

NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

NEWS FLASH

May 2007

Welcome to the May 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.

MESSAGE FROM SYLVIA RUIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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LOCAL RESOURCES

- Las Cruces Sun News

Message from the Young Father's Project

MESSAGE FROM SYLVIA RUIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month.

Governor Richardson has proclaimed May as adolescent pregnancy prevention month in New Mexico. Please visit our website for activities happening through the month.

I write with hope as I reflect on our successes and losses this past year. Many new programs are surfacing, communities are engaging and as I travel our fine state I always see families working to improve the lives of the next generation.

Mil Gracias to Senator Linda Lopez and Representative Tom Swisstack who championed legislation that will provide an increase in funding for evidenced based adolescent pregnancy prevention services! We owe them a world of gratitude!

We bid a fond farewell to New Mexico Department of Health Secretary Michelle Lujan Grisham, and wish her the best in her future. We welcome Secretary Designate Dr. Alfredo Vigil and look forward to continuing the incredible work and focus that Secretary Lujan Grisham brought to this issue.

In addition, we bid a fond farewell to Patsy Nelson, Deputy Director who is retiring from the Public Health Division, New Mexico Department of Health. We offer her our deepest gratitude and honor and thank her for the work she has done so that we can continue to make a positive impact on generations to come!

Warm regards,

Sylvia Ruiz
Executive Director
New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition
505-254-8737
505-254-8741 Fax

NATIONAL RESOURCES

[1. New from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy](#)

The mission of the National Campaign is to promote values, behavior, and policies that reduce both teen pregnancy and unwanted pregnancy among young adults. By increasing the proportion of children born into welcoming, intact families who are prepared to take on the demanding task of raising the next generation, our efforts will improve the well-being of children and strengthen the nation.

The National Campaign Expands Its Mission

One-third of pregnancies in the United States are unwanted, according to a new analysis released by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. That is, two million of the 6.4 million pregnancies in 2001 were unwanted (most recent data available). Over half (54%) of unwanted pregnancies occur to women in their twenties. And there is evidence that the rate of unwanted pregnancies may be increasing.

This large number of unwanted pregnancies has far-reaching consequences for women, men, children, families, and society. To help ensure that more pregnancies are wanted and welcomed, the National Campaign announced on May 9 that it is expanding its work to include young adults while still maintaining its focus on teens.

The National Campaign's new focus is made possible by generous support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation which has made a ten year commitment to preventing unwanted pregnancy and reducing the need for abortion in America.

- Read the [press release](#)
- Read [One in Three: The Case for Wanted and Welcomed Pregnancies](#)

- Read an [overview of unwanted pregnancy](#)
- Read [key data on unwanted pregnancy](#)
- Read about [consequences of unwanted pregnancy](#)
- Read [what the American public thinks](#) about unwanted pregnancy
- View a [short video of 20-somethings](#) talking about unwanted pregnancy

In support of the National Campaign's expanded focus, we have created a sister website, www.TheNationalCampaign.org. Our new website for teens— www.StayTeen.org—is now also up and running.

New Data on Abstinence Education Released

In response to a new evaluation of abstinence-only programs released today by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy released the following statement from Executive Director Sarah Brown:

- [Read](#) the statement.
- [Read](#) the report.
- Read recent press on the Campaign statement:
 - [Study: Abstinence Classes Don't Stop Sex](#)
USA Today, April 14, 2007
 - [Abstinence Education Doesn't Work, US Report Shows](#)
Reuters, April 14, 2007
 - [Study Casts Doubt on Abstinence-Only Programs](#)
Washington Post, April 14, 2007
 - [Abstinence Education Doesn't Deter Youths](#)
Washington Times, April 14, 2007

Latest Campaign Publications Available in the Online Store

- *Voices Heard: Latino Adults and Teens Speak Up About Teen Pregnancy*
 - [Download](#) a free copy.
- *With One Voice 2007*
 - [Order](#) copies from the Online Store.
 - [Download](#) a free copy.
- *Our Story, Our Words: Youth Speak Out on Sex, Love, and Teen Pregnancy*
 - [Order](#) copies from the Online Store.
 - [Download](#) a free copy.
- *Terms of Engagement: How to Involve Parents in Programs to Prevent Teen Pregnancy*
 - For details, please visit our [parent portal](#).



