

# NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

## NEWS FLASH

March 2005

Welcome to the March issue of the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition's  
**NEWS FLASH**

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#### **A. Preventing Teen Pregnancy: Why It Matters**

"Preventing Teen Pregnancy: Why It Matters" is a new one-page fact sheet from the National Campaign that underscores the strong relationship between preventing teen pregnancy and improving other pressing social issues such as childhood poverty. For example, the fact sheet notes that the chances of a child growing up in poverty if (1) the mother gave birth as a teen, (2) the parents were unmarried when the child was born, and (3) the mother did not receive a high school diploma or GED is: 7% if none of these things happen, 27% if one of these things happens, 42% if two of these

things happen, and 63% if three of these things happen. Put another way, if these three things happen, a child's chance of growing up in poverty is nine times greater than if none of these things happen. To download a free copy of the fact sheet, please visit: [www.teenpregnancy.org/whycare/pdf/WhyItMatters.pdf](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/whycare/pdf/WhyItMatters.pdf).

### **B. Players and Pledgers: A Campaign Conference Call on Young Adolescents**

There is widespread concern about sexual activity among young adolescents. Recently, People Magazine and an NBC primetime special with Katie Couric shined a national spotlight on this issue. While there is some evidence that trends are improving, there is still good reason to be concerned about sexual activity and pregnancy among this population.

On March 8, National Campaign Director Sarah Brown convened a conference call for "Players and Pledgers," on the sexual behavior and attitudes of young adolescents and programs that target this population. Also participating in the call were Roseanne Bilodeau, Executive Director, Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc., Karin Coyle, Research Director, ETR Associates, John Riley, President and Creative Director, Metrix Marketing, and Bill Albert, the National Campaign's Communications Director.

Please direct any questions to Kristen Tertzakian, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, at (202) 478-8556 or [ktertzakian@teenpregnancy.org](mailto:ktertzakian@teenpregnancy.org).

### **C. Tom Kean Named Chair of RWJF's Board of Trustees**

National Campaign chairman Tom Kean has been named chair of the Robert Wood Johnson's Board of Trustees. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care. Kean, who has served as the National Campaign's Board chair since the organization's inception in 1996, is a former governor of New Jersey, President of Drew University, and served as co-chair of the 9/11 commission. In a news release announcing the appointment, Foundation board member James Gavin, who headed the search for a new chairman, said "Tom brings to RWJF a long career as a top government official, senior executive and board member for several well-respected organizations." Foundation president and CEO Risa Lavizzo-Mourney called Kean a "respected leader known for his ability to bring parties together and facilitate positive change."

For more information, please visit [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org).

### **D. Teen Pregnancy Funding Information**

A new online resource from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) highlights national and state foundations that list teen pregnancy as a focus area. The latest issue of "Foundation Funding Guide" allows users to click on their state and find practical information on applications, deadlines, geographic focus, and limitations of each granting organization.

To view the guide, visit: [www.naccho.org/general927.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/general927.cfm).

### **E. Content of Sex Education Curricula**

A new report from the Heritage Foundation analyzes and compares the content of "authentic abstinence" sex education curricula to the content of "abstinence plus" or "comprehensive sex education" curricula. The report notes that the curricula have "radically different content, messages, and goals."

To read the Heritage report, click here: [www.heritage.org/Press/Commentary/ed021105a.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/Press/Commentary/ed021105a.cfm)

To read National Campaign Director Sarah Brown's remarks from a Heritage forum when the report was formally released, visit: [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)

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

### **A. Science and Success in Developing Countries: Holistic Programs That Work to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, HIV & Sexually Transmitted Infections**

Advocates for Youth conducted an exhaustive literature review of nearly 200 programs in developing countries. From among them, Advocates identified 10 highly effective programs that showed impact on sexual behaviors and/or on sexual health outcomes. *Science and Success in Developing Countries: Holistic Programs That Work to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, HIV & Sexually Transmitted Infections* compiles descriptions of the 10 programs proven to reduce teen pregnancies and STIs or cause at least two beneficial changes in sexual risk behaviors.

