

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

WHAT CAN SCHOOLS DO?

How Can I Help?

Teen pregnancy is a complex problem that requires a community-wide solution. It takes a comprehensive, collaborative approach—parents, policy makers, faith leaders, health care providers, youth serving professionals, the business community, and school officials—to make a difference. Schools have a unique opportunity to equip students with the information they need to make informed decisions about their futures so they can prevent pregnancy, excel in school, and become successful adults.

Learn about the issue and why it's important.

- 50% of high school students in Oklahoma say they have had sex.¹
- Only 40% of teen moms finish high school and less than 2% of teen mothers (those who have a baby before age 18) finish college by age 30.²

Become familiar with how teen pregnancy prevention curricula fulfill requirements in the Health/Safety Education Standards for the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS) and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education.

- The PASS for Health and Safety represent standards that describe what students should know concerning health and safety.³ Two of the Oklahoma State Department of Health's (OSDH) chosen curricula meet all standards while a third curriculum meets 66% of standards.
- All of the OSDH's chosen curricula are in compliance with the Oklahoma requirement for students to receive instruction on AIDS prevention education a minimum of once from 7th-9th grade and a minimum of once from 10th-12th grade.⁴

Ensure the successful adoption of effective, evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programming.

- The OSDH has chosen three evidence-based curricula and is available for technical assistance and in some instances, curriculum implementation.
- Work with your local school board, local county health department, teachers and school administrators to facilitate the selection of an evidence-based program. There are many that have been rigorously evaluated and shown to be effective; choose one that meets the unique needs of your school.

Learn how to implement a teen pregnancy prevention program that works.

- Commit to professional development and provide opportunities for your teachers to participate in applicable trainings and utilize available technical assistance.
- Pursue resources to implement a program. Recognize the value of conducting programs during the school day and allow for flexibility in your school's schedule to maximize a program's impact.

Engage parents and other caring adults.

- Keep parents informed about the programs being implemented at school and make it convenient for parents to participate in programs and activities.
- Provide resources for parents on how to talk to their teen: www.parentfurther.com.

Emphasize community connections.

- Know what youth serving programs and opportunities are available locally, share resources, and make referrals.
- Form partnerships within the community. Linked programs can convey consistent and healthy messages and provide youth with access to a wide variety of services which is critical for pregnancy prevention.

¹Oklahoma State Department of Health. (2014). 2013 Oklahoma Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Sexual Behaviors. Retrieved from <http://www.ok.gov/health2/documents/Sexual%20Behaviors-%20YRBS%202013.pdf>

²Shuger, L. (2012). *Teen Pregnancy and High School Dropout: What Communities are Doing to Address These Issues*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and America's Promise Alliance.

³Oklahoma State Department of Education. (2014). Priority Academic Student Skills: Health, Safety and Physical Education. Retrieved from <http://ok.gov/sde/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/C3%20PASS%20PE.pdf>

⁴Oklahoma Statute 70 O.S. § 103.3. Retrieved from <http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/deliverdocument.asp?id=90134&hits=1083+1075+532+388+380+>



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