

MOMENTUM MATTERS

Executive Summary

A COLLABORATIVE PLAN FOR PREVENTING TEEN PREGNANCY

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank the following individuals who informed and drove this comprehensive planning process.

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Stephanie Williams, Boys & Girls Clubs of Oklahoma County

Dr. Sabrina Wyatt, OU Physicians OB/GYN Clinic

Core Partners

The progress we have made is due to the hard work and commitment of these core partner organizations, many of whom have been a part of this effort since day one. This is especially true of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund whose leadership and investment over the past 13 years is the reason we are here today.



We would also like to thank **1000 Feathers, LLC** (Columbia, SC) which led the Collaboration through the year-long, comprehensive process that is summarized in this document. Learn more about the firm at www.1000feathers.com.

LETTER FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

In 2015, in response to the fact that Oklahoma had one of the highest rates of teen births in the United States, our community created a bold goal to reduce Oklahoma County's teen birth rate by one-third by 2020. More than 40 organizations, community partners, government agencies and service providers came together in a public-private collaboration and set their sights on reducing the teen birth rate.

The goal has not only been met, it was exceeded a full year early!

We should collectively celebrate this resounding success while also recognizing much work is left to be done. Despite progress, Oklahoma has the third-highest teen birth rate in the nation, and just over 20% of all the teen births that occur in our state happen right here in Oklahoma County.^{1,2}

Why does this matter? While we know several factors contribute to the social and economic well-being of communities, teen pregnancy is inextricably linked to many other social and economic issues that Oklahomans care about deeply.

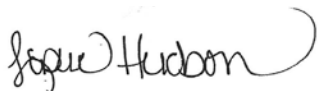
First, multiple generations of Oklahomans are profoundly impacted. Early pregnancy can limit the educational and job opportunities available for many teen parents. Over time, high rates of teen births can contribute to generational cycles of poverty and higher risks of negative outcomes for teen parents and their children. Further, significant disparities in teen birth rates exist by geography and other demographic factors—the issue disproportionately impacts already vulnerable populations.

Second, our community's economy is negatively impacted. An educated and trained workforce is vital to strong economic development. Preventing teen pregnancy helps improve educational outcomes, thus expanding opportunity and increasing the contributions of young people to the economic vitality of our community.

We believe preventing teen pregnancy should be top-of-mind for improving the overall health and economic well-being of central Oklahoma.

We have demonstrated that progress is possible with continued investment. Now, we urge you to join this movement.

Together, we can make a positive difference in the future of young people and in our community.



Dr. Leslie Hudson
Co-Chair
Visioning Council



Dave Lopez
Co-Chair
Visioning Council



PROGRESS MATTERS

Progress doesn't happen by chance. It happens when organizations, key leaders, and community members intentionally band together for the greater good.

In central Oklahoma, the teen pregnancy prevention effort began in earnest in 2006 when five organizations recognized increasing teen birth rates required further attention and came together to improve outcomes for young people. The original five partners—Kirkpatrick Family Fund, the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma, Teen emPower!, and Variety Care—began collaborating to deliver sex education and improve reproductive health care for young people. This group was joined soon after by the Oklahoma City-County Health Department.

The effort officially became the Central Oklahoma Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaboration in 2012 and just a few years later, in 2015, it announced its bold goal in *As A Matter of Fact: Central Oklahoma's Plan to Reduce Teen Pregnancy*.

To formalize the work of its partners, the Collaboration adopted a collective impact framework in 2014-2015 and added a backbone organization to coordinate the effort in 2016. Honestly was created to serve that role, further supported by a steering committee and three working groups focused on education, medical, and community approaches to prevention.

Today, over 40 partner agencies and 10 subcommittees of working groups made up of over 260 individuals work together on a single issue. And, most importantly, our goal of reducing the teen birth rate by one-third by 2020 was exceeded a full year early.

The teen birth rate in Oklahoma County decreased 42 percent from 2013 to 2018!

Decreases in Oklahoma County exceeded state and national decreases over the same 2013-2018 time period.^{1,2} Despite this progress, the teen birth rate in Oklahoma County (29.8 per 1,000 females) is still higher than rates in the state (27.1) and nationally (17.4).

