

NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

NEWS FLASH

January 2006

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 NM Voices for Children

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Believe in NM Girls 2006 Conference
2. National Year of the Girl
3. Head to Toe Conference

Message from the Young Father's Project

Message from Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director

NATIONAL RESOURCES

1. New from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

- A. National Conference Call to Discuss "Bridging Two Worlds"
- B. New Federal Legislation Introduced to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- C. New Articles on Abstinence Education
- D. Information on the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- E. The Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University's "2006 Excellence in Summer Learning Award" application

A. Discuss "Bridging Two Worlds"

Please join the National Campaign for a conference call to discuss the upcoming release of the new publication, "Bridging two Worlds: How Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs Can Better Serve Latino Youth." Registration is free.

Join Campaign Director Sarah Brown, lead author Erika Vexler, Campaign Research

Manager Katherine Suellentrop, and Carlos Ugarte, who helped develop the report, for an informative discussion. A Question and Answer session will follow.

The call is on January 25th, 2006, from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. EST. To register for the call, and to get the call-in number, please [click here](#). If you have any questions about the call, please email Communications Associate, Jordan Brown, at jbrown@teenpregnancy.org.

To register for this toll-free call, please go to the National Campaign's website <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/formgen.asp?surveyid=257>

B. New Federal Legislation Introduced to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

16 bills have been introduced in either the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate during 2005 to help prevent teen pregnancy. Most recently, Rep. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) introduced H.R. 4644, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Responsibility and Opportunity Act. To see a summary of this legislation and other teen pregnancy prevention legislation, please [click here](#).

C. New Articles on Abstinence Education

The current issue of the "Journal of Adolescent Health" --- the official journal of the Society for Adolescent Medicine -- contains two items on abstinence and abstinence-only education, a position paper and review article. John Santelli, M.D., M.P.H., of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, is the lead author of both items.

To read the position paper:

www.adolescenthealth.org/PositionPaper_Abstinence_only_edu_policies_and_programs.pdf

To read the review article:

journals.elsevierhealth.com/periodicals/jah/current

To read a statement from the Mailman School of Public Health:

www.mailman.hs.columbia.edu/news/santelli-jah-abstinence.html

D. Information on the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

112 Days until the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

150 NATIONAL DAY PARTNERS AND COUNTING

Plans for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy's fifth annual "National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy" are well underway and we expect this year's event to be the best one yet! As a reminder, this year's National Day will be held on May 3rd, 2006. For more information on the National Day, please visit

www.teenpregnancy.org/national/default.asp

We are excited about the amount of support and interest we have already received regarding the 2006 National Day. With four months left, over 150 national organizations have already signed on as official partners! Our partner list is quite diverse and

represents all of the sectors (i.e. youth, parents, health, government, corporate, education, and nonprofit groups, etc.) that we strive to reach regarding the issue of teen pregnancy prevention. To view a complete list of our 2006 National Day partners, visit www.teenpregnancy.org/national/partners2006.asp

NATIONAL DAY PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE

This year, the National Campaign is offering National Day wristbands, temporary tattoos, and pens through our online store. In the coming weeks, we will also make postcards and posters available for purchase. Visit the 2006 National Day Online Store at www.teenpregnancy.org/store/default.asp.

Additionally, we will offer the following materials for free download from our website. We will let you know when new materials become available.

- . Sample newsletter and listserv notices
- . National Day web banners
- . Sample press releases
- . Quiz discussion guides
- . Generic and customizable print public service announcements (PSAs)
- . Sample PSA radio scripts
- . Ideas to help teens promote the National Day

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE NATIONAL DAY

The success of the National Day is largely due to the efforts of our state and community partners and we greatly appreciate your participation in this event. Please help us spread the word about the National Day. If you have any friends or colleagues that you think would be interested in the National Day, please forward them this email and encourage them to sign up for our National Day Notification Network emails as well. If each one of you passes this message on to just five people, our network of friends organizing around the National Day would grow tremendously! Your colleagues can Join our National Day Notification Network by visiting www.teenpregnancy.org/informed/notificationnet.asp.

