

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month 2015

PREP Teens for the Future

Event Ideas

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month is observed every May. Join the Family & Youth Services Bureau online and in your communities throughout the month as we spread the word about teen pregnancy prevention.



You can be a catalyst for change in May. Want to raise awareness using social media? Gather your community offline? We have some fun ideas for you.

Visit the [Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month website](#) for more information, graphics and resources to help you get involved.

Online Events and Campaigns

Social media networks provide a great space for professionals, parents, and young people to share their experiences, have discussions, and educate one another. Use your Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, Flickr, YouTube accounts, or blog to raise awareness about the complex issue of teen pregnancy this May and get everyone talking!

Consider using one of the suggested ideas below, or let your creative juices flow and come up with a new activity.

Encourage Teens to Get Social and Tell Their Friends How they “PREP for the Future.”

In May, invite teens to answer the question: “How are you prepped for the future?” Give them the following free sign included at the end of this guide, and have them fill it out and share it on Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest using #PREPTeens.

Be sure to talk to teens about safe use of social media before you take on this project.

Participate in The National Campaign's National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Beginning May 7 – and throughout the month – the [National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Quiz](#) is available at [Stayteen.org](#). The quiz—available on desktop and mobile devices—has been refreshed for 2014 with new scenarios and information to help drive home a central message: Sex has consequences. There are also National Day discussion guides—available in [English](#) (PDF, 302KB) and [Spanish](#) (PDF, 297KB)—to help start a conversation about sex, love, relationships, and teen pregnancy.

Host a Twitter chat.

Hold or participate in a live Twitter chat discussing how pregnancy impacts teens in your state or local community and sharing prevention tactics. Encourage your community to join the chat by inviting them via Twitter, Facebook, or local group email lists.

Create a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month board on Pinterest.

Create a Pinterest board to fit this year's theme with the title, "PREP for the Future." Share the observance day infographic or any visual elements you can produce to highlight the facts and statistics surrounding the issue. Invite teens to make posters with teen pregnancy prevention messages. When you post something to Pinterest, be sure to use the #PREPTeens hashtag.

Share articles on LinkedIn.

Use your LinkedIn status update to share an article about teen pregnancy prevention, your organization's event, or the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month webpage on your profile, company or group page.

Post photos to Instagram or Flickr.

Take pictures of what you are doing to observe Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month, upload them to Instagram or Flickr, and tag them with #PREPTeens. Share the photos with others to help raise awareness. You can also share your photos on Facebook, Twitter or any other photo-sharing website. Or share the infographic available on the [Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month website](#) with the hashtag #PREPTeens.

Share videos via YouTube.

Take videos of what you are doing to commemorate Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. Post your videos to YouTube and share them on Facebook, Twitter, or Tumblr. Tag them with #PREPTeens and include the address for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month Web page in the video description to help your viewers find more information. Another idea is to encourage teens to produce 30-second or 60-second public service announcements (PSAs) to reach their peers with "PREP for the Future" messages and teen pregnancy facts, and post these PSAs to your YouTube page (with permission from teens and their parents).

Record a podcast.

Record a podcast about the issue to educate others and inspire people to take action with teens in their communities. Share the podcast on your organization's website as well as on Facebook, Twitter, and other social networking sites.

Write a blog post.

Write a blog post about teen pregnancy. The blog post could be about how homeless teens, living in rural communities, in foster care, or who are minorities have a higher risk for adolescent pregnancy, and what cultural nuances need to be addressed in reaching them with prevention messages. Share your blog on Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites as well as on your organization's website. Tag the post with #PREPTeens so others following resources for the awareness month can find it in a Web search.

Host a webinar.

Present a free webinar for local healthcare providers and advocates to discuss some of the myths and facts about teen pregnancy or provide general information about the [resources available from FYSB](#) for prevention. Encourage discussion and inspire participants to take action. Promote the webinar on your organization's website and on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn.

Hold a Virtual “PREP for the Future” Fair.

Hold a virtual fair where teenagers can find multimedia resources about pregnancy prevention, abstinence and contraception, relationship dynamics, negotiation skills, parent-child communication, planning for education, media literacy, and so on. Your PREP for the Future Fair can be a separate page on your organization’s website. Provide your participants with a listing of locations where they can obtain more information or someone to talk to if they have more questions. Promote your virtual fair on your organization’s website and its Facebook and Twitter pages.

