

MAY 20, 1997

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING
FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILY MAGAZINES

DATE: Wednesday, May 21, 1997
LOCATION: Blue Room/Grand Foyer
TIME: 3:55 p.m. Arrival
4 p.m. First Lady Briefing for the Magazines
4:30 p.m. Reception in Grand Foyer

FROM: MARIA ECHAVESTE

I. PURPOSE

You will conclude a day of briefings by top women in the Administration, Mrs. Gore and the Vice President for 32 editors and writers for women, children and family magazines. Following your briefing, you will host a reception for the magazine representatives and Administration women. The suggested topics for your focus are early childhood, child care and children's health. The day is designed to: (1) amplify the Administration's great accomplishments for women and families; and (2) showcase the star line-up of women serving in the Administration. The circulation of the magazines represented in the room will be more than 52 million.

II. BACKGROUND

The day for the magazine representatives will begin at 9 a.m. and most of the briefings will be either in the Indian Treaty Room or in Room 472. Each briefer will take Q's & A's, except the Vice President. The Vice President will be announcing in Room 450 that the U.S. Postal Service will be distributing more than 200 million postage stamp booklets with the National Domestic Violence Hotline number (1-800-799-SAFE) printed on the covers. Mrs. Gore will brief on sudden infant death syndrome.

Other briefers for the day will be:

Maria Echaveste, on the President's Apparel Industry Partnership; Madeleine Albright, an update on follow-up to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women; Donna Shalala, the Administration's initiatives to fight breast cancer and Girl Power; Carol Browner, environmental health threats to children and families; Janet Reno, the President's youth violence initiative; Alexis Herman, the Administration's initiatives to balance work and family; Judith Winston, Title IX; Carol Rasco, America Reads; Aida Alvarez, creating opportunities for women in business and SBA's role in Welfare to Work.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See attached list of magazine representtives and the schedule for the day, noting the participating Administration officials.

IV. PRESS PLAN

On the record for the magazine representatives.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

See attached schedule for the day.

VI. REMARKS

Talking points to be provided.

Attachments:

Complete Schedule for White House Briefing for Women, Children and Family Magazines

Confirmed list of magazine representatives

Domestic Violence Hotline Announcement background

White House Briefing for Women's Magazines
Wednesday, May 21, 1997
9: 30 a.m. to 5:30 a.m.
Please Arrive by 9 a.m.

Welcome/Coffee

9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Indian Treaty Room, Room 474

Old Executive Office Building

The President's Apparel Industry Partnership

9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

**Maria Echaveste, Assistant to the President and
Director of Public Liaison**

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright

10 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

Women's Health/Breast Cancer and Girl Power

10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala

Tipper Gore

10:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

20 Minute Break/Lunch

Environmental Health Threats to Children and Families

Lunch

11:20 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Room 474, Indian Treaty Room

Old Executive Office Building

EPA Administrator Carol Browner

Youth Violence

11:45 a.m. to 12:15 a.m.

Indian Treaty Room, Room 474

Old Executive Office Building

Attorney General Janet Reno

America Reads

Lunch

12:15 p.m. to 12:40

Indian Treaty Room, Room 474

Old Executive Office Building

**Carol Rasco, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Education
and Director of America Reads**

Vice President Al Gore

12:50 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Room 450

Old Executive Office Building

Labor Secretary Alexis Herman

1:35 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

Education/Title IX

2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

**Judith Winston, Department of Education General Counsel
and Acting Under Secretary**

Creating Opportunities for Women in Business/SBA's Role in Welfare Reform

2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Room 472

Old Executive Office Building

Small Business Administration Administrator Aida Alvarez

Break/Movement to East Wing

3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Mrs. Clinton
4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
The White House
Blue Room

Reception
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
The White House
The Grand Foyer

Guest List for White House Briefing for Women's Magazines
May 21, 1997

Susan Ungaro
Family Circle

Stephanie Abarbanel
Woman's Day

Janet Chan
Parenting

Susan Crandell
Ladies' Home Journal

Sally Koslow
McCall's

Kate White
Redbook

Elizabeth Crow
Mademoiselle

Rochelle Udell
Self

Mary Hickey
Glamour

Sally Lee
Fitness

Bonnie Fuller
Cosmopolitan

Donna Jackson
New Woman

Sarah Hutter
Woman's World

Linda Wells
Allure

Patricia Duarte
Latina

Pamela Abrams
Child

Meredith Berlin
Seventeen

Sarah Mahoney
Parents

Rachel Newman
Country Living
Healthy Living

Jerry Berrios
Latina Style

Roberta Myers
Mirabella

Elaina Richardson
Elle

Anna Wintour
Vogue

Judsen Culbreth
Working Mother

Stephanie Stokes Oliver
Heart and Soul

Alex Kennedy
Family Fun

Diane Salvatore
Good Housekeeping

Barbara Harris
Shape Magazine

Robin Raskin
MA Family PC

Valerie Menard
Moderna

Michelle Andrews
SmartMoney

Monique Greenwood
Essence

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

April 14, 1997

TODAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON WELCOMES TO THE WHITE HOUSE THE MEMBERS OF THE APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP TO ANNOUNCE A NEW AGREEMENT. Leaders from the footwear and apparel industry, labor, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and consumer groups have found common ground, agreeing to a Code of Conduct and independent monitoring systems that will assure Americans that the clothes and shoes they buy are made under decent and humane working conditions. The Partnership also agreed to recruit others in the industry and to develop an independent association to assure compliance and inform consumers about the Code and which companies comply.

THIS AGREEMENT FOLLOWS FROM WHITE HOUSE MEETING LAST YEAR. On August 2, 1996, the President and Vice President met with these parties to discuss the problem of sweatshops, consumer concerns, and the need to join together to address these issues. The parties formed a voluntary, industry-driven partnership that proposed to report back to the President its recommendations for action.

- Participants in the Partnership include: Liz Claiborne; Nike; Phillips-Van Heusen; Reebok; L.L. Bean; Patagonia; Tweeds; Nicole Miller; Karen Kane; UNITE; the Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union; Business for Social Responsibility; the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility; the International Labor Rights Fund; Lawyers Committee for Human Rights; the National Consumers League; and the RFK Memorial Center for Human Rights.

THE PARTNERSHIP'S AGREEMENT IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND. The agreement contains the following components:

- ✓ A Strong Workplace Code of Conduct that companies will voluntarily adopt and require their contractors to adopt, which, among other things, includes:
 - Prohibitions against child labor, worker abuse or harassment, and discrimination;
 - The recognition of workers' rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining;
 - A minimum or prevailing industry wage, a maximum 60-hour workweek, and a cap on mandatory overtime; and
 - A safe and healthy working environment.
- ✓ Independent External Monitors to conduct reviews of company policies and practices and to verify that the company is in compliance with its obligations and commitments under the Code of Conduct. Companies will also maintain an internal monitoring system that outlines the obligations each company will undertake to ensure that the Code is enforced in its facilities and its contractors' facilities both domestically and internationally.
- ✓ Commitment to Form an Association Over the Next Six Months that will (1) recruit new member companies which also will abide by the Code and implement independent monitoring; (2) develop a reliable, independent means to provide for public confidence that the above obligations are being met; and (3) develop a mechanism or seal of approval informing consumers about which companies abide by the Code and monitoring.

DETAILS ON THE APPAREL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Apparel Industry Partnership agreement consists the following:

- ✓ A Strong Workplace Code of Conduct that individual companies will voluntarily adopt and require their contractors to adopt, which includes:
 - The prohibition of employing any persons under the age of 15 (unless permitted by the country of manufacture to be 14);
 - Prohibitions against any worker abuse or harassment and discrimination;
 - The recognition and respect for workers' rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining;
 - The requirement that employers pay at least the minimum or prevailing industry wage, whichever is higher, and provide mandated benefits;
 - The requirement that workers be provided with a safe and healthy working environment;
 - A cap on mandatory overtime to 12 hours per week and the regular work week of the country (or 48 hours, whichever is less), and requiring a day off in every seven day period; and
 - The requirement that overtime be compensated for at the premium rate required in the country or at least equal to their regular hourly compensation.
- ✓ Independent External Monitors who will conduct independent reviews of participating company policies and practices, provide company employees and contractors' employees with secure communication channels to report concerns of noncompliance, audit production records and practices to ensure compliance, conduct employee interviews and site visits, and verify that the company is in compliance with its obligations and commitments under the Code of Conduct.
- ✓ An Internal Monitoring System that outlines the obligations each company will undertake to ensure that the Code of Conduct is enforced in its facilities and its contractors' facilities both domestically and internationally.
- ✓ A Commitment to Form an Association over the next six months that will:
 - Recruit new member companies which also will abide by the Code and implement independent monitoring;
 - Develop a reliable, independent means to provide for public confidence that the above obligations are being met; and
 - Develop a mechanism or seal of approval informing consumers about which companies abide by the Code and monitoring.

Fact Sheet

Highlights of State Department Activities To Promote the Advancement of Women

"We cannot advance our ideals and interests unless we focus more attention on the fundamental human rights and basic needs of women and girls. . . . If women can live and work as full and equal partners in any society, then families will flourish. And when they do, communities and nations will thrive. . . . We are putting our efforts to protect and advance women's rights where they belong—in the mainstream of American foreign policy."

—President Bill Clinton
December 10, 1996

"Advancing the status of women is not only a moral imperative; it is being actively integrated into the foreign policy of the United States. It is our mission. It is the right thing to do, and, frankly, it is the smart thing to do."

—Secretary of State Madeleine Albright
March 12, 1997

Promoting the advancement of women is an important element of U.S. foreign policy which complements the broader strategic, diplomatic, and economic interests of the United States. The State Department, in partnership with the community of non-governmental organizations, supports the efforts of the global community to protect and promote women's human rights and improve the lives of women and girls.

Integration into the Foreign Policy Process

Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues. The position of Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues was created by Congress to promote the human rights of women within American foreign policy. Under the auspices of the Office of the Under Secretary for Global Affairs, the Senior Coordinator's mandate is to integrate issues affecting the lives of

women—from violence against women and trafficking of women and girls to women's participation in democracy-building and sustainable economic development—into the everyday work of the State Department's bureaus and embassies and into the fabric of foreign policymaking.

Human Rights Report. The State Department's annual country report on human rights practices around the world now chronicles, documents and integrates issues of women's human rights. Through descriptions of issues ranging from the treatment of women in the judicial process to women's access to the economic and political levers of their societies, these human rights reports offer the most comprehensive guide to violations of the human rights of women worldwide.

