

# NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

## NEWS FLASH

January 2005

Welcome to the January 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.

### NATIONAL RESOURCES

1. New from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
2. New from Advocates for Youth
3. New from Child Trends
4. New from National Center for Health Statistics

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition Conference  
NM Commission on the Status of Women  
YIPESHARE Meeting  
Media Literacy Training Group  
NICHD and IHDCYH Summer Institute

### SHINING STARS

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### FROM THE NMDOH FAMILY PLANNING NEWSLETTER

**Message from the Young Fathers Project**

**Message from Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director**

### NATIONAL RESOURCES

#### 1. New from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

##### **A. Teens Say Parents Most Influence Their Decisions About Sex**

Teens say their parents (37%) influence their decisions about sex more than friends (33%), the media (5%), or siblings (6%), according to a new nationally-representative survey released by the [National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy](#). Adults, however, mistakenly believe that friends (47%) are more influential than parents (28%).

The annual survey, *With One Voice: America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy*, is available for purchase at the [National Campaign store](#). The report, along with highlights of the survey, a power point presentation and press release, can also be downloaded from the [National Campaign website](#).

## **B. Help Support the National Campaign**

Please consider giving to the National Campaign in your year-end donations. [Read a letter by former Governor and 9/11 Commissioner Tom Kean](#) and [make your online donation](#).

## **Yes, I would like to support the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy**

### **C. Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation helps support the National Day**

In conjunction with the National Campaign, [The Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation](#) has created an educational video, Straight Talk 2004: A Middle School Town Forum. This hour long tape is a community based discussion featuring middle school students asking questions about sex, love and relationships to a panel of experts, other teens and special guests.

Created for the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, this video can be used as a discussion starter year round. For information on how to purchase the video, visit the [Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation](#). For the most up-to-date information on the fourth annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy on May 4, 2005, visit the [National Campaign's website](#).

## **2. New from Advocates for Youth**

Under the Bush Administration, federal funding for abstinence-only programs has grown rapidly. Recently released reports 1) find some programs contain false and misleading information and 2) question the programs' effectiveness.

### **1. Waxman's Congressional Report Finds that Abstinence-Only Programs Contain False and Misleading Information**

Most recently, Rep. Henry A. Waxman released a report showing that many federally funded abstinence-only education programs use curricula that distort information about the effectiveness of contraceptives, misrepresent the risks of abortion, blur religion and science, treat stereotypes about girls and boys as scientific fact, and contain basic scientific errors. To read the full report prepared by the U.S. House of Representative's Committee on Government Reform, visit <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/abstinenceonlycontent.pdf>

### **2. Two Reports from Advocates for Youth Question Effectiveness of Abstinence-Only Programs**

In addition, Advocates for Youth recently released two reports that raise questions about the effectiveness of the abstinence-only-until-marriage approach to sex education endorsed by the federal government.

#### ***State Evaluations of Abstinence-only Programs***

State evaluations of the abstinence-only federal initiative are just now becoming available. Advocates for Youth's analysis, *Five Years of Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Education: Assessing the Impact*, covers evaluations from Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington state. The review found that abstinence-only programs show little evidence of sustained, long-term impact on adolescents' attitudes favoring abstinence or on teens' intentions to abstain. Importantly, in only one of the ten states did any program demonstrate short-term success in delaying the initiation of sex, and none showed long-term success in impacting teen sexual behavior.

For more information, visit [www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/stateevaluations/index.htm](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/stateevaluations/index.htm)

## ***National Data on Teen Sexual Behavior***

Advocates for Youth contracted with an independent statistician to analyze data, recently released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about sexual behavior among high school students from 1991 to 2003. Advocates' report on the analysis of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS), *Trends in Sexual Risk Behaviors among High School Students—United States, 1991 to 1997 and 1999 to 2003*, found that the much-touted improvements in adolescent sexual risk-taking behavior actually took place from 1991 to 1997. These improvements did not continue into the time period between 1999 and 2003. To read the specific findings, visit [www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fstrends.htm](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fstrends.htm)

## **3. New from Child Trends**

### **A. New Research Brief Updates Model of Welfare Reform's Possible Effects on Kids**

### **B. Child Trends DataBank Indicator Shows Increase in AIDS Cases Among Teens**

### **C. Commentary Describes STRIDES Project**

### **D. Child Trends Announces Openings for Researchers**

### **E. Summer Internships Are Also Available**

### **A. New Research Brief Updates Model of Welfare Reform's Possible Effects on Kids**

[\*How Welfare Reform Might Affect Children: Updating the Conceptual Model\*](#) sketches a brief history of the study of welfare reform and children and shares early conceptual models of how this important social change might affect child well-being. The brief then presents a revised conceptual model that takes into account issues raised in the actual implementation of the reform following passage of 1996 welfare law, new research findings, and gaps in the existing research. [Click here](#) to view the press release about it.