The sixth annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy took place on May 2, 2007. In the

past week, thousands and thousands of teens have participated in the National Day Online Quiz at teenpregnancy.org.

Remember, the National Day Quiz will be online throughout May, so it's not too late to help spread the word about the National Day Quiz. Need some ideas? Check out our [Tips for Getting Involved](#). For more information, [visit the National Day section of our website](#).

Even though the National Day has passed, we still want to hear about all of the wonderful events going on around the country during Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. Please remember to share your plans with us so we can feature them on our website! We especially want to hear from groups who have downloaded the print version of the quiz and distributed it to groups of teens. Please let us know how many teens you helped take the Quiz! Send your stories and event descriptions to nationalday@thenc.org.

Though we are still collecting quizzes until the end of the month, we wanted to share with you some feedback we have received from teens about the quiz over the past week:

What Are Teens Saying About the 2007 National Day Quiz?

"This quiz made me think about different situations and how I would act in them. A lot of the questions were challenging and made me think. I also learned a lot about the risks and effects of sex."

- Girl, age 15

"I thought the quiz was an eye opener. It helped me realize how big of a deal teen pregnancy is. Before I didn't think it was important, but it really is. Now I know what I can do in situations."

- Guy, age 15

"This quiz made me think about the consequences of having unprotected sex and what kind of relationships I need to chose."

- Girl, age 16

"It gave me a lot to think about. So many of my friends are having sex and making poor choices. I don't want that for myself. Thank you!"

- Girl, age 15

"This quiz really opened my eyes. I am 16 and sexually active and this made me realize some things about sex that I didn't know before. It told me some things that I really needed to know"

-Guy, age 16

We will share the final results from this year's quiz shortly, so stay tuned. For more information on the National Day, please visit the [National Day section of our website](#).

STAY TEEN CONTEST LAUNCHES MAY 18th

The National Campaign is pleased to announce that *StayTeen*, our **new website and public service ad campaign for teens**, has launched and has already been seen by millions around the country!



Throughout May, [FOX Television](#) has been airing *Stay Teen* ads during popular shows like *American Idol*, *Family Guy*, and *American Dad*. [The N](#), Nickelodeon's night-time network for teens, has also put the ads in heavy rotation and [Lifetime Television](#) is airing *Stay Teen* ads throughout May, too.

[2. New from Advocates for Youth](#)

BREAKING NEWS! Congressionally Mandated Study: Abstinence-Only Doesn't Work

On, Friday, April 13th, the long-awaited federally funded evaluation of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs was released showing that the programs had no impact on teen behavior. The official government report concludes: "Youth in the program group were no more likely than control group youth to have abstained from sex and, among those who reported having had sex, they had similar numbers of sexual partners and had initiated sex at the same mean age."

To read the full press release, please [click here](#).

For more information:

- [Stop Government Funding of Ineffective and Dangerous Abstinence-only Programs!](#)
- [Ignoring the Stop Signs on Abstinence-Only Funding](#)
- More on [abstinence-only-until-marriage programs](#)

May 18th Is HIV Vaccine Awareness Day

The development of a preventive HIV vaccine could be the best hope for slowing the spread of HIV.

A preventive HIV vaccine is a substance that teaches the body's immune system to recognize and protect itself against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Ideally the vaccine would be given to uninfected (HIV-negative) people to keep them from becoming infected, if exposed to HIV.

To learn more about current HIV vaccine candidates and clinical trials as well as to read personal stories, please [click here](#).

May 19th is Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

This observance day intends to raise awareness among Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs) in the U.S. about the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS.

Among APIs, one of the fastest-growing ethnic/racial populations in the U.S., HIV/AIDS is on the rise. According to the CDC, the number of APIs living with AIDS has climbed by more than 10 percent in each of the last 5 years.

Read our new publication, "[The Sexual Health of Asian-American/Pacific Islander Young Women: Focus on Assets.](#)"

For more information, please visit the [Office of Minority Health](#).



Let's Talk About Sex

SisterSong is proud to present its 2007 National Conference entitled "Let's Talk about Sex" on May 31-June 3, 2007, in Chicago, Illinois. African American Women Evolving will host the conference.