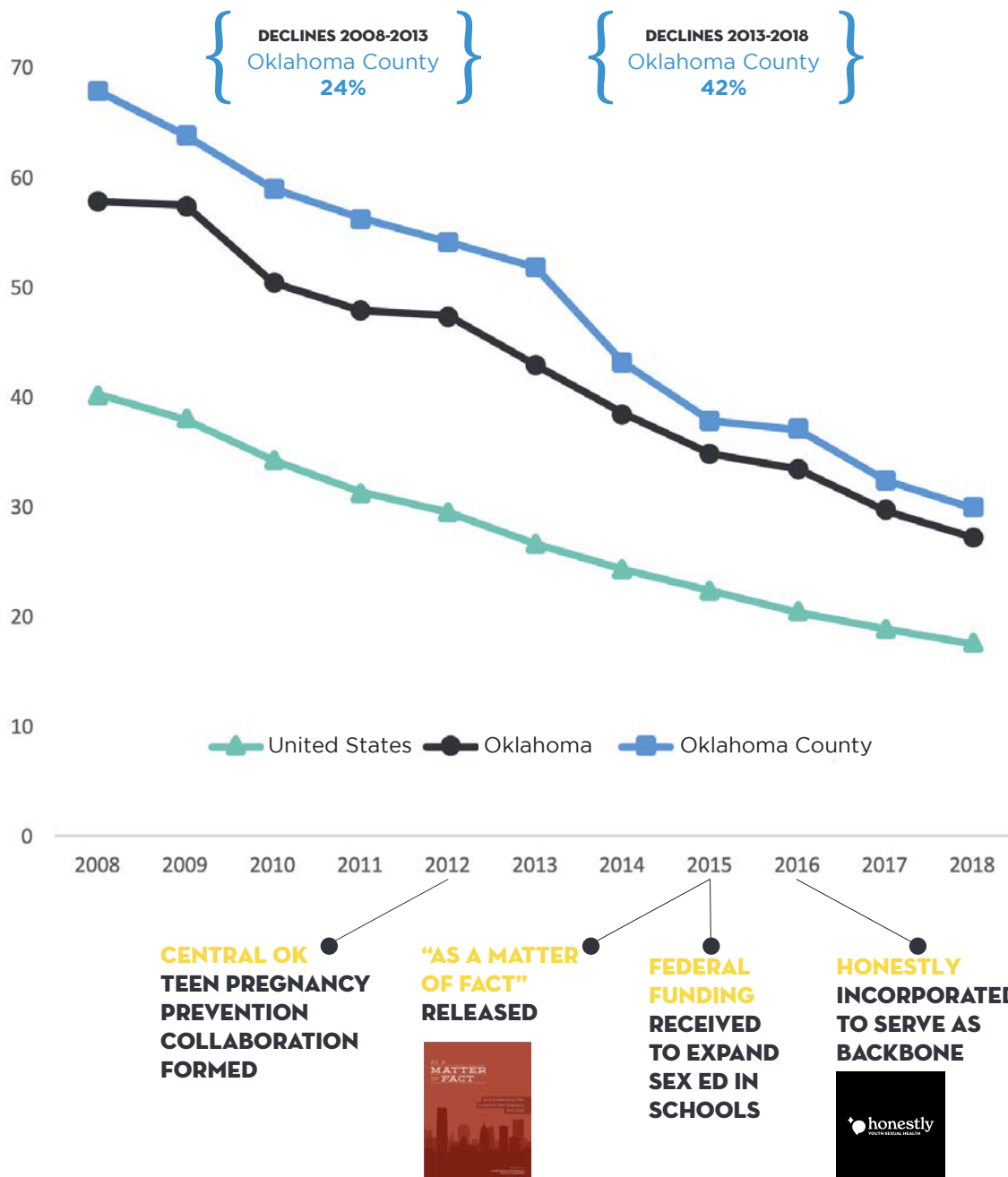
There were 740 births to mothers under 20 in Oklahoma County in 2018.¹

Data reminds us there is still work to be done. In response, a comprehensive planning process was launched in late 2018 to set a new goal for the Collaboration.

