

Students Making Smart Decisions About Sex

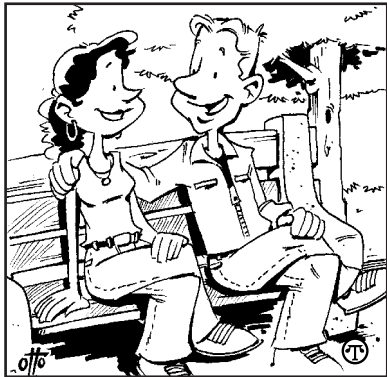
(NAPSA)—According to a recent report by the Department of Health and Human Services, the teen pregnancy rate in America has dropped to its lowest rate since 1976.¹

For example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that the pregnancy rate for teenagers ages 15 through 19 has fallen 19 percent from its peak in 1991.² With government studies showing a continued decline, it appears that young women are getting the message: following “smart” sexual practices—by combining a reliable birth control option with a barrier method—leads to fewer unintended pregnancies.

Some researchers attribute this decline to an increased use of long-lasting contraceptives, such as Depo-Provera® Contraceptive Injection (medroxyprogesterone acetate injectable suspension).³

“The continued decline in the pregnancy rate for young women reaffirms the importance of educating them about pregnancy prevention,” says Mary Jane Minkin, M.D., Yale School of Medicine. “Young women who practice smart sex don’t have to worry that pregnancy will get in the way of their goals. With Depo-Provera, they only have to think about birth control four times a year. They have time to concentrate on other aspects of their lives.”

To help empower these women to make smart choices about sex, the maker of Depo-Provera is sponsoring Zilo’s Lotus Tour 2002, a live music event created especially for college students. The tour, which will travel to college campuses nationwide features the talents of up and coming female artists. “We just can’t say this enough to this population: Practice smart sex. Talk to a health



Increasingly, America’s college-aged women are making smarter decisions regarding their birth control.

care provider. Our unintended pregnancy rates among this age group continue to decline, but need to be lower still,” says Dr. Vanessa Cullins, Vice President of Medical Affairs, Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

When taken as scheduled—just four times a year—Depo-Provera is 99.7 percent effective, making it one of the most reliable prescription contraceptives available to young women.

Depo-Provera does not protect against HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Depo-Provera should not be used by women with known or suspected pregnancy, unexplained vaginal bleeding, breast cancer, blood clots, liver disease or a history of stroke. Some women using Depo-Provera do experience side effects, with the most common side effect being irregular menstrual bleeding or spotting. To find out if Depo-Provera is the right birth control option for them, young women should consult their health care provider. For important product information, visit the Web site at www.depoprovera.com or call 1-888-844-DEPO (3376).

1. National Vital Statistics Reports. Volume 49, Number 4. June 6, 2001.

2. National Vital Statistics Reports. Volume 49, Number 4. June 6, 2001.

3. Associated Press. Teen pregnancy rate falls to record low. June 13, 2001.