility space and supplies).
5. Pilot-test the program.

#### ***The contents of the curriculum itself:***

##### *Curriculum goals and objectives*

6. Focus on clear health goals -- the prevention of STD, HIV and/or pregnancy.
7. Focus narrowly on specific behaviors leading to these health goals (e.g., abstaining from sex or using condoms or other contraceptives), give clear messages about the health benefits and risks of these behaviors, and address situations that might lead to risk behaviors and how to avoid them.
8. Address multiple sexual psychosocial risk and protective factors affecting sexual behaviors (e.g., knowledge, perceived risks, values, attitudes, perceived norms and self-efficacy).

##### *Activities and teaching methodologies*

9. Create a safe social environment for youth to participate.
10. Include multiple activities to change each of the targeted risk and protective

- factors.
11. Employ instructionally sound teaching methods that actively involve the participants, that help participants personalize the information, and that are designed to change each group of risk and protective factors.
  12. Employ activities, instructional methods and behavioral messages that are appropriate to the young people's culture, developmental age and sexual experience.
  13. Cover topics in a logical sequence.

#### ***The implementation of the curriculum***

14. Secure at least minimal support from appropriate authorities such as ministries of health, school districts or community organizations.
  15. Select educators with desired characteristics (whenever possible), train them, and provide monitoring, supervision and support.
  16. If needed, implement activities to recruit and retain youth and overcome barriers to their involvement (e.g., publicize the program, offer food or obtain consent).
  17. Implement virtually all activities with reasonable fidelity.
- Programs with these characteristics were far more likely to have a positive impact on youth sexual health risk behavior and outcomes. For additional information on the 17 common characteristics of effective programs and how to identify and incorporate them in existing programs, please visit: <http://www.etr.org/training/pdp/ymhtraining.htm>

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#### **Partner Spotlight**

##### ***Communities in Schools of Thomasville, NC: The Teen Prevention Education Program (Teen PEP)***

Teen PEP is an exciting school-based, sexuality education curriculum that was developed by the Princeton Center for Leadership Training (a nonprofit which develops leadership training programs for schools) and HiTOPS (a nonprofit for promoting adolescent health) in Princeton, NJ. Since its introduction ten years ago, this teen peer health sexual education program has been used by nearly 50 schools in New Jersey. To begin the program, high school juniors and seniors undergo an application and interview process, and are accepted into the course for credit. Once accepted, they attend a three day overnight retreat prior to the start of the school year, where they develop as a team and begin to focus on the most crucial content. Over the course of the semester, students work their way through a 16 unit curriculum which includes units on everything from: puberty and basic anatomy to developing good facilitation skills.

In addition to the curriculum, students also prepare outreach workshops. This is where the real impact of the program begins to take shape. Some of the workshop topics include postponing sexual involvement, pregnancy prevention, HIV, homophobia reduction, effects of drugs and alcohol on sexual decision making, and a family Night. After preparing the workshops, which include both, "large group" attention getting skits, and small group learning exercises, the Teen PEP peer educators then go into the classrooms of younger students to teach what they have learned. The impact is very real - the younger students hang on every word spoken by their older peers.

Thomasville High School, in Thomasville, NC was fortunate to have been selected by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and The Princeton Center for Leadership Training to pilot Teen PEP in North Carolina. After a full year of preparation with community stake holders, Teen PEP was officially launched Thomasville High in the

fall of 2007. Over the 2007/2008 school year, 11 students in the fall and 11 students in the spring have participated in Teen PEP. The students consistently report that Teen PEP has given them the ability and confidence to advocate for the causes they believe in. This reality is evidenced by the fact that fall semester students were given an opportunity to meet with senior administration officials late in January to share some concerns they had about restrictions that had been placed on an outreach workshop. All eleven students from the fall semester were there for the meeting and all eleven spoke clearly, deliberately, and passionately about what they believed. For more information about Teen PEP, please contact Jim Burchel, Pregnancy Prevention Program Director Thomasville City Schools, at 336 474-4247 or [burchelj@tcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:burchelj@tcs.k12.nc.us)

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### **Capacity Building & Professional Development**

**The 20th Annual National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS** will be held May 22-25, 2008 in Washington, DC. Organized by and for AIDS-care social workers, this four-day conference draws more than 500 AIDS-care social workers from across the country and from many nations abroad. For more information, please contact Vincent J. Lynch, Ph.D., 617-552-4038 / [lynchv@bc.edu](mailto:lynchv@bc.edu) or visit <http://socialwork.bc.edu/outreach/hiv-aids>