This report represents the results of that nearly year-long process of gathering data, listening to the voices of community members, and convening local experts.



**TEEN BIRTH RATE: AGES 15-19, PER 1,000 FEMALES
US, OKLAHOMA, AND OKLAHOMA COUNTY**



¹Oklahoma State Department of Health: OK2SHARE, vital statistics. <https://www.health.state.ok.us/ok2share/>

²Power to Decide. Teen Birth Rate Comparisons, 2017. <https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/national-state-data/oklahoma>



COMMUNITY VOICES MATTER

For more than a year, we have been engaged in a process of listening to and learning from experts and residents of our community. More than 500 stakeholders were directly engaged in the development of this plan to further reduce teen births in Oklahoma County.

Such an engaging process required us all to listen intently and reflect deeply into what we believe. The voices of community members, partners, parents, and youth are summarized on the following pages. Cumulatively, they highlight what is working in our community and identify the gaps that still exist.



The younger generation, they just look on social media, take what that is as true, and they don't really go behind it... they trust social media.

- OKC TEEN

VOICES OF YOUNG PEOPLE:

Six listening sessions with a total of 60 diverse teens and young adults were conducted across the community. What they told us has great value to the future work of the Collaboration.

Oklahoma County young adults:

- 1** want to be independent, productive adults and understand that teen pregnancy can pose a barrier to that goal,
- 2** want better comprehensive sex education in schools,
- 3** want to talk to their parents about sex, but often feel judged and awkward when they do,
- 4** use the internet as their primary source for sexual health information, and
- 5** want better access to condoms and contraception.





VOICES OF COMMUNITY LEADERS:

Thirty-six interviews were conducted with an identified group of influencers in the community. Here’s what they told us:

- 1** Our success creates a unique opportunity to get people’s attention given Oklahoma’s other bad health outcomes.
- 2** The connection between teen pregnancy and other social issues is undeniable.
- 3** Diversity, equity, and inclusion are top-of-mind issues for leaders in the community.
- 4** Further progress in reducing the teen birth rate will require expansion beyond the great work that the Collaboration is already doing.

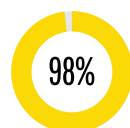
VOICES OF PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS:

A series of meetings, interviews, surveys, and conversations with community-based organizations—both those involved in the Collaboration and otherwise—highlighted what they see as key focus areas moving forward:

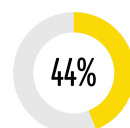
- Equity
- Youth involvement
- Advocating for adolescent health
- Identifying and serving priority populations
- Expanded community engagement and involvement
- Professional development and training

VOICES OF PARENTS AND FAITH LEADERS:

A combination of surveys and interviews were conducted with parents and faith leaders in the community. Both groups of stakeholders want to be more involved but need help in order to do so.



of Oklahoma County faith leaders surveyed feel their house of worship should be providing teen pregnancy prevention information.



of parents surveyed in Oklahoma County do not feel prepared to have conversations about teen pregnancy prevention-related topics with their children.



Right now, I don’t think anybody can miss the fact that we have really poor health outcomes... (people) are starting to recognize that lack of action is going to affect economic development statewide.

