

NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

NEWS FLASH

May 2006

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

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A. Mothers Day

We thought it a good time to remind parents of the critical role they play in preventing too-early pregnancy and parenthood. Overall closeness between parents and their children, shared activities, parental presence in the home, and parental caring and concern are all associated with a reduced risk of early sex and pregnancy. The National Campaign has many materials for and about parents:

- **Parent Power: What Parents Need to Know and Do to Help Prevent Teen Pregnancy**
- **Talking Back: Ten Things Teens Want Adults to Know About Teen Pregnancy**
- **Washington Post op-ed**
- **Science Says: Parental Influence and Teen Pregnancy**
- **Five Things Parents Should Know**

B. New Pamphlet on Effective Practices Available

Over the years, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has produced a number of detailed reports designed to answer the following question: What curriculum-based programs work to prevent teen pregnancy? A new pamphlet now available from the National Campaign presents a succinct overview of what is known about carefully evaluated interventions that help prevent teen pregnancy.

The accessible, 19-page pamphlet provides a list of effective programs, selected program effects, contact information, as well as direct links to resources providing additional program and evaluation information. The pamphlet offers advice on how to choose a program, catalogs the characteristics of effective programs, and offers some words of caution about what an effective program actually can accomplish.

To read the pamphlet, click here.

To order copies of the pamphlet (\$1.00 each, \$.70 each for orders of 100 or more) click here.

C. National Day 2006

If you have not already done so, please encourage the young people you know to log onto www.teenpregnancy.org/national/quiz and take the online teen pregnancy quiz---available through the end of May. Tens of thousands of young people have already participated in the 5th annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and our goal is to exceed the 640,000 who took the quiz in 2005.

D. One in Three Pregnant

A reminder: Last week the National Campaign released important new research indicating that nearly one-third of sexually experienced teens girls have been pregnant and more than one in eight teen boys have caused a pregnancy. When examined by race/ethnicity, over half (52%) of sexually experienced Hispanic teen girls, 40% of sexually experienced non-Hispanic black teen girls, and 23% of sexually experienced non-Hispanic white teen girls report having been pregnant.

Please visit www.teenpregnancy.org to read the research brief, press release, one-page summary, PowerPoint, or questions and answers about the research.

E. Latina Magazine and The National Campaign Partner in Survey on Latino Teen Pregnancy

The May issue of Latina Magazine, which hits newsstands next week, includes a feature story about teen pregnancy in the Latino community, and the results of a survey done in partnership with the National Campaign.

Latina magazine explores in depth why about 50% of Latinas in the United States get pregnant by age 20. The National Campaign partnered with Latina to ask Latino parents and teens what they think about teen pregnancy.

Among the findings from the survey: Almost half (45%) of Latino teens aged 14-18 say they have never had a helpful conversation with their parents about sex, yet 82% of parents of Latino teens say they have had such a conversation, according to a new survey released in the May 2006 issue of Latina magazine.

Read the article here, read the press release here, and [click here](#) to find tips for parents!

Are you a parent of a teen? Tell us what you think!

The National Campaign offers many resources in English and Spanish. Visit our online store to find out more.

2. New from Advocates for Youth

- A. Is PEPFAR Becoming an Anti-Condom Campaign?
- B. Apply NOW for the Eighth Annual European Study Tour!
- C. Sex Education for Physically, Emotionally and Mentally Challenged Youth
- D. The National Latina Health Network

A. Is PEPFAR Becoming an Anti-Condom Campaign?

Earlier this month, the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued its report to Congress, detailing the shortcomings of the abstinence-only-until-marriage earmark in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

"This report provides more proof that this Administration's ideology thwarts proven public health science," said James Wagoner, President of Advocates for Youth. "The abstinence-only earmark acts like a political straightjacket, hindering on-the-ground efforts to effectively prevent HIV and AIDS."

To read the press release, please visit:
<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/news/press/040406.htm>

To learn more about the politics of global HIV prevention, please visit:
<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/youth/advocacy/yan/globalhiv/accessdenied.htm>

B. Apply NOW for the Eighth Annual European Study Tour!

Advocates for Youth and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte are sponsoring their eighth European study tour, October 20–November 6, 2006. Apply now to travel to Netherlands, France, and Germany to identify the strategies, programs, and policies that have positively influenced adolescent sexual behavior and outcomes in these countries.

