



Community Benefit Report 2012-2013

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 2011 (*most recent national comparison data*) the teen birth rate in Alabama among girls aged 15-19 was 41.5; the

teen birth rate for the United States for the same period was 31.3.

Despite a teen birth rate that is higher than the national average, Alabama has seen significant declines in the teen birth rate in the last two decades. Since 1991, the teen birth rate among 15-19 year olds has declined 44% - from a rate of 73.6 in 1991 to a rate of 41.5 in 2011 (*most recent national comparison data via the National Campaign*).

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:

10th Annual Teen Pregnancy Prevention Conference

On April 29—30, 2013, the Campaign hosted the 10th Annual Conference to Prevent Teen Pregnancy at Alabama Children's Hospital in Birmingham, AL. Forty-three youth-serving professionals attended conference day one on April 29; and 65 attended day two on April 30.

Day one was a half day in which Healthy Teen Network's Deborah Chilcoat delivered *Getting to Outcomes (GTO) - Program Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation*. The second conference day opened with a keynote from Elizabeth Schroeder from Answer on *Understanding the Power of "Why": How a Tiny Word Can Make a Giant Impact On Our Programs*. Following the keynote, conference attendees could choose from several breakout sessions including: *A Different Conversation—Holistic Sexuality* and *Standards for Sexual Health Education—Overview of National Sex Education Standards* by Deborah Chilcoat from Healthy Teen Network; *Sustainability During Challenging Times* and *Effective Grant Writing: Are you Fundraising or Just Begging?* by Nicole Murphy-McGough from Strategic Resource Solutions; *Best Practices in Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programming* by Jamie Keith; and *What About the Boys? Making Sexuality Education Relevant to Boys and Young Men* by Elizabeth Schroeder.

Conference evaluations were positive and indicated that ACPTP continues to meet the educational and training needs of conference participants.

Crucial Conversations: A Teen Pregnancy Prevention Conference

On November 8—9, 2012, ACPTP partnered with Mobile County Health Department to bring the Mobile community a conference for their region for the first time. On November 8, we hosted a Parent Night, with speakers from MCHD's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative staff members and Pete Key of

Ole' Pete Key, Inc. On November 9, we hosted a full conference day for youth-serving professionals. Glynis Shea of the Konopka Institute, along with ACPTP's Jamie Keith, delivered a session on *Understanding Adolescence: Seeing Youth through a Developmental Lens*. Conference participants were then able to choose from three break-out sessions, including *Becoming an Ask-Able Adult* by MCHD staff, *Adults Empowering Youth* by Advocates for Youth, and *Sex Education in Schools* by Alabama State Department of Education.

The conference was well-received and feedback was positive. We hope to be able to provide more conferences in the southern region of Alabama in the future.



Conference attendees participate in an understanding adolescence timeline activity

ACPTP participated in another Mobile event that focused on youth advocacy in July 2013. Using an advocacy tool to help participants craft their message, approximately 45 youth participants practiced an "advocacy message" and were empowered to become advocates for issues important to youth in their community.

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. One example was at University of Alabama Birmingham's Sexual Health Awareness through Peer Education (SHAPE) class, where ACPTP had the opportunity to encourage peer educators in their work to deliver effective sexual health education in the community.

Curricula Training

ACPTP provided evidence-based curricula training to a wide variety of organizations during the period of this report. Some of the training participants included sub-grantees of the Alabama Department of Public Health, Personal Responsibility Education Program (APREP); Tribal PREP in Escambia County; Gift of Life Foundation in Montgomery County; and Boys & Girls Club staff in Athens, Lee, Montgomery, and Madison counties. In addition to curricula training, ACPTP supported program implementation through the delivery of technical assistance. Focusing on youth recruitment, retention and fidelity of program implementation, the technical assistance provided by ACPTP ensured programs were delivered effectively and with a focus on positive youth outcomes.



A training participant demonstrates an activity from Making Proud Choices

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 9th Annual Alabama Youth Council (AYC) at the Montgomery Performing Arts Center in Montgomery, AL in October 2012. More than 770 students, parents, educators, schools nurses, and administrators represented 36 schools 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 HIV, STIs, and teen pregnancy. This event provided participants with the opportunity to hear from Tom Robertson, HIV/AIDS educator; State Representative Laura Hill of Huntsville; Ron Sparks; Pete Key of Ole' Pete Key, Inc.; Brian Earley about bullying, abuse, and suicide; Dr. Tina Simpson about sexual risk-taking behaviors; and Barbara Hurst about distracted driving.



ACPTP staff at The FOCUS Program's Alabama Youth Council

Rally for Awareness

In April 2013, the Campaign supported the FOCUS Program's Rally for Awareness at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega, AL. The event featured guest speakers on the value of internet safety and the harm of cyber bullying. Also at the

event was a health fair for students. The Campaign provided volunteer support for the event.

State Summit

In June 2013 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, Campaign staff met with Senator Jeff Sessions 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.

A follow-up meeting with Alabama's delegation occurred in December, 2013. The importance of visiting Alabama's legislators and sharing with them the details of the work being accomplished in the state and the success we are experiencing in declining teen pregnancy and birth rates is critically important to continued funding for the implementation of medically-accurate and age-appropriate teen pregnancy prevention programming.

Youth Advocacy Day

On April 9, 2013, the Campaign and AIDS Alabama hosted 21 high school and college -aged youth in the first ever sexual health youth advocacy day in Alabama. AIDS Alabama bussed participants down to Montgomery for the day's activities. ACPTP, AIDS Alabama, and Advocates

for Youth partnered to provide basic advocacy training, which included helping participants create and practice an effective, quick advocacy pitch and looking up their legislators. Following the training, youth advocates went to the State House, where they met with their state senators and representatives to deliver their advocacy message and drop off materials.

