

NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION

NEWS FLASH

September 2003

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

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1. NMTPC Announces a December Conference in Las Cruces

NMTPC will hold a one-day conference in Las Cruces on **Wednesday, December 3**. **Caminos Nuevos in Teen Pregnancy Prevention** will include topics on:

- Teen Pregnancy in the Hispanic Community
- Family Issues in Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Successful Interventions and Best Practices
- Working With Teens
- Adolescent Development

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW and watch NMTPC's web site for regular updates on presenters and topics. www.nmtpc.org

2. New Report on Teens' First Sexual Relationships

The First Time: Characteristics of Teens' First Sexual Relationships, a new report by Child Trends indicates that teen births are at an all-time low, but almost half of school-age teens report they have had sexual intercourse. Highlights include:

- 61% of the sexually active teens began having sex within three months of the start of their romantic relationship.
- One-quarter of teens who have had sex reported that verbal abuse (name-calling, insults, threats of violence, disrespectful treatment) occurred within their first sexual relationship. Nine percent reported physical abuse in their first sexual relationship, and seven percent reported both physical and verbal abuse.

- Among sexually experienced teens, 17 percent of Hispanics experienced physical violence in their first sexual relationship, compared with six percent of non-Hispanic whites and 12 percent of non-Hispanic blacks.
- More than one-fifth (22 percent) of sexually experienced teens reported never using contraception with their first sexual partner.
- Only half of sexually experienced Hispanic teens reported having a conversation about contraception with their partners in their first sexual relationship, compared with 61 percent of non-Hispanic white teens and 59 percent of non-Hispanic black teens.

To download a summary or the full report, visit the Child Trends web site at http://www.childtrends.org/n_firsttime80503.asp

Also on this topic, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has a report called [Where and When Teens First Have Sex](#). According to new research, 2/3 of 16-18 year olds who reported a first sexual experience in 2000 said they first had sexual intercourse in their partner's family home (34%), their parent's family home (22%), or a friend's house (12%). Smaller numbers reported first having sex in their own or partner's home, in a vehicle, motel or someplace else. Teens' first sexual experience is most likely to occur in a male teen's family home.

70% of teens who had sex said their first intercourse took place during the evening or night time. Although, 23% of Hispanic teens said that sex occurred during typical school-day hours (before 3 PM), as compared to 12% of African-Americans and 14% of non-Hispanic Whites.

You can download the report at

<http://www.teenpregnancy.org/works/pdf/Time%20&%20Place%20of%20First%20Sex%20FINAL.pdf>

3. Message from Maria Otero, Hispanic Community Liaison

[Teen Sexual Activity, Pregnancy and Childbearing Among Latinos in the United States](#) is an updated fact sheet published by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. You can download it directly from their web site in either English or Spanish.

<http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/pdf/latinofs.pdf> (English)

<http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/pdf/LatinoFSSpanish.pdf> (Spanish)

Highlights include:

- 57% of Latina girls in the U.S. become pregnant at least once by age 20.
- Latinas have the highest teen birth rate among the major racial/ethnic groups in the U.S.
- The teen birth rates for Latinas have not decreased as much in recent years as have the overall U.S. teen birth and pregnancy rates.

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¡Soy Unica! ¡Soy Latina! has a new look!

Check it out and tell young Latinas about the new site!

Young Latinas can learn cool things about their bodies and minds and find fun activities that will show them how to make great choices for their future. Just in time for the start of school, girls can check out our homework helper and see how to start a homework club. In the Club House, they can get to know this month's guest, play games, or send free online postcards! <http://www.soyunica.gov/>

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LULAC National Educational Service Center, Inc. (LNESEC)

Learn about LNESEC, an organization in Chicago that empowers young Latinas to maximize their potential to become lifelong learners. Through the Adolescentes, Mejorando, Integrando, Grandes, Ambiciones y Sueños (AMIGAS) after-school program for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade girls, LNESEC emphasizes the importance of going on to higher education and prepares girls to transition from middle school to high school. By giving every girl in the AMIGAS program her own ¡Soy Unica! ¡Soy Latina! workbook, LNESEC uses these educational materials to give the girls a sense of ownership and privacy.

<http://www.soyunica.gov/adults/partners/lnesc.aspx> (English)

<http://www.soyunica.gov/adults/partners/lnescs.aspx> (Spanish)

If you have questions or ideas about addressing New Mexico's high Hispanic teen pregnancy rate, please contact me at (505) 254-8737 or maria@nmtpc.org

4. Message From Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director

NMTPC is pleased to announce that we have two one-day statewide conferences planned for this winter and spring. The first event, [Caminos Nuevos in Teen Pregnancy Prevention](#), will be held in Las Cruces on December 3, 2003. I'm especially pleased that we can once again bring this exciting event to our friends and colleagues in Southern New Mexico.

SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

A late spring event is also being planned for the Albuquerque area. Watch for news about both conferences at our web site, www.nmtpc.org.

Mil Gracias!
Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director
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NEWS FLASH is funded by grants from
New Mexico Human Services Department
New Mexico Department of Health Family Planning Program
New Cycles Foundation