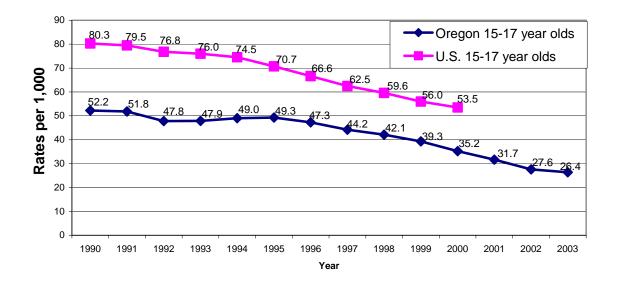
ANNOUNCEMENT: "Building on Success Towards a Healthy Future"

In early 2005, the Governor approved a proposal for a new permanent, statewide Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Sexual Health Partnership (TPP/SHP) to create a new strategic action plan for Oregon. The mission of the group is: "A commitment to the development of and access to programs, creation of resources, and advocacy for policies that assist young people in the prevention of unintended pregnancies by building healthy relationships and making informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health."

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Action Agenda has provided a comprehensive framework guiding the efforts and success of Oregon's communities from 1997 to the present. The State's teen pregnancy rate has consistently been lower than the national rate and the State has made great progress in reducing it even further over the past decade. Among 15-17 year-olds in Oregon, the pregnancy rate fell almost 50% between 1990 and 2004.

Oregon and National Teen Pregnancy Rates, 1990 - 2003



The TPP/SHP, which includes community and state partners, is charged with developing recommendations for the next phase of teen pregnancy prevention and adolescent sexual health in Oregon by promoting education and services focusing on the state's young people and their overall well-being.

An intensive planning process is underway with the goal of acquiring input from across the State on teen pregnancy prevention and adolescent sexual health. This process will include a strong youth voice. This information will be used as a foundation, along with current research, to development our new State plan.

There are many opportunities for your involvement and input: You can:

- Take the statewide survey for youth and adults (go to www...
- Participate in community forums that will take place in the following counties....
- Attend conference and meeting presentations to learn more
- Learn more about local Youth Action Research Pilot Projects in Deschutes, Jackson and Multnomah counties

We look forward to the opportunity to work and collaborate with our local communities. Together, we can develop comprehensive strategies that reflect the needs of all youth in Oregon. Please contact Judy Fightmaster for more information: (971) 673-0242 or judy.k.fightmaster@state.or.us.