

National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

In 2011, a total of 329,797 babies were born to women aged 15–19 years, for a live birth rate of 31.3 per 1,000 women in this age group, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This is a record low for U.S. teens of this age group and a drop of 8 percent from 2010. Despite this extraordinary progress, nearly three out of 10 teen girls in the U.S. will become pregnant at least once before age 20—more than 700,000 teen pregnancies each year (stayteen.org).

Giving birth and raising a child during the teen years can carry lifelong health, emotional, social, and financial costs for teen mothers and their children. The health of teen mothers and their children often suffers due to the mother feeling overwhelmed by life as a parent. **National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month is celebrated in May** to encourage teens to avoid pregnancy by not having sex, educate sexually-active teens about the most effective forms of birth control, and provide support services to teens so they can avoid repeat pregnancies.



Teen pregnancy data for Clayton County, GA (Source: Georgia Department of Public Health)

- Between 2000 and 2011 in Clayton County, **the overall teen pregnancy rate (for girls ages 10-19) decreased 28.8 percent**, from 44.5 per 1,000 live births to 31.7 per 1,000 live births.
- In 2011, **the rate of teen pregnancy in Clayton County was higher than the state rate** (31.7 per 1,000 live births per 1,000 females versus 25.5 live births per 1,000 females).
- In 2011 in Clayton County, **the teen pregnancy rate for black girls was almost three times that of white girls** (30.9 versus 10.9 per 1,000 live births).

National Statistics (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

- In 2008, teen pregnancy and childbirth accounted for nearly **\$11 billion per year** in costs to U.S. taxpayers for increased health care and foster care, increased incarceration rates among children of teen parents, and lost tax revenue due to lower educational attainment and income among teen mothers.
- Only about **50 percent of teen mothers receive a high school diploma by 22 years of age**, versus approximately 90 percent of women who have not given birth during adolescence.
- White and Hispanic teen mothers are twice as likely as black teen mothers to use the most effective types of birth control.
- The children of teenage mothers are more likely to have lower school achievement, drop out of high school, have health problems, experience incarceration, give birth as a teenager, and face unemployment as adults, than the children of parents who give birth in their 20s and 30s.

Clayton Can Soar to the Top



In Clayton County, the **Clayton Can Soar to the Top (CCST)** initiative leads the county's efforts to combat teen pregnancy at the grassroots level. Utilizing the Wyman Teen Outreach Program® (TOP), an evidence-based curriculum proven to improve health outcomes in teens, CCST has improved the lives of more than 2,000 Clayton youth with group learning sessions, service learning projects, and health and personal awareness activities.

Currently, CCST oversees 24 TOP® Clubs in Clayton County. With the help of trained youth service providers, TOP® Clubs facilitate learning in small group settings, usually after school. Each Club has no more than 25 teens and participants develop leadership skills through active discussion. TOP® Clubs encourage teens to postpone their families until they are older, obtain a college or technical degree, and are in stable, committed relationships.

To learn more about CCST, contact Rolanda Patrick at (678) 479-2207 or rolandapatt@hr.state.ga.us.

National Nurses Week (May 6-12)

Every year, National Nurses Week begins each year on May 6 and ends on May 12—Florence Nightingale's birthday (May 12, 1820). Nightingale, who is celebrated as the founder of modern nursing, came to be known as "The Lady with the Lamp" for her nightly rounds tending to wounded soldiers of the Crimean War (source: Wikipedia). Nurses Week recognizes the important contributions nurses make to provide safe, high-quality health care.

With more than 3.1 million registered nurses in the United States, nurses represent the single-largest component of the health care profession (according to the American Nurses Association). In public health, the majority of care is administered by nurses. Historically and today, nurses have led the way in delivering quality care and improving patient safety and outcomes. The Clayton County Board of Health salutes all nurses who act fearlessly to protect the lives of those in their care.

You can learn how to celebrate National Nurses Week by visiting the American Nurses Association's "Nursing World" page at <http://www.nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/National-Nurses-Week-2014>.



National Women's Health Week (May 11-17)

Of the 458 cardiovascular-disease-related deaths in Clayton County in 2011, 223 (48.7 percent) were women, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health.

National Women's Health Week (NWHW) is a weeklong health observance that brings together communities, businesses, governments, health organizations, and other groups in an effort to promote women's health. NWHW empowers women to make their health a top priority. It also encourages women to take steps to improve their physical and mental health and lower their risks of certain diseases, such as: visiting a health care professional to receive regular check-ups and preventive screenings; being more active; eating healthy; paying attention to their mental health, including getting enough sleep and managing stress; and avoiding unhealthy behaviors, such as smoking and not wearing a seatbelt.

To learn more about National Women's Health Week, visit <http://www.womenshealth.gov/nwhw/>



Asthma Awareness Month



According to the CDC National Asthma Control Program, more than 52,000 emergency room visits and 10,000 hospitalizations in Georgia between 2006 and 2010 were linked to asthma. Asthma Awareness Month is held during the month of May because it is the peak of the allergy and asthma season. It is an appropriate time to educate friends, family, co-workers, and the public about asthma and allergies.

Asthma is one of the most common chronic diseases in the United States. In 2010, 18.7 million adults (one in 12 adults) had asthma and 7 million children (one in 11 children) had asthma. It can also be deadly. In 2009, 3,388 people died from asthma. About nine people die from asthma each day. **Black children are twice as likely to have asthma as white children, according to the CDC.**

In an effort to educate and support the needs of asthma sufferers living in Clayton County, the Clayton County Board of Health (CCBOH), in partnership with ZAP Asthma Consortium, Inc. and the Georgia Department of Public Health, has developed a **Clayton County Asthma Resource Guide**. It includes statistics, local resources for asthma sufferers, and information on how to reduce common asthma triggers, such as tobacco smoke, allergens, and occupational hazards. The guide is available for free download on the CCBOH website (www.claytoncountypublichealth.org/asthma).

Check out our asthma awareness announcement, currently playing at AMC Theaters in Morrow, GA!

CCBOH in Pictures



Caption:

Four-year old Rex resident Elijah Allen (right) dances with Clayton County District Health Director Alpha Fowler Bryan, MD (left) during a 'flash mob' set to Pharrell Williams' "Happy" on Friday, April 11, 2014. The flash mob was one of several events during National Public Health Week (April 7-13, 2014). During the week-long observance, public health staff took the message of public health directly to clients by hosting special presentations on emergency preparedness, HIV testing, injury prevention, immunization, and healthy eating and exercise in the CCBOH lobby throughout the week.



Caption:

Staff members of the CCBOH Specialty Services Department pose for a group photo wearing the color green to signify April as Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Awareness Month. Throughout the month of April, the Board of Health stepped up its efforts to provide free HIV testing at various locations in the community, as well as low-cost testing for other STIs, such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and HPV (human papillomavirus). Clients who got testing during April had the opportunity to receive door prizes.