**The Seventh Annual Mazzoni Center Trans-Health Conference** will be held in Philadelphia on May 29-31, 2008. This year's theme is: "Honoring Our Past, Envisioning Our Future". This conference focuses on the specific issues, needs, and experiences of trans and gender-variant people with regard to the health of their bodies, lives, and communities. Everyone concerned about these issues is welcome to attend, including but not limited to: members of the trans and gender variant communities, partners, allies, family members, healthcare and social service providers. For more information, please visit: <http://www.trans-health.org>

**Indian Health Services** is organizing HIV/AIDS Collaborative Regional Trainings in Spokane, WA (April 16-17), Tucson, AZ (May 7-8) and Rapid City, SD (May 28-29). The purpose of the trainings is to 1) develop the behavioral health capacity of participants through the learning and implementation of effective behavioral health models and techniques related to HIV/AIDS in American Indian and Alaska Native populations; and 2) to instruct participants on effective methods of linking community members to critical HIV/AIDS-related services and resources. For more information, please visit: <http://www.kauffmaninc.com/IHSAIDStrainings>

**The Black Women's Health Imperative**, the only organization devoted solely to advancing the health and wellness of America's 19.5 million Black women and girls through advocacy, community health and wellness education and leadership development, is holding its 25th anniversary celebration June 19-21, 2008 in Washington, Dc. Join 1,500 Black women, health professionals, educators, researchers, advocates and funders as well as government officials and special guests in celebrating their journey and reflect on lessons learned, address critical health issues that disproportionately affect Black women, and rebuild a national Black women's health movement.

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### **Organizational Development**

Organizational development is the process of exploring, identifying, adopting, and fully utilizing the practices, principles, and programs that drive and sustain a purposeful, productive, and powerful organization so it can better adapt to new information, technologies, markets, opportunities, and challenges. In short, organizational development grows the capacity of an organization to fulfill its mission and program objectives.

Explore the new area of Advocates' website, devoted to all aspects of organizational development, here: <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/orgdev.htm>

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### **Announcements**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' **Office of Minority Health (OMH)**, has Launched the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA). The NPA will focus on health status and health outcomes among racial and ethnic minority populations and is intended to lead OMH and its partners toward a shared destination: a nation free of health disparities, with quality health outcomes for all. For more information, please visit: <http://www.omhrc.gov/npa/>

**May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month (NTPPM)**. Observed each May by states and communities throughout the country, NTPPM seeks to involve communities in promoting and supporting effective teen pregnancy prevention initiatives. For more information please visit

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/ntppm.htm>.

The Division of Viral Hepatitis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is sponsoring a national poster contest in honor of **World Hepatitis Day**, which takes place on May 19, 2008. Individual artists of amateur and professional status are eligible to participate. Organizations who would like to submit a group entry are also eligible. Submissions must be received by midnight Friday, April 18, 2008. A grand prize of \$1000 will be awarded to the best poster from all the contest entries. A \$250 prize will be awarded to the top entry in each category. Winning posters will be featured on CDC's Web site, printed, and distributed nationally.

There are several new **job openings at Advocates for Youth**. Please visit <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/about/employment.htm> for more information.

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### **Funding Opportunities**

**The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's** (<http://www.rwjf.org/>) Building Healthy Teen Relationships program will support the creation and evaluation of comprehensive community-based models of prevention that aim to decrease relationship violence and increase positive, protective relationship skills. Preference will be given to sites that demonstrate specific examples of the following strengths within their proposed partnership: experience leading successful collaborative ventures among community-based organizations, government, business, and other decision-makers; demonstrated results that rely on creativity and leadership to address a social issue; proven track record of engaging youth as leaders; clear evidence of youth involvement in developing proposal and plans for continued involvement in leading the project; and strong community presence of organizational structures that offer support and resources for youth in need of dating and sexual violence services.

Visit the RWJF Web site for complete program guidelines.

