



Latino Initiative Update Number 12 February 6, 2009

Dear Latino Initiative Advisory Group Members,

¡Feliz mes del amor y la amistad! It's been an exciting year so far here at the National Campaign and in Washington, DC. Our public policy team is looking forward to working with the new administration to promote and implement effective, research-based policies to prevent teen and unplanned pregnancy.

As we mentioned in our holiday e-gram, we are seeking a new Public Policy Director, so if you know any qualified potential candidates, please forward the job description (below) their way or send them to the [Job Opportunities](#) page of our website. Note that the closing date for applications is February 13, 2009.

Click [here](#) to download the description, or cut and paste the following link into your web browser:

http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/about-us/PDF/PolicyDir_1.28.09.pdf

LATINO INITIATIVE NEWS

I. Media

Washington Hispanic

Reporter Felipe Lagos interviewed Latino Initiative Senior Manager Ruthie Flores for an article titled “Hubo un aumento en embarazos adolescentes latinos” (Increase in teen pregnancy among Latinos), which appeared in the *Salud* section of the *Washington Hispanic* on January 23, 2009. The article discusses the increase in the national teen birth rate between 2005 and 2006, and the likelihood that the birth rate will increase in 2006-2007 as well. It also discusses the relationship between teen sexual abuse and unplanned pregnancy, and cites the significant age difference between teen girls and their boyfriends as a major factor that can increase the likelihood of teen pregnancy, referring to our study with Child Trends. Potential changes in teen pregnancy prevention policy under the new Administration are also addressed. Ruthie points out that as a Senator, President Obama supported and took a leadership role with regard to unplanned pregnancy initiatives including the Communities of Color Act, along with Congresswoman Hilda Solis. She also emphasizes the important role that parents and other adult family members can play in educating Latino youth about sex and the risks of too-early pregnancy. The article is [posted](#) in the Media section our website under “En Español.”

WAMU 88.5 FM

On January 30, 2009, LIAG member Alvaro Simmons appeared on Metro Connection on WAMU 88.5, an NPR affiliate run out of American University. The show, hosted by David Furst, focused on teen pregnancy rate changes, teen pregnancy in the Latino community, and teen pregnancy in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Visit WAMU's website to listen to the segment:

Teen Pregnancy on Rise Among Latinos—<http://www.wamu.org/news/09/01/30.php#24878>

II. New Media

Jóven del mes—approximately once per month the Latino Initiative’s MySpace blog will feature a young person who is doing exceptional things and waiting to start a family. Our first Jóven del mes was a Hispanic College Fund scholar named Brenda Lopez who is the first in her family to go to college. We hope you’ll take a moment to [read Brenda’s post](#) and that you’ll check out February’s [Jóven del mes entry](#) featuring our very own [Youth Leadership Team](#) member Laurisa Rodrigues! If you know any special jóvenes who might like to be featured, please ask them to contact me or Ruthie Flores (rflores@thenc.org; 202.478.8504) for more information, or send a message through MySpace:

www.myspace.com/latino_initiative

III. Presentations

Bridging Two Worlds: Working with the Latino Community to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and Improve Reproductive Health

On January 15, 2009, Ruthie Flores and Katy Suellentrop presented on a webinar hosted by NACCHO and CityMatCH as part of the [Emerging Issues in Maternal and Child Health \(EMCH\) series](#). The presentation focused on national data on behaviors and attitudes about teen pregnancy and related issues among Latinos in the United States. The presentation also included a discussion of programs that have been found effective in preventing teen pregnancy among Latino youth. In addition to a presentation from the National Campaign, Lori Casillas from the Colorado Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting, and Prevention discussed current activities to reduce rates of teen pregnancy among Latinos in Colorado, and Jocelyn Martinez from the Denver Teen Pregnancy Prevention Partnership focused on teen pregnancy prevention activities among Latino youth in the city and county of Denver.

Over 260 people registered and participated in the webinar. According to a follow-up survey, 99% of participants reported that the webinar successfully achieved the goals of raising awareness of the unique reproductive health needs of Latino teens, providing maternal and child health leaders and practitioners with selected intervention strategies and resources, and sharing a collaborative, community approach to Latino teen pregnancy prevention.

IV. 2006 Birth Data

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) released state birth data for 2006 and we have updated two of our fact sheets—[Nationwide Trends for Latina Teen Birth Rates](#) and [Latina Teen Pregnancy and Birth Rates by State](#)—accordingly. Visit our Latino Initiative [Resources page](#) to download the updated fact sheets.

It doesn’t seem very long ago that we had our 2008 LIAG meeting, but with so many busy schedules to coordinate, we wanted to get an early start for 2009, so **we have scheduled our next in-person LIAG meeting for Thursday, October 22, 2009. Please save the date!** Details about the meeting will follow in due course but in the meantime we’d like to give you plenty of notice.

As we said in the last update, please let us know if you would like to write a blog post for the [National Campaign](#) or the [Latino Initiative](#). And as always, please contact me or Ruthie (rflores@thenc.org; 202.478.8504) if you have any questions or news to share.

Gracias y saludos,

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