Join Advocates for Youth staff at this important conference.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.sistersong.net/>

3. New from the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Recommendations for Improving Education Outcomes for Children and Youth in Foster Care Through Amendments to the McKinney-Vento Act/Education Reauthorization in the No Child Left Behind Act

The reauthorization of Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act provides an opportunity for schools to better understand the unique situations and experiences of children in foster care and for child welfare agencies to focus more on the educational needs and outcomes of the children and youth they are serving. This set of recommendations is a joint publication by CLASP, the Child Welfare League of America, the Children's Defense Fund, Lutheran Services in America, and Voices for America's Children. 7 pages.

State Policy Regarding Pass-Through and Disregard of Current Month's Child Support Collected for Families Receiving TANF-funded Cash Assistance

by Jan Justice. This chart lists all 50 states and the District of Columbia's child support pass-through and income disregard policies as of April 26, 2007. 4 pages.

CAP Task Force on Poverty Releases Report

The [Center for American Progress](#) (CAP) last year convened a diverse group of national experts and leaders to examine the causes and consequences of poverty in America and make recommendations for national action. In [From Poverty to Prosperity: A National Strategy to Cut Poverty in Half](#), the CAP Task Force on Poverty calls for a national goal of cutting poverty in half in the next 10 years and proposes a strategy to reach the goal. The report was prepared by Mark Greenberg (the task force's executive director and CLASP's director of policy), Indivar Dutta-Gupta, and Elisa Minoff (a former CLASP staff member). Task force co-chairs Angela Glover Blackwell and Peter B. Edelman are members of CLASP's board of directors.

Children Being Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives: How Are They Faring?

Nearly 125,000 children in the U.S. foster care system actually live with their grandparents or other relatives--almost a fourth of the 500,000 foster children nationwide--but the current way the federal government pays for foster care prevents many kids from permanently joining those relatives as a family. CLASP is joining Generations United, Kids Are Waiting, AARP, Child Welfare League of America, and the Children's Defense Fund in cosponsoring a

briefing on this topic, to be held **Friday, May 11, from 9 to 10 a.m., in Room 121 of the Cannon House Office Building** in Washington, D.C. Click [here](#) for more information.

The Center for Law and Social Policy
1015 15th St NW Suite 400
Washington, District of Columbia 20005
United States

[4. New from the Healthy Teen Network Spotlight](#)



*[Helping Teens Help Themselves](#): This national blueprint represents a multi-year, multidisciplinary approach to increase supportive housing options for pregnant and parenting teens exiting foster care.

This national blueprint represents a multi-year, multidisciplinary approach to increase supportive housing options for pregnant and parenting teens exiting foster care.

 [National Blueprint](#) (Web Version)

 [National Blueprint](#) (Print Version)



[Promoting Successful Transition from Foster/Group Home Settings to Independent Living Among Pregnant and Parenting Teens](#): This summary report discusses the difficulties facing teenagers in foster care/group settings and the policy that surrounds it.

The summary report, "Promoting Successful Transition from Foster/Group Home Settings to Independent Living Among Pregnant and Parenting Teens," generously supported by the Freddie Mac Foundation discusses the difficulties facing teenagers in foster care/group settings and the policy that surrounds it.

 [Transition from Foster Care to Independent Living](#) (Executive Summary)

[Helping Teens Stay Healthy and Safe: Health Care, Birth Control and Confidential Services:](#)



The Helping Teens Stay Healthy and Safe series of brochures guides teens, parents of teens, and providers regarding their right to receive, support, and deliver confidential contraceptive services to adolescents.

FREE

The [Helping Teens Stay Healthy and Safe](#) series of brochures offers guidance to health care providers, teens, and parents of teens about ways they can deliver, receive, and support adolescents' access to confidential contraceptive services.

For Providers - Discusses rationales for providing confidential contraceptive services to teens, support that exists in the policies of health care professional organizations, and ways that state and federal laws can be useful. (Brochure and full report available.)

For Teens - Teaches teens about confidential services and lets teens know how and what they can access on their own.

For Parents - Helps parents understand why supporting teens' access to confidential services is consistent with good parenting.

