NOT RIGHT NOW, Put Pregnancy on Pause is a campaign that aims to lower teen pregnancy rates in Horry and Spartanburg Counties. Teen pregnancy is a big problem that impacts everyone in South Carolina. But the larger issue is that no one owns this problem; teens think it’ll never happen to them, parents avoid talking about sex, and schools do not always make reproductive health education a priority. Additionally, some faith-based organizations may be hesitant to address this difficult topic, and community health centers are not always teen-friendly.

NOT RIGHT NOW empowers teens to be in control of if and when they have sex. Abstinence is the only surefire way to avoid pregnancy, but the reality is that some teenagers will choose to have sex. We want to arm these teens with information so they can be as safe as possible.

Teens need a plan to prevent pregnancy. NOT RIGHT NOW can mean many different things: “It’s not right to have sex now; or “Not tonight; we don’t have protection”. It can also mean, “I don’t want to have another child right now;” fowwwr teen parents who want to avoid getting pregnant again.

We urge young men and women to stop and think about the consequences of sex ahead of time. Through direct language and compelling visuals, we are starting conversations between teens, parents, and members of our community. We are encouraging teens to have a voice and have a plan. We are urging parents to discuss sex with their teenagers. We are helping schools to choose an evidence-based reproductive health curricula. We are rallying communities to provide resources for teens.

Teen pregnancy impacts everyone. If we help teens find the strength to say, “NOT RIGHT NOW”, we will all benefit.

What is NRN Spartanburg?

Access to Evidence Based Programs

Young people in our community need access to high quality teen pregnancy prevention services tailored to their unique needs, based on recent survey results.

- 57% of community members surveyed (56% of parents) responded that the community does a “fair job” of providing teens with sex education programs in their community.
- 22% of community members (and 22% of parents) believe the community does a “poor job” of providing teens with sex education programs.
- Only 16% of community members (18% of parents) said that the community does a “good job”, and 2% of community members (3% of parents) said the community does an “excellent job” of providing teens with sex education programs.

Teaching age-appropriate, comprehensive sex education can inform teens about ways to be abstinent and prevent teen pregnancy, but not all students report receiving this sex education in school.

Only 75% of teens surveyed had received sex education in school.

This result seems positive until we look at the Comprehensive Health Education Act, which mandates that every student in South Carolina receive at least 750 minutes of reproductive health and pregnancy prevention education.

Should sexuality education with emphasis on abstinence but also include information on contraception to prevent pregnancy be taught in public schools?

- 91% of community members and 88% of parents said yes.
- 4% of community members and 6% of parents said no.
- 4% of community members and 5% of parents said it depends.
- 1% of community members and 2% of parents said don’t know.

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Yes No It depends Don’t know

Parents Community
Eighty-eight percent of community members (and even more parents, at 91%) believe that sex education with a focus on abstinence and contraception should be taught in public schools to prevent teen pregnancy. Research has shown that sex education which includes information on abstinence and contraception does not hasten the onset of sexual activity, and, in fact, can delay the onset while increasing the use of contraception when young people do become sexually active.

**Access to Health Services**

The community, including parents and other caring adults, have the responsibility to keep its members informed of available resources, but 44% of parents do not know where teens can get low cost birth control or contraceptives. If parents don’t know, teens have a less likelihood of being informed about services.

- 54% of teens aged 15-19 reported they had ever had sexual intercourse.
- Among teens that have had sex, the average age at first intercourse was 14.6 and they reported an average of 3 sexual partners
- 24% of sexually active teens said they did not use anything to keep from getting pregnant the last time they had sex.
- 32% of sexually active teens reported they had ever been pregnant or had gotten a girl pregnant.

Only 47% of teens said they use protection every time they have sex.

**Parent-Child Communication**

Parents should be the number one educators of their children. Parental guidance makes a difference in the choices teens make, especially about sex. Teens who have talked to their parents about sex are more likely to delay having sex and are more likely to use protection when they do become sexually active. The majority of teens in Spartanburg County say they feel "very comfortable" or "somewhat comfortable" talking to their parents about sex (71%), but they may not feel comfortable initiating the discussion.

Even with an overwhelming majority of teens responding that they would go to their parents for information about sex and birth control, less than 2/3 of teens have talked with one of their parents about sex.

It’s up to parents and caring adults to start the conversation. Talking about sex allows parents to share factual information and family values and gives them an opportunity to correct any misunderstandings teens may have about sex. Only 59% of parents responded that they felt “very comfortable” talking with their children about sexual intercourse.
The South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (SC Campaign) was founded in 1994 to respond to concerns in South Carolina and across the country about high rates of teen pregnancy. Since that time, the SC Campaign has been the only organization in South Carolina that works in all of the state’s 46 counties exclusively focused on the reduction of teen pregnancy. After 17 years of dedication and commitment to the issue, great progress has been made in our state but much work remains. In 2010, the South Carolina teen birth rate was 42.6 births per 1,000 females, a 26% decrease in the last decade and also the lowest rate ever recorded in the state. In 2010, the Spartanburg County birth rate was 47.4 per 1000 females. Although remarkable progress has been made in reducing teen birth rates, there is still tremendous room for improvement and only time will tell if recent declines will be sustained. Commit and fully invest in prevention for the long term.

The mission of the SC Campaign is to improve the health and economic well being of individuals, communities, and the state of South Carolina by preventing teen pregnancy. To achieve its mission, the SC Campaign works with a variety of programs-public, private, school and community-based-in each of the state’s 46 counties.

Spartanburg County Core Partners:
*Molly Talbot-Metz, Mary Black Foundation
*Maxine Williams, SC DHEC Department of Social Services
*Tracey Jackson, Piedmont Care, Inc.
*Buffy Henson, ReGenesis Healthcare
*Jerome Rice Jr., Spartanburg City Council
*Spartanburg County Foundation
*Mitch Kennedy, Spartanburg Parks & Recreation
*Renee Romberger, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System

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