- COMMUNITY LEADER



FOCUS MATTERS

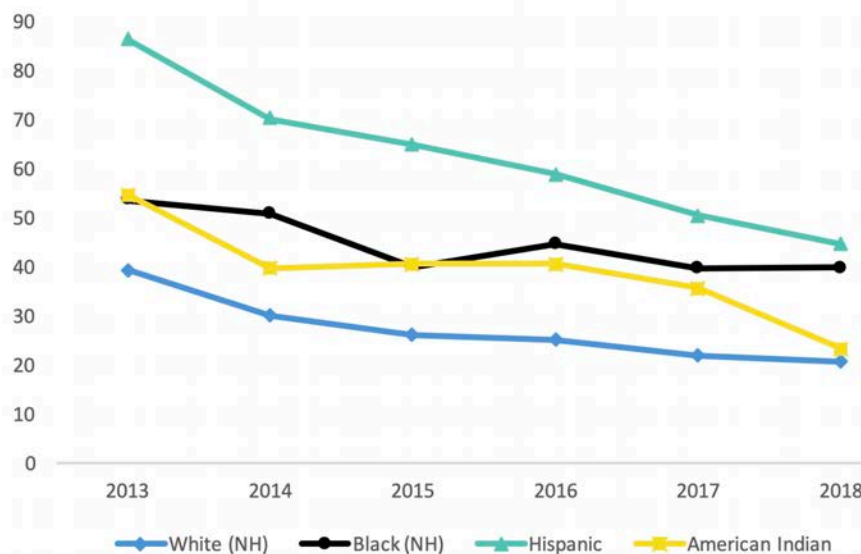
Teen pregnancy is an issue that impacts everyone, but data clearly show disparities in teen birth rates persist here in Oklahoma County and across the country.³ Given limited resources in communities, understanding where and how to focus future efforts is critically important.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are top-of-mind issues for leaders in the community, so considerable time was spent examining data trends and additional research to strategically identify priority populations. We know that in order to see continued success, our Collaboration must have a laser-sharp focus on the health disparities and inequities that exist locally, including those that exist by age, race, and geography, with additional attention paid to identified priority populations.

DISPARITIES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY:

Youth of color in Oklahoma County have higher teen birth rates than their white peers. Perhaps more importantly, decreases in the county's teen birth rate have not been uniform by race and ethnicity. The most significant decrease between 2013-2018 occurred among American Indian teens, a decrease of 57%. White teens and Hispanic teens had decreases of 47% and 48% respectively. However, the decrease among Black teens has been much less substantial (26%), and rates among this group have even increased slightly in recent years. Truly addressing disparities among race and ethnicity in our community will require us to pay particular attention to the systemic, cultural, and generational factors at play.

OKLAHOMA COUNTY TEEN BIRTH RATE, PER 1,000 15-19 YEAR OLD FEMALES



DECREASES 2013-2018

Hispanic	48%
Black (NH)*	26%
American Indian	57%
White (NH)*	47%

*Non-Hispanic



DISPARITIES BY AGE:

Because 73% of all teen births in Oklahoma County are to 18-19 year olds,¹ we must increase our focus on and resources directed towards serving older teens. This population is too often excluded from community conversations about preventing teen pregnancy. The issue of repeat teen births is also of special concern. In Oklahoma County, 16% of all teen births are to mothers who already have at least one child¹, compounding the educational, economic, and health impacts of the issue.

DISPARITIES BY GEOGRAPHY:

Five high-priority zip codes were identified (see image below), using a three-factor assessment. Each of the identified priority zip codes:

- have high teen birth rates;
- score poorly across several related socio-economic factors⁴ closely related to teen pregnancy; and
- have a sufficient population of 15-to 19-year-old females, increasing the likelihood of impact with successful interventions.

DISPARITIES AMONG PRIORITY POPULATIONS:

The U.S. Office of Population Affairs has identified a number of populations of youth who may need special support related to their health care and development.⁵ As noted previously, leadership from community-based organizations in Oklahoma County also expressed interest in ensuring we place a higher priority on serving these traditionally underserved youth:

- children of immigrants and refugees,
- homeless youth,
- youth in foster care,
- youth in the juvenile justice system,
- LGBTQ+ youth, and
- youth with disabilities.

³Livingston, G., Thomas, D. (2019). Why is the teen birth rate falling? <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/08/02/why-is-the-teen-birth-rate-falling/>

⁴United States Census Bureau. American Fact Finder, Community Facts: Oklahoma County. <https://factfinder.census.gov/aces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

⁵U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® Playbook. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, updated February 2018.





COMMON AGENDA

History. Data trends. Community voices. National best practices. All of these, along with a strong desire to continue making progress on this critical issue, inform our new common agenda, inclusive of a new goal to:

REDUCE OKLAHOMA COUNTY'S TEEN BIRTH RATE BY AN ADDITIONAL 25% BY 2025.

