Teen Pregnancy

CDC works 24/7 to save lives and protect people. This month's Vital Signs focuses on teen pregnancy. We've made progress. Over the past 20 years, the number of births to teen mothers has decreased. But never the less, in 2012, the last year for which we have complete data, more than 300,000 15- to 19-year olds gave birth. One out of four of those mothers was between 15 and 17 years old. Teen pregnancy is a real problem. It contributes to and perpetuates the cycle of poverty.

Doctors, nurses, and other health care providers can provide the facts and counsel sexually active young women, helping them consider the most effective reversible methods of birth control, such as IUDs and long-acting implants. We can provide this information in a manner that is both factual and respectful. Young men and young women share responsibility to avoid teen pregnancy. Let's support our teens so they delay having sex until they're older.

It's good news that the rate of teen pregnancy is decreasing. Let's help teens take control over their future.