

ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: ENRICHING THE LIVES OF PREGNANT TEENS

Obaidullah Aseem, Shelley Grosso, Travis Meadows, Ashley Mishoe, Kathryn McDaniel, Roxana Papa, Jonathan Peterson, Trista Thielker, Johanna Von Hofe, Christine Walker, Joseph Cheng Advisors: Mary Mauldin and Nancy Zisk*
MUSC and *Charleston School of Law

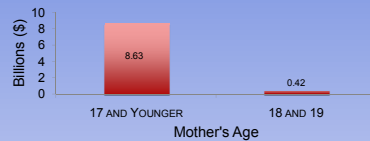


INTRODUCTION

IN THE UNITED STATES

- There were over 700,000 teen pregnancies in 2006.¹
- Ten percent of babies born in 2008 were born to women under 20.²
- Nineteen percent of pregnant teens already have one child.

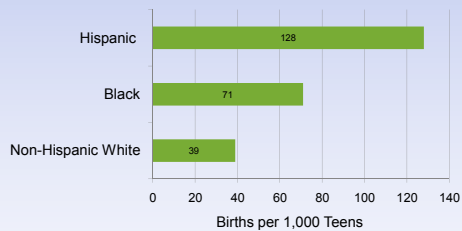
PUBLIC SECTOR COST OF 1ST BIRTHS (2006)³



IN SOUTH CAROLINA⁴

- Nine out of ten teen mothers are not married.
- Thirty-five percent of babies born in 2008 were born to mothers with less than adequate prenatal care.

TEEN BIRTHS BY RACE (2008)



PROJECT GOALS

1. Identify the recreational, educational, and career-related needs of pregnant teens in Charleston, South Carolina.
2. Investigate resources within the Charleston community that meet those needs and provide a compilation of those resources to local teen mothers.

FLORENCE CRITTENTON

MISSION⁵

To provide young, at-risk pregnant and parenting women comprehensive services to help them become self-sufficient and responsible mothers.



florencecrittentonsc.org

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Provides comprehensive services for pregnant girls and young women ages 10 to 21 from the entire state of South Carolina, including prenatal care, continued education, life skills, counseling, and 24-hour residential care in a Charleston, SC facility.

EXPRESSED NEED

- Financial support
- Transportation for FC residents
- A more robust list of community partners

METHODS

- Establish a relationship with Florence Crittenton (FC).
- Develop a survey to distribute to FC residents that assesses their recreational, educational, and career-related needs and interests.
- Submit the survey to the MUSC IRB for approval.
- Meet with the FC residents to informally assess their needs and interests after the IRB denies approval of the survey.
- Compose a community resource guide to distribute to FC residents based on informal interviews conducted at the home.

DISCUSSION

A number of issues surrounding teen pregnancy require special attention to ensure the overall health of the mother and child. Our Presidential Scholars project focused on one of these issues by aiming to establish connections between pregnant South Carolina teens and community-based programs in order to enrich the lives of the mothers and ultimately their children.

FC was a natural community partner, as our group's aim met the program's need for a more robust list of community programs willing to serve teens during their stay at the FC home. Through interprofessional collaboration, our group created a written survey to systematically collect data about the interests and needs of pregnant teens living at FC. Unfortunately, the survey was not approved by the IRB because FC residents are potentially considered foster children, with whom research cannot be conducted.

Due to these restrictions in data collection, we opted to informally speak with the FC residents and staff to gain insight into their needs and interests before developing a community-resource guide for FC residents and staff.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Pregnant teens are a difficult group to formally survey, and careful research regarding the legality of surveying that demographic is required before gathering data from FC residents.
- Interprofessional teams – and thus diverse teams – allow for the development of more diverse community partnerships.

NEXT STEPS

- Future groups could assess the utility of our group's community resource guide by following up with FC residents and staff.
- Based on those follow-up conversations, the guide could be edited and updated.

SOURCES

1. http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/pdf/FastFacts_TeenPregnancyinUS.pdf.
2. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org.
3. Hoffman, S. (2006). *By the Numbers: The Public Cost of Teen Childbearing*. Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
4. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org.
5. Florence Crittenton Programs of SC, florencecrittentonsc.org.