Online at [www.advocatesforyouth.org/programsthatwork/developing/index.htm](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/programsthatwork/developing/index.htm)

In addition, Advocates previously published *Science and Success: Sex Education and Other Programs That Work to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, HIV & Sexually Transmitted Infections*, a review of 19 highly effective, U.S.-based programs that may also be useful, if culturally adapted, in developing countries. Online at [www.advocatesforyouth.org/programsthatwork/toc.htm](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/programsthatwork/toc.htm)

### **B. The Facts—Emergency Contraception: A Safe & Effective Contraceptive Option for Teens**

Teens' current use of contraception prevents as many as 1.65 million pregnancies in the United States each year. However, about 800,000 teens still experience a pregnancy each year and 85 percent of these pregnancies are unintended. Emergency contraception (EC)—a method of preventing pregnancy after sexual intercourse—is an important contraceptive option that could annually prevent at least 50 percent of unintended pregnancies among American women. Experts estimate that timely use of EC could prevent up to 70 percent of abortions. In fact, use of EC prevented about 51,000 abortions in 2000. Specifically, this fact sheet includes information showing that:

- EC prevents pregnancy and the need for abortion.
- EC is safe and effective.
- Many brands of oral contraceptives are used for EC in the United States.
- Health care providers should give teens information about and access to EC.

Online at [www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fsecp.htm](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fsecp.htm)

### **C. Issues at a Glance—South to South Collaboration to Improve Programs for Youth**

South-to-south collaboration is a strategy that can be used effectively in reproductive and sexual health programs in developing countries. In fact, participants at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development endorsed the concept of south-to-south collaboration. When the focus is on improving sexual and reproductive health outcomes among adolescents, south-to-south collaboration can facilitate the sharing of evaluated, culturally appropriate, highly effective strategies and programs. To do this, south-to-south collaborations typically employ networks, study tours, meetings, and conferences and also exchange information, technical assistance, and training. This paper provides an overview of one such collaborative effort, with an emphasis on the benefits, results, and lessons learned from the project.

Online at [www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/iaq/southtosouth.htm](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/iaq/southtosouth.htm)

#### **D. The REAL Act**

**Advocates** announce the introduction of the **REAL Act - Responsible Education About Life** by Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ). The REAL Act is the bill formerly known as the Family Life Education Act (FLEA). The bill language has not changed - the bill, if passed, will award funding (\$206 million a year) to states for medically accurate, age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education. The House bill, H.R. 768, had 65 co-sponsors when it was introduced. The Senate bill, S.368, has Senators Murray (D-WA), Kennedy (D-MA), Cantwell (D-WA) and Corzine (D-NJ) as co-sponsors.

On Thursday, February 10th, Representative Lee and Senator Lautenberg were joined by 17 families and another 10 youth activists (they were all awesome) from across the country for a press conference on the Hill to announce the introduction of the REAL Act. Also 140 national and state organizations have signed on in support of the REAL Act.

Now is the time to activate your grassroots networks. For those of you, who have advocacy centers, please post action alerts asking your activists to contact their Representatives and Senators, urging them to support the Real Act and to oppose any additional funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. For others, urge your activists to contact their Representatives and Senators through the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 or through their web pages ([www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) or [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)).

If your Representative and Senators have not signed on as co-sponsors of the REAL Act, please urge them to become co-sponsors today!

Again, thank you for all your hard work and efforts on behalf of this pro-active effort in support of comprehensive sex education.

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

- A. New Study Looks at the Reproductive Behaviors and Outcomes of Hispanic Teens
- B. Article Focuses on Contraceptive Patterns Within Teens' Most Recent Sexual Relationships
- C. Child Trends' Overstocked Publications Available for Free for Bulk Orders Only

#### **A. New Study Looks at the Reproductive Behaviors and Outcomes of Hispanic Teens**

Child Trends' newest research brief – [Hispanic Teen Pregnancy and Birth Rates: Looking Behind the Numbers](#) – brings together new analyses and recent statistics from several sources to examine the sexual, contraceptive, and relationship behaviors of Hispanic teens. The brief grew out of concerns about the relatively high teen pregnancy and birth rates within the Hispanic population, given research showing the negative consequences that early pregnancy and childbearing can have for both teen mothers and their children. Suzanne Ryan, Ph.D., is the lead author. Click on the underlined title above to view the brief. [Click here](#) to view the press release.

