

# NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

## NEWS FLASH

October 2006

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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#### **Message from the Young Father's Project**

### **MESSAGE FROM SYLVIA RUIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

We have so much to do together and we hope you will continue to take the journey with us! There are so many ways to help. Our Silent Auction is back and it will be held at our Annual Conference. Proceeds provide scholarships to parenting teens or teens involved in adolescent pregnancy to continue their education. Save the date – December 8, 2006. Visit our [website](#) for details.

Please Help us Help Youth Achieve their DREAMS by providing donations of time shares, massages, hair cuts, art work or jewelry. OR

Become a valued member of the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition so that we can continue to work to reduce adolescent births in our state!

We have our first donation from Lynn and Mike Mundt. They have donated their timeshare in Pagosa Springs, Colorado to the Silent Auction. Lynn is the Family Planning Program Manager at the NM Department of Health and has committed her whole life to improving teen birth rates and working closely with NM agencies involved in teen pregnancy reduction. NMTPC appreciates the Mundts' donation.

Another donation comes from Barbara and Raymond Dennis. They have donated their timeshare in Mazatlan, Mexico. Thank you to the Dennis' for their generous donation.

As I travel the state, I am both heartened and saddened by what I encounter. I am heartened by the number of communities concerned about our youth who become parents too soon and the almost certainty that another generation will spiral into poverty.

I am saddened and frustrated into action when I continue to learn and become acquainted with a 21 year old Hispanic female who is incarcerated at the Grants Women's Facility for 23 months now. This young woman has a three year old who is being raised by the maternal grandmother. This young woman started having problems while enrolled at Rio Grande High School in Albuquerque. She dropped out of school, began becoming involved in risky behaviors and is now costing us around \$50k a year. The emotional social costs are staggering!

One hour a day of intensive case management (a fraction of the cost of keeping someone incarcerated) at the point she began having problems would've in all likelihood averted her descent into the place she is now.

Without your continued support we will not be able to help young fathers across the state. Without your help we cannot continue to advocate for increasing adolescent pregnancy prevention dollars for community and school based programming. Without your help New Mexico will continue to rank third in the country in births to teens!

Please Join Us So That We Can continue to impact generations to come! Your generous support has made a difference in the past – please continue to support the many communities, projects and organizations that the New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition supports with your gift today which will help us all in Growing Our Future Together!

## **NATIONAL RESOURCES**

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

#### **New Teen Birth Data Now Available**

The teen birth rate (aged 15-19) declined by fully one-third between 1991 and 2004, according to data released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The NCHS report presents final birth data for 2004 (preliminary 2004 data had already been released) and contains much to celebrate as well as a few items of concern, including:

#### **The Good News**

- The U.S. teen birth rate is at a record low (41.1 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19, down

from 61.8 births in 1991).

- Between 1991 and 2004, the teen birth rate declined 43% for those aged 15-17 and 26% for those aged 18-19.
- Between 1991 and 2002, the teen birth rate has declined for all racial/ethnic groups, including 21% for Hispanics, 37% for Asian or Pacific Islander, 38% for non-Hispanic whites, 38% for American Indians, and 47% for non-Hispanic blacks.

### **The Bad News**

- The teen birth rate (aged 15-19) declined 1% between 2003 and 2004, the smallest decrease since the teen birth rate began to decline in 1991.
- The Hispanic teen birth rate increased slightly between 2003 and 2004—from 82.3 births per 1,000 teens aged 15-19 to 82.6.
- Although the teen birth rate has declined significantly in all 50 states between 1991 and 2004, the NCHS report notes that with the exception of New Jersey and New York, the teen birth rate remained “essentially unchanged for all other states and territories.”

[Click here](#) to read the full NCHS report on teen birth rates.

Visit [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org) for recently-released teen pregnancy data.

### **New Foster Care research brief**

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy recently released three research briefs—one on foster care and two on adolescents' use of reproductive health services. Apologies for any cross-postings.

