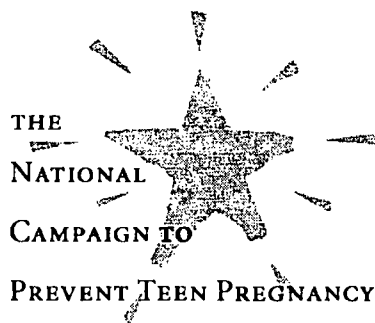




2100 M STREET NW SUITE 300
WASHINGTON DC 20037

PHONE: 202.261.5655

FAX: 202.331.7735

EMAIL: CAMPAIGN@TEENPREGNANCY.ORG

WEB: WWW.TEENPREGNANCY.ORG

1999 National Campaign Honorees

In a ceremony with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, held April 28 in the White House's Old Executive Office Building, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy honored individuals and organizations whose work embodies goals and themes that the Campaign believe are essential to preventing teen pregnancy. This year the Campaign presented awards in five categories including: becoming part of the solution — media leadership; building common ground; involving boys and men in preventing teen pregnancy; preventing teen pregnancy through youth development; and solving problems through state leadership and action.

Theme: Becoming Part of the Solution: Media Leadership
Honorees: Susanne Daniels, President of Entertainment of the WB Network and
Patricia Fili-Krushel, President of the ABC Television Network

It has become increasingly clear that we cannot hope to reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancy without harnessing the power of the media. More so than any other industry, it has the potential to change social norms and influence individual behavior. Recognizing this potential, Susanne Daniels and Patricia Fili-Krushel have taken the lead in showing that television can offer enormous opportunities to educate without sacrificing entertainment value or credibility with its audience.

As the President of Entertainment for the WB Network, Ms. Daniels has been tireless in her effort to encourage other media industry leaders — at the WB and beyond — to understand the urgency of teen pregnancy prevention and its relevance to their work. By featuring such themes as the importance of parent-child communication about sex, the idea that boys can say “no” to sex, and the importance of girls’ self-esteem on *Dawsons Creek*, *Seventh Heaven*, and other shows watched by millions of teens, Ms. Daniels has helped demonstrate that teen pregnancy prevention is more about love, relationships, and values than just about body parts.

As the President of the ABC Television Network, Ms. Fili-Krushel has put teen pregnancy prevention in the national spotlight through ABC’s daytime dramas and through its “Children First” campaign. The teen pregnancy story arc on “One Life To Live,” which is now in its sixth month and still a compelling part of the show, has touched millions of viewers in a very personal, compelling way and has offered helpful messages to teens and families.

The Campaign is grateful for the leadership of Ms. Daniels and Ms. Fili-Krushel in helping millions of people understand the need to prevent teen pregnancy in a way that the non-profit sector could never do alone.

Theme: Building Common Ground
Honoree: Glendale Community Council

Efforts to reduce teen pregnancy often engender acrimonious debate and frequently encounter controversy when different ideologies, religious traditions, and values come up against each other. But some communities are beginning to find constructive ways to manage such conflict. In this vein, the National Campaign honors the Glendale Community Council of Arizona for their efforts to reach across differences to find and build common ground. In February of this year, the Council led a carefully structured, community-based discussion that brought together interested parties in a spirit of respect and open-mindedness. From this meeting, a set of mutually agreed upon ideas was developed on how best to tackle the problem of teen pregnancy; the Council is now translating these ideas into action. In so doing, Glendale has helped to create a model for other states and communities to help them avoid the conflicts and pitfalls that too often cloud efforts to prevent teen pregnancy.

Accepting the award on behalf of the Glendale Community Council were Mary Ann Lavine Executive Director, Glendale Community Council; Norma Alvarez, Director of the Glendale Community Action Program; Alyce-Anne Meadows, Program Development Coordinator for Children, Youth and Families of the Glendale Community Council; Anthony Mrgudich, President of the Council's peer-led program — the Teens Educating Everyone Network (TEEN); and Alyssa Meadows, a member of TEEN.

Theme: Involving Boys and Men in Preventing Teen Pregnancy
Honorees: The Male Involvement Program of the Mexican American Community Services Agency, Inc. (MACSA)

"It takes two to tango," like many cliches, is a truism, but one that was too often ignored by teen pregnancy prevention programs, most of which focused their efforts almost entirely on teenaged girls. Today, programs increasingly realize the importance of working with boys as well as girls and the Male Involvement Program of the Mexican American Community Services Agency (MACSA) is a shining example of such an effort. Operating under the motto "Help for Today, Planning for Tomorrow," MACSA's program helps young men reduce their risk of unplanned parenthood and STDs. By combining a variety of components that teach sexual responsibility and independent thinking, including formal instruction, personal counseling, and peer education, their male involvement team helps young men define manhood in a way that encourages restraint and respect for women and values fatherhood.

Accepting the award on behalf of MACSA were their Executive Director, Esther Medina; the Deputy Director, Olivia Mendiola; the Male Involvement Division Director, Enrique Arreola; Youth Educator Sammy Nunez; and teen leader Steve Prieto.

Theme: Preventing Teen Pregnancy Through Youth Development
Honoree: YWCA of the USA

For many years, efforts to reduce teen pregnancy concentrated on sex education and clinical services to help sexually active teens use contraception. More recently, there has been a growing emphasis on encouraging abstinence from intercourse altogether. But sometimes as these strategies for reducing teen pregnancy are discussed — and often argued over — a more fundamental issue is missed: that teens will *neither* remain abstinent nor use contraception carefully unless they are strongly motivated to avoid pregnancy and sexual risk-taking in the first place. That is why the field of teen pregnancy prevention has much to gain from closer relationships with youth development programs, which concentrate on supporting and encouraging young people, teaching them skills, and helping them form meaningful relationships with adults. The YWCA is one of the nation's largest providers of youth services. The National Campaign honors them for helping young women stay strong and plan for a bright, productive future. Operating out of thousands of locations in all 50 states, the YWCA reaches over a million girls in America with powerful messages about youth development and leadership training — two keys to preventing teen pregnancy. Through such programs as the YW-Teen Clubs, the Peer Education in Sexuality and Health Program, and the Sister-to-Sister Summits, the YWCA is providing girls and young women with a rich array of new ideas, skills, and experiences — all of which can help them see clearly that adolescence must be a time for education and growing up, not pregnancy and parenthood. We are pleased to be able to recognize their hard work, sustained over many years. Accepting the award on behalf of the YWCA was their Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis.

Theme: Solving Problems Through State Leadership and Action
Honoree: South Carolina Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and the South Carolina General Assembly

National organizations focused on preventing teen pregnancy have the power to examine the extent of the problem, evaluate possible solutions, and offer advice, but it is the efforts of state and local leaders whose work directly affects the lives of teens and their families. In this spirit, the National Campaign honors the South Carolina Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and the South Carolina General Assembly for their joint leadership in allocating \$10.5 million in TANF funds to support local pregnancy prevention efforts. This welfare reform funding is available for states to use for teen pregnancy prevention at their discretion. We are particularly impressed by the fact that this legislation provides every county in South Carolina some funds for prevention efforts and that those counties with the highest teen pregnancy rates and the largest teen populations receive a greater amount of support. We also salute the emphasis on local autonomy and decision-making built into this program. We are pleased to be able to recognize their accomplishments and the way in which the private council and state legislature were able to work together for the benefit of the entire state.

Accepting on behalf of the South Carolina Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention was their President and CEO, Joy Campbell. Accepting on behalf of the South Carolina General Assembly were Representatives Steve Lanford and James Smith.

**1999 Honorees of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
Contact Information**

Category: Becoming Part of the Solution: Media Leadership

Honorees: Susanne Daniels and Pat Fili-Krushel

Contact: Susanne Daniels
President of Entertainment
The WB Network
4000 Warner Boulevard
Burbank, CA 91522
phone: 818-977-4580

Patricia Fili-Krushel
President
ABC Television Network
77 West 66th Street, Fifth Floor
New York, NY 10023
phone: 212-456-6309

Category: Building Common Ground

Honoree: Glendale Community Council

Contact: Mary Ann Lavine
Executive Director
Glendale Community Council
6010 West Northern, Suite 201
Glendale, AZ 85301
phone: 602-937-9034

Category: Involving Boys and Men in Preventing Teen Pregnancy

Honoree: The Male Involvement Program of the Mexican American Community Services Agency, Inc. (MACSA)

Contact: Esther Medina
Executive Director
MACSA
130 North Jackson Avenue
San Jose, CA 95116
phone: 408-928-1122

Category: Preventing Teen Pregnancy Through Youth Development

Honoree: YWCA of the USA

Contact: Prema Mathai-Davis
Chief Executive Officer
YWCA of the USA
350 Fifth Avenue, Third Floor
New York, NY 10118
phone: 212-273-7800

Category: Solving Problems Through State Leadership and Action
Honorees: South Carolina Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and the South Carolina General Assembly
Contact: Joy Campbell
President and CEO
South Carolina Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention
P.O. Box 383, 937 Assembly Street, Suite 1118
Columbia, SC 29202
phone: 803-777-1180

Senator Linda Short
South Carolina Senate
P.O. Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202
phone: 803-212-6108

Representative Steve Lanford
South Carolina House of Representatives
Columbia, SC 29211
phone: 803-734-3125

Representative James Smith
South Carolina House of Representatives
Columbia, SC 29211
phone: 803-734-2808

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TALKING POINTS FOR NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY
HONOREE RECEPTION
INDIAN TREATY ROOM
April 28, 1999

- Welcome to the White House. It's a pleasure to be here with so many friends and heroes in the cause of preventing teen pregnancy and improving the lives of countless young people. I want to thank the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy for all of your extraordinary work, particularly for continuing to breathe new life into this important issue and reaching out to new partners, many of whom are gathered here today.
- I want to pay special tribute to: Gov. Tom Kean, Campaign Chair; Belle Sawhill, Campaign president, as well as several other Campaign board members present today. I also want to thank Sarah Brown and the staff of the Campaign for their hard work and dedication. Finally, I'd like to recognize the teens here with us today, who remind us of the theme of this year's event, which is the important positive role that teens can play in influencing other teens to prevent teen pregnancy.
- I particularly want to thank and congratulate this year's honorees. Today, we are gathered to recognize ~~five~~ extraordinary individuals and organizations for their important contributions:
(1) the YWCA of the USA;
(2) Pat Fili-Krushel (FEEL-LEE CREW-SHELL), President of the ABC Television Network; and Susanne Daniels, President of Entertainment of the WB Network;
(3) the Male Involvement Program of the Mexican American Community Services Agency;
(4) the Glendale Community Council; and
(5) the South Carolina Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and the South Carolina General Assembly.
- Today's honorees represent the breadth and variety of strategies that we need to employ to continue to be successful in our efforts to reduce teen pregnancy. The honorees – from community-based organizations to leaders in the media to public-private partnerships – demonstrate that every sector of society has a role to play in tackling this important problem.
- Because of efforts like those we are saluting today and in large measure because of the extraordinary work of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, we are at a turning point in our struggle against teen pregnancy. Fewer teens are getting pregnant; fewer teens are giving birth; and fewer teens are having abortions. And, perhaps the most important and best news of the last several years is that the birth rate for African American teenagers has dropped a full 21 percent.
- In fact, new HHS data that Secretary Shalala mentioned to you earlier tells us that teen birth rates continue to decline in every state, and nation-wide, teen birth rates have declined for the sixth year in a row -- by a total of 16 percent since 1991. Out-of-wedlock birth rates are also declining at record numbers. We should all feel enormously proud of these continuing positive trends.

- To make this success possible, the Administration, in partnership with the Campaign, has worked to use every weapon we have in our fight to prevent teen pregnancy and lift up the lives of our nation's young people. The Campaign has helped put the issue of teen pregnancy on the front covers of teen magazines, in the story lines of soap operas, and in the daily lives of the American people. And the Administration's teen pregnancy strategy includes abstinence education, more after-school programs, access to family planning, more male-focused programs, and a campaign called Girl Power that encourages adolescent girls to stay healthy, stay active and make the most of their lives.
- But of course we must do more. We need to do everything we can -- use every strategy at our disposal -- to try to reach every single teenager. We know that teen pregnancy is linked to poverty and school failure. Yet, as we all know too well, we still have four in 10 young women getting pregnant at least once in their teens, and our nation is still paying an annual cost of \$7 billion related to health and social and other kind of needs. So I thank you for all your important work to date, congratulate today's honorees for this distinction they've received, and ask all of you to join me in redoubling our efforts to ensure that next year we will join again to celebrate more progress and greater success.

April 27, 1999

DROP BY AT TEEN PREGNANCY AWARDS

Date:	Wednesday, April 28
Time:	4:45 PM – 5:00 PM
Location:	Indian Treaty Room
From:	Ruby Shamir

I. PURPOSE

To participate in the third annual honors reception of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

II. BACKGROUND

Teen Pregnancy Awards

Each year, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy holds events at the end of April to kick off May as National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month including an event to honor groups and individuals that have made particular contributions to reduce teen pregnancy. This event will serve to recognize the 1999 honorees.

This year's honorees are:

- YWCA of the USA for preventing teen pregnancy through youth development programs which focus on teaching young people skills, helping them build relationships with adults, and boosting their confidence.
- Pat Fili-Krushel, President of ABC Television Network and Susanne Daniels, President of Entertainment for the WB Network for showing leadership in the media by incorporating teen pregnancy issues and positive messages into their programming. (We are asking Pat Fili-Krushel, who you met in December, to make a commitment from ABC for the Hispanic Convening).
- The Male Involvement Program of the Mexican American Community Services Agency, Inc for involving boys and men in preventing teen pregnancy by teaching young men about sexual responsibility and independent thinking, and offering personal counseling and peer education opportunities.
- Glendale Community Council of Arizona for by holding a carefully structured, community based discussion among groups with very different views about how to address teen pregnancy and trying to build common ground.
- South Carolina Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and the South Carolina General Assembly for solving problems through state leadership and action by allocating \$10.5 million in TANF funds to support local pregnancy prevention efforts.

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

The National Campaign is a private, non-profit, and non-partisan effort. Former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean serves as the board chairman, Isabel Sawhill serves as the president and Sarah Brown serves as the director of the National Campaign. Initiated by the President's 1995 challenge to reduce teen pregnancy, the goal of the National Campaign is to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy by one-third between 1996-2005.

New Teen Pregnancy Numbers

On Thursday, the Vice President will announce new HHS data showing that teen birth rates continue to decline in every state, and that the national rate has declined for the sixth year in a row, by a total of 16 percent since 1991. The VP will make this announcement at a White House roundtable discussion with a variety of experts and advocates. Attached is a draft of the HHS press release.

Event Program

Secretary Shalala will host the awards ceremony where Governor Tom Kean will give awards to each of the 1999 honorees. You will arrive after the formal program. Belle Sawhill will introduce you and you will make brief remarks. After you speak Belle Sawhill will formally close the program.

Audience

Approximately 150 people will attend including the 1999 honorees, many of the National Campaign board members, funders, and task force members, as well as teens who are peer leaders in the cause to reduce teen pregnancy.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Speaking Program

- Belle Sawhill, National Campaign Chair
- The First Lady

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You will be greeted by Sarah Brown, National Campaign Director
- Belle Sawhill will introduce you.
- You will make brief remarks.

V. PRESS PLAN

- Closed Press

VI. REMARKS

- Talking Points Attached

Birth Rate Trends 4/28/99 (for internal use)

	1991	1996	1997	% change 1991 - 1997	% change 1996-1997
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 women 15 - 19)	62.1	54.4	52.3	- 16%	- 4%
Number of teen births	519,577	491,577	483,220	- 7%	- 2%
Birth rate to unmarried women (births per 1,000 unmarried women 15 - 44)	45.2 ^{1/}	44.8	44.0	- 3 %	- 2%
Birth rate to unmarried teens (births per 1,000 unmarried women 15 - 19)	44.8 ^{2/}	42.9	42.2	- 6%	- 2%

1/ Birth rate for unmarried women 15- 44 peaked at 46.9 in 1994 and fell 6% from 1994 to 1997.

2/ Birth rate for unmarried teens 15 - 19 peaked at 46.4 in 1994 and fell 9% from 1994 to 1997.

* Births to teens (19 and under) accounted for 13 percent of all births in 1997.

* The percent of all births that were to unmarried women stabilized at 32.4% in 1997-- unchanged from 1996. The percent of all teen births that were out-of-wedlock continued to rise, reaching 78% in 1997.

Teen Pregnancy Trends

	1991	1995	1996	% change 1991 - 1995	% change 1995-1996
HHS/NCHS teen pregnancy rates ^{3/}	116.5	102.7	98.7 (preliminary, not published)	- 12%	- 4% (preliminary, not published)
AGI teen pregnancy rates ^{3/}	115.8	101.1	97.3	- 13%	- 4%

3/ NCHS estimates are based on NCHS teen birth figures and fetal loss estimates and the private Alan Guttmacher Institute's (AGI) abortion data. The AGI's estimates are based on NCHS's teen birth figures and AGI's own estimate of abortions and fetal losses.