#### **B. Article Focuses on Contraceptive Patterns Within Teens' Most Recent Sexual Relationships**

The journal Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health has recently published an article by Child Trends' researchers Jennifer Manlove, Ph.D., Suzanne Ryan, Ph.D., and Kerry Franzetta titled

["Contraceptive Use and Consistency within Teens' Most Recent Sexual Relationships"](#) (Volume 36, Number 6, November/December 2004, pages 254-275). The article uses data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health to assess how characteristics of sexual partners and relationships are associated with contraceptive use patterns in teenagers' most recent sexual relationship.

### **C. Child Trends' Overstocked Publications Available for Free for Bulk Orders Only**

Child Trends has an inventory of some of our research briefs and other publications. For the next few weeks only, we are offering bulk amounts of certain publications for free, with a minimum charge for postage and handling. [Click here](#) for a list showing available publications, the minimum order, and the minimum cost for processing the order. Contact Bonnie Wahiba at [bwahiba@childtrends.org](mailto:bwahiba@childtrends.org) or 202/572-6136 to order these publications.

### **D. New Partnership Examines Federally Funded Adolescent Health Programs**

From the NM Department of Health: The National Adolescent Health Information Center at the University of California, San Francisco, and Child Trends have established a new partnership to create resources and provide assistance to improve the health of adolescents and their families. Their first collaborative product is titled ***Towards Meeting the Needs of Adolescents: An Assessment of Federally Funded Adolescent Health Programs and Initiatives within the Department of Health and Human Services***. The report reviews adolescent health programs in seven content areas, including health and well-being, fitness, family and peer, school environment, smoking, alcohol, and violence. The report includes an executive summary and introduction, information on the methodology and results, and a discussion of the implications for future endeavors. Figures, tables, program resources, a bibliography, and program references are also presented. The review is intended for use by policymakers and program managers in meeting the varied needs of adolescents, their families, and their communities. The report is available from the MCH Library Web site at: [www.mchlibrary.info/mchbfinalreports/docs/03mchb072bcc03244p.pdf](http://www.mchlibrary.info/mchbfinalreports/docs/03mchb072bcc03244p.pdf)

The MCH Library has several additional information products about adolescent health available at [www.mchlibrary.info/AZtopics.htm](http://www.mchlibrary.info/AZtopics.htm)

## **4. New from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**

### **Administration's Five-Year Caps On Appropriations Would Lead To Substantial Reductions In Important Domestic Programs by James Horney and Richard Kogan**

#### Summary

The President's budget proposes that statutory caps be established for each of the next five years on both funding levels and expenditure levels for annually appropriated ("discretionary") programs. The caps would be set at the levels of funding and expenditures that the President's budget proposes for these programs for 2006 through 2010.

If the proposed caps are established and Congress provides funding for the Department of Defense, homeland security activities, and international affairs programs at the levels the President proposes, then other discretionary programs — i.e., the domestic discretionary programs — would have to be cut substantially. The cuts in domestic discretionary programs would total \$214 billion over five years (as compared with the amounts appropriated for these programs for 2005, adjusted only for inflation). The cuts would grow deeper with each passing year. In 2010, the cuts would reach \$66 billion,

representing a 16 percent reduction in funding for these programs in the aggregate.

Complying with these caps would require substantial reductions in a wide array of programs that provide public services, such as education, environmental protection, veterans' health care, medical research, law enforcement, community development grants, and food and drug safety inspection. The cuts after 2006 in specific discretionary programs, that would be needed to meet the caps are not shown in the Administration's budget; for the first time since at least 1989, an Administration has declined to provide information about the specific funding levels it is proposing for individual discretionary programs for years beyond the coming year. But the proposal to set caps on discretionary programs for the next five years indicates that the Administration is serious about achieving these large cuts.

