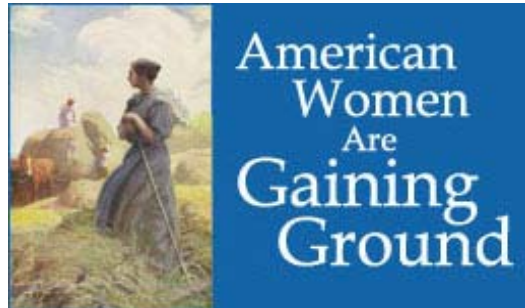




## TALKING POINTS



## GAINING GROUND

Women who see marriage and children as central to "having it all" have rejected feminism because they see feminists as rejecting their values and only being concerned with policies they cannot support -- such as abortion, affirmative action, women in combat, and sexual license.

### STDs

- 25 years ago, there were two STDs -- gonorrhea and syphilis. Now there are upwards of 25 different one.
- 10 million adults under age 25 will contract an STD this year
- The most common STD is the HPV virus that causes 95-98% of the cases of cervical cancer -- that kills 5,000 women per year.
- Genital herpes is just a nuisance for adults, but it kills babies
- While condom use has increased from 21% to 67% among teens in the past 20 years and the number of pregnancies has declined, the number of STDs has gone through the roof.

### Women's Well-Being

- The median age of women is at the highest level in history.
- The sky-rocketing increases in out-of-wedlock births is the defining characteristic of the demographics of the 20th century.
- In terms of its cultural and social impact, the unmarried birth rate is the demographic nightmare of the century.
- At the beginning of the century, 2/3 of women were under 30 -- that number has dropped to 40%; then women over 65 were a fraction of the population; now they comprise 20%.

- One of the greatest achievements in the 20th century is the decline in maternal mortality; infant mortality, too, would have declined dramatically except for the unprecedented increase in unwed births.

## **Women's Health**

- While other cancers have decreased, breast cancer has increased since 1980 and lung and bronchial cancer cases have doubled since the mid 1970s.
- Colorectal, skin cancers and lymphomas have increased.
- After age 65, cancer is the leading cause of death for women -- lung and breast cancer are the most prevalent causes.
- STDs have skyrocketed with chlamydia a major problem -- causes pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy and infertility.
- HIV-- in spite of its high profile -- is in the single digits in regard to incidence among women and low double digits for men in the early 1990s and now in the single digits for men as well.
- Accidental deaths are down, suicides are about the same, but homicides are up.

## **Education**

- In 1940, only 26 percent of women graduated from high school, now it is over 80%.
- In the past 20 years, women have earned more bachelors degrees than men, increased the number of doctoral degrees by 10%; now women get 40% of the law and medical degrees and they are gaining parity in these fields.

## **Family**

- There has been a significant increase in the number of women who remain single and alone.
- The number of married women as a proportion of all women is at the lowest level ever recorded.
- Nearly one-quarter of women are unmarried.
- Divorce has leveled off and remains fairly constant at around 50%.
- One third of children are born out-of-wedlock. [Teens are getting the abstinence message and teen births have leveled off]
- Since the legalization of abortion in 1973, there have been over 43 million legal abortions performed. -- half to women who have had a previous abortion and 80% to unmarried women.
- Nearly half of all pregnancies of unmarried women end in abortion.
- One-third of women now live in a household without an adult male present.
- More than 10 times as many women cohabit now as in 1960.
- Cohabiting relationships generally last a mere 18 months.
- Since 1970, the growth in family groups with children came ENTIRELY from one-parent families (especially mother-only ones).

## **Economics**

- Mothers of children under 6 are leaving the workplace to stay home with their children -- first time this has ever happened during periods of economic prosperity.
- Among the 50 million unmarried American women, 1 in 3 female-headed households with children live in poverty as compared with the 1 in 10 without children who live in poverty -- and that number is double the number in poverty among married couples. Among those who live alone, 1 in 5 live in poverty.
- The cost of single parent families (combined state and federal spending) is around \$150 Billion.