

Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties, Inc.

**ACTION PLAN 2010 - 2015
CATEGORY C ACTIVITIES - Community or Systems Wide Issues**

POLK COUNTY TEEN BIRTH RATE

1. LIST THE HEALTH PROBLEM: Teen Births

A. List the Risk Factor(s)

The risk factor for teen pregnancy is being a teen and engaging in sexual behavior. All teens are at risk of being a teen parent, no matter their socio-economic status, race, or family situation.

B. List the Direct Contributing Factor(s)

The direct contributing factor for teen pregnancy is engaging in sexual contact.

C. List the Indirect Contributing Factor(s)

The indirect contributing factors for being a teen parent are well documented. While all teens are at risk, some teens have higher risk factors. This includes lack of strong parental figures; including father figures, history of abuse; including sexual abuse, being the child of a teen parent, poor family communication, lack of knowledge of sexual functioning and family planning issues, other risk taking behaviors including alcohol and drug use, and peer pressure, looking for love, self-esteem issues, high parental incarceration.

2. Planning Phase Question

A. What do you plan to do to change the level of the indirect contributing factor(s)?

The focus of the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance (TPPA) activities are increased awareness and education, so we will work to improve knowledge of teens, parents, faith leaders, teachers, and the community as a whole on the crisis of teen pregnancy in Polk County.

B. Describe how doing this will change the level of the indirect contributing factor(s)?

This comprehensive focus will work to educate teens on making sexually responsible choices and the consequences of being a teen parent; it will educate parents on how communicating and interacting with their teens can reduce the risk, it will encourage faith leaders to reach out to teens in their congregations to educate them on abstinence and responsible behaviors and help them understand how they can help families achieve the goal of teens remaining free from parenthood and pregnancy. It will educate the other

professionals and the community at large on how they can work to reduce teen births in Polk County. TPPA has developed five strategies based upon best practices to reduce the teen birth rate in Polk County. The Coalition's teen pregnancy prevention coordinator, Youth Leadership Team, Youth Prevention Specialist and members of TPPA will conduct action steps to fulfill these strategies. The following five strategies have been selected to reduce the birth rate to teens under the age of 18 by 10 percent over a five-year period beginning with 2008 data.

1. Review program data & program results and stay current with research base programs and program outcomes.
2. Increase the level of knowledge about Polk County's teen pregnancy/teen birth crisis among the community at-large.
3. Increase the number of faith based organizations that sponsor teen pregnancy prevention activities.
4. Increase the role of Polk County youth in planning and participating in TPPA activities.
5. Ensure program stability and growth through yearly evaluation of program components and increase in funding sources.

C. What information will you gather to demonstrate that you have implemented this strategy as intended. What will you do? (who, what, how many, how often, where, etc.)

We will gather information regarding the activities of TPPA: presentations made, partners who are involved, media campaigns implemented, community forums held, faith leader commitments signed, activities of the Youth Leadership Team, etc. The teen birth rates for the following categories will be monitored annually: 10-14, 15-19, repeat births 15-19, and less than 18.

D. Where/how will you get it?

This information will be reported on quarterly by the TPPA Coordinator and TPPA members. The data on teen births will be from the Florida Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set on an annual basis.

E. Related to the indirect contributing factor, what do you expect to be the immediate EFFECT (measurable objective) of this strategy on the population who receives the intervention/is exposed to the strategy? (changes in knowledge, attitude and behaviors stated with baseline information and goal)

We expect the immediate change to be increased knowledge of teen births in Polk County. We expect the information about risk factors, consequences, and costs of child bearing to effect a change in attitudes and eventually behaviors that will lead to a reduction in teen births.

F. What information will you gather to demonstrate that you effected a change in knowledge, attitude and behaviors? (what difference will it make?)

For teens, we will survey their attitudes, knowledge and behaviors regarding sexual behavior. For parents, we will survey their increased skills and ability to address this issue with their children. For faith leaders, we will ask for a commitment to taking a step within their congregation to reduce teen pregnancy. In making community presentations, we will assess the participants increased knowledge of teen pregnancy issues. Assess TPPA membership will increase along with YLT knowledge/increase membership.