In-Person Events

Art Gallery or Art Show

Organize an event that features art focused on teen pregnancy prevention.

What you’ll need: Venue, artists

This is a great activity for students, so if you’re not part of an academic organization, consider partnering with a high school or college. Encourage artists on campus and in the community to create artwork focused on delaying pregnancy. Ask them to think about using the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month theme in their art, or as inspiration for their piece. For example, you might ask teens to illustrate what it means to them to PREP for healthy relationships, college, or a career. Preview the artwork before the show, and ask several artists to discuss their artwork at the show. They can discuss why they were inspired to create the piece and how delaying pregnancy until adulthood is the right decision for them.

Benefit Concert/Battle of the Bands

Holding a benefit concert is a fun way to observe Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month.

What you’ll need: Local bands or other musical acts, tickets, ticket-takers, programs, venue with staging, sound, and lighting

Start by doing a little research about your audience to discover which music genre would resonate best within your community. Then, hold auditions for bands or musicians willing to donate their time or perform for a minimal fee (explore local businesses that might be willing to sponsor the costs of the concert). Create and distribute programs that also include information like where to find local health clinics and healthcare providers, and facts about teen pregnancy prevention. Be sure to provide the musical acts with talking points or provide them with the fact sheet in advance, so they can share teen pregnancy prevention facts and a call to action from the stage.

Also consider partnering with a local health center for this event. Any proceeds raised could go to the health center and staff can be on hand to answer questions and hand out informational materials.

Bookstore/Library Reading and Bookmark Giveaway

Partner with local bookstores and libraries to set up a display of books addressing early parenthood and its effects on adolescents.

What you’ll need: A bookstore or library in which to hold your event, factsheets, audience discussion guide, health care provider who can moderate the discussion

Ask partners to consider holding a book reading, where selected passages are read and discussed with the audience. Work with partners to come up with a brief list of questions that the reader can ask the

audience to get the conversation started. Focus the discussion on self-image, the impact of relationship dynamics, emotional changes that come with becoming a parent, education, finances, and/or the importance of waiting to have sex and using birth control regularly. Creating an engaging discussion with the audience will boost the impact of your event.

You could also create a simple giveaway for this event such as a bookmark with information about delaying pregnancy. You could include the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month logo or other images and information about the benefits of waiting until adulthood to become a parent.

Booth/Tabling

Distribute educational materials directly to your community.

What you'll need: A place to set up, fact sheets, other educational materials, candy or other small giveaways, table/booth

Set up a booth or table in a high-traffic area in your community like a mall, town square, or even a school or college campus. Make sure you get permission before you start planning. You can distribute [fact sheets](#), bookmarks (see section on bookmarks in this document), and FYSB materials as takeaways. Also consider providing candy or other treats to encourage people to stop by your table.

Chalk Graffiti

Spread the word about teen pregnancy prevention through graffiti art.

What you'll need: Place to create your piece, chalk, mural paper in case of rain

Identify an area where you and a few friends can create a graffiti wall/mural for Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. Contact your community officials to obtain permission to draw on this wall with chalk. Use the awareness month theme for inspiration or come up with your own. Try drawing out the design on paper first. (You may need to do this before you get permission.) Be sure to take pictures and share them via Facebook and Twitter using the #PREPTeens hashtag! And be sure to check the weather and do this activity on a day without rain in the forecast. It is good to have a mural-sized piece of paper to use indoors if the weather does not cooperate.

Documentary Night

Hold a screening of a documentary that highlights the reality of teens having babies.

What you'll need: Venue, copy of a show or film about teens becoming parents, discussion guide, DVD player, television/projector, handouts

Ask local movie theaters, independent theaters, community centers, or schools to donate space or equipment for your event. Next, select a movie. Engage the audience in a discussion about life changes after the screening. Be prepared with some discussion questions to help the audience reflect on how the movie affected them, changed their thinking, or educated them. It's a good idea to engage a health care provider from your local hospital or health clinic to help lead the discussion, as well as a youth worker or counselor. It's also a good idea to discuss social taboos specific to the various groups in your community. For example, do teen girls feel comfortable carrying condoms, or do they feel that it is sending a message to their partner that they are "prepared" for sex? To others, is it empowering to carry protection?