- RFP Link: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10011615/rwjf>
  - For additional RFPs in Health, visit: [http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_health.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_health.jhtml)
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### **Resources**

#### ***Resources on Effective Programs***

Advocates for Youth: Science & Success--Programs That Work to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, HIV & Sexually Transmitted Infections in the United States and Developing Countries:

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/programsthatwork/index.htm>

Child Trends guide to effective programs for children and youth: Teen pregnancy and reproductive health:

[http://www.childtrends.org/Lifecourse/programs\\_ages\\_teenpregreprohealth.htm](http://www.childtrends.org/Lifecourse/programs_ages_teenpregreprohealth.htm)

Child Trends "What Works" program table for reproductive health:

[http://www.childtrends.org/what\\_works/youth\\_development/table\\_adrehealth.asp](http://www.childtrends.org/what_works/youth_development/table_adrehealth.asp)

*Diffusion of Evidence-Based Intervention (DEBI)* found on CDC Division of HIV and AIDS Prevention website: <http://www.effectiveinterventions.org/about/index.cfm>

### **Resources on Teen Pregnancy Prevention**

*Innovative Approaches to Increase Parent-Child Communication About Sexuality: Their Impact and Examples from the Field.* (2002). New York, NY: Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS).

[http://www.siecus.org/pubs/families/innovative\\_approaches.pdf](http://www.siecus.org/pubs/families/innovative_approaches.pdf)

*It's a Guy Thing: Boys, Young Men, and Teen Pregnancy Prevention.* (2006). Washington, DC:

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. <http://www.teenpregnancy.org>

Kirby, D. (2001). *Emerging Answers: Research Findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy.* Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

[http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/report\\_summaries/emerging\\_answers/default.asp](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/report_summaries/emerging_answers/default.asp)

Klerman, K. (2004). *Another Chance: Preventing Additional Births to Teen Mothers.* Washington,

DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

<https://www.teenpregnancy.org/store/item.asp?productId=281>

Manlove, J., Franzetta, K., McKinney, K., Romano Papillo, A., & Terry-Humen, E. (2004). *A Good*

*Time: After-School Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy.* Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

<http://www.teenpregnancy.org/works/pdf/goodtime.pdf>

Manlove, J., Franzetta, K., McKinney, K., Romano Papillo, A., & Terry-Humen, E.

(2004). *No Time to Waste: Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy Among Middle School-Aged Youth.* Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

### **4. New from Fathers & Families Coalition**

Fathers & Families Coalition of America

Summer Fatherhood Institute Training - FFC Affiliation

Get F.I.T. with us.....4th Annual Southwestern Fatherhood Institute Training 2008: GET F.I.T. (Fatherhood Institute Training) is a special two day opportunity for colleagues from all regions of our nation that provides the necessary capacity building resources for effective practitioners and organizations This will be a limited seating capacity event; therefore, early paid registrations are encouraged! Join us July 8th and 9th, 2008 at the Windmill Inn and Suites in Tucson, Arizona for an exciting and informative professional development institute that will highlight experts working with young parents; incarcerated parents; how to develop a fatherhood program and embracing diversity within services. Facilitators include; Garry Mendez, Ph.D. with Juanita Mendez, Ph.D., of San Francisco, CA; Newt McDonald, M.Ed. of Berkley, CA; Pamela Wilson, MSW of Silver Spring, MD; and others.

For your convenience our Summer F.I.T brochure is available on our website and by clicking [here](#)

Many colleagues wanted information of upcoming FFC events and in particular how to become one of our affiliated chapters. So far we have five who have determined this as invested in this new opportunity (Detroit, Delaware Valley, Florida, New York, California

and Utah) that will help expand professional support...

As we go forward we believe we can make a difference collectively for our communities and families. Please take time to review the affiliation criteria and possibly become an affiliate and share within your network.

For your ease our local and state affiliation criteria is available by clicking [here](#)

May 10th we will work with one of our pending affiliates as we assist with a special fatherhood track at the African American Families Conference at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

The African American Family Conference (AAFC) is a free community event designed to provide answers, resources and guidance to families and communities. The conference will address several issues facing diverse family units; dual and single parent households, co-parenting situations, grandparents raising grandchildren, foster parents and blended families. The conference embraces an environment where participants can contribute by sharing their experiences through communication and exchange of knowledge. For your convenience, here are additional links of interest:

AAFC Program Journal and Exhibitor Package - To register your colleagues and list members for the event - AAFC Registration (Philadelphia) We encourage you to review and forward the following link to your colleagues which details the conference and provides links to various ways they can become a part of this initiative.

Consider these national events to hear what professionals, researchers, and community leaders around the country are sharing about the importance of the role that fathers contribute to the development of children.

