

# public affairs update

## Abortion Rate & Teen Births Up in PA

Recent Pennsylvania Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data should set off alarms about unintended pregnancy. PA statistics show an increase in the abortion rate. Statistics released from the CDC show an increase in the teen birth rate in the Commonwealth and across the country.

Several studies published this year found abstinence-only programs are ineffective. Most notably, the congressionally funded Mathematica, Inc. study found no delay in sexual activity among teens in these programs, and receive education solely designed to delay sexual activity.

In the last decade, more than 1 billion dollars have been wasted on dangerous abstinence-only programs. Instead of providing much-needed information on sexual health, contraception and condoms, and responsible decision-making, these programs deny teens access to the information that can help them protect themselves.

It's time to put our resources toward realistic solutions that help prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, such as fully funding family planning services and ensuring that teens receive comprehensive sex education that stresses abstinence but also teaches the full benefits of contraception. For more information, contact the Public Affairs Department at 215.351.5510 or [publicaffairs@ppsp.org](mailto:publicaffairs@ppsp.org).

## 35th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

The 35th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision, legalizing abortion nationwide, is one of the most powerful reminders that the struggle to protect women's health and safety continues. Reproductive freedom is still a political target for extremists, and the battle isn't just being waged over abortion, but over access to contraception and medically accurate sex education.

The Roe case not only dealt with the issue of abortion, it dealt with the larger issue of "the right to privacy" paving the way for items such as HIPAA (keeping health care records private). Reproductive healthcare in all its forms, including abortion, is essential to healthy families, children, women, and men.

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 Planned Parenthood®  
Southeastern Pennsylvania

# public affairs update, cont.

## 16 and counting. Will PA be next?

Last month, New Mexico and Arizona became the 15th and 16th states to refuse federal funding for abstinence-until-marriage programs.

Several studies published in 2007 found abstinence-only programs to be ineffective. However, more than \$1.5 billion has been wasted on abstinence-only programs that do nothing to teach our teens responsibility. Despite the proven effectiveness of comprehensive, medically accurate sex education, no federal program is dedicated to supporting real sexuality education.

A 2007 national opinion survey shows the vast majority of Americans support real sex ed. Fully 76% of voters want to see U.S. public schools teaching comprehensive sexuality education – including majorities of Democrats (83%), Republicans (66%), Independents (76%), Catholics (78%), and evangelical Christians (60%).

The Centers for Disease Control just reported that teen birthrates are on the rise across the country. An estimated 750,000 teenagers will get pregnant this year and approximately four million will contract a sexually transmitted infection. With 16 states now rejecting these dangerous and wasteful funds, will Pennsylvania be #17?

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## Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Public Affairs Phone Banks at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
February 5th, 12th, 19th, 20th & 26th - 5:00-8:00pm
- Public Affairs Phone Bank at PPSP: 1220 Powell Street, Norristown  
Thursday, February 7th - 5:00-8:00pm
- Public Affairs Training at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
Saturday, February 9th - 10:00am-4:00pm
- Public Affairs Phone Banks at PPSP: 216 W. State Street, Media  
February 11th & 25th - 5:00-8:00pm
- National Condom Week: February 14-21, 2008
- Volunteer Night at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
Wednesday, February 20th - 5:00-7:30pm

*To RSVP or for information about these or other PPSP events, contact the Public Affairs Department at [publicaffairs@ppsp.org](mailto:publicaffairs@ppsp.org) or 215.351.5585.*