

# New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition

## NEWS FLASH

January 2003

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

### NEWS FLASH

We are sending this issue to everyone on our email list. If you would like to continue receiving **NEWS FLASH**, please sign on to our listserv (see end of document).

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#### 1. Art & Video Contest Deadline: February 10

NMTPC is seeking talented teens! Cash prizes will be awarded for artwork, photography and videos that help us promote the message that childbearing is best postponed until after the teen years. Deadline for receipt of entries is 5 PM on Monday, February 10. Visit the NMTPC web site ([www.nmtpc.org](http://www.nmtpc.org)) or call the office (254-8737) for more information.

#### 2. NMTPC Annual Conference: March 27-28, 2003

Do you have the dates saved on your calendar? NMTPC's 2003 conference, *Stepping Up To The Challenge: Reducing Teen Pregnancy in New Mexico*, will be held at the Albuquerque Hyatt Regency on March 27-28. The full registration brochure will be available in a few weeks, but start making your plans now. This will be one of our most exciting conferences yet! Keynote presenters include: Dr. Michael Resnick, Director, National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Research Center, University of Minnesota and Director of Research, Division of Pediatrics & Adolescent Health. Also, Dr. Rafael Ruano, clinical psychologist, author, and educator/translator for the *Wise Guys* curriculum, *Jóvenes Sabios*. Watch the NMTPC website for conference updates.

#### 3. New Mexico **SHARE** (Sexual Health and Risk Education)

## New Mexico **SHARE** (Sexual Health And Risk Education)

You were introduced to New Mexico **SHARE** (Sexual Health And Risk Education) in the last edition of the NMTPC NEWS FLASH. In review, **SHARE** is a collaborative designed to provide support for organizations and individuals working to reduce risky sexual behavior among school-age youth. Activities are designed to improve member's ability to successfully impact the youth in their programs. Opportunities for networking, collaboration, and continuing education will be provided through a statewide meeting, newsletter, listserv and website access.

**SHARE** now has its own web page accessible through the NMTPC website at [www.nmtpc.org](http://www.nmtpc.org). By linking to the **SHARE** web page, you will find updated information on the where's, what's, who's, and how's in connection with this New Mexico collaborative. Sign up **now!** Don't miss your opportunity to receive **SHARE** information and mailings.

There is no cost to join and you will receive the **SHARE** newsletter along with pertinent information to support your work in reducing risky sexual behavior.

For more information, contact:  
Linda Brooks, Coordinator  
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Website: [www.nmtpc.org](http://www.nmtpc.org)

The **SHARE** Collaborative is a project of the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition and is funded by the New Mexico State Department of Education/School Health Unit.

#### 4. **Hispanic Teen Pregnancy in New Mexico**

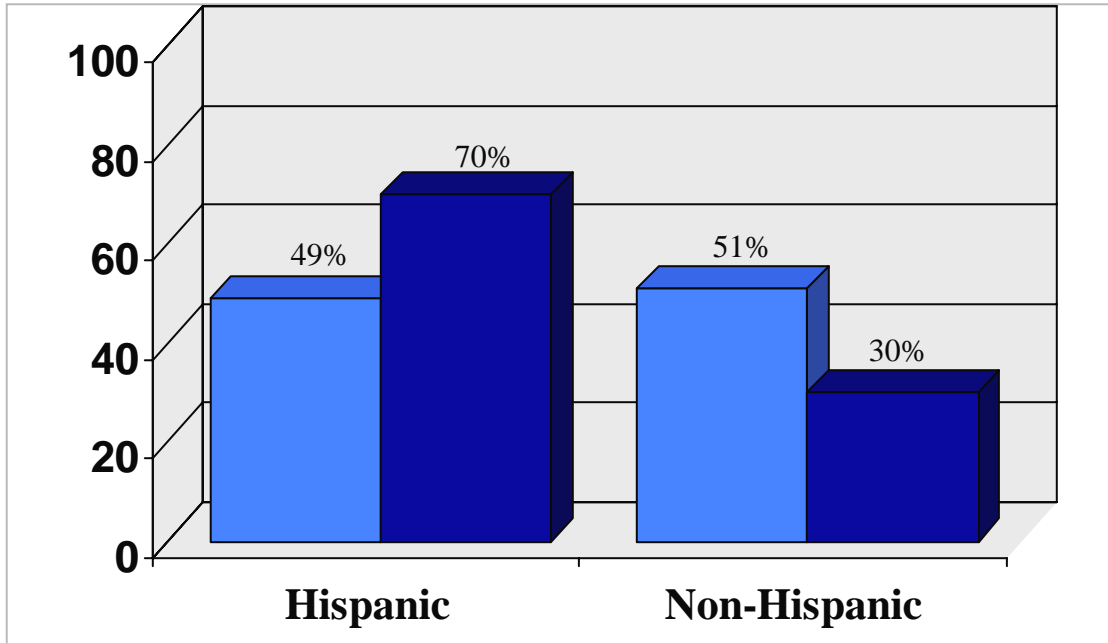
##### A Message from Maria Otero, NMTPC, Hispanic Community Liaison

We have a serious Hispanic teen pregnancy problem in New Mexico. As you can see from the chart below, our Hispanic female teens have a higher birth rate than our non-Hispanic female teens.