Teen Abortion Trends

	1991	1995	1996	% change 1991 - 1995	% change 1995-1996
AGI teen abortion rate (per 1,000 women 15 - 19)	37.6	30.0	29.2	- 22%	- 3 %

HHS NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE TO
PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA
Thursday, April 29, 1999

Contact: NCHS/CDC Press Office
(301) 436-7551
CDC Division of Media Relations
(404) 639-3286

TEEN BIRTH RATE DOWN IN ALL STATES *Drives U.S. Birth Rate to Record Low*

HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala released today a new HHS report stating that the national birth rate dropped to a record low in 1997, due in part to the continuing decline in the teen birth rate across the country. Overall, the teen birth rate declined by 16 percent from 1991 to 1997, with all states recording a decline in the birth rate of 15-19 year-olds between 1991 and 1997. It is the sixth year in a row that the teen birth rate has declined.

Teen birth rates declined for white, black, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander and Hispanic women aged 15-19. The report also found a continued decline in out-of-wedlock births, record high levels of women getting early prenatal care, and the lowest rate ever reported of smoking by pregnant women.

"Communities and parents all across America have joined with us to help our young people understand that they should delay parenthood until they are truly ready to nurture and support a child of their own," Secretary Shalala said. "This sustained national improvement is evidence that innovative programs to reach teenagers with information and support to make responsible choices are working. It is also a reminder that most teenagers are making good choices—focusing on their futures and saying no to anything that would jeopardize their dreams."

"Births: Final Data for 1997," the latest annual analysis of final birth data prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics, a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is a comprehensive report on birth and fertility patterns and key aspects of maternal and infant health based on data from birth certificates. The report includes the latest data for the nation and each state on low birthweight, prenatal care, unmarried childbearing and teenage birth rates.

According to the report, the out-of-wedlock birth rate declined for the third year in a row. The birth rate for unmarried women in 1997 was 44 births per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15-44 years, 2 percent lower than in 1996 and 6 percent lower than 1994 when the rate was at its highest. The birth rate for unmarried black women is lower than in any year since 1969 when this rate was first calculated; the rate has dropped 18 percent since 1991. The number of births to unmarried women declined slightly to 1,257,444 in 1997, while the percent of all births occurring to unmarried women remained unchanged

- More -

- 2 -

from the previous year at 32 percent. Of the almost 500,000 births to those 15-19 years of age, 78 percent are to unmarried teens. The birth rate for unmarried teens of all races has dropped 9 percent since 1994; the birth rate for unmarried black teens has fallen 20 percent since 1991.

The birth rate for teenagers continued to decline in 1997, falling another 4 percent to 52.3 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years. The rate for young teenagers 15-17 was down 5 percent in the past year and down 17 percent from 1991 when the improvement began. For older teens, those 18-19, the birth rate dropped by 11 percent between 1991 and 1997. The greatest decline in teen birth rates occurred among Puerto Rican and non-Hispanic black teens, for whom the rate was down about 25 percent during this period.

All states have been successful in reducing the rate of teen births. Between 1991 and 1997, teenage birth rates fell in all states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. In 10 states and the District of Columbia, the rate was down by more than 20 percent. Teenage birth rates vary considerably from state to state, with the lowest rate in Vermont (26.9 per 1,000 women aged 15-19) to the highest in Mississippi (73.7).

The U.S. birth rate reached a record low of 14.5 births per 1,000 population, with the total number of births, 3,880,894, the lowest since 1987. Birth rates for women in their twenties--the peak childbearing years--have changed little over the decade, while the rise in births to older mothers in their thirties continues but at a slower pace.

Mothers are more likely than ever to receive timely prenatal care during their pregnancies. First trimester prenatal care improved for the eighth consecutive year, reaching 82.5 percent in 1997. All groups have experienced an improvement in prenatal care but gains have been most pronounced among groups with lower levels of care. Since 1989, first trimester care has risen by at least 20 percent among Mexican, Puerto Rican, Central and South American and non-Hispanic black women, and by more than 15 percent for American Indian and Hawaiian mothers. Despite these improvements, American Indian, Mexican and non-Hispanic black women are still less likely to receive early prenatal care.

Midwives delivered about 7 percent of all babies born in 1997, up from 1 percent in 1975; about 95 percent of those deliveries were attended by certified nurse midwives. The cesarean delivery rate increased slightly to 20.8 percent, after declining throughout the 1990s.

In 1997, 13.2 percent of all women giving birth reported that they smoked during pregnancy. This is the lowest level of tobacco use during pregnancy since 1989 when this information first became available on the birth certificate. However, smoking among pregnant teenagers increased again in 1997, particularly among black and Puerto Rican teenagers; white non-Hispanic teenagers are still the most likely of all women to smoke while pregnant.

- More -

- 3 -

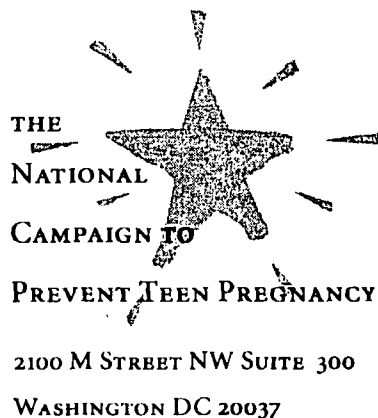
In contrast to improvements in prenatal care and a reduction in maternal smoking, the rate of preterm births increased sharply in 1997 to 11.4 percent (437,000) and the proportion of infants born low birthweight (291,000) reached the highest level in over two decades, 7.5 percent. The recent trends in preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation) and low birthweight (less than 5-1/2 pounds) are due in part to the remarkable rise in multiple births. Preterm and low birthweight rates are much higher among multiple births than among babies born in single deliveries. However, these problems are not limited to multiple births; for example, low birthweight has also been on the rise among single births during the 1990s.

Multiple births increased substantially in 1997. Twin births increased 3 percent to 104,137 and triplet births rose 16 percent to 6,148. Births in quadruplet and quintuplet deliveries were down slightly.

"Births: Final Data for 1997" can be viewed or downloaded on the NCHS Home Page at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww>.

###

Note: All HHS press releases are available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.hhs.gov>.



PHONE: 202.261.5655

FAX: 202.331.7735

E-MAIL: CAMPAIGN@TEENPREGNANCY.ORG

WEB: WWW.TEENPREGNANCY.ORG

About the National Campaign

Organization and Leadership: The National Campaign is a completely private (non-governmental), nonprofit, and nonpartisan effort led by a distinguished National Board. The Board Chairman is Thomas Kean, President of Drew University and former Governor of New Jersey. Isabel Sawhill, Ph.D., serves as the Campaign's President and Sarah Brown as its Director. The major work of the National Campaign is conducted through its four distinguished task forces: Effective Programs and Research, State and Local Action, Religion and Public Values, and Media. The Campaign is also supported by two bipartisan Congressional Advisory Panels.

The Campaign's Mission: To prevent teen pregnancy by supporting values and stimulating actions that are consistent with a pregnancy-free adolescence.

The Campaign's Goal: To reduce the teenage pregnancy rate by one-third between 1996 and 2005.

What the Campaign is Doing:

- taking a clear stand against teenage pregnancy and attracting new and powerful voices to this issue;
- enlisting the help of the media;
- supporting and stimulating state and local action;
- leading a national discussion about the role of religion, culture, and public values in teen pregnancy prevention in an effort to build common ground; and
- making sure that everyone's efforts are based on the best facts and research available.

The Campaign's Origins and History: The initiative was stimulated by President Clinton's challenge in his 1995 State of the Union address that "parents and leaders all across the country... join together in a national campaign against teen pregnancy to make a difference." In February 1996, the first meeting of the founding Board of the National Campaign was held. Since then, the National Campaign has built a stable funding base; begun to build partnerships with national, state, and local groups; and commissioned a number of important studies.

For Further Information or to join our mailing list, please visit our website at www.teenpregnancy.org or write to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2100 M Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20037.

The National Campaign's Board of Directors

Chair

Thomas H. Kean, Former Governor of New Jersey
and President, Drew University

President

Isabel V. Sawhill

Senior Fellow, Johnson Chair, The Brookings Institution

Charlotte Beers, Chairman Emeritus, Ogilvy & Mather

Linda Chavez, President, Center for Equal Opportunity

Annette Cumming, Executive Director and Vice President,
The Cumming Foundation

William Galston, School of Public Affairs,
University of Maryland

Whoopi Goldberg, actress

Katharine Graham, Chairman of the Executive Committee,
The Washington Post Company

David A. Hamburg, M.D., President Emeritus,
Carnegie Corporation of New York

Alexine Clement Jackson, National President,
YWCA of the U.S.A.

Sheila Johnson, Executive Vice President of
Corporate Affairs, Black Entertainment Television, Inc.

Judith E. Jones, Clinical Professor, Columbia University
School of Public Health

Leslie Kantor, Vice President of Education,
Planned Parenthood of New York City, Inc.

The Hon. Nancy Kassebaum Baker, former U.S. Senator

Douglas Kirby, Senior Research Scientist, ETR Associates

The Hon. C. Everett Koop, M.D., former U.S. Surgeon General

John D. Macomber, Principal, JDM Investment Group

Sister Mary Rose McGeady, President and
Chief Executive Officer, Covenant House

Jody Greenstone Miller, Former Acting President and
Chief Operating Officer, Americast

John E. Pepper, Chairman of the Board,
The Procter & Gamble Company

Steve W. Sanger, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,
General Mills, Inc.

Victoria P. Sant, President, The Summit Foundation

Isabel C. Stewart, National Executive Director, Girls Inc.

Judy Woodruff, Prime Anchor and Senior Correspondent, CNN

Andrew Young, Former Ambassador to the U.N. and
Co-Chairman, GoodWorks International

Trustees Emeriti

Irving Harris, Chairman, The Harris Foundation

Barbara Huberman, Director of Training, Advocates for Youth

Judy McGrath, President, MTV

Kristin A. Moore, President, Child Trends, Inc.

Hugh B. Price, President, National Urban League, Incorporated

The Hon. Warren B. Rudman, former U.S. Senator
and Partner, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

Campaign Director

Sarah Brown

Senate Advisory Panel

Co-Chairs

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (D-CT)

Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME)

Members

Senator Christopher S. Bond (R-MO)

Senator John B. Breaux (D-LA)

Senator John H. Chafee (R-RI)

Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME)

Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND)

Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-IL)

Senator Tim Hutchinson (R-AR)

Senator James M. Jeffords (R-VT)

Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI)

Senator Mary L. Landrieu (D-LA)

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)

House Advisory Panel

Co-Chairs

Representative Michael Castle (R-DE)

Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY)

Vice-Chairs

Representative Eva Clayton (D-NC)

Representative Nancy Johnson (R-CT)

Members

Representative Tom Barrett (D-WI)

Representative Lois Capps (D-CA)

Representative Jim Greenwood (R-PA)

Representative Stephen Horn (R-CA)

Representative Jim Kolbe (R-AZ)

Representative Jim Leach (R-IA)

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)

Representative John Lewis (D-GA)

Representative Jim Moran (D-VA)

Representative Connie Morella (R-MD)

Representative John Porter (R-IL)

Representative Deborah Pryce (R-OH)

Representative Marge Roukema (R-NJ)

Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)

Representative Tim Roemer (D-IN)

Representative Chris Shays (R-CT)

Representative Karen Thurman (D-FL)

Representative Ed Towns (D-NY)

DRAFT HHS RELEASE FOR
THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1999

PREVENTING TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Overview: Despite the recent decline in the teen birth rate, teen pregnancy remains a significant problem in this country. Most teen pregnancies are unintended. Each year, more than 900,000 pregnancies occur among American teenagers aged 15-19. And almost 190,000 teens aged 17 and younger have children. Their babies are often low birth weight and have disproportionately high infant mortality rates. They are also far more likely to be poor. About 80 percent of the children born to unmarried teenagers who dropped out of high school are poor. In contrast, just 8 percent of children born to married high school graduates aged 20 or older are poor.

In his 1995 State of the Union Address, President Clinton challenged "parents and leaders all across this country to join together in a national campaign against teen pregnancy to make a difference." A group of prominent Americans responded to that challenge, forming the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

On January 4, 1997, President Clinton announced a comprehensive effort by his Administration to prevent teen pregnancy in this country. The new initiative, led by the Department of Health and Human Services, responds to a call from the President and Congress for a national strategy to prevent out-of-wedlock teen pregnancies and to a directive, under the new welfare law, to assure that at least 25 percent of communities in this country have teen pregnancy prevention programs in place.

Building on the variety of efforts already underway, the national strategy works to prevent out-of-wedlock teen pregnancies and encourage adolescents to remain abstinent. The strategy sends the strongest possible message to all teens that postponing sexual activity, staying in school, and preparing to work are the right things to do. It will strengthen ongoing efforts across the nation by increasing opportunities through welfare reform; supporting promising approaches; building partnerships; Improving data collection, research, and evaluation; and disseminating information on innovative and effective practices.

Recent Trends

After rising steadily from 1986 to 1991, the birth rate for teens aged 15-19 declined for the sixth straight year in 1997, from a high of 62.1 per 1,000 teens aged 15-19 in 1991 to 52.3 in 1997. The decline was 16 percent between 1991 and 1997. All 50 states had a decline in their teen birth rates between 1991 and 1997, and 10 of these states had declines of more than 20 percent over this period. In addition, from 1991 to 1995, the pregnancy rate for 15- to 19-year-olds fell 12 percent. Recent declines in both birth and abortion rates indicate that teen pregnancy rates are continuing to fall.

The National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Building on our current efforts to prevent teen pregnancy, the national strategy announced by President Clinton on January 4, 1997 is designed to strengthen the national response to prevent out-of-wedlock teen pregnancies and support and encourage adolescents to remain abstinent:

Implementing New Efforts Under Welfare Reform. Under the welfare law signed by President Clinton on August 22, 1996, unmarried minor parents are required to stay in school and live at home, or in an adult-supervised setting, in order to receive assistance. This approach was proposed by President Clinton in 1994, and incorporated into numerous state demonstration projects approved by the Administration prior to the new welfare law. The law also supports the creation of Second Chance Homes, which will provide teen parents with the skills they need to become good role models and providers for their children, giving them guidance in parenting and in avoiding repeat pregnancies. The welfare law also provides \$50 million a year for five years in new funding for state abstinence education programs. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 provides funding for a national evaluation of the program. Finally, the new welfare law includes the tough child support enforcement measures President Clinton proposed in 1994, which will send the strongest possible message to young girls and boys that they should not have children until they are ready to provide for them.

Supporting Promising Approaches. The Clinton Administration continues to support innovative teen pregnancy prevention strategies tailored to the unique needs of communities. HHS-supported programs in this area already reach about 30 percent, or 1,410 communities in the United States. HHS programs are based on five principles: parental and adult involvement; strong messages of abstinence and personal responsibility; clear strategies for young people's futures; involvement by all facets of the community; and a sustained commitment to young people.

Building Partnerships. As part of the strategy, HHS is working to build partnerships with national, state, and local organizations. HHS is working with national youth-serving organizations to use their networks to promote activities that provide girls and boys opportunities for the future, including encouraging abstinence; with organizations working on behalf of teenagers with disabilities; and with the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, the private-sector group that has responded to President Clinton's challenge on this issue.

Improving Data Collection, Research, and Evaluation. The national strategy is working to improve data collection, research, and evaluation to further our understanding of the magnitude, trends, and causes of teen pregnancies and births; to develop targeted teen pregnancy prevention strategies; and to assess how well these strategies work.

Disseminating Information on Innovative and Effective Practices. Sharing information about promising and successful approaches is critical to expanding teen pregnancy prevention efforts across the country. Through the national strategy, HHS continues to work with its partners to highlight innovative practices at the federal, state, and local levels and to disseminate new research and evaluation findings. The Department is also working to disseminate new information on the developmental needs of youth and on the use of broad-based activities to help teenagers avoid risky behaviors leading to teen pregnancy.

Sending a Strong Abstinence Message. The national strategy places a special emphasis on sending a strong abstinence message. As part of this effort, Secretary Shalala in May 1997 announced two new community grant programs to prevent teen pregnancy and promote responsible behavior. One program is aimed at teenage girls and the other at teenage boys. The grant program for girls is also part of the Secretary's Girl Power! campaign. Each of the grant programs totals about \$1 million per year, and involve public-private partnerships organized by individual communities.

In addition, the national strategy is focusing on boys and young men, by working to increase understanding of motivations for both abstinence and fatherhood and by developing effective prevention strategies for boys. These efforts include working with the Administration's Fatherhood Initiative to ensure that men, including pre-teen and teenage boys, receive the education and support necessary to postpone fatherhood until they are emotionally and financially capable of supporting children. The strategy is also building on existing HHS efforts, such as the Title X Adolescent Male Initiative, that promote responsible behavior among teenage boys.