### **B. Child Trends DataBank Indicator Shows Increase in AIDS Cases Among Teens**

A recent indicator posted on the [Child Trends DataBank](#) shows that in 2003, there were 458 newly diagnosed cases of AIDS among teens (ages 13-19) in the U.S., the highest number ever recorded in a single year for this age group. The raw data for this indicator came from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Click on the link above to access the Databank and review other new or updated indicators.

### **C. Commentary Describes STRIDES Project**

In a commentary titled ["Striding Ahead,"](#) Kristin A. Moore, President of Child Trends, describes the elements of a Child Trends initiative to expand the organization's efforts to conduct and disseminate research on intervention programs to improve outcomes for children and teens. These elements are summed up in the acronym STRIDES.

### **D. Child Trends Announces Openings for Researchers**

Child Trends has immediate openings for research associates, research analysts, and research assistants to work on a variety of research projects related to children, youth, and families. [Click here](#) for job descriptions, job requirements, and information on the application process.

### **E. Summer Internships Are Also Available**

Child Trends plans to hire several full- and part-time interns this summer. These positions are open to undergraduate college students with at least junior standing and at least a 3.4 GPA. Possible duties include assisting experienced researchers by locating, retrieving, reading, and/or summarizing articles for literature reviews; tabling statistical output results in Excel; updating databases; helping

with mailings and meeting planning; and fulfilling publication orders. Interns will be paid approximately \$10/hour. [Click here](#) for more details about the job description, job requirements, and application process.

#### [4. New from the National Center for Health Statistics](#)

National Survey of Family Growth - Teens in the US

The report can be found at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_23/sr23\\_024.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_23/sr23_024.pdf)

[Abma JC, Martinez, GM, Mosher, WD., Dawson, BS. Teenagers in the United States: Sexual activity, contraceptive use, and childbearing, 2002. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 23(24). 2004.]

More U.S. Teens Delay Having Sex, Study Finds

[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55856-2004Dec10.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55856-2004Dec10.html)

By Ceci Connolly

American teenagers are waiting longer before first engaging in sexual intercourse, and an overwhelming majority of those who are sexually active report using contraception, according to a comprehensive, well-respected government survey released yesterday.

The report examining youth behavior found that more young men in particular have postponed sex -- 46 percent were sexually active in 2002, compared with 55 percent in 1995 -- and that 91 percent of those who had sex in the previous three months used contraception. For the first time since the government began the National Survey of Family Growth in 1973, more girls (47 percent) say they have had sex than boys (46 percent). Girls also report a high rate of contraceptive use -- 83 percent.

In many cases, researchers found, teens are using two types of contraception, such as the pill and a condom, to reduce the likelihood of pregnancy and of getting a sexually transmitted disease such as AIDS. "The news is almost all positive," said Bill Albert, spokesman for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. "This data clearly underscores teens are being a bit more cautious about sex. This is a real change."

The report comes amid a ferocious debate over the value of abstinence-only education, an approach President Bush has backed with \$170 million in federal funding next year. Yesterday, both supporters and detractors of abstinence-until-marriage programs asserted that the report was Validation of their sharply differing views. More neutral academics said the positive trends most likely reflect a combination of abstinence education and instruction on safer sex bringing about the notable decline in risky sexual behavior.

"They are both having an impact," said Douglas Kirby, a senior research scientist at ETR Associates, which focuses on health policy. "In today's polarized world, the very important message is that this [data] is not just abstinence-only or contraception."

In preparing its analysis, the National Center for Health Statistics interviewed close to 3,000 teenagers in one-on-one conversations in the home. Researchers praise the periodic survey as one of the most authoritative sources of information on adolescents, in part because it reaches teenagers in and out of school and because it measures not only attitudes but also specific behaviors.