The reductions in domestic discretionary programs, that would be required to comply with the caps (assuming Congress approves the President's proposed funding levels for the Department of Defense, international affairs, and homeland security) would be about six times as deep, measured as a share of the economy, as the cuts achieved between 1990 and 1998 under the discretionary caps in place at that time. By 2010, these cuts would reduce expenditures for domestic discretionary programs, measured as a share of the economy, to the lowest level since sometime before 1962. (1962 is the earliest year for which these data are available.)

For further information, contact Healthy Teen Network (formerly known as NOAPP) at Healthy Teen Network, 509 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NE, Washington DC 20002 or [www.HealthyTeenNetwork.org](http://www.HealthyTeenNetwork.org)

## [5. New from Center for Law and Social Policy](#)

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) announces a national audio conference on marriage and low-income families that will be held March 18, 2005, from 12:30-1:30 pm (ET). It will feature an interview with Kathy Edin, co-author of the new book [Promises I Can Keep](#). With Congress moving forward on passage of a marriage promotion initiative, Edin's exploration of what low-income women think and do about wedding vows is timely and illuminating. Join the call on the 18th or order a tape. For information and to order, visit: [www.clasp.org/confdescriptions.php#8](http://www.clasp.org/confdescriptions.php#8)

In addition, CLASP recently posted the following new publication on its website: [www.clasp.org](http://www.clasp.org)

Written Statement of Vicki Turetsky on Child Support and Fatherhood Provision in TANF Reauthorization by Vicki Turetsky. This written statement was submitted to the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means on February 24, 2005. It discusses child support assignment and distribution and fatherhood program funding in the context of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families reauthorization. [www.clasp.org/publications/cs\\_testimony\\_022405.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/publications/cs_testimony_022405.pdf)

## [6. New from the Administration for Children and Families](#)

### **A. President and Mrs. Bush Discuss Helping America's Youth Initiative**

March 8, 2005 - At the Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, Penn., this week, President and Mrs. Bush highlighted the [Helping America's Youth Initiative](#). This initiative is designed to help children and teens reach their full potential. To read their remarks, [click here](#).

## **B. Broke But Not Deadbeat: Reconnecting Low-Income Fathers and Children, July 1999**

A National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) publication entitled "Broke But Not Deadbeat: Reconnecting Low-Income Fathers and Children" addresses the circumstances faced by low-income fathers who are not able to meet their required child support payments, the implications and consequences for the children, and the opportunities available through the TANF, Welfare-to-Work, and Workforce Investment Act to assist this population.

To view or download: [Download Report](#) [560 KB]

## **C. Getting Off The Ground: Early Implementation Findings About Child Support Enforcement, Head Start, and Child Care Collaboration Demonstrations, March 2000**

In Fiscal Year 1997, the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) awarded funds to the State Child Support Enforcement Agencies of Alaska, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, and Minnesota to develop State-specific approaches for promoting and facilitating access to child support services. This report provides the early findings on the implementation of these five State-initiated demonstrations designed to explore collaborations between child support enforcement, Head Start, and childcare programs. To view: [www.fatherhood.hhs.gov/Collaboration-Demos99/](http://www.fatherhood.hhs.gov/Collaboration-Demos99/)

## **7. New from Hablamos Juntos Update**

Hablamos Juntos eUpdate is a periodic electronic newsletter that focuses on current developments in improving patient-provider communication for individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP). This is achieved by highlighting activities of the Hablamos Juntos program and our grantees, sharing information on recent advancements and current discussion on language services.

We all strive to provide the highest quality patient care to Americans, which means constantly evaluating and improving communications between patients and providers. Language barriers in health care organizations means many of your Latino constituents/customers are not getting the health care services they need either because of lack of understanding between patient and doctor or lack of access to treatment.

Federal guidelines require language services be provided to Latinos who need them in hospitals and other health care facilities, but these are not followed rigorously, meaning many patients don't get the care they need. Hablamos Juntos is identifying and testing practical steps that if adopted and funded can eliminate language barriers, improve quality of care for Latino patients and reduce unnecessary costs caused by miscommunications.

### **Innovative Tools to Aid Communication**

Hablamos Juntos grantees have developed multiple tools ranging from low-tech to high-tech that are giving staff more options in communicating with LEP patients.

