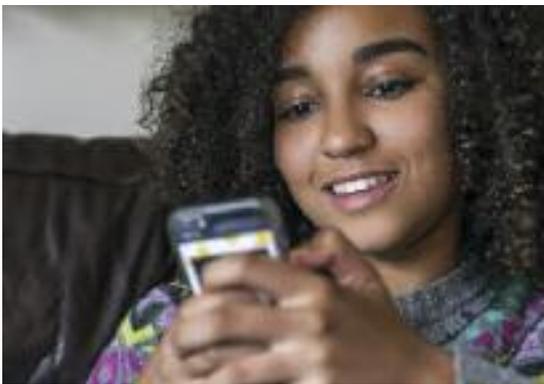




# NEEDS AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

*Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Rochester, NY*



*Prepared by the Metro Council for Teen Potential in partnership with the City of Rochester Bureau of Youth Services, January 2017.*



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# NEEDS AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

## *Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Rochester, NY*

### 1. Local data re Youth and Youth Sexual Health

- **30,100 adolescents**, ages 10 to 19, live in the City of Rochester. The total population of Rochester is about 210,000.
- Rochester's **child poverty rate** is the second-highest among US cities of a population of 200,000 or more. 55% of children in Rochester live in poverty. (2014 American Community Survey). (Buffalo NY has the fourth highest rate of child poverty; more than half the children in Buffalo live in poverty.)
- **35% of all City residents** live below the poverty level.
- In Rochester, 68% of families with children under age 18 are headed by single parents. In NYS, 36% of families with children are headed by single parents.
- Rochester's adolescent population is about **17% White, 52% Black, 22% Latino, and 8% Other. (2010 Census)**
- **Rochester's teen birth rate in 2014 was 39 per 1,000 girls.** The teen birth rate in NYS in 2014 was 16 per 1,000 girls. (NYS Dept. of Health). Nationally, the teen birth rate was 24 per 1,000 girls. Rochester's rate is 2.5 times higher than the rate in NYS, and almost twice as high as the rate nationally.
- **Teen birth rates in Rochester have declined** from a high of 128 per 1,000 girls in 1990 to 39 births per 1,000 girls in 2014--a 70% decline in the teen birth rate.
- 326 babies were born to Rochester adolescents, ages 15 to 19, in 2014. **10% of the total number of babies born in Rochester in 2014 were born to teen mothers.** If grouped together, these 326 babies born to teen mothers in 2014 would fill 15 kindergarten classrooms in 2019. See zip code map for areas of City with highest rates.
- Between the years 2006 and 2014, **teen pregnancy rates** declined significantly in the highest poverty zip codes of Rochester. However, the teen pregnancy rate in most Rochester zip codes is still three to five times higher than the NYS teen pregnancy rate. During the years 2012 to 2014, the **teen pregnancy rate** in the 14608 zip code area was **115 per 1,000 girls, ages 15-19**. In four other zip code areas, the teen pregnancy rate was about 88 per 1,000 girls: 14621 (NE Roch); 14611(SW Roch); 14605 (NE Roch); and 14615 (NW Roch).
- Historically, the teen birth rate in Rochester has been higher than the teen birth rate in Buffalo, Syracuse or NYC.

- In Monroe County, **teen pregnancy and birth rates are 4 to 5 times higher among African Americans and Latinas compared to Whites.**
- In 2014, there were **58 repeat births** to Rochester teen mothers, ages 15 to 19. 18% of all City teen births in 2014 were repeat teen births.
- The rate of chlamydia in 2011 among Rochester females, ages 15 to 19, is three times higher than the national rate for this age group. The rate of gonorrhea among Rochester females is more than three times the national rate for this age group. In Rochester, STI rates are higher for Black adolescents and for Latino adolescents, as compared to White adolescents.
- In 2011, the rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea among teens in Rochester were more than double the rates in NYC.
- Youth reported the following on the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, completed at RCSD high schools:
  - 43% of students in 9th to 12th grades had had sex.
  - 31% were currently sexually active (had sex during past three months)
  - 10% had sex before age 13
  - 16% had had sex with four or more partners
  - Among sexually active youth, 60% used a condom the last time they had sex
  - 10% of sexually active youth used a long acting and reversible method of contraception (IUD or implant)
  - 11% said they were ever forced to have sexual intercourse or were forced to touch or be touched sexually
  - 20% of students described their sexual orientation as gay, lesbian, bisexual, questioning or other
- Rochester students, like those in Buffalo, Albany and Syracuse, are isolated by race and class. (New York schools are the most segregated in the nation. UCLA Civil Rights Project, 2014.)
- Rochester City School District student profile (NYS Education Dept. Annual Report Card 2012-2013 for Rochester City School District)
  - 61% are African American; 25% are Latino; 10% are White
  - 11% have Limited English proficiency
  - 18% have disabilities
  - 80% are eligible for free lunch

