



# Community Benefit Report 2013-2014

## The Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy



**Jamie L. Keith,**  
Executive Director

The Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (ACPTP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization leading Alabama on adolescent reproductive health and teen pregnancy prevention with an emphasis on positive youth development. Founded in 1999, the motivation for establishing an organization in Alabama with a mission and focus on the issue of teen pregnancy prevention stemmed from the fact that the United States pregnancy rate remains one of the highest among industrialized countries. Alabama contributes to this statistic by ranking among the states with the highest rates of teen births. In 2012 (*most recent national comparison data*) the teen birth rate in Alabama among

girls aged 15-19 was 39.2; the teen birth rate for the United States for the same period was 29.

Despite a teen birth rate that is higher than the national average, Alabama has seen significant declines in the teen birth rate. Since 1991, the teen birth rate among 15-19 year olds has declined 47% - from a rate of 61.8 in 1991 to the current rate of 39.2.

The Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is founded on the belief that reducing the rate of teen pregnancy is one of the most direct means available to improve overall child well-being, ensure a healthy adolescence and adulthood, and to reduce persistent poverty.

During the past year ACPTP has worked throughout Alabama to raise awareness about the complexities of teen pregnancy and teen childbearing and has promoted the review and implementation of evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.

This Community Benefit Report highlights some of our activities during this year. We will continue to work in the coming months and years to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy in Alabama by creating a climate that ensures young people in Alabama receive the knowledge and skills they need to enter adulthood free from unintended pregnancy.

## Vision, Mission, and Value Statements

### Vision Statement:

ACPTP envisions healthy youth with the skills as adults to build strong families and communities.

### Mission Statement:

Leading Alabama on adolescent reproductive health and teen pregnancy prevention with an emphasis on positive youth development.

### Value Statements:

The Board of Directors and staff adhere to the following:

- ACPTP values the investment in teen pregnancy prevention and services for pregnant and parenting youth for the development of healthy families and strong communities.
- ACPTP values access to medically-accurate and complete reproductive health information and care and the implementation of teen pregnancy prevention programs that are evidence-based and proven effective in changing risk-taking behavior.
- ACPTP values the diversity of opinion and the power of working in partnership to affect positive change and the role of advocacy to raise awareness and open dialogue about public policies affecting youth health issues.
- ACPTP values youth as assets in our communities and believes in their capacity to make positive choices when they are informed, educated and empowered by supportive communities.

## Education & Training: Outreach to Communities

The Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has a strong commitment to providing education and training opportunities to individuals and communities throughout Alabama. The Campaign actively seeks opportunities to deliver workshop modules as a means of raising awareness about the complexities of teen pregnancy and childbearing while at the same time providing knowledge and skills for service providers to use in evaluating and implementing effective teen pregnancy prevention programs. Highlights from this year's education and training activities include:

### 11th Annual Teen Pregnancy Prevention Conference

On May 19-20, the Alabama Campaign co-hosted our 11th Annual Teen Pregnancy Prevention Conference with Alabama Department of Public Health at Auburn University Montgomery. Approximately 125 youth-serving professionals attended the day-and-a-half conference.

The conference was kicked off by keynote speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Schroeder, who spoke on teen culture. Following her keynote, conference participants attended one of three workshop break-out options: Social Media, Understanding Adolescents, or Youth Advocacy. A special thank you to workshop presenters from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, The Konopka Institute, and AIDS Alabama.



*Millicent West presents a breakout workshop on engaging the faith community in teen pregnancy prevention.*

The second day of the conference began in workshop break-out sessions, and continued through the afternoon. Workshop topics included Engaging Young Men in Prevention Efforts, Contraception 101, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Among Foster Care Youth, Facilitator Skills, Dating Violence, Teen Pregnancy Prevention in Faith Communities, LGBTQ Sensitivity, The Myth of Conflict, and Lessons from the Field. A special thank you workshop

presenters from Break the Cycle, We are Change, and the University of Alabama. The conference ended with a closing keynote from Jean Workman, who reminded participants of the power of the work they do.

### Workshops and Presentations

From community meetings to colleges and universities, ACPTP created and delivered several workshops and presentations designed to provide participants with knowledge about teen pregnancy prevention and skills to communicate about the importance of healthy relationships.

In November 2013, ACPTP spoke to students at UAB about the National Sexual Health Education Standards. In July 2014, ACPTP had two opportunities to speak at the DHR Supervisors Conference about teen pregnancy prevention among youth in out-of-home care. In August 2014, ACPTP partnered with ADPH to provide a workshop on Understanding Adolescents to Lee County Youth Development.

