New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition  
November 30, 2011  
Sylvia Ruiz, Executive Director 
Adolescent Births and Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention in New Mexico 

Mission: NMTPC is dedicated to providing programs and activities directed at reducing teen pregnancy, addressing the negative consequences of teen pregnancy and improving outcomes for teen parents in New Mexico
New Mexico Teen Birth Rates

In 2008 New Mexico realized the second highest birth rates to teens 15-19 year olds, and highest in the nation in birth rates to teens 15-17 years old in the nation.

The overall decline in NM’s teen birth rate is comparable to the decline in the US teen birth rate.
From 2000-2009, birth rates for Hispanic teens in NM decreased by 22%
NM teen birth rates decreased by 32% from 1998 to 2009
Teen birth rates and poverty
Per capita personal income
Children under 18 living in poverty
Children living in poverty are at higher risk for teen pregnancy
Other risk and protective factors include:
- Alcohol/drug use
- Peers’ pro-childbearing attitudes or behavior
- Perceiving more personal and social benefits of having sex
+ Greater parent/child communication about sex & condoms or contraception
+ Greater connectedness to school
+ Greater perceived negative consequences of pregnancy
Strategies for teen pregnancy prevention

Since 2006, The New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition and the NM Department of Health have recommended five effective strategies

- Family Planning Services
- Service Learning Programs
- Adult-youth communication programs
- Comprehensive sex education
- Male involvement programs
Strategies for teen pregnancy prevention

- **Family Planning Services** offer access to confidential reproductive health services at low or no cost.
- **Service learning programs** include community based volunteer service and curriculum-based discussions and activities.
- **Adult-youth communication programs** give adults information and skills to communicate effectively with young people about reducing risky sexual behavior.
- **Family planning education programs** like Cuídate! teach that abstinence is the best method for avoiding STIs and pregnancy, and also teach about the use of condoms and contraception.
- **Male involvement programs** for prevention efforts specifically targeting boys and young men.
State & Community Partnership

There is a role for all of us in teen pregnancy prevention in New Mexico

**State Government:**
- Improve collaboration
- Recruit community-based partners to implement TOP
- Focus efforts and resources
- Focus on Hispanic youth

**Tribal Government:**
- Provide leadership to state and community partners
- Implement culturally appropriate health care strategies

**Local Governments / Communities**
- Work with school boards
- Plan with area organizations, faith community, youth organizations, schools, businesses and media
- Develop local programs and services
State & Community Partnership

There is a role for all of us in teen pregnancy prevention in New Mexico

Health Care Providers / Organizations
- Emergency contraception
- Increase youth access to clinical services
- Confidential family planning services

Businesses/Worksites
- Provide opportunities

Families/Individuals
- Options for the future
- Be an available, “askable” parent/adult
- Raise expectations

Educational Systems
- Provide opportunities to improve teaching effectiveness
- Support teen parents
Challenge to Reduce the Teen Birth Rate in NM

PAST CHALLENGES TO REDUCE BIRTH RATES

"CHALLENGE 2005 FROM 1998-2003
20% REDUCTION FOR 15-19 YEAR OLDS"

"CHALLENGE 2010 FROM 2006-2010
15% REDUCTION FOR 15-17
AND 15-19 YEAR OLDS"
Challenge 2015

Reduce the birth rate among females 15-17 and 15-19 by 10% 2011-2015

• 2006-2008 baseline average birth rate for 15-17 year olds - 33.2
• 2007-2009 current average birth rate for 15-17 year olds - 31.6
• First year results for 15-17 year olds:
  A 4.8 % reduction from the baseline to the current average birth rate for 15-17 year olds

• 2006-2008 baseline average birth rate for 15-19 year olds - 57.9
• 2007-2009 current average birth rate for 15-19 year olds - 55.0
• First year results for 15-19 year olds:
  A 5 % reduction from the baseline to the current average birth rate for 15-19 year olds
In conclusion: Success! NM teen pregnancy prevention strategies work.

These strategies and partnerships have worked to reduce teen births in New Mexico.
Mission: Dedicated to Providing Programs and Supporting Activities Directed at Reducing Teen Pregnancy, Addressing the Negative Consequences of Teen Pregnancy and Improving Outcomes for Teen Parents in New Mexico.

The New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition (NMTPC) is committed to encouraging an ongoing, coordinated and well-planned approach to teen pregnancy prevention.

NMTPC provides New Mexico with the best and latest information, training and research on teen pregnancy prevention.

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• New Mexico Young Fathers Program
• Young Men’s Mentoring Project at Capshaw Mid School
• Websites: www.nmtpc.org and www.younafathers.org
• Monthly Electronic NEWS FLASH
• Newsletters, Data and Statistics
• Conferences and Trainings
• Youth Art and Video Contest
• Scholarships to pregnant/parenting teens or teens involved in teen pregnancy prevention who attend post secondary or vocational schools
• Hispanic Community Outreach
• Statewide Technical Assistance & Training to Communities and Organizations
• Plain Talk: a project in Albuquerque’s South Valley as well as the Mesquite, Vado, Del Cerro, Hatch Rincon, and Salem communities in Dona Ana County, which mobilizes communities and adults to create local solutions.
• In collaboration with Dona Ana County, Health and Human Services Department development of a comprehensive adolescent teen pregnancy program that addresses the root causes of adolescent pregnancy in teenagers and young adults in Dona Ana County
• Challenge 2005 Research Study
• Challenge 2005 & Challenge 2010
• Implemented the Teen Outreach Program /Changing Scenes to over 200 youth in Deming, Taos, and the Southeast Quadrant of Albuquerque. Currently have sites at South Valley, Albuquerque, Gadsden Middle School, Gadsden High School, and Del Cerro Community Center in Dona Ana County.
• Cuidate Curriculum implemented in Bernalillo and Dona Counties
• Raices y Alas Curriculum statewide

Selected Publications

• Bridging Our Past, Present & Future: Teen Pregnancy in New Mexico, A Report to Policy Makers and Communities, 11/03
• 10 Facts About Teen Pregnancy (single page fact sheet) 12/03
• Hispanic Resource Directory, 2003
• New Mexico Teen Parent Programs Directory, 2003
• Meeting the Challenge 2005: How to Reduce Teen Pregnancy in Your Community, a manual
• TUNE IN: New Mexico Attitudes on Sex Education, 1/01
• Future Voices: Teen Parents and Their Children in New Mexico, 2000