For more information and to download the application, please visit:

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/news/events/stdytour.htm>

C. Sex Education for Physically, Emotionally and Mentally Challenged Youth

In recent years, important changes in public policies and attitudes have resulted in improved opportunities for people with physical and mental disabilities. Now, people living with disabilities assume their rightful place in society as the equals of non-disabled people. Unfortunately, societal attitudes have changed less in regard to sexuality and disability. Even today, many people refuse to acknowledge that all people have sexual feelings, needs, and desires, regardless of their physical and/or mental abilities. As a result, many young people who live with disabilities do not receive sex education, either in school or at home.

To read the full publication, please visit:

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/frtp/challengedyouth.htm>

D. The National Latina Health Network is proud to announce the **Young Latina Health Leadership Institute**. This program is part of the Latinas Educating Each Other (LEEO) Project. Funded by the Office of Minority Health, the Latinas Educating Each Other Project (LEEO) involves Latina/o young adults, their families, and community leaders in a collective movement that mobilizes communities to increase their knowledge and understand the impact of HIV/AIDS.

The Young Latina Health Leadership Institute aims to strengthen the leadership skills of young Latina leaders between the ages of 18-24. Institute participants will attend a national training in Washington, DC, conduct a health leadership activity in their community, and have the opportunity to be mentored by a member of NLHN. NLHN will select up to 20 young Latina leaders from across the nation to be part of the Health Leadership Institute.

We urge you to share this information with all of your constituents, as well as anyone you think would be interested in taking part in this Leadership Institute.

Please email us for an application, since this listserv does not accept attachments. The deadline to apply for this Leadership Institute is June 30, 2006.

For applications and any other questions please e-mail: info.nj@nlhn.net or call 732-565-0070.

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3. New from the Center for Law and Social Policy

Now free and available online!

CLASP Audio Conference: Forgotten Families: An Interview with Author Dr. Jody Heymann

May 12, 2006

A Baltimore nurse, a Honduran sweatshop worker, and a Vietnamese shoe factory laborer—although they come from different worlds, if they are parents, they all must balance the often impossible demands of earning a living with raising healthy, cared-for children. Dr. Jody Heymann's new book, *Forgotten Families*, goes beyond documenting problems; this new study sheds light on what can be done to find solutions and take advantage of the opportunities—for families, businesses and nations—created by globalization. *Forgotten Families* asserts that only by embracing solutions that are truly global can we improve the lives of working families everywhere.

Guest:

Dr. Jody Heymann, Founder Harvard-based Project on Global Working Families and Director, Institute for Health and Social Policy, McGill University

Now, free and online!

CLASP audio conferences are now available as free audio files you can listen to right from your computer (or, burn a CD and listen to it anywhere). We hope this makes our calls accessible to even more listeners. The audio file will be available after 8 am in your time zone the morning of May 12.

Registration is easy, just visit: <http://www.clasp.org/audioconf.php> and you'll receive a reminder, resource list, and link to the file.

Listen Together

Our Audio Conferences are designed to spark collaboration and discussion, and we don't want that to get lost now that we've gone digital. We still encourage you to convene your colleagues and hold a lunchtime session—you can stream the audio or burn a CD and play it in your organization's conference room!

For more information, please contact:

Soleste Lupu
CLASP Audio Conference Coordinator
(202) 906-8031 or slupu@clasp.org

Implementing the TANF Changes in the Deficit Reduction Act: 'Win-Win' Solutions for

Families and States

CLASP and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) are pleased to announce the availability of this report, designed to provide state officials and others with an in-depth look at a broad range of strategies that can help states to improve the effectiveness of their Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs and to increase their work participation rates.