ACPTP also forged relationships with Children's Policy Councils (CPCs) across the state whose counties have the highest teen pregnancy rates. ACPTP has had the opportunity to visit Lowndes, Covington, and Fayette counties to provide insight into the issue of teen pregnancy and resources.

### Curricula Training

In March 2014, ACPTP staff trained five Alabama Personal Responsibility Education Program (APREP) grantees on evidence-based curricula *Making Proud Choices*. In September 2014, ACPTP staff provided a training for 17 APREP grantees and ADPH staff on the newest version of *Making Proud Choices*, which has been adapted for youth in out-of-home care.



*Training participants engage in an answering sensitive questions activity.*

### Training Evaluation Feedback

- [Trainers were] very knowledgeable; [training was] informative.
- [What I liked most about this training was] the activities - being able to see the process in the activities.
- Overall the conference was great! I learned so much!
- [ACPTP] met my educational needs with a varied selection of topics.
- Jamie [is] very much at ease and knowledgeable on information - [she] did well relaying information to DHR and foster parents.
- I will formulate activities like this to work with my teens.
- [What I liked most about this training was] the "sensitive answers" activity. Very helpful, [and] the random items provided to keep us stimulated (playdough and pipe cleaners).
- [What I liked most about this training were the] games, facilitator's adjustments, [and] shared handling of difficult situations.

## Advocacy: Empowering Youth & Educating Policy Makers

Advocacy is a deliberate process of speaking out on issues of concern. On the issue of teen pregnancy prevention the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy keeps up to date on policies and is vocal about the importance of providing young people with the knowledge and skills they need avoid sexual risk-taking behaviors. The Campaign empowers youth to talk openly and honestly about the important issues of personal relationships and sexual health education, and educates policy makers on the importance of medically-accurate and age-appropriate sexual health education for young people.

### Alabama Youth Council

The Alabama Campaign supported the FOCUS Program's 10th Annual Alabama Youth Council (AYC) at the Montgomery Performing Arts Center in Montgomery, AL in October 2013. More than 740 students, parents, educators, schools nurses, and administrators represented 33 counties across the state. The goal of the AYC was to increase awareness, strengthen professional preparation of health educators, and improve the knowledge and leadership skills of students to reduce the incidence of adolescent risk behaviors identified by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Study (YRBS). This event provided participants with the opportunity to hear from Todd Lauderdale of Rachel's Challenge, an anti-bullying campaign; Reggie Barlow, head coach of Alabama State University's Hornets football team; Kamaria Laffrey, HIV/AIDS consultant; and Jessica Brookshire, founder of Kids Against Ridicule, Meanness, and Aggression (K.A.R.M.A.).



*Policy and Training Coordinator Christina Clark at FOCUS' Alabama Youth Council.*

### Rally for Awareness

In March 2014, the Campaign supported the FOCUS Program's Rally for Awareness

at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega, AL. The goal of the Rally for Awareness is to promote student-led prevention of risk behaviors, enhance leadership skills, and increase academic achievement. Students and adults from 24 schools across Alabama were in attendance. The Alabama Campaign supported the event by providing an adult break-out session on "Teen Pregnancy in Alabama" and a youth break-out session on "Youth Advocacy in Teen Pregnancy Prevention".

### State Summit

In June 2014 the Campaign was invited to attend the national 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 Senator Jeff Sessions, Senator Richard Shelby, and Representative Martha Roby 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.

### Youth Advocacy Day

On March 18, 2014 the Alabama Campaign and AIDS Alabama hosted 23 high school and college-aged youth at Alabama Public Television in the Second Annual Youth Advocacy Day in Alabama. AIDS Alabama bussed participants down to Montgomery for the day's activities. Student leaders from the Alabama Alliance for Healthy Youth

(AA4HY) provided basic advocacy training, which included an overview of the "ask" and demonstration of "elevator pitches". Following the training, participants went to the State House, where they were able to meet with their state senators and representatives to give their advocacy pitch and drop off materials. After the legislative visits, participants were able to debrief from the experience with the group over lunch. The general feedback from the event was positive, with several participants indicating that they felt very empowered after their experience. A special thank you to Alabama Public Television for providing in-kind space for the advocacy training and lunch.



*Members of the Alabama Alliance for Healthy Youth.*

### Youth Advocacy Day Feedback

*How would you describe your legislative visits and advocacy experience?*

- I think it was a great experience.
- It was interesting to see the differences between the federal and state level advocacy.
- I wasn't able to see [all of] my legislators, but the ones I did see were supportive.
- Inspiring
- I feel like it's only going to get better.

