

FACES & PLACES OF THE URBAN UNDERSERVED

Advocacy Organizations	
What are some Local organizations that do advocacy work?	Planned Parenthood, Problem Pregnancy, FHC
What are some State level organizations that do advocacy work?	Planned Parenthood, Problem Pregnancy
What are some National level organizations that do advocacy work?	Planned Parenthood
Advocacy Issue	
Looking at the State, National, and/or International level, at the websites or information from the organizations above, what is a major area of advocacy at this time? <i>Try to choose an advocacy issue that will in some way affect the local community.</i> Advocacy specifically refers to promoting legislation, policies or specific budgetary appropriations that positively affect a health issue. This may occur through decreasing barriers to accessing health services, providing an infrastructure conducive to effective health promotion programs, or directly increasing the resources and infrastructure of the public health system.	<p>Teen contraception education and access face major barriers in Worcester. School-based health education is limited to abstinence only; health providers are not allowed to distribute contraception or to give contraceptive advice.</p> <p>This is unlike some other parts of the State, which offer more comprehensive sex education. Gov. Deval Patrick recently turned down a \$700,000 federal sex education grant so that Massachusetts could prioritize comprehensive sex education than had been originally stipulated by the federal grant. A recent study found that 10% of MA high schools made condoms available to students.</p>
What specific law, policy or appropriation is being advocated for?	On a state and city level, appropriations are being advocated. These would increase comprehensive school-based sex education.
Who is doing the advocating? (Which organizations?)	Gov. Deval Patrick administration has been trying to get state budgets passed. Planned Parenthood is also a supporter.
Who is being lobbied?	State Legislature
Whom will this issue affect?	MA high school students and the state as a whole
Were they or will they (in your opinion) be successful?	Yes, hopefully.
What are the consequences if they are not successful?	Continuation of the status quo
If they are not successful, what other strategies can be used to achieve the same goal?	More advocacy to change minds of citizens
How can physicians and/or nurses be involved in this advocacy issue?	Speak out about the urgent health concerns of this teenage group by writing letters to congress, state legislature, other elected officials and local newspaper editors. Health care providers can also find and ask patients to give personal testimonials.

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Bibliography: Advocacy/Consumer-Oriented Literature

<http://www.problempregnancy.org/>

www.teenwire.com (from plannedparenthood.org)

http://www.teenpregnancy.org/costs/pdf/summary/MA_onepager.pdf

<http://whyknow.org/www/docs/172.1174/teen-pregnancy-information.html>

<http://www.youinc.org/Index1.htm>