By age 19, nearly half of young women in foster care have been pregnant compared to about one fifth of their peers not in foster care, according to research developed by Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago and released by the National Campaign. The Science Says research brief, written by Lucy A. Bilaver and Mark E. Courtney of the widely-respected and influential Chapin Hall Center for Children, also indicates that:

- Nearly half of teen girls in foster care who have been pregnant have had a subsequent pregnancy, compared to 29% of their peers outside the system.
- Nineteen year olds in foster care are more than twice as likely as 19-year-olds more generally to have had at least one child (31.6% and 12.2% respectively).

**Science Says #27** presents detailed data on sexual behavior, contraception, pregnancy and birth rates, and the use of reproductive health services among youth in foster care. How foster care youth compare to youth more generally on these measures as well as how older adolescents who remain in foster care fare compared with those who "age out" of the foster care system is also explored. Advice for those working directly with foster care youth and those focused primarily on preventing teen pregnancy is also included in the research brief.

This new information on foster care youth was developed with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

Please visit [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org) to read the research brief. For more information about our work on foster care, and to read or purchase the previously-published National Campaign report, Fostering Hope: Preventing Teen Pregnancy Among Youth in Foster Care, go to [www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/foster\\_care/default.asp](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/foster_care/default.asp)

In addition, the National Campaign also released **Science Says, #28: Teen Girls' Use of Health Services** and **Science Says #26: Adolescent Boys' Use of Health Services**. Both briefs use data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) to report on adolescents use of health services. They are available on our website at [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org).

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

Advocates for Youth's Youth of Color Initiative

### **Feature: Parent Child Communication**

#### **October is Let's Talk Month**

Let's Talk Month is a national public education campaign celebrated in October and coordinated by Advocates for Youth. Let's Talk Month is an opportunity for community agencies, religious institutions, businesses, schools, media, parent groups and health providers to plan programs and activities which encourage parent/child communication about sexuality.

For more information on Let's Talk Month, please visit:

[www.advocatesforyouth.org/news/events/letstalk.htm](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/news/events/letstalk.htm)

To download the Let's Talk Month guidebook and sample materials, please visit:

[www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/lm.htm](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/lm.htm)

#### **Focus on Plain Talk\***

Plain Talk is a neighborhood-based initiative aimed at helping adults, parents, and community leaders develop the skills they need to communicate effectively with young people about reducing adolescent sexual risk-taking. Plain Talk was developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and launched in five urban communities in 1993. Today, Plain Talk has been replicated in multiple communities across 10 states.

For more information on Plain Talk, please visit

[www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/frtp/plaintalk.htm](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/frtp/plaintalk.htm)

#### **Resources**

For more resources on parent child communication, please visit:

[www.advocatesforyouth.org/parentchild.htm](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/parentchild.htm)

\* This feature summarizes *Replicating Successful Programs: Focus on Plain Talk*, by Advocates for Youth, [From Research to Practice], Washington, DC: Advocates for Youth, June 2006.

#### **Capacity Building & Professional Development**

- The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina announces the North Carolina Hispanic Symposium 2006: Teen Pregnancy Prevention for Hispanic/Latino Youth. This one-day symposium on effective practices in teen pregnancy prevention for

Hispanic/Latino youth is intended for prevention program providers, healthcare providers, school personnel, public and private agency directors, and policy makers.

The Symposium will be held on November 9, 2006 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at The Friday Center, 100 Florida Center Drive, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

To register, please visit: [www.appcnc.org/database/pagemaker.cgi?1122404469](http://www.appcnc.org/database/pagemaker.cgi?1122404469)

- The Great Lakes Institute for Community Health Educators (GLICHE) is an intensive five day residential institute for professionals working in adolescent reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, community health, school classrooms, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, sexuality, and family planning education.

GLICHE participants acquire knowledge on program design and development, while learning innovative and creative ways to influence and engage a diverse array of students and clients. Participants learn to model positive messages about human sexuality as they evaluate their own ability to design and deliver effective presentations.

This training is a designated event for Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) to receive 26 category 1 contact hours in health education.

GLICHE will be held from November 12 to November 16, 2006 at the Doubletree Hotel Madison, 525 West Johnson Street, Madison, Wisconsin. Please visit: [www.hcet.org/events/GLICHE06.htm](http://www.hcet.org/events/GLICHE06.htm) for registration and program information. For questions, please contact: Shannon Sainer at 317.247.9008.