FINAL TEEN PREGNANCY Q AND As (Prepared by HHS)

4/27/99 3:22 PM

Q1: What does HHS' recent report on teen birth rates say and what does it tell us?

A: The new report demonstrates that the country is making real progress in fighting against this important problem. It reports that teenage birth rates have declined substantially during the 1990s. Overall, the teen birth rate declined by 16 percent from 1991 to 1997, with all states recording a decline in the birth rate of 15-19 year-olds between 1991 and 1997. It is the sixth year in a row that the teen birth rate has declined.

This report confirms that the President's strategy to prevent teen pregnancy is working. All across America, parents and communities are joining with us to help our young people understand that they should delay parenthood until they are truly ready to nurture and support a child of their own. This sustained national improvement is evidence that innovative programs to reach teenagers with information and support to make responsible choices are having an effect.

[BACKGROUND: Since 1993, the Clinton Administration has supported innovative and promising teen pregnancy prevention strategies, including working with boys and young men on pregnancy prevention strategies. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, a private nonprofit organization, was formed in response to the President's 1995 State of the Union address. In addition, significant components of the President's comprehensive effort to reduce teen pregnancy became law when the President signed the welfare reform law in 1996. The law requires unmarried minor parents to stay in school and live at home or in a supervised setting; encourages "second chance homes" to provide teen parents with the skills and support they need; and provides \$50 million a year in new funding for state abstinence education activities. Finally in 1997, the President announced a National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, which already has succeeded in ensuring that HHS-supported programs reach one-third of all communities in the United States.]

Q2: You say that teen pregnancy prevention programs are having an effect -- do you have evaluations to support this or not? What specifically works?

A2: Because research findings to date have shown that there is no single intervention that has been demonstrated to have a marked impact on teen pregnancy, our strategy works on a number of fronts to prevent teen pregnancy including supporting promising approaches; building partnerships;

and encouraging adolescents to remain abstinent. We also agree that we need to expand and improve the current body of research on teen pregnancy prevention programs. Therefore, as part of the National Strategy, we are improving data collection, research, and evaluation; and disseminating information on innovative and effective practices.

Q3: Do you agree with the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) that 80 percent of the decline in teen births is due to increased use of contraception and 20 percent is due to increased abstinence?

A3: There are a number of measures to indicate the level of teen sexual activity and contraceptive use and specific results can vary depending upon the measures selected for the analysis. These changes can be viewed most appropriately as a constellation of changes taking place in teen sexual activity, and abstinence and increased use of contraceptives are both factors. Certainly, surveys have shown that teens are better informed and are taking more responsibility for their behavior, whether it be postponing sexual activity or using contraception to prevent pregnancy.

[BACKGROUND: Overall, the percentage of sexually experienced high school students has decreased from 54.1 percent in 1991 to 48.4 percent in 1997. The National Survey of Adolescent Males (NSAM) showed a significant decrease in sexual activity among white male teens. HHS' National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) and Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) suggest that a smaller decline in sexual activity also occurred among female teens. The NSFG and NSAM surveys also found a large increase in condom use at first intercourse and more consistent use of condoms. Some teens, especially teens who have already had a baby, are also more likely now to use the more effective forms of contraception, such as Norplant and Depo Provera, than a few years ago. But again, we don't have the information to assess what percentage of the drop in the birthrate can be attributed to these changes in behavior.]

Q4: Do you agree with the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) on 1996 teen pregnancy figures?

A4: The teen pregnancy estimates that AGI has compiled are consistent with the data that HHS' National Center for Health Statistics has reported through 1995. The AGI figures include NCHS' data on births and AGI's own estimates of abortions and fetal losses. Both NCHS and AGI have reported a decline in teen pregnancy rates since 1991.

Q5: Is this an improvement because there are more abortions?

A5: No. Birth and abortion rates among teenagers have both declined, reflecting the overall decline in the teen pregnancy rate. In fact, the

abortion rate has dropped more than the birth rate. From 1991 to 1996, the abortion rate for teenagers dropped 22 percent, while the teen birth rate fell 12 percent.

Q6: Is reducing out of wedlock births a priority for the Administration?

A6: Yes. While the out-of wedlock birth rate is continuing its decline, especially among teenagers, none of us should hesitate to be straightforward about the fact that one parent cannot do the work of two. While there are many single parents today doing their absolute best for their children, we also know that it would be better if no teenager ever had a child out of wedlock. It would be better for our children, better for our communities, and better for our nation.

Q7: Is sex on TV the problem?

A7: Again, teen pregnancy is a very complex problem with no one solution. However, it can't be discounted that an entire generation of young Americans are watching programs and making critical choices about tomorrow based on what they learn on the TV screen today. Television has a profound impact. In fact, the Kaiser Family Foundation has found that 76 percent of America's teenagers say that one reason young people are having sex is because TV shows and movies make it seem normal for teens. That is why this Administration has worked to help give parents the tools they need so that families can make their own viewing choices. And while our initiative to promote the V-chip and the effort to encourage television ratings are works in progress, that approach is still the cornerstone of this Administration's policy.

Q8: Do you think it's right to give young teens a brochure that tells them to carry a condom as the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is doing, beginning today?

A8: First, it should be noted that the brochure is a product of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, a private nonprofit organization.

Second, it can't be underscored enough that abstinence is a key strategy to prevent teen pregnancy. As part of our national strategy, we engage all of our teen pregnancy prevention and related youth programs in sending a strong abstinence message to teenage boys and girls.

Third, despite the recent decline in the teen birth rate, teen pregnancy remains a significant problem in the nation. In 1997, 168,000 teenagers aged 17 had their first child and another 23,000 teen mothers 17 and under

had another baby. For many of these teens, who are sexually active, community based education programs and access to contraceptives can reduce pregnancy rates, STDs and AIDS. Communities must be allowed to design programs that are right for them.

Q9: If at the present time it is not known if abstinence-only programs are effective, then why is a great deal of your national strategy focused on supporting and encouraging adolescents to remain abstinent?

A9: Because research findings to date have shown that there is no single or simple intervention that has been demonstrated to have a marked impact on teen pregnancy, our strategy approaches teen pregnancy on a number of fronts. But let me be very clear-it is not acceptable - emotionally, physically, and financially - for young teens to be having sex and having children. We must all send the strongest possible message to teens that postponing sexual activity, staying in school, and preparing for work are the right things to do.

Q10: If the current body of research on teen pregnancy prevention programs is weak, what research are you basing your National Strategy on?

A10: HHS has conducted research, surveillance, demonstrations, and evaluations on an ongoing basis to gather and provide information and technical assistance on the magnitude, trends, and causes of teenage pregnancy and on prevention programs and approaches that work. However, we agree that more research and evaluation are needed and we propose to strengthen these activities as part of the National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Q11: Some people in Congress say you only developed a teen pregnancy prevention strategy because Congress mandated you to do it. Isn't this true?

A11: No. Preventing teen pregnancy has been a top priority for the President since he took office:

- That's why President Clinton fought for three-and-a-half years for a welfare bill that sends teenagers the message that staying in school, postponing sexual activity, and preparing to work are the right things to do. And teens have been getting that message.

- And that's why in 1995, President Clinton challenged parents and leaders all across this country to join together in a national campaign against teen pregnancy. A group of prominent Americans responded to that challenge, forming an organization that will support grassroots community efforts all across our country.

The recent declines in teen birth rates indicate that public and private-sector programs may be having some success. The reasons for the good news are complex. But certainly in the past few years, we've been able to forge a consensus about the importance of both personal responsibility and community involvement. We've also acted at the federal level to promote abstinence education, encourage parents and communities to tackle this important problem, and crack down on child support enforcement.

Q12: Your strategy focuses a lot on abstinence. Have you backed away from your commitment to family planning services?

A12: No, we haven't, although we strongly believe that abstinence is a key strategy. We believe that communities, schools, and parents are best able to determine the needs of children - not Washington, and that local governments must be allowed to design programs that are right for them. But it is simply not acceptable - emotionally, physically, and financially - for 14-year-olds and 15-year-olds to be having sex and having children. We must all send the strongest possible message to teens, as the welfare law signed by President Clinton does, that postponing sexual activity, staying in school, and preparing for work are the right things to do.

Q13: Is there any new money for this strategy? How much is currently being committed?

A13: Yes. HHS is committing new programmatic resources in FY 1999 as part of the national strategy to prevent teen pregnancy. In particular, we have asked for a 12 percent (\$25 million) increase in Title X this year, in part to help promote responsible behavior among teenage boys. In addition, the new welfare law provides \$50 million a year in new funding for state abstinence education activities, which began in FY 1998. Since the Department runs a number of programs that address, but do not focus solely, on teen pregnancy, it is difficult to identify an overall number. Examples of the types of programs or services we fund include: the Medicaid program pays 90 percent of all state expenditures for family planning services, including pregnancy prevention education initiatives; and CDC's Community Coalition Partnership Program for the Prevention of Teen Pregnancy is funding community partnerships.

Q14: You say that HHS-supported programs reach 30 percent of communities in this country. That number sounds too high. Where did it come from?

A14: Our 1997 estimate is actually a very conservative one. We took a look at all of the HHS programs that include teen pregnancy prevention and determined in what communities they were located. Then we counted up the

number of communities with at least one such program and divided it by the total number of communities in the U.S. Using this calculation, we determined that HHS-supported programs alone reach at least 30 percent of the communities in this country. This proportion represents about 1,470 communities across the country. The estimate excludes HHS funding provided directly to states (e.g., Medicaid, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant) which states may use to fund activities in multiple communities, and it excludes programs supported by other Departments, such as Education.

[BACKGROUND: For this estimate, the number of teen pregnancy prevention programs funded by HHS includes those programs funded in FY 1997 (the latest year for which complete information on grants awarded was available at the time). The location of each program was identified based on the site of the services provided and/or the location of the grant recipient. Any individual community with more than one program was counted only once.]

Q15: How does the federal government's strategy relate to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy?

A15: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is an important partner in this effort. It was President Clinton's challenge during his 1995 State of the Union address that sparked the formation of this private-sector, non-partisan group, and the President has pledged his support. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy focuses its efforts on the private sector, developing public service campaigns and working with the entertainment industry to promote activism and build new coalitions. Through our national strategy, we will work with this group and ensure that our work complements its efforts.

Q16: Will you use the out-of-wedlock statistics released today for the illegitimacy bonus from the 1996 welfare law?

A16: Yes. To reduce the burden on states to collect data for the 1996 welfare law illegitimacy or out-of-wedlock bonus and to ensure a level playing field for states, HHS informed states that the Department would use the statistics collected by the National Center for Health Statistics. However, if states changed their reporting procedures during this period those states which choose to compete for the bonus are expected to provide data to NCHS that are adjusted for these reporting changes. In this way, HHS has given states the opportunity to compete for the bonus.

Q17: Isn't the focus on marriage used in the TANF out of wedlock bonus out-of-date?

A17: No. There is a clear link between single-parent families and

poverty, which is why the

Administration supported teen pregnancy programs in the welfare bill in the first place.

The national strategy states that a number of approaches will be used to find out what works best to reach different groups of young boys and girls. A focus on marriage is one of these approaches.

According to the Annie Casey Foundation, 80 percent of the children born to unmarried

teenagers who dropped out of school are poor. In contrast, just 8 percent of children born to married high school graduates of 20 or older are poor.

Q18: How does the bonus work?

A18: We will identify up to five states and three territories with the largest reduction in their ratio of out-of-wedlock to total births, where the reduction is measured for the most recent two-year period compared to the prior two year period. Those states will be eligible for the bonus if they also show that their abortion rate is lower than in 1995. Births will be measured using NCHS data and abortions will be measured using data supplied by the states. In both cases, adjustments must be made to discount the effect of changes in data collection. In each year, eligible territories will receive a bonus equal to their mandatory ceiling amount specified in TANF. The remainder of \$100 million will be divided among the eligible states, up to a maximum of \$25 million per state.

Q19: Will you use NCHS abortion statistics?

A19: Those states that choose to compete for the Bonus have the responsibility for sending the Department their abortion numbers, adjusted to discount the effects of any changes in data reporting over time. Although CDC reports abortion data, the states are in the best position to report these data and make any adjustments that are necessary.

Q20: When will you award the bonuses?

A20: HHS will award the bonuses by mid-September, 1999.

Q21: What is the Department doing to address the problems of adolescent pregnancy?

A21: HHS has supported many innovative and promising teen pregnancy prevention strategies tailored to the unique needs of communities based on five principles: parent and adult involvement; strong messages of

abstinence and personal responsibility; clear strategies for young people's futures; involvement of all facets of the community; and a sustained commitment to young people. HHS-supported programs in this area already reach about 30 percent of communities in the United States and our National Strategy, launched in January 1997, strengthens our existing efforts to assure that every community throughout the country is working to prevent out-of-wedlock teen pregnancies.

More specifically:

- HHS has dramatically increased funding for teen pregnancy prevention. We provided funding for 13 grants through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help communities build coalitions to reduce teen pregnancy; 17 demonstration projects through the Adolescent Family Life program aimed at preventing early teen sexual activity and pregnancy; and 27 grants through HRSA to specifically address a wide range of adolescent pregnancy issues.

- In January 1997, HHS launched the National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy to strengthen our existing efforts by: increasing opportunities through welfare reform; supporting promising approaches; building public-private partnerships; improving data collection, research and evaluation; and disseminating information on innovative and effective practices.

Second, we strongly believe that abstinence is a key strategy. Research and experience tell us that abstinence is one of the key principles to promising community efforts in preventing teen pregnancy. We believe that communities, schools, and parents - not Washington - are best able to determine the needs of children, and that communities must be allowed to design programs that are right for them. But it is simply not acceptable - emotionally, physically, and financially - for 14- and 15-year olds to be having sex and having children. We must all send the strongest possible message to teens, as the welfare reform law signed by President Clinton does, that postponing sexual activity, staying in school, and preparing for work are the right things to do. Therefore we have taken several steps to promote abstinence education, including:

- As part of our national strategy, we engage all of our teen pregnancy prevention and related youth programs in sending a strong abstinence message to teenage boys and girls. In addition, we are working with national youth-serving organizations to enlist their networks in promoting activities that encourage abstinence among young people. The national strategy places a special emphasis on encouraging abstinence among 9- to 14-year olds through the Girl Power! public awareness campaign.

In addition, the new welfare reform law provides \$50 million a year for five years in new funding for state abstinence education programs. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 provides funding for a national evaluation of the program. Finally, the new welfare law includes the tough child support enforcement measures President Clinton proposed in 1994, which will send the strongest possible message to young girls and boys that they should not have children until they are ready to provide for them.

Q22: What is the involvement of Title X in family planning and what message is it sending regarding abortion, contraception, and the counseling of minors?

A22: The purpose of Title X is to reduce unintended pregnancies by providing family planning services. Of the approximately, 5,000 family planning clinics in the United States, about 4,000 participate in the Title X Family Planning program.

Approximately one-third of the more than 4 million people served annually by Title X clinics are adolescents. Title X grantees are required to certify that they encourage family participation in the decision of a minor to seek family planning services. We believe that communities and parents - not Washington - are best able to determine the needs of children, and that communities must be allowed to design programs that are right for them. As appropriate, Title X encourages young people to remain abstinent, but to use an effective contraceptive if they are sexually active. No Title X funds are used to pay for abortions.

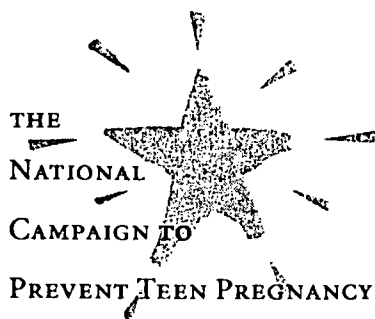
Q23: At what grade level do you think children should begin health/sex education?

A23: First of all, let me say that whenever possible we should promote a strong message of abstinence and personal responsibility to our children. Having said that, health and sex education need to begin - and do begin - at home. Parents should be the first teachers. It's up to parents, schools, and local communities to ensure that children have good, accurate, age-appropriate information on all aspects of health throughout the school years. I would not presume to make these decisions for them. We must never forget that how we teach health education and what we teach about human sexuality are fundamentally local decisions: dictated and implemented by local communities - not by Washington.

Q24: The CDC is promoting the distribution of condoms in our schools. Why are federal dollars being spent to encourage promiscuous sexual activity among our nation's youth?

A24: First and foremost, we strongly believe that abstinence is a key strategy to prevent teen pregnancy. But it is simply not acceptable - emotionally, physically, and financially - for young teens to be having sex and having children. We must all send the strongest possible message to teens that postponing sexual activity, staying in school, and preparing for work are the right things to do. We also believe that communities, schools, and parents - not Washington - are best able to determine the needs of children, and that communities must be allowed to design programs that are right for them.