The information to demonstrate the implementation of the strategies will be gathered from monthly and quarterly reports due to TPPA funders, as well as survey data from the action steps pertaining to the specific strategies. Feedback given will be used to determine if the Coalition is meeting its contract requirements.

1. Data from teen pregnancy prevention and youth development programs to determine if number of participating youth has increased.
2. Evaluation/survey results of teen pregnancy awareness presentations, TPPA membership lists, participation lists from sponsored events and campaigns.
3. The number of signed commitments by faith-based organizations to reduce teen pregnancy.
4. Size of Youth Leadership Team.
5. The number of programs and the amount of funding secured each year.

G. Where/how will you get the information?

1. From reports from TPPA partners and agencies serving youths.
2. From surveys of participants at TPPA activities and presentations. The Healthy Start Coalition keeps an updated membership list.
3. Signed commitments at faith leader functions.
4. List kept by TPPA Coordinator.
5. From reports of TPPA partners, Healthy Start coalition budget for TPPA activities.

3. Strategy

Polk TPPA determines action steps on a yearly basis. Action steps to each strategy for the year 2010/2011 are listed in the table below.

Objective 1: Review program data & program results and stay current with research base programs and program outcomes

Action Step	Responsible Party	Start Date	End Date
1. Support continuation, implementation & expansion of the Polk County School Board's health curriculum and/or other research-based after school programs through grant writing, grant seeking and through community coordination.	Effective Programs & Research Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
2. Identify what mentoring programs are available. Promote & implement the need for teen pregnancy prevention programs for mentors.	Effective Programs & Research Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
3. Encourage and promote the use of Polk County School Boards Health Curriculums on teen pregnancy prevention in schools throughout Polk County.	Effective Programs & Research Committee Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
4. Review ongoing research & data from National Campaign reports. Promote evidence based Teen Pregnancy Prevention programs to TPPA partners.	Effective Programs & Research Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
5. Review & update current census track data to reflect current data on teen pregnancies in Polk County & make available to the community at large.	Effective Programs & Research	07/2010	07/2011
6. Assist in developing surveys for teens & parents at local events, analyze & report final data results to TPPA members & community.	Effective Programs & Research TPPA Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
7. Analyze & disseminate teen birth data and present to community at large.	Effective Programs & Research TPPA Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011

Objective 2: Increase the level of knowledge about Polk County’s teen pregnancy/teen birth crisis among the community at-large as evident through survey results.

Action Step	Responsible Party	Start Date	End Date
8. Provide twelve presentations to service, civic, business, parent and/or youth groups in new areas of the county.	Coordinator Executive Director Community Awareness Committee	07/2010	07/2011
9. Enlist partners, members, YLT members, stakeholders and mentors for awareness presentations.	Coordinator Community Awareness Committee	07/2010	07/2011
10. Market Polk TPPA successes to local communities, including using updated social marketing tools re: facebook/twitter/myspace. Present these findings to PCSB Social Workers, School Health Nurses, local conferences, events.	Community Awareness/Chair Coordinator Executive Director YLT members	07/2010	07/2011
11. Continue to implement Let’s Talk Month (October) public awareness include campaign/display information at local courthouse and use table tents to reach new audience.	Community Awareness Coordinator Youth Prevention Specialist	07/2010	07/2011
12. Organize and hold at least one Teen Summit in Polk County.	TPPA members YLT members Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
13. Continue to develop & implement Teen Pregnancy Prevention Awareness Month (May) public awareness campaign –proclamation to local county & cities use visuals when presenting	Community Awareness Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
14. Provide information and support distribution via email for TPPA newsletter and contribute article for Healthy Start Provider newsletter annually. Provide teen data to Medical Assoc for quarterly newsletter.	Community Awareness Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
15. Media campaign to include letters to the editor, mailings & interviews of teen parents, TPPA members & YLT Members on the prevention of teen pregnancy.	Coordinator Youth Committee TPPA Members	07/2010	07/2011
16. Support partner development on the prevention of risky behaviors to teens in the community by providing educational materials, support and assist with Just Girls Conference, SOS task force to target male population, work with PCHD during STD/HIV events/presentations.	Coordinator Community Awareness TPPA Members YLT members Youth Specialist	07/2010	07/2011
17. Develop and present PSA on TPPA/YLT and distribute, including to Polk County School Board.	Community Awareness Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011

