

South Carolina

Campaign Contributes to a Decrease in Teen Pregnancy

Public Health Problem

South Carolina has documented the following for its state:

- 17th highest teen pregnancy rate in the United States
- 8th highest teen pregnancy rate and 12th highest birth rate among 15–17 year olds in the United States
- Each teen birth costs state taxpayers almost \$22,000 per year

Initiative Goal

To increase the capacity of multiple organizations throughout South Carolina to use science-based approaches and programs to prevent teen pregnancy and promote adolescent reproductive health, including abstinence, and sexually transmitted diseases (STD)/HIV prevention.

South Carolina Campaign Collaboration Builds State and Local Capacity

The South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (SC Campaign) was funded in 2002 and 2005 through a cooperative agreement with CDC's Division of Reproductive Health, 4 Title X regional training organizations and 9 state teen pregnancy prevention organizations to prevent adolescent pregnancy through the use of education, training, technical assistance, public awareness and research. To achieve this mission, the SC Campaign works with public, private, school and community based organizations in each of the state's 46 counties to improve the use of science-based approaches to teen pregnancy prevention. The SC Campaign has implemented a statewide system of educational programs and technical assistance targeting direct service providers in over 60 teen pregnancy and STD/HIV prevention organizations, leading to successful implementation of science-based programs in many of these organizations.

Successful Impact

- Recent data show the number of teen pregnancies of all race and age groups in South Carolina has decreased.
- In 2005, the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control reported 9,147 girls ages 10-19 became pregnant. This represents a decrease of 4.1% (396 pregnancies) from 2004.
- Teen pregnancy rates are the lowest they have ever been in the state and represent a 29% decrease since 1994.
- Reductions in teen pregnancy rates in South Carolina throughout the 1990s saved the state more than \$56 million in 2004 alone.