

SAVE ROCHESTER'S PREMIER TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM

There has been remarkable progress in Rochester since 2008 in reducing teen birth and teen pregnancy rates; teen birth rates have declined 55%. This progress is due to a coordinated effort that engages youth in relevant and comprehensive sexuality curricula, delivered by talented and trained health educators. In addition, young people are connected to accessible health care, and trained peer educators create effective social marketing messages that promote healthy choices.

The 55% decline in teen birth rates is a very positive development for our community. Teen parents are at higher risk of dropping out of high school, as compared to their peers. Children of teen parents are less prepared for kindergarten, have more health and behavioral problems, and are more likely to drop out of school themselves and become teen parents. If teen birth rates continue to decline, we can expect that more youth will finish high school, and that our workforce will be more prepared. Children born in Rochester will be less likely to grow up in poverty, less likely to be part of a single parent family, and less likely to be exposed to traumatic experiences.

The interactive curricula used by THRIVE 2 and other local teen pregnancy prevention programs teach adolescents a wide array of skills. Through role plays, discussion, and games, youth improve their own communication skills, learn about consent, abstinence, contraception and healthy relationships, and set goals for themselves. They meet staff from health clinics that serve teens, and talk privately with health educators about their personal concerns. The curriculum, which is about seven hours long, is delivered in schools, after school settings, residential programs and youth employment programs. Youth-produced social marketing messages air on local radio and social media.

This successful and coordinated approach to teen pregnancy prevention is anchored by the THRIVE 2 program, the largest teen pregnancy prevention program in Rochester. The



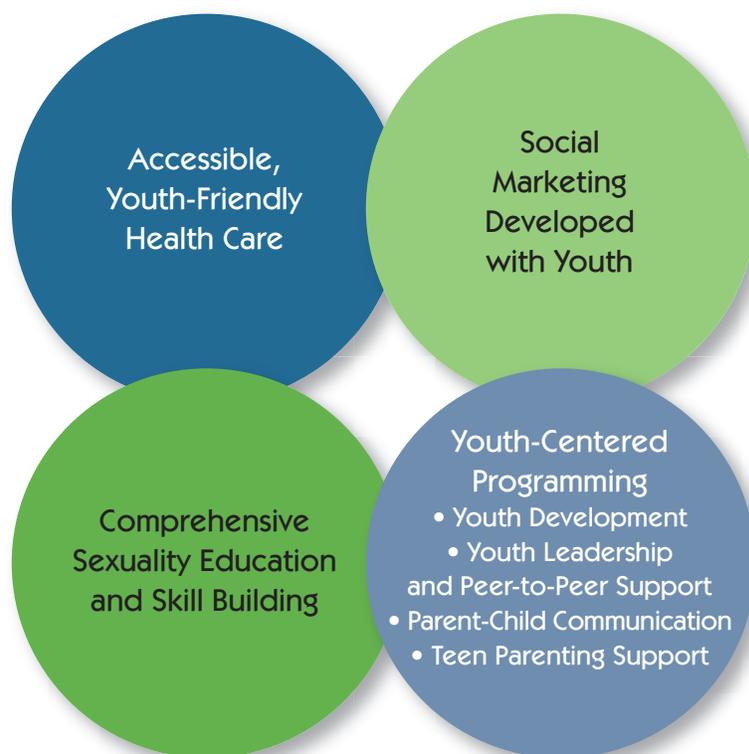
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Thrive 2 program engages more than 2,000 youth per year in evidence-based strategies described above. The City of Rochester is the lead agency for THRIVE 2; City staff deliver services along with staff of subcontracting agencies (Metro Council for Teen Potential, IBERO, Highland Family Planning, Center for Youth and Hillside). Funding is provided by the federal Office of Adolescent Health (Dept. of Health and Human Services).

Inexplicably, the Trump administration has decided to cut off funds for the THRIVE 2 program (known as Teen Pregnancy Prevention funds), in the amount of \$1,000,000 per year, effective June 30, 2018. Originally, the THRIVE 2 program was to receive federal funds until June, 2020. This decision by the Trump administration will mean that:

- **2,000 Rochester youth per year will lose the opportunity to engage in a comprehensive, relevant, and evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention curriculum.**
- **10 talented and dedicated health educators who have been trained in the delivery of evidence-based curricula will lose their jobs.**
- **14 youth leaders will no longer design positive and creative health-related media messages for their peers.**

KEY COMPONENTS TO EFFECTIVE TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION



If THRIVE 2 closes, only two teen pregnancy prevention programs will remain in Rochester; and those programs together serve only about 1,200 youth per year.