## 2. Relevant Risk Factors

- Low high school graduation rate. In 2014, 51% of Rochester City School District students graduated within four years of entering 9th grade. The graduation rate for African American students was 52.5%; for Latino students, the rate was 43%; the rate for Limited English Proficient students was 17.5% (Rochester City School District, Dec. 18, 2014).
- High rates of gun violence and gang activity in Rochester. Homicide is the leading cause of death among City adolescents (Monroe County Adolescent Health Report Card). In 2009, there were about 630 emergency room visits due to assault among Rochester youth.
- In the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2015), 18% of Rochester City School District students said they engaged in a physical fight on school property in the past year. 7% of students said they carried a gun in past 30 days; 7% said they carried a weapon on school property during the past 30 days. During the past year, 9% said they had been threatened or injured by someone with a weapon on school property.
- YRBS (2015): 11% said they were hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend/girlfriend the past year.
- YRBS (2015): 33% say that bullying, harassment or assault is a somewhat or very serious problem at their school. 27% of students say that bullying or harassment of GLBT youth is a somewhat or very serious problem at their school.
- YRBS (2015): 12% of students said they had been bullied electronically / on social media during the past year.
- YRBS (2015): 63% of students said that they had not talked with an adult in their school about a personal problem during the past year.
- YRBS (2015): 32% of City students said they felt so depressed for two or more weeks during the past year that they stopped their usual activities. 12% said they attempted suicide during the past year.
- YRBS (2015) 16% of students said that a parent or adult in their home had hit them or physically hurt them. 20% said they had lived with someone who was depressed, mentally ill or suicidal.
- YRBS (2015) 35% of students said that someone in their household had ever gone to jail or prison.
- YRBS: 20% of students drank alcohol in the past month; 10% of City students had engaged in binge drinking in the past month; 22% used marijuana in the past month.
- YRBS (2015) When asked about the statement “In my community, I feel like I matter to people”, 54% of City students said they were not sure, or they disagreed or strongly disagreed.

- YRBS (2015) When asked questions about students and teachers demonstrating respect:
  - 35% of City students disagreed or strongly disagreed that students show respect for each other;
  - 41% disagreed or strongly disagreed that students showed respect for teachers;
  - 19% disagreed or strongly disagreed that teachers show respect for students.
- YRBS (2015) 46% of students said that their health care provider discussed ways to prevent pregnancy, AIDS and STIs at their last check-up.
- YRBS (2015) When asked whether they had a chance to speak with a doctor/health care provider privately in the last twelve months, 43% said “no”.
- Among Rochester residents, there are lower rates of health insurance, compared to Monroe County. More people obtained insurance in 2014 due to Affordable Care Act. In 2014, 8% of Rochester residents had no health insurance; and about 5% of Monroe County residents had no insurance.
- There is a disparity between Rochester youth and youth in the suburbs related to availability of adult role models. In Monroe County as a whole, there are 1.5 adults for every young person under age 25. In the City, there are 1.3 adults; and in the highest poverty zip code areas, there are 1.1 adults for every young person under age 25. (US Census 2010).
- Children of teen parents are more likely to become teen parents themselves. Historically, more than 15% of births in Rochester were births to teens.
- Homeless youth: About 450 youth are housed in homeless shelters every year and about 900 youth per year (ages 16 to 20) are placed in emergency housing. “There is a critical need for suitable permanent housing for older adolescents living on their own, teen parents and supportive housing for youth with mental illness”. Monroe County Adolescent Health Report Card.
- Need for male role models to provide mentoring and health education. 68% of Rochester families with children are headed by single parents. School administrators routinely report a need for additional male mentors and male life skills educators in their schools.

### 3. Relevant Protective Factors

- YRBS (2015) responses regarding developmental assets:
  - “My family gives me help and support when I need it.” 77% of City students agreed or strongly agreed.
  - “In my family there are clear rules about what I can and cannot do.” 79% agreed or strongly agreed.

- YRBS (2015) To the question “During a typical school week, what do you do the most number of days after school?” 27% said they participate in a school-related program, club, team or activity; 14% said they participate in a non-school program, club, team or activity; 42% go home; 16% go to a friend’s house, or hang out in a neighborhood, mall or park.
- YRBS (2015) 83% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: “I have friends at school.”
- YRBS (2015) 68% of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: “I get a lot of encouragement at my school.” 63% of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: “I feel a sense of belonging at school.”
- YRBS (2015) 70% of students report having a medical check-up within the last two years; 17% were not sure.