### **Funding Opportunities**

The Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice provides financial support to lesbian-led, LGBTI, and progressive organizations to help lesbians and allied communities challenge oppression and claim their human rights. The Foundation's US Fund Panel Grants program supports Lesbian, Transgender, Intersex, and LGBTI social change organizations and projects (including film, video, media and cultural projects) that directly address the depth and complexity of critical issues in LGBTI communities. Applications are due November 15, 2006. For more information, please visit: [www.astraea.org/PHP/Grants/DeadlinesAllGrants.php4](http://www.astraea.org/PHP/Grants/DeadlinesAllGrants.php4)

The mission of the Elton John AIDS Foundation is to provide funding for educational programs targeted at HIV/AIDS prevention and/or the elimination of prejudice and discrimination against HIV/AIDS-affected individuals, and for programs that provide services to people living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS.

There is no deadline for applying. For more information, please visit contact the program officer at the National AIDS Fund at 202.408.4848 or visit: [www.ejaf.org](http://www.ejaf.org)

### **Announcements**

#### **HIV Prevalence within the black community in south Florida still disproportionately high**

African American in south Florida are more than three times as likely to be HIV-positive than their white counterparts in the same region, according to a report by the Florida Department of Health. The report, titled "Silence is Death: The Crisis of HIV/AIDS in Florida's Black Communities," examines 20 counties in the state with at least 600 reported HIV/AIDS cases.

"It is unacceptable that for 15 years in a row, HIV/AIDS has been the leading cause of death among black Floridians aged 25 to 44 years," state health department Secretary M. Rony Francois said, adding, "It is time for us to mobilize communities and all those who have a stake in the epidemic to find innovative ways to reduce the associated morbidity and mortality."

The report also makes recommendations for fighting HIV/AIDS within the black community in Florida, including raising awareness about the disease, promoting HIV testing, increasing access to HIV prevention and care, encouraging communities and local governments to increase their response to HIV/AIDS within the black community and initiating development of a plan to address the epidemic (FDOH release, 9/5).

For more information, please visit: [www.doh.state.fl.us/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/)

### **JOB OPPORTUNITY**

The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS) is looking for an experienced program coordinator and trainer to work on SIECUS' cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Adolescent and School Health. The project focuses on providing capacity building assistance and training to state education agencies and large school districts. They are looking for someone who has experience working with, but not necessarily in, schools. See the job description below for the details including how/where interested parties should send their letters/resumes.

**Job Summary:** Based in SIECUS' New York office, the School Health Project Coordinator will coordinate all aspects of SIECUS' cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) focused on providing capacity building assistance to state and local education agencies.

#### **Responsibilities:**

- Administer all aspects of a five-year cooperative agreement with CDC-DASH, including implementing the activities proposed in SIECUS' application for funding according to established timelines; fulfilling all award requirements including conducting evaluation activities and preparing reports and work plans; and serving as the primary point of contact for the project.
- Provide customized capacity-building assistance on strengthening school-based HIV-prevention policies and programs to DASH-funded state education agencies and large school districts through telephone, email, and on-site services. Assistance will be provided according to mutually-determined goals and priorities.
- Provide workshops and trainings on HIV-prevention related topics for CDC-DASH funded partners.
- Plan and participate in collaborative activities with colleague organizations.
- Participate as part of SIECUS' Education and Training team including attending team and agency meetings, occasional writing tasks, preparing grant reports, and submitting monthly reports.
- Perform other duties, as assigned.

#### **Qualifications:**

Master's degree (or equivalent experience) and minimum of five years of experience in

sexual/reproductive health, family planning, and/or HIV prevention.  
Strong workshop and training development and delivery skills.  
Excellent writing, verbal, organizational, computer, interpersonal, and presentation skills.  
Ability to travel domestically (air travel required). Must have a valid U.S. driver's license.  
Salary: Commensurate with experience.

