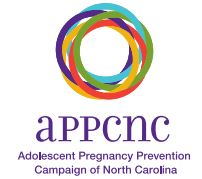


Gaston Youth Connected

Community-Wide Steps to Improve Clinic Access and Services for Youth in Gaston County, North Carolina

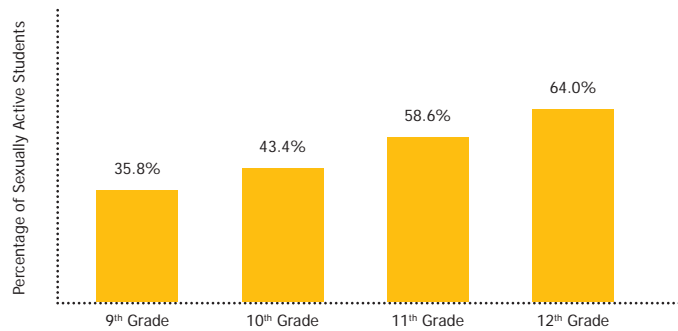


PROBLEM

Gaston County Teen Birth Rate, 15-19 Year Olds: 53.7
North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. 2009 Data.

Annual Cost of Teen Childbearing to NC Taxpayers: \$392,000,000
Counting It Up: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in North Carolina in 2008. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

North Carolina Students Who Are Sexually Active, by Grade



2011 North Carolina Youth Risk Behavior Survey. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Retrieved from: <http://www.nchealthyschools.org/docs/data/yrbbs/2011/statewide/high-school.pdf>.

7 out of 10 Gaston County teens surveyed **don't** have basic knowledge about their right to consent to confidential clinical services or about available clinical services in the community.

Gaston Youth Connected Evidence-Based Program Participant Surveys through March 2012.

Focus Group Results

Primary Concerns of Gaston County Youth Regarding Clinical Care:

- Confidentiality of services
- Access to caring, knowledgeable, non-judgmental staff

Gaston Youth Connected Focus Group Report - Clinical Services. October 19, 2011.

10.8% of 11-19 year old girls in Gaston County received free or low-cost family planning services in 2010.

Gaston County Health Department.

82% of Gaston County parents say it's important for their teen to know where they can get birth control, including condoms.

Gaston Youth Connected 2011 Parent Opinion Survey.

STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

Gaston Youth Connected is implementing a multi-pronged strategy to improve the quality and accessibility of clinical services.

ENHANCE CLINICAL ENVIRONMENTS

1. Gaston Youth Connected's Teen Action Council advised clinic staff on ways to bolster teen-friendliness of clinical services
2. Gaston County Health Department assessed clinic flow and processes, and took significant steps to improve teen-friendliness
3. Gaston County Health Department opened the Teen Wellness Center and added Teen Wellness Center services to strategic satellite clinic locations

TEEN-FOCUSED EDUCATION

1. Developed two clinic-linking lesson plans: one module to be used in programs and one stand-alone lesson for other community groups
2. Gaston County Health Department employs professional Teen Health Advocates to do outreach and in-clinic support
3. Rebrand and advertise teen family planning services at the Gaston County Health Department as the Teen Wellness Center
4. Outreach at community events
5. Teen Wellness Center tours for teens to increase comfort in accessing services



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

1. Provided "How to Make a Good Referral" training to youth-serving organizations
2. Teen Action Council developed and presented training on Minor's Right to Consent to community leaders
3. Teen Wellness Center grand opening tours for community members

IN THE WORKS

1. Social marketing campaign to increase contraceptive use in 18-19 year olds
2. Training and materials on Minor's Right to Consent and adolescent care best practices to clinical providers in the community
3. Teen Action Council virtual clinic tour videos for online outreach

PRELIMINARY PROGRESS

Key Preliminary Outcomes

Approximately 250 youth, community members, and youth-serving professionals attended Teen Wellness Center Tours

16 youth trainers developed skills to provide Minor's Right to Consent training to community leaders. (One leadership group trained so far.)

5,000 Teen Wellness Center brochures distributed to area youth

239 community leaders attended presentations on the Parent Opinion Survey

Teen Wellness Center opens as the area's first just-for-teens clinic

Gaston County Health Department adds Teen Wellness Center-branded services to three satellite clinics

Satisfaction surveys administered to every Teen Wellness Center patient

341 visits to the Teen Wellness Center or to Teen Wellness Center services at satellite locations since grand opening (as of 5/29)

Referral surveys administered to every Teen Wellness Center patient to assess community-clinic connections

47 private medical provider staff briefed on Gaston Youth Connected and offered a free assessment of current approaches to teen sexual health services

112 professionals received tutorial on how to make referrals to the Teen Wellness Center

Knowledge

Quality

Access

Impact Of The Clinic-Linking Module

Participants significantly ($p < .01$) increased knowledge of birth control access, where to access clinical services, and their right to consent to care.

Scores range from 0 to 4, with 4 indicating most knowledge.



Pre-Test
Mean = 1.95



Post-Test
Mean = 3.24

"I learned about new contraceptives methods... and about the local options I have... about that youth have access to birth control pills and condoms without parent consent"

Program post-test response

The percent of participants who said they would go to a doctor or clinic to get birth control if needed increased by 39.3%.



Pre-Test
61.8%



Post-Test
86.1%

"There is now a new teen clinic that anyone can go to. I can go to Wal-Mart, Target to get condoms... They have everything in there from condoms and everything else you need. I can go to doctor or [health department] to get on depo or the pill."

Post-program focus group participant