



eNewsletter (Text)

May 1, 2009

National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is May 6th!

Wednesday, May 6th is the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. With the teen birth rate up for the second year in a row, it is more important than ever to draw attention to the prevention of pregnancy among teens.

Organizations and groups around the country have a variety of activities planned to observe the 2009 National Day. Click here (<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/national/plans2009.aspx>) to access an interactive map with details on activities by state.

Beginning May 1, the National Day quiz will be available on at Stayteen.org (<http://www.stayteen.org/quiz/>). The short, scenario-based quiz challenges young people to consider what they would do in a number of sexual situations.

What Works 2009

National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/>) has just released *What Works 2009!* (<http://www.acptp.org/uploadedFiles/What%20Works%202009.pdf>) This 24-page pamphlet presents a succinct overview of what is known about carefully evaluated interventions that help prevent teen pregnancy, including a list of effective programs, selected program effects, contact information, as well as direct links to resources providing additional program and evaluation information.

Evidence Mounts Against Abstinence-Only Education Programs

Guttmacher Institute

In light of the changed political climate and the robust body of research that shows abstinence-only programs have no beneficial effect on young people's sexual behavior, calls are mounting for policymakers to stop funding these programs altogether and, going further, to create a new funding stream to support programs that are more comprehensive in scope, according to "Advocates Call for a New Approach After the

Era of 'Abstinence-Only' Sex Education," (<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/gpr/12/1/gpr120106.html>) by Heather D. Boonstra. As the evidence base against abstinence-only programs has grown, so has the number of states that have decided to opt out of the Title V abstinence-only program established as part of welfare reform legislation in the 1990s. To date, 23 states and the District of Columbia have declined to apply for the annual abstinence education grants set aside for them under the program. The number of adolescents living in those states is substantial: Nearly 14 million young people aged 12–18—46% of adolescents nationwide—reside in states that have passed up Title V abstinence-only funding.

For more information on state laws on sex education, see this overview of state policies on sex and STI/HIV education.

(http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_SE.pdf)

The Role of Mental Health Factors, Behavioral Factors, and Past Experiences in the Prediction of Rapid Repeat Pregnancy in Adolescence

Advocates for Youth

This study, from the January 2009 edition of the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, investigates the predictors of rapid repeat pregnancy (subsequent pregnancy within 24 months of previous pregnancy outcome) in a sample of urban adolescents. Participating adolescents (who were aged 12–19 and predominantly African-American) completed individual interviews during pregnancy and at 24 months postpartum. Of the participants, 42 percent reported a rapid repeat pregnancy. Reports of later menarche (12.43 vs. 11.91) and a greater likelihood of aggression were significantly associated with having a rapid repeat pregnancy within 24 months. It is suggested that puberty onset and individual mental health as it relates to measures of aggression should be considered when developing programs targeting adolescents at highest risk for rapid repeat pregnancy. The abstract ([http://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(08\)00274-7/abstract](http://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(08)00274-7/abstract)) is available online.

Community Coalitions within Alabama

Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

A number of local communities are addressing the issue of teen pregnancy prevention through community coalitions. If you are interested in starting a local coalition or joining one in your community, contact the Alabama Campaign. (<http://www.acptp.org/>)

The *Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy's eNewsletter* provides links to articles and websites with information on current events, research, funding opportunities and other items related to teen pregnancy prevention. The inclusion of this information does not imply endorsement by the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (ACPTP) and the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position, policies or views of ACPTP.