The report can be accessed at: <http://www.clasp.org/publications/tanfguide.pdf>. It is also available on the CBPP site, at <http://www.cbpp.org/5-9-06tanf.htm>

This report is divided into five chapters and provides a discussion of the following:

- the legal structure of the DRA work participation requirements,
- strategies for improving welfare-to-work programs and increasing engagement in those programs,
- strategies for increasing support for working families (through increased earnings disregards, stand-alone "worker supplement" programs, and child support distribution options) and how such strategies can help states meet their work participation rates,
- disability laws as they relate to TANF and strategies for improving the effectiveness of TANF-related programs for individuals with disabilities, and
- the fiscal implications of the TANF, childcare, and child support provisions in the DRA.

The report also provides extensive documentation so you can find additional information about topics particularly relevant to your state.

We hope that you find this report useful. (We will distribute printed copies of this report in the next couple of weeks.) If you have any questions about the report or TANF implementation issues, please feel free to contact Sharon Parrott at CBPP (202.408.1080 or parrott@cbpp.org) or Evelyn Ganzglass at CLASP (202.906.8015 or eganzglass@clasp.org).

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), a national, nonprofit organization founded in 1968, conducts research, policy analysis, technical assistance, and advocacy on issues related to economic security for low-income families with children. For more information about CLASP, visit www.clasp.org

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(202) 842-2885 fax

[4. New - Updates from the Welfare Peer TA Network](#)

Healthy Marriage Initiative: Activities and Accomplishments, 2002-2005.

The Healthy Marriage Initiative began in 2002 to promote the President's goal of increasing healthy marriages in the United States. This resource from the Administration for Children and Families reviews marriage trends and ACF funded grants that promote healthy marriage from

2002 through 2005. Additionally, the resource includes lessons learned on healthy marriage initiatives and materials from ACF on marriage. To view or download, please see:

<http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/family.htm#marriage>

What About the Dads? Child Welfare Agencies' Efforts to Identify, Locate, and Involve Nonresident Fathers: Final Report.

The Urban Institute, with the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, conducted the Study of Fathers' Involvement in Permanency Planning and Child Welfare Casework. This study reviewed the extent to which child welfare agencies identify, locate, and involve nonresident fathers in case planning.

This paper reviews the results of the study on the steps that child welfare agencies take with engaging nonresidential fathers, possible barriers, and the policies that affect involvement.

To view or download, please see: <http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/family.htm#responsible>

Family Homelessness in Our Nation and Community: A Problem with a Solution This resource examines the nature and causes of family homelessness and outlines approaches that communities are pursuing to provide homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing. Family homelessness is a widespread problem and is driven largely by the inability of very low-income families to afford housing. Housing stability can greatly improve a family's chances of success in employment, education and health.

This paper reviews family homelessness on a national level and includes specific information to the District of Columbia metropolitan region.

To view or download, please see: <http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/support.htm#housing>

Housing in Rural America

This brief reviews poverty and housing issues in rural America. Issues include affordability, quality, and access to mortgage loans. Approximately 5.2 million, just under one-quarter of rural households pay more than 30 percent of their monthly income for housing costs.

To view or download, please see: <http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/support.htm#housing>.

As part of the Federal government's commitment to reducing the Welfare dependency of needy parents by promoting healthy marriage, preventing out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families, Welfare Peer TA Would like to highlight Teen Pregnancy Prevention and other related issues as part of our May focus. The following document is located at <http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/barrier.htm#teen>:

Making a Love Connection: Teen Relationships, Pregnancy, and Marriage

This resource, through the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, outlines key steps to preventing teen pregnancy. Specifically, the paper reviews strategies to teach teens about healthy relationships-- a "success sequence" that will best promote the achievement of their future goals for family and work and practical skills to help teens successfully navigate the

transition into adulthood, and engage parents as first teachers.

5. New from the Healthy Teen Network

NEW WEBSITE

Healthy Teen Network Launches New Website and Members Only Section

On March 1, Healthy Teen Network launched it's NEW website which not only provides the public with a comprehensive array of resources and research, but also offers its members exclusive access to current and archived publications, electronic newsletters, recent funding opportunity announcements, workshop and other presentation materials, special promotions and more. Healthy Teen Network is the only national membership network that serves as a leader, a national voice, and an educational resource to professionals working in the area of adolescent reproductive health – specifically teen pregnancy prevention, pregnancy and parenting. To view the redesigned website, please visit www.healthyteennetwork.org

We hope you enjoy the new site!