As NMTPC's new Hispanic Community Liaison, I am beginning to work with communities and organizations around the state. I value your opinions and ideas and invite you to dialog with me about what kind of interventions YOU

think might be successful in reducing our Hispanic teen pregnancy and birth rates. Please contact me 505-254-8737 or e-mail me at [maria@nmtpc.org](mailto:maria@nmtpc.org)  
Gracias, María D. Otero.

**New Mexico – 2000**  
**Percent of Births to Teens (15-19 years)**  
**Hispanic Compared to Non-Hispanic Total Female Teen Population**



■ % of Total Female Teen Population

■ % of Total Births to NM Female Teens

N = 71,004

N = 4,650

92.8 per 1000 Hispanic female teens (15-19 years) had babies in 2000

Sources:

Designated State Center for Health Statistics at NM VRHS (New Mexico Vital Records and Health Statistics) 2000, U.S. Census Bureau 2000

### 5. National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Wednesday, May 7, 2003 has been declared the [National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy](#). This event is organized by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and details are available at their website,

[www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org) NMTPC will be ensuring that New Mexico is informed and actively involved in this event. Watch our website for updates.

## 6. Resources

- A new edition of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Knowledge Path has been released by the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health. The knowledge path is aimed at policymakers, health professionals, researchers, and parents who are interested in tracking timely information on the topic. Check out this valuable resource at [http://mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp\\_adolpreg.html](http://mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_adolpreg.html)
- ***Bridging Our Past, Present and Future: Teen Pregnancy In New Mexico***, is a document that honors New Mexico's past efforts to address teen pregnancy and proposes recommendations for future action on the part of public and private sectors. This NMTPC report to policy makers and communities is available online or in hard copy to any interested person.
- NMTPC will provide technical assistance to any organization or community seeking to address their teen pregnancy problem. Just give us a call at 254-8737

## 7. NEWS

### **With One Voice 2002: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy**

Almost two-thirds of teens who have had sex (63%) wish they had waited longer. This is one of several findings (from a new National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy survey) suggesting that teens are taking a cautious attitude toward early and casual sex. Other highlights from the nationally-representative annual survey of adults and teens "With One Voice 2002", include:

- Most adults (94%) and teens (93%) believe it is important for teens to be given a strong message from society that they should not have sex until they are at least out of high school.
- 86% of adults and 84% of teens believe that teen pregnancy prevention programs should teach teens to marry before they become pregnant.
- Teens say morals, values, and/or religious beliefs influence their decisions about sex far more than anything else.
- Nearly seven out of ten teens (69%) agree it would be much easier for them to postpone sexual activity and avoid teen pregnancy if they were able to have more open, honest conversations about these topics with their parents.
- Most Americans support a practical, "abstinence-first" strategy - 66% of adults and 56% of teens believe teens should not be sexually active, but teens who are should have access to contraception.
- Approximately 66% of adults and 72% of teens do not believe that encouraging abstinence and contraceptive use "sends a confusing and

mixed message." And 66% of adults and 68% of teens report that they would tell lawmakers to "place greater emphasis" on encouraging sex education that includes information about abstinence and contraception.

"This survey makes clear that Americans - adults and teens - steer clear of the unproductive debate that pits abstinence versus contraception," NCPTP Director Sarah Brown said. "They subscribe to the simple, common sense view that, for teens, abstinence is better than contraception, but contraception is better than pregnancy"

To order a copy of the report, go to

**<https://www.teenpregnancy.org/store/default.asp>**

The report in its entirety can also be downloaded (in PDF format) at

**[http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/pdf/WOV2002\\_fulltext.pdf](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/pdf/WOV2002_fulltext.pdf)**

## 8. From Our Executive Director

### A Message from Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director

Feliz Año Nuevo!

Please consider becoming a member of the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition. Benefits of membership include reduced conference and training fees (including the March 2003 annual conference!), access to the NMTPC library, and informative newsletters and publications.

In addition, we provide you with the latest information on teen pregnancy related issues, including statistics, teen parenting and prevention, round table discussions on pertinent issues (such as male involvement, culture and ethnicity).

Annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31, so if you haven't paid your 2003 dues ... it's that time again. Your membership fees support our mission *to reduce teen pregnancy and the negative consequences of teen pregnancy and parenthood.*

Mil Gracias!

#### Individual Memberships:

\$25  
\$10 Full-time student  
\$150 Life Member

#### Organizational Membership:

\$50  
\$300 Life Member

If you would like to continue to receive NMTPC's monthly

**NEWS FLASH,**

click here to email us your contact information

[Yes](#)

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