Progress Reports. The State Department publishes a monthly report on the progress made since the 1995 UN World Conference on Women held in Beijing. This report highlights the numerous positive activities of both

government and non-governmental organizations in the promotion and advancement of women.

Multilateral Efforts. The United States has taken the lead in the UN Commission on Human Rights and in the UN Commission on the Status of Women to integrate the human rights and advancement of women into the mainstream of UN activities. The United States has seen that gender-specific language is included in a broad range of resolutions of the Commissions.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The State Department strongly supports the ratification of this women's rights treaty and is working with Congress for ratification.

For more information, contact:

Theresa Loar, Senior Coordinator
for International Women's Issues:

Tel: (202) 647-5440

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NGO-State Department Collaboration. Throughout the policymaking process—from embassies to Foreign Service officers to high-level State Department diplomats—the United States continuously engages in a dialogue with non-governmental organizations committed to improving the lives of women and girls.

Afghanistan. When the Taliban took over the capital, Kabul, in the fall of 1996, they instituted strict policies restricting women's employment and girls' education. The State Department denounced these actions in several public statements and in contacts with Taliban representatives. Today, the Department continues to take the lead in raising these issues in international fora, such as in UN meetings and conferences, and also directly with the Taliban.

Embassy Support for Grassroots Efforts

The on-the-ground work of U.S. embassies overseas provides a vital bridge between policymakers and the world's women. The United States supports efforts to promote the advancement of women through various embassy activities. A combination of funding and information exchange form the foundation of a process which elevates women's issues by expressing U.S. support for programs geared to the empowerment of women.

Encouraging Dialogue on the Issues. Embassies are raising key women's rights issues with host governments, women's groups, and non-governmental organizations and are devising means to energize U.S. Government efforts around the world to promote the empowerment of women.

Funding Grassroots Projects. Many embassies use discretionary funds to support grassroots efforts for the advancement of women. For example, in 1996, the U.S. Embassy in Namibia devoted its 1996 democracy and human rights discretionary funds to promote women's issues, funding six community-based programs on sexual violence against women and girls.

Political Participation And Empowerment

The promotion of democracy is a U.S. foreign policy goal. The full participation and representation of women in the political lives of their countries builds a foundation for sustainable democracy. The State Department is supporting programs aimed at politically empowering women to become involved in all aspects of political life, including voting, running for office, and advocating for political change. For example, the State Department recently provided funding to a non-governmental organization which provides women in Asia with the training and skills to run for political office.

Coordinating Humanitarian Assistance

The United States has been a leading advocate for focusing attention on the special needs of refugee women. The State Department is increasingly gearing its humanitarian assistance programs to provide women with needed services, provisions, and skills and coordinates these programs with both non-governmental and international institutions.

Funding Programs. The State Department funded \$6 million for women's initiatives in Bosnia and Rwanda in order to facilitate the rebuilding of democracy and civil society in these two countries. Furthermore, the State Department funds non-governmental programs designed to provide women refugees with services, including reproductive health services. The Bureau of Population, Migration, and Refugees supported education programs to target Afghan girls in Pakistan who otherwise would not have had equal access to education with boys.

Coordination With the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The United States has worked closely with the UNHCR to establish policies and guidelines for protection and assistance to refugee women to meet their special needs—protection against sexual and physical abuse, exploitation, and discrimination in the delivery of humanitarian

supplies and services. The State Department has funded and provided a reproductive health coordinator at the UNHCR's headquarters who manages the field testing of newly established guidelines for addressing reproductive health considerations of refugees. Additionally, the United States participates in the UNHCR Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health for refugees, which is an important coordinating mechanism.

Violence Against Women

Violence against women, in all its forms, is the most widespread and entrenched violation of women's fundamental human rights. Violence imposes high societal costs which impedes the true and sustainable development of democratic societies throughout the world. The State Department is taking an active role, in collaboration with communities and governments, in promoting the eradication of violence against women worldwide through the following type of activities.

Legal Guarantees. The United States has provided model legislation to countries overseas to help them draft comprehensive laws on violence against women, including domestic violence. Based on such model legislation, governments are instituting concrete legal protection for women.

Funding Programs. The State Department and its overseas embassies fund a variety of non-governmental and community programs on violence against women. These programs range from the establishment of shelters and hotlines to assist women victims of violence to training for police to public education efforts.

Rape as a War Crime. The United States is working with the Chief Prosecutor of the War Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia to encourage the vigorous prosecution of rape as a war crime. The United States is providing funding for programs to train Tribunal prosecutors and investigators on issues of sexual violence.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). U.S. policy is to work in collaboration with community organizations and

governments that are committed to eradicating this harmful practice. The State Department chairs an intergovernmental agency working group on female genital mutilation. This group meets regularly to discuss strategy and policy. The group includes representatives from the Departments of the Treasury and Health and Human Services, USAID, and USIA who are addressing U.S. legislation on FGM. The State Department develops country profiles on the practice of FGM for asylum adjudicators and also funds non-governmental activity aimed at alleviating the health complications that arise from the practice.

UN Special Rapporteur. The United States strongly supported the creation of a UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. The United

States is working at the current session of the UN Commission on Human Rights to renew the rapporteur's mandate.

Trafficking in Women and Girls.

The State Department—including the bureaus of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement; Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; and Population Refugees, and Migration—is working to combat the illegal trafficking of women and girls. The United States is currently involved in numerous bilateral, regional, and multilateral initiatives to protect the rights of all migrants and to help deter trafficking in human beings. For instance, in the areas of migration and enforcement, as part of an ongoing anti-crime training and technical assistance program, the State Department is hosting a joint U.S.-Russia seminar on the criminal justice issues involved in the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children.

President's Interagency Council on Women

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women. The First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is Honorary Chair of the Council, and the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues serves as Director. The President's Council is the intergovernmental body charged with U.S. implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, including the U.S. commitments announced at the Conference. The Council also develops related initiatives to further women's progress and engages in outreach and public education to support implementation of the Conference agreements. The Council includes high-level representatives from executive branch agencies. ■



The President's Interagency Council on Women

U.S. Government Follow-up to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women

March 1997 Update on Key Initiatives

This is one of an occasional series of updates providing highlights of U.S. follow-up to commitments made at the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and others made since. It also contains information on new initiatives. The Council will be issuing a comprehensive report of government follow-up to Beijing in the next few months.

PRESIDENT'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN:

On August 26, 1995, prior to the opening of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, President Clinton announced the formation of an interagency women's council. This inter-governmental body was charged with implementing the U.S. commitments announced at the Beijing Conference and with developing related initiatives to further women's progress. The President said:

"The [Women's] Conference is going to talk about education and domestic violence and grass-roots economics, employment, health care, political participation ... And we don't intend to walk away from it when it's over. I'm going to establish an interagency council to make sure that all the effort and the good ideas actually get implemented when we come back home."

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton serves as Honorary Chair of the Council. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala chaired the Council from its inception through March 1997. On March 8, 1997, the President announced that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had agreed to serve as Chair of the Council, following the strong leadership provided by Secretary Shalala. The Council includes high-level representatives from Executive Branch agencies.

On September 28, 1996, the Council sponsored a national conference via satellite to report on progress made, share what's working in local communities, and to hear from participants about their ideas to improve the lives of women and their families.

WOMEN IN THE PAID LABOR FORCE:

Working Women Count Honor Roll. The Department of Labor Women's Bureau's Honor Roll campaign resulted in over 1300 pledges from nonprofit organizations, businesses, elected government officials, labor unions, media organizations, and on-line computer services. The Final Report will be published in 1997 identifying private and public employment policies benefiting women in the areas of valuing women and women's work, balancing work and family, and fair pay (with emphasis on fair pay).

Wage Enforcement Initiatives. The Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division will work to increase compliance in 1997 in: (1) the garment industry; (2) agriculture; and (3) nursing home industry. Large numbers of women are employed in these low-wage industries where the most vulnerable people and worst violations are found. The initiatives involve a multi-pronged strategy of enforcement, education/outreach, and recognition to boost compliance rates.

Retirement Savings Education Campaign. "Save! Your Retirement Clock is Ticking," the Labor Department's retirement savings campaign, launched in 1996 in coalition with over 150 organizations, signed an agreement with the National Council of Negro Women to provide grassroots assistance and information to NCNW centers around the country and conduct future workshops. The campaign has distributed more than 2 million information booklets, developed an Internet web site (<http://www.asec.org>); sponsored a teleconference with TIAA-CREF, a coalition partner, on basic retirement planning issues; and is launching a national media campaign tailored to reach women about pensions.

Enforcement Effort to End Gender Discrimination in Compensation. The Labor Department will focus efforts at every level of the corporate ladder of Federal contractors and subcontractors. Between now and the year 2000 it will use women and men in a two-year testers initiative to determine if similarly qualified women and men are treated differently in interviewing and hiring.

Working Women's Rights. The Women's Bureau's "Don't Work in the Dark Campaign" informs working women about their legal rights, providing information on sexual harassment, family and medical leave, pregnancy discrimination, and wage, age and disability discrimination. In 1997 it will publish a major report on downsizing, analyzing the effects on employed women of downsizing, business mergers in an internationally competitive environment, and the labor force entrance of former welfare recipients. The new **Fair Pay Clearinghouse** provides publications and includes a computerized database of information on: wages and occupations, resource organizations, employer profiles, and state fair pay laws. The Internet site is (<http://www.dol.gov/dol/wb>).

UNWAGED WORK:

The Departments of Labor and Commerce have begun consultations on the construction of reliable estimates of unwaged work, exploring the applicability of information used by statistical agencies in other countries and how to best utilize U.S. expertise on time use studies. Cognitive research on time-use diaries is underway by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as is a limited pilot time-use survey to be conducted in 1997. The BLS also is developing a framework for carrying out future research on the output method of measuring non-market work. An interagency group has developed detailed descriptions of conference paper topic areas for a proposed Fall 1997 conference of experts on estimating the value of nonmarket work in order to add to the body of information that U.S. statistical agencies would need.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP:

Presidential Awards Program. The President through the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, established the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development to honor outstanding efforts in the U.S. The first Awards were presented in January, 1997 at a White House ceremony. Awards were made to different types of programs representing the broad diversity of the field of microenterprise development. Best practices from the winning programs are being disseminated.

Information on Women's Business Ownership. The Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise and the National Women's Business Council's newsletter, "The Partnership," provides information on Federal programs. The World Wide Web home page of the Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership (<http://www.sba.womeninb>) provides on-line access to opportunities. The Interagency Committee developed a Procurement Pilot Project for Women, in conjunction with SBA's Office of Government Contracting. SBA will hold training seminars for women on procurement at its district offices in the next few years.

