



the campaign to prevent unplanned pregnancy

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POWER TO DECIDE RESPONSE TO DECLINES IN TEEN SEXUAL ACTIVITY

(Washington, D.C.) — The [2017 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#), a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention every two years, found that teens are reporting the lowest levels of sexual activity since the survey began nearly 20 years ago. In 2017, 39.5% of high school students reported having sex, as compared to 47.8% of students in 2007. In addition, 86.2% of students reported using some form of contraception at last intercourse, and more students reported using more effective methods, such as hormonal and long-acting methods, as compared to 2015. However, condom use declined between 2015 and 2017, with 56.9% reporting condom use in 2015, as compared to 53.8% in 2017.

In response, Ginny Ehrlich, CEO, Power to Decide, issued the following statement:

“We are glad to see that young people are delaying sex and for those who are sexually active that more are using the most effective methods of contraception. However, the decline in condom use is concerning given that other methods of contraception do not protect against HIV and STIs. All young people deserve access to accurate and complete sexual health information so that they can make informed decisions about their health. We urge champions—whether they be family members, educators, or mentors—to talk with the young people in their lives. Champions can use the various tools and resources from our [#TalkingIsPower](#) program to initiate critical conversations that could change and in some cases even save a young person’s life.”

Click the following link for more information on [#TalkingIsPower](#).

Power to Decide is a private, non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to ensure all people—no matter who they are, where they live, or what their economic status might be—have the power to decide if, when, and under what circumstances to get pregnant and have a child. Please visit us at www.PowerToDecide.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.