As part of our national strategy, we engage all of our teen pregnancy prevention and related youth programs in sending a strong abstinence message to teenage boys and girls. In addition, we are working with national youth-serving organizations to enlist their networks in promoting activities that encourage abstinence among young people. In addition, the new welfare reform law provides \$50 million a year for five years in new funding for state abstinence education programs. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 provides funding for a national evaluation of the program. Already we are starting to see teen birth rates coming down. Since 1991, the overall teen birth rate declined by 16 percent, with all states recording a decline in the birth rate of 15-19 year-olds, indicating that public and private-sector programs may be having some success.



2100 M STREET NW SUITE 300
WASHINGTON DC 20037

PHONE: 202.261.5655

FAX: 202.331.7735

E-MAIL: CAMPAIGN@TEENPREGNANCY.ORG

WEB: WWW.TEENPREGNANCY.ORG

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Founded in 1996, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy seeks to reduce the teen pregnancy rate by one-third between 1996 and 2005 by supporting values and stimulating actions nationwide consistent with a pregnancy-free adolescence. We are pleased to offer this partial list of our achievements:

Building a Strong Campaign

Little more than three years after its first planning meeting, the National Campaign has grown into a strong organization led by accomplished and influential individuals:

- The distinguished Board of Directors, chaired by former New Jersey Governor Tom Kean, includes business and philanthropy executives; current and former state and national political leaders; community, religious, and volunteer sector leaders; entertainment figures; experts from health care and economics; and leading practitioners in the field of teen pregnancy prevention.
- Four task forces — Media, Religion and Public Values, Effective Programs and Research, and State and Local Action — made up of national and community-based leaders in each field.
- Bipartisan Congressional Advisory Panels, chaired by Mike Castle (R-DE) and Nita Lowey (D-NY) in the House and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) in the Senate.

Working with the Media

Through its energetic Media Task Force, the National Campaign has developed partnerships with leading entertainment powerhouses to help them reach their audiences with teen pregnancy prevention messages, including: **Teen People magazine** ("Take a Stand Against Teen Pregnancy" PSA contest, readers poll, and extensive editorial coverage of teen pregnancy prevention), **Black Entertainment Television** (a series of *Teen Summit* shows on teen pregnancy issues, PSAs), **ABC Television** (*One Life to Live* story arc on teen pregnancy and PSAs), **People magazine** (luncheon hosts for the Campaign at which First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton encouraged media, entertainment, and corporate leaders to join the fight to prevent teen pregnancy), **Parenting magazine** (editorial coverage and PSAs), **MTV** (PSAs, briefings on research with youth for pregnancy prevention leaders), **NBC** ("The More You Know About Teen Pregnancy" PSAs and public service contest), **Warner Brothers and the WB network** (briefings for television writers and producers), and **Ogilvy & Mather** (strategic advice, posters promoting adult involvement, and a video, *Imagine That*, for use in briefings for media leaders).

Highlighting Cutting-Edge Issues

The Campaign has hosted meetings and published reports on such important issues in teen pregnancy prevention as the roles of boys and men, the challenges of contraceptive use, state-based media campaigns, cultural messages that affect the self-image of girls and their sexual behavior, the roles of youth-serving and youth development programs, the challenges of evaluating abstinence education programs, the teen pregnancy provisions of the 1996 federal welfare reform legislation, and tips and resources for parents, faith community leaders, and teens.

Supporting State and Local Action

In visits by National Campaign leaders to communities in 40 states, we have learned about exciting new initiatives on the front line and have offered technical assistance to help communities and states mobilize local action, respond to welfare reform provisions, create media campaigns, build strong coalitions, and develop successful public relations activities, among other issues important to state and local practitioners. Under the leadership of its State and Local Task Force, the Campaign has also:

- Established a national network of more than 700 key contacts in the teen pregnancy prevention field, who receive regular mailings and updates from the Campaign, as well as access to an electronic discussion forum on teen pregnancy prevention.
- Published useful reports and guides for use at the local level, including the *Welfare Reform Resource Packet*; two editions of *Snapshots from the Front Line*, offering lessons from innovative programs; and directories of state-based media campaigns and of national organizations that provide technical assistance to states and communities.

Getting the Facts Straight

In keeping with our goal of making sure that everyone's efforts are based on the best information available, the Campaign's Task Force on Effective Programs and Research has commissioned several influential research reviews and statistical reports, including:

- *Power in Numbers and Peer Potential*—two papers focusing on the powerful and surprising ways teens influence each other.
- *No Easy Answers*—a definitive guide about what research says works to prevent teen pregnancy.
- *Families Matter*—a review of research on the influence of parents and families on teen pregnancy risk. This research was then translated into concise advice for parents in *Ten Tips for Parents To Help Their Children Avoid Teen Pregnancy*, the Campaign's best-selling publication.
- *Whatever Happened to Childhood?*—outlines the scope of the teen pregnancy problem, its consequences, and what must be done.
- *The Media and the Message*—what research says about the effectiveness of public service media campaigns.
- *A Statistical Portrait of Adolescent Sex, Contraception, and Childbearing*—recent data from surveys of male and female adolescents.

Reducing Conflict

Too often, while the adults are arguing, the teens are getting pregnant. To deal with some of the conflict surrounding teen pregnancy issues, the Campaign's Task Force on Religion and Public Values has, among other things, launched a series of Structured Community Dialogues (SCD), which bring together community leaders with differing points of view to try to find common ground. The first SCD was held in March 1998 in San Bernardino, California; the second took place in Glendale, Arizona, in February 1999. The Campaign also published a primer on conflict reduction entitled *While the Adults are Arguing, The Teens Are Getting Pregnant: Overcoming Conflict in Teen Pregnancy Prevention*. As part of its efforts to involve religious leaders, the Task Force developed a pamphlet, *Nine Tips to Help Faith Leaders and Their Communities Address Teen Pregnancy*, that has been widely disseminated.

Involving Youth

In January 1999, 26 outstanding young people joined the National Campaign as our new Youth Leadership Team. This diverse group of teens from all over the nation are being asked to advise the Campaign on many aspects of our work and to give voice to the unique perspectives and opinions of teens. Already the group has played an integral role in developing two Campaign consumer pamphlets—*Thinking About the Right-Now: What Teens Want Other Teens to Know About Pregnancy* and *Talking Back: What Teens Want Parents to Know About Teen Pregnancy* (both available in Spanish, as are the *Ten Tips for Parents* and *Nine Tips for Faith Leaders* mentioned earlier).

Recognizing Leadership

In May 1997, the National Campaign inaugurated its Annual Honorees program, which recognizes national and community leaders from a variety of fields who have made a real difference in helping teens avoid pregnancy. Among the first year's recipients honored at a White House ceremony with the First Lady were the Planned Parenthood Federation of America; *People Magazine*; the Best Friends Foundation; Black Entertainment Television; Children's Express; *Sex Etc.*; the National Organization for Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting, and Prevention; the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies; Tillamook County, Oregon; the educational series Postponing Sexual Involvement; Wade Horn; and Ed Pitt. The 1998 recipients included the Teen Outreach Program; NBC's "The More You Know" Public Service Campaign; Project imPACCT of San Bernardino, California; SADD—Students Against Destructive Decisions; Target Stores; Governor Carper of Delaware; Jerry Tello; and Geoffrey Canada. The 1999 recipients are the Glendale Community Council of Glendale, Arizona; the Male Involvement Program of the Mexican American Community Services Agency; Pat Fili-Krushel, President of the ABC Television Network; Susanne Daniels, President of Entertainment, The WB Network; the South Carolina Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and the South Carolina General Assembly; and the YWCA of the USA.

Using Technology

The Campaign's website (www.teenpregnancy.org) receives, on average, nearly 3 million hits each year. The increasingly popular site allows users to download selected Campaign publications and order others. It also has an interactive weekly teen survey section, a discussion forum, and such other features as a facts and stats page, a daily message, and a section for the press.

4/99

BIRTH RATES FOR TEENS AGED 15-19 YEARS

STATE	1991	1997	% CHANGE FROM 1991 TO 1997
Alabama	73.9	66.6	-10%
Alaska	65.4	44.6	-32%
Arizona	80.7	69.7	-14%
Arkansas	79.8	72.9	-9%
California	74.7	57.3	-23%
Colorado	58.2	48.2	-17%
Connecticut	40.4	36.1	-11%
Delaware	61.1	55.8	-9%
DC	114.4	91	-20%
Florida	68.8	57.7	-16%
Georgia	76.3	67.2	-12%
Hawaii	58.7	43.8	-25%
Idaho	53.9	43.3	-20%
Illinois	64.8	54.7	-16%
Indiana	60.5	54.2	-10%
Iowa	42.6	35.7	-16%
Kansas	55.4	48.5	-12%
Kentucky	68.9	59.6	-13%
Louisiana	76.1	66.3	-13%
Maine	43.5	32	-26%
Maryland	54.3	43.9	-19%
Massachusetts	37.8	31.7	-16%
Michigan	59	43.9	-26%
Minnesota	37.3	32	-14%
Mississippi	85.6	73.7	-14%
Missouri	64.5	51.5	-20%
Montana	46.7	37.6	-19%
Nebraska	42.4	37.2	-12%
Nevada	75.3	67.7	-10%
New Hampshire	33.3	28.6	-14%
New Jersey	41.6	35	-16%
New Mexico	79.8	68.4	-14%
New York	46	38.8	-16%
North Carolina	70.5	61.3	-13%
North Dakota	35.6	30.1	-15%
Ohio	60.5	49.8	-18%
Oklahoma	72.1	64.3	-11%
Oregon	54.9	46.9	-15%
Pennsylvania	46.9	37.3	-20%
Rhode Island	45.4	42.7	-6%
South Carolina	72.9	61.4	-16%
South Dakota	47.5	39.7	-16%
Tennessee	75.2	64.5	-14%
Texas	78.9	71.7	-9%
Utah	48.2	42.6	-12%

STATE	1991	1997	% 91-97
Vermont	39.2	26.9	-31%
Virginia	53.5	44.2	-17%
Washington	53.7	42.5	-21%
West Virginia	57.8	49.1	-15%
Wisconsin	43.7	35.9	-18%
Wyoming	54.2	43.3	-20%
United States	62.1	52.3	-16%

NOTE: Birth rates per 1,000 estimated population in each area. Population estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of Census.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS AT GCAPP CONVENTION
"COMMUNITIES SPEAKING OUT: INVEST IN YOUTH"
FEBRUARY 9, 1998

I am so honored to join all of you for GCAPP's 4th annual convention. I only wish that I could be there in person to thank you for your tireless commitment to lift up the lives and futures of young people.

And I want to say a special thanks to my friend, Jane Fonda. It took her vision to create G-CAPP. But it has taken her extraordinary dedication to make it such a success. Over the past four years, we've always known where to find her: Listening to the voices of young people. Learning all there is to know about the tragedy of teen pregnancy. And doing everything in her power to prevent it. And, all of us owe you a debt of gratitude, Jane, for the work you do every day on behalf of children all over the world.

I know that this campaign grew out of the commitments the United States made in 1995 at the UN International Conference on Population and Development Conference. And when I travel to the Hague, I will hear about the progress other nations have made since then: the girls that are now educated, the women who now have family planning, the safe birthing kits that are now saving lives.

But, I will also bring with me the powerful story of all you've accomplished right here in Georgia. You have shown that preventing teen pregnancy takes more than family planning and abstinence education. It takes teaching parents how to talk to their children. It takes helping women to start microenterprises. It takes reaching out to young males and teaching them that getting someone pregnant does not make them an adult.

Because of efforts like these throughout the country, we are at a turning point in the struggle against teen pregnancy. Fewer teens are now getting pregnant, fewer teens are giving birth, and fewer teens are having abortions. [In fact, between 1991 and 1996, teen birth rates in Georgia dropped more than 10 percent -- and a full 20 percent among African Americans.] Clearly, more teenagers are working up the courage that it takes to say no, or being smart and responsible enough to use contraceptives.

And yet, there are still too many young people here and throughout America who have not yet gotten the right message. [I think of the young boy in Austin, Texas, who raised his hand during a discussion about this topic. He simply asked: "What's wrong with teen pregnancy?" No one had ever told him about the welfare, child abuse, poverty, crime, and wasted potential that too often rear their heads when babies have babies. No one had ever convinced him that teen pregnancy is a one-way ticket -- and not just to dreams deferred but to dreams ended.]

I'm always stunned when I meet with groups of young women who are pregnant or have babies already. They sit there with a totally straight face and tell me that as soon as their boyfriend gets a job or gets back from the Army, or gets out of jail, they'll be a family, and everything will work out just fine. Well, we know better. And we have to continue to educate our young women that the real story -- the real tragedy, the real struggles -- of these teenage moms is nothing that they want to dream about or aspire to.

Now, we know that young women get pregnant for a whole host of reasons. Some just don't understand why it's a bad idea. They think they'll have someone who will love them unconditionally. At least until that child becomes a toddler and learns to say no. Some are coerced by older boyfriends. Some are the victims of incest. Others can't cope with school or their family and see pregnancy and motherhood as a way out. Whatever the reason might be, we have to try to reach every single teenager in this nation.

And we will only accomplish that if we stop arguing about the best way to solve this problem -- and find a way to use every weapon at our disposal. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has helped put the issue of teen pregnancy on the front covers of teen magazines, in the story lines of soap operas, and in the daily lives of the American people. And the Administration's teen pregnancy strategy includes everything: abstinence education, more after-school programs, access to family planning, and a campaign called Girl Power that encourages adolescent girls to stay healthy, stay active and make the most of their lives.

We know what works. And you've shown that we can pull entire communities together to rewrite these success stories. But, you've also shown us that if we want to really succeed, we must do more than teach our young people. We must learn from them and listen to them...listen as they tell us what's happening in their hearts and minds, their homes and neighborhoods.

I often think about something one young man said. When asked what parents could do to prevent their own children from becoming pregnant, he answered: "Don't leave us alone so much." Now, as any parent of teenagers knows, I don't think he meant literally he wanted to spend every second with his parents.

But I do think that he was sending adults a very important message: that we have to fill our young people's lives with meaningful activities, skills, a good education, quality child care, and just plain old-fashioned support and love. And we have to give them something else besides pregnancy to look forward to -- whether it's playing on a soccer team, being in a school play, going to college, or becoming a teacher.

I'm told that a number of years ago, at the Baltimore Self Center, a woman used to give pregnant girls baby dolls to teach them to be parents. But she replaced the face of the doll with a mirror --not only so they would learn to make eye contact with their children, but so that when they looked down, they would see themselves, and that child, in the future.

Imagine if every person looked into the mirror before sexual activity, before a pregnancy, and asked, "Am I ready for this?" Imagine if boys and men -- not just girls and women -- looked into that mirror. All of us --citizens, parents, teachers, government officials, the media, sports figures, religious leaders, business leaders --all of us need to look in that mirror. We have to make it our own responsibility to create an America where every child is wanted. And where every young person can grow up like all young people should -- free to live and learn and reach their God-given potential.

And when we do, it will because G-CAPP and all of you continued to lead the way. Because you continued to speak out. And because you continued to invest in our young people, to listen to them, believe in them, and never ever give up on them. Thank you very much.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Remarks at NARAL Anniversary Luncheon
Washington, D.C.
January 22, 1999

Thank you. I am honored to be here with all of you on NARAL's 30th anniversary – to celebrate the voices you have raised, the battles you have waged, and the victories won on behalf of women around the world.

For 30 years, every step forward for women's reproductive health in America has had one thing in common: the leadership of the people in this room. So I wanted to come this afternoon for many reasons, but I want to start by thanking all of you for what you do every day for the rights and health of women and families. I want to thank my dear friend, Secretary Shalala, Nancy Rubin, former and present members of Congress, Lucky Roosevelt and Susie Gelman for your hard work. And I particularly want to thank someone else. I know that in her remarks, Kate spotlighted many of NARAL's countless achievements, but I happened to notice that she left one thing out. And that is that none of it would have been possible in these last years without her and her leadership. Whether speaking out in the halls of Congress or organizing in communities across America, no one understands the stakes more. No one has been more courageous, passionate and tireless in the battle to make sure that every child is wanted, to make sure every pregnancy is planned, to make sure that every woman is blessed with reproductive health and freedom. And Kate, we all want to thank you for what you've done every single day. Thank you very much.

I'm also very humbled and honored to join the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and all of you, in honoring the courageous life and work of Dr. Slepian. The President and I, the Vice President and Tipper had the opportunity to meet Lynne Slepian and her four sons in Buffalo the other day. I don't know how I could adequately express the feelings that the four of us had standing there and talking with Lynne. Marilyn Buckham, the director of the Buffalo clinic, was with her. And those four young men. I'm told that recently Lynne, in a conversation with a friend, said how astounded she was that countless people that she didn't know had offered to help her family. Her friend replied, "It's because so many people admired Bart's courage and commitment." "But you know," Lynne said, "he didn't do those things to be admired." And the friend replied, "We know. And that's one of the reasons we admired him so much."

