

planning. Pediatricians should become informed about the social, health and demographic problems associated with prolific child bearing. They should work with parents and with teachers in educational activities designed to give young people a proper sense of responsibility about sexual matters, marriage and parenthood. When the needs of their patients require it, pediatricians should be prepared to discuss conception control in a manner consistent with the creed and mores of the individuals concerned, or to refer their patients to appropriate persons for such advice. The American Academy of Pediatrics further believes that federal, state and local governments should include family planning as a part of their health programs.

#### American Public Health Association

##### Policy Statement on Population, 1964

...In the United States, an increasing number of official health and welfare agencies have instituted programs of family planning to reduce the incidence of unwanted pregnancies, illegal abortions and maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity. Governing bodies, from the Congress of the United States to town councils, have voted to make family planning information and services available, but millions of Americans are still denied such help as a part of the health or welfare services provided them for tax funds.

Although both tax and private funds are supporting research on reproduction related to birth and population control and remarkable advances in contraceptive technology are emerging, the National Academy of Sciences has clearly indicated how great are the unmet needs in research and training.

Governments of developing nations are officially recognizing rapid population growth as a serious deterrent to improved well-being of their people. Increasingly, they are adopting national policies and initiating national programs of family planning. To implement these programs, many seek technical assistance which remains difficult to obtain from governmental sources.

These events call for added leadership by the public health profession in understanding acting upon public health implications of rapid population growth. The American Public Health Association, therefore, believes it important to reaffirm its 1959 policy statement, dedicates itself to intensified study and action on population problems and urges that:

1. Federal, state, and local governments in the United States include family planning as an integ-

ral part of their health programs, make sufficient funds and personnel available for this purpose, and insure such freedom of choice of methods that persons of all faiths have equal opportunities to exercise their choice without offense to their consciences.

2. Federal and state governments, foundations, universities, and other research institutions give higher priority to the need for more research and training on all aspects of population problems.

3. The United States expand its technical assistance in population programs to those nations requesting it and urge efforts by the World Health Organization and other appropriate international agencies to do likewise.

#### American Nurses' Association

##### Statement on Family Planning, 1966

...The American Nurses' Association, the professional organization of nurses concerned with the health and welfare of individuals and families, feels that it is the responsibility of all registered nurses:

1. To recognize the right of individuals and families to select and use such methods for family planning as are consistent with their own creed and mores
2. To recognize the right of individuals and families to receive information about family planning if they wish
3. To be responsive to the need for family planning
4. To be knowledgeable about state laws regarding family planning and the resources available
5. To assist in informing individuals and families of the existence of approved family planning resources
6. To assist in directing individuals and families to sources of such aid.

Because nurses have a real and enduring interest in the well-being of people, the American Nurses' Association endorses efforts to promote understanding of family planning methods and supports positive and realistic programs designed to cope with the implications of unchecked population growth.