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**(S.D.)-Report Says Nearly Half Of Pregnancies In State Unintended**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 12/31/2012 09:15 AM

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - A new report indicates that nearly half of South Dakota's pregnancies are unintended, and 13 percent of those result in abortions. The highest rates are among low-income women.

The report, by the nonprofit Guttmacher Institute, is meant to encourage states to promote the use of contraceptives. Sarah Stoesz, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, says in a statement that unintended pregnancy is a "serious public health issue."

She says the most effective way to reduce unintended pregnancies is to increase women's access to contraception.

Anti-abortion advocates praise the abortion rate because it's lower than it is in neighboring states.

Tony Venhuizen, senior advisor to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, says the comparatively low figure is "good news."