Please mail, fax, or email cover letter, resume, salary requirements, and writing sample by October 30, 2006 to:

Monica Rodriguez, Vice President for Education and Training  
SIECUS, 130 West 42nd Street, Suite 350, New York, NY 10036  
Fax: 212/819-9776  
Email: [mrodriguez@siecus.org](mailto:mrodriguez@siecus.org)

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W: [www.advocatesforyouth.org](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org)

### **3. New from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

#### **OJJDP National Report Highlights Juvenile Characteristics**

Youth today live in a world quite different from that of their parents and grandparents. Problems experienced by children are the product of multiple and often complex causes. "Juvenile Offenders and Victims 2006 National Report" presents a brief overview of demographic, economic, and sociological statistics on juveniles.

Resources:

To view the above described overview, visit:

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/nr2006/downloads/chapter1.pdf>.

To access the complete report, visit:

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=234394>

#### **BJA Hosts Regional Conferences on Information Sharing**

The Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), in cooperation with SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics and the Global Justice XML Data Model Training and Technical Assistance Committee, will host the following Regional Information Sharing Conferences:

San Diego, CA, November 28-30, 2006  
Houston, TX, February 6-8, 2007  
Minneapolis, MN, March 27-29, 2007  
Jacksonville, FL, June 4-6, 2007

These Innovations in Justice conferences will provide local and state agency leaders, policymakers, project managers, and technical staff with information on planning, implementing, and managing technological enhancements to information sharing systems.

Resource:

To obtain further more information about these BJA regional conferences and register online, visit: [www.search.org/conferences/2006reginfosharing](http://www.search.org/conferences/2006reginfosharing)

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is a component of the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice.

#### **4. New from Channing Bete Healthy Communities E-Newsletter**

##### **Teens and Drugs**

Parents Underestimate Teens' Concerns About Drugs, Alcohol

According to a recent Cesar Fax report from the Center for Substance Abuse Research, teens are actually more concerned about drug use than their parents think. Approximately 25% of youths ages 12 to 17 reported that alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs were the most important problems they face, while 58% of parents believe that social pressures are teens' number one concern.

Read the full article at: [www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax/vol15/15-35.pdf](http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax/vol15/15-35.pdf)  
(requires Adobe® Reader®)

##### **Staying Connected with Your Teen® A Families That Care® Program**

You can easily offer your community a proven-effective, science-based program that helps parents and teens work together to enhance communication about problem behaviors like substance abuse and delinquency.

Discover more at:

[www.channing-bete.com/prevention-programs/staying-connected-w-your-teen/?src=em](http://www.channing-bete.com/prevention-programs/staying-connected-w-your-teen/?src=em)

##### **Traffic Safety**

States Take International Route to Curb Traffic Accidents

White, oval-shaped dots painted on roads, highway barriers made of flexible cables, and new designs for intersections are just of a few of the internationally inspired traffic-safety devices popping up on U.S. roadways. In an effort to find new, low-cost ways of reducing traffic accidents, state transportation officials and the FHWA are taking part in international "scanning programs" that allow them to travel abroad and meet their foreign counterparts. Many of the new strategies implemented here in the states have proven successful and will likely spread state to state, according to the Stateline.org report.

Read the full article at: [www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=138586](http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=138586)

Help promote safety on the road with the resources at:  
[www.channing-bete.com/community-safety/traffic-safety.html?src=em](http://www.channing-bete.com/community-safety/traffic-safety.html?src=em)

### **Child Abuse**

Study Links Neglect to Adolescent Drug Use, Violence, Depression

A recent study reported in the journal Pediatrics finds that children who are left home alone, physically assaulted, or sexually abused are more likely to turn to tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs and suffer from depression in adolescence. The study found that neglect (leaving a child home alone when an adult should be present) was the most common form of maltreatment. Researchers hope the study will raise awareness about the link between neglectful parenting and risky behaviors.

Read the full article at: [www.unc.edu/news/archives/sep06/child090106.html](http://www.unc.edu/news/archives/sep06/child090106.html)

### **Preventing Child Abuse; A Presentation Kit (EM91042)R**

Child abuse can be difficult to talk about, but talking about it is essential as a step toward preventing it, and this informative, sensitive presentation can educate every community member on the different aspects of child abuse and what they can do to stop it.