With the exception of 18- and 19-year-old girls, teenagers of both sexes showed significant declines

in early sexual activity. Older girls and African American girls were the only groups that did not show a drop in sexual activity. At the same time, nearly 10 percent of young women described their first sexual encounter as "non-voluntary." Hispanic teenagers were the least likely to use contraceptives, and 24 percent of Hispanic girls were likely to give birth before age 20, compared with 8 percent of white teenagers.

Some of the most dramatic improvement has come in the area of teen pregnancy. In 1991, 62 of every 1,000 American girls ages 15 to 19 gave birth. A decade later, the teen birth rate fell to 43 per 1,000. Even so, U.S. teen birth rates remain among the highest in the developed world. Canada's teen birth rate in 2002 was 20 per 1,000, and in France it was 8 per 1,000.

There are many theories for the lower rates in other countries; Kirby said, including wider availability of medical services and health information, less societal division over sex education, and a higher poverty rate among U.S. youth. "There is a strong relationship between poverty and early childbearing," he said.

Given the growing number of young people using more than one type of contraceptive -- as high as 30 percent in some groups -- analysts said there is evidence that teens are concerned about unwanted pregnancy and diseases spread through intercourse. When used correctly, condoms are highly effective at reducing the risk of AIDS, syphilis and gonorrhea.

"The messages have been toward protecting yourself against not only pregnancy but also STD [sexually transmitted disease] transmission," said Joyce Abma, lead author of the report. "There are many female methods that prevent against pregnancy but not STDs. Finally, the messages are being picked up and acted upon."

Every type of contraception, including the newer injectable methods and the high-dose "emergency" oral pill, was more widely used by teenagers in 2002 than before, the study found.

"The really good news is that kids are waiting. They are getting to maturity so they can make healthier choices," said Joneen Krauth-Mackenzie, executive director of the Denver-based Abstinence and Relationship Training Center. "Kids are seeing the cause and effect; they know they need to do something to reduce the risk."

The next step is to shift the focus from contraception to abstinence, she said. "When you engage in those kinds of behaviors, you reduce your risk but you don't protect."

The survey did raise questions about where young people get information on reproductive health. One-third of teenagers said they did not learn about contraception in school, and only half of young women and one-third of young men said they had discussed birth control with a parent before turning 18.

"It's quite shocking how little information they're getting from adults," said Cynthia Dailard, senior public policy associate at the nonpartisan Alan Guttmacher Institute.

For more information on the study, go to [www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/admin/emailfriend?contentId=A55856-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/admin/emailfriend?contentId=A55856-)

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](#)

\* At the 2004 New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition conference, **Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Reaching Out to Reach Up**, held **December 3, 2004 in Albuquerque**, an enormous amount of valuable information was presented by Andrea Kane, the senior director of policy and partnerships of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy during her keynote address on effective strategies to reduce teen pregnancy.

In the December issue of the [NEWS FLASH](#) we offered the first part of the data and promised to look at the part Attitudes and Values play in pregnancy prevention, and What Works: Effective Programs. Due to the larger than usual amount of national information we will postpone the second half of Andrea's information until the February [NEWS FLASH](#).

\* The [NM Commission on the Status of Women](#) is sponsoring a year-long tribute to New Mexico Girls. The 2004-2005 school year is "The Year of the NM Girl" and the theme is "Believe in Me". The Commission is asking your organization or agency to honor the girls of our state by planning an event with girls in mind. If you have an event planned, you can advertise it on the Year of the NM Girl website and join the list of agencies/organizations connecting to girls around the state. The Commission is sponsoring a Conference in Albuquerque on April 8th and 9<sup>th</sup>. We will have further details in a future [NEWS FLASH](#).

### [Believe in a New Mexico Girl](#)

Albuquerque, NM (January 3, 2005) -- The Commission on the Status of Women is calling on businesses, organizations, and individuals to help make the *Year of the NM Girl: Believe in Me* conference available to all New Mexico girls by contributing to the Amiga Scholarship Fund. The conference, hosted by the NM Commission on the Status of Women and designed with the young women of our state in mind, is open to all girls, ages 13-18, in New Mexico.

"By sponsoring a girl with an Amiga Scholarship we are telling the girls of New Mexico we care about them and their futures," says Kathi Brown, *Year of the NM Girl* coordinator for the Commission. "There are countless ways in which girls will benefit from this conference. It is meant to inspire, educate and celebrate the girls of New Mexico. The scholarship fund guarantees all girls can participate, regardless of their family's economic ability."