Signature Project: Grantees Help Develop Statewide Interpreting Systems - All Grantees are taking advantage of local opportunities to create unique project outcomes that are possible because of unique local conditions. Two grantees have coordinating collaborative systems with local institutions to provide interpreting services for multiple healthcare organizations.

Signage Update: Pilot Sites and Fabricators Selected - Four hospitals and four fabricators have been selected for the next phase of the Signs that Work project.

Upcoming Event: Cover the Uninsured Week 2005 - Hablamos Juntos encourages interested

agencies to get involved with this annual event to raise awareness about the growing problem of uninsured patients.

Interpreter Encounters - Grantees collected personal vignettes of experiences interpreters had with patients and physicians.

Making the News: Grantees and HJ Efforts Make Headlines - The School of Public Health at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, a Hablamos Juntos grantee, was cited for its efforts to create a medical interpreting system in Texas.

Hablamos Juntos (Spanish for "We Speak Together") is a unique project designed to forge connections between health care providers and the rapidly growing Latino health market. As a national program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Hablamos Juntos is investing \$10 million in ten demonstration sites around the country. These sites, ranging from health plans and large hospital systems to small nonprofit community organizations, will work to improve communication between health care providers and patients and eliminate language barriers that can lead to medical errors and compromise the quality of care.

More on Hablamos Juntos: Feel free to contact any Hablamos Juntos with questions or suggestions

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650 Childs Way, Lewis Hall, Room 102  
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## **8. Announcement**

### **\*\*\*\*Leaders Call for Equity, Rigor in the American High School\*\*\*\***

\$42 million initiative builds on high school summit, supports state-level efforts to raise graduation rates, prep! are all students for success

WASHINGTON - As the unprecedented National Education Summit on High Schools came to a close today, the National Governors Association (NGA) and six partner foundations announced a \$42 million initiative to ensure the summit's resounding call to overhaul the nation's high school system translates into action. In a spirit of broad bi-partisan support, 45 governors joined educators and business leaders for the two-day summit to address the nation's alarming dropout rates and the fact that most students leave high school without the skills necessary for success in college or the workplace.

The six foundations joining forces to support state efforts are the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Wallace Foundation, The Prudential Foundation and the State Farm Foundation.

In the summit's opening session, Bill Gates, co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, highlighted the economic and social imperative of improving the nation's "obsolete" high schools.

"Everyone who understands the importance of education; everyone who believes in equal

opportunity; everyone who has been elected to uphold the obligations of public office should be ashamed that we are breaking our promise of a free education for millions of students," Gates said in his speech.

Low high school graduation rates and growing awareness of the convergence of skills necessary for college and the workplace have helped build national momentum high school reform. Nearly one-third of all high school students fail to graduate. Of those who do graduate, close to half will not have the knowledge or skills they need for success in college, according to a Manhattan Institute report released earlier this month. Only about half of African-American and Hispanic youth make it to graduation day and fewer than 20 percent are ready for college-level academics.

The six foundations committed \$23 million to help states create and implement policy strategies designed to improve graduation and college-readiness rates. A portion of the funding requires a one-to-one match from state grant recipients, bringing the total to \$42 million. Through a competitive grant process open to all states, the NGA Center for Best Practices will manage and award the grants. The public-private partnership begins to lay a foundation and gives states options for matching potential support with the different policies they want to pursue.

"This is an unprecedented collaboration between state government and the philanthropic community," said NGA Chairman Virginia Governor Mark Warner. "This public-private partnership will lay the foundation for long-term systemic change."

The summit's action agenda outlined key state-level reforms aimed at preparing students for college and the workplace. They include aligning high school graduation requirements with college-readiness standards; helping low-performing schools and students; increasing the number of high-quality teachers and principals; collecting data to better measure progress; strengthening accountability for high schools and colleges; and integrating K-12 and postsecondary education.

A broader partnership is being explored with the following foundations: Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Bell South Foundation, Lumina Foundation for Education and GE Foundation.

The 2005 National Education Summit on High Schools is sponsored by NGA and Achieve, Inc. in partnership with the Business Roundtable, the James B. Hunt Institute and the Education Commission of the States.