TELL US WHAT YOU ARE PLANNING

As you begin to organize events and activities for the National Day, please let us about your plans so that we can share them with others and let them know about all the good things going on across the country. We will collect and post this information on our website for others to read about, learn from, and perhaps emulate! Send a summary of your planned activities to nationalday@teenpregnancy.org.

We'll be in touch with you again in the near future. Thanks again for your support and enthusiasm!

E. The Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University's "2006 Excellence in Summer Learning Award" application

The Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University is pleased to announce

the release of its 2006 Excellence in Summer Learning Award application. The Excellence in Summer Learning Award recognizes an outstanding summer program that demonstrates excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting positive development for young people between kindergarten and twelfth grade.

The award is given annually based on an application and interview process that elicits information on a program's history, mission, goals, operations, management, staff development, partnerships, results, and sustainability. The Excellence in Summer Learning Award seeks to focus national attention on exemplary programs providing high-quality summer learning experiences for youth in their communities.

Benefits of the award include national recognition, increased press opportunities, conference presentations and complimentary registrations, professional development opportunities for staff, and increased publishing opportunities.

The application may be downloaded at www.summerlearning.org/events/excellence.html.

The deadline for applications is Friday, February 10, 2006 at 5:00 PM EST. Please forward this announcement to organizations or staff members who may be interested in applying.

2. New from NM Voices for Children

Sara Beth Koplik, PhD, Kids Count Project Manager at New Mexico Voices for Children announced that the 2006 Edition of New Mexico Kids Count was released on January 12, 2006. New Mexico remains 3rd in the nation for teen births, and rates of child poverty have made little improvement. Following is some information from the Report.

Surveying Adolescent Behaviors that Limit Future Success

This year, New Mexico Kids Count is taking a close look at the issues related to adolescent well-being. With the depth of poverty, and abundance of low wages, it is critically important to understand adolescent behaviors that may limit future prospects for success. For the first time, New Mexico Kids Count is spotlighting data from the *Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey*,¹¹ particularly data on dangerous adolescent behaviors. The survey is conducted as a joint endeavor of the state departments of health, public education, and the University of New Mexico's Prevention Research Center. 12 Questions are asked about personal habits and family patterns, and whether students are emotionally supported at home, school, and in the larger community. New Mexico Kids Count chose to demonstrate the prevalence of drinking and driving, substance abuse in general, violence, suicide, and sedentary behaviors. The survey also examines the percent of high school students who are sexually active, those who do not practice safe sex and those who do.

Most Teens Sexually Responsible: But More Education and Access to Care Vital

As mentioned, there is a strong link between teenage pregnancy and poverty, but here the situation has improved. According to the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition, teen births declined by 11% overall, while 14 counties reduced their birth rates even more, by at least 20% between 1998 and 2003. The Coalition attributes this decrease to positive changes in family dynamics, including increased maternal education, more discussion between parents and teens, formal sex education programs, and improved contraception usage. The overwhelming majority (86%) of sexually active adolescents report being responsible: they used oral contraceptives, condoms, or Depo-Provera. This is particularly fortunate, as the teen birth rate in New Mexico is decreasing. Despite this improvement, New Mexico's teen pregnancy rate remains above the US average, and the United States' rate is far above all other developed nations. Clearly, work needs to continue if consistent progress is to be maintained. Increased education and access to reproductive health care are vital.

***Plain Talk* in the South Valley: Hope for the Future**

The City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County as a whole have made progress in reducing adolescent childbearing, experiencing a 7% drop between 1998 and 2003. Still, teen pregnancy rates vary dramatically by quadrant. Adolescent women in the southwest part of the county are considerably more likely to give birth than young women in the northeast. In fact, the teenage mean fertility rate in the southwest quadrant is higher than even that of adult women. It is clear that different communities face different challenges, and need local solutions.

