

NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

NEWS FLASH

July 2005

Welcome to the July 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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NATIONAL RESOURCES

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- G. Michigan Governor Announces "Talk Early, Talk Often" Initiative

A. New Findings on Abstinence Education Programs Released

Initial findings from a Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. study of over 2,300 students participating in

four abstinence-only education programs are now available. The study provides results from a one-year follow-up of students in four programs: My Choice My Future in Powhatan County, Virginia; ReCapturing the Vision in Miami, Florida; Teens in Control in Clarksdale, Mississippi; and Families United to Prevent Teen Pregnancy in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This initial study necessarily focuses on attitudes. How these programs effect sexual activity will be detailed in a final evaluation report in 2006. The final report will use follow-up data on students who had begun the programs three to five years earlier.

[Click here](#) for the Mathematica Press Release

[Click here](#) for the Full Report

[Click here](#) for a WebMD Article

B. Sociometrics' Sixth Annual Institute for Program Development and Evaluation (IPDE)

When: Thursday, August 25 - Saturday, August 27, 2005

Where: Crowne Plaza Cabaña Hotel, Palo Alto, CA

IPDE provides teen pregnancy and STD/HIV prevention program staff with the information and skills needed to integrate science-based principles and practices into planning and evaluating effective prevention programs. The 2005 IPDE conference will include five courses (taught during 2.5 days) that collectively cover program modeling, process and outcome evaluation, and best practices in teen pregnancy and youth STD/HIV program development and adaptation.

For more information, see the Training Opportunities section below.

C. Where We Are...And Where We're Going

Last month the National Campaign announced a new goal for reducing teen pregnancies over the next ten years. [Click here](#) to read about the nation's progress and about the challenge for the next decade.

D. Celebrating a Decade of Progress

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. [Click here](#) to learn how you can help us celebrate the nation's progress, AND keep teen pregnancy and birth rates declining.

E. A Needed Transition: Lessons from Illinois about Teen Parent TANF Rule

This issue brief reviews how Illinois approached Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) legislation, and it explores why and how the state moved forward with a transitional compliance administrative rule. It also examines the effect the rule has had--notably that the process led to a better understanding of minor parents' individual circumstances and thus led to fewer inappropriate denials.

[Click here](#) for the full report.

F. Parent-Child Connectedness Report Released

ETR Associates is pleased to announce the release of its latest publication titled: "Parent-Child Connectedness: Voices of African-American and Latino Parents and Teens."

This report summarizes findings from an ETR focus group study conducted in 2004 with a total of 135 African-American and Latino parents and teens living in low-income neighborhoods. A total of 16 focus groups were conducted in San Diego, Sacramento, Baltimore, Miami and Long Island.

To download a free pdf version of this report, please visit the [Resource Center for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention website \(ReCAPP\)](#).

G. Michigan Governor Announces "Talk Early, Talk Often" Initiative

This week Michigan Governor, Jennifer Granholm unveiled a new pilot program entitled, "Talk Early, Talk Often," designed to offer parents a resource for talking with their middle school-age children about abstinence and sexuality issues. The "Talk Early, Talk Often" pilot is part of the Granholm Administration's Blueprint for Preventing Unintended Pregnancies that includes two other initiatives: increased access to family planning services for low income women and contraceptive equity for men and women.

To read more, [click here](#).

2. New from Advocates for Youth

- A. The Flat Earth Society Persists
- B. Stop Government Censorship in Hollywood
- C. How Can I Talk About...? The Benefits of Condoms
- D. Issues at a Glance – Integrating Efforts to Prevent HIV, Other STIs, and Pregnancy among Teens in Developing Countries: Three Case Studies

A. The Flat Earth Society Persists – Conservative Ideologues Promoting the Virtues of an Abstinence-only/No Contraception Approach to Education

On Monday, June 13, 2005, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families sponsored what Advocates' President, James Wagoner, called "a meeting of the Flat Earth Society." The Eighth Annual Welfare Research and Evaluation Conference included presentations by ultra conservative ideologues, such as Kirk Johnson, Robert Rector, Stan Weed, and Robert Lerner, once again promoting the virtues of an abstinence-only/no contraception approach to education.