Find more at:  
[www.channing-bete.com/presentationkits/products/91042-prev-child-abuse.html?src=em](http://www.channing-bete.com/presentationkits/products/91042-prev-child-abuse.html?src=em)

### **Bipolar Disorder**

Workers Miss Twice as Many Workdays to Bipolar Disorder than Depression

A recent study published in the American Journal of Psychiatry finds that workers suffering from bipolar disorder miss twice as many workdays as those suffering from depression. Although depression is six times more prevalent, bipolar disorder's severe depressive episodes cost American businesses \$14.1 billion annually in lost workdays. The study was the first to distinguish the impact of depressive episodes due to bipolar disorder from those due to major depressive disorder on the workplace.

Read the full article at:  
[www.nih.gov/news/pr/sep2006/nimh-01.htm](http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/sep2006/nimh-01.htm)

Promote good mental health throughout your community with the resources at:  
[www.channing-bete.com/public-health/mental-health.html?src=em](http://www.channing-bete.com/public-health/mental-health.html?src=em)

### **Overweight Children**

Study Finds 15 Percent of American Children are Overweight

According to a new HRSA report, Overweight and Physical Activity Among Children: A Portrait of States and the Nation 2005, 14.8 percent of American children ages 10 to 17 are overweight. The percentage of overweight children varied considerably by state, ranging from 22.8 percent in Washington, D.C. to only 8.5 percent in Utah. Among other findings, the study also revealed that more males than females are overweight, and that overweight is more prevalent in lower-income families. The study was based on data collected during the 2003-04 National Survey of Children's Health.

Read the full article at:

<http://newsroom.hrsa.gov/NewsBriefs/2006/overweight-children.htm>

### **Help children ages 4-5 make healthy choices with "We Wonder® -- We Love Healthy Food!" (EM90874)B**

Interactive exercises introduce and reinforce the elements of good nutrition, how to make more healthful food choices, and the importance of physical exercise.

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

<http://go.channing-bete.com/wa/promotion?p=1&code=H402K>

## **5. New from the Welfare Peer TA Network**

The Agenda and Short Summary from the Welfare Peer TA Event, "Identifying and Addressing Learning Disabilities in the New Jersey TANF Population" has been posted! Approximately twenty-five to forty percent of TANF and Safety Net participants have learning disabilities. This Roundtable, held in Trenton, NJ, was designed to highlight the importance of screening for learning disabilities and accommodating them when serving TANF clients. This was done through education, peer-to-peer learning, and the sharing of promising practices. Helpful tools were provided to participants for screening, assessing and interviewing clients, as well as to facilitate the development of local and regional action plans for immediate implementation.

For more information on this TA Event, please see:

[www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/taevents/barrier.htm#learn](http://www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/taevents/barrier.htm#learn)

Are you interested in requesting TA from the Welfare Peer TA Network? If your agency/organization needs assistance with your TANF program, you can submit a TA Request Form. Prior TA events have helped participants identify effective practices for providing services, implement interagency service coordination, build linkages within and across State agencies, and address other welfare-related topics. You are eligible to submit a TA Request Form if you represent a State, county, locality, or community-based organization that is operating a TANF program or providing services to TANF recipients. TA offered includes site visits, workshops, moderated teleconferences and other interventions, as appropriate. TA events are conducted in small groups in order to facilitate and encourage information sharing among participants.

Please see, <http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/tarequest/index.htm>, for more information regarding the TA process.

New questions have been posted to the Welfare Peer TA Network. To access the Interactive Q&A page, please see: <http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/qa/index.cfm>

Washington has not terminated any TANF recipients after 60 months, and understands that 18 other states also have not terminated anyone after they have reached the lifetime TANF limit. What other states have not terminated anybody after they have reached their lifetime TANF limit and how are they implementing this? To submit an answer to this question, please see:

[http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/qa/resp\\_form.cfm?quesID=1236](http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/qa/resp_form.cfm?quesID=1236)

Be sure to check the What's New page for the most current information and resources from the Welfare Peer TA Network at <http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/whatsnew/index.htm>. The What's New

page includes the following resources: "Prisoner Reentry: Addressing the Challenges in Weed and Seed Communities." The Urban Institute and Winston Salem State University surveyed Weed and Seed sites around the country to review the extent to which Weed and Seed sites are engaged in prisoner reentry efforts. This report summarizes the ways that Weed and Seed sites are focusing on prisoner reentry and working with partner organizations to reduce recidivism and create safer, healthier communities. To view or download, please see:

[www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/family.htm#incarceration](http://www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/family.htm#incarceration).

