



# Bright Future

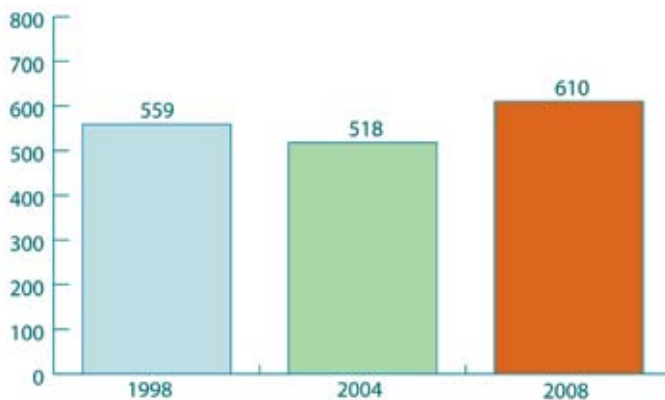
*Working to Ensure a Healthy Community*

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention in Spartanburg County



**Bold leadership and innovation, world-class medical facilities, high-end manufacturing companies, excellent colleges and a thriving creative class continue to make Spartanburg County a vibrant place to live, raise a family and work.** But Spartanburg County, like many communities, faces its share of challenges --including adolescent pregnancy. Today, our business leaders, parents, volunteers and young people are responding to this challenge in many different ways. One way is by speaking out about the importance of teen prevention through a public awareness campaign. We hope this report, told through their voices, will inspire you to join this effort to help prevent adolescent pregnancy.

Teen Birth Rate (Ages 10-19), Spartanburg County<sup>a</sup>



Percent Change in  
Teen Birth Rate  
Spartanburg County,  
2004-2008<sup>a</sup>:

**+14.5%**

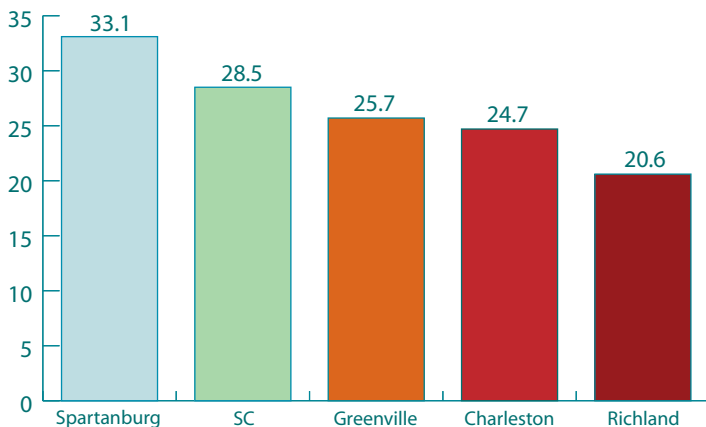


For more information, visit [www.speakoutspartanburg.com](http://www.speakoutspartanburg.com) or call (864) 573-9542

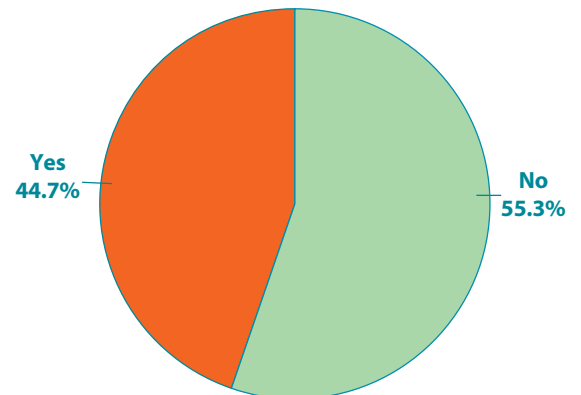
**Spartanburg County's youth are our future, and this future depends upon the support, opportunities, and relationships we can provide each and every young person.** "All of us want our children to have great educations, to get good jobs, and to have stable family lives"<sup>1</sup> "[Teen pregnancy prevention] is one of the most upstream interventions that we can make that might help people lead better lives in Spartanburg County."<sup>2</sup> Becoming a parent too early in life not only makes it more difficult for teens to complete high school, obtain good jobs, and achieve their life goals, it affects the future prospects of their children. "With 700 babies being born to teen moms per year in Spartanburg, that's enough to fill up 35 kindergarten classrooms...these are the children who are going to be our future."<sup>3</sup>

1. Kathy Dunleavy, CEO, United Way of the Piedmont
2. Alex Evins, Attorney
3. Norman Chapman, CEO, Inman Mills

2008 Birth Rates (Ages 10-19), Statewide & Selected Cities<sup>a</sup>



Teens who report having had sexual intercourse<sup>b</sup>



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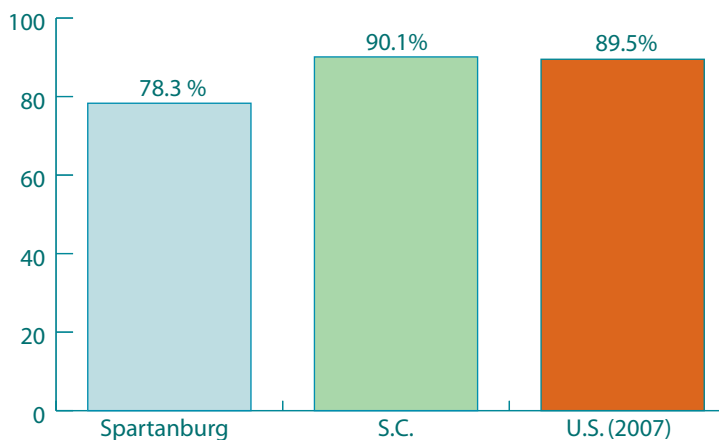
The reasons for teen pregnancy are complex and multifaceted; therefore, there is no one single solution. Our community response must be comprehensive – encouraging abstinence, providing proven-effective programs, and allowing sexually active youth access to **contraception**. “We in the community need to get over the idea that making birth control available to young people encourages their sexuality.”<sup>4</sup> We need to provide “... our children the best information we can for them to be able to make good decisions – for their health, for their future – that’s our responsibility as parents and community members.”<sup>5</sup> “Young people deserve the truth.”<sup>6</sup>