The Amiga Scholarship of \$100 not only covers the cost of the participant's admission and meals but also exposure to opportunities for higher education, encouragement to look at non-traditional and high tech careers, information on prevention of relationship violence, and ways to increase their self-esteem and self-worth. All contributions are tax-deductible and assures no girl who wants to participate will be left out.

For more information about the conference and participating agencies, contact the Commission office in Albuquerque at 841-8920 or toll-free at 1-800-432-9168. TTY/TDD users please call NM Relay at 1-800-659-8331. Additional information is available on the Commission's *Year of the NM Girl* web site at [www.yearofthegirl.com](http://www.yearofthegirl.com)

\* **YIPESHARE** Meeting

YIPES (Youth Intervention Prevention Education in Schools) Coalition  
NM SHARE (Sexual Health And Risk Education) Collaborative

The meeting is for any organization or individual working to reduce risky sexual behavior among school-age youth. It will be held Friday, January 21, 2005 from 10:00AM to 12:00 Noon at the Cooperative Education Services offices at 4216 Balloon Park Road NE 87109. Their phone number is 344-5470. (Directions: Exit 229 off I-25 to Jefferson - Turn West one block North of Springer (South of Osuna) Location has NO connection with the Balloon Park )

To RSVP or for more information Contact: Linda Brooks NM SHARE Collaborative Coordinator @ 505-286-5366 Email – share@nmtpc.org

\* From the **Media Literacy Training Group**: The dates for our Summer Catalyst Institute have now been set. We will be here at Albuquerque Academy August 1-4, 2005. Our Spring Institute is March 21-24, 2005.

Registrations are being accepted for both. Go to [www.nmmlp.org](http://www.nmmlp.org) and click on the link from the front page. We are being sponsored by the Hampton Inn for both Institutes. You can make your reservations after you have submitted your registration, payment, and have received a confirmation from us. Contact the Hampton Inn at 505-344-1555. Rates are \$60 per night. Ask for either the Spring Catalyst Institute, or Summer Catalyst Institute when making your reservation.

We are also sponsored by Avis, for those who will rent a car. Contact Damon Scott at 505-828-8896 for that information.

We hope you can attend one of these two Institutes, and that you'll share this information with your friends and colleagues.

\* **NICHD and IHDCYH Summer Institute**

NIH's National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, USA, and CIHR's Institute of Human Development and Child Youth Health, Canada, are offering the following funding opportunity: The 1st Annual Summer Institute in Reproductive & Perinatal Epidemiology offers students and fellows an opportunity to participate in an interactive curriculum and to foster future collaborations in this field.

The Summer Institute will be highly interactive and combine a didactic and case-based study curriculum for five areas of study: human fecundity and fertility, pregnancy outcomes, maternal health, fetal growth and development, and methods.

Deadline – March 1, 2005.

For more information, visit: [www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/15657.html](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/15657.html)

**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.

We invite you to come and meet some of our *Shining Stars* on February 15 at the Roundhouse in Santa Fe at the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Day Event.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** The Human Services Department Child Support Enforcement Division Voluntary Paternity Unit has moved effective January 1, 2005.

Their new address is CSED Voluntary Paternity Unit, 1000 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Albuquerque, NM 87104  
Mail should be addressed Attention: Jackie Baca

From the NMDOH FAMILY PLANNING NEWSLETTER

### **With One Voice 2004: Survey Highlights**

An Annual Survey of Adults and Teens. Released by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. For more information visit: [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)

#### Parents

- When it comes to teens' decisions about sex, parents are more influential than they think they are.
- While most adults believe that talking to teens about sex, love, and relationships is important, most also report that they don't know what to say or when to say it.

#### Abstinence and Contraception

- Support for providing young people with a strong abstinence message remains overwhelming.
- Support for providing teens with information about contraception—and access to contraception for those teens who are sexually active—also remains strong.

#### Teen attitudes and beliefs

- Teens continue to express cautious attitudes toward sex. For example, most sexually experienced teens wish they had waited longer to have intercourse and nearly seven in ten teens do *not* think it is okay for high school age teens to have sexual intercourse.

