



South Carolina Campaign to
**PREVENT TEEN
PREGNANCY**

Healthy Youth. Bright Futures. Strong Communities.

WHAT **POLICYMAKERS** CAN DO

Teen pregnancy is a complex problem that requires a complex solution. Since 1994, our mission at the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (SC Campaign) has been to improve the health and economic well-being of individuals, communities and the state of South Carolina by preventing teen pregnancy. To achieve our mission, we work with a variety of organizations—public, private, school and community based—in all regions of the state. It takes all of us—parents, teachers, policymakers, faith leaders and the business community—to make a difference. As a decision maker, you play a key role in South Carolina. Achieving reductions in teen pregnancy rates requires a sustained commitment and investment in our young people. In order to accomplish this goal, consider the following public policy actions—



HOW YOU CAN HELP



INVEST IN TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION efforts that are comprehensive and research-proven.



- South Carolina's taxpayers spent a total of \$4.5 billion on teen births between 1991 and 2010.
- 9 in 10 voters in South Carolina believe sex education in public schools should contain information that emphasizes abstinence and teaches about contraception.
- 84% of South Carolinians are in support of comprehensive sex education, although the majority of school districts are currently not in compliance with the state Comprehensive Health Education Act.

INCLUDE TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION AS A STRATEGY to improve academic success and health of our state.



- Nearly 1/3 of teen girls who have dropped out of high school cite early pregnancy or parenthood as a key reason.
- Encouraging teens to delay childbearing decreases the chances of low birth weight babies and infant mortality.
- Teen pregnancy is linked to many social disparities in our state such as poverty, child well-being, and unemployment.

RECOGNIZE ORGANIZATIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY that provide opportunities for young people to receive support from their parents and caring adults.



- Adults and teens both agree it would be easier to postpone sexual activity and pregnancy if they were able to talk openly with their parents.
- Invest in systems that protect youth at elevated risks, such as the Department of Juvenile Justice and Foster Care.
- Support organizations in your community that provide opportunities for adults to mentor young people.

Get Connected. Stay Informed. Make a Difference.



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