

St. John's High School

CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

This school experienced a significant drop in student pregnancy and births using New Morning Foundation's Tier II pregnancy intervention model.

Background

St. John's High School, in Charleston County, is part of a coastal community with one of the state's highest teen pregnancy rates. The county's steep teen pregnancy and birth rates also disproportionately affect African American teens. As of 2010, the county's high school aged African American teens (age 15-19) had a pregnancy rate of 89 per 1,000. In teens ages 18-19 years old, the rate swelled to 143 per 1,000 – 16 percent higher than peers in other areas of the state.

Charleston County also struggles to provide teen-friendly health services. Funding losses have led county-based clinics to cut to many critical programs, including pregnancy prevention programs. The economic recession has further restricted access to reproductive care and services.

The Program

St. John's High School, which began in 2004, was one of five test sites to implement our interventional pregnancy prevention model. Before the program launched, the school experienced 15-20 pregnancies per school year.

The program utilized three core components:

1. An evidence-based curriculum taught with fidelity for ninth or tenth grade students.
2. Outreach to and case management counseling of students at risk for early pregnancy, including those already sexually active.
3. Linkage of students with nearby reproductive health care services through facilitated referrals that included follow-up.

Great effort was made to teach the curriculum with fidelity – including all intended content and lessons. There was an additional effort to increase the number of female students utilizing hormonal contraceptives.

Achievements

By 2007, the St. John's program began to gain traction. Experiences and successes there led to adjustments in other active test sites. St. John's emerged as the flagship site for our prevention model.

In 2012, independent evaluation of the program by Philliber Research Associates showed St. John's students:

- » made more clinic visits.
- » were eight percent less likely to be sexually active than peers in other areas of the state.
- » had a high rate of contraception use.
- » made significant gains in reproduction knowledge and prevention of early pregnancy.

By 2010, St. John's High School, which had previously experienced 30-50 student pregnancies per year, now experienced just 1-2 pregnancies per year¹.

Outcomes

54%

St. John's students were 54 percent less likely to become pregnant than other South Carolina African American women age 15-19.¹

MORE » Research showed St. John's students not only visited clinics more often, they used contraception more than other test sites. When educated using the model, students showed significant gains in reproductive knowledge and how to protect themselves from early pregnancy.¹

93%

Percentage of students who received contraceptives during a clinic visit.¹

MORE » Follow up with St. John's students showed they made more clinic visits than other test sites. They also reported both receiving and using contraception more than other test sites.¹

1-2

The annual student pregnancy rate at St. John's High School six years after implementing the model.¹

MORE » In 2004, St. John's averaged about 15-20 student pregnancies per school year. Six years after the program was implemented, the rate dropped to just one or two pregnancies per year.¹

Department of Education 2012 Report Card Data

[CLICK HERE](#) for a summary.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full report.

Citations

1. 2012, Philliber Research Associates.