Women's Business Ownership. The SBA's five year plan goals are: improving access to capital; enhancing education, counseling, and information; and serving as a strong advocate, particularly by providing procurement and research opportunities.

Export Assistance. The International Trade Administration is conducting an outreach effort to women's business organizations to inform them of the export assistance services offered by the Department of Commerce and to encourage members of the organizations to become active exporters.

Trade Missions. The Department of Commerce's new Women in Trade Business Development Missions are working to ensure that until women-owned businesses are represented on high-level trade missions.

Rural Women. The Department of Agriculture is expanding its outreach to women to participate in the agricultural economy. Programs such as the investment program in the Agricultural Marketing Service and commodity purchases for USDA-administered domestic and international food programs are engaging in outreach to women entrepreneurs in banking and commodity marketing. USDA is also increasing participation by women farmers/ranchers in its Small Farmer/Rancher Outreach Training and Technical Assistance Program, which is designed to improve farm incomes through better farm management and financial analysis skills.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

Implementation of the Violence Against Women Act. President Clinton established the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice to lead a comprehensive effort to fight domestic and other forms of violence by combining tough Federal laws with state and local assistance in law enforcement, victim assistance, prosecutions and crime prevention. Initiatives include:

- The National Domestic Violence Hotline nationwide, 24-hour, toll-free number (1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-787-3224 [TDD]).
- Under the S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women grant program, each state and territory has received \$426,000 in grant funding to assist police, prosecutors, and victim service providers in combating domestic violence and sexual assault. Grants of \$75,000 each went to 14 Indian tribes. By September, 1996, additional awards amounting to \$130 million had gone to all but seven states and territories.
- An interim rule published by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in May 1996 allows battered spouses and children of citizens or legal permanent residents to self-petition to become legal permanent residents themselves. This renders it unnecessary for family members eligible for permanent residency to rely on an abuser to remain in the U.S.
- Department of Health and Human Services programs under the Violence Against Women Act include grants for battered women's shelters; education and prevention grants to reduce sexual assault against women; coordinated community responses to prevent intimate partner violence; and grants to develop educational model curricula.

Spouse Abuse. The Department of Defense hosted its first conference on spouse abuse in July, 1996 focusing on prevention, intervention and research findings from DOD's study of spouse abuse. A second conference in February, 1997 reviewed current DOD policy and approaches to providing treatment when abuse occurs.

DNA Research for Paternity Determination and Rapist Identification. The Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology is conducting research in DNA standards and measurement to ensure accurate DNA measurements for use by the judicial system and law enforcement.

Female Genital Mutilation:

- As part of a priority objective to reduce violence against women, the State Department's Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues has established an inter-governmental working group on female genital mutilation including representatives from the Departments of Health and Human Services and Treasury, the US Information Agency and US Agency for International Development. U.S. policy is to work in collaboration with community organizations and governments who are committed to addressing the harmful health effects this practice.
- In June 1996, the Board of Immigration Appeals, with the urging of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, issued a precedent-setting decision that female genital mutilation may be a basis for asylum. Subject to the BIA's ruling, the INS will recognize that certain potential victims of FGM may establish eligibility for asylum and withholding of deportation.
- HHS is conducting outreach to affected communities within the U.S. to educate the public about health issues associated with FGM.
- Effective April 1997, the performance of FGM in the U.S. on girls under the age of 18 is illegal.

Guidance on Student Sexual Harassment. In August 1996, the Department of Education issued draft guidance for students titled "Sexual Harassment Guidance: Peer Sexual Harassment." Draft policy guidance is in preparation addressing issues related to sexual harassment of students by teachers and other school employees.

Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence. To address the alarming percentage of homicides as the leading cause of death on the job for women, the Department of Labor released "Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Health Care and Social Service Workers" last March. It has released draft guidelines for preventing workplace violence in the night retail industry. The guidelines are scheduled to be finalized in FY 1997. This is a voluntary incentive program, but where adopted it will have a high impact for the occupational safety and health of women in this industry.

Databases. Under the National Stalker and Domestic Violence Reduction Program, the Justice Department is awarding \$1.5 million to states for improving the processes for entering data on stalking and domestic violence into local, state and national crime information databases.

TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN:

Child Prostitution:

- The Department of Defense has issued programmatic steps for DOD training programs and requires Military Services to carry out a program that underscores the Department's commitment to combating the child prostitution industry and ensuring that no DOD personnel knowingly or unknowingly support such activity.
- In 1997, the Department of Labor's International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB) expects to provide support for two innovative programs which assist young girls at risk of being lured into prostitution. Both programs will enlist the support of a wide range of actors to combat child prostitution -- NGOs, teachers, community organizations, and local, regional and national government officials.
- The U.S. delegation to the World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children in Stockholm in August, 1996, included representatives from the Departments of State, Labor, Justice, Defense and the President's Interagency Council on Women. The delegation held productive meetings with American NGOs and is continuing to meet as a working group in Washington to explore ways to develop policy and to coordinate on these issues. It met again with the NGO community in November.
- The U.S. is currently involved in numerous bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives to protect the rights of all migrants and to help deter trafficking in persons. In the areas of migration and enforcement, for instance, as part of an ongoing anti-crime training and technical assistance program, the State Department is hosting a joint US-Russia seminar on the judicial issues involved in the trafficking of women and children.

HEALTH:

The Department of Health and Human Services has made improving women's health a top priority, taking a comprehensive, science-based approach to address longstanding inequities. HHS has established women's health coordinators in its agencies and regional offices; created the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health; and is establishing the National Women's Health Information Center. Key HHS initiatives include:

Breast Cancer:

- The National Action Plan on Breast Cancer is a coordinated national strategy to combat breast cancer through public/private partnerships. Projects have been developed to improve information dissemination, increase women's participation in clinical trials, investigate the causes of breast cancer, and improve consumer involvement in policy, research and services.
- Increased funding for research and programs from \$90 million in 1990 to over \$500 million in 1996.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program offers nationwide free or low-cost mammography screening to low-income elderly and minority women.
- The Food and Drug Administration, under the Mammography Quality Standards Act, now certifies all mammography machines in the U.S. for effectiveness.
- HHS-supported research led to the isolation of BRCA1, a gene linked to breast cancer in 5 to 10% of cases.
- HHS is working with other Federal agencies, including NASA, the Defense Department and the CIA, as well as private companies, to adapt high-tech imaging technology to improve the early detection of cancer in women.

HIV/AIDS:

- HHS has made a long-term, \$100 million commitment to research and development of topical microbicides to help women protect themselves against HIV infection. Other research includes breast feeding associated with HIV transmission; women and infants transmission study AIDS related cancers and adolescent HIV research.
- Physicians are being urged to counsel all pregnant women on the benefit of HIV testing. An informational campaign is informing pregnant HIV infected women and health care providers of the risks and benefits of ZDV (AZT) therapy.

Reproductive Health:

- **Family Planning Information and Access.** HHS supports the provision of reproductive health and family planning services to nearly 5 million people per year through the Title X program. Services include medical care related to contraception, infertility, STDs and HIV, as well as general reproductive health care and education, counseling and referral services. The program will supplement existing community-based programs to develop effective approaches for providing family planning education and services to males.
- **Teen Pregnancy.** In 1997, HHS launched its National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy -- a comprehensive plan to prevent teen pregnancies and encourage adolescents to remain abstinent. Two HHS supported programs are the Community Coalition Partnership Program for the Prevention of Teen Pregnancy and the Adolescent Family Life Program. New funding for these programs in FY 1997 will help 13 community coalition partnerships to implement their actions plans and enable communities to develop and implement about 100 abstinence-based education and demonstration projects throughout the country.
- **RU-486.** The Food and Drug Administration determined that submitted clinical data demonstrate the safety and efficacy of mifepristone -- in combination with misoprostol when used under close medical supervision -- for the termination of early pregnancy. The FDA is requiring additional data before a final approval decision.

Prevention of Nicotine Addiction Among Children and Teens. The regulations are in place to restrict the sale and distribution of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco to protect children and adolescents. These regulations include requiring age verification by photo ID by anyone under the age of 27; banning vending machines and self-service displays except in "adult" facilities where persons under 18 are not allowed; banning free samples; prohibiting outdoor advertising within 1,000 feet of schools and public playgrounds; permitting black and white text only in advertising publications with significant youth readership, meaning more than 15 percent or more than 2 million readers under 18; prohibiting sale and distribution of non-tobacco items, such as products like caps; limiting sponsorships of sporting and other events to the corporate name.

Clinical Research Trials. HHS has a continuing commitment to increasing research on women's health issues and the requirement that women be included in clinical research trials. Special initiatives include trials of hormone replacement therapy to reduce heart disease risk factors in postmenopausal women; calcium supplementation; trials of vitamin E, beta-carotene, and aspirin for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease in women. Sometimes, the topic of the study is of such relevance that the patient population will consist primarily or entirely of women, such as studies of diet, nutrition and obesity in African American women, treatment strategies for osteoporosis, effects of exercise on pregnancy, studies of premenstrual syndrome, and the effect of Norplant on risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

EDUCATION:

At-risk Women and Girls. The Department of Education is committed to these future initiatives for women and girls at risk of failure in obtaining and/or completing their education and employment training: Education and career awareness programs and opportunities; counseling and advising programs in prevention and treatment of alcohol and substance abuse, dealing with peer pressure, self-esteem; mentoring; reducing teen pregnancy and high school dropout rates.

Gender Equity:

- The Department of Education will support research on alternative school structures and their relationship to student achievement, and will continue to learn more about the nature and causes of gender inequities. It will continue to support the creation of gender-fair curricula materials and teaching techniques.
- The recently instituted Gender Equity Expert Panel will designate, disseminate and publicize promising and exemplary products, programs, and practices.

Nurturing a New Generation of Women Leaders:

- The Department of Education will establish a **Coalition on Women's Leadership** to encourage policies and practices that increase leadership positions for women. The coalition will foster collaboration among federal and state agencies, educational

- institutions, including schools of business and public administration, education associations, and other stakeholders with involvement in implementing programs in women's leadership training and professional development.
- The Department of Education and the Social Security Administration are co-sponsoring an **International Leadership Forum for Women with Disabilities** in June 1997 in Washington. The forum will address overcoming obstacles of employment, education and training, adequate health care and other issues, and will develop leadership skills. More than 300 women with disabilities from 90 countries are expected to participate.

Science Literacy. The Department of the Interior's Women's Council has established a pilot project for primary and secondary school students aimed at science literacy and natural resource management careers. The project will attach an educational component to existing initiatives, with specifics determined by local program managers, schools and communities.

