



**For Immediate Release
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Former Surgeons General Call For Immediate Action and Shift in Approach To Address America's Sexual Health Crisis

Meeting in San Francisco for first *Champions of Sexual Literacy Awards*, Dr. David Satcher and Dr. Jocelyn Elders will highlight new tactics to address distressing health disparities as Satcher announces new Center of Excellence for Sexual Health

**Press Conference – Thursday, November 2, 2006
9:00am PST**

The Palace Hotel – Telegraph Hill Room
2 New Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA

WHAT: Two former U.S. Surgeons General will address a gathering of leading sexuality researchers and advocates in San Francisco on the sexual health crisis in America. Dr. David Satcher and fellow former Surgeon General, Dr. Jocelyn Elders will call for concrete action in response to distressing disparities in sexual health among African Americans and other minorities, and the need to view sexual health as not only the absence of disease but as a positive dimension of human development and well being. Dr. Satcher will announce a new first-of-its kind Center of Excellence for Sexual Health at Morehouse School of Medicine to develop innovative public health leadership.

The National Sexuality Resource Center (NSRC) is hosting the meeting to mark the five-year anniversary of Former Surgeon General David Satcher's *Call to Action to Promote Sexual Health and Responsible Sexual Behavior*. NSRC and the Center for Research on Gender and Sexuality will highlight the need to advance sexual literacy for all Americans and present their first annual *Champions of Sexual Literacy Awards*.

WHO: Press conference participants will include:

- **David Satcher**, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Satcher Health Leadership Institute, 16th US Surgeon General of the United States
- **Jocelyn Elders**, M.D., 15th US Surgeon General of the United States
- **Gilbert Herdt**, Ph.D., Director, National Sexuality Resource Center at San Francisco State University (SFSU)
- **Bishop Dr. Yvette Flunder**, Senior Pastor, City of Refuge United Church of Christ

WHY: CDC statistics point to a sexual health crisis in the United States:

- 19 million new sexually transmitted infections annually, almost half of them among young people ages 15 to 24, with an increasing number among men who have sex with men engaging in sexual behaviors that place them at risk for STDs and HIV infection
- 40,000 new cases of HIV infection each year, with rising rates for African Americans
- Nearly half of pregnancies are unintended, with the rate substantially higher among women aged 18–24 as well as unmarried, low-income, and minority women.