


PROJECT
EMPOWER

Education Means Power

Buncombe County's Teen Pegnancy Prevention Initiative




Planning Advisory Committee

Sara Green, Buncombe County Department of Health
Johnnie Grant, *The Urban News*
Keynon Lake, *"My Daddy Taught Me That"*
Michelle Lemelle, Asheville City School System
Peggy Weil, Western NC AIDS Project

A Message from

Caryn Bria Monroe



You Can Help Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Parents play an important role in helping to prevent teen pregnancy. Talk to your youth/teens about sexuality and teen pregnancy.

1. Parents who provide clear messages about the value of delaying sex oftentimes than not have children who are less likely to have intercourse at an early age

2. Parents who discuss contraception are also more likely to have children who use contraception when they become sexually active.

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About Project EMPOWER

Project EMPOWER is a program of Mt. Zion Community Development, Inc., a 501(c3) non-profit organization.
Project EMPOWER has been in existence since 2003 and serves 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students at Asheville Middle School, and 9th grade students at Asheville High School.
Project EMPOWER is funded by the NC Dept. of Health & Human Services and Buncombe County.

May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention!



May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month, a North Carolina-born, national event. Take time to have a thoughtful conversation with young people about pregnancy.

Too often, conversations about teen pregnancy are guided by myths rather than facts. These misconceptions can make it harder for communities to support young people. We hope you'll use Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month as an opportunity to do some myth busting!
Teen pregnancy is at a historic low in North Carolina, down more than 60% since it peaked in the 1990s. Despite this, most Americans think teen pregnancy is on the rise.
Teens' own smart decisions are driving the trend. Though cultural representations of teens tend to focus on their supposed irresponsibility, today's teens start having sex at an older age and are much more likely to use birth control than teens in previous generations.
Communities make a big difference. Effective sex education, more engaged parents, better access to birth control, better birth control methods, and supportive communities all make it possible for young people to make the smart decisions they're making.
Prevention Pays Off!
While investments in family planning and sex education might seem controversial (in reality, they're not), taxpayers reap a big reward. In fact, a new report released this week shows that the decline in teen pregnancies saves North Carolina taxpayers more than \$389 million each year!¹

Buncombe County 2012 Teen Pregnancies

Nearly 70% of North Carolina high school seniors have had sex. Fewer than half of those students used a condom the last time.

2012 Teen Pregnancies

Number of pregnancies among 15-19 year old girls	236
Teen pregnancy rate per 1,000 15-19 year old girls	35.4

Teen Pregnancy Rates by Race/Ethnicity

African American	64.5
Hispanic	36.0
White	31.4

Teen Pregnancy Rates by Age

15-17 year olds	19.5
18-19 year olds	57.7
Number of pregnancies among 15-17 year old girls	76
Number of pregnancies among 18-19 year old girls	160
Percent of Repeat Pregnancies	14.4%
Teen birth rate per 1,000 15-19 year old girls	27.1
NC County Ranking (out of 100 counties)	67
Change since 2011	- 9.9%

Belinda Grant,
Executive Director,
Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.

Photo: Urban News



Project EMPOWER Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 17
Service Learning Event
With guests Keynon Lake, author of "My Daddy Taught Me That," and Kimberly Simpkins from the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Saturday, May 24
Empowerment/Skill-Building Event
Guest Speakers/Facilitators:
Rachel Blattener, Personal Fitness Trainer
Jazz Cathcart, Executive Director of the I Have a Dream Foundation
Jeff Cantanese, Asheville Community Theatre
Stuart Cowles, Climbmax


2011 Sexual Health, All Ages


Number of Chlamydia Cases	755
Number of Gonorrhea Cases	175

The total numbers of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea cases are useful indicators of adolescent sexual health as they are most common in adolescents.


Source: Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of NC, www.APPCNC.org

TEEN PREGNANCY IS 100% PREVENTABLE
Play the StayTeen quiz at www.stayteen.org





The World is YOURS!



We Want You to SUCCEED!

The best time to think about how you'll handle a tough decision about sex is before you have to make it.

Know the facts, have a plan, and understand your options.