6. New from MOAPPP- Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting

New Data on Teen Childbearing from Child Trends

A new analysis about national teen birth rates, discussions about sex education, the distribution of new sexually transmitted infection cases among 15-24-year-olds and more is available from Child Trends.

In the News:

Wall Street Journal Examines Debate Over Sex Education, Increasing Federal Funding for Abstinence Programs

The Wall Street Journal recently examined how a steady increase in federal funding has propelled support for sex education programs "that promote abstinence until marriage and discuss contraceptives primarily in terms of their failure rates" and also has increased advocacy in some states and localities for comprehensive sex education programs. For more information, visit www.kaisernetwork.org

Stricken Rhode Island Abstinence Curriculum One of Many Federally Funded Programs Hurting Teens, Letter to Editor Says

The "abstinence-only until marriage" sex education curriculum developed by Heritage of Rhode Island, which Rhode Island Education Commissioner Peter McWalters said in an advisory last month should not be taught in state schools, is "just the tip of the iceberg of the abstinence-only industry," American Civil Liberties Union Rhode Island Affiliate Executive Director Steven Brown, writes in a Washington Post letter to the editor. For more information, visit www.kaisernetwork.org

Sexually transmitted infections climb to nearly 16,000 case increases seen in suburbs,

greater Minnesota, teens and young adults

New data released by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for National STI Awareness Month shows that a total of 15,785 sexually transmitted infection (STIs) cases were reported in Minnesota in 2005. Reportable STIs in Minnesota include chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. The complete STI Surveillance Report – 2005 and STI fact sheets can be found on the MDH website.

CHOOSE RESPECT: New National Dating Violence Prevention Campaign

According to recent research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) one out of four 8th and 9th graders reports being a victim of dating violence. To increase positive relationship behaviors and healthy relationships among young people ages 11-14, CDC's Division of Violence Prevention is launching a nationwide campaign entitled, "Choose Respect." For more information about the campaign and how you can help launch it in your community visit www.chooserespect.org or for more specific information on the Minnesota launch of the campaign, visit the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault – www.mncasa.org

7. New from the Channing Bete Company

Healthy Communities e-newsletter

Strengthening Individuals, Families, and Communities

Underage Drinking: Preteens Who Own Alcohol-Branded Merchandise More Likely to Start Drinking

Researchers at Dartmouth Medical School have found that middle school students who own T-shirts and other items with alcohol brand names on them are 1.5 times more likely to start drinking than their peers who don't own such items. "We recommend that parents discourage their children from wearing these products and that schools limit the display of alcohol-branded items among students," said Dr. Auden McClure, lead author of the study and clinical instructor in pediatrics at Dartmouth Medical School. The results of the study appear in the April issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Read the full article at: http://dms.dartmouth.edu/news/2006_h1/20mar2006_mcclure.shtml

Help parents steer their children clear of alcohol

"Alcohol And Other Drugs -- Tips For Concerned Parents" (EM33507)A

This nonjudgmental folder helps parents understand the warning signs of alcohol and other drug use, and lets them know how they can help prevent and treat it.

To learn more or to place an online order, go to:

<http://go.channing-bete.com/wa/promotion?p=1&code=H4016>

Early Childhood Development

Early Intervention Programs Shown to Have Positive Long-Term Effects

Programs aimed at early childhood development can have long-term positive effects on the children they reach, suggests a new study in the March 2006 issue of Pediatrics. The study is an 18-year follow-up of the Infant Health and Development Program (IHDP), an intervention focusing on infants born preterm and thus at risk for health and developmental problems. "The

sustainability of effects reinforces the importance of such programs, and the need to make these services available and accessible to at-risk infants early on," said principal investigator Marie C. McCormick, M.D., Sc.D., professor of maternal and child health at Harvard School of Public Health. The research also supports extending such programs to a wider range of children.

