

# NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

## NEWS FLASH

October 2004

Welcome to the October issue of the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition's

### NEWS FLASH

If you would like to be removed from the **NEWS FLASH** list, please use the connection at the end of this issue to communicate with us.

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#### NATIONAL RESOURCES

##### 1. New from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

- A. A new report, Not Yet: Programs to Delay First Sex Among Teens, and two new *Science Says* research briefs are now available from the National Campaign. Not Yet describes programs that have been proven, through rigorous evaluation, to postpone sexual activity among participants. The *Science Says* briefs are: Another Chance, drawn from Lorraine Klerman's longer report with the same title, and The Relationship Between Teenage Motherhood and Marriage, developed in conjunction with Child Trends. This brief explores the trends in teenage motherhood and marriage, as well as the potential consequences of these trends both for the teen mothers and their children. All publications are available for download and purchase on the National Campaign website <http://www.teenpregnancy.org>
- B. Reality Check: Teen Pregnancy Prevention Strategies That Work"---an important new resource for all those concerned with preventing teen pregnancy---was published recently by the Get Real About Teen Pregnancy public education campaign in California. The book is a compilation of essays written by the country's leading experts on the issues of adolescent health, sex, and pregnancy prevention, including the National Campaign's Director, Sarah Brown. The book highlights several innovative approaches to issues such as sex education, access to contraception, youth development, policy implications, and male responsibility. For more information, visit the Get Real About Teen Pregnancy website <http://www.letsgetreal.org>

- C. The Family Life Council is holding its annual Wise Guys National Training, December 3-4, 2004 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Attendees will learn from experts and current practitioners how to implement the Wise Guys program in their own communities. Wise Guys is an award-winning program for teen pregnancy and STD prevention from the adolescent male perspective. For more information, visit the Wise Guys website <http://www.wiseguysnc.org>
- D. The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina (APPCNC) is pleased to announce the release of "Recipes for Success: Fresh Ideas for Teen Parenting Programs." Produced in response to growing requests from professionals seeking new ideas to help them provide services for expectant and parenting teens, this guidebook includes strategies found effective by other providers, as well as articles by experts in the field. For a copy of the book visit the APPCNC website <http://www.appcnc.org>

## 2. New from Child Trends: October 2004

### **Report Synthesizes Research on Teen Mothers and Marriage**

[The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy](#), in collaboration with Child Trends, recently released [The Relationship Between Teenage Motherhood and Marriage](#), a research brief developed and written by Child Trends' researchers Suzanne Ryan, Jennifer Manlove, and Kristin A. Moore. The brief explores trends in teenage motherhood and marriage, contrasts teen mothers' marital hopes with the realities of their marriage chances, and looks at the consequences for teen mothers of remaining unmarried. The brief is a part of the National Campaign's Science Says series. To download a copy, click on the underlined title above.

### **New Research Brief Examines The Meaning of "Healthy Marriage"**

What Is "Healthy Marriage"? Defining the Concept, Child Trends' latest research brief, examines the concept of healthy marriage and the elements that, taken together, help define it. Drawing from available research studies and data, theoretical writings, and short papers commissioned from scholars in the field, the study identifies 10 critical ingredients of a healthy marriage. The brief is part of Child Trends' ongoing conceptual and methodological work on healthy marriage for research and intervention evaluation studies among low-income couples, funded by the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Family and Child Well-Being Research Network. Kristin A. Moore is the lead author. To read the research brief: [http://www.childtrends.org/Files/CT\\_HealthyMarriage.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/CT_HealthyMarriage.pdf)

For the press release, click here:

[http://www.childtrends.org/pressrelease\\_page.cfm?LID=B3173430-85C3-4768-82D74718C3464042](http://www.childtrends.org/pressrelease_page.cfm?LID=B3173430-85C3-4768-82D74718C3464042)

## 3. New from Advocates for Youth

### **Five Years of Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Education: Assessing the Impact**

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/stateevaluations/index.htm>

Advocates for Youth conducted an exhaustive review of existing research to locate evaluation results from state abstinence-only-until-marriage Title V programs. This document reviews the findings from the 10 evaluations that Advocates for Youth was able to identify. It also includes

evaluation results from California's earlier attempt at a statewide abstinence-only initiative. 20 p. (2004)

### **Trends in Sexual Risk Behaviors among High School Students—United States, 1991 to 1997 and 1999 to 2003**

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fstrends.htm>

Advocates for Youth contracted with an independent statistician to analyze data recently released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about sexual behavior among high school students (grades 9 through 12) from 1991 to 2003. Advocates' report on the analysis of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS), *Trends in Sexual Risk Behaviors among High School Students—United States, 1991 to 1997 and 1999 to 2003*, found that the much-touted improvements in adolescent sexual risk-taking behavior actually took place from 1991 to 1997. These improvements did not continue into the time period between 1999 and 2003—which corresponds to the first years of the abstinence-only initiative.

## **4. New from National Fatherhood Initiative**

### **Late Breaking Father Facts**

**Importance of Father Love for Child Well-Being** In an analysis of nearly 100 studies on parent-child relationships, father love (measured by children's perceptions of paternal acceptance/rejection, affection/indifference) was as important as mother love in predicting the social, emotional, and cognitive development and functioning of children and young adults.

