



March 1, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and ISD Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Local Public Health Departments

FROM: Janet Olszewski *JO*
Director, Michigan Department of Community Health

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan *MPF*
Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Michigan Department of Education

SUBJECT: *State of Adolescent Sexual Health in Michigan White Paper*

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) are pleased to present the revised comprehensive white paper, the *State of Adolescent Sexual Health in Michigan*. This paper represents a snapshot of integrated data pertaining to the serious consequences of sexual behavior among Michigan adolescents. The goal of this document is to inspire future action from policy makers, state and local health agencies, schools, parents, community-based organizations, the faith community, and other key stakeholders about critical health issues affecting adolescents in our state.

This document was originally released in February 2008 and distributed widely to key stakeholders responsible for policy decisions and resource allocation related to services targeting adolescents throughout Michigan. The revision focused on updating data, program initiatives, and recommendations, as well as the current process to involve youth as advisors in critical decision making processes.

As with most health issues, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Money spent on preventing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, is more cost effective than money spent on attempts to remedy the crippling personal, social and economic consequences of sexual behavior among Michigan adolescents.

If Michigan is to continue to make progress addressing these serious health issues, policies and programs must be preventive, collaborative, and sustained. We look forward to ongoing dialogue and action at the state and local levels to promote the health and well-being of Michigan adolescents.

The document will be available via the MDE website at <http://www.michigan.gov/hived> and the MDCH websites at www.michigan.gov/hivstd or www.michigan.gov/caha.