For his work was not the work of politics. It was the work of a community physician who brought life into the world, and gave health and dignity to women. That was his mission, and it must be our enduring goal.

Because we are here not only to celebrate NARAL's 30th birthday, but also to commemorate the 26th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. We can all take heart that despite many attempts to chip away at its guarantees, Roe is still the law of the land. We can

take heart that we have stopped the global gag rule, for now. That Title X family planning funding increased by \$12 million. And that federal health plans are now required, if they cover prescription drugs, to also cover contraceptives.

But there is even more that happened this past year that we can celebrate. Because after years of moving in the wrong direction, we are finally seeing teen pregnancies and teen sexual activity going down. Unintended pregnancies are down. Abortions are down by a full 12 percent. And all of this happened under a pro-choice president who has refused to back down in his support of a woman's right to choose. A pro-choice president who respects the strongly held views of those who act in good faith, hold a different view. And who has worked to make good on the promise he made seven years ago to work to make abortion safe, legal and rare. Now you know better than anyone else that this will never be, it cannot be, an easy issue. It will always be hard. We don't have to look any further than the events on the Mall, the event in this room, and the gulf between them to know that emotions and feelings will always run deep.

But all too often, generally because of the loudest voices, the American people don't hear explained the efforts that we're engaged in to continue to work with people from all different walks of life to make abortion safe, legal, and rare. But instead they hear what Lawrence Tribe calls "The Clash of Absolutes." People shouting at each other about their differences instead of talking about and working to find what they have in common. That doesn't mean that anyone should ever abandon his or her belief that their fundamental convictions, and certainly, for those of us here, it means we never abandon our belief that the fundamental human right all people have to plan their own families. And it also means that we can never work with those who advocate violence. But there are people of good faith on all sides of this issue, and every day that we fail to find common ground to meet our goals of giving human rights and dignity to all people, another day goes by where a child is born unwanted, or a woman cannot get access to proper health care, or a teenager becomes pregnant and doesn't know what to do.

Across our country, we come to this issue as men and women, young and old, some far beyond years when we have to worry about getting pregnant, others too young to remember what it was like in the days before Roe v. Wade. People call themselves by different labels, follow different political philosophies or religions, but I think it's essential that as Americans we look for that common ground that we can all stand upon. For more than anything, our democracy is built upon a powerful idea: that people with profound differences and backgrounds can work together, across whatever divides them personally, in pursuit of common goals. Because, despite our differences, there are certain core beliefs and values that tie us together and set us apart as Americans. And it is those beliefs that can guide us in reaching our goal of keeping abortion safe, legal and rare into the next century.

I want to talk about three of those core, fundamental American beliefs. First, as Americans, most of us believe that the government should never be involved in the personal decision a woman makes about whether to bring a child into this world. I know

that earlier you got a look at the new NARAL ad that will begin running Monday night. And I want to congratulate NARAL for calling choice what it is: a fundamental American value and freedom. So every time we hear calls from those who would do away with family planning or limit reproductive rights, I hope we remember how fundamental our American values are to this debate. I also hope we will hear the voices of others who have come before us. Just imagine for a minute hearing the voices of the women who lined around the block for hours in 1916, waiting for Margaret Sanger to open the nation's first birth control clinic in Brooklyn. Before the police shut it down 10 days later, the clinic managed to help hundreds of women, and they all had their stories to tell. Stories of miscarriages and dangerous and illegal abortions, and the daily struggles to feed, clothe and shelter seven, eight, nine, ten or even more children when there was barely enough to care for one.

Of course we know too well the human history beyond our shores is replete with examples of inhumanity, and the abuse of power. So every time someone glibly says that we should have a constitutional amendment banning abortion or we should criminalize abortions, I hope we will listen to the voices of those who have been the victims of such practices. I hope we could hear the voices of the women who have suffered, often in silence, in Nazi Germany. For Aryan women, deemed "valuable," abortion facilities were prohibited, and their miscarriages were investigated by the police. For Jewish women, and Gypsy men and women in the concentration camps, they faced mass sterilizations as part of the quest to prevent "inferior" children. And from 1942 on, when women deported as forced labor became pregnant, their pregnancy was reported to a special S.S. officer, who tested them to identify their race, and then he decided the outcome of their pregnancy.

Every time someone tries to eliminate access to family planning, or further curtail reproductive rights, I hope we'll hear voices from women in Romania. When I visited there just a few years ago, I spoke with women about what it was like before they had democracy --when they were taken against their will, often, or just as it became a matter of course once a month during their working hours. Taken to a general holding facility where they were physically examined to determine if they were pregnant, stripping them of their dignity.

As part of Ceausescu's campaign to increase population in Romania to 30 million, birth control, sex education and abortions were outlawed. You could open the door of your home and find a member of the communist youth group there to quiz you about your private life to find out why you hadn't conceived yet. And if you failed to conceive, you were fined a celibacy tax of up to 10 percent of your monthly salary.

I hope we will also listen to the voices coming out of China. The voices of women today now include many who are working to ensure that their country's family planning practices are voluntary and respectful. When I was there, I heard about what the one-child policy had once meant for too many women.

Back in the early 1980s, your menstrual cycle and use of contraceptives could be

monitored by local authorities. If you wanted to have a child, you needed to get permission or perhaps face punishment. And, after you'd had your one allotted child, you could be sterilized against your will or forced to have an abortion.

Which is why in my speech in Beijing, I said that "It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families --and that includes being forced to have an abortion or being sterilized against their will."

I hope everyone who has ever talked about making abortion illegal or limiting access to family planning will listen to these voices from our own history and the history of other women around our world. More powerful than any statistic, they tell the story of two different extremes. The government saying you cannot have children --and the government saying you must have children. Neither of which is consistent with our American sense of fundamental justice, freedom and democracy.

That's why NARAL is right to keep asking, Who decides? And the American people have been right to answer again and again: This difficult decision must be made by individual women, in privacy, in consultation with her conscience, her family, her doctor, her God -- and not her member of Congress.

We also must continue to say that making abortion illegal only succeeds in doing one thing --making it unsafe, dangerous for women. As the Guttmacher Institute study released yesterday makes clear, even in some countries where abortion is illegal, they have abortion rates higher than what we have here in the United States. Because even when abortion is illegal, women who feel they need or have a right to the procedure find a way --but often at great risks to themselves. Every year around the world, almost 600,000 women die of pregnancy related causes --and 78,000 of these deaths are because of unsafe abortions.

Even in our country, we have seen what can happen when a small group of extremists tries to accomplish through violence and intimidation what they have been unable to achieve through the ballot box or the courts.

That brings me to the second principle that I hope continues to guide our country, and that is this: Violence, harassment, and intimidation have no role in our health care system or in this debate. Yes, we should respect each other's First Amendment rights to express our views. But no one debases the values of free speech, life and religion more than terrorists who claim to be acting in their name.

At Dr. Slepian's memorial, there were countless parents who came to honor him. And they did not come alone. In their arms or by their sides were the children that he had delivered, some of whose lives he had literally saved. They will be his lasting legacy.

But what can each of us do that would best honor his memory, and the memory of others who have been killed? We must honor them as Dr. Wortman has done, by

refusing to back down in our efforts to make sure that doctors are trained and available to provide safe and comprehensive health care to women all over our nation.

And we can do everything in our power to prevent violence and terrorism before it happens. In the last 10 years, there have been seven murders, 38 bombings, 146 cases of arson, and 733 cases of vandalism. Wherever one stands on the issue of abortion, surely we should all agree that when doctors are murdered, when clinics are bombed, splattered with acid, or set on fire, this is not free expression. This is domestic terrorism. And it must stop.

That's why I'm pleased to announce that the President's FY 2000 budget will include \$4.5 million to provide extra security to clinics at risk. And that means proper lighting, motion detectors, closed-circuit cameras, security systems, and bullet-resistant windows.

You know, we should recognize that nothing good can come from people preaching or practicing hate --whether they do it from a street corner or from a website. And no one has taught us this lesson better than the man whose birthday we celebrated this past Monday. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his speech about this topic 33 years ago said, "There is scarcely anything more tragic in life than a child who is not wanted." And that brings me to my third point.

More than anything, as Americans I think we can find common ground in the belief that all children should be wanted --and that indeed abortions should be rare.

I have met thousands and thousands of pro-choice men and women. I have never met anyone who is pro-abortion. Being pro-choice is not being pro-abortion. Being pro-choice is trusting the individual to make the right decision for herself and her family, and not entrusting that decision to anyone wearing the authority of government in any regard.

Now I think we can all agree that it is a tragedy when four in 10 pregnancies worldwide are unplanned --and half of them end in abortion. Now if we want, really, to reduce these numbers, we know we cannot achieve that goal by making abortions harder to get. We must do it by standing up for family planning here and around the world. And I am pleased to announce that the President's budget request for FY 2000 does just that.

He is asking for an increase of \$25 million in Title X Family Planning grants --the largest increase in 15 years --and is also asking for \$25 million for the United Nations Population Fund --thereby renewing our commitment to those women around the world who rely upon that fund for contraceptives, maternal care, and child care.

Now, I am always amazed --as I was during the debates on this issue last year -- that those who oppose family planning try to link family planning to increases in abortion. Now we know that it is, on the contrary, by refusing to fund family planning

programs that we force women to fall back on abortion.

We know that contraception reduces the probability of having an abortion by 85 percent. We know that every year, U.S. family planning programs prevent 1.2 million unintended pregnancies and 516,000 abortions in our country alone. And we have seen the same results the world over.

I am looking forward to my trip to the Hague in a little over, a little less, I guess now, than two weeks, where nations will gather in anticipation of Cairo plus five, to highlight success stories --and find ways of replicating them worldwide.

But I have already seen many of those success stories firsthand. As I have personally had the opportunity to visit health centers all over the world, where family planning is decreasing the abortion rate --and helping women gain authority and dignity in their own lives.

I remember visiting a maternity hospital in Brazil, where they had integrated family planning and reproductive health into their maternal and health services.

I saw mothers standing in the crowded hallways, cradling their newborns, waiting for well-baby appointments. Young women waiting for their prenatal appointments. Infants getting immunized. I saw parents getting the information they needed to make wise choices about planning their families. And I also saw wards of women who were there because they had not received quality health care. Many had, however, received self-induced or back-alley abortions.

I spoke to a number of mothers who told me that for the first time they could adequately care for the children they had. I learned about how rates of maternal mortality and abortion decreased because women received health care they needed in a timely fashion. And I fell in love with the Minister of Health for the state I was visiting when he said what everyone knows, and that is he intended to bring to poor women the same access to family planning services that well-to-do women take for granted.

It was indeed a victory when contraceptives were included last year in health plans for federal employees. But now, private plans should cover contraceptives as well. It is also past time to pass a Patient's Bill of Rights so that women will not have to go through a gatekeeper to see their OB/GYN every year. And it is time, through our community health clinics and other facilities, to give all people access to effective family planning and, I hope someday, universal health care.

And, if we want to decrease unintended pregnancies, abortions, welfare, and the number of young people dropping out of school, we must continue the progress we have made on preventing teen pregnancy. I am very pleased with the results of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, headed by Sarah Brown and enlisting many distinguished Americans. That campaign has made teen pregnancy an issue on the front covers of teen magazines and soap operas, and has used many imaginative

ways of reaching out with many Americans, particularly young Americans, as possible. And we've got some success to show for this effort.

Fewer teens are having sex, getting pregnant, and having abortions, so we are getting the word out, but there are clearly too many young people who have not yet gotten this message. I'm always stunned when I meet with groups of young women who have babies already, who are pregnant and perhaps attending a class I visit. They sit there with a totally straight face and tell me that as soon as their boyfriend gets a job or gets back from the Army, or gets out of jail, they'll be a family, and everything will work out just fine. Well, we know better, and we have to continue to educate our young women about that reality as well.

But we know that young women get pregnant for a whole host of reasons. Some just don't understand why it's a bad idea, because they will, they think, have someone who is totally there who will love them unconditionally, at least until that child becomes a toddler and learns to say no. But that's another story. Some are coerced by older boyfriends. Some are the victims of incest. Others can't cope with school or their family and see pregnancy and motherhood as a way out. Whatever the reason might be, we have to try to reach every single teenager. We're doing that in a variety of ways. We are leaving no strategy unused. The pregnancy prevention programs include abstinence education, more after-school programs, efforts like Secretary Shalala's Girl Power Campaign, access to family planning, decision-making groups --any approach that we think can work.

And we are seeing that this multi-pronged strategy can give us positive results. For example, back in 1990, Cortland, New York, had one of the highest teen pregnancy rates around. The county's family planning clinic and Catholic Charities decided to work together. They made the clinic free. They enlisted teens to talk to teens. They created a place for youngsters to go every Saturday night with adult supervision. They brought in religious leaders and businesses and they taught parents how to talk to their own children. And they set a goal of reducing the teenage pregnancy rate by one-third by the year 2000. Today they have almost reached that goal. As of 1996, the rates had decreased 30 percent --the lowest in that community in 20 years.

So we know what works. We have to muster the will and build the coalitions that reach out and include all members of a community in making it possible for not only young people, but people of any age, to have access to the services, to be given the support they need to make wise decisions about their sexual life so that they can prevent pregnancy and prevent abortion.

I remember hearing about a conversation that Sarah Brown had with a teen father in Los Angeles. As they talked about what he felt like, being a father at such a young age, at the end of the conversation, he told Sarah that, "No adult had ever taken that much interest in what happened to me."

Well, the truth is that we have to pay attention to young women and young men,

we have to do what we can to make it possible that they can have the equipment they need --psychologically, emotionally --to withstand pressure and to make the right decisions.

One young person from Texas, when asked what parents could do to prevent their own children from becoming pregnant said: "Don't leave us alone so much." Now, as any parent of teenagers knows, I don't think he meant literally he wanted to spend every second with his parents. But I do think that he was sending us in the adult community a very important message: that we have to fill our young people's lives with meaningful activities, skills they can obtain, a good education and just plain old-fashioned support and love. If we give them something else in their lives to look forward to --playing on a soccer team, being in a school play, or going to college, becoming a teacher, whatever it might be --then the needs that they sometimes feel to achieve maturity early will have some tough competition.

A number of years ago, at the Baltimore Self Center, Rosalie Strett used to give pregnant girls baby dolls to teach them to be parents. But she replaced the face of the doll with a mirror --not only so they would learn to make eye contact with their children, but so that when they looked down, they would see themselves, and that child, in the future.

Imagine if every person looked into the mirror before sexual activity, before a pregnancy, and asked, "Am I ready for this?" Imagine if boys and men --not just girls and women --looked into that mirror as well. Because we have to do more to reach out to young men, and enlist them in the campaign to make abortion rare, and to make it possible for them also to define their lives in terms other than what they imagine sexual prowess and fatherhood being.

All of us --citizens, parents, teachers, government officials, the media, sports figures, religious leaders, business leaders --all of us need to look in that mirror. We have to make it our responsibility to create a new ethic of planned parenthood in this country. An ethic where people have the tools they need to plan every pregnancy --probably, by any measurement, the most important event in their lives --with as much care and detail as they plan other major events.

I hope we will do more than imagine. I think again of Dr. Slepian, who despite the harassment, had the courage every day to be there for the women who relied upon him.

I think of the women who died in back-alley abortions. The women forced to bear children in Romania or forced to abort them in China. And I think of the pioneers in our own country before Roe v. Wade --some in this room --who, even when you were ridiculed, threatened or ostracized, stood up for the right of each woman to choose. You have led us to this day, and we are grateful for your leadership. But now we have to expand far beyond this room, and far beyond those who are already identified an understanding that the issue we are proposing --the pro-choice issue --is an issue with

deep roots in American democracy and human rights.

I hope that at the 50th anniversary of NARAL, the people on this podium speaking to you and the people in the audience will be able to say that we persevered. We did not turn our backs on our fundamental principles, but we also faced forward. That we worked with those who were willing to work with us to end some of the divisiveness that has plagued this issue. And we found the courage --and the common ground --to make it possible for future generations to say that abortion is safe, legal and indeed, rare.

At some point in that future, where we will be able, I hope, to have built a much stronger foundation, and created on much more common ground, we will not have to hear these endless debates about family planning, about reproductive rights, but instead, we will all be focused on giving to each person in our country the respect that person needs to make the decisions all of our lives that only we can and should make. That's the kind of America that we celebrate today. That's the kind of America we must continue to fight for. Thank you all very much.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
People Magazine/Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Luncheon
New York City, NY
December 1, 1998

(The first part of the speech was cut off of the audio tape. Therefore, the first six paragraphs may not correspond exactly with Mrs. Clinton's remarks as delivered. Please do not quote directly from this section.)