Read the full article at: <http://www.rwjf.org/newsroom/newsreleasesdetail.jsp?id=10396>

Help promote good health for moms and babies with the resources at:
<http://www.channing-bete.com/public-health/maternal-and-child-health.html?src=em>

Depression Treatment

Treatment for Depressed Mothers May Also Benefit Their Children

Children with mothers suffering from depression are at increased risk for mental-health problems themselves, but new research shows that treating the mothers may lead to improved outcomes for the children as well. This is the first large-scale study to look at the effects on children when their mothers are treated for depression and monitored over a period of time. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, depression is one of the most common disorders that adolescents experience. Results of the study are available in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Read the full article at: <http://www8.utsouthwestern.edu/utsw/cda/dept37389/files/281448.html>

Help people manage depression and live better

"Hope And Help For Depression; A Self-Care Handbook" (EM93932)K

This workbook helps readers personalize their understanding of depression and develop a customized depression-management plan with a variety of interactive tools.

To learn more or to place an online order, go to:
<http://go.channing-bete.com/wa/promotion?p=1&code=H4016>

Secondhand Smoke

Smoke Exposure May Increase Children's Risk of Carrying Potentially Dangerous Bacteria

In addition to the many known risks of cigarette smoke, a new study has found another risk for children exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke. Researchers have found evidence that children who are exposed to tobacco smoke are more likely to carry Streptococcus pneumonia, a bacteria that may exist in the nose and throat, and can lead to illnesses such as ear infections, pneumonia, and meningitis. Results of the study can be found online in the April 1 issue of Clinical Infectious Diseases.

Read the full article at:
http://www.idsociety.org/Template.cfm?Section=News_from_the_Journals&CONTENTID=15701&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm

Give smokers the tools and motivation to kick the habit

"Quitting For Life; A Self-Care Handbook" (EM93646)K

Interactive exercises help smokers develop a customized quit-smoking plan, examine why they

want to quit, discover their smoking triggers, and much more.

To learn more or to place an online order, go to:

<http://go.channing-bete.com/wa/promotion?p=1&code=H4016>

Children's Nutrition

Bad Dietary Habits Start Early, May Contribute to Childhood Obesity

Childhood obesity has reached alarmingly high rates, and even babies are showing signs of unhealthy eating habits, such as consuming too many high-calorie foods and sweetened drinks. That's according to new analyses of data from the 2002 Feeding Infants and Toddlers Study (FITS). Researchers also found that many young children are eating too little fiber, too few fruits and vegetables, and too much sodium. The findings appear in the January 2006 supplement to the Journal of the American Dietetic Association.

Read the full article at: <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/Press%20Releases/fits06JADA.asp>

Help parents guide their children toward healthy eating habits for life

"Good Nutrition For Growing Children (Ages 2-5); A Parent's Handbook" (EM93235)K

This nutrition handbook is packed with information about good nutrition and the health benefits that come with eating right, friendly advice on encouraging healthy eating, and more.

To learn more or to place an online order, go to:

<http://go.channing-bete.com/wa/promotion?p=1&code=H4016>

8. New from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

BJA Seeks Applicants for Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program

The Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is seeking applicants for funding under its Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program. The program is intended to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among criminal justice, juvenile justice, and mental health and substance abuse treatment systems to increase access to services for offenders with mental illness.

Applicants are limited to states, units of local government, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations. BJA will only accept joint applications that demonstrate that the proposed project will be managed jointly by a mental health agency and a unit of government with responsibility for criminal justice activities.

The application deadline is June 2, 2006.

Resources:

For further information about this solicitation, see the Grant Announcement at

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/06MIOsol.pdf>

LOCAL RESOURCES

From Junior Achievement of New Mexico

Junior Achievement of NM was recently selected as one of four recipients nationwide to receive funding from a national foundation to aggressively expand JA's program outreach to Hispanic students. The grant is extensive and will support the initial start-up for two and a half years with expectations that we are fully sustainable by 2008. The implementation of the newly created JA Hispanic Initiative will begin in Albuquerque, Deming and Las Cruces.

The JA Hispanic Initiative is a collaborative effort with JA Worldwide Headquarters to develop, pilot, and evaluate supplemental tools and activities (additional curricula, role model video, parent/guardian component) designed to specifically impact the Hispanic community. These program supplements will accompany the current JA curricula.

