

# Protecting abortion access for teens: Defeating parental notification in Oregon



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# Disclosures

- Organon consultant (Implanon trainer)

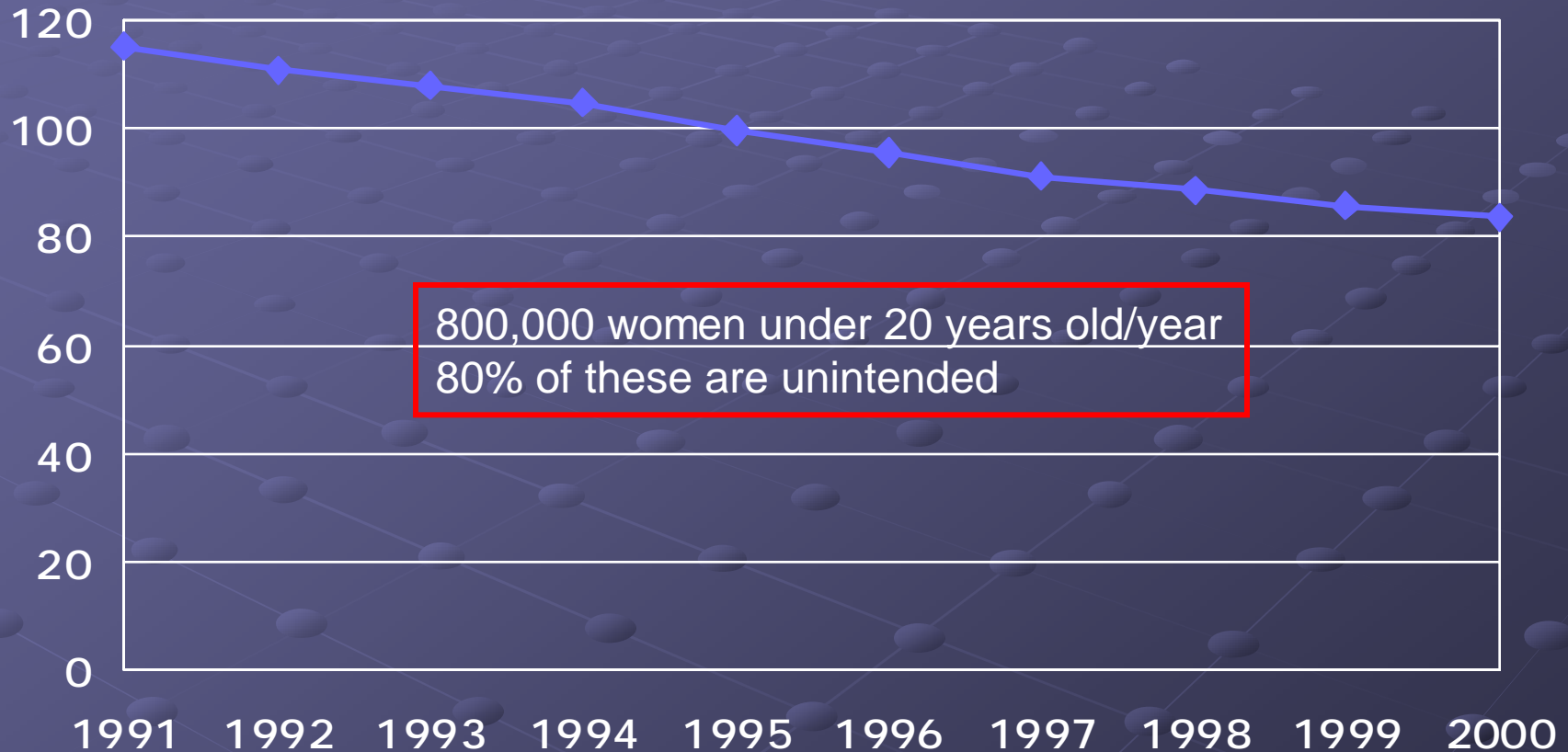
# Objectives

- Teen pregnancy epidemiology
- Parental notification & teen health
- Oregon Law
  - Past
  - Present
  - Measure 43
- Health care providers as messengers