Visit us at [www.azffc.org](http://www.azffc.org) for more information on how to register, vendor opportunities, and scholarships on these service and other ancillary programs of Fathers & Families Coalition go to our websites news and events page.

We look forward to hosting you!

Call us at 800-603-9309 or email us at [info@azffc.org](mailto:info@azffc.org)

## **5. New from MEE – Motivational, Educational Entertainment**

### **This Is My Reality - The Price of Sex Cover**

The sexual decision-making of Black girls is just one of the tough issues MEE takes on in This Is My Reality-The Price of Sex-an Inside Look at Black Urban Youth Sexuality and the Role of Media. The 180-page report and documentary DVD illuminate how both genders among the "hip-hop generation" navigate their way through sexual situations and respond to today's sexually-explicit media messages. It also shows how current behaviors put youth at risk for negative, even deadly, health outcomes. The report is great for use in educational programs, by youth service providers, or by any adults who want and need a better understanding of the challenges urban youth face in their intimate relationships.

Click here

[\[http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=00118H\\_ntz93vVenjvN\\_qwaCm6ODB98Kn3MtmAf5iK25nm7](http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=00118H_ntz93vVenjvN_qwaCm6ODB98Kn3MtmAf5iK25nm7)

### **Another Alarming Call to Action**

A recent CDC study ( <http://www.cdc.gov/STDConference/>

[\[http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=00118H\\_ntz93vVn8jYGWzcdkHVva-3wir4CZZIIZ7DQmaQ1N](http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=00118H_ntz93vVn8jYGWzcdkHVva-3wir4CZZIIZ7DQmaQ1N)

mirrored what MEE found years ago in its groundbreaking research on urban youth sexuality trends-that while teen pregnancy rates may be dropping, parents and other adults should not relax, because many, many teens are still having sex. The newest ramification, that nearly half of African American teen girls (ages 14-19) has been reported to have at least one of the most common sexually-transmitted infections (STIs), is scary. MEE knows that pregnancy is only one of several negative consequences to teen sexual activity. Young African American females continued to be endangered by their sexual decision-making. This news points up the social, cultural and environmental land mines that today's Black girl must avoid on the journey towards becoming a woman.

This trend of rising STI rates, while alarming, is, unfortunately, not a new one. In MEE's research for *This is My Reality: The Price of Sex* (2004), many youth candidly reported having gotten "burned" by an STI, but continued to engage in risky sexual behaviors. Teen girls, particularly those involved with young adult males, were dealing with power and control issues that left them feeling pressured to have unprotected sex, in order to prove that they trusted their sexual partners. In addition to sexually-transmitted diseases, these relationships also put teenage girls at higher risk for self-esteem issues and for abuse and violence.

Black females often get it from all directions. Last year, we experienced Don Imus calling the Rutgers women's basketball team "nappy-headed hos" and Knicks executive Isaiah Thomas giving his opinion on whether its worse for a White or Black man to call a Black woman the "B-word." Wherever sexist and racist comments come from-a White or Black man, in music videos or from other one-sided media portrayals, African American women continue to be disrespected. The consequences are dangerous and dire. Girls and women who don't feel good about themselves can make bad choices in sex and life partners; they don't feel empowered to educate and protect themselves; and they engage in self-destructive behaviors.

What we have learned in talking candidly to young people about the challenges they face in dealing with sexuality issues provides lessons about how we can take meaningful action to change trends that are putting lives in danger. There is much work to be done to protect Black girls and women in our society. MEE wants to meaningfully contribute to the dialogue about solutions. These CDC statistics are a painful reminder of the work that remains ahead of us, but they can also be a jumping off point for positive change. In the meantime, MEE remains focused on creating culturally-relevant messages and campaigns that counter the negativity in the social environment of today's generation of youth.

Click here

[http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=00118H\\_ntz93vXaxpYbnM6OErctlavNM\\_fl8dyMwTPQ8A-F](http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=00118H_ntz93vXaxpYbnM6OErctlavNM_fl8dyMwTPQ8A-F)

to link to an archived issue of MEE's UrbanTrends newsletter where you can learn more about what some top African American experts say about the challenges our

young women are confronted with in today's sexual landscape. The issue also includes tips on how parents and other adults can be the difference between healthy self-esteem and good decision-making on the one hand and a self-defeating internalization of negative and dangerous stereotypes on the other. One of the articles gives parents tips on how to talk to their daughters about choices, values and relationships.