Objective 3: Increase the number of faith based organizations that sponsor teen pregnancy prevention activities and pledge support through Faith Leaders commitment cards & attending TPPA meetings/events

Action Step	Responsible Party	Start Date	End Date
18. Organize & hold one Faith Leaders/Youth Pastors event & encourage faith leaders/Youth Pastors to sign faith community commitment.	Religion and Public Values Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
19. Provide one presentations per quarter to faith institutions/Pastoral Alliance	Religion and Public Values Coordinator Youth Specialist	07/2010	07/2011
20. Recruit two Faith Community Leaders per year to become active TPPA members.	Religion and Public Values TPPA Members Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
21. Work with faith based partners who have Christian Parenting groups/seminar to ensure they are addressing the prevention of teen pregnancy through their curriculum.	Religion and Public Values Committee Local Church groups Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
22. Organize & hold one youth rally with faith community/faith partners each year	Religion & Public Values Coordinator TPPA Members	07/2010	07/2011
23. Increase funding/support from faith partners by including in the planning of activities /events.	Religion & Public Values Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
24. Provide one presentation every six months, information/materials to one faith base schools (private) in Polk County.	Religion & Public Values Coordinator Youth Specialist YLT members	07/2010	07/2011
25. Provide educational information/materials, brochures to be used in bulletins & youth groups. Serve as an educational/resource for faith base groups.	Religion & Public Values Coordinator YLT Youth Specialist	07/2010	07/2011

Objective 4: Increase the role of Polk County youth in planning and participating in TPPA activities as evident by membership documents & records.

Action Step	Responsible Party	Start Date	End Date
26. Hold eight Youth Leadership Team meetings. Utilize YLT participation and input for all TPPA activities that will involve youth.	Youth Committee Youth Specialist/YLT Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
27. Enable youth leaders/TPPA members to assist in planning and running the annual teen summit and one youth rally per year and any other events/trainings that may be scheduled that involve youth or are related to youth development.	Youth Committee Youth Specialist/YLT TPPA members Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
28. Continue & encourage youth leaders & TPPA members to organize and participate in Let's Talk Month activities.	Youth Committee Youth Specialist/YLT Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
29. Recruit new YLT members (6 per year), both youth and adults to bring keep our active membership.	Youth Committee Youth Specialist/YLT Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
30. Encourage youth to participate in community awareness & fundraising activities with TPPA partners and other agencies in the community.	Youth Committee Youth Specialist/YLT Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
31. Facilitate participation of YLT members in web conferencing and social websites.	Youth Committee Youth Leadership Team Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
32. Create one new YLT group of 5 members in the east part of Polk County.	Youth Committee Youth Specialist/YLT Coordinator Executive Director	07/2010	07/2011
33. Create, develop or partner to have one mini-teen summit for Hispanic Youth, work closely with Awareness Committee.	Youth Committee Youth Specialist/YLT Community Awareness Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011

34. Include YLT members in awareness activities, presentations & media.	Youth Committee Youth Specialist/YLT Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
35. Provide education/presentations to foster care teens in residential programs & DJJ residential programs. Include YLT members when possible to assist. Serve as educational & referral resource.	Youth Committee Youth Specialist/YLT Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011

Objective 5: Ensure program stability and growth through yearly evaluation of program components and increase in funding sources.

Action Step	Responsible Party	Start Date	End Date
36. Evaluate TPPA's 2010 objectives and program components. Update Plan with modified objectives and program components (if applicable). Generate visibility regarding goals & objectives for TPPA.	Steering Committee Executive Director Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
37. Steering committee will continue to provide direction and support to the Coordinator and TPPA and be involved in activities/events, fundraising activities throughout the year sponsored by TPPA.	Steering Committee Executive Director Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011
38. Steering Committee will be considered the Leadership Committee of TPPA and meet on a quarterly basis. Assist where needed for presentations/awareness activities/media.	Steering Committee Executive Director Coordinator	07/2010	07/2011

4. REPORTING PHASE ANSWERS: (To be completed for the Annual Action Plan Update)

- a. Demonstrate that you have implemented this strategy as planned (who, what, how many, how often, where, etc.)
- b. Demonstrate the changes in knowledge, attitude and behaviors
- c. Will you drop/modify/expand/continue the strategy next year?