

# Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

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# Teen Pregnancy and Childbearing

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## *A Case for Effective Prevention Education*

*Governor's Dropout Prevention Summit  
March 5, 2009*

# Topics covered

- Teen Pregnancy and Childbearing Statistics
- Social Issues
- What Works to Prevent Teen Pregnancy?
- Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens
- Beyond Today

# Alabama Statistics '07...

## Total pregnancies by age group

- 249 (ages <15)
  - 3,997 (ages 15-17)
  - 8,152 (ages 18-19)
- 12,398 TOTAL**  
**Rate: 39.7**

## Total births by age group

- 136 (ages <15)
  - 2,789 (ages 15-17)
  - 5,851 (ages 18-19)
- 8,776 TOTAL**

# Some related news...

According to results from the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) there have been disturbing changes in sexual and contraceptive behaviors among high school youth:



- % who have ever had sex
- % who had sex before age 13
- % sexually active in past 3 months
- % who were ever forced to have sex
- % who experienced dating violence



- % who used a condom at last sex
- % who used the birth control pill at last sex

# Selected Social Issues Affected by Teen Pregnancy & Childbearing

- Educational Achievement
- Welfare Dependency and Poverty
- Child well-being

# Educational Achievement

- Parenthood is the leading cause of school drop out among teen girls.
- Less than half of mothers (40%) who have a child before they turn 18 ever graduate from high school.
- Teens who have dropped out of school for other reasons are more likely to become pregnant and have a child than their peers.

# Welfare Dependency and Poverty

- What are the chances of growing up in poverty if:
  - The mother gave birth as a teen
  - The parents were unmarried when the child was born
  - The mother did not receive a high school diploma or GED

# Child Well-Being

- Children of teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely and at low birthweight.
- Children of teen mothers do worse in school than those born to older parents.
  - 50% more likely to repeat a grade
  - Less likely to complete high school
  - Less prepared to enter the school system and score lower on measures of school readiness

# What Works to Prevent Teen Pregnancy?

# Characteristics of Effective Prevention Programs

## Curriculum Development

Involved multiple people with different backgrounds and used a logic model approach focusing on relevant needs and assets of the youth being served.

## Curriculum Content

Clear health goals focused on specific behaviors and addressing multiple risk and protective factors.

# Characteristics of Effective Prevention Programs

## Curriculum Implementation

Secured at least minimal support from appropriate authorities and selected, trained, monitored, supervised and supported educators to deliver the program.

Implemented virtually all activities with reasonable fidelity.

# Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens

- Establish policies and programs that keep students engaged in their education.
- Creative, successful programs combine academics, parenting education/skills, and pregnancy.
- The more training and encouragement allotted to teen parents, the more promising their children's futures will be.

# Beyond today. . .

- We must be thoughtful and deliberate in assessing, selecting and implementing programs that are evidence-based and have characteristics of effective programs.
- Engage the community: school administrators, local health officials, parents, youth, etc to implement what will work in preventing teen pregnancy, STD and HIV/AIDS among our adolescents.

# Resources

- National Women's Law Center: *When Girls Don't Graduate We All Fail*  
<http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/DropoutReport.pdf>
- National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy: *Why It Matters*
  - <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/why-it-matters/pdf/education.pdf>
  - <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/why-it-matters/pdf/poverty.pdf>
  - [http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/why-it-matters/pdf/child\\_well-being.pdf](http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/why-it-matters/pdf/child_well-being.pdf)
- Healthy Teen Network: *Unique Needs of Children Born to Teen Parents*  
<http://www.healthyteennetwork.org/vertical/Sites/%7BB4D0CC76-CF78-4784-BA7C-5D0436F6040C%7D/uploads/%7BC55038AC-056D-4D1A-9AC3-D1C7D72BBE4B%7D.PDF>
- Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
  - <http://www.acptp.org/uploadedFiles/AASB%20Article.pdf>
  - <http://www.acptp.org/uploadedFiles/Sex%20Education%20in%20Public%20Schools.pdf>

# Resources

## **Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy**

412 N. Hull Street

Montgomery, AL 36104

334-265-8004

[www.acptp.org](http://www.acptp.org)

## **The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy**

1776 Mass Ave, NW, Suite 200

Washington DC 20036

(202)478-8500

[www.thenationalcampaign.org](http://www.thenationalcampaign.org)

# Resources

## Healthy Teen Network

1501 Saint Paul St., Ste. 124

Baltimore, MD 21202

(410) 685-0410

[www.healthyteennetwork.org](http://www.healthyteennetwork.org)