

National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

By Jane Stueve, Adolescent and School Health Consultant

The ninth annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy will take place on May 5. Special attention will be brought to preventing teen pregnancy during the month of May.

The purpose of the National Day is to focus teens' attention on the importance of avoiding teen pregnancy and other serious consequences of sex. On the National Day, teens nationwide will be asked to visit www.StayTeen.org to participate in a number of online activities—including a quiz—that deliver teen pregnancy prevention messages and challenge them to think carefully about what they might do “in the moment.” The message of the National Day is straightforward: Sex has consequences.

For this year's National Day, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unwanted Pregnancy will launch a Stay Teen Block Party game. This game tests teens' knowledge on teen pregnancy prevention, sex myths, relationship issues and much more through a series of nine challenging and fun trivia puzzles. Teens ages 13-19 will also be able to enter a drawing for an iPod Touch by completing the game. Go to www.StayTeen.org to participate.

If you are teaching students to think carefully when they are “in the moment,” consider using this free information and fun game. Plan to reinforce the message that sex has consequences and encourage all teens you know to participate.

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unwanted Pregnancy reports the following findings from last year's quiz evaluation survey:

- 74 percent said the Quiz made them think about what they might do in such situations
- 61 percent said the Quiz made the risks of sex and teen pregnancy seem more real to them
- 56 percent said they'd learned something new from the Quiz about the consequences of sex
- 62 percent said they'd talk to their friends about the situations described in the Quiz
- 53 percent said the Quiz made them think about things they hadn't thought about before
- 59 percent said some of the situations in the Quiz were things that they or their friends had faced
- 45 percent said they'd talk to their parents or other adults about the situations described in the Quiz

One-half (50 percent) of the respondents reported taking the quiz as part of a school activity and 35 percent said they took the quiz at home. Nearly one-third of teens (31 percent) learned about the quiz from a parent, teacher or another trusted adult. More than one-quarter (27 percent) of teens learned about the quiz from one of our National Day partners.

For more information on the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unwanted Pregnancy report visit www.thenationalcampaign.org/national.

Positive Charge

By Lana Kraus, RADAR Clearinghouse and Youth Engagement Specialist, Kansas Family Partnership, Inc.

Kansas Family Partnership under the direction of Maria Torrez Anderson and Kansas Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Coordinator has released information on a new program they are initiating called "Positive Charge." This is a new campaign combating alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse with Facebook. The campaign is taking place twice per year, April 26-30 and in October.

The Kansas Student Leadership Council (SLC) for Kansas SADD wanted to change the stereotype that "everyone is doing it." The SLC was motivated by data in the 2009 Communities That Care Survey that showed most Kansas students do not use alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

To kick off the Positive Charge Campaign, each SLC member will post a message on their Facebook profile page and the Kansas Family Partnership's (KFP) Fan Page, explaining why he/she chooses to be free of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Messages will include a brief explanation of the campaign and a request for others to post the same message on their profile.

Ideally, the message will spread and anyone who logs into Facebook the last week of April will see that many Kansas youth are making healthy choices and saying no to negative peer pressure.

Kansas Health Foundation awarded the SLC a grant to help fund the campaign. Money from this grant will be used to mail informative flyers and DVDs to Kansas high schools. T-Shirts will be made to help promote the campaign and Kansas high school students are encouraged to submit their message to be printed on the campaign shirts in October.



The SLC group hopes being a positive influence and encouraging drug-free behavior will help other Kansas youth stand against negative peer pressure. Positive Charge will be promoted through KFP Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/kansasfamily, the KFP website at www.kansasfamily.com, e-mail, YouTube and Twitter.

You are welcome to join the KFP Facebook Page and encourage youth to join to learn more about the Positive Charge program. Become an active citizen by addressing the issues of underage drinking, impaired driving, drug use and other destructive decisions and killers of young people.

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