 [Introduction](#)

 [A Guide for Teens](#) (Front Cover)

 [A Guide for Teens](#) (Inside)

 [A Guide for Parents](#) (Front Cover)

 [A Guide for Parents](#) (Inside)

 [A Guide for Providers](#) (Front Cover)

 [A Guide for Providers](#) (Inside)

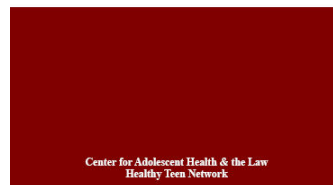
 [A Guide for Providers \(Full Report - Web version only\)](#)



CONFIDENTIAL

**Contraceptive
Services for Adolescents:**

*What Health Care Providers Need to Know
About the Law*



*The full report, [Confidential Contraceptive Services for Adolescents](#), from Healthy Teen Network and the Center for Adolescent Health and the Law, discusses how many states in the US do not have explicit laws authorizing minors to consent for contraceptive services, causing great confusion among teens, parents and providers.

[5. New From Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina](#)



IT'S CONFERENCE TIME:

Greater Expectations: It's Up to Us to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

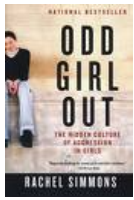
will be held May 31- June 1 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

The conference, which is held annually by the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina (APPCNC) and the NC Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health,

focuses on helping health providers and educators better serve teens and teen parents in pregnancy prevention.

To register please visit APPCNC's website at www.appcnc.org. The final date for

registrations is May 18; pre-registration is required. For further information or questions, contact Melinda DeJongh at (919) 932-9885 ext 23.



On the evening of May 31st, APPCNC will present Rachel Simmons, author of the book *ODD GIRL OUT: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls*. APPCNC is proud to be able to open this talk to the public.

She will speak at 7:30 pm at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. She will be signing books after the talk. Tickets are \$10 for non-students and \$5 for students. To purchase tickets, click [here](#) or call Melinda DeJongh at (919)

932-9885.

WUNC RADIO - THE STORY - MOM WHEN DID YOU...?

A Congressional study shows that teens who are presently sexually active reported having sex for the first time when they were about 15 years old...

Ericka Lutz is the Senior Editor of the online magazine [Literary Mama](#). Her daughter, Annie, is just months away from turning 15. After Annie's 8th grade sex education class, she had a question that only her mother could answer. Over dinner, Annie asked her mother: "How old were you when you first had sex?"

LISTEN TO THE PROGRAM [HERE](#).

South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy [Summer Institute](#):
Get Connected! Teen Pregnancy Prevention for the 21st Century
June 12-15, 2007
Embassy Suite Hotel and Convention Center
Charleston, South Carolina

North Carolina Public Health Association Annual Education Conference:
Taking the Lead with Challenges, Changes and Great Expectations
September 26-28, 2007
Sheraton Imperial, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

Tu Voz My Venture Contest

Youth Venture, the partnership with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and MTV Tr3s Voces, challenges youth to take action by forming teams to conceptualize and implement projects aimed at encouraging Latinos to graduate from high school and prepare for college and careers. **Deadline: June 29, 2007**

For more information, click [here](#).

NEW EDITION OF ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PREVENTION KNOWLEDGE PATH AVAILABLE

In recognition of National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (May 2, 2007), the MCH Library has released a new edition of Knowledge Path: Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention. The knowledge path is an electronic guide to current, high-quality resources that measure, document, and monitor the problem; identify risk and protective factors; and report on promising intervention strategies. The knowledge path is intended for use by health

professionals, policymakers, researchers, and others who are interested in tracking information on this topic. Separate sections identify resources for families and schools. The knowledge path is available at http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_adolpreg.html.

NEW CDC WEB RESOURCE:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) unveiled a new Web site designed to improve the usability and performance of www.cdc.gov. The new CDC.gov Web site provides better access to health and safety topics, data and statistics, news and events, and expanded tools and resources, as well as an improved search engine. To take a virtual tour of the new CDC.gov site, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vrtour.html>.

GUIDE TO PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS:

A new resource from The Finance Project provides practical information on creating public-private partnerships to improve and expand youth programs in states and communities nationwide. To view the report, click [here](#).

KEY HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE INDICATORS BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND

STATE: The Kaiser Family Foundation issued a new data update showing variations across states and racial and ethnic groups for six key health and health care indicators, including disparities in rates of infant mortality and AIDS cases among whites, African Americans and Hispanics in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. To view the fact sheet, visit <http://www.kff.org/minorityhealth/upload/7633.pdf>.