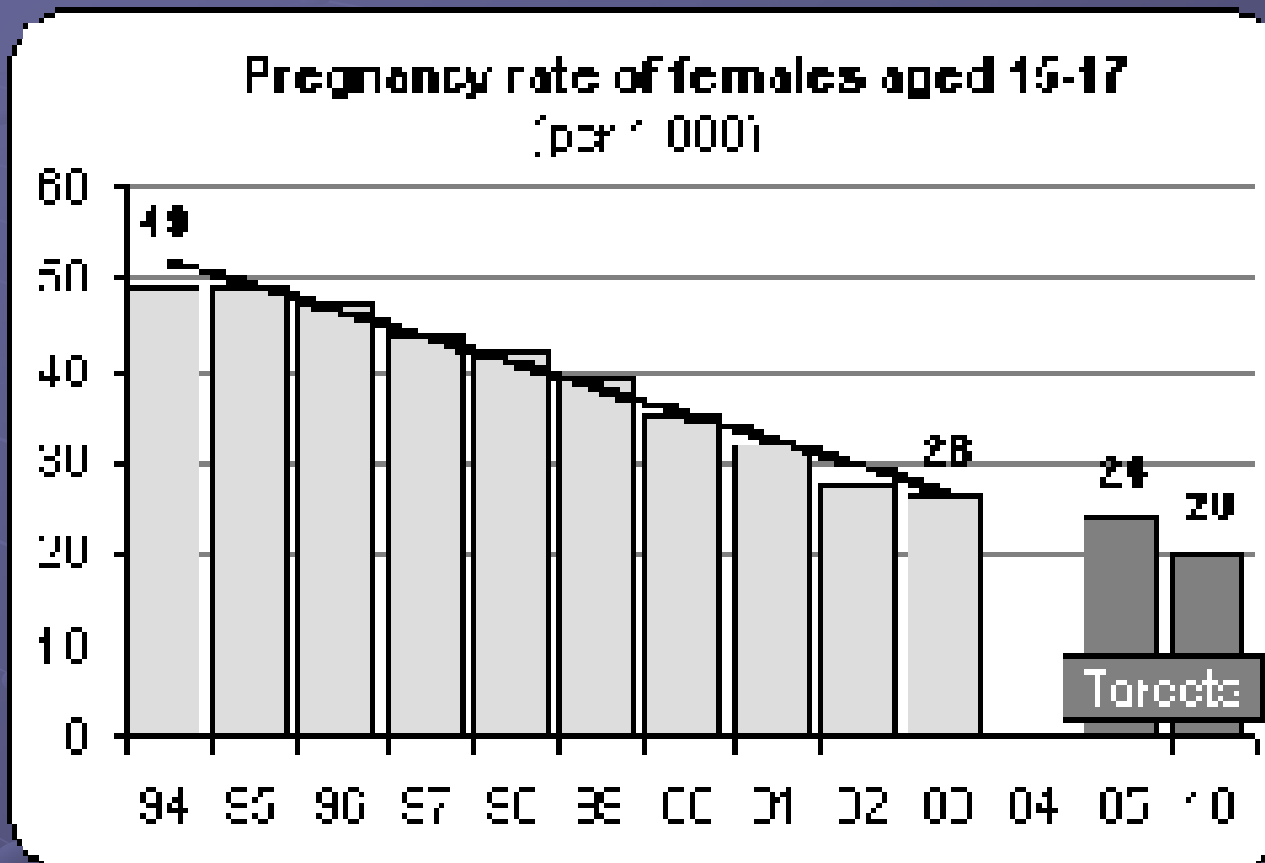
# U.S. teen pregnancy rate

Pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15-19



Source: Henshaw SK, U.S. teenage pregnancy statistics with comparative statistics for women aged 20-24, New York: AGI, February 2004, <[http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/teen\\_stats.pdf](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/teen_stats.pdf)>, accessed Apr. 8, 2004.

# Oregon teen pregnancy rates (2005)



2530 pregnancies in 15-17 year olds/year

Source: <http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/OPB/2005report/obm39.shtml>

# Parental notification & teen health

- Negatively impacts health
- Pregnancy is time sensitive
  - Parental consent laws have been shown to increase this delay
    - Delay in seeking care – later abortions
      - 17% increase in second trimester abortions in Missouri
    - Travel to out-of-state facilities
      - Decrease in state's abortion rate (Mississippi) but increase in surrounding states Increase in second trimester abortions by 17% in Missouri)
      - 1988 Becky Bell dies after undergoing an unsafe abortion out of state rather than notifying her parents

Sources: Joyce, et al NEJM 2006; Ellertson C. Am J Public Health 1997; Henshaw. Fam plan perspect 1997.  
<http://www.reproductiverights.org/>

# Parental notification & teen health

- Mandating parental involvement “cannot transform a household with poor lines of communication into the paradigm of the perfect American Family.” (PP vs Farmer, NJ 2000)
  - 61% of minors have discussed their decision with a parent
  - 90% of younger teens (<15 yo) have discussed their decision with a parent.