Collective impact “describes an intentional way of working together and sharing information for the purpose of solving a complex problem.”⁶ With an issue as complex as teen pregnancy prevention, we believe collective impact brings a greater chance of success than a single nonprofit working alone. During a series of meetings held between November 2018 and May 2019, the Collaboration refined the principles that guide our work. These guiding principles drive the focus areas and strategic objectives on the following page.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ✓ We share the belief that we are stronger together.
- ✓ We are grounded in an equity framework and understand the needs of all young people are not the same.
- ✓ We are committed to an inclusive and judgement-free approach to adolescent health.
- ✓ We advocate to ensure public health and adolescent sexual health remain priorities for our community.
- ✓ We listen to and respect the voices of the community.
- ✓ We believe the best prevention approaches are inclusive, medically accurate, age-appropriate, comprehensive, and accessible.
- ✓ We are guided by data, research, and outcomes.
- ✓ We are committed to continuous communication that leads to learning and improvement.

⁶<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/collective-impact>



As a community, we have fully adopted and integrated the formula credited with generating declines in the teen birth rate: a combination of improved access to information, increased abstinence among teens, and greater access and connection to the most effective methods of contraception for those who are sexually active. The good news for Oklahoma County is that many of the associated universal, broad-reaching prevention approaches are already in progress.

The real question is where do we focus moving forward? How do we dig even deeper and target our efforts and investment? Our new common agenda answers these questions in the form of three key priority areas and supporting strategies.



PRIORITY 1: INFORM

Empower all young people, and the caring adults in their lives, by providing medically accurate, age-appropriate sexual health information.

- 1** Implement a diverse and comprehensive strategy to deliver **school-based sex education** throughout central Oklahoma that acknowledges multiple stages of readiness and capacity that exist at the district and school levels.
- 2** Work to **reduce disparities in health outcomes** by ensuring that organizations, institutions, and medical professionals serving priority populations have the capacity to deliver information related to sexual and reproductive health.
- 3** Establish Honestly and members of the Collaboration as **experts and the go-to resource** for information related to adolescent sexual health.



PRIORITY 2: CONNECT

Facilitate relationships—within our Collaboration and the broader community—to ensure young people access the health care services, resources, and programs they need.

- 1** Invest time and resources to ensure all medical providers within the Collaboration are offering **access to the full range of contraceptive methods** at low or no cost, and/or at a minimum, have active referral mechanisms in place to connect young people to those who do.
- 2** Create a **robust referral network** between education institutions, community-based organizations, and health care delivery organizations that includes better marketing, a more comprehensive resource directory, and a greater focus on reducing barriers to access.
- 3** Explore more innovative and emerging strategies to **mobilize, connect, and improve the capacity** of those with the opportunity to deliver services directly to priority populations.



PRIORITY 3: ENGAGE

Create an inclusive, community-wide movement by compelling meaningful participation and investment to support adolescent sexual health.

- 1** Incorporate principles of **meaningful community engagement and equity** into every aspect of the Collaboration with an intensive focus on reducing health disparities.
- 2** Involve a **more diverse network of professionals and decision makers** in the education and medical communities to achieve greater sustainability and institutionalization of programs and services.
- 3** Expand the reach of the Collaboration by **mobilizing community members to become change agents**. Their charge—and ours—is to facilitate a purposeful connection between unintended pregnancy prevention and education, poverty, and other salient issues in central Oklahoma.



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WHAT'S NEXT?

The recent successes of teen pregnancy prevention efforts in Oklahoma County demonstrate that with consistent, long-term investments of time, talent and resources, it is possible to make a substantial difference in the lives of individual youth and in the economic development of our community.

While a number of strategies appear in this document, what is most important is support and engagement from YOU. Together, we will continue to write Oklahoma County's success story.

GET INVOLVED @HONESTLYOKC.ORG:

- ▶ Give: this movement needs fuel.
- ▶ Stay informed: sign up for our e-newsletter.
- ▶ Serve: volunteer for committees or working groups.
- ▶ Be a change agent: educate yourself, talk to the teens in your life—start the conversation!