

public affairs update

Teen Birth Rate Rises

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) release of the 2006 teen birth rate statistics confirmed what reproductive health care advocates know: the United States is facing a teen pregnancy health care crisis, and the national and state policy of abstinence-only programs just isn't working.

According to newly released CDC data the rate of teen births nationally rose by 3% overall – the first increase in the teen birth rate since 1991 and identical to the rate of increase in the Commonwealth. Meanwhile the birth rate by unmarried mothers rose to 38.3% of births in 2006.

Nationally, more than a billion dollars has been spent on unproven abstinence-only education programs. Senator Specter earmarks millions of dollars in abstinence-only funding for Pennsylvania, despite recent studies showing that abstinence-only programs have no impact on teen sexual behavior.

The U.S. has the highest teen pregnancy rate among the most developed nations. Congress and state officials should put the right foot forward and immediately cease funding for dangerous abstinence-only programs that deny young people information about how to prevent pregnancy, protect their health and make responsible decisions. For more information contact the Public Affairs Department at publicaffairs@ppsp.org or 215.351.5510.

National Cervical Cancer Screening Month

January marks National Cervical Cancer Screening Month. Experts estimate about 11,150 cases of cervical cancer were diagnosed in the U.S. in 2007. Every year, about 4,000 American women die of the disease. Two types of the human papilloma virus (HPV), which affects one in four women, are the most common causes of cervical cancer.

Approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2006, the HPV vaccine is designed to prevent the types of HPV that cause most cases of cervical cancer, the second-leading cause of cancer deaths among women worldwide.

Cervical Cancer Screening Month is the perfect time for women to talk with their doctor or health care provider about how they can best protect themselves from cervical cancer. Regular condom use also significantly reduces the risk of contracting the types of HPV that cause nearly all cervical cancers.

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 **Planned Parenthood**[®]
Southeastern Pennsylvania

public affairs update, cont.

Two Victories Scored in Budget Bill

Planned Parenthood scored two victories in the domestic budget bill that President Bush signed into law on December 26. The new budget provides the largest increase in Title X family planning funding since 2000, a \$16.8 million increase from the previous year. The final budget for Title X, the nation's family planning program, will be \$299.9 million dollars.

In addition, the final budget bill allocated no additional funds for dangerous abstinence-only programs that deny teens information about how to prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. This is positive news for America's teens, as federal funding should be directed toward comprehensive sex education programs that will keep teens healthy — by including information about abstinence as well as contraception, healthy communication, responsible decision making, and prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

The final budget bill is a positive step for preventive and reproductive health care. We finally have Congressional leadership that recognizes the power of prevention in protecting women's health. The best way to prevent unintended pregnancies and promote healthy families is to invest in family planning programs like Title X, and ensure more women and families have access to reproductive health care and comprehensive sex education programs.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Patient Escort Training at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Monday, January 7th - 5:30-7:00pm
- Volunteer Night at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Wednesday, January 16th - 5:00-7:30pm
- 35th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade: January 22, 2008
- Public Affairs Phone Bank at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
January 23rd and 28th - 5:00-8:00pm
- Public Affairs Phone Bank at PPSP, 1220 Powell Street, Norristown
Thursday, January 31st - 5:00-8:00pm

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