#### Morals, values, and religion

- When it comes to delaying sex and preventing teen pregnancy, teens say their own morals and values are as influential as health information and services are.
- Teens and adults want faith communities to do more to help prevent teen pregnancy.

#### Gender differences

- Adults and teens agree that teen girls are just as sexually aggressive as teen boys; that boys often receive the message that sex and teen pregnancy are no big deal; and that girls often receive the message that attracting boys and looking sexy is one of the most important things teen girls can do.

#### Sex Education

- Most teens give their school-based sex education and/or "family life" classes a passing grade.

#### Media

- Most recognize the influence of the media in setting the sexual "social script" for teens, but few seem able to harness that influence for good.

**FDA Talk Paper: Black Box Warning Added Concerning Long-Term Use of Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced today that a "black box" warning, highlighting prolonged use may result in the loss of bone density, will be added to the labeling of Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection, an established injectable drug approved for use in women to prevent pregnancy. Although Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection has been used for decades for birth control throughout the world and remains a safe and effective contraceptive, FDA and Pfizer, the drug's manufacturer, are taking this action to ensure that physicians and patients have access to this important information. The black box warning for Depo-Provera highlights that prolonged use of the drug may result in significant loss of bone density, and that the loss is greater the longer the drug is administered. This bone density loss may not be completely reversible after discontinuation of the drug. Thus the warning states that a woman should only use Depo-Provera Contraceptive Injection as a long-term birth control method (for example, longer than two years) if other birth control methods are inadequate for her.

Black box warnings are designed to highlight special problems, particularly those that are serious, and to give health care professionals a clear understanding of a potential medical complication associated with a drug. Black box warnings provide physicians with important insights as to how to prescribe a drug that may be associated with serious side effects in a way that maximizes its benefits and minimizes its risks. In addition to the black box warning on the labeling, the drug's manufacturer will issue a "Dear Health Care Practitioner" letter regarding the effect of long-term treatment on bone mineral density to prescribers likely to prescribe the drug, and will incorporate the new information in the patient information sheet distributed with the drug.

### [Training Update By Saroj Baxter](#)

**Upcoming Trainings**, sponsored/supported by the NM Family Planning Program and the Center for Health Training:

**April 5 Public Health on the Web**, Santa Fe 1-5

**April 6 Public Health on the Web**, Albuquerque 8-12

**May 19-20 2005 Family Planning Conference**, Albuquerque

Contact Saroj Baxter to register for Public Health on the Web at 476-8876 or at

[Saroj.Baxter@doh.state.nm.us](mailto:Saroj.Baxter@doh.state.nm.us)

Registration information will be available in March for the 2005 Family Planning Conference.

#### RESOURCES:

- **Improving the Health of Adolescents and Young Adults:** A Guide for States and Communities.

This publication from HRSA and the CDC is available free of charge at:

[www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/NationalInitiative](http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/NationalInitiative)

- Designed specifically for parents, "**Parent Power: What Parents Need to Know and Do to Prevent Teen Pregnancy**" is an easy-to-use guide that brings together all the latest research on the influence of parents and provides specific advice based on that research. To view the results of the survey or to read the guide, visit [www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/parentpower](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/parentpower).

- **Sex Education:** Needs, Programs and Policies at [www.guttmacher.org/pubs/ed\\_slides.html](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/ed_slides.html)

- **Infant adoption training** is happening throughout the year. Go to this site to learn more about the trainings and to check out dates. [www.infantadopt.org/](http://www.infantadopt.org/)

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

The Young Fathers staff invites readers to join us in Santa Fe on Tuesday, February 15. We are working with Senator Linda Lopez to have some of our Young Fathers' Project participants act as pages for the Legislature that day, and man the YFP table to answer questions about the Project. I'm sure they will have some pictures of their children as well.

Please call YFP at: (505) 254-8737 for more information.

### [Message from Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director](#)

The New Mexico Legislature will host Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Day at the Roundhouse on Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> during the morning hours. A Press Conference will start the day at 8:00AM in the Rotunda hosted by Senator Linda Lopez. Tables will be set up with information about some of the programs for pregnant and parenting teens, and programs to prevent teen pregnancy for information sharing. Please try to join us for this wonderful opportunity to share information on programs New Mexico offers which have helped lower our teen pregnancy rates over the last few years. We hope to see you there.

Mil Gracias!  
Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director  
[director@nmtpc.org](mailto:director@nmtpc.org)

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