



Healthy Teen Network

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES
OF TEENS AND YOUNG FAMILIES

Dear Colleague,

Healthy Teen Network is pleased to present three new publications that support our continuing efforts to ensure access to comprehensive health education and services for all youth. We recognize that addressing issues of child maltreatment, interpersonal, and family violence is an essential part of promoting healthy behaviors among youth.

Since 1968, research has identified the unmistakable link between childhood sexual abuse and teen pregnancy. In the re-released report, *Interpersonal Violence and Adolescent Pregnancy: Prevalence and Implications for Practice and Policy*, co-authors Sally Leiderman and Cari Almo bring together recent research and present findings that help define the extent of the problem, and outline program and policy implications.

Research also tells us that boys are exposed to child maltreatment and family violence at rates similar to girls, suffer different types of violence than girls, and experience their own gender-specific responses. As authors Abby Kahn and Pat Paluzzi discuss in the 2006 report, *Boys Will Be Boys: Understanding the Impact of Child Maltreatment and Family Violence on the Sexual, Reproductive, and Parenting Behaviors of Young Men*, young male survivors are prone to certain sexual, reproductive, and parenting behaviors because of their exposure, such as higher rates of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection, perpetrating violence among their own families, and more.

If we are ever going to rid our culture of violence against young men and women, we must know about it; talk about it; promote community understanding about it; join with other local, state, and national advocates; and infuse our programs, policies, and laws with our combined knowledge. The new brochure, *Widening Our Lens*, presents a comprehensive strategy to address the impact of child maltreatment, interpersonal, and family violence on youth.

These three publications are designed to inform the work of practitioners, program planners, evaluators, researchers, youth advocates, legislators, and leaders of community-based coalitions and task forces. Healthy Teen Network members and constituents have long known about the prevalence and effects of physical, sexual, and emotional violence on the young women, men, and their children with whom we work and about whom we care so deeply. Because of your work in this field, we believe that you too will find these publications informative and thought-provoking.

We urge you to take the time to review these three new publications and then join us in fighting abuse among all of our children, so that they may grow into healthy adults, nurture healthy families, and break the cycle of abuse. Let each of us strive to ensure that every young person has the opportunity to feel accepted and supported, to reach his or her potential, and to live a full, healthy, and rewarding life – *for we are all affected*.

For more information about these efforts, or to learn how you can partner with Healthy Teen Network to disseminate these publications, please contact Abby Kahn at Abby@HealthyTeenNetwork.org or (202) 547-8814.

Best regards,

Pat Paluzzi, CNM, DrPH
President and CEO
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