I want to start by thanking our co-hosts, Ann Moore and Pat Fili-Krushel, for organizing this luncheon and for using their powerful voices to make a difference in the fight against teen pregnancy. I had the honor in May 1997, to present Ann with an award at the White House for all she's done to educate Americans, young and old, about the tragedy of teen pregnancy and what they can do to prevent it.

And I'm told that I, in turn, have also distinguished myself in her magazine. It seems that back in 1993, I became the first person ever to be on both the best-selling and the worst-selling covers of PEOPLE in the *same* year. So I want to thank PEOPLE, not only for being such wonderful hosts to us all, but also for taking another chance on me today.

That next year, PEOPLE did indeed take a another chance on a cover. As Ann tells it, it was during the days of O.J., Tanya Harding, and Susan Smith -- and they decided instead to put teen pregnancy on the cover, and fill the pages with the real voices of teen moms.

And this is what they had to say: "Ever since I've had Caitlin, I haven't felt like a teenager. I've felt like a mom." "I didn't think I'd get pregnant." And finally, "I made a mistake and I'm going to have to live with it. But I won't have a normal life." These are the voices all young people must hear.

And I want to thank the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and each of you for working to make that possible so that all children can live like children should today and grow up to lead this country tomorrow.

I remember at the State of the Union in 1995, when my husband challenged parents and leaders across the country to create a National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. After the applause died down, a group of dedicated individuals rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Many are in this room today. I especially want to thank Governor Tom Kean, for taking on this cause, championing it, and making it bipartisan right from the beginning. I also want to thank a woman who has made this her...

(Begin actual transcript.)

...life's work and that's Belle Sawhill, who served in my husband's first Administration in the

Office of Management and Budget. She really pulled together this entire campaign with her commitment, her vision, and her economist's expertise. And, Belle, it could not have been done without you.

Then, of course, bringing Sarah Brown in was a stroke of genius because she knew as much about teen pregnancy and infant mortality -- often two related subjects -- as anybody in the country .

I think you remember shortly after I moved in to the White House, Sarah came to see me and we sat together and kind of ran through all the ideas we could imagine about what we could do to address this and related issues. She brought to her leadership position not only dedication and understanding, but a real personal stake in it, being a mother of three teenage daughters. And so Sarah has come with personal and professional credentials.

Sarah told some of us recently that she had met with a group of teenage boys in Austin, Texas, and when it came time for questions, one of the young men raised his hand. And she thought it would be the kind of question she's heard from many people about what we can do about teen pregnancy, but instead he asked a very different question. He asked, "What's wrong with teen pregnancy?" And that was an important question for Sarah to be asked and for him to ask because, for a lot of people coming out of different traditions and backgrounds, coming from families where maybe their own mother was a teen mother, it is sometimes difficult to make the case as forcefully as we would like that what might have been acceptable and even doable fifty years ago, is no longer really a possible option for most young people who need more education and more support and face far more temptations than were faced by generations a few decades back. So what's wrong with teenage pregnancy is really a question that each of us has to answer over and over and over again until we've reached everyone like that young man who really doesn't know.

From the very first days, the Campaign has worked to answer that question. When it first came together in late 1995, the President chaired a meeting at the White House where diverse leaders like Ann Moore, Whoopi Goldberg, David Hamburg, Sarah Brown, and Belle Sawhill outlined their vision for this campaign. They saw it as a real partnership between the public and the private sectors, between business and not-for-profits, between community groups and parents. And so they were already on target in thinking of the ways we could address and answer that young man's question.

In large measure, because of this partnership we are now at a turning point in the struggle against teen pregnancy. Teens are getting the message that teen pregnancy is a one-way ticket -- and not just to dreams deferred but to the ending of dreams. Fewer teens are now getting pregnant, fewer teens are giving birth, and fewer teens are having abortions. So we are being successful on all three fronts: fewer pregnancies, fewer births and fewer abortions. More teenagers are understanding their responsibility, working up the courage that it takes to say no, or being smart and responsible enough to use contraceptives. And perhaps the most important and best news of the last several years is that the birth rate for African American teenagers has

dropped a full 21 percent. And that is an astonishing accomplishment. I want personally to commend the African American community across this country -- parents and church groups and community leaders, who all came together and demanded something better of their children and set higher expectations.

Now we know, though, that there are many young people for whom this is still a very real life challenge, and so we have a lot of work ahead of us. And we have some particular groups of people that we have to be concerned about. Young women become pregnant for a host of different reasons. Some don't understand why it's a bad idea, like the young man in Austin who asked the question. Some, though, are coerced by older boyfriends and men, and we need to protect these young girls better than we do now. Others are behind in school, are having problems at home and see this as a way out, see it as way that they can gain maturity, status and somebody to love them. So there is a complex of reasons that we have to address.

And we need to do everything we can using every strategy at our disposal to try to reach every single teenager. And the Administration working with the Campaign is doing just that. For example, under the new welfare reform law we're telling unmarried teen parents that they have to stay in school and live at home or with a responsible older adult in order to receive assistance, including the transition assistance and education assistance they need. There will be more second chance homes where girls can learn the skills to become good parents and avoid getting pregnant again. There will be more abstinence education programs. We are also supporting innovative teen pregnancy programs that reach about 30 percent of American communities and are designed specifically for the communities they address, such as the Administration's new "Girl Power" campaign we are working on with athletes, girl scouts, and others to help girls who often fall victim to the minefields of adolescence to stay healthy and stay confident and stay away from the dangers of pregnancy. We are also working with young men, a very important part of this equation. I was pleased that the President's plan for after-school programs was successful in this last budget. It provided more than \$200 million to give young people safe and supervised places to go after school to keep them away from the crime and sexual activity that too often occurs between 3 and 8 p.m. on every single school day. But we still have four in 10 young women getting pregnant at least once in their teens, and our nation is still paying an annual cost of \$7 billion related to health and social and other kind of needs.

We also have a problem with Hispanic youngsters, and I was particularly pleased to notice on the guest list that we have representatives from our Hispanic American media. For the first time in history, Hispanic youngsters have the highest teenage birth rate in our nation. They are also now the group most likely to attempt suicide and most likely to leave high school -- a full 30 percent drop out and many never even enroll. So although we've made progress in the African American community, which has gotten so much attention in the last several years, we need now to put equal amounts of attention in the Hispanic American community. And again the reasons are very complex, especially among new immigrants and their children coming from countries very diverse in Central and South America. There are different messages that have to be used to reach these young people. But I think all of us should be very concerned about not only the high teenage birthrate but the high suicide attempt rate among Hispanic young people.

So we've got a lot to do ahead of us. But I think if we continue on the path the Campaign has charted; if we recognize that we're not going to reach young people by lecturing at them or handing them a brochure but need to be much more active in their communities, in their schools, in their churches. And if we are much more realistic in talking to them about their lives, then we know we can make a difference. And I've noticed in the media some of the ways you've done that to reach our teenagers, and I want to thank you. Some of you know that we usually scan magazines read by teenagers. You know, it's all about how girls look, what boys want, how you can make yourself more attractive and more appealing. The message is just a constant one of how the most important thing in the world is to find some boy who thinks that you're special and then have a relationship. But finally we are beginning to see some countervailing messages as well.

After the "Real World" episodes with Pedro Zamora, MTV says more children wrote, called and e-mailed them than ever before. For the first time they said they understood that AIDS could actually happen to them. When young people opened up Teen People a few months ago, there were some pictures of some really attractive, good looking teenagers who said they weren't going to engage in sexual activity and they were cool about it. And that sent a very positive message to the young women who read that magazine. When teenagers tuned in to the BET town hall meeting they could hear the voices of real teenagers who called in and told them what it was like to be a teen mother. One 18-year-old called in -- she has three children -- and she described the struggle she faces every day. There is nothing romantic about it, it's not all dressing her children up in these cute little clothes and showing them off to her friends. It's getting them up in the morning, getting them clothed, getting them bathed, feeding them, putting a roof over their heads.

And thanks to Pat and others of you at ABC, when young people turn on One Life to Live right now, they'll meet Jessica, a young girl whose pregnancy led her to elope and disrupt the life of her entire family. One teenager apparently wrote in about this story line and said, "It's good to see someone on TV struggle with this situation and give the message that it is better to wait, and that if you do have sex to use protection." Now imagine what we could do if even more of the media began putting out messages like that, not just on an occasional basis but on a regular basis -- a daily, weekly, monthly basis. So that we could begin to rebuild children's understanding of what reality really is, what parenthood really is, what the demands and responsibilities are.

Through the work that I've done with teenage girls who become pregnant, going back now, I guess, about 25 years, I am always stunned at how these girls have in their minds this sort of white picket fence, happily-ever-after idea of what is going to happen to them. I've talked with girls who have, literally, only the clothes on their back and the diapers for their babies who've told me with a totally straight face and all this anticipation in their voice that their boyfriend really is going to come back from the army and marry them and they'll live happily ever after, or as soon as he gets a better job they'll be a family, or everything is going to work out

just fine. Well, they need to understand that maybe once in a blue moon somewhere sometime, that does happen, but the real story -- the real tragedy, the real struggles -- of these teenage moms is nothing that they want to dream about or aspire to.

So the more we can demonstrate the gritty reality of what happens to these young men and women who enter into early parenthood too soon, the more we are going to be sending a message of responsibility and of hope. That there is something worth waiting for, there is a future out there that they can have if they stay in school, they get educated, they obtain job skills so that eventually they will be able to support the children that they want so desperately to have.

I know that there has been a powerful video created that asks us to imagine a country where babies don't have babies, where children play outside instead of staying inside to take care of their own children, where no young person ever has to ask what's wrong with teen pregnancy. Well, you are helping us to imagine that country and imagine the lives that will be lived in that country, and the success you've already demonstrated gives me enormous hope that when we meet again next year and the year after and the years to come, we'll see even more progress, and even more young men and women will have something to say "yes" to in their lives. And the messages they receive will reinforce a life of productivity and responsibility and true happiness as they get older and are able to take on the role of being a parent.

Thank you all very much.

Date: Thursday, April 30, 1998
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: NCHS Press Office (301) 436-7551

TEEN BIRTH RATES DOWN IN ALL STATES

New Government Report on Teenage Birth Rates Includes State Rates by Race and Ethnicity

HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala announced today that, according to a new HHS report, the teen birth rate declined substantially nationwide from 1991 to 1996. Secretary Shalala announced the findings at a reception honoring the first anniversary of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

According to this new government report focusing solely on teenage childbearing, between 1991 and 1996, teen birth rates declined for white, black, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander and Hispanic women ages 15-19. The rate for black teens -- until recently the highest -- experienced the largest decline, down 21 percent from 1991 to 1996 to reach the lowest rate ever reported for blacks.

The latest state-by-state data, from 1995, show that teen birth rates have declined in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Among the states with the lowest rates - under 35 births per 1,000 teens -- were Vermont, New Hampshire, Minnesota, North Dakota, Maine, and Massachusetts. Areas with double that rate at 70 or more births per 1,000 women aged-15-19 included the District of Columbia followed by Mississippi, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Arkansas, Nevada, Georgia and Alabama.

"This report shows that our concerted effort to reduce teen pregnancy is succeeding," said Secretary Shalala. "The federal government, the private sector, parents and caregivers are all helping send the same message: Don't become a parent until you are truly ready to support a child."

Shalala also noted the important work of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and its 1998 National Campaign Honorees, who are implementing innovative teen pregnancy prevention programs across the U.S.

The Campaign was created in response to President Clinton's 1995 State of the Union challenge to "parents and leaders all across this country to join together in a national campaign against teen pregnancy to make a difference." The honorees were recognized in the categories of: building common ground, corporate leadership, effective programming, male involvement, media innovation, state leadership and teen leadership in preventing teen pregnancy.

The new National Center For Health Statistics report, "Teenage Births in the United States: National and State Trends, 1990-96" brings together the latest and trend data to profile the teenage mother. It has teen birth rates for each state by race and Hispanic origin to help explain some of the differences across states. While the decline in the teenage birth rate varied among States, those with both high and low rates succeeded in achieving significant reductions between 1991 and 1995. The variation between states reflects, in part, national patterns by race and ethnicity.

Each year in America, almost 500,000 teenagers give birth. The preliminary U.S. birth rate for teenagers in 1996 was 54.7 live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years, down 4 percent from 1995 and 12 percent from 1991 when the rate was 62.1. These recent declines reverse the 24 percent rise in the

teenage birth rate from 1986 to 1991. There has been success in lowering the birth rate for both young and older teens, with rates for those 15-17 years of age down 12 percent between 1991 and 1996 and the rate for those 18 and 19 down 8 percent.

Still, teen birth rates are higher today than in the mid-1980s when the rate was at its lowest point, 50-53 births per thousand teens age 15-19. The national teen birth rate was at its highest in 1957, at 96 births per 1,000 women ages 15-19. However, most teenagers giving birth in the 1950s and for the next two decades were married while the vast majority of teenage mothers today are unmarried.

Teenage mothers are much less likely than older women to receive timely prenatal care, are more likely to smoke and less likely to gain the recommended weight during their pregnancy, and more likely to have a low birthweight infant, as shown in the annual reports from NCHS' National Vital Statistics System.

The new HHS report on teenage childbearing is the first in a new series of statistical summaries designed as an easy-to-read presentation of the key data and facts on critical public health issues. The National Center for Health Statistics is a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The new report is available and can be downloaded from the NCHS Home Page on the Internet at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchswwww>. Copies are also available from NCHS at (301) 436-8500.

###

Note: HHS press releases are available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.hhs.gov>. ??

Birth Rates for Teen-Agers Declined Sharply in the 90's

By TAMAR LEWIN

In a trend that some credit mostly to abstinence education and others to better use of contraception, teen-age birth rates nationwide declined substantially from 1991 to 1996.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the sharpest declines were among black teen-agers, until recently the group with the highest level of births.

While black teen-agers still have babies at almost twice the rate of whites, their birth rate declined 21 percent from 1991 to 1996, and is now at the lowest level ever reported.

There were 91.7 births for every 1,000 black teen-age women ages 15 to 19 in 1996, while whites had 48.4 per 1,000, and Hispanic teen-agers had 101.6.

"What's significant is that these declines are in every state," said Donna E. Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services. "I give a lot of credit to the African-American community, which has put out a clear, consistent message from the churches, the schools and all sorts of civic organizations, a drumbeat to young women and young men that they should not become parents until they are truly ready to support a child, that having children too early will limit their options."

Over all, in 1996, the teen-age birth rate was 54.7 for every 1,000 young women ages 15 to 19, down 11.9 percent from the 1991 rate of 62.1.

Although the 1996 numbers were previously reported as part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's vital statistics report last fall, the special five-year report Dr. Shalala issued yesterday placed a spotlight on the decline in teen-age births.

Isabel Sawhill, president of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, a private nonpartisan initiative, said: "Birth rates went up sharply from 1986 to 1991, and then they started coming down again. Nobody knows for sure why this is occurring. We're not sure why they popped in the first place, and anything that pops up can pop down again. But we do know that behind this drop in birth rates is both an increase in contraception and a reduction in sexual activity, the first reduction in decades and decades."

Experts of every political stripe heralded the declines and agreed that the last few years were the end of an era in which teen-agers started

sexual intercourse at ever-earlier ages — a trend extending from the 1950's, when 27 percent of women turning 18 had had sex, to the mid-1980's, when 56 percent had done so.

Pregnancy and abortion rates among teen-agers are dropping, too, but there is no consensus about what is behind those declines.

Conservative groups, like Focus on the Family, in Colorado, say that abstinence education turned the tide.

"We believe abstinence has played the central role in what's happening," said Amy Stephens, a spokeswoman for Focus on the Family. "Privately funded abstinence programs started in the late 1980's and went on in the 1990's, and now there is Federal funding for programs that give kids a direct message about what we want them to do. Kids respond when they get a direct message instead of the mixed message that if you're going to have sex, you should use a condom, but oh, also, we don't think you should have sex."

But groups like the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit research and education group in New York, emphasize the effects of better contraception.

"Now that the level of sexual activity is not increasing, we're seeing the result of more widespread and more

effective contraceptive use," said Jacqueline E. Darroch, the institute's senior vice president for research. "The proportion of sexually active teen girls using contraception, even at first intercourse, is increasing. My sense of why the black teens' birth rate is declining the fastest is that they are the most likely to use long-lasting contraceptives like Norplant and DepoProvera, which are very reliable."

Nearly 500,000 babies were born to those ages 15 to 19 in 1996 and 11,000 more to girls 14 and under.

Teen-age mothers are much less

likely than older women to receive timely prenatal care or gain the recommended weight during their pregnancy, and much more likely to smoke and have a low-birthweight infant, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

The level of teen-age births was far higher in the 1950's and 1960's: the historic high point for such births was 1957, when there were 96 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19. But in those days, the vast majority of teen-age mothers were married, while today, the vast majority are single.