Kirk Johnson and Robert Rector attempted to call into question recent findings published in the Journal of Adolescent Health by Dr. Hannah Brückner (Yale University) and Dr. Peter Bearman (Columbia University) regarding virginity pledges and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). While admitting that among sexually experienced youth, 88 percent of youth that took a virginity pledge had sex before marriage, Mr. Rector complained that Bearman and Brückner used the wrong methodology to assess STD infections. To read the doctors' response, visit www.advocatesforyouth.org/news/talkingpoints/virginitypledges.htm

Also released, was the long overdue, government-sponsored report by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. Mathematica won the contract to evaluate the impact of selected, federally funded, abstinence-only programs. This report, based on the study's second wave of data, did not measure behavior change, focusing only on attitudes and intentions. Its findings were similar to other evaluations of abstinence-only programs in that Mathematica was unable to show that any program had an impact on young people's intention to remain abstinent. For more information, visit www.advocatesforyouth.org/news/press/061405.htm

Robert Lerner presented an "evaluation" of Best Friends that only showed that young people who

choose to join an abstinence support group are more abstinent than those who don't choose to join. This finding is due to young people self-selecting to participate, not the quality of the program. For a critique of Robert Lerner's paper, visit www.advocatesforyouth.org/news/talkingpoints/bestfriends.htm

B. Stop Government Censorship in Hollywood

Take Positive Action for Responsible Television (Take P.A.R.T.) to support accurate sexual health information and positive images on television.

Government intimidation of Hollywood has made many networks nervous about providing sexual health information and storylines in their programming. Some have begun to censor themselves—concerned about the ambiguity of FCC regulations and fearful of the tactics of an administration intent on promoting ignorance to keep young people from engaging in sex before marriage. But, many in Hollywood have had the courage to take a stand!

This month The Media Project and Advocates for Youth recognize Jack & Bobby and Eve for their honest, accurate depictions of adolescent sexual health on TV. Write to the broadcasters and the FCC to express your support of accurate sexual health information on television. Tell these shows you support and applaud their efforts!

Jack & Bobby's "A Child of God" accurately depicted the challenges facing most pregnant teens today in the United States. To send a letter in support of Jack & Bobby to The WB and the FCC, visit capwiz.com/advofy/issues/alert/?alertid=7716086

Eve's "Testing, Testing HIV" showed the importance of getting tested for HIV before starting a sexual relationship. To send a letter in support of Eve to UPN and the FCC, visit capwiz.com/advofy/issues/alert/?alertid=7716201

C. How Can I Talk About ...? The Benefits of Condoms

Advocates for Youth recognizes a need for useful information to help colleagues talk about important issues playing out in the media each and every day. These analyses and talking points provide helpful facts and context relating to adolescent sexual health issues currently in the news.

This month Advocates focuses on the continued attempts by ideologues to undermine condom use among sexually active youth. Condoms provide by far the best protection for the sexually active, and are highly effective at preventing pregnancy and many sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Read Advocates' analysis and talking points related to the benefits of condoms online at www.advocatesforyouth.org/news/talkingpoints/condoms.htm

D. Issues at a Glance—Integrating Efforts to Prevent HIV, Other STIs, and Pregnancy among Teens in Developing Countries: Three Case Studies

Youth's decisions about their sexual and reproductive health affect not only their lives, but also the health of the global community. Thus, there is an urgent need for programs and policies to address the complex sexual and reproductive health needs of earth's one billion youth ages 15 to 24. This paper discusses integration and offers case studies, lessons learned, and tips for integrated approaches to preventing HIV, STIs, and unintended pregnancy among youth.

Online at www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/iag/integrating_developing.htm

[3. New from the Comprehensive Health Education Network](#)

Subject: Sexuality Education Guidelines

Some of you may be interested in a document created jointly by the Washington State Department of Health and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction called "[Guidelines for Sexual Health and Disease Prevention](#)". The Guidelines were developed at the request of legislators following last years' session that was sent to Secretary Mary Selecky of the DOH and Superintendent Terry Bergeson. The Guidelines are for voluntary use by local schools districts. A number of districts have reconsidered their current programs for sexuality education as a result of the Guidelines being available. They may be found by going to www.k12.wa.us/curriculum/instruct/healthfitness.

4. New from Healthy Communities Newsletter

- A. Substance Abuse during Pregnancy is More Likely in Younger Women
- B. Give Mothers-to-Be the Answers They Need to Have a Healthy Pregnancy!
- C. Mental Illness Is Chronic Disease among Young People
- D. Reduced Risk Tobacco Products Offer No Benefits, Only Confusion
- E. Quickly Teach Young People the Myths about Smoking
- F. UConn Study Reinforces Importance of Teen Driver Restrictions
- G. Eating and Exercising For Better Health

A. Substance Abuse during Pregnancy Is More Likely in Younger Women

Pregnant women ages 15 to 25 are much more likely to smoke, drink, and use illicit drugs than pregnant women ages 26 to 44, according to a report released on June 2, 2005, by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The report, entitled "Substance Abuse during Pregnancy: 2002 and 2003 Update," features data drawn from the National Surveys on Drug Use and Health, 2002 and 2003. "We know that substance use by pregnant women is a leading cause of mental, physical and psychological problems in infants and children," says SAMHSA administrator Charles Curie. "These health ramifications are preventable." Read the full story at: www.samhsa.gov/news/newsreleases/050602nr_pregnancy.htm

B. Give Mothers-to-Be the Answers They Need to Have a Healthy Pregnancy!

"Planning A Healthy Pregnancy: A Self-Care Handbook" (EM93222)K walks readers through the physical and emotional aspects of each stage of pregnancy, with interactive exercises and more!

