

public affairs update

CDC Study Shows Need for Real Sex Ed

Last month, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released a new study finding at least 1 in 4 teenage girls nationally has a sexually transmitted infection (STI). This is the first study to evaluate teen girls aged 14 to 19. Close to half of all African-American girls were found to have a STI. The study showed that more than 3 million teenage girls had at least one of the four most common STIs: HPV, chlamydia, trichomoniasis, and herpes.

This news emphasizes the need for real comprehensive sex education. The national policy of promoting abstinence-only programs is a \$1.5 billion failure, and teenage girls are paying the real price. Teenagers need to know how to protect themselves against STIs and unintended pregnancy. They need the right information to make responsible decisions.

Fortunately, the word is getting out. Iowa just became the 17th state to reject federal funding for dangerous abstinence-only programs. It's time to put money toward real solutions that will help prevent sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies among teenagers. Will Pennsylvania join Iowa in rejecting wasteful funds that endanger our teens?

UW Researchers report: Sex Ed Works!

Researchers at the University of Washington analyzed records of 1,719 heterosexual teenagers aged 15-19 to compare the effectiveness of comprehensive sex education and abstinence-only programs.

UW researchers found that teens who received comprehensive sex education were 60% less likely to report a pregnancy than teenagers who received no sex education – and 50% less likely than the abstinence-only group. According to UW's News, "There was also a strong trend indicating that those who received comprehensive education were less likely to engage in sexual intercourse compared to those who received no sex education." The findings were published in the April issue of the Journal of Adolescent Health.

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 Planned Parenthood®
Southeastern Pennsylvania

public affairs update, cont.

Pennsylvania's *SelectPlan for Women*

On February 1, 2008 Pennsylvania became the 28th state to implement a Medicaid Waiver for family planning services. This *SelectPlan for Women* will significantly expand access to comprehensive family planning services for more than 100,000 uninsured adult women across the state.

Services provided include family planning office visits, FDA-approved methods of contraception, screening for breast and cervical cancers, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV testing.

The goal of the program is to improve the health of women in Pennsylvania while decreasing Medical Assistance costs related to pregnancies and births. Several studies have found that family planning waiver programs generate substantial cost savings. *SelectPlan for Women* is good public health and wise fiscal policy.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Public Affairs Phone Banks at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
April 2nd, 8th, 21st, 28th, 29th, 30th & May 1st - 5:30-8:00pm
- Volunteer Night at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Wednesday, April 16th - 5:00-7:30pm
- Public Affairs Training: Advocating for Reproductive Rights
Haverford College: 370 Lancaster Avenue, Haverford, PA
Saturday, April 26th - 10:00am-4:00pm
- 12th Annual Spring Gathering
Keynote Address by Dr. Kenneth C. Edelin
Moore College of Art & Design, Philadelphia, PA
Monday, May 5th - 5:00-8:00pm
- Outreach & Tabling Training at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Tuesday, May 13th - 5:30-8:00pm

To RSVP or for information about these or other PPSP events, contact the Public Affairs Department at publicaffairs@ppsp.org or 215.351.5585.