New Mexico Kids Count is very pleased that the Annie E. Casey Foundation has chosen the Southwest quadrant of Bernalillo County (also known as the South Valley) to be the next site of its *Plain Talk (Hablando Claro)* initiative. Together with the assistance of the Private/Public Venture, the New Mexico Department of Health, and the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition this three year grant seeks to reduce teen pregnancies through education and open discussion. *Plain Talk's* strategy starts with adult peer education. Both parents and community members learn from their neighbors. At home health parties, they examine their own views of sexuality, and then are encouraged to speak to young people. When adults and adolescents speak openly about all aspects of sexuality including pregnancy, contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, coercion, domestic violence, and creating healthy relationships, teens are less likely to engage in risky behavior. All young people gain strength through education and an open, safe dialogue, but sexually active youth are the primary beneficiaries. Through *Plain Talk's* structure, young people receive the skills and encouragement necessary to make healthy choices. The results in cities as diverse as Atlanta, Hartford, New Orleans, San Diego, and Seattle have been impressive. Not only have teen pregnancy rates fallen, but *Plain Talk* has helped reduce crime and increased social cohesion. Each *Plain Talk* community developed its program based on local concerns, emphasizing what is culturally appropriate and most needed. Social capital, or the amount of trust and cooperation between community members, has flourished. In the St. Thomas community of New Orleans, men formed an alternative system of

peacekeepers, enabling residents to solve disputes more amicably amongst themselves. In the Barrio Logan of San Diego, health *promotoras* met with neighborhood members to help inform and protect sexually active youth. In Seattle, outreach tools were developed specifically for Laotian immigrants, as a way to involve them in the larger community-wide initiative. At this point, the specific tools to engage South Valley residents have not been crafted. Yet, when they are, we feel optimistic that teen pregnancy rates will fall, and the social fabric of the South Valley will grow even stronger.

You can read the full report online, at: www.nmvoices.org/embargoed.htm

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

1. The Centering Pregnancy and Parenting Association (CPPA)
2. Social Research Conference
3. Reminder: Believe in NM Girls 2006 Conference
4. Reminder: National Year of the Girl

1. The Centering Pregnancy and Parenting Association (CPPA) is hosting its first national conference. "The Power of Connection: Group Health Care for the 21st Century" will be held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, from March 26-29, 2006. The emphases will include system re-design, outcomes of group care, the power of circles, and skill-building for Facilitative leadership. The speakers and workshop leaders are researchers and clinicians who work with groups in a variety of medical fields, including diabetes, pediatrics, prenatal care, chronic care, and geriatrics. This conference is appropriate for any providers, educators, administrators, and policy-makers interested in health care re-design through group care. Post-conference instructional workshops for CenteringPregnancy and CenteringParenting will be offered on March 28-29. This is the first training for CenteringParenting: well-woman/well-baby care for the first year of life and beyond.

Additional information and on-line registration is available through [www.centeringpregnancy.org/The Power of Connection.html](http://www.centeringpregnancy.org/The_Power_of_Connection.html). Early-bird registration ends January 15, 2006.

2. A Social Research Conference presented by the New School, in New York City

on February 9 and 10, 2006

The increasing politicization of science can lead to policy decisions that run counter to accepted scientific consensus and risk endangering our health and well-being. Scientists and policy-makers from across the political spectrum will assess the current tension between politics and science and discuss how to increase the likelihood that the best science becomes the basis for future public policy.

Conference Agenda

Thursday, February 9

Session I: Recent History: The Emerging Conflict between Politics and Science

Has the balance of power among the various interests that play a role in determining public policy changed? What changes have occurred in the influence of science? What are the consequences of these changes? What lessons can be learned from past successes and failures in creating public policy?

Session II: Health

What are the roles of scientific, political, religious, and corporate interests in the creation of health policy, for example reproductive health policy? Has the relationship among these forces changed? If so, what are the consequences for our well-being?

Session III: Keynote Address

Why this conference now? How has the relationship between science and politics changed? Where have we been, where are we now, and where should we be going? Introduction by Bob Kerrey, President, The New School; Former U.S. Senator from Nebraska

Friday February 10

Session IV: The Environment

What is the role of science and scientists in making environmental policy? What interests compete to create policies affecting the environment? Has the balance among them changed? If so, how? What are the consequences?

