COUNTERING THE UPWARD TREND IN TEENAGE PREGNANCY RATES:

Results from a school-based program
PRESENTERS

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According to the Centers for Disease Control, the national teenage birth rate increased 3% in 2006 after 14 years of continuous decline.

In Louisiana, the percent of live births to mothers under the age of 20 slightly increased to 13.8 percent in 2006 from 13.7 percent in 2005; tying Louisiana with Alabama for 3rd place in highest percentage of teen births by state (Martin et al., 2009).
NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES

- Teen mother
- Child
- Society
Provide multiple services such as education, reproductive health and family planning services, skill training, financial assistance, and social services to pregnant and parenting teens.

Models differ by setting; either as alternative or special services within mainstream school settings or as stand-alone alternative schools (Amin et al, 2006).

An integrative review summarizing data from 13 studies published from 1997 to 2006 gives up-to-date evidence of success of school-based clinics in preventing adverse consequences of teen pregnancy and in postponing or preventing repeat pregnancies: absenteeism and dropout rates were reduced for pregnant adolescents and parenting adolescents, child outcomes such as low birth weight and developmental delays improved, and teenagers’ decisions to use contraceptives and not to repeat pregnancy until more stable increased (Strunk, 2008). Similar success was reported for stand-alone alternative schools (Amin et al, 2006).
The data reported here are from 110 teenagers who participated in a teen pregnancy prevention program as clients of Healthy Start New Orleans (HSNO).

HSNO’s High School Initiative serviced pregnant teens through nine schools in 2007-2008.

Services included health classes related to positive maternal attachments and healthy relationships and support group.

Teen clients were also eligible to receive all of the traditional services offered through HSNO (mall of moms, case manager and social service).
3 students still in school had repeat pregnancies.

3 of the 20 students who dropped out of school had repeat pregnancies.

50% of students enrolled in HSNO had contracted an STD.

1/3 of students in parenting classes state that their pregnancies were planned; some because they wanted someone to love them.

2/3 students did not use protection stating that they did not have access to health care and community resources.
20 students dropped out of school after their babies were born.
2 of the 20 drop outs have completed their GED.
3 teens terminated their pregnancies.
 Teens expressed frustration with the inability to access services due to their age (childcare assistance, Medicaid transportation, and healthcare for infants, food stamps and family support.
90% expressed delaying additional births until their life situations are more stable.
Implications

- Research
- Policy
- Services
REFERENCES

