

## DHD#10 RECOGNIZES NATIONAL TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

May 18, 2023 – May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month (NTPPM) and District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) wants to bring awareness to the importance of education and contraception use. Although sexual intercourse at earlier ages has decreased since 1988 and contraceptive use has increased since the 1990s, there is still work to be done.

“While May is a critical time to consider teen pregnancy and how it impacts individuals and the community,” said DHD#10 Community Health Director Christy Rivette, “it is important to note that this issue is one to focus on year-round.”

According to the Office of Population Affairs (OASH):

- In 2019, 38.4% of all high school students reported that they have had sexual intercourse.
- Adolescents ages 15-24 account for nearly half of the 20 million new cases of STIs, also called sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), each year.
  - No STI is harmless, and many can cause infertility and even death if left untreated.
- Roughly 40% of sexually active males and nearly half of females reported that they or their partner did not use a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse.
- Only 50% of teen mothers receive a high school diploma by 22 years of age.
- Teen childbearing cost taxpayers at least \$9.4 billion in 2010 due to increased health care and foster care.

Despite historic declines in rates of teen pregnancy and births in the United States, and a 4% reduction in the teen pregnancy rate in Michigan, the US teen birth rate is still higher than that of many other developed countries. Michigan has the 32nd highest teen pregnancy rate in the country. In spite of this progress, it is important to continue to see disparities by race, ethnicity, and in the most vulnerable populations—including youth who are homeless, living in foster care, or involved with the juvenile justice system—compared to the general population.

DHD#10 is here to help you learn about birth control- both hormonal methods (such as the pill) and barrier methods (such as condoms).

Teens who are interested in finding a birth control method that works for them, will meet with a nurse first, this is called an education session. Then, you will meet with a clinician who will prescribe the type of birth control that meets your needs.

Call 888-217-3904 and select option #2 to make an appointment at your local DHD#10 office.



### MEDIA CONTACT

Nicholas Eckhart  
Public Information Officer  
O: 616-500-0246  
C: 575-405-9082  
E: neckhart@dhd10.org



### COUNTIES SERVED:

Crawford  
Kalkaska  
Lake  
Manistee  
Mason  
Mecosta  
Missaukee  
Newaygo  
Oceana  
Wexford



[www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org)



[www.facebook.com/DHD10](https://www.facebook.com/DHD10)



[districthealthdept10](https://www.instagram.com/districthealthdept10)

If you're interested in receiving free mail-order condoms and you live within our 10 counties, please fill out the confidential form here: <https://www.dhd10.org/mail-order-condoms/>.

To read more about pregnancy support visit: <https://www.dhd10.org/parents-families/pregnancy-support/>.

###

