



## OCTOBER IS **Let's Talk** MONTH!

**LET'S TALK** Month is an opportunity for parents and children to learn to communicate in an open and honest manner about sexuality and other sensitive issues that can help young people delay pregnancy and avoid sexually transmitted diseases. Research shows that adolescents prefer their parents as sexuality educators, and young people want and need more information, guidance and open discussion with their families.

While a community-wide response is essential to reduce teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease rates, families play a pivotal role in helping young people make healthy decisions about their sexuality. Most parents want the opportunity to share their values and provide their children with accurate information about sexuality. But often, parents and other adults feel uncomfortable discussing sexuality and need information and ideas to start meaningful conversations.

**LET'S TALK** Month is a wonderful starting point for our community of concerned adults, religious institutions, youth organizations, community agencies, health providers and the media to encourage these one-on-one conversations with youth, and to sponsor programs, workshops and activities in local communities to ensure that all young people have access to the information they need to make responsible decisions about their health.

Celebrated in a number of states for over a decade, *Advocates for Youth* now coordinates national **LET'S TALK** Month. *Advocates for Youth* is a national organization dedicated to helping young people prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases so that adolescents have the best opportunity for healthy and productive futures.

The West Virginia Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative is sponsoring **LET'S TALK** Month statewide during October by offering **BOOK MARKS**, parent-child communication **FACT SHEETS** and **BROCHURES** to all middle, junior and senior high schools, Family Planning Program providers and others interested in promoting improved parent-child communication. Any community organization interested in receiving **LET'S TALK** information may contact the APPI Staff or call 1-800-642-8522.