HOUSING:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is working through the National Partners in Homeownership, an unprecedented public/private partnership to dramatically increase homeownership opportunity. In June 1996, the Partnership launched the Homeownership for Women (HOW) initiative. In March, 1997 it held a homeownership counseling training conference by satellite broadcast across the country that included a discussion of new and innovative ways to reach women in the homebuying process. HUD provided \$250,000 in start-up funds to design education and counseling programs for potential female homebuyers. HOW will

- Expand its toll-free line (1-888-HOME-4US) to provide information about homeownership opportunities for women;
- Create education and counseling programs, booklets, videos, and public service advertising for women homebuyers; and
- Host a working roundtable on women's homeownership for lenders, real estate and housing industry representatives, women's advocates, and government officials.

TRANSPORTATION:

Promotion of Transportation Safety and Availability. DOT's ongoing initiatives include the development of more representative test dummies (i.e., children and pregnant women); development of a "smart" airbag to protect all vehicle passengers regardless of size; and development of a strategic plan to accommodate the growing numbers of elderly, focusing on medical issues, licensing, and alternative transportation means.

Patterns for Life Campaign. Over the next three years, the Department of Transportation (DOT)'s will sponsor a national campaign to develop safety habits for the nation's children by establishing safe transportation behavior starting with an infant's first ride home from the hospital. This effort will train community workers to provide the information locally.

Second National Conference on Women's Travel Issues. DOT co-sponsored this October, 1996 event that focused on the planning and policy implications of the travel patterns, needs and attitudes of women and their families with emphasis on traditionally underrepresented or minority women and households.

ENVIRONMENT:

The Environmental Protection Agency's ongoing and future efforts include:

- Development of an interim policy to incorporate current information on how women's health is affected differently by pollution as compared to men into assessing environmental risk and setting standards;
- Initiation of an in-depth study to develop recommendations for incorporating gender differences into decisions about environmental public health risks; taking action, if appropriate, in the regulatory process to ensure adequate protection to women throughout the life cycle.
- Incorporation into policy of the results from the current high-level of research on the effects of environmental chemicals and pollution on women.
- Co-sponsorship of an Institute of Medicine workshop in 1997, with the Office of Research on Women's Health, National Institutes of Health, to evaluate data gaps in women's health and environmental toxins and set priorities for research.
- Expansion of the community right-to-know, doubling the number of chemical releases reported to the public. Seventy-eight of the 286 new chemicals on the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) may cause reproductive and developmental effects. In the future, EPA will make it easier to access this critical information by making it available on the Internet, and targeting materials on reproductive and developmental risks for distribution to gynecologists, obstetricians, and women's health networks.
- Expansion of testing of chemicals, under the new Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments and the Food Quality Protection Act, that may pose breast cancer and reproductive and developmental risk to women.

INTERNATIONAL:

Treaties:

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): The ratification of this women's human rights treaty is the Administration's top priority among human rights treaties presently awaiting advice and consent by the U.S. Senate. In December 1996, President Clinton reaffirmed his commitment to ratification and called upon the Senate to act.
- The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women: The Department of Justice approved the U.S.' becoming a signatory to this treaty of the Organization of American States. The Departments of Justice and State will continue to consult.

Foreign Affairs:

- First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in a program at the State Department in observance of International Women's Day affirmed that the advancement of women is a U.S. foreign policy objective.
- The Senior Coordinator for International Women's issues is working to integrate the issues affecting women and girls into U.S. foreign policy.
- U.S. Government representatives have met with high level officials working for the war tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda to make sure that prosecutors are trained in issues of sexual violence against women. The U.S. is supporting a workshop for tribunal investigators and prosecutors on prosecuting cases of sexual violence.
- The State Department now documents and integrates women's human rights into its annual country reports on human rights. The 1996 human rights report contains the most comprehensive reporting by the State Department on violations of women's human rights to date. It has published monthly reports on progress made as international follow-up to the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women.
- The State Department has funded two initiatives in Bosnia and Rwanda to assist women in those countries in opening their own businesses and getting back on their feet economically. These programs promote the reintegration of women into the economy through training programs, legal assistance and support for microenterprise projects.
- Many U.S. embassies use discretionary democracy and human rights funds to support grassroots efforts for the advancement of women. For example, the U.S. Embassy in Namibia devoted much of its 1996 democracy and human rights funds to programs aimed at eradicating sexual violence.
- The State Department is supporting a program to empower Asian women to overcome economic, social and political discrimination. A significant portion of the project will provide women with the skills and confidence to run for political office through the provision of training and educational programs.
- The U.S. is funding programs in Eastern and Central Europe to support fledgling NGOs, many of whom address issues of concern to women.

Development:

The Agency for International Development's activities include:

- Developing a Gender Plan of Action which includes modifying AID's strategic framework to reflect under each strategic objective the key role of women in development;
- The Women's Legal Rights Initiative helps women develop an understanding of the legal system and empower women to understand how law inhibits or promotes their participation in social and economic life. This includes the role of legal rights, especially property rights and inheritance laws, in promoting women's land tenure and ownership of housing -- all of which are key in supporting women's roles in management of the environment and sustainable agriculture. The Program now includes activities focused in Asia, the Newly Independent States and eastern Europe. It will be extended to Africa and Latin America in the next two years
- Increasing girls' primary school completion in 12 countries, and improving female literacy rates;
- Targeting \$70 million annually to assist women's microenterprise development. It focuses on providing credit, technical assistance and other financial services to women's microenterprise.

The Department of Commerce International Trade Administration provides technical assistance to community organizations in Northern Ireland in an effort to reach and assist women-run organizations to strengthen their economic capacity and establish a network of model U.S. organizations implementing successful programs in the U.S.

The Department of Agriculture is devoting agricultural extension resources to help women in Russia and Poland cope with the transition to a market economy. In Russia, training workshops have focused on family financial management, home economics, and developing alternative sources of income. In Poland, Agricultural Advisory Service women employees were among the first selected and trained to lead business planning workshops throughout the country. These women trained more than 2000 extension staff (about two-thirds women) to prepare business plans for farms and other businesses.

Communications:

Resource Page. The United States Information Agency has created an international resource page on worldwide follow-up to the UN World Conference on Women with links to relevant (NGO) sites: <http://www.usia.gov/topical/global/women/woman.htm>

Video. USIA's WorldNet produced a video of the two hour national conference via satellite "America's Commitment: The UN Women's Conference One Year Later." This conference, sponsored by the President's Interagency Council on Women, featured First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, senior women in government and leaders in women's rights. WorldNet has made it available to USIA missions.

HHS FACT SHEET

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

March 27, 1997

Contact: HHS Press Office
(202) 690-6343

Breast Cancer and Mammography

Overview: The Department of Health and Human Services supports a wide variety of programs in research, treatment and screening for breast cancer. Total HHS spending on breast cancer in FY 1997 is \$513 million for public health programs, in addition to an estimated \$280 million for mammography services paid for by Medicare and Medicaid.

Early detection of breast cancer is crucial for successful treatment, and HHS programs promote mammography and clinical breast exams. This is especially true for older women: about 80 percent of breast cancers occur in women age 50 or older, yet 40 percent of women age 50 and older have reported not having a mammogram in the past two years. HHS agencies support a number of efforts to inform women about mammography, assure high quality service, and help provide access:

- The National Cancer Institute, and other NIH institutes, provide information outreach and support broad research on breast cancer and on new breast imaging technologies*
- The Food and Drug Administration establishes quality standards for mammography facilities and certifies facilities*
- The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research has issued guidelines on the quality and delivery of mammography, and does research on mammography services*
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supports an early detection program providing access to mammography for uninsured and low-income women*
- Medicare and Medicaid cover treatment for breast cancer and for screening services. President Clinton has proposed improvements in Medicare and Medicaid coverage for mammography.*

The National Cancer Institute provides science-based guidance on the use of mammography. NCI now recommends that women age 40 and over be screened with mammography every one to two years. In addition, the institute recommends that women at higher risk of breast cancer get expert medical advice even before they are 40 about when to begin screening and about the frequency of their screening.

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed non-skin cancer in women in the United States. It is second only to lung cancer in cancer-related deaths. Approximately 180,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in 1997, and about 44,000 women are expected to die from the disease.

Between 1982 and 1987, breast cancer incidence (rate of new cases) for women increased about 4 percent per year, but recently has leveled off. The death rate for women with breast cancer declined 6.3 percent between 1991 and 1995. The greatest reductions in death rates were among younger women (9.3 percent) and white women (6.6 percent), with more modest reductions among African Americans (1.6 percent) and women age 65 and older (2.8 percent).

There are a variety of effective treatments for breast cancer, including surgery, radiotherapy, hormonal therapy, and chemotherapy.

Risk Factors

Elevated risk of breast cancer is associated with the following conditions:

- ◆ Having had a previous breast cancer.
- ◆ Laboratory evidence that the woman is carrying a specific genetic mutation or change that increases susceptibility to breast cancer.
- ◆ Having a mother, sister, or daughter with a history of breast cancer or having two or more close relatives, such as cousins, with a history of breast cancer.
- ◆ Having had a diagnosis of other types of breast disease (not cancer but a condition that may predispose to cancer) or having had two or more breast biopsies for benign disease, even if no atypical cells were found.
- ◆ Having so much dense breast tissue on a previous mammographic examination that clear reading was difficult.
- ◆ Having a first birth at age 30 or older.

Breast cancer is more prevalent in older age groups. The risk of breast cancer increases with age. About 80 percent of breast cancers occur in women age 50 or older. The risk is especially high in women over age 60. Breast cancer is uncommon under age 35. Present rates project that each year, out of 100,000 women:

- in their 30s, 43 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 8 will die of the disease;
- in their 40s, 163 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 29 will die of the disease;
- in their 50s, 263 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 59 will die of the disease;

- in their 60s, 374 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 91 will die of it.

Early Detection

Screening is a means to detect breast cancer before the onset of symptoms. High-quality mammography, with or without clinical breast exams, is the most effective technology presently available to detect breast tumors.

Several studies have shown that regular mammography screening can decrease the chance of dying from breast cancer. In addition, early detection may prevent the necessity of removing lymph nodes and in some cases may prevent the need for removing the entire breast or for undergoing chemotherapy.

Current NCI Guidance on Mammography

On February 25, the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB), a presidentially appointed committee that advises, assists, and consults with the NCI Director with respect to NCI activities and policies, began a discussion of the findings from the NIH Consensus Development Conference. NCAB members recognized the importance and complexity of the topic and decided to form a Working Group to develop clear recommendations to NCI. In late March, members of the full Board concurred with the Working Group's recommendations. These recommendations were also accepted by the National Cancer Institute.

