

**Res. 04-13**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive sexuality education aims to provide accurate information about human sexuality, provide an opportunity for young people to question, explore and assess their sexual attitudes, help young people to develop interpersonal skills, and help young people exercise responsibility regarding sexual relationships, including addressing abstinence, how to resist pressures to become prematurely involved in sexual intercourse, and encouraging the use of contraception and other sexual health measures;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive sexuality education respects the diversity of values and beliefs represented in the community and assists youth in understanding a positive view of sexuality, providing them with the information and skills to care for their sexual health and to make decisions now and in the future;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) strongly supports the use of evidence-based information to guide all aspects of public health and evidence has shown that condoms are effective in reducing exposure to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, as well as pregnancy, when used consistently and correctly;<sup>2,3</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, science and practice indicate that to focus exclusively on abstinence and/or mutual monogamy as methods of prevention does not serve high-risk populations or the public's health;<sup>2,4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the prevalence and incidence of HIV/AIDS and STIs are disproportionately high in youth, African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, men who have sex with men (MSM), and intravenous drug users (IDUs) and, increasingly, women;<sup>5,6</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, unintended pregnancies also disproportionately affect young women of color;<sup>7,8,9</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, evidence-based programs have demonstrated that effectiveness of such interventions is dependent on their being linguistically and culturally tailored to the intended audience;<sup>10,11</sup>;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NACCHO supports the use of evidence-based, comprehensive sexuality education programs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NACCHO supports federal policy that assures access to complete, accurate, and science-based information appropriate to each population at risk; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NACCHO calls for the elimination of Congressional, federal, state and local requirements that public funds be used for abstinence-only education, and advocates that states and local school districts fund comprehensive and age-appropriate sexual

and reproductive health promotion and education, including condom availability programs in schools; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NACCHO advocates for sexual and reproductive health promotion and education policy and funding mechanisms that are flexible and allow for multi-faceted and linguistically and culturally-appropriate programs that address the needs of the populations served.

*Proposed by Community Health and Prevention Committee and HIV and Other Infectious Diseases Committee*

*Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors*

*November 7, 2004*

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<sup>1</sup> Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States. *Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. 1996.  
[www.siecus.org/school/sex\\_ed/guidelines/guide0000.html](http://www.siecus.org/school/sex_ed/guidelines/guide0000.html).

<sup>2</sup> NACCHO. Resolution 00-12:Resolution on Evidence-Based Public Health. (2000).

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. *Condoms and Their Use in Preventing HIV Infection and Other STDs*. Atlanta, GA: Author, 1999, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. *Male Latex Condoms and Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. Atlanta, GA: Author, 2002.  
[www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/facts/condoms.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/facts/condoms.htm).

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General. *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Sexual Health and Responsible Behavior*. July 2001.  
[www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/sexualhealth/call.pdf](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/sexualhealth/call.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Collins, MPP, Alagiri, P, & Summers, SF. (2002). Abstinence only vs. comprehensive sex education: What are the arguments? What is the evidence? Policy Monograph Series—March 2002: AIDS Policy Research Center & Center for AIDS Prevention Studies and AIDS Research Institute, University of California, San Francisco.

<sup>6</sup> National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *HIV/AIDS Statistics*. January 2004.  
[www.niaid.nih.gov/factsheets/aidsstat.htm](http://www.niaid.nih.gov/factsheets/aidsstat.htm).

<sup>7</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*. 2002;14:1-40.  
[www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/hasr1402.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/hasr1402.htm).

<sup>8</sup> National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. *Teen Sexual Activity, Pregnancy, and Childbearing among Black Teens in the United States*. May 2004.  
[www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/pdf/AfricanAmericanFactSheet.pdf](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/pdf/AfricanAmericanFactSheet.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. *Teen Sexual Activity, Pregnancy, and Childbearing among Latinos in the United States*. May 2004.  
[www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/pdf/latinofs.pdf](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/pdf/latinofs.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. *Teen Sexual Activity, Pregnancy, and Childbearing among Native Americans in the United States*. May 2004.  
[www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/pdf/NativeAmericanFactSheet.pdf](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/pdf/NativeAmericanFactSheet.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. "Science Says: Characteristics of Effective Curriculum-Based Programs." *Putting What Works to Work*. No.4, Sept. 2003.  
[www.teenpregnancy.org/works/pdf/sciencesaysEffectiveCurricula.pdf](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/works/pdf/sciencesaysEffectiveCurricula.pdf).