"Low-Income Children in the United States: National and State Trend Data, 1995-2005." This article from the National Center for Children in Poverty provides data on low-income children in the US. Since 2000, the number of children living in low-income families has increased. Data includes national and States' data on the characteristics of low-income children over the past ten years. To view or download, please see:

[www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/income.htm#general](http://www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/income.htm#general).

"Has Welfare Reform Changed State Expenditure Patterns?" The welfare reform of 1996 granted states more flexibility in spending for TANF by receiving block grant funding. This article from the National Poverty Center reviews TANF spending, and found that state spending on public welfare programs increased from 19.4 percent in 1980 to 26.9 percent in 2003, which is attributed to medical vendor payments for Medicaid. To view or download, please see: [www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/program.htm#general](http://www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/program.htm#general).

"Implementing Healthy Marriage Programs for Unmarried Couples with Children: Early Lessons from the Building Strong Families Project." From ASPE, this report reviews early lessons learned from the early stages of the Building Strong Families Project. The Project is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of programs to help romantically involved, unwed parents build stronger relationships and healthy marriage if they so choose. From February 2005 to 2006, this report outlines early successes and challenges faced by pilot sites. To view or download, please see:

[www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/family.htm#marriage](http://www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/family.htm#marriage).

"Opportunity in America: The Role of Education." This report from the Brookings Institution reviews the role of education in helping low-income children advance economically. Authored by Isabel Sawhill, she concludes that the U.S. education system tends to reinforce rather than compensate for differences in family background, and in order to strengthen opportunity for America's children, more effective investments in education need to be made. To view or download, please see:

[www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/support.htm#education](http://www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/policies/support.htm#education).

## **6. New from the Federal Reserve System**

Federal Reserve System's Academic Competition for 9-12th graders

Attached to this email you will find information regarding the Federal Reserve System's Academic Challenge for 9-12th graders. Listed below are the web sites that principals and teachers can visit.

[www.kansascityfed.org/fedchallenge/challengemain.htm](http://www.kansascityfed.org/fedchallenge/challengemain.htm)

[www.federalreserveeducation.org](http://www.federalreserveeducation.org)

This is a very exciting experience for high schools students and the Federal Reserve would love to get New Mexico students involved. Their goal is to reach as many of the high schools teachers in New Mexico who teach any of the following: Social Studies, Economics, Geography, Finance and Business along with Family Consumer Science and English.

For more information contact:

Rachel.Saucier@kc.frb.org

Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City - Denver Branch  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Phone: 303.572.2394  
Fax: 303.572.2398

## **LOCAL RESOURCES**

### **From New Mexico Voices for Children**

#### **Risky Business**

The "2005 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency" report has been released and it doesn't paint a great picture for our youth. The survey takes a look at what kinds of risky behaviors the state's teens engage in and how often. Risky behaviors run the gamut from smoking and binge drinking to drug, condom and seatbelt use.

New Mexico has some of the highest rates in the nation for drug use and suicides. One of the areas in which we do exceed is buckling up our kids.

The report is sponsored by the state Department of Health:

<http://action.voiceshub.org/ct/Qd2mJLp11uVC/>

#### **Voting Your Real Values**

Much has been said in the run-up to this election (as well as many preceding elections) about values -- particularly in light of the recent scandal in the House of Representatives. Even though "values" is a subjective concept we thought you might be interested in a survey conducted by the Center for American Values in Public Life (a project of the People for the American Way Foundation). The report, aptly titled "American Values Survey," discusses these four key findings:

Social issues such as abortion and gay marriage rank last in importance to the vast majority of American voters when they are casting their ballots.

An overwhelming majority of Americans, including at least three-quarters of every major religious tradition, say issues like poverty and health care are more important than hot-button social issues.