Source: Henshaw et al, Family Planning Perspectives 1992

# Parental notification & teen health

- No disclosure (minority)
  - Would be kicked out of house (22%)
  - Physically abused (8%)
  - Does not live with either parent (12%)
  - Parents abuse drugs/alcohol (14%)

Source: Henshaw et al, Family Planning Perspectives 1992

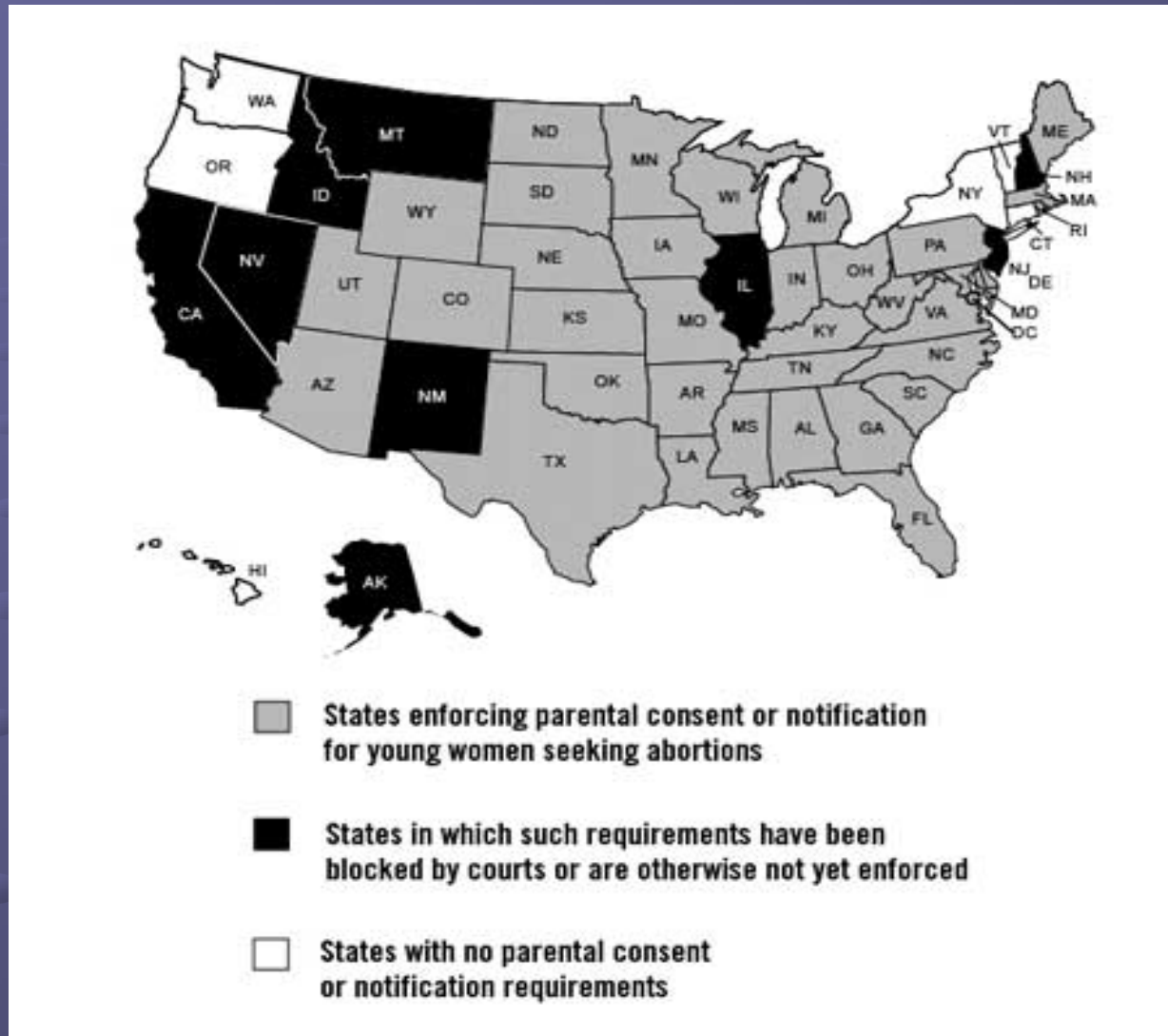


# Parental notification & teen health

- Uneven enforcement

- Most states (including Oregon) regard a pregnant minor as emancipated in regard to
  - prenatal care
  - surgery during pregnancies
  - adoption