"Every kid can graduate ready for college. Every kid should have the chance," said Bill Gates in his speech. "Let's redesign our schools to make it happen."

Contact: Marie Groark  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Phone: 206.709.3400  
Email: [media@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:media@gatesfoundation.org)

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

### **\*\*Experience the Power of a Collaborative Approach in Bringing Effective Principle of Prevention Education to New Mexico**

**NM SHARE Summit 2005** (Sexual Health And Risk Education) Collaborative Sponsoring:

“Kids in the Middle II: Some Facts of Life Caring Adults Cannot Ignore”

**When:** March 16 & 17, 2005

**Location:** MCM Elegante 2020 Menaul NE, Albuquerque, NM

No Cost to attend, however, pre-registration is required.

**Featuring:** Jacquelyn G. Sowers, M.Ed., Nationally Renowned Keynote Speaker and Facilitator in Health Promotion and Education

#### **Summit Goal:**

To provide a safe and equitable environment for communication and collaboration on principles of prevention related to reducing risky sexual behavior among school-age youth.

#### **Objectives:**

- To provide information on promising approaches to reduce risky sexual behavior among teens from a nationally recognized professional
- 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

#### **Who Should Attend?**

- Youth workers & Advocates
- Human Service Professionals
- School Health Professionals
- Administrators
- Health Practitioners
- Public Health Professionals
- Policy Makers

Continuing Education Units offered for:

- Social Work
- Nursing
- CHES (Certified Health Education Specialists)
- Counseling

- Sponsored by the NM SHARE (Sexual Health And Risk Education) Collaborative
- Funded by the NM Public Education Department, School and Family Support Bureau through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control
- Directed by the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition

To Register and For More Information Contact:

Linda Brooks  
NM SHARE Collaborative Coordinator  
Phone – 505-286-5366  
Fax – 505-286-5376  
Email: [share@nmtpc.org](mailto:share@nmtpc.org)  
Website: [www.nmshare.org](http://www.nmshare.org)

**\*\*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 this issue of the [NEWS FLASH](#) we offer the final part of the data on - What Works: Effective Programs. For more information go to: [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)

#### What Works: Effective Programs

Communities have a variety of effective programs from which to choose:

- Sex and HIV education programs
- Service learning programs
- Combining youth development with sex education.

#### Characteristics of Effective Curriculum-Based Programs

- Have a specific, narrow focus on behavior
- Based on theoretical approaches that have been effective in influencing other risky health-related behavior
- Provide clear messages about sex and protection against STDs or pregnancy
- Provide basic, not detailed information
- Address peer pressure
- Teach Communication Skills
- Include Activities That are Interactive
- Reflect the age, sexual experience, and culture of the young people in the program
- Last longer than several hours
- Carefully select leaders and train them

Early Childhood programs - Appears to be a connection between participating in early childhood programs, performing better in school, and having a more positive outlook for the future.

#### After-School Programs –

After-school programs are important because:

- Adult supervision is strongly linked to reduced risky sexual behavior among teens
- After-school programs may reduce risky sexual behavior by involving teens in activities that provide alternatives to sex.
- A variety of programs are effective including sex education, youth development, and service learning programs.
- Community programs out of the school building and during after-school hours can reach youth most at risk.

#### Programs to Reduce Subsequent Teen Births

Effective Programs:

- Deliver intense, individualized attention to teen mothers. The most important factor is the strength of the relationship between the teen mother and the individual working with her.
- Provide intense, on-going, specific support to encourage proper and consistent use of contraception.
- Encourage teen mothers to live with their parents or other adult in a parent role who can provide economic and social support.

#### A Caveat on Programs:

Programs can't do it all  
 Most teens are not in programs  
 Many programs are fragile or poorly funded  
 Even successful programs have modest results

#### What Seems To Work:

##### **Parents**

- Two decades of research, polling and teens themselves make clear that parents matter
- While parents can't *determine* their children's decisions about sex, the quality of their relationships with their children make a real difference.
- We need to convince parents that they matter.
- It's more than just talking.
- Reach them where they are and provide them with practical information.