NEW SIECUS POLICY UPDATES:

The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the US (SIECUS) has released new Policy Updates on various topics, including federal legislation advancing LGBTQ rights; legislation introduced to prevent transmission of HIV to women and youth (PATHWAY Act of 2007); and Wisconsin and Ohio reject 2007 federal Title V funding. To view the updates, visit <http://www.siecus.org/policy/PUupdates/index.html>.

ARTICLE EXAMINES EFFECT OF MEDICAID FAMILY PLANNING EXPANSIONS OF UNPLANNED BIRTHS

"Overall, we find that Medicaid family planning expansions led to lower birth rates," write the authors of an article published in the March-April 2007 issue of *Women's Health Issues*. Medicaid has played an important role in the provision of contraceptive care since the passage of the Medicaid family-planning-related amendments in the early 1970s. The clinical and economic benefits of contraception are well documented; however, there is less empirical research regarding the value of Medicaid family planning expansion benefits. This article measures the effect of Medicaid family planning expansions on birthrates and maternal and infant care expenditures and examines whether health-care-related cost offsets are greater than program costs.

The authors studied all family planning demonstration programs implemented before 2000. Eight expansions were based on income, and five provided services for women who lost Medicaid eligibility postpartum. Because the outcome variable is birthrate, effects of expansions are measured beginning the year after the first full year of implementation. State-level data were collected for all 50 states for the period 1991-2001. The authors also examined net expansion costs of five state expansions for which valid, comparable data were available.

* Average annual birthrates were significantly lowered by income-based expansions; a statistically significant effect of postpartum expansions was not found.

* Significant maternal and infant health care cost offsets were identified in all income-expansion states for which data are available.

* These health care cost offsets exceeded total program costs in most cases.

The authors conclude that "overall, our results suggest that both types of Medicaid family planning expansions either yield financial benefits to states or, at the very least, are cost neutral." They continue, "The experience of these early family planning expansions should be a guide for other states considering family planning benefit expansions."

Lindrooth RC, McCullough JS. 2007. The effect of Medicaid family planning expansions on unplanned births. *Women's Health Issues* 17(2):66-74. Abstract available at <http://www.jjwh.org/content.cfm?sectionid=84&IssueSelected=137>.

6. New from the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Visit the New Casey Foundation Website!

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has launched a new and improved website at www.aecf.org. The new format provides easy access to information about Casey's work, approach to philanthropy, and lessons learned about building thriving communities for vulnerable children and families. Take a tour and explore our new features:

- Learn about our major place-based work across the country in our interactive "Casey Places" map;
- Create customized reports on child well-being for communities, cities, states, or the nation as a whole in our KIDS COUNT databases;
- Find nearly 2,000 resources published or funded by the Casey Foundation in our Knowledge Center; and
- Sign up for email newsletters, download publications, and stay up-to-date on our latest resources and announcements.

Come visit www.aecf.org soon!

7. New from the Arizona Fathers and Families Coalition

July 12, 2007

Southwestern Fatherhood & Families Conference

Tucson, Arizona

www.azffc.org

EARLY SAVE THE DATE ANNOUNCEMENT

"FATHER'S ROLE IN CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT"

Michael L. Lindsey, JD, PhD

Nestor Consultants, Inc.

Dallas, Texas

Join us as we network, share ideas to expand our programs, and learn from three national experts working with Fathers & Families.

Arizona Fathers & Families Coalition, Inc. (AZFFC) is a unique non-profit with a coalition of community providers with expertise in delivering services to fathers, mothers, children and families as a coalition for more than twelve years in Arizona and nationally. Join us July 12th in Tucson, Arizona as we present three of the premier professionals working with fathers and families from diverse backgrounds. Highlighted by Dr. Michael Lindsey who will present on Developmental Stages and Tasks We Need to Be Effective Work with Fathers, and the "Father's Role in Child Growth and Development"

Newt MacDonald, Executive Director of Ephesians Child Development Center, Berkeley, CA, and Bay Area Male Involvement Network- Member Organization, Marin, CA will present on Theory, Practice, and Research: Creating Father-Friendly Environments

Mr. Alejandro Moreno, Santa Ana, California will present on Honoring Relationships

We are planning a tremendous conference July 12th in Tucson for our Summer Southwestern Regional Institute with a focus on How Fathers Impact Child Development, Developing Promising Practices, and addressing how to work with diverse fathers emphasizing Latino Fathers & Families.