Session V: Energy: Technology and Sources of Power

What is the role of science and scientists in making energy policy? Has this changed, and if so, how? If a change has occurred, is it a matter of the relative influence of scientists, corporations and politicians? How are the issues tied to new trends in globalization? What are the consequences of these changes?

Session VI: Round-table Discussion

What needs to be done now, and by whom or by what institutions, in order to ensure that good science leads to good public policy that best serves the needs of the American public? How can we change the current situation so that scientists and scientific findings have more influence? How can we improve the policy decision-

making process?

FYI - if any of you might be interested in attending this upcoming conference
www.socres.org/polsci/agenda.htm

3. Reminder: Believe in NM Girls 2006 Conference

The second conference geared specifically to New Mexico girls, ages 13-18, and is well into the planning stages. We are excited about the lessons learned from last year and we think this conference will be better than ever.

When: April 7 & 8, 2006

Fee: \$10.00 per girl and it includes a t-shirt, 2 snacks, 1 dinner, 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, all workshops and exhibit booths. Scholarships are available for those with financial need.

Where: University of New Mexico Student Union Building in Albuquerque

Co-sponsors include: Soroptimist International of Albuquerque, Office of African American Affairs, Girl Scouts of Chaparral Council, Girl Scouts of Sangre de Cristo, NM MESA, Inc., NM Coalition Against Domestic Violence, NM Teen Pregnancy Coalition, Linda Simon Consulting, NM Commission on Community Volunteerism, MADD, University of New Mexico Women's Resource Center and Women's Health Services of Santa Fe.

Hotel Accommodations for the 2006 Conference

The Days Inn (formerly the Le Baron Inn) at 2120 Menaul NE has a block of rooms for April 7 & 8 for girls and chaperones attending the conference. Single rooms are \$39.00 per night and double rooms are \$45.00 per night (plus tax). The double rooms hold 4 girls, so for 11.25 per girl per night you can stay at the Days Inn. Rooms will be held until March 15th so call early. Their toll-free number is 1-800-444-7378.

4. Reminder: National Year of the Girl

The NM Commission on the Status of Women is honored to be hosting the National Association of Commissions for Women Annual Convention in July 2008. Coupled with that program, we are also planning to invite 1000 girls from around the nation to participate in a five day conference honoring the American girl during that same time. Planning for this important event starts January 2006. If you are interested in being a part of this historic conference, please contact Kathi Brown at kathi.brown@state.nm.us We need input from all across the state of all ages – including girls!

Message from the Young Fathers' Project

Recently two peer mentor/educators with the New Mexico Young Fathers' Project presented to a group of Harrison Middle School students about the challenges and realities of being young fathers. This was done in collaboration with staff from the South Valley Male Involvement Project. The students were so engaged and moved by the experience that they organized donations to the young fathers' project which provided items for the children of the young fathers including baby food and diapers and a cash donation as well.

Dave Breault, L.I.S.W. and Gilbert Ramirez, L.M.S.W. will be representing the New Mexico Young Fathers' Project as presenters at the upcoming 7th Annual National Fatherhood and Families Conference February 22-24, 2006 in Phoenix, Arizona. They will be presenting on empowering young fathers and lessons learned by the project. Several of the New Mexico Young Fathers Project statewide staff will be attending the conference whose theme this year is Defining Legacies. This conference historically has been an effective vehicle for networking with other fatherhood program providers as well as providing excellent training and educational experiences.

For information on the Young Fathers' Project please call:

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540 Chama NE Suite 11
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(505) 556-1559

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

Once again, the Coalition has requested that Senator Lopez carry an appropriation to increase state general fund dollars for teen pregnancy prevention. Our Coalition lost funding two years ago as a result of a funding cut by the Human Services Department. Since that time we have struggled to keep our services available. Please contact your

legislators and encourage them to support an increase in teen pregnancy prevention dollars. Stay tuned, we will be sending information on the bill and its progress and ways you can help in the next few weeks. Thank you for your continued support.

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

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NEWS FLASH is funded by grants from
New Mexico Department of Health Family Planning Program
Nirvana Mañana Institute
New Cycle Foundation