To learn more or to place a secure online order, [click here](#).

C. Mental Illness Is Chronic Disease among Young People

In what the National Institute of Mental Health has called a "landmark study," researchers have found that 50 percent of lifetime cases of mental disorders begin as early as age 14 and typically go untreated for nearly a decade. This study -- an expanded replication of the 1990 National Comorbidity Survey -- involved 9,292 English-speaking participants ages 18 and older. Details of the study appear in the June 6 issue of the Archives of General Psychiatry. Read the full story at: www.nimh.nih.gov/press/mentalhealthstats.cfm. Find nationally recognized mental and emotional health resources at: www.channing-bete.com/public-health/mental-health.html?src=em

D. Reduced-Risk Tobacco Products Offer No Benefits, Only Confusion

According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, University of Minnesota researchers have published a groundbreaking report that refutes tobacco-industry claims of new "safer" smoking products. These new products, called "potentially reduced-exposure tobacco products (PREPs)," do

not reduce the health risks of smoking as claimed, and have other shortcomings, as outlined in the report. Solutions for clearing up the misconceptions are also provided.

Read the full story at: www.rwjf.org/newsroom/activitydetail.jsp?id=10146&type=2

E. Quickly Teach Young People the Myths about Smoking

"Myths About Smoking -- No 'Safe' Tobacco" (EM34458) A is an engaging folder that exposes some of the major myths about tobacco use, such as the fact that "light" cigarettes are no safer than regular ones, and that spit tobacco, flavored cigarettes, cigars, and pipes are as hazardous as cigarettes. To learn more or to place a secure online order, [click here](#)

F. UConn Study Reinforces Importance of Teen Driver Restrictions

The State of Connecticut is taking the right steps to keep teen drivers safe, as confirmed by a new study published by the Connecticut Transportation Institute (CTI) at the University of Connecticut's School of Engineering. Since 1997, Connecticut has been enforcing a partial graduated licensing program that requires young drivers to complete a six-month probationary licensing period. The CTI study, which was published on May 24, 2005, found that drivers ages 16-20 have a substantially greater risk of auto accidents at night, on freeways, on local roads, and when three or more passengers are present. Read the full story at: www.uconn.edu/newsmedia/2005/may05/rel05036.html. Find popular traffic safety-related resources at: www.channing-bete.com/community-safety/traffic-safety.html?scr=em

G. "Eating And Exercising For Better Health;

A Self-Care Handbook" (EM93247)K is a photo-illustrated guide tailored to people who have already decided to change their diet for better health, but could use helpful tips on good nutrition and finding the right exercise program.

To learn more or to place a secure online order, [click here](#)

5. New from the Center for Law and Social Policy

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) recently posted new publications on its website, www.clasp.org: **A Needed Transition: Lessons from Illinois about Teen Parent TANF Rules** by Lacinda Hummel and Jodie Levin-Epstein. TANF legislation includes two rules specific to minor parents (parents under age 18). One rule requires that minor parents live in an approved arrangement, usually with their parents. The other rule requires that minor parents typically participate in education leading to a high school diploma or GED. This issue brief reviews how Illinois approached eligibility under the two minor parent rules, and it explores why and how Illinois moved forward with a transitional compliance administrative rule. It also examines the effect the rule has had--notably that the process led to a better understanding of minor parents' individual circumstances and thus led to fewer inappropriate denials. www.clasp.org/publications/needed_transition.pdf

CLASP Audio Conference: July 15, 2005, 12:30-1:30 ET

Sure Start: Lessons for the U.S. from Universal Pre-K in the UK

The U.K. government's Sure Start program aims to "deliver the best start in life for every child by bringing together: early education, childcare, health and family support." Further, it aims to ensure delivery of free early education for all three- and four-year-olds; affordable, quality child care and after school activities; and health and family support to disadvantaged areas where it is most needed. It

also works with parents on their employment goals and their goals for their children's education. What are the current findings about the program? How does financing work? What are the program, policy, and political lessons for the U.S.? Guests for this audio conference include: Naomi Eisenstadt, Director, Sure Start Unit, Department for Education and Skills, London and Mark Greenberg, Director of Policy, CLASP

To register for this audio conference, visit: www.clasp.org/confdescriptions.php#12.