For more information about this event or our "Young Men as Father Program", Re-Entry Services, Capacity Building Assistance, additional services or local and national networks contact us at info@azffc.org call us at 602-495-8845 or 800-603-9309.

In collaboration with Philadelphia Fatherhood Practitioners' Network we will replicate our National Fatherhood & Families Conference in Philadelphia scheduled for September 24-26,

2007. Vendors who are interested in joining us in Philadelphia please email us at info@azffc.org pre-registration information is available by calling us at 800-603-9309

8. Funding Opportunities

U.S. Administration for Children and Families - Dating Violence Grants

Funding is intended for local public agencies and nonprofit community-based organizations to design and develop collaborative services to address the intersection of services for youth by the domestic violence and runaway and homeless youth communities. A total of \$600,000 will support eight awards of \$75,000 each. For more information, visit www.acf.hhs.gov. *Deadline:* June 8, 2007

U.S. Administration for Children and Families - Street Outreach Program

Funding is intended for outreach services designed to build relationships between grantee staff and street youth. Grantees must operate a program that will deliver outreach and education services to street youth who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse, prostitution or sexual exploitation during peak hours where street youth congregate. Approximately 40 to 80 awards given with a maximum of \$200,000 per budget period. For more information, visit www.acf.hhs.gov. *Deadline:* June 4, 2007

RESOURCES FROM CHANNING BETE COMPANY:

Up to ****three** individual grants of up to \$500** in Prevent Child Abuse America publications (sponsored by the Channing Bete Company(R) Community Outreach Grant program) will be awarded -- with preference given to brand-new programs or uses of Prevent Child Abuse America publications. Grant application deadline: Friday, June 15, 2007.

For details on the grant and how to apply, click [here](#).

MENTORING GRANTS:

Funded by the US Department of Education, this grant opportunity is designed to provide children with support and guidance from mentors; improve their academic performance; improve interpersonal relationships between the children and their peers, teachers, other adults and family members; reduce the school dropout rate; and diminish juvenile delinquency and involvement in gangs. **Deadline: May 23, 2007**

For more information, click [here](#).

MS. FOUNDATION SAFETY PROGRAM:

Funded by the Ms. Foundation for Women, this grant opportunity is designed to secure the safety of children by preventing child sexual abuse and building healthy communities where young people are able to develop their full potential across a spectrum of gender identities.

Deadline: May 24, 2007

For more information, click [here](#).

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT GRANTS:

Funded by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, this grant

opportunity is designed to meet unmet substance abuse treatment needs, including among adolescents. **Deadline: May 25, 2007**

For more information, click [here](#).

MATTEL CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION DOMESTIC GRANTMAKING PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to support non-profit organizations that focus on increasing access to education for children, supporting physical health and well being of children, and promoting self-esteem in young girls through girl empowerment programs. **Deadline: June 15, 2007**

For more information, click [here](#).

MARCH OF DIMES BIRTH DEFECTS FOUNDATION - PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH GRANTS:

These research proposals must focus on public policy issue affecting healthcare for pregnant women, infants, and children. **Deadline: Rolling**

For more information, click [here](#).

*Each month the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition provides a review of the research and policy reports distributed by National and Local Resources for your information only. The information, and comments expressed in this News Flash 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**.*

LOCAL RESOURCES

From the Las Cruces Sun News

Group taking action to stop teen births

By Jason Gibbs Sun-News reporter

Article Launched: 05/09/2007 12:00:00 AM MDT

LAS CRUCES — The New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition is poised to take a new tack in the battle to prevent teenage pregnancy in Dona Ana County.

They are, literally, ready to bring frank discussions about sex education into neighborhoods, block parties and living rooms across the county in an effort to curtail one of the worst teen pregnancy rates in the state and nation, said Ramon Arroyos, director of the Dona Ana County Adolescent Pregnancy Project.



Rene Salgado, left, coordinator for the county Health and Human Services Department, discusses the next steps to take for a teen pregnancy prevention program with Sylvia Ruiz, executive director of New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition, Tuesday at the county government center.

A total of 14 counties in New Mexico met a statewide goal of reducing teen pregnancy by 20 percent between 2000 and 2004, the last year for which complete statistics are available. During the same period, Dona Ana County's teen pregnancy rate rose by 22 percent, according to the coalition.