Teen-age birth rates vary greatly

by state, with many Northern states like Vermont, New Hampshire, Minnesota, North Dakota, Maine and Massachusetts having fewer than 35 births per 1,000 teen-age women, less than half the rate of Southern and Western states like Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Texas. The District of Columbia has the highest teen-age birth rate, 105.5 births for every 1,000 women ages 15 to 19, down from 114.4 in 1991.

Despite the declining rates, the United States still has by far the highest rate of teen-age births of any

industrialized nation.

Ms. Sawhill's group released research yesterday showing that parents have great influence on teen-agers' sexual decision-making.

The group said parents could help prevent teen-age pregnancy by talking candidly to their children about sex from an early age and being clear about their own values, supervising their adolescents' after-school activities, discouraging one-on-one dating before age 16, and stopping teen-agers from dating anyone who is not within two or three years of their own age.

The New York Times

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1998

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1998

Inside: Heal
Today's Contents on Page

E.J. Dionne Jr.

Some Good News About Teen Pregnancy

It's easier to find televised debates on abortion, gun control or affirmative action than to run across serious talk about teen pregnancy. We seem to love issues that can be squeezed into ideological formats that allow people to scream at each other with commercial breaks in between and a handshake at the

Yet teen pregnancy, especially the birth of children to single mothers who get little or no support from the dads involved, is a huge social problem—and the source of many other personal and social calamities.

It is also a matter on which there is good news. On Thursday, the National Center for Health Statistics announced that the percentage of teenage girls having babies declined for the sixth year in a row. The overall teen birthrate has fallen 12 percent since 1991, and it's down 21 percent among African Americans.

Beneath the media radar screen, people of very different social, moral and religious views decided they faced a choice: They could keep arguing, or they could try to help kids. Sarah Brown, the director of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, used to put it this way: "While the

adults are arguing, the kids are getting pregnant."

For many years, the teen pregnancy debate fit nicely into that televised ideological format. One side said the answer lay in promoting sexual abstinence among teens. The other pushed for birth control education and the distribution of contraceptives. The abstinence side argued that the birth controllers were promoting premature sexual activity. The birth control side said the champions of abstinence were naive moralists.

The new study suggests both sides have reason to celebrate: The new decline in the birthrate appears to be the result of both reduced teen sexual activity and better birth control.

Even before the evidence started coming in, many people on both sides of the old debate had grown weary. They also became more practical, and this was reflected in new programs. The most successful approaches, says William Galston, a professor at the University of Maryland, combine strong preaching of abstinence, especially for teens 16 or under, with counseling on birth control. The core idea is that teaching clear values is essential to helping teens avoid early sexual activity and

pregnancy. But birth control advice is needed as a backup. "Technique without values gets you nowhere," says Galston. "But values without a safety net is a risky business."

Brown pointed to the acclaimed Teen Outreach Program, which started in the St. Louis public schools. It includes not only sex education and contraception advice but also intense involvement by adults who serve as counselors and role models (to provide an alternative to peer pressure) and many programs that offer kids "useful things to do."

The idea of mixing an emphasis on values with birth control information is where most Americans are. Polls show that parents overwhelmingly want teenagers to avoid sex but also support giving them birth control information. In other words, Americans mix strong moral views with a devotion to pragmatism.

Parents might take that approach to heart. "One way to prevent pregnancy is for parents to talk to their kids about values," said Isabel Sawhill, president of the National Campaign. "Parents have gotten very timid about their willingness to do that and have started to doubt that their voices matter to their children. The studies show that their voices do matter."

And if we care about teen pregnancy, we'd

do well to get serious about the problems of poverty. Kristin Moore, president of Child Trends, notes that the same factors that predict drug use, school problems and delinquency also predict teen pregnancy. They include family dysfunction, child abuse, early difficulties in school—and poverty. Preventing pregnancy in the teen years requires intervention in the early years, especially in the first years of school. If children can succeed in those years, they can develop the motivation and self-respect to avoid both premature sexual activity and pregnancy.

And a final bit of good news: The National Campaign gave an award recently to the California communities of Bloomington and Colton, near San Bernardino, for a program that brought together the most socially conservative and socially liberal to find common ground on preventing teen pregnancy.

Galston sat with the group at the awards dinner. "People who had been throwing grenades at each other for many years," he said, "found that they could not only come together and talk together but also work together." Fighting the culture wars may make for good television, but solving problems makes cease-fires worthwhile.

The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1998

JUDY MANN

Some Effective Messages About Teenage Sex

Some good news: The percentage of teenage girls having babies has declined for the sixth straight year, across all racial and ethnic lines and in every state and the District of Columbia.

The United States still has the highest teenage birthrate in the industrialized world—nearly half a million girls give birth each year—but the rate has fallen 12 percent since 1991, according to a report released by the federal government last week. African American girls have been the most successful, cutting their birthrate by 21 percent during that time, and bringing it to the lowest level ever reported.

Teenagers are having less sex, and they are using more contraceptives. What seems clear is that a wide variety of state and local efforts to prevent teenage pregnancy are having some impact. So is a collective social message that youngsters who have babies as teenagers are behaving irresponsibly and that girls, especially, are closing the doors on their futures.

As efforts to prevent teen pregnancy mature, we are learning more about what works. And perhaps the most important finding is that lots of different approaches seem to have an impact—which also means that no one approach, be it preaching abstinence or distributing condoms in schools, will persuade teenagers to cool their jets and wait until they are 26, the average age of marriage, to have sex.

Two studies out of California and New York have now shown that making condoms available in high schools increases condom use but does not increase sexual activity. The California study found that male students who said they used condoms each time they had intercourse increased from 37 percent to 50 percent in the first year after condoms were made available in their high school. Those who used condoms the first time they had intercourse went from 65 percent to 80 percent.

The evaluation of the high school program found that among male and female teenagers who were virgins, there was a marked increase in the number who planned to use a condom the first time they had intercourse, up from 62 percent to 90 percent among young men, and from 73 percent to 94 percent among young women.

Packets containing two male condoms were available in baskets in four classrooms and the nurse's office of the high school. The packets also contained a message that strikes a good balance between the two main approaches to preventing teen sex: "Condoms are not 100% effective in preventing AIDS/HIV, sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy during intercourse. Abstinence is! Not all teenagers are sexually active. THINK BEFORE YOU ACT! The consequences may be for a lifetime."

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy sponsored a survey in early April that

found that nine in 10 parents of teenagers said they have told their children they should not have sex until they are out of high school. Nearly four in 10 also said they told their children that teenagers who are having sex should have ready access to contraceptives.

Teenagers said they want their parents to talk more with them about a variety of issues, ranging from contraception, to dating, to sexually transmitted diseases and when to say no to sex. A majority of both teenagers and parents agreed that the biggest barrier to effective communication about sex between parents and teenagers is that they are not comfortable talking about sex with each other.

But it is clear from a survey of the research done by Brent C. Miller, head of the department of family and human development at Utah State University, that families are an important influence on whether a teenager gets pregnant or causes a pregnancy. Teenagers who are close to their parents are more likely to remain abstinent, postpone sex, have fewer partners and use contraception consistently, he found. Teenagers whose parents hold strong views about abstinence or the dangers of unprotected intercourse also seem to be at less risk of getting pregnant.

The campaign conducted focus groups involving parents and teenagers. Participants were deeply concerned about teenagers' lack of values. They felt that parents are failing to teach their children how to treat other people and are setting a poor example by engaging in promiscuous and risky behavior themselves. They were unanimous in condemning the media for unrealistic portrayals of sex and its consequences.

Advocates for Youth last week released a study that showed that the federal government spent more than \$39 billion in fiscal 1995 to assist families that began with a teen birth. It spent only \$131 million that year to prevent teenage pregnancy. This works out to \$400 per U.S. household to support families started by teenagers and only \$1.32 on prevention. That's just nuts.

We know that youth development programs that emphasize skills, motivation and aspiration can postpone sexual activity and avoid pregnancies. We know that parent and child closeness is also important. We know that condom availability is effective, as is comprehensive sex education. The Washington-based campaign to prevent teen pregnancy has prepared a pamphlet called "Ten Tips for Parents to Help Their Children Avoid Teen Pregnancy." It tells parents, among other things, to be clear about their own values and attitudes and to communicate these early and often and specifically with their youngsters.

There is a lot we know now about how to reduce teen pregnancies. We are making progress, and that should encourage us to do even more.



Chicago Tribune

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Final
50¢ NEWSSTAND

Chicago Tribune, Wednesday, May 6, 1998 Section 1 13

Commentary

Why teen pregnancy has declined—but not enough

Clarence Page



above a photo of little Khalid Minor (son of Boston Celtics guard Greg Minor) holding a basketball.

Although there have been no studies on athletes or their out-of-wedlock kids, the 10-page report recounted shocking anecdotes about some big-star athletes and quotes several experts who say the numbers are staggering.

One anonymous source identified only as one of the league's top agents estimates "there might be more kids out of wedlock than there are players in the NBA." He also is quoted as saying he spends more time dealing with paternity claims than he does negotiating contracts.

If the Sports Illustrated report is to be believed, it sounds like today's teens have more to teach today's sports stars than vice versa about unwanted pregnancy.

The same week that the magazine hit newsstands, new federal health statistics revealed a continuing decline in teenage births nationwide since 1990.

The sharpest declines were among black teens, who have fallen below the rate for Hispanics, after years of having the highest recorded teen birth rate. Although black teens still have almost twice the birth rate of whites, the black teen birth rate declined 21 percent from 1991 to 1996, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

As with all success stories, this one had an ample supply of partisans ready to claim credit. Social conservatives credited a rise in the popularity of abstinence. Social liberals claimed a rise in the rate of voluntary contraception.

But the best estimates of teen sexual activity indicate some of both is happening. Sawhill, whose group is a private non-partisan initiative in Washington, D.C., cited studies that showed a decline in sexual activity by teens aged 15 to 19 in recent years, but not as steep as the decline in pregnancies. At the same time, use of condoms and other contraceptives soared, right along with rising concern about AIDS.

Susan Tew, a spokesperson for the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a New York-based research and education group that emphasizes contraception, cited a "constellation of causes," including long-term contraceptives like DepoProvera and Norplanta being surprising popular among teen girls.

"Teen girls aged 15 to 17 years old show the highest numbers for use of DepoProvera," she said, "even though it was originally thought to be a drug that older women would use the most."

Tew also cited the improved economy as encouraging more teens to think about careers and less about sex.

But, while the rate is coming down, it's much too soon to celebrate. Even with the latest count, this country still has the highest teen pregnancy rate by far of any industrialized nation—twice as high as the next largest industrialized country, Great Britain, Sawhill said.

Also, Sawhill asked that you consider this: 40 percent of all girls in the U.S. will get pregnant before their 21st birthday. About half of the pregnancies will be carried to term, the rest will be aborted or miscarried.

What is a parent to do? The



Illustration by Geoffrey Moss

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy advises that the most important thing we parents can do is to talk to our kids.

"Parents believe their voices don't matter, that they have lost their children to the popular culture and to peer pressure," Sawhill said. "That's simply not true. Our research shows parents do matter. Their influence still is very important."

It is not "the 45-minute talk

about the birds and bees" that makes the difference, Sawhill says, but the ongoing relationship that makes teenagers feel comfortably close enough to talk candidly with parents about their parents' values.

Teen births appear to be declining without the help of sports stars, but not without the help of parents. Parents do matter. Even teenagers seem to think so.

WASHINGTON—Somebody offered a bright idea to leaders of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen

Pregnancy: Why not enlist some popular sports figures to help sell the idea to teenagers?

After all, young people buy sneakers, cereal and just about everything that athletes endorse. Maybe they also would buy the idea that they should avoid having children outside of wedlock.

Isabel Sawhill, a Brookings Institution senior fellow who also is president of the national teen pregnancy campaign, agreed and put the idea.

But when she met with a prominent sports agent, he was enthusiastic about the idea. Sawhill recalled. After a bit of thought, he suggested diplomatically that professional athletes "might not make the best role models" for avoiding out-of-wedlock conceptions, she recalled.

In a telephone interview, Sawhill told me she was surprised by the agent's remarks, at the

But she gained a new sense of what he meant when she heard about a special report in the May 4 issue of Sports Illustrated.

It's the issue with the headline reads "Where's Daddy?"

Chicago Tribune

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Final
50¢ STAND

Parents play important role in discouraging teen sex

Linda Chavez



become sexually active.

■ Teens whose parents closely supervise them are more likely to be older when they first have sex and have fewer partners.

■ Teens whose parents hold strong opinions about the value of abstinence or about the dangers of unprotected intercourse are at less risk of becoming pregnant.

And on the other side of the equation, teens who live in single, female-headed households are more likely to engage in sex at a younger age. Teens also seem to be influenced by their older siblings' sexual activity and the dating patterns of their unmarried parents, both of which may encourage promiscuity and/or out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

These findings shouldn't come as a surprise, but they certainly fly in the face of current popular opinion. Since the sexual revolution of the 1960s, we've come to accept premarital sex as nearly universal, even among 15- and 16-year-olds. That's partly because we're inundated with movies, TV shows, songs and news reports about the prevalence of teen sex.

Teen sex has been increasing over the last several

decades, but it has never been as ubiquitous as the media make it out to be. In 1985, only 50 percent of all girls ages 15 to 19 reported ever having had sexual intercourse (down from 55 percent in 1980). But most of these were girls were 18 or 19, a small percentage of whom were already married.

Far fewer than half the girls who were 15 or 16 had ever had sex, 25 percent and 39 percent, respectively. Yet teachers, guidance counselors and parents often act as if everybody's doing it, so there's nothing they can say or do to prevent teens from early sexual experimentation. Of course, by remaining silent—or worse, letting youngsters know that we expect them to have sex before they leave high school even if we don't like it—we may be encouraging the very behavior we ought to try to prevent.

It's easy to blame the media for all the bad influences films and TV exert on young people, but much of the responsibility belongs on parents' shoulders. The Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has just issued a powerful new pamphlet, "Ten Tips for Parents," which urges parents to step up to the plate.

First, "Be clear about your own sexual values and attitudes." It advises. If you aren't clear about right or wrong, how can you expect your children to understand the difference? "Know your children's friends and their families," it suggests. "Discourage early, frequent and steady dating. . . . Take a strong stand against your daughter dating a boy significantly older than she is. And don't allow your son to develop an intense relationship with a girl much younger than he is. . . . Know what your kids are watching, reading and listening to."

As the pamphlet says, "Supervising and



Illustration by Mark Taper

monitoring your kids' whereabouts doesn't make you a nag; it makes you a parent." We'd have a lot fewer new teen parents if adults would take their own responsibilities as parents more seriously.

Continued on page 2

Newsday

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1998 • NASSAU

Here's a Stunner: Teens *Do* Want Parental Help

AND NOW for the good news about teenagers. They need — and they actually want — parent power.

Sure, they may have baseball caps pulled down over their eyes or cellphones glued to the ear. But beyond the media montage that scares the heck out of us with images of schoolyard bloodshed and panicked lovebirds who've thrown a baby into a Dumpster, there is a huge generation of children that knows it needs grown-ups. And isn't afraid to say so.

It's a notion that defies stereotype, including the bits of it we assemble from the daily frustrations of real life. But increasingly, good, solid research is showing that parents count — and that kids actually want us to weigh in.

The latest encouragement comes from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, a nationwide, nonpartisan group of experts commissioned by the Clinton administration to find ways to reduce the nation's highest-in-the-world rates of teen pregnancy and births.

Reviewing two decades of research on teen pregnancy and adolescent sexuality, the campaign concluded that the most consistent family influence



Marie
Cocco

on whether a teenager would get pregnant or cause a pregnancy — or delay having sex altogether — was the degree of "connectedness" the teenager felt with his or her parents.

Being connected doesn't mean ruling with an iron fist or becoming a doormat for a foot-stomping teen. The researchers found that close supervision, but not overcontrol, also reduces the risk of a teen pregnancy.

"Connectedness," according to Sarah Brown, the director of the teen pregnancy campaign, is a sense of closeness, warmth and trust that develops between teenagers and parents. It seems to allow kids to feel understood and parents to communicate values and a sense of judgment to their children, even when it seems the kids just aren't listening and just don't get it.

An even larger federal study of adolescent health found the same ingredient — strong relationships with parents and teachers — had the same positive impact in insulating teenagers from other risks including drug and alcohol abuse, violence and suicide.

"As we talk to parents around the country, it's almost that there's a crisis of conscience," Brown said. "The parents aren't sure they matter, they aren't sure their kids want to listen to them. What we found is that teens absolutely want to talk."

And how. In a poll of parents and teenagers conducted for the antipregnancy campaign, about one in five teenagers consistently said they wanted more information from their parents about some very specific things: sexually transmitted diseases, birth control, figuring out when to say "no" to sex

and how to manage dating, relationships and sex.