Past Audio Conference Transcripts Now Available including: Connecting Disconnected Youth and Disconnected Systems: Innovative Community Approaches

www.clasp.org/audio/ac_transcript_050605_2.pdf

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

A. Sociometrics' Sixth Annual Institute for Program Development and Evaluation (IPDE)

Sociometrics Corporation, an applied social science research company in Los Altos, California, will be holding its Sixth Annual Institute for Program Development and Evaluation (IPDE) for teen pregnancy and STD/HIV prevention practitioners from August 25-27, 2005 at the Crowne Plaza Cabaña Hotel, Palo Alto, CA. The deadline for registering for the 2005 IPDE conference is July 22, 2005. For further details and an online registration form, [click here](#) or download a printable flyer.

For information on a Tuition Waiver Work-Study option, [click here](#).

For IPDE-related inquiries, send email to socio@socio.com or call Denise Hill at 650-949-3282 x203 (toll free 800-846-3475 x203).

B. Healthy Teen Network Annual Conference

Healthy Teen Network, formerly known as The National Organization on Adolescent, Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention (NOAPPP), has announced that its 2005 annual conference, ***Leading the Charge: Making a Difference in the Lives of Teens and Young Families***, will be held November 16-19, 2005, in Chicago, IL. Healthy Teen Network seeks proposals for presentations and hands-on workshops that will develop transferable skills among conference participants in the following focus areas: 1) research and evaluation, 2) policy and advocacy, and/or 3) programs. Within each of the three focus areas, the conference will emphasize the following subcategories: pregnancy prevention and sex education; young families (teen parents and their children); science-based programs and practices; family involvement and engagement; male involvement; and state and local coalitions. For more information, please visit

www.healthyteennetwork.org/Services/Conference/2005%20Conference/2005Conference.htm

SHINING STARS

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

This month's ***Shining Star***, Will P., has been involved with the Young Fathers' Project since February 2005 when he moved from the northeast. Since that time he has been working diligently to improve his employment and educational situations to better provide for his year old son, Dominic. He is now enrolled in TVI with plans to obtain a degree in business. In order to give back to the community, Will is also involved as a mentor in a program which helps children of incarcerated parents. He has expressed interest in becoming part of the Project's peer mentor/educator program where he could present his story to middle school students and community groups as a means of sharing the joys and challenges of being a young father.

Message from the New Mexico Young Fathers' Project

With school out of session, many of the project activities have shifted to more one on one contacts. We provide programming in many school settings in juvenile correctional and/or treatment facilities. Our regular staff development meetings for staff at projects statewide continue with an educational/training component, which for the last two sessions has focused on domestic violence. Initially, we brought in a clinician to discuss the dynamics and treatment options. At the next meeting, -the attendees were addressed by a special commissioner on domestic violence who shared the legal aspects and covered information on temporary orders of protection and her experience in the field. Our sessions cover a variety of topical areas from fatherhood/parenting to cultural competency.

If you know of a young father who needs assistance with paternity issues, wants to learn to be a good father, or needs to talk to other young fathers for mutual support, please the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition (505) 254-8737 or go to the New Mexico Young Fathers Project web page – www.youngfathers.org.

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

For information on the Project please call:

Carl W. Dellinger, Project Director
New Mexico Young Fathers Project
540 Chama NE Suite 11
Albuquerque, NM 87108
(505)254-8737 cell (505)450-9050
Fax (505) 254-8741

Barry McIntosh
Santa Fe Site Coordinator
(505) 699-7431

Jesus Gonzales

Santa Fe Community Coordinator
(505) 310-0310

Ramon Arroyos
Las Cruces Site Coordinator
(505) 556-1559

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

NMTPC has been alerted that the US House of Representatives has designated the last week in July "Health Week" and they will be considering several health bills on the House floor.

NMTPC Membership Drive

Planning has begun for the Annual NMTPC Conference to honor the work we have done in New Mexico over the last twenty years to address the teen pregnancy problem in the state. We will also look at the wonderful work being done today and the committed people doing that work, and what programs and services we see developing for the coming year. We have come far and should celebrate our successes, but we still have more to do. Plan to join us for the Conference on December 9, 2005. Please reserve the date, and anticipate a lively celebration of the positive changes in communities and young lives influenced.

Just a reminder, NMTPC members get a reduced rate for the Conference, so if you have not renewed your membership this year, now would be a good time to act. NMTPC appreciates your support and all of the work you do to affect change in New Mexico's youth and their prospects for the future.

[Download the membership form here](#)

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

Invitation to join

We invite you to join us at the New Mexico Coalition to Support Sexuality Education (NMCSSE) which brings advocates, professionals, religious leaders, policy makers, parents, and students together. We provide advocacy, information, and support for age appropriate, medically accurate, and inclusive sexuality health education. We recognize that healthy relationships and access to services for our youth has a positive impact on the health of our communities. Our goal is to be a statewide coalition for healthy youth outcomes. In the future our meetings will come to you. Contact Adriann Barboa, Chair NMCSSE ywa_albq@yahoo.com Phone (505) 83-8930.

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