To accomplish the grant objectives of reaching more Hispanic students while providing more Hispanic role models in the classroom, JA of New Mexico seeks to hire a Director of Education for the JA Hispanic Initiative to specifically cultivate JA support in the Hispanic community. This is a new, permanent and full time position to the JA of New Mexico staff and will be fully integrated into the operation.

If you know of someone that may be interested in this opportunity, please share the attached position description with the individual. Please contact Kevin R. Hattery, President of Junior Achievement 505.264.2964 to discuss this opportunity further.

From New Mexico Voices for Children

America Undercover

May 1st is also the first day of National Cover the Uninsured Week, a week dedicated to shedding light on the fact that far too many Americans lack health insurance. People are asked to tell Congress to make health care coverage a top priority. Here's why:

- Nearly 46 million Americans lack health insurance. Of those, more than 8 million are children.
- As insurance costs rise, so do the numbers of people without coverage.
- The uninsured are less likely to receive preventative care so the emergency room becomes their first and last resort.
- One serious injury or illness can wipe out a family's life savings and result in the loss of their home or worse.

House Budget: A Taxing Deal for Kids

The House of Representatives will soon be voting on their FY 2007 budget resolution. In order to pay for tax cuts for the rich and an expensive war, the House budget makes significant cuts to programs that serve our most vulnerable children. The budget will reduce funding for childcare, health care, child abuse prevention, and nutrition.

As if that weren't enough, the House is also set to take up the tax reconciliation bill, which will give us more of the same bad math -- some \$70 billion in new tax cuts for the people who need it the least, and cuts to entitlement programs for those who need it the most. Foster

care, TANF and child support will all be at risk. Not to mention the enormous burden of debt the tax cuts will pass down to the very generation that's most affected by today's funding cuts.

For background information on the House budget spending and tax cuts, check out these reports by Voices for America's Children:

- Voices discretionary spending cuts backgrounder:
<http://www.voices.org/misc/Budget07/Backgrounder-DiscretionarySpending.pdf>
- Voices entitlement cuts backgrounder:
<http://www.voices.org/misc/Budget07/Backgrounder-EntitlementCuts.pdf>
- Voices tax cuts backgrounder:
<http://www.voices.org/misc/Budget07/Backgrounder-TaxCuts.pdf>

What you can do: Email your Representatives and urge them to vote NO on both the budget and the tax cuts.

A Bill of Bad Health

Speaking of legislation that helps the few and hurts the many, the U.S. Senate is currently considering the "Health Insurance Marketplace Modernization and Affordability Act of 2005," aka S. 1955. The bill is lauded by its conservative sponsors as a way to reduce health insurance costs, but a study by the Center on Budget Policy Priorities (CBPP) shows otherwise.

What S. 1955 will do is override laws enacted at the state level that were put in place to regulate the industry and protect consumers. This will allow insurance companies to base the rates they charge any given business on the age and health status of that business' employees. The result, many believe, will be that rates will go up for small businesses – particularly those with an older workforce or employees with pre-existing conditions – who will then either have to drop their employees' insurance or resort to significantly scaled-back coverage. Bargain-basement coverage, the AARP says, that will no longer include vital screenings for illnesses such as cancer and diabetes.

The Senate is scheduled to debate S. 1955 this week.

What you can do: Email our senators and tell them to vote NO on 1955.

Email your Congressperson:

Senator Jeff Bingaman at senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov

Senator Pete Domenici via a form at <http://www.domenici.senate.gov>

Rep. Heather Wilson (Dist. 1) via a form at <http://www.wilson.house.gov>

Rep. Steve Pearce (Dist. 2) via a form at <http://www.pearce.house.gov>

Rep. Tom Udall (Dist. 3) via a form at <http://www.tomudall.house.gov>

Thanks for the Memories

Friday, April 28th, we held our 12th annual Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Awards. We honored 39 young people from across the state for the extraordinary volunteer work they do to improve conditions in their hometowns as well as in communities across the globe. For photos taken by Ray A Mares of the nominees and three finalists (unfortunately, this year's winner was not able to make the event), click on <http://www.sillypappas.com/gallery/1409105>

New Mexico Voices for Children has received data from the National Center for Health

Statistics from the **Right Starts** report.