4. Frankie Mason, Retired Educator

5. Julie Lonon, School Board Member, School District 7

6. Phillip Hudson, Spartanburg Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission

Students taught in school about AIDS or HIV<sup>b</sup>



*In 2007, **15%** of Spartanburg County youth said they received sexual health information from their parents.*

*However, **66%** of them wish their parents would talk to them about sex.<sup>c</sup>*



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# What Can We Do?

Visit [www.speakoutspartanburg.com](http://www.speakoutspartanburg.com) to hear more about what you can do.

“Being cooperative with your school system and school districts to help them to present a program that has been proven to be effective to reduce teen pregnancy is something that everyone can do.”

- Clarence Batts, retired CEO

“In any way that you can – through your own church, synagogue, civic group, business,...your donations – simply do what you can do and what you are comfortable with.” - Alex Evins, attorney

Provide opportunities “in which teens feel comfortable in coming to adults to talk about their challenges as teens, especially relating to sexuality and subjects like teen pregnancy.”

- Sheila Snoddy, Girl Scouts Mountains to Midlands

Churches should “...create an atmosphere where we can talk about teen pregnancy and not treat it as taboo...I know we think that, especially in churches, we shouldn’t talk about teen pregnancy, but that’s where we should talk about it. We, as ministers and pastors, should serve as a liaison for parents...and talk with children about it and let them know that it’s alright to be abstinent. It’s alright to be innocent; there’s nothing wrong with that.” - Dr. Charles J.J. Jackson, Cornerstone Baptist Church

“Be open and honest with your children. We, as parents, need to have this open conversation with our children and, when appropriate, talk about contraception.” - Dr. Gordon Sherard, OB-GYN

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### *Faith Community*

- National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy  
[www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/faith.aspx](http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/faith.aspx)
- SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy:  
What Faith Leaders Can Do  
<http://bit.ly/b8vVFv>  
<http://bit.ly/9GJLU8>

### *Youth*

- SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy  
[www.carolinateenhealth.org](http://www.carolinateenhealth.org)  
[www.teenpregnancysc.org](http://www.teenpregnancysc.org)
- Teen Talk  
[www.plannedparenthood.org/teen-talk/index.htm](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/teen-talk/index.htm)
- Teen Source  
[www.teensource.org](http://www.teensource.org)
- Stay Teen  
[www.stayteen.org](http://www.stayteen.org)
- Amplify Your Voice  
[www.amplifyyourvoice.org](http://www.amplifyyourvoice.org)

### *Parents*

- SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy  
[www.teenpregnancysc.org/Parents](http://www.teenpregnancysc.org/Parents)
- Girlology: Knowledge is Empowerment  
[www.girlology.com](http://www.girlology.com)
- Talking with Kids: Children Now  
[www.talkingwithkids.org](http://www.talkingwithkids.org)

We would like to thank the community advocates below who generously shared their time with the Mary Black Foundation. They were asked to give their point of view about 1) why teen pregnancy prevention is so important in Spartanburg; 2) why they got involved to help combat teen pregnancy; and 3) how others can get involved to eliminate teen pregnancy in Spartanburg County. Please visit [www.speakoutspartanburg.com](http://www.speakoutspartanburg.com) to hear more of the views and ideas of these advocates.



*Kathy Dunleavy*  
United Way, CEO



*Alex Evins*  
Attorney



*Norman Chapman*  
Inman Mills, CEO



*Frankie Mason*  
Retired Educator



*Julie Lonon*  
School Board, D7



*Phillip Hudson*  
SADAC



*Clarence Batts*  
Retired CEO



*Sheila Snoddy*  
Girl Scouts



*Dr. J.J. Jackson*  
Pastor



*Gordon Sherard*  
OB-GYN



*Duffy Baehr*  
Business Owner



*Psyche Tidwell*  
Stylist



*Ashley Lyles*  
Doula



*Kristi Webb*  
Community Volunteer



*Markeisha Nesbitt*  
High School Student



*Sandra Oquendo*  
Pastor



*Daniel Padgett*  
College Student

## Data Sources

- SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, <http://scangis.dhec.sc.gov/scan/bdp/tables/birthtable.aspx>
- YRBS Spartanburg Presentation, [www.maryblackfoundation.org](http://www.maryblackfoundation.org)
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Voices of Youth and Adults in Spartanburg County, 2008, SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

## Using this Report

Please acknowledge the Mary Black Foundation when using this report to increase awareness of teen pregnancy in Spartanburg County. Please download, save and distribute this report from our website, [www.maryblackfoundation.org](http://www.maryblackfoundation.org). The Foundation encourages readers to link to this report on websites and other social media outlets.

Photography: Carroll Foster, Hot Eye Photography, HotEyePhoto.com



Mary Black Foundation 349 East Main Street Suite 100 Spartanburg, SC 29302  
Tel 864-573-9500 Fax 864-573-5805 [www.maryblackfoundation.org](http://www.maryblackfoundation.org)