But there's a big communications gap. And it's a divide made wide as much by parents' misperceptions as it is by the kids'. Example: About a third of parents said the biggest barrier to talking to their teenagers about sex is that "most teens think they know it all already." But only about six percent of teenagers, both boys and girls, said they believe they know as much as their parents.

Only 19 percent of teenagers said they didn't want to hear from their parents about sex. The big surprise, and the big news, is that the overwhelming majority are willing to listen.

Common sense tells us this is what all parents strive for and would be oh-so-grateful to have: a pair of receptive — if multiply pierced — ears. Yet almost all the parents involved in the group's research, from African Americans in Baltimore to Hispanics in Phoenix to a racially mixed group in Indianapolis, felt a sense of powerlessness in the face of a teen culture they see as shaped more by the message of the media, the rhythm of the street and the lure of the mall than by their own influence.

"Parents have lost the confidence that they can make a difference," said Brown.

For as long as anyone can remember, this sense of frustration and loss of control has been the cause of big fights: against school-based clinics or condom distribution, or a video they may or may not find acceptable in health class.

Now it turns out that if all that energy were focused closer to home, the kids would appreciate it. And they might have a better future, too.

Marie Cocco's e-mail address is
mccoco@newsday.com.

USA SNAPSHOTS®

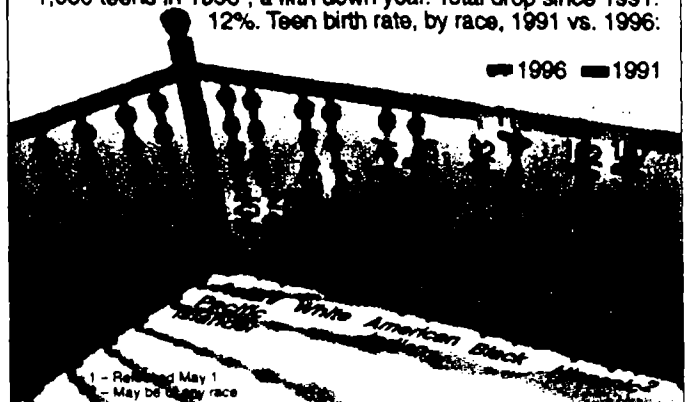
5/7/98

A look at statistics that shape the nation

Teen birth rate falls again

The live birth rate for teens age 15-19 dropped 4% to 54.7 per 1,000 teens in 1996¹, a fifth down year. Total drop since 1991: 12%. Teen birth rate, by race, 1991 vs. 1996:

■ 1996 ■ 1991



¹ - Reported May 1
- May be many race

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

By Anne R. Carey and Qun Tian, USA TODAY

Teen Moms

It wasn't so long ago that it was common for women to become wives and mothers when they were still teenagers (almost always in that quaint order by the way). Nowadays, of course, it's different. Throughout the industrialized world, it's generally accepted that that's too young for the responsibilities of marriage and parenthood.

In the U.S., which has the highest rate of teen births of any First World country, the overwhelming consensus is that teen pregnancy is one of our era's most destructive social forces. This view prevails across the political spectrum. Left and right agree: If modern American society is to have any hope of solving such problems as poverty, welfare, crime and drugs, we have to learn how to keep children from having children.

And so it is heartening to see an HHS report that teenage birth rates

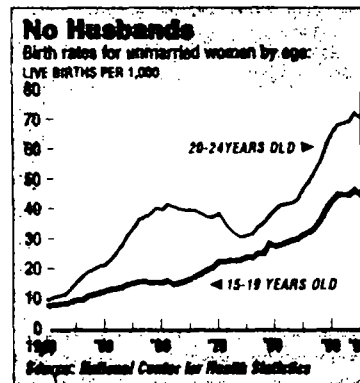
These bare facts have huge horrific implications for society. Most of our seemingly entrenched social pathologies can be directly correlated to the marital status of the young mother. A teenager with a baby but no husband is three times more likely to end up on welfare than a teen mother who is married. One of the best predictors of whether a child will grow up in poverty, use drugs and turn to crime is whether or not his parents are married. (This is true no matter the age of the mother.)

You don't need a Ph.D. in sociology to observe that the rise in unwed motherhood tracks the progress of the sexual revolution and the emergence of the idea that single parenthood is just another lifestyle choice. This degradation of marriage—the famous “clear family”—was feminism's greatest failure, and it's left a legacy of children without fathers and women without husbands. Family breakdown hurts women of all backgrounds, but it's arguably the youngest, poorest and least educated women who suffer the most; they're the ones with the fewest resources to draw on for help.

That said, the HHS data on the decline in the rate of teen births is certainly a positive sign. As are the results of two other, unrelated studies of teenagers released in the past week. At a seminar sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute and the Kaiser Family Foundation, two researchers presented data showing a decline in teen sexual activity between 1988 and 1995. The drop was largely confined to the suburbs, but sexual activity has also leveled off among urban and rural teens after years of steady increases. (A big exception is Hispanic teens in inner cities, who reported much higher levels of sexual activity.)

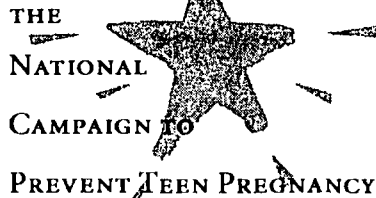
Also encouraging is a just-out Labor Department study showing that 67% of the young people who graduated from high school last spring attended college in the fall. The rate was higher for young women—70.3% vs. 63.5% for young men. Contrast this with 1960, when only 34% of female high school graduates and 54% of males went on to college.

Together, the three studies add up to positive news. Maybe, just maybe, teens, especially girls, are getting the message that they and their eventual families will fare better if they delay child-bearing and stay in school longer. If so, we'll all benefit.



fell nationwide—in every state and across the races—from 1991 to 1996. The precise reason for the downward trend is unclear; some credit welfare reform, others abstinence education, others better availability of contraception. Happily, it's not due to abortion, which rate is falling too.

All this is good news, just in time for Mother's Day. But don't make too much of it. There's also bad news, and it's very bad indeed: The vast majority of teen mothers are unmarried. Less than a generation ago unwed motherhood was still the exception, not the rule; as recently as 1980 most teens who gave birth were married. No longer. Today, two-thirds of Hispanic and white teen mothers are unmarried as are an astonishing 95% of black teen mothers. The rate of unwed mothers of all ages has been on a sharp upward trajectory since the 1970s, as the nearby chart starkly illustrates.



2100 M STREET NW SUITE 300
WASHINGTON DC 20037

97 bvrk HHS
96 pres AGI

HHS - teen birth
rate HHS next
day - 29th

VPercut - 29th

PHONE: 202.261.5655

FAX: 202.331.7735

E-MAIL: CAMPAIGN@TEENPREGNANCY.ORG

WEB: WWW.TEENPREGNANCY.ORG

March 1, 1999

To: Andrea Kane
From: Sarah Brown
Re: 1999 National Campaign Anniversary Events

As in previous years, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy will hold events (outlined below) at the end of April in honor of our organization's anniversary as well as to kick off May as National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. The focus of this year's events will be on the role that positive peer influence can play in preventing teen pregnancy.

On **Wednesday, April 28 from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**, we will hold an **Honoree Reception** during which we will present awards to several individuals and groups whose work embodies key Campaign principles. Although the list has not yet been finalized, some of those we are considering honoring include 1) the South Carolina state legislature for successfully earmarking TANF funds to support local teen pregnancy prevention efforts; 2) Pat Fili-Krushel, President of ABC Television Network and Susanne Daniels, President of the WB Network, both of whom have made real commitments to teen pregnancy prevention; 3) leaders from Glendale, Arizona, the site of our recent structured community dialogue on conflict reduction and community mobilization around teen pregnancy prevention. Please note, this list is not complete and will likely number six or seven total.

On **Thursday, April 29 at 10:30am**, we will hold a **Public Forum on Capitol Hill** to formally release several new publications. Specifically, they are:

- **New research** on the important role that peer influence plays in teen pregnancy. The three-chapter study will offer some provocative findings with implications for policy makers, programmers, and parents alike. Preliminary findings that pertain to risk of pregnancy include 1) much peer influence is positive; 2) best friends are less important "influencers" than we think, it is the closest five to ten friends that matter the most; 3) when it comes to sexual debut and pregnancy risk, it matters more how old your daughter's friends are than how old your daughter is; and 4) friends' closeness to their parents is as important as a girl's relationship with her own parents.
- **Ten Things Teens Want Parents to Know About Teen Pregnancy** (a preliminary draft is attached) offers parents very practical advice on what teens say they want to know from them about sex, love and relationships. The Tips are based on what the Campaign has learned from its own Youth Leadership Team, findings of both formal and informal focus groups, readers of *Teen People* magazine, experts in the field, and interaction with teens from across the country. Appended, please find copies of the Campaign's two previous "tips" publications so that you will have a sense of what the final product will look like.

- Based on advice from the same group of people, ***Ten Things Teens Want Other Teens To Know About Teen Pregnancy*** (currently being drafted) will be an easy-to-read, visually-exciting pamphlet. Some of the themes to be included: not everybody is “doing it;” don’t let anybody pressure you into have sex; and sex without protection is stupid (a good kid word!)
- We will commission **polling** of both teens and parents of teens based on both the research findings and the tips.
- **Focus group research** on what teens themselves have to say about sexual activity and pregnancy prevention.
- Finally, the winners of a contest to create teen pregnancy prevention media ads will be announced and several contest winner will be present.

Our plan is to follow the same **press release strategy** as we have in years past. That is, we will send out embargoed materials to journalists seven to ten days in advance for release to *am papers, Thursday, April 29*. By doing this we hope to garner some attention in that morning’s papers that will, in turn, generate interest in the press conference itself also on April 29 and create stories for that days’ news cycle, including evening television. We are extremely interested in the participation of any administration principals in the honoree reception and would be willing to explore avenues where some of this material can be discussed on an embargoed basis at the reception and/or coordinate language that could be used in a press release from the White House.

**THE
NATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY**

2100 M STREET NW SUITE 300
WASHINGTON DC 20037

**DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING**

INITIALS: MM DATE: 01/17/13

PHONE: 202.261.5655

FAX: 202.331.7735

EMAIL: CAMPAIGN@TEENPREGNANCY.ORG

WEB: WWW.TEENPREGNANCY.ORG

1999 National Campaign Honorees

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is pleased to honor individuals and organizations whose work embodies goals and themes that we believe are essential to preventing teen pregnancy. This year we are presenting awards in five categories including: building common ground; involving boys and men in preventing teen pregnancy; media leadership - becoming part of the solution; solving problems through state leadership and action; and highlighting youth development as a powerful way to reduce teen pregnancy.

Theme: Building Common Ground
Honoree: Glendale Community Council

Efforts to reduce teen pregnancy often engender acrimonious debate and frequently encounter controversy when different ideologies, religious traditions, and values come up against each other. But some communities are beginning to find constructive ways to manage such conflict. In this vein, the National Campaign honors the Glendale Community Council of Arizona for their efforts to reach across differences to find and build common ground. In February of this year, the Council led a carefully structured, community-based discussion that brought together interested parties in a spirit of respect and open-mindedness. From this meeting, a set of mutually agreed upon ideas was developed on how best to tackle the problem of teen pregnancy; the Council is now translating these ideas into action. In so doing, Glendale has helped to create a model for other states and communities to help them avoid the conflicts and pitfalls that too often cloud efforts to prevent teen pregnancy.

Accepting the award on behalf of the Glendale Community Council is Mary Ann Lavine Executive Director, Glendale Community Council. She is accompanied by Norma Alvarez, Director of the Glendale Community Action Program; Alyce-Anne Meadows, Program Development Coordinator for Children, Youth and Families of the Glendale Community Council; Anthony Mrgudich, President of the Council's peer-led program — the Teens Educating Everyone Network (TEEN); and Alyssa Meadows, a member of TEEN.

Theme: Involving Boys and Men in Preventing Teen Pregnancy
Honorees: The Male Involvement Program of the Mexican American Community Services Agency, Inc. (MACSA)

"It takes two to tango," like many cliches, is a truism, but one that was too often ignored by teen pregnancy prevention programs, most of which focused their efforts almost entirely on

teenaged girls. Today, programs increasingly realize the importance of working with boys as well as girls and the Male Involvement Program of the Mexican American Community Services Agency (MACSA) is a shining example of such an effort. Operating under the motto "Help for Today, Planning for Tomorrow," MACSA's program helps young men reduce their risk of unplanned parenthood and STDs. By combining a variety of components that teach sexual responsibility and independent thinking, including formal instruction, personal counseling, and peer education, their male involvement team helps young men define manhood in a way that encourages restraint and respect for women and values fatherhood.

Accepting the award on behalf of MACSA is their Executive Director, Esther Medina; the Deputy Director, Olivia Mendiola; the Male Involvement Division Director, Enrique Arreola; Youth Educator Sammy Nunez; and teen leader Ignacio Martinez.

Theme: Becoming Part of the Solution: Media Leadership
Honorees: Susanne Daniels, President of Entertainment of the WB Network and
Pat Fili-Krushel, President of the ABC Television Network

It has become increasingly clear that we cannot hope to reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancy without harnessing the power of the media. More so than any other industry, it has the potential to change social norms and influence individual behavior. Recognizing this potential, Susanne Daniels and Pat Fili-Krushel have taken the lead in showing that television can offer enormous opportunities to educate without sacrificing entertainment value or credibility with its audience.

As the President of Entertainment for the WB Network, Ms. Daniels has been tireless in her efforts to encourage other media industry leaders — at The WB and beyond — to understand the urgency of this issue and its relevance to their work. In so doing, millions of viewers can now find starting points for discussions from their favorite shows like *Dawson's Creek* or *The Parent Hood* that they may not otherwise have had.

As the President of the ABC Television Network, Ms. Fili-Krushel has put teen pregnancy prevention in the national spotlight through ABC's daytime dramas and through its "Children First" campaign. The teen pregnancy story arc on "One Life To Live," which is now in its sixth month and still a compelling part of the show, has touched millions of viewers in a very personal, compelling way and has offered helpful messages to teens and families.

The Campaign is grateful for the leadership of Ms. Daniels and Ms. Fili-Krushel in helping millions of people understand the need to prevent teen pregnancy in a way that the non-profit sector could never do alone.

Theme: Solving Problems Through State Leadership and Action
Honoree: South Carolina Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and the South
Carolina General Assembly

National organizations focused on preventing teen pregnancy have the power to examine the extent of the problem, evaluate possible solutions, and offer advice, but it is the efforts of state

and local leaders whose work directly affects the lives of teens and their families. In this spirit, the National Campaign honors the South Carolina Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and the South Carolina General Assembly for their joint leadership in allocating \$10.5 million in surplus TANF funds to support local pregnancy prevention efforts. This welfare reform funding is available for states to use for teen pregnancy prevention at their discretion. We are particularly impressed by the fact that this legislation provides every county in South Carolina some funds for prevention efforts and that those counties with the highest teen pregnancy rates and the largest teen populations receive a greater amount of support. We also salute the emphasis on local autonomy and decision-making built into this program. We are pleased to be able to recognize their accomplishments and the way in which the private council and state legislature were able to work together for the benefit of the entire state.

Accepting on behalf of the South Carolina Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention is their President and CEO, Joy Campbell. Accepting on behalf of the South Carolina General Assembly is Senator Linda Short.

Theme: Preventing Teen Pregnancy Through Youth Development
Honoree: YWCA of the USA

For many years, efforts to reduce teen pregnancy concentrated on sex education and clinical services to help sexually active teens use contraception. More recently, there has been a growing emphasis on encouraging abstinence from intercourse altogether. But sometimes as these strategies for reducing teen pregnancy are discussed — and often argued over — a more fundamental issue is missed: that teens will *neither* remain abstinent nor use contraception carefully unless they are strongly motivated to avoid pregnancy and sexual risk-taking in the first place. That is why the field of teen pregnancy prevention has much to gain from closer relationships with youth development programs, which concentrate on supporting and encouraging young people, teaching them skills, and helping them form meaningful relationships with adults. The YWCA serves as a shining example of this practice. The National Campaign honors them for helping young women stay strong and plan for a bright, productive future. Operating out of thousands of locations in all 50 states, the YWCA reaches girls with powerful messages about youth development and leadership training — two keys to preventing teen pregnancy. Through such programs as the YW-Teen Clubs, the Peer Education in Sexuality and Health Program, and Girls Speak Out, the YWCA is providing girls and young women with a rich array of new ideas, skills and experiences — all of which can help them see clearly that adolescence must be a time for education and growing up, not pregnancy and parenthood. We are pleased to be able to recognize their hard work, sustained over many years. Accepting the award on behalf of the YWCA is their Chief Executive Director, Dr. Prema Mathai-Davis.