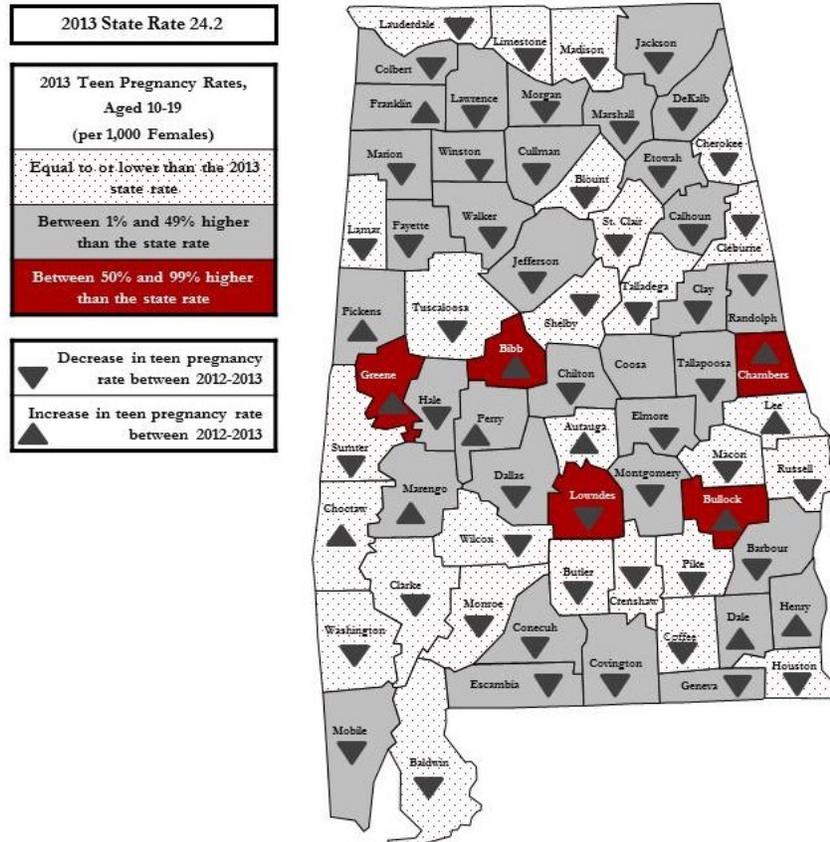
## Collaboration: National, State & Local Partnerships

The issues of teen pregnancy and teen childbearing are complex and very much related to other adolescent issues. Recognizing the value of diversity of opinion and the power of working in partnership to address these issues, the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy actively seeks to include in its plans and programs the expertise and commitment of other organizations. The Campaign's collaborative nature provides opportunities to create a broad network of agencies and organizations addressing the important issues of teen pregnancy and teen childbearing.

### Federal Funding Opportunities

ACPTP is sharing with our partners information on teen pregnancy prevention funding opportunities available in 2015. If we can help you with your project and/or proposal development, please call us at 334-265-8004 or email [cclark@acptp.org](mailto:cclark@acptp.org). Funding opportunities are available now from the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) related to:

- **Capacity Building to Support Implementation of Evidence-Based Pregnancy Prevention Programs:** The Funding Opportunity Announcement will provide competitive funding to organizations to provide capacity building assistance to support small scale replications of evidence-based programs to scale in the future.
- **Replicating Evidence-Based TPP Programs to Scale in Communities with the Greatest Need:** The Funding Opportunity Announcement will provide competitive funding to organizations to develop and implement a plan for preventing teen pregnancy in communities at greatest need. This includes engaging the community, including youth, in developing and implementing a plan to prevent teen pregnancy; implementing evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs to scale in multiple settings and with vulnerable populations; implementing programs in a safe and supportive environment; establishing links to youth-friendly health care services; and raising awareness of the importance of preventing teen pregnancy and promoting positive youth development.
- **Supporting and Enabling Early Innovation to Advance Adolescent Health and Prevent Teen Pregnancy:** The Funding Opportunity Announcement will provide competitive funding to intermediary organizations to develop, operate, and manage a system to enable and support the growth and development of innovative products, programs, or processes to advance adolescent health and prevent teen pregnancy.



## Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

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## Thank You to our Supporters. . .

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## Looking Forward

- ACPTP's 12th Annual Teen Pregnancy Prevention Conference, *Insight, Answers, and Opportunities*, will be held **May 19-20, 2015**, in Montgomery, AL, at Auburn University Montgomery Taylor Center. Registration information will be posted to the website and social media sites in Spring 2015.
- The 2015 Conference Call for Proposals is open and [available on our website](#). The deadline for application is **January 31, 2015**.
- The Third Annual Youth Advocacy Day will be held in April 21 2015, in Montgomery, AL. Youth from across the state will head to the Capitol to advocate for their right to medically-accurate and age-appropriate sexual health education. Registration information will be available in early 2015 on our website and social media.