We have been down this road before. In the years 2001 to 2008, Rochester’s teen pregnancy prevention programs were small scale and of limited duration. Only about 1,000 youth per year participated; currently, about 3,000 youth per year participate. **In the years 2001 to 2008, Rochester’s teen birth rates did not decline. From 2001 to 2008, about 600 babies were born to teen mothers each year. In 2015, after seven years of consistently declining birth rates, 301 babies were born to teen mothers in Rochester.**

LITTLE PROGRESS IN ROCHESTER TEEN BIRTH RATES 2001 THROUGH 2008

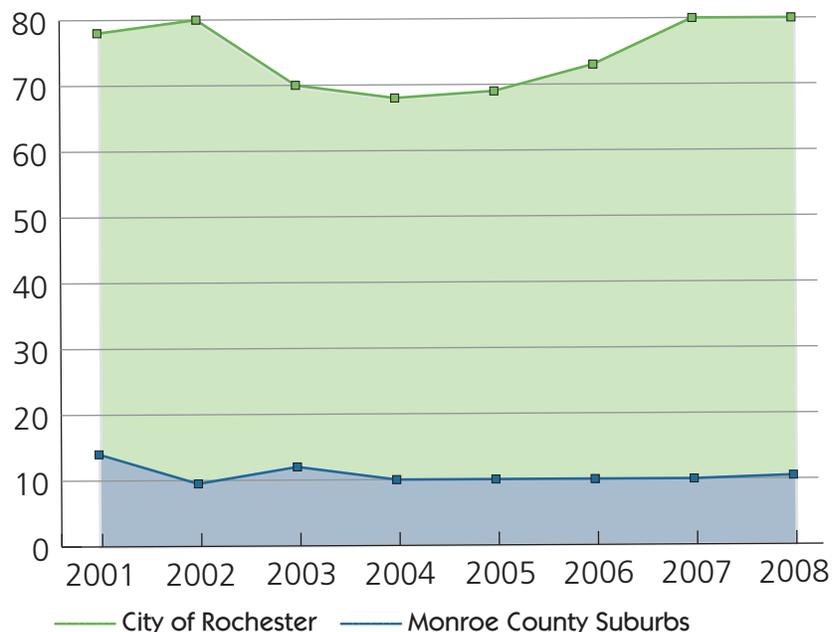
Federal approach during these years: “Abstinence Only” curricula

Teen pregnancy prevention education and life skills programs available to Rochester youth in these years:

- Small scale demonstration programs (example: MCTP What’s Next Video Curriculum and Wise Guys curriculum for boys)
- Some limited use of evidence-based sexuality education curriculum
- In Control Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (Planned Parenthood)

Teen Birth Rates per 1,000 girls (Ages 15-19)

Source: Monroe County Department of Public Health



Total youth engaged: **fewer than 1,000 per year.**

55% DECLINE IN ROCHESTER TEEN BIRTH RATES 2008 THROUGH 2015

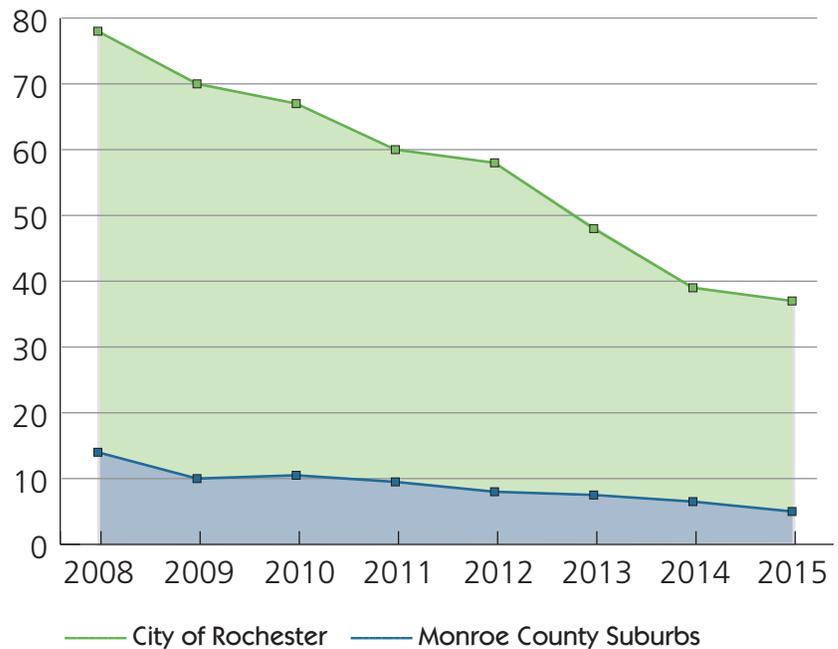
Federal approach during these years: evidence-based curricula and strategies

Teen pregnancy prevention education and life skills programs in Rochester during these years engaged about **3,000** youth per year in the following programs:

- **THRIVE 1 (2012-2015) and THRIVE 2 (Began in 2015. Federal funds are set to end early, in June, 2018). City of Rochester is lead agency. THRIVE 2 is now the largest program, serving 2,000 youth per year.**
- **City's Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention program (RISE) (2010-present)**
- **In-Control, Planned Parenthood, (2000 to present)**
- **Community Place Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (2010-2016)**
- **Safe Sex Inc. Youth Leadership group (2010 to 2015)**
- **Ibero's program PASEOS, (2011-2015)**

Teen Birth Rates per 1,000 girls (Ages 15-19)

Source: Monroe County Department of Public Health



If THRIVE 2 loses funding, only two evidence-based sexuality education programs will remain in Rochester: In-Control and City RISE, which together serve only about 1,200 youth per year.

ROCHESTER HAS A CHOICE.

Will our community continue to invest in teen pregnancy prevention programs like THRIVE 2, and engage a total of 3,000 youth per year? If so, we can expect teen birth rates to continue to fall, benefitting our families and the community. We can expect that more children in Rochester will grow up healthy and in families that can provide for basic needs and support school success. Or will we allow THRIVE 2 to close, and risk higher teen birth rates, more young parents dropping out of school, a less prepared workforce and more Rochester families trapped in poverty?