



G-CAPP Policy and Advocacy News

Survey Results Released for Georgia's Teen Centers

The State Office of Adolescent Health and Youth Development (AHYD) has 31 teen centers located throughout the state that provide preventative health services, health education, community referrals and youth development activities to youth who are at high risk of teen pregnancy. Last year, a survey was administered at a sample of centers to gain information about who is using the teen centers and why they come. Among the survey's key findings are, for the teens who use the centers:

- the centers are where they receive the majority of their reproductive health services
- the centers come in second only to schools as the most important source of health education
- mental health issues, such as depression, are common
- over 14% had been forced to have sex against their will at some point
- among those teens who are abstinent, the most common reason for abstaining from sex was not wanting to get pregnant.

A summary of the results can be found in the September 2006 edition of the "[Georgia Epidemiology Report](#)".

Effects of Advertising on Adolescent Health

The American Academy of Pediatrics released a [policy statement](#) in this month's issue of the journal *Pediatrics*, that links advertising with health problems in children such as obesity, anorexia, underage drinking and early sexual initiation.

New research shows that teenagers' exposure to sexual content in the media may be responsible for earlier onset of sexual activity. The AAP report also points to the use of overly-thin female models in advertising, which may contribute to a distorted body image and eating disorders in young girls.

The Academy is calling on Congress to place limits on commercial advertising on children's programming and on alcohol and tobacco ads, is recommending that community groups and local school boards implement media education programs to help children and adolescents become critical media viewers, and is encouraging parents to report complaints directly to advertisers.

Georgia Ranks 42nd in National Health Rankings

In an annual report released by the United Health Foundation, Georgia ranked 42nd among the states in overall health, based on factors such as personal behaviors, community environment, and public health policies. According to the report, Georgia's strengths include high immunization coverage for children and moderate per capita public health spending.

Our state's challenges include a low high school graduation rate (we rank 49th on this measure), a high percentage of people without health insurance, and a high percentage of children living in poverty. Georgia also continues to have a relatively high infant mortality rate, although the rate improved slightly from the 2005 report, and we have had a 36% decrease in the infant mortality rate since 1990. Click [here to see the full report](#).

G-CAPP Fast Fact

Young people view more than 40,000 ads per year on television alone, not counting ads on the Internet, in magazines and in schools.

Source: [The American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (G-CAPP)
100 Auburn Avenue, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: 404.524-2277
Fax: 404.523.7753
www.gcapp.org

[Save the Date for the G-CAPP Annual Legislative Reception: Thursday, February 8, 2007, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Georgia Freight Depot.](#)