



# Community Benefit Report 2015

## A Letter from the Executive Director



Jamie L. Keith,  
Executive Director

Since 1999 the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has led the state of Alabama on adolescent reproductive health and teen pregnancy prevention. ACPTP trains and provides technical assistance to youth-serving organizations and groups who wish to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy, and who also want to empower the young people they work with to make healthy decisions about their lives and their health. The Alabama Campaign is proud to provide training and technical assistance on over ten evidence-based or evidence-informed sexual health education programs. These programs serve a wide range of demographics and are inclusive of all people. In 2014 (most recent data

available), the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) reported the teen pregnancy rate as 22.6 among females ages 10-19. In 2013 the rate was 24.2, and ten years ago the rate was 37.5. That's a huge decline! ADPH also reported the teen birth rate for 2014 as 17.4 - down from 19.8 in 2013, and 26.7 ten years ago.

While we celebrate this great news, we also acknowledge that more work lies ahead of us. In Alabama youth are disproportionately affected by STIs and HIV. In 2015 youth ages 15-19 accounted for 30% of all chlamydia cases and 22% of all gonorrhea cases. (ADPH) In 2013, youth ages 15-19 accounted for nearly half (46%) of all new HIV cases. (ADPH) We also know from

the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) that only about half of high schoolers who have sex use condoms (50.9%) - and that number has decreased since 2013. While our sex education law is permissive, it also includes offensive homophobic language. These are all things that we continue to work toward changing.

We know you join us in our resolve to continue the decline of sexual risk taking behaviors among youth, while also increasing the knowledge, skills, and access to important sexual health information and care. We hope you enjoy reading about our successes from 2015, as they are really successes for the youth of Alabama.

## 2015 Strategic Planning Results

### Vision and Mission Statement:

We envision sexually healthy people and communities throughout Alabama and advance our mission of leading Alabama in embracing evidence informed sexual health education as critical to healthy youth development.

### Strategies:

1. **Advocacy** for sexual health education with state, county, and local policy makers by linking them to information about evidence informed sexual health education
2. **Building and strengthening capacity** of other nonprofits (including public agencies as well as community-based, youth-serving, and faith-based organizations) to provide evidence informed sexual health education
3. **Connecting** national resources and opportunities to our state
4. **Leveraging and lending** the sound, passionate expertise of our organization's leadership to the cause of our vision and mission

## Advocacy

### 3rd Annual Youth Advocacy Day

On April 7, 2015, the Alabama Campaign cohosted the Third Annual Youth Advocacy Day in Montgomery with AIDS Alabama. Approximately 40 youth participants attended the event, which included advocacy and issue training, visiting legislators at the State House, and debriefing the advocacy experience. Teen pregnancy prevention and LGBTQ+ inclusion related materials were given to all legislators, and Representative Patricia Todd spoke to the youth participants about their role in advocacy. Overall, participant feedback was positive, with the youth saying they felt it was a “great experience” and they “had a lot of fun.”



*Youth advocates outside the State House at the 3rd Annual Youth Advocacy Day*

### Rally for Awareness

On April 30, 2015, the Alabama Campaign joined The FOCUS Program for their 12th Annual Rally for Awareness in Talladega. Over 600 students, teachers, and community leaders were in attendance to learn about youth risk-taking behaviors, including sexual risk-taking behaviors.

### State Summit

In June 2015 the Alabama Campaign was invited to attend State Summit in Washington, D.C. The annual State Summit invites state organizations to come learn about the current political and policy landscape, as well as what is on the horizon in the coming year. The Summit also provides scheduled meetings with federal legislative staff. This year, the Campaign met with Senators Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby staff members, and Representatives Martha Roby and Terri Sewell staff members to discuss the importance of evidence-based sexual health education programs, and to educate about the coming budget and funding opportunities for this work. We provided materials specific to Alabama’s teen pregnancy and birth rates, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), and projects currently using evidence-based programs in Alabama.



*Lisa Moyer (AIDS Alabama) and Christina Clark representing Alabama at State Summit*

### Alabama Youth Council

The Alabama Campaign supported the FOCUS Program’s 12th Annual

Alabama Youth Council (AYC) at the Montgomery Performing Arts Center on October 8, 2015. Approximately 380 students, parents, educators, schools nurses, and administrators represented 20 counties across the state. The goal of the AYC was to promote healthy behavior among Alabama youth.

### **From our Partners**

“The Alabama Alliance for Healthy Youth considers the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy to be one of our most valued partners. We have worked together for the past four years in planning our annual Youth Advocacy Day – bringing young people to the State House in Montgomery to learn about, and then advocate for comprehensive sexual health education and the removal of the homophobic language from the sexual health education law. We could not do this without the Alabama Campaign, and every year we start planning this event with them, being so appreciative of their insights in working with legislators, and organizing and planning events. Overall we are extremely thankful for the work that ACPTP is doing in the state of Alabama, and for their willingness to collaborate with us to make schools and sexual health education a more respectful and useful experience for young people.”