The National Cancer Institute, following the advice of the NCAB, recommends:

- ◆ Women in their 40s who are at average risk of breast cancer should be screened every one to two years with mammography
- ◆ Women aged 50 and older should be screened every one to two years
- ◆ Women who are at higher risk of breast cancer should seek expert medical advice about whether they should begin screening before age 40 and the frequency of screening.

Along with mammograms, a clinical breast examination by a health care provider should be included as part of regular, routine health care.

Limitations of Mammography

While mammography is the best screening tool available now, early detection does not necessarily mean lives will be saved. Mammography may not help a woman with a small but fast growing tumor that has already spread at the time of detection. And about 50 percent of women whose breast cancer is detected by mammography would not have died from the cancer even if they had waited until a lump could be felt because the tumors are slow-growing and easy to treat.

Breasts of younger women contain many glands and ligaments that appear dense on a mammogram, so it is sometimes difficult to spot tumors in their breasts. About 25 percent of breast tumors are missed in women in their 40s compared to 10 percent for women in their 50s. Also, between 5 percent and 10 percent of mammograms are abnormal. Of those in younger women that are followed up with additional tests (another mammogram, fine needle aspiration, ultrasound, or biopsy) most will not be cancer. Over the past 30 years, mammography has been able to detect a higher proportion of small tissue abnormalities called ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), abnormal cells confined to the milk ducts of the breast. Some believe these tumors are not life threatening, while others think they are. Because there is so little data to support either view, the abnormalities are commonly removed surgically.

HHS is supporting a variety of research projects aimed at improving detection of breast cancer.

HHS PROGRAMS SUPPORTING MAMMOGRAPHY

Mammography Quality Standards. Under the Mammography Quality Standards Act, the FDA sets high standards for mammography facilities and certifies those which meet the standards. The roughly 10,000 mammography facilities nationwide certified by the FDA must meet quality standards for both equipment and personnel, and are inspected annually. MQSA regulations require facilities to hire capable technicians, use quality equipment that produces clear images, and employ skilled radiologists to interpret the results. The rules also require that doctors and patients be fully and quickly informed of results so that any follow-up testing or treatment can begin immediately. Resources devoted to the Mammography Quality Standards Act is \$26.4 million for FY 1997.

The names and locations of FDA certified mammography facilities are available by calling the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER. In addition, the FDA has included a list of all FDA certified mammography facilities in the United States on its internet home page. The address is <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/faclist.html>

Research To Develop Better Screening. New imaging technologies under development for breast cancer screening include magnetic resonance imaging, breast ultrasound, and breast-specific positron emission tomography. In addition to imaging technologies, NCI-supported scientists are exploring methods to detect breast cancer using simple tests of the blood, urine, or nipple aspirates, and to detect genetic alterations that place women at increased risk for breast cancer.

In addition, HHS is working with the Department of Defense, the CIA, NASA, and other public and private entities to explore ways in which imaging technologies from other fields may be applied to the early detection of breast cancer. In particular, the computer technologies that have been used to improve spy satellites may help improve breast cancer detection as well. In October, 1996, HHS awarded \$1.98 million to the University of Pennsylvania to conduct a multi-site clinical trial of imaging technology from the intelligence community -- originally used for missile guidance and target recognition -- to improve the early detection of breast cancer.

Mammography Clinical Practice Guidelines. Recognizing the importance of the quality of screening mammograms in the early detection of breast cancer, HHS' Agency for Health Care Policy and Research developed a Clinical Practice Guideline – *Quality Determinants of Mammography* – with separate versions for mammography providers, health care professionals, and consumers. The guideline provides information on the roles and responsibilities of each health care professional involved in mammography services, as well as information and recommendations for women.

Medicare and Medicaid Coverage of Mammography. Since 1991, Medicare has covered mammography screening for the early detection of breast cancer. For women age 40-49, Medicare currently covers one screening mammogram every two years, except for women with a high risk (for example, a woman with a mother, sister or daughter who has had breast cancer), in which case annual mammograms are covered. For women age 50-64, annual screening mammograms are covered; and for women 65 and older, Medicare covers one screening mammogram every two years.

President Clinton is proposing to expand Medicare coverage to include annual mammograms for all Medicare beneficiaries age 40 and over, with no coinsurance or deductible requirement.

Under Medicaid, diagnostic mammograms are a mandated service and states must cover them. Screening mammograms, however, are provided by states as an optional service, with most states covering screening mammograms in fee-for-service Medicaid. In addition, virtually all Medicaid managed care plans offer preventive services, including mammography, to their enrollees.

The Health Care Financing Administration has urged states to provide annual mammography screening to Medicaid beneficiaries at age 40; HCFA will continue to provide federal matching payments for annual mammography screening services.

National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program offers free or low-cost mammography screening to uninsured, low-income, elderly, minority, and Native American women nationwide. The resources devoted to breast cancer screening services have increased from \$42 million in FY 1993, to \$81 million in FY 1997. The program, which has been operating in an increasing number of states over the past six years, has provided screening tests to almost one million medically underserved women. In October, 1996, the program went nationwide, with funding for all 50 states.

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HHS FACT SHEET

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HHS GIRL POWER! CAMPAIGN

Girl Power! is a multiphase, national public education campaign sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to help encourage and empower 9- to 14-year-old girls to make the most of their lives. Studies show that girls tend to lose self confidence and self worth during this pivotal age, becoming less physically active, performing less well in school, and neglecting their own interests and aspirations. It's during these years that girls become more vulnerable to negative outside influences and to mixed messages about risky behaviors.

During its first phase, **Girl Power!** will combine strong "no-use" messages about tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs with an emphasis on providing opportunities for girls to build skills and self-confidence in academics, arts, sports, and other endeavors. Subsequent phases will address related issues such as premature sexual activity, physical activity, nutrition, and mental health.

To provide positive messages, accurate health information, and support for girls and those who care about them, **Girl Power!** campaign products include a diary for girls containing writings and drawings by girls ages 9-14. Also available is a **Girl Power!** Hometown Press Kit with sample media pieces, fact sheets, and radio and print public service announcements (PSAs) easily adaptable for local use. Other campaign materials include:

- NBC – "The More You Know" TV PSAs with Julianna Margulies, star of NBC's "ER"
- Print PSAs and poster featuring Dominique Dawes, 1996 Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics
- Poster displays in 500 shopping malls via 3-M Media ("Have You Got It? **Girl Power!** We've Got the Power to be Drug Free!")
- **Girl Power!** web site on the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) home page at <http://www.health.org>
- **Girl Power!** bookmarks, baseball caps, and other products

Three aspects of the **Girl Power!** campaign set it apart from past government efforts:

- The **Girl Power!** campaign recognizes that while some health messages work equally well for boys and girls, girls also need to hear health messages targeted to their unique needs, interests, and challenges.
- The **Girl Power!** campaign takes a comprehensive approach, addressing not only a range of health issues but also the erosion of self confidence, motivation, and opportunity that is all too typical for many girls during the transitional period of 9-14 years of age.

- MORE -

- The **Girl Power!** campaign is also based on research indicating that girls at the age of 8 or 9 typically have very strong attitudes about their health. According to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America's *1995 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study*, for example, the overwhelming majority of girls and boys in grades 4 through 6 believe that "using drugs is dangerous." Younger girls also tend to be more physically active than older girls. This campaign works to reinforce and sustain these positive values among girls ages 9-14.

Research shows that early adolescence is a critical transition time from childhood to adolescence. It is a time of experimentation, risk taking, and growing independence. However, girls and boys experience some aspects of early adolescence in different ways, because they encounter different social, cultural, physiological and psychological challenges. For example, research shows that among girls, puberty tends to bring a higher incidence of depression, while among boys, puberty tends to increase the occurrence of aggressive behavior. According to HHS' 1995 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, ninth-grade girls are nearly twice as likely as ninth-grade boys to have thought seriously about attempting suicide in the past year (34.4 percent versus 18.2 percent) and more than twice as likely to attempt suicide at least once in the past year (14.9 percent versus 6.8 percent).

According to the Carnegie Corporation of New York's *Great Transitions: Preparing Adolescents for a New Century*, "nearly half of all American adolescents are at high or moderate risk of seriously damaging their life chances." Substance abuse in particular is an increasing problem among girls. HHS' 1995 Monitoring the Future Study, conducted by the University of Michigan, reports that daily cigarette use among eighth-grade girls (ages 13-14) jumped 48 percent between 1991 and 1995; nearly one out of every ten eighth-grade girls (9.2 percent) is now a daily cigarette smoker. Since 1991, the rate of past-month marijuana use among eighth-grade girls has risen slightly faster than the rate among boys, rising from 2.6 percent in 1991 to 8.2 percent in 1995. Alcohol use is also too high: nearly one fourth (24.0 percent) of eighth-grade girls say they consumed alcohol in the past month. And girls are at particular risk for depression, sedentary lifestyles, sexual abuse, and other problems associated with substance abuse. Studies also show that girls tend to lose self confidence in early adolescence, and, as a result, perform less well in school and neglect their interests and aspirations.

These changes reflect, in part, a new set of messages girls can receive at this age. For example:

- Some girls who experienced adult and peer approval for demonstrating athletic abilities before puberty may be discouraged from participating in many sports once their bodies show signs of maturing.
- Girls who performed well in the classroom at ages 9, 10, or 11 often perform less well in school at age 14, and may receive less incentive to actively participate in class discussions, with many teachers giving greater attention to boys in their classrooms.

- Girls in their early teens are often encouraged to place more emphasis on their personalities, social skills, looks, and ability to please others than on developing their own interests and aspirations. Studies show, for example, that 10- and 11-year-old girls are already concerned about controlling their weight. According to HHS' 1995 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, nearly two-thirds (63.8 percent) of ninth-grade girls report attempting to lose weight in the previous month.
- Girls and boys share many of the same personal and social-environmental reasons for smoking, such as low educational aspirations, low self-esteem, risk-taking, lower socioeconomic status, and smoking by parents, siblings, and friends. However, girls appear to smoke more for social reasons than boys, who smoke more to relieve stress and to "get along" in life. Girls are also much more likely than boys to report weight control as a benefit of smoking.

The goal of the **Girl Power!** campaign is to galvanize parents, schools, communities, religious organizations, health providers, and other caring adults to make regular, sustained efforts to reinforce girls' self confidence, by providing girls with positive messages, meaningful opportunities, and accurate information about key health issues. **Girl Power!** has over 100 private and public partners, including the Elks Club, Girls Inc., the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the National 4-H Council, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the National Association of School Nurses, and Jane Cosmetics by Sassaby. Dominique Dawes, 1996 Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics, will help promote the **Girl Power!** campaign.

