



Attachment E8

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta, GA 30341-3724
September 5, 2008

William Mosher, Ph.D.
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
3311 Toledo Road
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

Dear Dr. Mosher:

As a federal agency charged with helping to meet Healthy People 2010 goals for reproductive health, the Division of Reproductive Health (DRH) of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) strongly supports the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG).

The NSFG is a vital source of information about trends in reproductive health indicators, and of factors affecting birth and pregnancy rates and women's reproductive health in the United States. DRH uses the information obtained from the NSFG to identify national trends in adolescent sexual behavior and pregnancy, shares them with national and state partners to influence public health prevention programming for adolescents, and to identify key areas of adolescent reproductive health disparities to target program and research activities. For example, in March 2008, DRH staff used data from the NSFG in a presentation to a national invitational meeting of subject matter research experts on teen pregnancy prevention in March 2007. This meeting, "What's it going to take? Extending the research base to improve teen pregnancy prevention" was convened to develop possible areas for future research that will further the development of interventions and strategies focused on reducing teen pregnancy among the adolescents at greatest risk. During the past year DRH also used data from the NSFG to contribute to a CDC wide epidemiologic report on adolescent sexual and reproductive health trends.


DRH contributions to the NSFG are essential for funding an over-sample of adolescents. This over-sampling allowed for DRH staff to publish a key manuscript in the Journal of Adolescent Health, "The Association between Sex Education and Youth's Engagement in Sexual Intercourse, Age at First Intercourse, and Birth Control Use at First Sex. This manuscript concluded that "formal sex education may effectively reduce adolescent sexual risk behaviors when provided prior to sexual initiation".

During the past three years NSFG has improved its operations in a number of ways; these include quarterly e-mail updates, the online key statistics and the questionnaire revisions. However, one of the most important improvements is the introduction of continuous interviewing. This enhancement will allow DRH to provide in

a timelier manner data needed for CDC grantees' for program planning, implementation and evaluation purposes.

DRH strongly supports continuation of the NSFG as a critical source of information about the nation's reproductive health. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any other questions about the use of NSFG data by DRH at CDC.

Sincerely,


Alison Spitz, MPH
Team Leader, Adolescent Reproductive Health
Division of Reproductive Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention