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AGI data proves: Parental involvement laws reduce teen pregnancy and abortion

Only 16 states did not have parental involvement laws in effect in 2000. Yet those states are disproportionately represented among the states with the highest teen abortion rates in the same year.

Opponents claim parental involvement laws do not reduce teen abortions. However, the most recent data from the Alan Guttmacher Institute, Planned Parenthood's research arm, shows otherwise:

States with highest teen abortion rates, by state of residence of the minor¹:

1. New Jersey	No parental involvement law in effect
2. New York	No parental involvement law in effect
3. Maryland	Parental notification waivable by abortion provider
4. Nevada	No parental involvement law in effect
5. California	No parental involvement law in effect
6. Hawaii	No parental involvement law in effect
7. Florida	No parental involvement law in effect
8. Delaware	Parental notification only for girls 15 and under
9. Connecticut	No parental involvement law in effect
10. Illinois	No parental involvement law in effect
11. Massachusetts	Parental consent law in effect
12. Washington	No parental involvement law in effect
13. Oregon	No parental involvement law in effect

Conversely, of the quarter of states with the lowest teen abortion rates, all had a parental involvement law in effect. Because parental involvement laws do **not** cause teen birth rates to rise, the conclusion is obvious: parental involvement laws reduce teen pregnancy rates.

“Everyone can agree on the goal of reducing teen pregnancy and abortion rates,” said Grace Dulaney, spokeswoman for Prop 4. “Parental involvement laws do just that. Prop 4 is a common sense, common ground initiative.”

¹ Source: The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), "U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity And State-by-State Information" New York: AGI, (updated 2006) at p. 11. The figure for California is based on AGI's estimate; California does not collect abortion data.