Under the leadership of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the **Girl Power!** campaign was developed in consultation with the many health agencies that make up HHS and with national, state, and local organizations that serve girls. However, **Girl Power!** is also a product of the girls themselves. Across the country, girls from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds shared their concerns and ideas with SAMHSA in focus groups that provided the basis for the "**Girl Power!**" slogan. As a result, the **Girl Power!** campaign combines the latest knowledge about girls' lives with messages and materials designed to be appealing to girls and to the adults who care about them.

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*Individuals and organizations who want to participate in the campaign or receive materials, can call the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) at 1-800-729-6686 (TDD 1-800-487-4889) or visit the World Wide Web at <http://www.health.org> (NCADI). **GIRL POWER!** spokespersons are available for interview. To arrange an interview, call Terri Gates at 301-443-8956.*

HHS NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, March 20, 1997

Contact: NICHD Press Office
(301) 496-5133 or
(301) 435-3457

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES EXPANDED BACK TO SLEEP CAMPAIGN TIPPER GORE TO LEAD NEW EFFORT

The Clinton Administration announced today that Tipper Gore will lead an expanded public education effort designed to help prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The national *Back to Sleep* campaign, which has already reached many parents and health professionals with the message that placing babies on their backs to sleep can reduce the risk of SIDS, will now be expanded to target grandparents, babysitters, and day care workers as well.

HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala also announced that the Gerber Products Company will help to spread the word that babies should be placed on their backs to sleep by placing the *Back to Sleep* message on its cereal boxes, in mailings to new parents, and on its toll-free information number.

Largely as a result of a 1992 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendation and the increase in awareness produced by the *Back to Sleep* campaign, SIDS deaths in the United States declined by about 30 percent between 1992 and 1995. However, many caregivers still place babies on their stomachs to sleep. In announcing her new role, Mrs. Gore emphasized the need to reach Americans who may not have heard about this new recommendation in order to ensure that the message reaching parents and other caregivers on infant sleep position is clear and consistent.

"Placing babies on their backs to sleep is one of the most important steps that caregivers can take to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, but too many people still don't know this important, simple message," said Mrs. Gore. "Together, we need to continue to spread the word that placing infants on their backs to sleep can save infant lives."

"Gerber's help will allow the *Back to Sleep* campaign to reach more families who haven't yet heard that babies should be placed on their backs to sleep," said Secretary Shalala. "We must be vigilant in continuing to spread this important message, and Gerber's involvement will allow us to do just that."

Mrs. Gore also called on public and private groups to redouble their efforts to reach populations with the highest incidence of SIDS. Mrs. Gore noted that African-American babies are 2.4 times more likely than Caucasian babies to die of SIDS, and Native American babies are 2.8 times more susceptible.

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- 2 -

Beginning in June 1997, the *Back to Sleep* message will appear on the backs of 3 million Gerber cereal boxes. The Gerber Products Company will also include the message in mailings to 2.7 million mothers of newborns. In addition, a message recorded by Mrs. Gore will play on the Gerber toll-free information number, urging parents to place their babies on their backs to sleep and to talk to their doctors for more information on infant sleep position. The message, which will play on the Gerber toll-free information number 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, is expected to be heard by about 650,000 callers.

"All told, Gerber's efforts will send the *Back to Sleep* message into the homes of about 80 percent of all parents with infants in the United States," said Dr. Daniel Vasella, President and Head of the Executive Committee for the Novartis Corporation, Gerber Products Company's parent corporation. "We are pleased to be able to help spread this critical message."

SIDS is the sudden and unexplained death of an infant under one year of age. SIDS, sometimes known as crib death, strikes nearly 4,000 babies in the United States every year. The causes of SIDS are still unclear, and it is currently impossible to predict which infants might fall victim to SIDS. Recent studies have identified almost undetectable defects in SIDS infants in a region of the brain that may control sensing of carbon dioxide, breathing, and arousal during sleep.

"Gradually, scientists are identifying the underlying problems that can signal a risk of SIDS," said Secretary Shalala. "But until SIDS is better understood and can be treated, research shows that the simple strategy of placing babies on their backs to sleep can help to reduce the risk of SIDS."

In 1992, after reviewing the available evidence, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended that, to reduce the chance of dying from SIDS, healthy babies should be placed on their backs or sides to sleep. In 1996, the AAP revised its recommendation clarifying that placing babies to sleep on their backs has the lowest risk and is preferred.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), part of the National Institutes of Health, launched the *Back to Sleep* campaign in 1994 to amplify the message that back sleeping can reduce the risk of SIDS and save lives. Major partners in the campaign, besides the NICHD, include HHS's Health Resources and Services Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the AAP, the SIDS Alliance, and the Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs.

The recent decline in SIDS deaths reflects a 12 percent drop in the rate between 1993 and 1994, and an 18.5 percent drop between 1994 and 1995, the largest annual declines and the largest

- More -

- 3 -

consecutive declines ever observed in the U.S. Further, SIDS dropped in 1994 from the 2nd to the 3rd leading cause of infant mortality, behind congenital anomalies and low birth weight/prematurity.

"The *Back to Sleep* campaign has made a real inroads into reducing infant deaths from SIDS and in reducing the infant mortality rate overall, but we must continue to spread the message," said Dr. Duane Alexander, Director of the NICHD.

Since its inception, the *Back to Sleep* campaign has worked to heighten awareness among parents and health care providers by producing and distributing brochures, posters, print public service announcements, and informational videos urging that babies be placed on their backs to sleep. The campaign has also spurred the development of state SIDS campaigns, developed a *Back to Sleep* internet web site (<http://www.nih.gov/nichd>), and established a toll-free phone number -- 1-800-505-CRIB -- that people can call to order *Back to Sleep* campaign materials.

Besides spreading the word that placing infants to sleep on their backs can save lives, the *Back to Sleep* campaign emphasizes several other steps that parents can take to help reduce the risk of SIDS. These include: making sure expectant mothers receive early and regular prenatal care; that they not smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs (unless prescribed by a doctor) during pregnancy; making sure babies sleep on firm surfaces free of fluffy bedding and soft toys or pillows; keeping babies' surroundings smoke-free; ensuring that babies don't get too warm when sleeping; contacting a baby's doctor or clinic right away when a baby seems sick; ensuring that babies receive their shots on schedule; and breastfeeding.

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***NOTE: Radio public service announcements and actualities from Mrs. Gore on SIDS and the *Back to Sleep* campaign will be available on the HHS Radio News Hotline from March 20 through April 4, 1997. Radio feeds can be reached by calling (202) 690-8317 or (800) 621-2984.

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

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Community Right-to-Know: Provided communities with new access to more information about chemicals released into their air and water. Issued Pollution Disclosure Executive Order requiring federal contractors to inform the public about pollution. Launched new labeling and disclosure programs to help consumers use household products safely and protect against lead paint hazards. Required over 6,000 new facilities -- in seven industrial sectors -- to begin reporting on toxic releases in local communities.

Revitalizing Communities: Accelerated the cleanup of brownfields -- abandoned, contaminated urban property -- by removing 30,000 sites from the Superfund list, clearing the way for local redevelopment while protecting the green areas outside our cities. Communities from Cleveland to Sacramento are gaining new jobs, new tax base, new hope with nearly \$20 million in seed grants awarded to 113 brownfields projects. Proposed a targeted \$2 billion tax incentive, expected to leverage \$10 billion in private sector brownfields investment. Expanded commitment to redevelopment at some 5,000 additional brownfield sites, with a \$300 million federal investment in communities and \$165 million in loan guarantees.

Safe Water: Signed Safe Drinking Water Act, based on Administration proposals, including new tough health standards, consumer right-to-know, and first-ever funding for communities to upgrade drinking water treatment. Set first-ever toxic water quality standards for all of the Great Lakes, which provide drinking water for 23 million Americans. Negotiated consensus plan to protect the San Francisco Bay Delta, source of drinking water for two-thirds of Californians and irrigation for 45 percent of American fruits and vegetables. Announced bold new plan to protect Everglades.

Safe Food: Signed food safety law -- setting a protective, comprehensive, health-based standard for all the pesticides, all risks, all foods. Law embodies President's proposals set forth four years ago.

Toxic Waste Clean-Up: Accelerated cleanup of toxic waste dumps by 20 percent and significantly reduced the cost. Completed more cleanups in four years than in previous 12 years of the Superfund program; pledged cleanup of two-thirds of worst toxic waste sites by year 2000, doubling the pace of cleanups.

Clean Air: Cut toxic air pollution from chemical plants by 90 percent. Through tough enforcement of the Clean Air Act, millions of Americans in dozens of cities are breathing cleaner air that meets public health standards.

Safer Incineration: As part of the Clinton Administration's "safety-first combustion strategy," EPA proposed the toughest public health standards ever for toxic air pollution from hazardous waste incinerators and cement kilns and issued new requirements for municipal incinerators that will result in a 99 percent reduction in emissions of cancer-causing dioxin.

Enforcement: Collected the largest fines in history from polluters charged with endangering public health and environment. Launched new compliance assistance program to help honest business owners comply with environmental laws.

Reinventing Government: Announced innovative new ways to achieve greater environmental results at less cost. Clinton Administration reforms have eliminated 16 million hours of paperwork for business and communities -- the equivalent of returning 400,000 work-weeks back to the private sector, at a cost savings to industry of \$480 million over the past 2 years.



Department of Justice

The Administration's Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Legislation

President Clinton's "The Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Act of 1997" offers a balanced approach to gangs and youth violence -- one that is both tough and smart. The Act invests substantial new resources in after-school initiatives and other similar efforts aimed at getting or keeping young people on the track to success. It targets gangs, gun crimes and illegal gun markets, and drugs. Finally, it redesigns and refocuses the way in which the federal government provides support for state and local efforts to fight juvenile crime.

- ◆ New laws to better safeguard against misuse of guns by requiring a lock to be sold with every gun and prohibiting violent juvenile offenders from possessing guns as adults

- ◆ Gangs: \$200 million over two years for 1000 new gang-fighting initiatives in prosecutors offices across the country
 - ▶ New prosecutors for a gang unit
 - ▶ Staff support for a violent youth or gang task force
 - ▶ Equipment to keep and share information about gangs and gang members
 - ▶ Programs to get young offenders back on the right track
 - ▶ Programs to target repeat offenders

- ◆ Youth Violence Courts: \$50 million to expedite and more effectively handle violent juveniles in the court system
 - ▶ Unified family and juvenile courts
 - ▶ Expedited dockets for violent juveniles
 - ▶ Systems for assessment and appropriate referral for violent juveniles
 - ▶ Special courts/programs to deal with violent offenders involved with guns or drugs

- ◆ New laws to fight gangs and protect the witnesses who want to testify against them
 - ▶ Enhanced pre-trial detention for persons accused of gang and other violent crime
 - ▶ New offense of conspiracy to intimidate or retaliate against a witness or informant
 - ▶ New penalties for persons who cross state lines to intimidate or retaliate against a witness or informant in a federal or state prosecution.