Fashion Show

Invite local clothing designers and retail establishments to participate in a fashion show geared toward teens and aimed at raising awareness about becoming self-sufficient financially and dressing for success in the career world.

What you'll need: Venue, designers/clothes, models, an emcee, music, speakers

Host a fashion show to help support Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month's mission. You may want to incorporate the 2014 theme into the clothing designs, and show some outfits for college and outfits for work to promote teens being prepped for the future. Provide educational materials about teen pregnancy and how it impacts girls, and consider inviting a speaker or audience members to share their personal stories about how their timing in getting pregnant has affected them.

Flash Mob

Put together a flash mob routine to mark Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month.

What you'll need: A few friends and some creativity, music, speakers

Get a bunch of friends together and come up with a flash mob routine. You can all wear the same color during your event or make and wear t-shirts that say Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. You can also try incorporating messages using the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month theme on posters or signs during the act. If you're able to videotape your flash mob, share it online after your event!

Interactive School Assembly

Partner with a local school to hold an interactive assembly or a program for a health class on Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month.

What you'll need: A partner school

This is a great way to share knowledge with teens about teen pregnancy. Listed below are a few options for your event:

- Screen a movie about young parenthood and hold a discussion with students after the film.
- Ask students to create a poster, tabletop display, or other artwork that focuses on topics related to how parenthood affects teenage girls. During the assembly, display the designs for other students to see.
- Play a game. Look for interactive online games that teach teenage students about how pregnancy "can happen to you" and the importance of protection and prevention – every time.
- Provide educational materials on birth control.
- Have a guest speaker discuss how teenage pregnancy affected her life and her relationship.

Talk to administrators about the best type of interactive assembly. You can even adapt other ideas in this document for your school assembly.

Parent Panel Discussion

Invite sexual health care providers to a panel discussion for parents of at-risk teens to discuss prevention of teen pregnancy, what works and what doesn't, and keeping the lines of parent-child communication open.

What you'll need: Social workers, healthcare providers, long table and chairs for speakers, microphone and speakers, auditorium or large gathering space

Partner with a local church or other community-gathering center for adults and teens in your community. Invite parents to attend a panel discussion where they can learn proven strategies for improving communication with their teenagers and helping them to set personal goals.

Play Performance

Use the power of theater to start a conversation about pregnancy prevention topics as they relate to teenage relationship dynamics in various cultures.

What you'll need: Script, actors, theater or other venue, props (possibly), a facilitator guide/discussion questions

Bring out an emotional reaction from your audience by putting on a play that centers on relationship dynamics. Do an Internet search to find free scripts, or write your own! You'll need to come up with a theme for your play, like waiting to have sex or negotiating condom use. Then, you can create an outline for your plot that includes an introduction, action, conflict and high point, and resolution. Next, build your characters and dialogue. Don't forget to think about scenery, props, costumes, and staging (if needed). Find a venue and actors, and invite the community to attend. Do you have a high school that has a strong connection with the local middle school? Consider having the high school students produce and perform the play for the younger students.

After the play, you could have a facilitator guide an audience discussion about teenage pregnancy. You may also want to provide a program that contains information about PREP programs in your community.

Proclamation

Make it official! Get Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month declared as an official month in your community.

What you'll need: [Sample Proclamation](#)

Contact your local government official's communications office to find out the steps needed to name May Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month in your community. Contact information for your mayor or governor's office can be found online. Send them a draft of the proclamation so they have to do as little work as possible. Once it's official, create a press release announcing the awareness month and send it to send to local newspapers.

Restroom Campaign

Post flyers with teen pregnancy prevention facts and tips in your school restrooms. This is an easy way to educate teenage girls and boys in your youth center or school about the impact of teenage pregnancy.

What you'll need: Paper for flyers, printer, creativity

You can print the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month logo and infographic on the [campaign website](#), or create your own. If you start from scratch, you'll want to design a symbol that grabs the reader's attention. Try coming up with a catchy title, or use the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month theme. Next,

include some statistics about teenage pregnancy. Lastly, include information about teen clinics and healthcare providers in your area.

Share Your Success!

Send your pictures, links and stories to ncfy@acf.hhs.gov to show us how you're observing Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month in your community. We might just feature you on the ACF website!