- Lisa Moyer, MPH  
Youth Advocacy Coordinator  
AIDS Alabama

## Building and Strengthening Capacity

### From our Partners

“Through ACPTP, I have been equipped with education and knowledge to help the young people of Alabama reach their educational and life goals. Currently I am the Program Coordinator for APREP with the Alabama Department of Public Health. Previously I was a facilitator/trainer in Tuscaloosa, where I delivered evidence-based programming to youth. We served hundreds of young people and I can’t begin to tell you how many young people were positively affected by our efforts. There have been several occasions where young people had no knowledge of safer sex practices or even information on how HIV/AIDS is transmitted. It brings joy to my heart and soul to be able to educate the young people of Alabama on serious topics such as pregnancy prevention and STD prevention. The partnership with ACPTP has afforded me and others who share the same passion to reach youth throughout the state of Alabama by providing training on the evidence-based curricula we implement throughout the state. It is very important that young people are equipped with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and to be able to set goals for themselves in relation to their sexual health and decision making. I thank the ACPTP for being a catalyst in our efforts to educate the young people of the state. I look forward to our continued partnership in the future with the ACPTP.”

- Valerie Lockett, LBSW

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Branch, Bureau of Family Health Services

**The Alabama Campaign builds and strengthens the capacity of youth-serving professionals in Alabama through professional development opportunities, training and technical assistance, and publishing and curating sexual health education resources. In 2015, we reached 10K people through Facebook, 5.5K people through Twitter, and 3.6K people through the ACPTP website, including 3.2K new visitors. In total, ACPTP reached 19K people in 2015.**

### From our Partners

“In my work across the State of Alabama through FOCUS, a funded project of the Alabama Department of Public Health-HIV/AIDS Division, I have found the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (ACPTP) to be the lead agency promoting comprehensive sex education. It is essential that kids be informed about sexuality from an early age. Making safe choices about sex is paramount. Funded projects, community agencies, and schools look to ACPTP for information and guidance. The Campaign is supportive in our efforts to mobilize educators and students to address sexual risk behaviors which lead to teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV/AIDS. The work of the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has contributed to the decrease in teen pregnancy rates in our state. Their willingness to share information, resources, and to collaborate with FOCUS, has had a positive impact on decreasing sexual risk behaviors in our schools and communities.

- Sue Jones, M.Ed.

SCJ Consultants, LLC

The FOCUS Program Director

## Connecting

### 12th Annual Conference

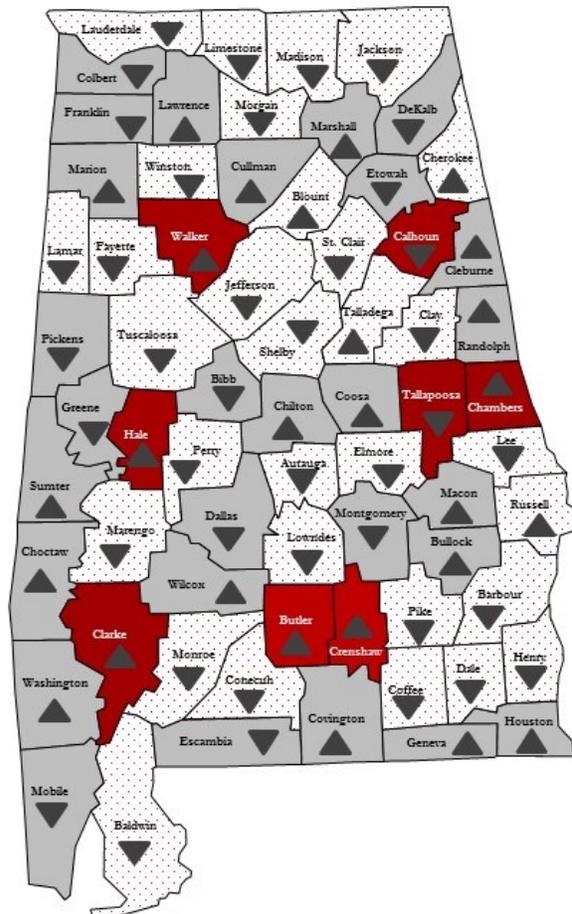
On May 19-20 ACPTP hosted its 12th Annual Conference: Insight, Answers, and Opportunities. The day and a half conference was held at Auburn University Montgomery and sponsored by Alabama Department of Human Resources and Alabama Department of Public Health, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Branch. There were 15 break-out workshop options, with topics ranging from healthy relationships and contraception to pregnancies in rural youth and how to organize for social change. Speakers and

participants from across the state and country joined the conference. The keynote speaker on the final afternoon was Monica Rodriguez, former President and CEO of SIECUS (Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States). She spoke on the importance of creating a foundation of life-long sexual health and well-being in young people, and our roles as youth-serving professionals. The conference was, as in years past, well received by participants, and met professional development needs.



Keynote speaker Monica Rodriguez

## Leveraging and Lending



While we are encouraged by the declines in teen pregnancy and teen birth, we know that our work is not yet done. We continue to leverage and lend our expertise to bring adolescent sexual risk –taking behaviors to the attention of policy makers and other decision makers, educators, healthcare providers, and parents and caregivers. Our hope is that we will continue to move the needle toward comprehensive sexual health education for all Alabama youth.

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Prevent Teen Pregnancy**

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***Thank You to our Supporters. . .***

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