#### 4. Resource Assessment

- Youth friendly comprehensive reproductive health clinics located in City of Rochester: Planned Parenthood, Highland Family Planning and Jordan at Community Place. The Family Planning Benefit is an accessible public health insurance program for NY residents who need family planning services.
- School-based health centers located at East HS, Franklin HS, Leadership Academy for Young Men, Edison and NE / NW College Prep.
- Monroe County Dept of Public Health STD/HIV Program (STI and HIV testing, prevention counseling, vaccinations, pregnancy testing).
- RCSD students receive a one half year health class in 11th grade (in most cases), that includes comprehensive sexuality education. RCSD students receive a one half year health class in 7th grade that addresses abstinence and contraception. These are the only health classes for most students.
- Two “Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Programs” (CAPP) funded by NYS Dept of Health serve youth in Rochester with sexuality education, youth development and media literacy.
- The LARC initiative educates clinicians and teachers and other adults who work with youth about the benefits and availability of long acting and reversible contraception.
- Condom availability policy in Rochester City School District high schools (nurse’s office) and in City of Rochester Recreation Centers.
- After school programs and summer programs: School related clubs and teams, out of school clubs and teams, summer sports and summer youth employment programs.
- St. Joseph Villa and Hillside residential treatment programs.
- Family Talk workshop series (free for Rochester parents) that helps parents talk with children about sexuality topics. Workshop series has been well received for many years.

- Youth Leadership Clubs such as Students Making a Change (THRIVE 2 program), Youth Voice One Vision, SOAR youth leaders, In-Control, and youth leadership groups in high schools. The Youth as Resource project provides funds to youth leaders to carry out community service projects.
- Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley and MOCHA provide support and empowerment to GLBTQ youth and training to staff of youth serving organizations.
- Teen parent services: The Nurse Family Partnership in Monroe County, SPCC, the YWCA and Pathways to Success are some of the organizations that offer services for teen parents and young adult parents.

SPCC's Teen Age Parent Support Services (TAPSS) serves about 50 teen parents and their 50-65 children each year. TAPSS prioritizes strengthening the teen parent / child relationship; improving parenting knowledge and skills through Parents As Teachers; increasing self-sufficiency through intensive educational and employment related programming including subsidized career exploration / work experience; and offers assistance with concrete needs. SPCC has maintained a lengthy waiting list; because of funding limits, the agency cannot serve all the young women requesting their help.

The YWCA provides support services for mothers at Edison Tech, East High School and Young Mothers Interim Health Academy. These services address basic needs including health and parenting skills. The YWCA also offers the Parents as Teachers home visitation program. The focus is in on moving the young mothers towards graduation and self-sufficiency as well as helping the young mothers give their children the best possible start in life. Due to a lack of funding, the YWCA cannot offer these much needed supports to teen mothers at other Rochester high schools.

The Pathways to Success program provides assistance to teen parents and young adult parents to graduate high school and to succeed at Monroe Community college.

- Media: The daily newspaper, Democrat and Chronicle, regularly prints stories about teen birth and teen pregnancy trends. Local television stations are also interested in this content. Youth leadership groups and youth employment groups have produced numerous video public service announcements and video teleplays re teen birth, healthy and abusive relationships, LARC, parent youth communication, LGBT issues, STIs and HIV. These video messages are disseminated via the web, public access television, youth film fests and community meetings.
- Social Media: Most groups that address youth sexual health maintain social media sites. Metro Council for Teen Potential, In-Control, City CAPP (SOAR), Jordan Health and Highland Family Planning are on Facebook, with regular updates. Highland Family Planning frequently posts humorous and educational videos to YouTube. MCTP and Jordan Health have Twitter accounts.

- Rochester is fortunate to have high levels of collaboration between youth service providers, school system and local government re teen pregnancy prevention, with coordination provided by Metro Council for Teen Potential. In addition, Youth Services Quality Council (a membership group) and other organizations regularly offer free training to youth workers in cultural competency, social and emotional learning and trauma informed care.

## 6. Primary Population to be served

City of Rochester males and females, ages 11 to 19. At least 85% of participants will be African American or Latino.