## Status by State of Parental Consent/Notification Laws



Source: [http://www.reproductiverights.org/pub\\_fac\\_restrictions.html](http://www.reproductiverights.org/pub_fac_restrictions.html)

# Oregon Law - past



- Voted AGAINST parental notification
  - 1990
  - 2005

# Oregon Law - present

## ● Contraception

- Confidential services at any age
- Coverage for services (Title 10)
  - Recent Federal requirement to prove citizenship

## ● Abortion

- Parental notification for teens <15 years old seeking abortions

# Measure

- Requires when minors 15-18 years old seek an abortion, the medical provider must first give written notice to a parent of the minor by certified mail at least 48 hours prior to providing the abortion.
- No exception for rape or incest
- Responsibility on the physician to notify
  - Loss of license
  - Lawsuits

# Voices in Favor of Measure

43

- Parental guidance cannot be ignored in this guilt free social style of life in America. Many babies are born to un-wed mothers without any significant social consequences.
- If my 16 year old daughter needs any other form of surgery, doctors don't get to just operate. They need consent, first. In fact, in Oregon, minors need consent to get a tattoo, go on a field trip, visit a tanning booth, or get an ear (or some other body part) pierced. Why would an abortion be any different?
- Rights of a woman to choose? These are girls, not women. Everyone keeps saying that this measure does not have a provision for rape/incest, yet it clearly states that a girl can bypass parental consent in a matter of 7 days by talking to the courts.



**Not So Simple.  
Not at all Safe.**

- MD perspective

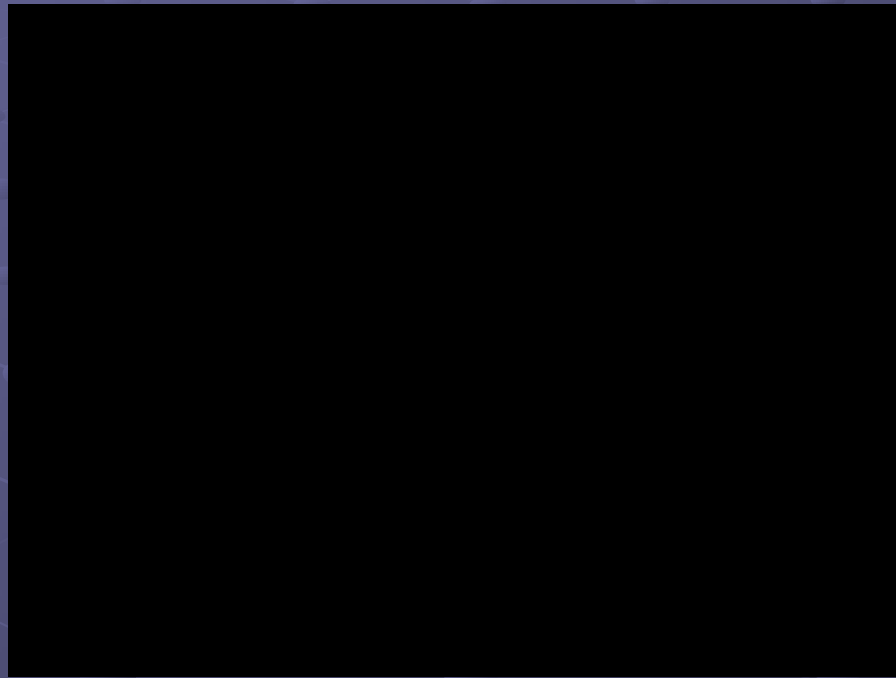
- Negative impact on health
- Impair access to safe medical care and counseling
- Impairs doctor-patient relationship (confidentiality)
- Exposure to unsafe home situations vs. legal system vs. unsafe medical care
- Threatens medical professionals – impairs ability to provide a legal, safe procedure

# Being a messenger

- Balancing your role
  - Church & State
- What to do?
  - Be informed
  - Inform others
  - Get help



# No on 43 Campaign Tactics



# No on 43 Campaign Tactics

