



R.E.A.C.H. Project
(Restore and Empower African American
Adolescents to Create Hope)



CONTEXT

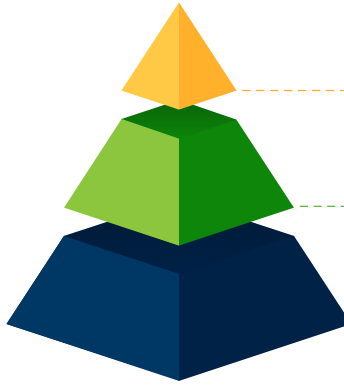
Goal: The Annex Teen Clinic contributes to teen pregnancy prevention and reducing HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) health disparities in African American youth and young adults in North Minneapolis.

Causes: Racism and discrimination have caused long-standing disparities in education, employment, income/wealth, housing, and access to health care, transportation, social connections and support that directly affect health.

Population: 108,031 African and African American youth live in the Twin Cities 7-county region ages 19 and younger.

Issue: Every day in Minnesota, approximately 10 teens become pregnant. The vast majority of these pregnancies are unintended. Even though the greatest number of adolescent births in Minnesota is to white females, Minnesota youth of color have significantly higher birth and pregnancy rates than their white counterparts. Hennepin County has the second and third highest rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia, respectively, among Minnesota counties.

APPROACH



Facilitating evidence-based, culturally-specific sexuality education curricula in school settings for middle and high school-aged youth; parent/child puberty education and communication workshops; and a youth leadership and peer education group.

Providing HIV/STI testing in school and community settings on an ongoing basis to reduce barriers such as transportation and access to health insurance.

Recognizing youth as leaders with opportunities to enact meaningful change in their communities.

ROOT CAUSES/ CONDITIONS FOR HEALTH

Addresses the social and economic conditions for health (also known as the social determinants of health). This often happens by changing local, regional or state policy, changing the way systems work or changing the environment.

ORGANIZATIONAL/ INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

Addresses a health area by changing policies or systems in a school, clinic, hospital, etc. to support healthy behaviors and individual risk/protective factors.

HEALTH PROMOTION/ DIRECT SERVICE

Addresses individual or family-level risk/protective factors through health education, programming, case management, etc.

“We really wanted to be able to help their daughters learn about and celebrate their changing bodies, but it was hard to find the time. Annex created the space for us to share and bond.”

—program partner

IMPACT

- 350 African American youth reached with teen pregnancy prevention programming
- 189 youth tested for chlamydia and gonorrhea
- 73 youth, parents, and community members participated in the youth-led parent education workshop event called “Bring Out the Parents,” where youth ran breakout sessions on healthy relationships, sexual health information, and parent-child communication

80% of youth tested for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and HIV reported knowing where to get sexual health resources and access treatment



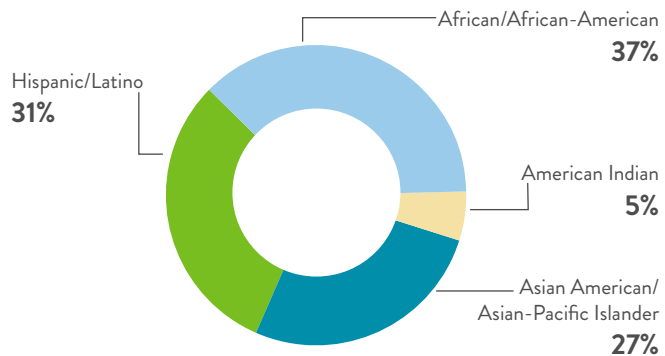


The Annex Teen Clinic helps young people take charge of their sexual health by providing confidential health services and education.

PRIORITY HEALTH AREA SPOTLIGHT

In 2016, Minnesota reported 3,004 pregnancies among 15- to 19-year-olds. Rates of teen pregnancies among American Indians (56.1 per 1,000 pregnancies) and African Americans (39.6 per 1,000 pregnancies) were among the highest in the state. Disparate rates of unemployment, poverty, adverse childhood experiences, and access to comprehensive sexual health education directly affect sexual health and increase the likelihood of early pregnancy.

Collective Impact: 52,974 individuals were reached through the work of fourteen grantees addressing this priority health area in 2017-18. The proportions of individuals reached by race/ethnicity are shown in the figure below.



EHDI grantees addressing teen pregnancy prevention identified common measures to track and report. Collective results include:

- ★ 86% of program participants know where to access sexual health care
- ↑ Increased comfort talking about sex and birth control with partners
- ↑ Increased number of young people who reported having adults in their lives with whom to talk about sexual health issues

MDH ELIMINATING HEALTH DISPARITIES INITIATIVE

The Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (EHDI) grant program was created to address health inequities for populations of color and American Indians across eight different priority health areas. Since 2001, the EHDI approach has been to support organizations and projects run by and for communities of color and American Indians to develop and implement strategies that are effective in reaching their communities. Every few years, the program reallocates the competitive grants to organizations and tribes across the state of Minnesota. The current grant cycle is from 2016-2019.