Having a loving and nurturing father was as important for a child's happiness, well-being, and social and academic success as having a loving and nurturing mother. Withdrawal of love by either the father or the mother was equally influential in predicting a child's emotional instability, lack of self-esteem, depression, social withdrawal, and level of aggression.

In some studies, father love was actually a better predictor than mother love for certain outcomes, including delinquency and conduct problems, substance abuse, and overall mental health and well-being. Other studies found that, after controlling for mother love, father love was the sole significant indicator for certain outcomes, such as psychological adjustment problems, conduct problems, and substance abuse.

Source: Rohner, Ronald P., and Robert A. Veneziano. "The Importance of Father Love: History and Contemporary Evidence." *Review of General Psychology* 5.4 (December 2001): 382-405.

## **5. Children of Teen Mothers Have Raised Suicide Risk**

LONDON (Reuters) - Babies of teenage mothers and infants who have a low birth weight have a higher risk of committing suicide later in life than other children, Swedish scientists said Friday. In a study of more than 70,000 young adults, researchers at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm found that infants born to young mothers or those who weighed 4.4 pounds at birth were twice as likely to try to kill themselves.

We need to monitor and support young mothers during pregnancy and to follow-up their newborn children to help them with emotional and practical support when needed," Dr Danuta Wasserman, who worked on the study, said in an interview. "Prevention needs to start before a child is born." Social and economic conditions, stress during pregnancy, poor parenting and poor maternal health are thought to be contributing factors to an increased suicide risk.

For further information contact:  
Rob Graham (650) 854-9400  
Sarah Williams (650) 854-9400

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

1. The **NM Teen Pregnancy Coalition** is conducting trainings for facilitators that are interested in learning more about Service Learning. Contact the [NMTPC](#) office to register. ***If you are interested in attending either of the two Service Learning training sessions, please call NMTPC to see if registrations are still available.***

Two **Service Learning** trainings are being held for the NMDOH/Adolescent Pregnancy  
**Las Cruces, NM**

DATE: **October 12, 2004**  
TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
LOCATION: FYI  
1320 S. Solano, Las Cruces, NM

**Las Vegas, NM**

DATE: **October 14, 2004**  
TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
LOCATION: Armijo School Building  
600 Potter Street, Las Vegas, NM

### Why Is Service Learning Important?

Service learning is emerging as a critical topic in K-12 schools, higher education, and community organizations that work with youth. Studies show, for example, that:

- Students participating in service learning show improvements in academic achievement, career preparation, and feeling of self-efficacy, behavior, attendance, and civic engagement.
- Students participating in service learning are more likely to continue to volunteer later in life.
- Students will gain a deeper understanding of themselves, their community, and society.
- Students will develop as leaders who take initiative, solve problems, and work as a team.

2. **Socorro General Hospital's Maternal Child Health Program** is bringing to New Mexico the *ChangeMakers* conference put on by the Medical Institute for Sexual Health. *ChangeMakers* is a conference designed to bring together educational, medical, and civic community leaders and parents with a unified goal of empowering today's youth to make smart choices regarding risky behaviors. *Your presence matters!* Change requires action. And community action begins with a few individuals rising to the challenge. The facts clearly show that the wrong choices can not only result in sexually transmitted diseases, lost opportunities, and harmful negative emotions, they also create a roadblock for hope. *ChangeMakers* provides useful guidelines for how to spark and maintain strategic community plans. Remember, you play a principal role in helping teens lead healthier, happier lives.

The *ChangeMakers* conference is in Rio Rancho at the Best Western Rio Rancho Inn November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The conference is from 8:00am to 4:30pm both days. Breakfast and lunch are included in the registration fee of \$25 if registered before October 8<sup>th</sup> or \$75 after October 8<sup>th</sup>. Registration deadline is October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please contact Betty Cline or Laura Fazio for more information at (505) 835-8709, email [bcline@phs.org](mailto:bcline@phs.org), or mail to Socorro General Hospital MCH Department, P.O. Box 1009 Socorro, NM 87801.

3. **SAVE THE DATE** The NMTPC Conference will be held in Albuquerque on Friday, December 3, 2004. Check out our website, [www.nmtpc.org](http://www.nmtpc.org) for further information.

## New Feature

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.

The **Young Fathers' Project** offers the first success story for this feature.

Nominee: Hiram T.

First Program Contact: June 2003

Referred via District Court

When seen initially at the New Mexico Young Fathers Project, Hiram was embroiled in a custody battle over his daughter, Isabella. His relationship with his daughter's mother was strained and several issues were dealt with by NMYFP staff including custody, visitation, parenting, employment and education. Hiram made measurable efforts to improve his situation through attending group sessions, having one-on-one case management meetings with staff and striving diligently to learn more about being a good father.

He is an active participant in our weekly groups and has become trained to as a peer/mentor educator. On several occasions he has presented to middle school students and has also been a panel member at a fatherhood conference. Visitation has been amicably resolved and Hiram has regular, frequent time with his daughter. He is currently enrolled in TVI classes and is working toward a degree in social work.

### **Message from Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director**

Investing in our youth continues to be a goal at NMTPC. Since 1989 we have brought New Mexicans the latest up to date research and information regarding reducing teen pregnancy. While rates in New Mexico continue to decline we still are 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in birth to teens. Much remains to be done. Please join us by becoming a member of The New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition.

Mil Gracias!

Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director

[director@nmtpc.org](mailto:director@nmtpc.org)

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