

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance

of
DeSoto, Hardee and Highlands Counties

TPPA is a Youth Development Coalition that is working toward the goal of educating teens and parents to reduce the risk of teen pregnancy, STD's and risky behaviors in our communities.

Analysis of local TPPA programs indicate 2 critical areas of concern when compared to national data:

- A high frequency of youth with no adult supervision
- Permissive attitudes regarding risky behaviors including:
sex, alcohol, drugs and tobacco

So far we have served over 8,000 students!

- *Average educational hours received per youth= 5.25*
- *Average program costs per youth served= \$105.00*

TPPA Services:

- Interactive classroom education and assemblies for 6-9th grade youth
- "Baby Think It Over" program for Middle and High school students
- "Go Girls" afterschool program for Middle School girls
- Additional programs for youth offered through faith based and other community partnerships
- TPPA Coalition in each county representing: Parents, Professionals, Businesses and other entities
- Parent Workshops
- Other community events

- DeSoto, Hardee and Highlands Counties consistently rank in the top 10 for births to mothers under the age of 18
- \$20,549.45 is the estimated annual cost to the tri-county taxpayers for a child born to parents under the age of 18
- STD Rates, Ages 15-17, reported by the Florida Department of Health in Year 2009

DeSoto County

Out of 2,217 youth there were 65 reported cases of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea.

Hardee County

Out of 1,997 youth there were 28 reported cases of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea.

Highlands County

Out of 5,211 youth there were 120 reported cases of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea.

What key community leaders say about TPPA:

"The GO GIRLS program at [LPMS] has provided a place where young girls can come together to learn about themselves and each other. These girls are given the opportunity to work through difficult personal issues in a safe environment which is so important in a society where kids are exposed to so much at a young age."

Sole Ward-6th Grade Teacher, Lake Placid Middle School

"This is a hands-on student program that works through planned activities, discussions, an atmosphere of caring, and the qualities of excellent role models to positively impact our students. The alliance has contributed to improved students grades, attendance, and the development of positive attitudes. Discipline reports on these involved students have decreased dramatically. This is not difficult to understand because when students feel good about themselves, they have no desire to misbehave."

Adrian H. Cline-Superintendent, Desoto County Schools

"With Hardee County consistently having a high teen-pregnancy rate, it's incumbent upon our entire community to teach our kids the importance of making responsible life choices. [TPPA] provides a greater number of our kids with opportunities to improve their lives morally, spiritually, intellectually, and economically."

Douglas Herron-Principal, Hardee Junior High School

We help teens "miss the mess" and develop the tools to make choices for a successful future!



"I have learned about relationships, values, teen pregnancy and peer pressure. It has made me more aware of the consequences of risky behavior and so I will be less likely to get involved in those types of things. The program is a mix between fun and important knowledge of life skills."
Jason, 15 years old



"Being in your program has made me realize that nobody can make me do anything that I don't want to do. No matter what happens in life I can be strong. Nobody can control my life but me. The program made me more aware of things that can happen to risk my future. It supported my thoughts of waiting. I have big goals in my future—I don't want sex getting in the way!"
Aaliyah, 16 years old

For more information please contact a TPPA Coordinator:

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