

Reducing Teen Pregnancy

Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute Scholars:

Amy Comer; APRN, M.S.N.

APRN; Monroe County Health Department

Jason Holland; RS

Senior Health Environmentalist; Monroe County Health Department

Amy Hale; RN

Local Health Nurse IV/Team Leader; Monroe County Health Department

Mentor:

Karen M. Hunter; M.P.H., RD, LD, CHES

Associate Professor; Eastern Kentucky University

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The “Raincoats” KPHLI Leadership Team desires for there to be accurate, current, and accessible information in the community of Monroe County to promote and educate regarding family planning services at the Monroe County Health Department, so that teen pregnancy rates may be decreased in our area. Upon completion of an informative video, this information will be presented during an educational health class at the Monroe County High School. This class is currently taught by Health Department Staff. This will be the start of furthering education in the community. Furthermore, it has been found that teen pregnancy rates are occurring at a much younger age. Many of the teens participating in the health education class “Reducing the Risk” already have children. Therefore, it is also desired that the video be shared at lower grade levels in the future and through separate venues, such as our local television station.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The “Raincoats” KPHLI Leadership team began their KPHLI experience in April 2010. All of the members from this team being from the same health department; it was decided that the focus of this project would need to revolve around something that is a growing problem in our county. The idea of teen pregnancy rates being on the rise was immediately mentioned. According to our Community Needs Assessment completed for Monroe County in 2003, the rate of births to mothers age 10-17 remained higher for Monroe County than for our region or state. It was also found that a greater number of infants in this county had low birth weights; and was increased from the previous assessment. Since our health department is already providing education in the school system through a program known as “Reducing the Risk” we decided that we should build upon and expand this education so that students and parents are informed about services offered at our local health department. The team decided that developing an educational video which could be viewed in the classroom by students and on a local cable television station, would be most effective.

Problem Statement:

“Why is teen pregnancy on the rise in Monroe County despite our best efforts?”

Behavior Over Time Graph:

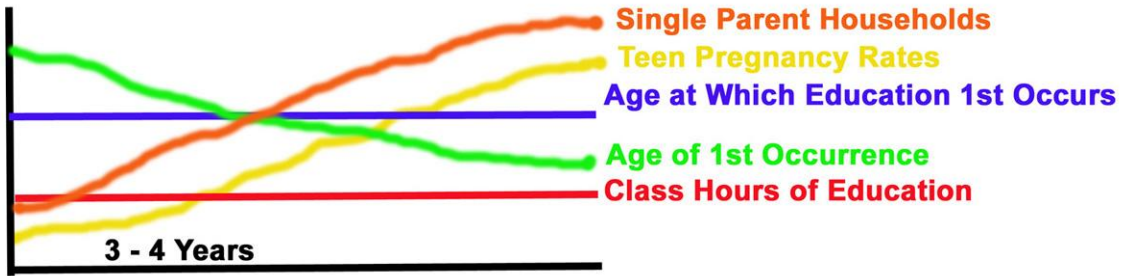


Figure 1: Behavior Over Time Graph

Causal Loop Diagram:

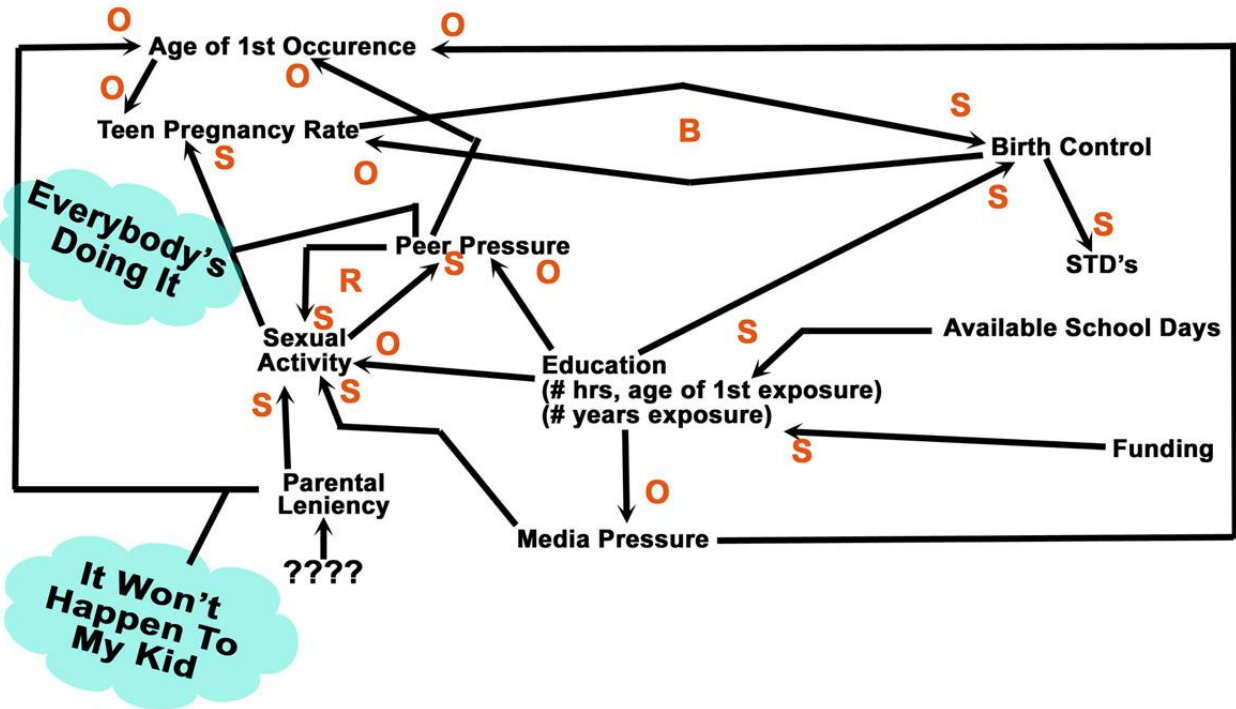


Figure 2: Causal Loop Diagram

10 Essential Public Health Services/National Goals Supported:

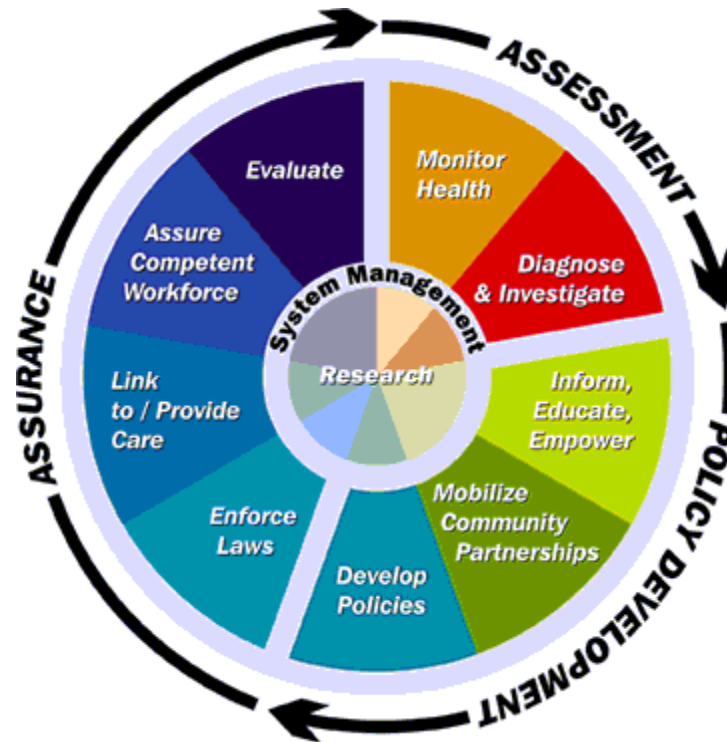


Figure 3: This picture is from the 10 Essential Public Health Services

This project supports the following essential public health services:

1. **Essential Public Health Service #7:** Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
2. **Essential Public Health Service #3:** Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES/DESCRIPTION/DELIVERABLES:

Objectives:

1. Decrease the rate of teen pregnancy in Monroe County.
2. Educate teens about family planning resources available at the local health department.
3. Develop an educational video that can be used to educate students and parents about services available to prevent teen pregnancy at the local health department.

Deliverables:

An informative video which will educate teens and parents on resources available at the local health department. This video is meant to be educational in a manner that both parents and teens can relate and understand. Students will also be able to view the video and then ask questions during the class time that this is presented.

METHODOLOGY:

Key stakeholders were identified by using the causal loop diagram. We identified a problem with teen pregnancy in our county. We also realized that an existing program was in place in which we could expand to provide more information to teens and parents in our community. Partnering with our local school system, the media class from high school came to the health department to help with production of the video. Editing and videoing was all made possible by students who participate in the media class. Members from the KPHLI team met to create a script that would be used as a read over during editing of the video. There was also discussion of what was to be videoed and details for the flow of events that occur through a visit to the health department.

RESULTS:

An innovative video featuring services offered during a family planning visit to Monroe County Health Department has been made. This will begin a process of introducing a much needed aspect of education into the classroom of high school students. This tool can also begin to educate parents through our local television station. In the future younger teens can also begin to receive this education as the program expands.

CONCLUSIONS:

The “Raincoats” KPHLI Leadership Team feels that this extra educational material in the form of a video will greatly impact teens view on services available at the health department and help them to become more familiar with what they will encounter during a visit to the facility. This step-by-step process outlined for students and parents to see exactly what takes place during a visit and what is available will make teens more likely to seek advice and medical services from the health department.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Amy Comer

As I began my KPHLI experience one year ago, I did not expect I would have gained as much knowledge and insight into my leadership skills as I have. This journey has led me to see my own weaknesses and work to develop them on a daily basis.

Our team the “Raincoats” started out in April 2010 with four members and we are completing the year with three. Our team has worked diligently to produce a video that would provide as much education to the teens and parents of Monroe County so that we may reduce the rate of teen pregnancy occurring here. It has been a great experience to collaborate with my fellow co-workers on this project.

Jason Holland

This year's KPHLI project has been a unique experience for me. I have been forced to learn a great deal about my strengths and weaknesses as a person, both personally and professionally. The goals and objectives of the KPHLI program are applicable to me on many levels. As an environmentalist, I perform many of my duties independently. However, as a health department employee, I do work as part of a team. Therefore, leadership and teamwork are a vital part of my job.

Amy Hale

My experience in the KPHLI program has been rewarding and insightful. I have gained valuable knowledge through the workshops, individual profiles, and networking with peers. I have learned my areas of strengths and weaknesses, how to take a more systematic approach to problem solving, and how to work successfully with team members who are very different in their social and leadership styles. I now understand how different styles can complement each other, and that there is no wrong, or best style. The individual development plan will help me to focus on my areas for growth, become more productive, and strengthen my leadership skills. My trainers and team members have given me wonderful support throughout the year, making this a positive and beneficial experience. I'm confident that I can apply all I have learned in my everyday work role as a supervisor and a Public Health leader.

REFERENCES

1. Birkby, Benjamin. Community Needs Assessment: Monroe County, Kentucky. Maternal and Child Health. 2003.
2. 10 Essential Public Health Services.
<http://www.cdc.gov/od/ocphp/nphpsp/essentialphservices.htm>