## **6. New from the Office of Juvenile Justice NIJ Conference To Address Youth Issues**

On July 21–23, 2008, in Arlington, VA, the Office of Justice Programs' [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ) will hold its [annual conference](#). The conference will bring together criminal justice scholars, policymakers, and practitioners at the local, state, and federal levels to share the latest research findings and technology.

This year's conference includes a panel on youth gang research and best practices organized by the [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#). Other panel topics that may be of particular interest to JUVJUST subscribers include commercial sexual exploitation of children, school-based prevention programs, and bullying.

Conference [registration](#) is free, and early registration is recommended.

Resources:

To obtain additional information about the 2008 NIJ Conference and register online, visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/redirects/welcome-resources.htm>.

You may sign up for conference updates at [https://puborder.ncjrs.gov/listservs/subscribe\\_NIJConf.asp](https://puborder.ncjrs.gov/listservs/subscribe_NIJConf.asp).

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The [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) is a component of the [Office of Justice Programs](#) in the [U.S. Department of Justice](#).

Visit the OJJDP Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp>.

*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 this 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.*

## **Events & Notices**

### **• From New Mexico Commission on Community Volunteerism**

Coming soon! Advanced Institute on Volunteer Management  
Looking for a high-level professional development experience?

The Advanced Institute on Volunteer Management offers experienced volunteer resources managers the opportunity to learn from the best-known experts in the world in

a setting that values your knowledge and builds on your experience.

The Institute covers topics ranging from ethics to leadership, from risk management to team-building and includes large-group forums, hands-on workshops, and small support circles that provide personalized input into your professional development planning.

May 31 - June 2, 2008 in Atlanta, GA

Presented by Rick Lynch, Linda Graff, Steve McCurley and Martin J. Cowling.

Registration opens in mid-March.

More information on the Advanced Institute is available on our webpage. Learn more about the institute's design, agenda and presenters by clicking the link below.

Click here for details:

<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?PointsofLightFoundat/4e8f3ae09a/54efbdf063/9f0100a8ca/id=a0B300000019ccCEAQ%20>

The Advanced Institute on Volunteer Management is offered in conjunction with the 2008 National Conference on Volunteering and Service. For more information about the National Conference, please visit [www.volunteeringandservice.org](http://www.volunteeringandservice.org)

This institute is open to experienced volunteer resources managers with at least 3 years of professional experience in volunteer program management and prior professional development coursework in volunteer management.

- **From the Rio Grande Sun**

### **Providers Come Together to Tackle Teen Pregnancy**

By Sarah Welsh  
SUN Assistant News Editor

Late last month, Carlos Balladares of the New Mexico Young Fathers Project offered a roomful of health providers a different take on the personal and social crisis of teenage pregnancy. Parents of teenage mothers often exclude the baby's father from the family, taking the attitude that his role is finished and they'll handle the situation on their own, Balladares said. "We have a lot of dads that want to be involved, but everyone's kicking them out," Balladares said. Balladares talked openly about his own experience of being a teen father. Having to give up high-school sports led him to resent his then-girlfriend, and he lashed out at her verbally, Balladares said. "I blamed my wife for everything that had happened," Balladares said. "I used to tell her mean things — I did not know how to take that anger out."

After describing the Project's counseling, job-placement and referral services, Balladares ceded the floor to Robert Valencia, 19, a Santa Fe resident who spoke about becoming a teen father three years ago. Valencia said he was in juvenile detention during his girlfriend's pregnancy, and a Project staffer served as a liaison so the couple could communicate about doctor's visits and other preparations. "A big weight was lifted off my shoulders," Valencia said. Under guidance from the Project, Valencia said he has found steady work, earned his high-school equivalency degree and is getting an apartment with his girlfriend and their child. The community gathering was convened March 27 at the Española Teen Technology Center by the Rio Arriba Teen Pregnancy Coalition, to encourage networking among area public-health organizations working to prevent teen pregnancy.