##### **Norms**

- A growing body of evidence suggests personal values and perceptions of peer behavior are consistent and powerful predictors of early sexual initiation.
- Most teens overestimate the proportion of their peers having sex.
- Personal Values: Hearing and internalizing messages about the value of delaying sexual initiation.

#### What will it take?

- *Really* listen to what parents and teens have to say.
- Support parents in their critical role.
- Don't forget about the media.
- Build support for investments with powerful cost/benefit information, results and examples.
- Connect to issues such as education and workforce preparation, fatherhood, child poverty, family stability/marriage...
- Broaden the number of active players and partners.
- Tolerate and respect differences
  - Unity of goals
  - Diversity of means
  - Engage and highlight teens

## 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 is a young father attending a charter school. James D. is an eighteen-year-old father who has been involved with the project since October of 2004. He was in the initial group and has attended regularly and participates, eager to learn more about his role as a teen dad. Working on his personal issues has helped him achieve more clarity and dedication to fulfilling his role. His movement toward parental responsibility through school attendance and involvement in his six-month-old daughter's life are recognizable. Although he struggled initially with the serious responsibilities he has incurred, he seems to be taking a positive approach to what he needs to contribute to his daughter's having a reliable father figure, which he was blessed to have growing up.

## Message from the New Mexico Young Fathers' Project

**Upcoming Events:** The Department of Health-Public Health Division's South Valley Male Involvement Project is hosting a **3 on 3 Basketball Tournament** at the Alamosa Community Center at 6900 Gonzales Rd. from 8 am to 1 pm on **Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**. A half day tournament features different divisions for traditional players and players utilizing a wheel chair. In addition to the tournament, this event will provide educational sessions prior to the tournament for players including topics such as violence, anger management, drugs and alcohol education, teen pregnancy/STD prevention, and relationship/communication issues. This project is collaborating with several community groups including the New Mexico Young Fathers Project. Contact person is Brian Serna at 833-9950. Call to see if any slots are still available or just come by and cheer on your favorite team. Donations are graciously accepted.

**New Mexico Young Fathers Project Impact** - A review of data from the period between September 1999 to December 2004 indicate that 1096 young men have had services provided. One positive impact occurred with a fourteen percent increase in the number of men who say they use something to prevent pregnancy or disease between the initial intake and follow up assessment. A significant change in frequency of birth control use was shown in young men who say they used something to prevent pregnancy and disease every time they had intercourse during the past six months. Knowledge of child development had also increased between first and last assessment, as had job readiness. These differences were significant at least at the .05 level.

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 the location near you, please call our main number in Albuquerque at the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition (505)254-8737 or go to the New Mexico Young Fathers Project web page – [www.youngfathers.org](http://www.youngfathers.org). The web page is in the process of being up dated.

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

The New Mexico Legislature hosted Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Day at the Roundhouse on Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. The day started with a Press Conference in the Rotunda during which a number of teens talked about their experiences and the programs they represent. Tables were set up with information about some of the programs for pregnant and parenting teens, and programs to prevent teen pregnancy for information sharing.



Pictured from left to right at the Roundhouse Event are: Brian Serna – NMDOH South Valley Male Involvement Project, Sylvia Ruiz – NM Teen Pregnancy Coalition, Francisco Ronquillo – NMDOH South Valley Male Involvement, Susan Lovett – NMDOH Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program Manager, Barbara Otto Dennis – Former Director, Dept of Children, Youth & Families Teen Parent Resident Program, Sharon Waggoner – Director, NM GRADS Program, and Johnny Wilson – Vice President for Education, Planned Parenthood of New Mexico.

There are a number of bills supporting the teen pregnancy prevention initiatives coming before the Legislature. SB 409 addressing teen pregnancy and family strengthening passed a hearing of the Senate Education Committee on a vote of 6-0 and continues to wend its way through the Legislature. Please take every available opportunity to talk to your Legislators and ask for their support of the funding and the programs. New Mexico is making progress in reducing the numbers of teen pregnancies in part because of the information and support programs and we need to make sure they continue. Let them know how important addressing the problems caused by teen pregnancy are to New Mexico.

Mil Gracias!  
Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director  
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