

Planned Parenthood



TOMORROW'S CHILDREN

FOR half the children born in the United States each year, tomorrow means hardship, poverty, ill-health or death.

Born to families who can give them little in health, or security, or happiness, these children are destined to carry on the conditions under which they were born.

Nowhere among our people is this more true than among the Negroes in the United States — crowded in city slums, or existing, barely, on impoverished farms.

Seeking a solution, more and more thoughtful leaders of the race have become convinced that one major step toward better health, a greater degree of security and a brighter future for their people is planned parenthood through intelligent birth control.

Recently a friend of the Negro race, through a special grant of money to the Birth Control Federation of America, made possible a demonstration program which seeks to bring the means of medically-approved birth control to Negro parents.

This leaflet summarizes that program, its beginnings and what it seeks to accomplish. The Federation invites the cooperation of Negroes everywhere in this effort to provide for the children of tomorrow a greater chance for health, happiness and opportunity.

MARGARET SANGER
RICHARD N. PIERSON, M.D.

TODAY

AMERICA'S thirteen million Negroes are faced with problems of disease, poverty and resultant lack of opportunity which are of concern, not only to themselves, but to the nation. Disease and poverty respect no barriers and the welfare of one-tenth of our people is inseparable from the welfare of all.

Here are the facts which indicate the need for extending to Negro mothers, as well as to white mothers, the benefits of birth control. Such a program would conserve for race-building, the waste of Negro life which now takes place each year.

Negro mothers die in child-birth at twice the rate of white mothers. In the rural South 80 per cent of all Negro births are attended by mid-wives.

Out of 250,000 Negro babies born alive each year more than 22,000 die in their first year, a rate 60 per cent higher than for white babies.

Tuberculosis and syphilis are from five to six times as prevalent among Negroes as among whites. Syphilis causes 25 per cent of the 18,000 stillbirths among Negroes each year.

It is estimated that half of the Negro population is undernourished.

Nashville public health nurses participate in the promotion of Negro health through medically-supervised birth control and planned parenthood.



BIRTH CONTROL

BIRTH control is the use of medical knowledge and materials to enable parents to have only as many children as they want and can care for properly. It is approved by physicians, clergymen, public health officers, educators and leaders of nearly every race and creed.

In itself birth control cannot cure all of the health and economic problems which face Negroes today. But birth control can:

Reduce the maternal death rate by enabling mothers with tuberculosis, heart disease, kidney disease and other serious ailments, to avoid pregnancy.

Improve maternal health by giving mothers time to regain health and strength between pregnancies.

Reduce the infant death rate by enabling mothers to space their children at two or three year intervals. Studies of the U. S. Children's Bureau reveal that babies born two or three years apart have a far better chance for life and health.

Reduce the spread of venereal and other diseases by making it possible for parents with transmissible diseases to avoid having children until cured.

Raise the standard of living by enabling parents to adjust the family size to family income.



A PRACTICAL PROGRAM

THE Birth Control Federation of America through a special grant has developed and put into operation a coordinated program, designed to demonstrate how medically-supervised birth control (*as an integral part of existing public health services*) can improve the general welfare of the Negro people.

Two major demonstration areas have been established by the Federation, one in urban Nashville, Tennessee, and the other in rural Berkeley County, South Carolina.

Supplementing these local demonstration projects, the Federation has also begun a national educational program with the cooperation of its National Negro Advisory Council, representing outstanding leaders of the race. Progress reports from time to time will be utilized in acquainting public health officials throughout the country with the possibilities of similar programs in their own communities.

THE NASHVILLE PROJECT. Nashville offers splendid opportunity for an urban project. The City Health Department has included birth control in its work for several years. Meharry Medical School, where over fifty per cent of the Negro doctors in the United States graduate, is located there, as well as Fisk University. Both have promised complete cooperation with the project.





Nashville mothers are instructed carefully in sex hygiene and family planning.

The program is under the direction of Dr. John Overton, City Health Officer, and Mrs. Ivah W. Uffelman, Director of Nashville Public Health Nursing Council, cooperating with a local advisory council.

Two new birth control clinics, under the direction of Negro doctors and nurses, have been opened — one at Bethlehem Church Center and one at Fisk University Settlement House. A public health nurse has been added to the health department staff and a program of home service has been initiated as a part of the department's Public Health Nursing Service.

It is interesting to note that of the first 50 patients who came to the clinic sessions, each, upon examination, was found to have a serious health condition. In thus revealing the need for medical attention, the birth control clinic sessions are already proving a valuable aid to the entire city health program.

BERKELEY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA. It is especially fitting that the rural demonstration should be conducted in South Carolina, the second state to offer birth control as a part of its public health program. Berkeley County has a population of 27,000 of which 70 per cent is Negro. To illustrate health conditions in the county, 13 per cent of the prenatal cases in 1939 were under treatment for syphilis; 70 per cent of the prenatal cases showed anemia in a marked degree. Dr. Wm. K. Fishburne, County Health Officer directing the project, estimates that there are 1400 Negro mothers in the county requiring contraceptive service for health reasons.

Dr. Robert E. Seibels, Chairman of the Committee on Maternal Welfare of the South Carolina Medical Asso-

ciation, is serving as official Consultant and supervisor of the project.

Two registered nurses have been added to the staff and eleven clinic sessions are held each month at central places in the county, accessible to the rural mothers, many of whom are receiving medical attention and care for the first time. Eagerly, gratefully, these Negro mothers are cooperating fully in a program which brings to them new hope of a healthier and a brighter future.

YOU CAN HELP

To those concerned with strengthening our human resources this project offers an opportunity for constructive work in promoting the health and welfare of the Negro people everywhere throughout the United States.

The program needs leadership in all parts of the country. It needs the active support of individuals and organizations to further the educational program.

We ask your help. Acquaint yourself with the special educational material, literature, posters and exhibits obtainable upon request to the Federation. Utilize them to promote a clearer understanding of birth control in your community. Encourage all community agencies reaching Negro mothers to display literature, posters, or exhibits. A table exhibit is illustrated on pages 4 and 5. Enlist the active cooperation of your church, your physician, your clubs, the local press and radio, in this fundamental program to enable Negro parents to have healthier babies for a better world tomorrow.

Midwives are an important link in the rural Negro health project in Berkeley County, So. Carolina.



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A National Negro Sponsoring Committee representing professional
and civic leadership in every state is now in process of formation.

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