According to the Española School District's school-based health centers, the Española Middle School has recorded five teen pregnancies during this school year, while Española Valley High School has recorded six. State Health Secretary Alfredo Vigil, formerly of El Centro Family

Health in Española, gave the meeting's keynote address and said the solution lies in communities working together to maximize resources. "Really the bulk of the issue is now in the hands of the adults," Vigil said. Vigil said unfortunately, adults have wasted a lot of time and resources squabbling over how to talk to teens, with some groups fearing that comprehensive sex education will encourage sexual activity or promiscuity. Vigil said that notion has been debunked by study after study over the last 25 years — providing information about sexuality and reproductive health does not motivate young people to become sexually active, he said. "That's just a myth," Vigil said. "That's not a well-founded fear."

Vigil said there are four main components to addressing the problem: moral and ethical values that have to be taught by families or churches, teen self-esteem, "clear, complete, accurate education," and access to services. He argued that church leaders have an important role to play in community solutions, because it is not the place of teachers or doctors to preach values. "Whose morals and values would we be teaching?," Vigil said. "We shouldn't have to make those decisions." Vigil himself came under intense scrutiny from state lawmakers this year after he declined federal funding for abstinence-only curricula, which he has said would "not allow us to give complete information or coordinate our other efforts to reduce teenage births."

Following Vigil's presentation, a panel of mothers shared their stories about becoming pregnant as teens. Angelica Herrera, 22, cited lack of information and guidance on getting birth control as a factor in teen pregnancy, along with teens' fear of talking to their parents. Once teenage girls give birth, they need more assistance with child care and job training, Herrera said. Herrera now works with the First Born program, which provides free home visits for first-time mothers. Briana Deaguero, 17, said teenage mothers need support from family and friends. "Show us we can still go to school," Deaguero said. "We need an education for our hitas."

Kevin Bersett  
Rio Grande SUN

– **State Asks Public for Input on Health Priorities**

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Secretary Dr. Alfredo Vigil

For Immediate Release:  
Contact: Deborah Busemeyer

March 24, 2008  
Cell: 470-2290

State Asks Public for Input on Health Priorities

Department of Health, Health Policy Commission Hosts Eight Community Meetings

(Santa Fe) - The New Mexico Department of Health and Health Policy Commission are asking the public for input on the State's strategic health plan, which will guide New Mexico's health-care priorities and goals. The Department encourages people to attend eight community meetings held across the state to give input on the 2008 New Mexico Comprehensive Strategic Health Plan. The first meeting will be held in Portales on March 27.

New Mexico's strategic health plan lists health priorities and goals for how state and local governments, health-care providers, businesses, schools and individuals can work on these priorities. Those priorities are: health disparities, workforce issues, immunizations, prevention of teenage pregnancy and youth suicide, emergency care systems, long-term care, health-care coverage and access, behavioral health, oral health, environmental health, and healthier weight.

"It's important that we get your input on how we can work toward improving your health, your community's health and the health-care system," said Health Secretary Dr. Alfredo Vigil. "We encourage you to give us your feedback and learn how you can help us make New Mexico a healthier state."

All meetings will be held from 9:30 to 3:30 p.m. The Department scheduled three meetings to specifically address Native American concerns. The public is invited to all meetings. Meetings will be held in the following locations:

May 7 -- Farmington, San Juan Community College at 4601 College Blvd.

May 8 -- Farmington, San Juan Community College at 4601 College Blvd (Native American specific)

May 12 -- Albuquerque, UNM Continuing Education at 1634 University Blvd, NE

May 13 -- Albuquerque, UNM Continuing Education at 1634 University Blvd, NE (Native American specific)

May 20 Santa Fe, State Library, 1290 Camino Carlos Rey (Native American specific)

May 23 - Deming, 2300 East Pine

For more information or to register for these meetings please contact Margo Gomez at (505) 827-1052. People may also review and comment on the strategic health plan at <http://nmcompplan.pbwiki.com> or send comments to [nmcshp.2008@state.nm.us](mailto:nmcshp.2008@state.nm.us)

### [Message from the Young Fathers' Project](#)

#### **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 Cathy Ahiyite, Fax (505) 254-8741 or email to [nmtpc@nmtpc.org](mailto:nmtpc@nmtpc.org), in the **Albuquerque Area**. If you are in the **Las Cruces area**, send the referral form to Gary Madrid, [gm.nmtpc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gm.nmtpc@sbcglobal.net) or call (575) 532-1536. If you are in the **Santa Fe area**, send to Mr. Barry McIntosh, [kamac@cybermesa.com](mailto:kamac@cybermesa.com) or call (505) 428-1412.

For information on the Young Fathers' Project please call:

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