- ◆ **New laws to more streamline the federal prosecution of the most violent juveniles**
 - ▶ Prosecutorial discretion to transfer juvenile offenders to adult criminal court
 - ▶ Expand list of serious felonies for which a juvenile can be prosecuted as an adult

- ◆ **“At-Risk Children Initiative”: \$75 million for truancy, school violence, and other, similar programs aimed at getting kids or keeping kids on the track to success**
 - ▶ Truancy prevention initiatives
 - ▶ School violence reduction programs
 - ▶ Dispute resolution training programs
 - ▶ Substance abuse programs

- ◆ **After-school programs: \$62 million for programs to keep kids off the streets and give them worthwhile things to do after school, on weekends and during the summer (Note: Program administered by DoEd and HHS.)**
 - ▶ Mentoring initiatives
 - ▶ Sports and arts programs
 - ▶ Student tutoring
 - ▶ Teen pregnancy prevention counseling

- ◆ **A complete redesign and refocusing of the federal government’s grant-making to state and local jurisdictions for the purpose of fighting and preventing juvenile crime, violence and drug use**
 - ▶ Enhance coordination and streamline operations to better focus on youth crime
 - ▶ Strengthen research and evaluation to identify effective programs
 - ▶ Assist communities in replicating effective programs
 - ▶ Assist communities in developing new strategies
 - ▶ Support improvement in state and local practices, for example, increased collaboration and aftercare
 - ▶ Greater flexibility to meet more clearly defined goals

THE AMERICA READS CHALLENGE: THE INITIATIVE

American students are competitive on international comparisons when it comes to literacy, but too many young people are struggling through school because they have not mastered essential and basic reading skills. Research demonstrates that if students cannot read well by the end of third grade, their chances for success are significantly diminished, and they have a greater likelihood of dropping out or engaging in escalating delinquent behaviors. In 1994, 40 percent of America's fourth graders failed to attain the basic level of reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. In response, the President announced the Administration's commitment to mobilizing public and private resources to help all our children to read well.

The America Reads Challenge asks every American to identify what role he or she can play -- professionally and personally -- to help all of our children to read independently and well by the end of third grade. While remaining sensitive to the unique learning needs of each child, we must work hard to instill in each of them, and in ourselves, high expectations for their reading skills.

Study after study finds that sustained individualized attention and tutoring after school and over the summer, when combined with parental involvement and quality school instruction, can raise reading levels. Teachers, principals, and librarians play a key role by strengthening reading in school and extending learning through after-school, summer, and weekend programs. Parents and other concerned individuals in local communities, including the private sector, are equally valuable as tutors, mentors and reading partners. Engaging parents, educators, and the broader public to address this reading challenge together is the first step.

Several strategies are essential for helping our children learn to read:

Create More After School, Weekend and Summer Learning Opportunities To Supplement Classroom Instruction in Reading

Even when students receive the very best in-class instruction, some will always need extra time and assistance to meet the high levels of reading skills needed in school, in the workplace, and throughout life. The fundamental purpose of the America Reads Challenge is to enable parents and educators to complement and expand existing successful literacy efforts to help many more children increase their skills and achievement levels, and to provide children who need additional help in reading with extended learning time.

Research demonstrates that tutoring increases a child's reading achievement, confidence and motivation, in addition to a sense of control over his or her reading ability. Tutors -- whether they are volunteers, peers, cross-age tutors or professionals -- produce positive results.

The America Reads Challenge will build on, expand and initiate thousands of local efforts to

improve reading. It will also build upon nationwide efforts such as:

- **Read!Write!Now!:** With 50 reading and literacy groups, the Department of Education designed this summer program in 1994 to help fight the "summer reading drop off." The program encourages children to read 30 minutes a day at least once or twice a week with an older reading partner, get a library card and use it, and learn a new vocabulary word a day. Local libraries, Title I schools and youth groups such as the Girl Scouts and Boys and Girls Club of America will help sponsor sites for this summer program -- expected to reach 1.5 million children.
- **Corporation for National Service:** National service grant programs that engage volunteer tutors in literacy efforts are working in hundreds of communities nationwide. This focus will continue to increase as all branches of national service -- AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America and the Senior Corps -- make childhood literacy a higher priority in their grant process.
- **Federal Work Study (FWS):** Colleges and universities throughout the nation will receive a 35 percent increase in Federal Work-Study funding beginning in July of 1997. President Clinton has challenged all colleges and universities to join The Honor Roll, by pledging 50 percent of their FWS increase for tutoring pre-school through elementary school children in reading. In exchange, Secretary Riley will waive the requirement for these colleges to match 25 percent of the funds for FWS students who serve as reading tutors. The goal is to enlist at least 100,000 college students to help with reading.
- **America Reads Challenge Legislation:** The Administration is proposing legislation that will launch the first nationwide effort to supplement classroom instruction in reading with high-quality volunteer tutoring, primarily after school and during summers. If enacted, the proposal would fund the start up or expansion of community partnerships among schools, libraries, community organizations, businesses, youth-serving groups and local literacy projects, among others, working to help children with reading. In addition, the legislation would create Parents as First Teachers grants to support programs that underscore the importance of parents staying involved in their children's lives as they make the transition into their school years.

Strengthen Parent Involvement and Our Nation's Investment in the Early Childhood Years, So That Our Children Develop Readiness Skills for Learning to Read by the Time They Enter School

Parents are their child's first and most important teachers beginning at birth. Every parent and caregiver can participate in simple daily activities with their babies and toddlers to teach them about language and to prepare them better to learn to read. Research shows that parents and

caregivers can engage in exercises to foster development of the necessary skills in their child, and parents and caregivers can work together to ensure that each child has the proper foundation for reading skills. Many local parent and community efforts across the country give examples of how successful parent and caregiver programs can be developed; however, there is far more need than programs currently available. The America Reads Challenge seeks to reinforce the importance of skill-building activities for children beginning at birth, and of programs that encourage and support parent involvement in these activities.

Early childhood researchers, along with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Corporation for National Service, have developed a kit called Ready*Set*Read that summarize ideas for parents and caregivers to help their young children develop and improve their language skills. The kit includes an activities booklet, a calendar of suggested daily activities, and a growth chart that identifies language skills many children can perform during each growth period.

Furthermore, a number of existing Federal resources and programs already delivering services to families with young children or involved in parent education and skills training can be strengthened in order to educate better and assist families with early childhood development and early literacy skills. For example:

- **Head Start Expansion:** One million 3- and 4-year olds will be reached through the expansion of Head Start programs, already a part of President Clinton's balanced budget
- **Even Start Expansion:** Additional investments are included in President Clinton's balanced budget plan to expand and strengthen family literacy efforts.

In addition, **Parents As First Teachers Grants** would support efforts that help parents who want to be active partners with their children as they transition into school, and throughout their education experience.

Bring Best Practices Into the School and Classroom

Teacher Preparation: Teachers often report they would like to be better prepared to teach reading in the classroom, and that they would like additional support and training from reading experts and professional development programs throughout their careers. Working with exemplary teachers and successful local reading programs, the Department of Education will identify examples to improve teacher development in reading instruction for experienced and beginning teachers.

As of May 16, 1997 (1:55pm)

Principal Leadership: In addition to teachers, principals are critical leaders in our schools and in our efforts to meet our children's education needs. While principals are often leaders in community efforts, many have expressed a desire for additional leadership training and development to prepare them better to work with communities to link reading efforts outside of school with in-class instruction. America Reads will participate in efforts with the Department of Education and principals around the country to support efforts to expand principal leadership training.

Strengthening of Title I: Additional investments are included in President Clinton's balanced budget plan to expand efforts to strengthen reading instruction during the regular school day.

Highlight Successful Reading Programs: As a part of this effort to bring best practices into our schools, strong reading programs will be identified based on current research and the findings will be disseminated. Three areas of particular focus will be children in poverty served by Title I, children with disabilities served by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and children who speak English as a second language.

Promote Greater Public Awareness and Local Partnership Building

The America Reads Challenge will encourage states and communities to form literacy partnerships among schools, libraries, youth-serving groups, businesses, public and private agencies and other community organizations, and to build on them where they already exist.

America Reads will use all available resources to raise awareness about what each of us can do to help our children learn to read well and independently by the end of third grade, beginning at birth.

Support Research and Evaluation

America Reads will continue to support research and evaluation in a range of critical areas related to reading and early childhood development. Dissemination of up-to-date research findings to a wide audience remains a priority. Research findings by the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development, for example, have been incorporated into materials used to improve reading for children with reading problems. Research on after-school tutoring and successful in-school instruction in reading for the U.S. Department of Education are being used in the America Reads Challenge. In addition, the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council report on prevention of reading difficulties in children will be completed by mid-November 1997.



Department of Justice

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FACT SHEET IMPLEMENTING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT May 21, 1997

OVERVIEW

The Violence Against Women Act, enacted as part of President Clinton 1994 Crime Act, represents a fundamental change in our criminal justice system's response to crimes such as domestic violence and sexual assault. For the first time, the federal government has adopted a comprehensive approach for fighting violence against women, combining a broad array of legal and practical reforms.

The Act provides a substantial new commitment of federal resources -- more than \$1.6 billion over six years -- for police, prosecution, prevention, and victim service initiatives. Perhaps the most important change is one of strategy. The Act promotes a coordinated approach to dealing with violent crimes against women by encouraging unprecedented cooperation and collaborative efforts at the federal, state and local levels.

CHANGES IN FEDERAL CRIMINAL LAW

Under the Violence Against Women Act, interstate domestic violence and harassment are now federal offenses. The law provides for the interstate enforcement of restraining orders. It outlaws the possession of ammunition and firearms by persons who are subject to restraining orders. The Violence Against Women Act already has been used for nearly 30 federal prosecutions, complementing prosecutions that are taking place at a state and local level. The law does not federalize all cases of domestic violence or sexual assault. Rather, it provides a useful new tool for federal, state and local prosecutors.

ASSISTING POLICE, PROSECUTORS AND VICTIM ADVOCATES

The Justice Department's STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Grant Program assists law enforcement officers and prosecutors in developing better strategies to combat domestic violence and other violent crimes against women. Since 1995, more than \$300 million has been distributed to states and territories for law enforcement and victim services designed to combat domestic violence and sexual assault. The STOP Grant Program promotes a coordinated approach -- with incentives for states to pool the expertise and resources of law enforcement, prosecutors, courts and victims' advocates.

THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

The 24-hour, toll-free, National Domestic Violence Hotline -- 1-800-799-SAFE -- provides crisis assistance, counseling, and local shelter referrals to victims across the country. It was unveiled by President Clinton in February of 1996 and in its early months, the hotline received over 30,000 calls -- far exceeding expectations. The hotline was established by the Violence Against Women Act and is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.

USING COMMUNITY POLICING TO FIGHT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On June 20, 1996, President Clinton announced \$46 million for a grant program to utilize community policing to combat domestic violence. The program is administered by the Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office. More than 300 jurisdictions have received grants through this program for innovative community policing strategies aimed at curbing domestic violence. In addition, the Justice Department has distributed \$7 million to fund rural domestic violence programs, and \$46 million has been awarded to 122 communities to encourage mandatory arrest policies for the primary aggressor in domestic violence cases.

TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR JUDGES, PROSECUTORS AND POLICE

The Office of Justice Programs, as part of its mandate to oversee the effective expenditure of grant funds, has joined in cooperative agreements with organizations such as the National District Attorneys Association, the Police Executive Research Forum, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, to develop training workshops and provide information to criminal justice professionals in every area of the country.

ENSURING THAT PROTECTION ORDERS ARE HONORED

In February of 1996, Attorney General Reno announced a pilot project in Kentucky to test interstate and intrastate verification systems for street level enforcement of protection orders. The Justice Department has also entered into a cooperative agreement with the Battered Women's Justice Project to develop a resource clearinghouse and models on how states are implementing full faith and credit. In addition, DOJ will fund a task force created by the Conference of State Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators focusing on full faith and credit.

WORKPLACE AWARENESS EFFORTS

President Clinton signed an executive memorandum on October 2, 1995 requiring all federal departments to begin employee awareness efforts on domestic violence. The Justice Department distributed more than 90,000 copies of a domestic violence awareness booklet entitled "Stop the Cycle of Violence." The Department sponsored an information fair and leads the Interagency Working Group on Violence Against Women to encourage greater efforts on the part of other executive branch agencies.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Under the direction of Attorney General Reno and Bonnie J. Campbell, Director of the Violence Against Women Office, the Justice Department has worked aggressively to educate the public about the problems of domestic violence and sexual abuse. The Attorney General and Director Campbell have traveled extensively to meet, work and speak with those on the front lines throughout the country. In April of 1997, Campbell was selected by *Time* magazine as one of "1997's 25 Most Influential Americans" in recognition of her work to raise public awareness of domestic violence.

The Department has created a Violence Against Women Home Page on the internet, and distributes a newsletter on the Violence Against Women Act for community-based organizations throughout the country. In addition, the Violence Against Women Advisory Council, which reports to the Attorney General and Secretary Shalala, created a community checklist on domestic violence and sexual assault and distributed it to more than 10,000 groups throughout the country.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM VIOLENT SEXUAL OFFENDERS

The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, enacted as part of President Clinton's Crime Act, was amended by the federal Megan's Law, signed by the President on May 17, 1996. Under these statutes, sex offenders and child molesters must register information about their whereabouts with appropriate state law enforcement agencies for ten years after release from prison, and state prison officials must notify local law enforcement when they are released. States must notify the general public when a particularly dangerous sex offender moves into their community. In August 1996, Attorney General Reno responded to President Clinton's request for a plan to create a national registry to track sex offenders, including rapists and child molesters. An interim registry is now in place, permitting law enforcement to check on the criminal histories of offenders registered in other states.

CONCLUSION

By committing new federal resources and focusing attention on these issues, the Violence Against Women Act is working to insure that the nation's criminal justice system responds to the needs and concerns of women who have been, or could be, victimized by violence. In every area of the country, programs and activities are underway that were not in place three years ago, efforts ranging from new specialized prosecution and law enforcement units to expanded services for previously underserved women. Prosecutors have new tools and victims have more protection. Working together as partners, federal, state and local law enforcement are taking critical steps to combat domestic violence and sexual assaults.



National Domestic Violence Hotline

A Project of Texas Council on Family Violence

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

1-800-787-3224 (TDD)

Embargoed until 12:45pm
May 21, 1997

Contact: Sherry Ettleson, 202/223-9729 ext. 102
Cyndy Perkins, 512/453-8117

Postal Service Joins National Hotline to Stamp Out Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence Hotline Number To Go On 200 Million Books of Stamps

Washington, D.C. -- Victims of domestic violence will soon have access to help right in their purses, wallets or desks as Vice President Al Gore today announced a new campaign to put the toll-free National Domestic Violence Hotline Numbers (1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-787-3224 (TDD)) on the inside covers of 200 million 32-cent stamp booklets. He was joined by Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK), and Ellen Rubenstein Fisher, the Director of the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

"With an estimated 1,300 women killed each year by their husbands, ex-husbands, or boyfriends, and three to four million women each year who silently endure abuse, it is vital that anyone who needs help can get it and get it easily," said Ellen Rubenstein Fisher, Executive Director of the National Domestic Violence Hotline. "With the Hotline phone number on 200 million books of stamps, millions of women will now know where to go to seek help to escape violent homes," added Fisher.

"Most domestic violence victims and concerned family and friends that call the Hotline have never before asked for help. Because of the efforts of the Postmaster and others, help will be as accessible as the nearest post office or grocery store," said Fisher. "This effort should inspire businesses, government agencies, and private organizations to publicize the Hotline number through their own marketing efforts and informational materials," added Fisher.

The Hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, toll-free from anywhere in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. One call to the Hotline at puts the caller in touch with staff who speak English and Spanish. Hotline staff also have access to translators in 139 languages.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline, established in early 1996 in Austin, Texas, answers approximately 8,000 calls per month. Hotline staff and volunteers provide victims and concerned family and friends with crisis intervention, information about domestic violence, and referrals to local shelters and other service providers. Since the Hotline opened 15 months ago, over 107,000 callers have been assisted.

The stamp-book campaign grew out of a bi-partisan effort led by Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) and Ted Stevens (R-AK) to have a postage stamp that focuses attention on the crisis of domestic violence and the 24-hour, toll-free Hotline available to victims. The Hotline receives federal funds that are matched with private funds from corporations, foundations, individuals and organizations.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SEXUAL HARASSMENT GUIDANCE FACT SHEET
WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING FOR WOMEN'S MAGAZINES

May 21, 1997

Judith A. Winston
Acting Under Secretary and General Counsel

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex in any education program or activity that receives federal financial assistance.

It has been the Department's longstanding position that *sexual harassment of students is a form of sex discrimination* -- whether engaged in by school employees, other students, or third parties such as a visiting speaker or visiting athletes: *Sexual harassment can interfere with a student's academic performance and emotional and physical well being. It undermines an essential mission of schools to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory learning environment for all students.*

On March 13, 1997 the Department of Education published *sexual harassment guidance* in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The Guidance provides, for the first time, a comprehensive and accessible guide to the longstanding standards the Department uses to investigate and resolve sexual harassment complaints; it applies to every level of education. The Guidance also addresses recent court decisions involving sexual harassment of students.

The Guidance instructs *school personnel, parents, and students* regarding:

- What conduct is, and is not, sexual harassment under Title IX.
- Under what circumstances schools will be liable for sexual harassment under Title IX.
- How schools should respond to information or complaints regarding sexual harassment in their programs or activities.

The following important issues are discussed in the Guidance:

- Title IX gives *schools flexibility to respond appropriately to sexual harassment* depending on the circumstances involved, including the age of the students and the severity of the conduct.
- The Guidance also explains that *not all behavior with sexual connotations is sexual harassment* under Title IX: In order to violate Federal law, sexual harassment must be sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that

it adversely affects a student's education or creates a hostile or abusive educational environment.

- *Nor is the Guidance intended to discourage appropriate physical contact in schools:* Title IX's prohibition of sexual harassment does not extend to nonsexual conduct such as a coach hugging a student who made a goal, or a teacher hugging a young student with a skinned knee.
- Title IX *does not ban flirtation:* As the Guidance makes clear, in order to be considered sexual harassment the conduct must be unwelcome. To evaluate whether the conduct was welcome, schools should look at the totality of the circumstances.
- *A school is liable under Title IX for peer sexual harassment only where it knows or should have known of the harassment but fails to take appropriate steps to remedy the hostile environment.* Title IX does not make a school responsible for the actions of the harassing student, but rather for its own discrimination: If one student subjects another student to severe, persistent, or pervasive sexual harassment, and the school knows about it, but does not stop it, the school forces the victim of harassment to endure a sexually discriminatory environment in order to obtain an education.
- The Guidance clearly states -- and illustrates through examples -- that when taking actions in response to sexual harassment *a school must protect academic freedom and other free speech rights.*

INTERNET:

A copy of the Guidance can be obtained on the Internet at:
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/sexhar00.html>.

In addition, the Department's sexual harassment pamphlet -- Sexual Harassment: It's Not Academic -- can be obtained at:
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/ocrshpam.html>.

Magazine Invite List, Confirmed

(1) Susan Ungaro

Editor-in-Chief

Family Circle

110 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10011

ph. (212) 499-1986

fax (212) 463-1808

Circulation: 5 million

(2) Stephanie Abarbanel

Senior Articles Editor

Woman's Day

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New York, NY 10019

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fax (212) 767-5610

Readership: 4.5 million

(3) Janet Chan

Editor-in-Chief

Parenting

1325 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10019

ph. (212) 522-9808

fax (212) 522-8750

Circulation: 1.1 million

(4) Susan Crandell

Executive Editor

Ladies' Home Journal

125 Park Avenue, 20th Fl.

New York, NY 10017

ph. (212) 455-1052

Readership: 17 million

(5) Sally Koslow

Editor-in-Chief

McCall's

110 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10011

ph. (212) 499-1723

fax (212) 463-1403

Readership: 4,284,939

(6) Kate White

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Redbook

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ph. (212) 649-3477

fax (212) 582-3054

Readership: 13 million

(7) Elizabeth Crow

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Mademoiselle

350 Madison Avenue, 7th Fl.

New York, NY 10017

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fax (212) 880-8254

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(8) Rochelle Udell

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fax (212) 880-8499

Circulation: 1,160,000

(9) Mary Hickey

Editor-in-Chief

Glamour

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ph. (212) 880-8140

fax (212) 880-7767

Circulation: 2.1 million

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Editor-in-Chief

Allure

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fax (212) 867-8508

Circulation: 735,693

(15)Particia Duarte

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