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YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

Presented by the medical professionals at Midcoast Pediatrics

Prevent Teenage Pregnancy

Midcoast Maine has a higher average rate of teenage pregnancy when compared to the rest of Maine. According to the Maine Center for Disease Control, using data from 2002-2004, there was a 13.3% (out of 1000 teens) rate of teenagers giving birth versus 11.8% for Maine. 88% of teenage births are unintended. Pregnant teenagers are much more likely to drop out of high school, to live in poverty, to be single parents and to have serious pregnancy complications and sicker children than older females. Talk to your teenagers - both your sons and daughters - know what they are doing. Help them make healthy choices. Your pediatrician is a resource - you can use them to start conversations, and to find out answers to hard questions.

HINT: Pediatricians are trained to counsel teenagers (and their parents) about the prevention of teenage pregnancy.

If you have any questions, visit your pediatrician. For more information about today's column, or if you have any questions, please call MIDCOAST PEDIATRICS at 207-721-8333. We are located at 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite 2600, Brunswick. All new patients are always welcome.

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