



THE NEED

In Davidson County, TN an estimated **31** out of every **1,000** teenage girls ages 15-19 gave birth in 2013. In addition to this, a total of **7** girls between the ages of 10-14 gave birth in 2013.¹ Although these numbers have continued to show significant decrease in recent years, they still continue to be above the national average (26.5 per 1,000 girls²). Teen pregnancy rates in Davidson County are also higher than the national average, but they are lower than the state's average. According to the Tennessee Department of Health, some factors that contribute to adolescent pregnancy include lack of family and community support, lack of involvement in school and recreational activities or after school programs, lack of feeling connected to school, family and community, lack of health education, lack of responsible adult guidance, and limited knowledge about sex and sexuality.³ The ASR A-Team works to address these barriers, specifically targeting those community members and professionals who work closely with adolescents.

THE TACTICS

ASR Conference 2015

The ASR A-Team knows that every person who works with youth runs into difficult questions about sexual decision-making, healthy relationships, sexual and gender identity, and sexual health. This year, the conference theme is "BACK TO BASICS" and is designed to train everyone with up-to-date, science-informed, youth-focused tools, skills and knowledge to feel more competent handling those tough situations. The plenary and sessions will focus on anatomy and sexual development, decision-making, birth control and pregnancy prevention, STI's and HIV, with a concentrated focus on healthy relationships, gender identity and sexual orientation, and navigating professional and personal boundaries. Those new to working with youth will be able to build a strong foundation "101" level sessions, while more seasoned professionals can stretch themselves in the "201" level sessions.

Tactic

Plan and host a one-day conference for youth-serving professionals in the Nashville/Davidson County area and surrounding communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The ASR A-Team began planning for the ASR Conference 2015 in March 2015. The A-Team hosted a community meeting on Thursday, July 30th to offer interested organizations more information on the conference and how to submit a proposal to become a presenter. After the community meeting, a total of 12 ITP responses were received. One of these responding organizations agreed to present on more than one topic. The A-Team decided to reach out to a few of the responding organizations with suggestions on modifications to their proposals in order to best fit with the overall theme of the conference. Along with the modifications added, the A-Team approved all of the ITP responses. The conference this year included 13 total presentations with a youth panel. Participating organizations are listed below:

Oasis Center
Rager Adolescent Health
Hope Clinic For Women
Vanderbilt University
Thrive Education
You Have The Power
Centerstone
Project Safe Center

OUTCOMES & OUTPUTS

LONG TERM OUTCOME: *Improve children's health and wellness*

Increasing the number of tools and resources for trustworthy adults and professionals to use when working with sexually active adolescent clients will help decrease the amount of adolescents with STI's and teen pregnancy by offering them more responsible options.

MIDTERM OUTCOME:

1.) *At least half of the participants of the conference utilize new resources or tools gathered from information given during the conference and implement them into their daily work duties.*

This mid-term outcome will be evaluated six months after the completion of the conference. During the conference, the A-Team recruited a cohort of participants who agreed to participate in a follow up

survey and report if the tools and knowledge that they gained from the day has changed their day-to-day operations.

SHORT TERM OUTCOMES:

1.) *Increase awareness about the importance of self-care in working with youth by 10%.*



Unfortunately, nearly all the conference participants left before the self-care portion of the conference took place; therefore, we did not reach this goal.

2.) *Foster relevant relationships between educators and community providers to support the health and well-being of young people.*



This year, 79% of participants reported that they networked with other educators and community providers who support the health and well-being of young people. They also expressed that they expect *lasting working relationships* with these people in the future.

OUTPUTS

Provide professional development, tools and resources to at least attendees.

90

The conference was attended by 41 registered attendees, along with 18 different presenters, 11 vendors, 15 youth and 11 A-Team members. All together, there were 96 people in attendance for the day.

THE IMPACT

The ASR Conference typically reaches over 70 school counselors, community members and educators each year. Participants have in the past reported learning new skills to take and incorporate into their every day work with youth. They have also reported making new and valuable connections with other people and organizations that perform similar work within the community. By increasing participation every year and gaining new participants who have not previously been involved with the conference or the ASR A-Team, the A-Team hopes to be able to spread awareness about the seriousness of issues with youth and encourage consistency with sexually responsible messaging portrayed to youth.

THE REACH

- The Tennessean, *Comic Book Warns of Sexting Dangers*, **Ashleigh Hall, Centerstone** -September 24, 2015 (ASR A-Team member in the news discussing topics addressed at the conference)

Community thoughts on the Pilot

"Keep up the good work! It is always so awesome to be able to hear directly from our youth and beneficial is assessing our work."

-Anonymous participant from the ASR Conference 2015

"We're all vulnerable, and we need to be aware to take precautions to be safe online."

-Ashleigh Hall, Centerstone

"I learned a lot of new information that will help me professionally as well as personally."

-Anonymous participant from the ASR Conference 2015

WHAT'S NEXT

The ASR A-Team has been hosting this conference for 5 years and will be planning to scale up for their next ASR Conference. After reviewing the evaluations that were received from this year's conference, the A-Team is discussing plans to shift this conference from hosting it every year to every other year in hopes of increasing attendance and desire to attend. The A-Team is also discussing plans to host a smaller scale youth panel event during every off year to keep participants engaged with the work of the A-Team. When scaled, this conference will reach professionals in and outside of Nashville who work with youth to influence positive messaging around sexual health and responsibility.

ASR A-Team Members

Lyndsey Godwin, Vanderbilt University, Carpenter Program, CHAIR

Leigh Bagwell, MNPS School Counseling Services, VICE CHAIR

Amber Jackson, YMCA

Ashleigh Hall, Centerstone

Carlin Rushing, Vanderbilt University, Carpenter Program

Dessie Clark, Sexual Assault Center

Elisabeth Bradner, Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee

Jalyssa Lopez, Metro Public Health Department

Joan Clayton-Davis

Latissa Hall, Metro Public Health Department

Paige Regan, Oasis Center

Sharon Travis, Sexual Assault Center

Veronica Dress, Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee

1. McKelvey, B. (2015, February 9). Number of Birth and Age-Specific Fertility Rates for Teenagers Aged 15-19 by Zip Code, Davidson County, TN 2013.
2. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2015). Teen Birth Rate Comparison. Retrieved from <https://thenationalcampaign.org/data/compare/1701>
3. The Tennessee Department of Health (Ed.). (2015). Racial and Ethnic Minority Tennesseans and Adolescent Pregnancy. Retrieved from <http://tn.gov/health/article/dmhde-disparity-adpregnancy>