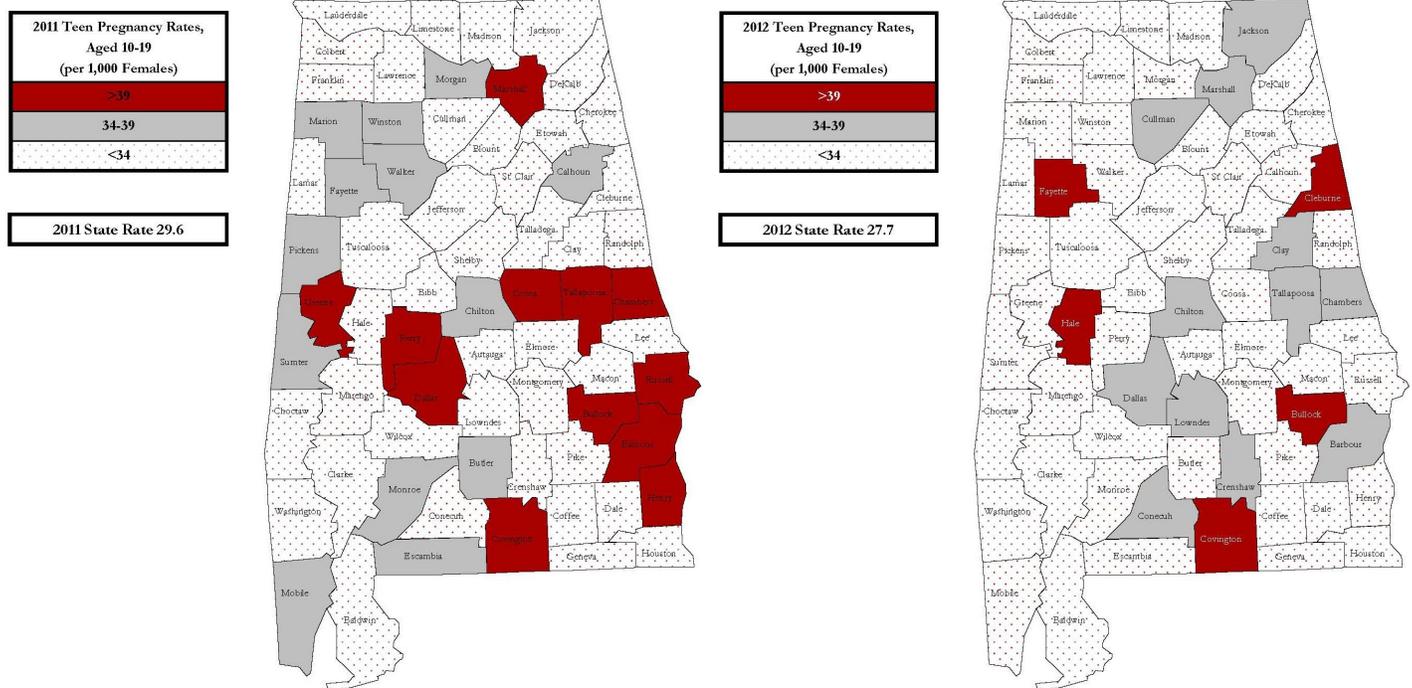


Youth advocates at the Capitol for Alabama's first Youth Advocacy Day

Both the Senate and House galleries recognized the student group, and they met with Representative Patricia Todd, a strong supporter of medically-accurate and age-appropriate sexual health education for young people. After the legislative visits, youth advocates were provided an opportunity to debrief from the experience with the full group over lunch. The general feedback from the event was positive, with several participants indicating that they felt very empowered after their experience.

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.



In 2013, we received the fantastic news that teen pregnancy and teen birth rates were at a historic low across the nation. According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, the U.S. **teen pregnancy rate** has declined **52%** among **15-17 year olds** between **1990 and 2010**, and **36%** among **18-19 year olds**. Similarly, the U.S. **teen birth rate** has declined **49%** among **15-19 year olds** between **1991 and 2011**.

Alabama has also seen marked progress in the last two decades. The Alabama **teen pregnancy rate** for **15-19 year olds** has declined **45%** between **1991 and 2011** (National Center for Health Statistics). The Alabama **teen birth rate** for **15-19 year olds** has declined **44%** between **1991 and 2011** (National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy).

Because of the complexity of this issue, it is difficult to pinpoint the exact cause of the decline, especially the rapid decline in recent years. However, Sarah Brown, CEO of the National Campaign, put it best: “The decline has been fueled by three factors: more teens are waiting to have sex; they also report fewer sexual partners and better use of contraception. In short, the credit for this remarkable national success story goes to teens themselves.”

Though we've provided percentage declines for 15-19 year olds in Alabama, it is important to note that the Alabama Department of Public Health collects and reports teen pregnancy and birth data for 10-19 year olds. Above we've provided teen pregnancy rate maps from 2011 and 2012 according to this age range. Please visit our website at www.acptp.org for additional data, details, maps, and graphs, including county specific data.

Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

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Thank You to our Supporters. . .

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Looking Forward

- **ANNUAL TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION CONFERENCE**
Our 11th Annual Teen Pregnancy Prevention Conference will be held this spring in Montgomery, AL. Details are still being set with our partner organizations, but please visit our website or social media sites often for an exact date and registration details.
- ACPTP now offers on-demand training on a number of evidence-based curricula and professional development workshop topics. Visit our website to schedule a training today.
- ACPTP will offer training and technical assistance to those who may be interested in applying for federal grants for teen pregnancy prevention in our state. This training will start Fall 2014. Please contact ACPTP for more information.