The full report can be accessed at: <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/rightstart.jsp>

Data on New Mexico only is available at:

http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/profile_results.jsp?r=33&d=1&c=rs&p=5&x=174&y=11

Information on State Rankings is available at:

http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/rs_state_rankings.pdf

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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 and Special Events

Lt. Governor Denish Wants Your Input

The Children's Cabinet, chaired by Lt. Governor Diane Denish, is holding a series of Town Hall meetings around the state to share their goals for the coming year and to hear from YOU what our children need most. We've listed the remaining meeting locations and times below. Please consider attending and giving your input, especially regarding the need for quality child care, full funding of Medicaid, the need for universal health care access, and any other issues of concern to you.

- **Roswell:** Wednesday, May 17, 6-8:30 p.m. @ ENMU, Occupational Tech Center, Room 124
- **Clovis:** Thursday, May 18, 1:30-4 p.m. @ Clovis Community College, 417 Schepps Blvd.
- **Tucumcari:** Friday, May 19, 9-11:30am @ Convention Center
- **Albuquerque (2 meetings):**
Wednesday, May 31, 1:30-4pm @ TVI Workforce Training Center, 5600 Eagle Rock
Thursday, June 1, 9-11:30am @ Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 2401 12th St. NW

Message from the Young Fathers' Project

For your information: Arizona Fathers & Families Coalition in partnership with BSI International is pleased to announce a new form of professional development opportunities with our new Healthier Fathers-Healthier Families E-Journal (ISSN 1930-2843 intellectual rights of AZFFC-BSI) which will provide opportunities to share innovative methods to work with fathers, mothers, children and providers. We will release this referring E-Journal late May 2006 in a high quality-graphics format going to tens of thousands and posted on our web sites that have over 40,000 visitors representing over 60 countries annually.

We have attached a form that should be completed and returned to Ms. Teresa McManaway, Assistant to the President at teresamc@azffc.org Join us for this new and informative resource that will be a referring journal. If you or others would like to submit an article for "Healthier Fathers-Healthier Families" E-Journal we will have the following departments within each journal:

- Health & Wellness;
- Diversity to include faith-based on fatherhood;
- Finance
- Leadership Development;
- Legal Issues- Family Law-Fathers Rights;
- Children of Incarcerated Parents- Working with Incarcerated Parents-Re-Entry Child Development;
- Resources Book Reviews, Educational Sources, Family Resources, Professional Resources;
- Calendar of Events Submission of a Community-National Event; and
- Ask the Expert a section where parents and practitioners can email us questions for responses from various professionals across the nation.

The New Mexico Young Fathers Project continues to provide needed information and services to young men age 26 and younger in several cities across New Mexico including Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Springer, Las Cruces and Anthony. The project works with approximately 120 young men per month providing case management and group services.

For information on the Young Fathers' Project please call:

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

At the annual SHARE Summit held two weeks ago, the NM Department of Health and the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition released the figures on teen births in New Mexico in 2004. Our state continues to make progress in this area through a lot of hard work by all of you.

- Between 1960 and 2003, the teen birth rate for 15-19 year olds dropped by 52%.
- During the Challenge 2005 years 1998-2003, the decline was 11.7%.
- Sixty-two percent of all teen births are to 18 and 19 year olds.

In 2004, the birth rate in 15-19 –year-olds dropped by 11.7%, and the birth rate in 15-17-year-olds dropped by 16.0%.

The NM Teen Pregnancy Coalition and the NM Department of Health have issued a new challenge to the state. During Challenge 2010, we want to further reduce the teen pregnancy rate in NM by 15%. We will try to find out what programs and approaches were successful in the counties that met the Challenge 2005, and share them with those of you working in other counties.

Thank you for all of your successful, hard work on behalf of NM teens, and especially for your continued support.

Sylvia Ruiz
Executive Director
New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition
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Mil Gracias

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