When people think about "voting their values," more people think of the honesty, integrity and responsibility of the candidate than any other values.

Americans overwhelmingly agree that too many religious leaders focus on abortion and gay rights without addressing more important issues such as loving our neighbors and caring for the poor.

You can read the entire report here:

<http://action.voiceshub.org/ct/Pp2mJLp11uVZ/> or just read the summary here:

<http://action.voiceshub.org/ct/Q12mJLp11uVV/>

## Getting Guidance

Speaking of voting (and we'll be speaking about it a lot between now and Nov. 7), if you're looking for information on New Mexico's candidates and issues, check out the League of Women Voters New Mexico's 2006 Voter Guide. The nonpartisan guide has information on the constitutional amendments and general obligation bonds that will be on the ballot, along with short profiles of many of the candidates. You can access the guide here:

<http://action.voiceshub.org/ct/Qp2mJLp11uCq/>

## Race Matters Update

We got a lot accomplished during last week's Race Matters Task Force meeting. Regarding coalition building, we discussed a statement of principles and an endorsement form, and settled on a name: **New Mexico Race Matters Coalition**. We then split up into our subject groups, selected chairs and came up with criteria for the upcoming fact sheets.

If you couldn't make it to the meeting, you can find out who's chairing your subject group by contacting Felicia Griffin at [fgriffin@nmvoices.org](mailto:fgriffin@nmvoices.org) or 505-244-9505, ext. 21. Since the task force meetings will now be held quarterly, the subject groups are meeting on their own in November. The next task force meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 6. Visit:

<http://action.voiceshub.org/ct/R72mJLp11uCS/> for more information and to register.

## Call for Nominees

We're now accepting nominations for our 2007 Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Award. The award honors New Mexico youths (ages 13 through 26) who are making a difference in their communities through service work or outreach. This year we've split the award into two age groups -- 13 to 18 and 19 to 26. One finalist and one winner will be selected from each of the age groups.

The deadline for nominations is 3pm, Friday, Feb. 9, 2007. If you'd like a nomination packet mailed to you call 505-244-9505, ext. 10. You can also download the forms here:

<http://action.voiceshub.org/ct/R12mJLp11uCa/>. The awards ceremony will be Friday, April 20, 2007, in Albuquerque.

## Save The Date

## Moving Forward Together

4<sup>th</sup> Annual NM Youth Practitioners Summit  
December 5-7, 2006  
Albuquerque Convention Center

Join us as we move forward together toward positive outcomes for New Mexico's youth. The Summit will feature presentations by national and local leaders, interactive workshops, and a resource pavilion to support positive youth and community development throughout New Mexico.

For more information or to reserve your space visit our website: [www.nmforumforyouth.org](http://www.nmforumforyouth.org)

Or Contact:  
NM Forum for Youth in Community  
Phone: 505-821-3574  
[wendy@nmforumforyouth.org](mailto:wendy@nmforumforyouth.org)

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**The NM Teen Pregnancy Coalition Annual Conference** will be held in Albuquerque on December 8, 2006. The Topic this year is **A Look at What Works in New Mexico**.

Find out about **Promising Interventions** and hear from some of the fourteen counties that met the **Challenge 2005** and reduced their teen pregnancy rates by a minimum of 20%. Hear what they did that worked from representatives of successful Counties.

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.

## **Message from the Young Fathers' Project**

The New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition is pleased to announce we have received a grant from the New Mexico Community Foundation for our New Mexico Young Fathers Project! The grant will be used to support the New Mexico Young Fathers Project in providing training for young fathers and to enhance the evaluation component of the project allowing replication in other New Mexico communities.

We are extremely grateful to the Foundation and proud to call them a valued partner.

For information on the Young Fathers' Project please call:

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(505) 254-8741 Fax

Danny Marquez  
Albuquerque Case Manager  
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Barry McIntosh  
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(505) 310-0310

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

Gilbert Ramirez, MSW  
Community Group Facilitator  
Sequoyah Adolescent Treatment Center  
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(505) 254-8737

Father and Family Center  
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(505) 266-6334

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