Statewide, about four in 10 girls become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20. Three in five Hispanic girls become pregnant at least once before the same age. The financial impact of teenage pregnancy to New Mexico taxpayers is roughly \$500 million annually, according to the coalition.

Between 1991 and 2004, there were more than 66,700 teen births in New Mexico, according to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Those births cost taxpayers a total of \$1.3 billion over the same period.

An inordinate number of those births occur in southern New Mexico, right here in Dona Ana County. Since 2000, the county has exceeded the statewide birth rate to teen mothers, according to the state Health Department. In 2005 alone, the county birth rate to girls between 15 and 19 years old was 74.6 for every 1,000. The statewide average was only 61.7 per 1,000.

More work needed

While certain areas of the state are making progress, there's more to be done here in Dona Ana County. Tuesday, a group of coalition members, including those from the state Department of Health, said the number of pregnant teens in Dona Ana County must be seriously addressed.

The county paid the coalition roughly \$100,000 during the past three years to identify the ZIP codes that showed high teen pregnancy rates. With those locations identified, coalition members approached the county to ask for continued assistance to start neighborhood-level counseling for families, potential fathers and would-be teen mothers in Hatch, Mesquite, Mesilla Park, Rincon, Las Cruces and Vado, Arroyos said.

Now they plan to expand on that knowledge.

"The county challenged us to come up with a plan to engage the entire county," Arroyos said.

The New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition augmented the original \$100,000 in county funds with \$80,000 per year, over three years, for each of three geographic areas of the county to implement the program. Those funds were private and grant dollars.

Now, they are hoping for additional funding from the county to continue work to decrease the rate of teen pregnancy in Dona Ana County. The county heard their proposals, and will consider continuing funding during the upcoming budget cycle.

Grassroots works

Sylvia Ruiz, the coalition's executive director, on Tuesday told county commissioners that community-based clinics are working in Hatch, Mesquite and the Mesilla Park area to bring

down the number of teen pregnancies. And taking the message to the street will help in areas where schools have only recently implemented contraception as part of their in-school teen sexual education, she said.

Currently, the Gadsden Independent School District has experienced success with school-based clinics, noting a 10 percent reported drop in teen pregnancy during the first three years the school-based contraceptive program was in place.

Las Cruces Public Schools only recently voted to begin offering comprehensive sexual education — including physician referrals and contraceptive prescriptions. Those programs should be up and running in two of three Las Cruces high schools next August.

"We have been waiting too long for the schools to take the lead," said Sylvia Sierra, director of the county Health and Human Services Department.

Arroyos said the curriculum will attempt to teach parents and potential fathers at the community level, as well as reach out to potential teen mothers in an effort to educate them about abstinence, sexual health and contraception options.

"The curriculum is geared toward giving parents and children tools to create a dialogue," he said.

Plain talk needed

Plain Talk, as a community-level educational program, has been shown to increase communication about sexual issues between youth and adults, combined with an increase in access to contraceptives, positively affected teens' sexual knowledge and communication, Arroyos said.

Youth, parents and health care providers will all be tapped to implement the program, with all parties offering input at the teen pregnancy prevention summit, held in March in Las Cruces.

"We want to know what parents know about sexual issues and if they know where the available resources are," Arroyos said.

Plain Talk is currently funded by the state, county and private grants. The goal is to find where the greatest need exists then bring sexual health information to those communities, Arroyos said. Rep. Joni Gutierrez, D-Mesilla, commended the county for stepping to the forefront in what is a region-wide health issue.

"This is so positive," Gutierrez said. "Thank you so much for being leaders."

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Learn more

Teen pregnancy by the numbers

4 out of 10: Number of New Mexico girls who become pregnant before age 20

3 in 5: Number of Hispanic girls who become pregnant before age 20

60 percent: Rate by which New Mexico's Hispanic population is expected to increase in the next 20 years

\$500 million: Annual cost to New Mexico taxpayers for services related to teenage pregnancy

22 percent: increase in Dona Ana County teen pregnancy in 2001 through 2004

Source: New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition

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

The New Mexico Young Fathers Project in Las Cruces is will be having Fatherhood Groups every Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at 1190 Foster St, Las Cruces. For more information, contact Gary Madrid at 556-1559

For information on the Young Fathers' Project please call:

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NEWS FLASH is funded by grants from

New Mexico Department of Health Family Planning Program
Nirvana Mañana Institute
New Cycle Foundation