

Let's Talk Month:
Sponsored by United Way of Greater Milwaukee

October 2011

Dear Milwaukee Family:

October is **Let's Talk Month**, an education campaign that encourages caregivers and children to talk with each other about sexuality. Here is what we know:

- Parents are the best sexuality educators for their children
- Parents want to be good sex educators, but may not always understand how to do the job well.
- Children want sex education from their parents or legal guardians.
- You can be an "askable" parent, a caring parent, and a wise counselor.

Congratulations! If you are reading this letter, it means you have taken the first step to building stronger family communication skills. United Way of Greater Milwaukee's Sexual Victimization Committee has put together this communications toolkit which we hope will help you talk with your child about tough subjects, such as love, relationships and sex.

How to use this folder:

We know-- this folder may make you feel a bit overwhelmed. The content might make you a little nervous-- that is perfectly normal! Not all the information here may apply to your family or circumstances. Here are some tips:

- Choose what you can use
- Don't be afraid to pick up something that you wouldn't normally look at and read it
- Encourage your child or teen to read the information that pertains to them.
- If something is really troubling you look at the resource guide and list of books available to help
- Encourage open dialogue with your child/teen and be willing to be uncomfortable

Teen pregnancy is a serious problem in Milwaukee. Teens that have babies are often unable to finish school, which makes it harder for them to get good jobs and provide for themselves and their children later on. Babies born to teens face more health problems than other babies, and are at risk for becoming teen parents' themselves. Teen pregnancy is often the result of violence. Many teen girls become pregnant by adult males over the age of 20. Teen dating violence can happen in any community and to anyone and we know that both girls and boys can be victimized.

For the third year in a row Milwaukee has seen a decrease in the teen birth rate, which remains at a historically low level. Data show that there were 44 births per 1,000 females aged 15-17 years old in 2009. This is a drop from 2008 when there were 47 births per 1,000 in the city and significant drop from 2007 when there were 55 births per 1,000 females aged 15-17.

Please call Nicole at 414.263-8115 (nangresano@unitedwaymilwaukee.org) if you have any questions or would like additional copies of this packet.

Thank you for talking!

Sexual Victimization Committee
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative
United Way of Greater Milwaukee

Visit: www.babycanwait.com