

For example, the labelling of oral contraceptives is periodically reviewed by both this body and by the health protection branch and is updated based on new information.

The work of the bureau of medical devices and the bureau of human prescription drugs has a direct impact on effective contraceptive use by individuals and on the prevention of teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

The federal government places special emphasis on supporting families in their parenting role, especially teenagers who are raising children. Thus the Department of National Health and Welfare has implemented a national post-partum parent support program. This program not only strengthens the family centred approach to maternity and newborn care in Canadian hospitals and community health settings, but provides parents with information and support through the post-partum period.

For those who experience unplanned pregnancy and who choose to have their babies, the post-partum parent support program will provide assistance by linking mother and babies with appropriate community resources.

The department's commitment to families is also exemplified in the nobody's perfect program. This co-operative effort with the provinces is aimed at young, single, low income parents who feel isolated, who lack support and confidence in their ability to raise their children. This program gives parents accurate information on their children's health, safety, development and behaviour.

Both of these programs include a component on sexuality and family planning to promote the importance of future planning and responsible sexual behaviour.

Because adoption is a necessary option for many parents, a study has been designed to explore means of increasing public understanding and to encourage adoption. The study began in April 1989 and will provide information on current trends and practices in adoption as well as what barriers and supports influence decision making by parents with unplanned pregnancies.

As just described, it is clear that there are many ongoing activities that concern teenage pregnancy. It is

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through concerted efforts such as these that we will influence change.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Luc Joncas (Matapédia—Matane): Mr. Speaker, the current patterns of unplanned and unprotected sexual behaviour have resulted in a widespread problem of sexually transmitted diseases. A co-ordinated effort by governments, health promotion, scientific communities, and educators can help achieve primary prevention of these diseases.

In 1988 the Department of National Health and Welfare established a division of sexually transmitted disease control and a national laboratory for sexually transmitted diseases within the laboratory centre for disease control. I think there is a continuing need for programming to combat sexually transmitted diseases, especially in adolescents and young adults, the groups with the highest rates of reported disease. The division of sexually transmitted disease control is working closely with provincial and territorial governments to improve surveillance activities, especially in the area of chlamydia infection. Chlamydia is the most commonly reported sexually transmitted disease in young women and is important because of its potential long-term consequences, such as pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy and infertility.

In 1986 the laboratory centre for disease control established an interdisciplinary advisory committee on sexually transmitted diseases in children and youth in particular. It has recently completed its mandate which included examining issues of sexually transmitted diseases and sexual abuse among children and youths, conducting comprehensive research at a national level, advising on sexually transmitted, disease education and treatment, and making recommendations with respect to the development of public education and health promotion programs, one of the major undertakings included the establishment of Canadian guidelines for the diagnosis and management of sexually transmitted diseases in children, adolescents and adults. These guidelines were published in 1989, were widely distributed and have been extremely well received and implemented in the health field.