Special attention will be paid to engaging youth:

- in City R Centers (Recreation Centers, which are primarily located in high poverty neighborhoods)
- in Rochester City School District high schools (which primarily serve low income youth and youth of color). In the YRBS 2015 (Rochester City School District) most students indicated that they feel a sense of belonging at their schools.
- in residential treatment centers for mental health / substance abuse issues; youth re-entering from juvenile justice system; homeless youth or youth in transitional housing;
- other vulnerable youth populations including GLBTQ youth and teen parents.

## 7. Conclusion

Rochester has a high concentration of poverty, historically high teen pregnancy rates and high rates of teen STIs among our youth. Youth tell us that their some of their peers are not fully informed about the consequences of risky behaviors, and that there are multiple barriers that prevent youth from using health care and other resources. Services for teen parents are inadequate. Rochester adolescents report experiencing trauma including partner abuse, sexual abuse, violence in schools and neighborhoods, and living with family members with serious mental illness.

Rochester youth protective factors include youth feeling supported by their parents and their schools and youth access to health care. Many youth participate in after school or summer programs.

Our multi faceted approach to teen pregnancy prevention and healthy sexual behavior has had a significant impact on the teen pregnancy rate in the past five years. It is our intent to continue what has worked and expand our reach to all Rochester youth. We will engage more youth in programs that teach youth skills (communication, refusal skills) and foster positive attitudes related to:

- abstinence
- healthy relationships

- if sexually active, use of condoms and long acting and reversible contraception
- give youth more than one opportunity to engage with sexuality / life skills curricula

We will help youth to access reproductive health care and other services (education, mental health, career and work experience). We plan to increase community awareness of youth needs, to engage existing resources and to gain greater support from community leaders to address our priorities. We know from our work with youth that young people who are optimistic about their futures and who experience success will make healthier choices for themselves and their families.

**Group Name: Safe Sex Inc**

**Date of Focus Group: October 14, 2015**

**# of Youth present: 7**

**The following responses are from the Safe Sex Inc youth leadership group ages 16-19.**

How do your peers think about teen pregnancy in Rochester?

- Youth feel teen pregnancy is normal in Rochester
- Because teen pregnancy is so normal it's not celebrated anymore and being a pregnant woman is not beautiful
- Many teens are against teen pregnancy but not doing anything to prevent it
- Teens are taught you can't raise a child if you are still a child
- Teens feel a child will ruin their life

Why do you think the teen pregnancy rate in Rochester is so high?

- Youth feel like because of social media teen pregnancy rates look high but it is not that high anymore
- Because of the drug and alcohol culture in Rochester
- "Pulling out style"/ Withdrawal method of contraception is what some teens use— but is not working
- They don't know the resources around Ex. Planned Parenthood
- Some teens do know the resources and where they can go but are just too scared to go.
- It's not easy to get condoms from the nurse office, because you need to have had health class credits before the nurse will give you condoms. Some teens feel this is a deterrent from going.
- Youth have too much spare time
- Some teens think they want a child, but they are not really ready for one

Are STIs a concern for teens in Rochester?

- Yes, but some teens are embarrassed to get tested
- Scared to get help
- Fear of the unknown
- They are unknowledgeable about STIs
- Believe if they don't know about it, they don't have it
- Some teens just have a personal preference to not wear a condom
- Some teens know to wear a condom but are too lazy to wear one, or feel they are invincible and won't get an STI
- To make their partner want to wear a condom, they have to learn how to "cheek it" put a condom on orally.

Why do you think the teen STI rates are high in Rochester?

- Lack of monogamy
- Risky behavior
- Not enough education around STIs
- Rather have the pleasure over the risk
- People just don't care
- Believe the myth that everything is curable
- Peer and media influence
- Feel they can't make putting on a condom sexy (make their partner want to put one on)

What more as a community can we do to solve these issues?

- Put condoms on door knobs ( make them more accessible for kids)
- educate high school kids
- educate kids early...starting at age five
- limit exposure to sexual content in the media
- use the right language when educating young people
- Be more open minded about sex with the various religious denominations
- Educating youth on more prevention, power, protection, productivity. Engaging youth in more productive things to do besides have sex.
- More healthy conversations about sexuality

**Group Name: SOAR Youth Leadership Group**

**Date of Focus Group: November 4, 2015**

**# of Youth present: 20**

**The following responses are from SOAR Youth Leadership Group ages 14-18.**

How do your peers think about teen pregnancy in Rochester?

- Think girls are acting loose and too open with boys
- Teen pregnancy is too common and is not that big of a deal to see anymore
- It's losing its shock value because it is so common now.
- Has to stop because it is becoming so common

Why do you think the teen pregnancy rate in Rochester is so high?

- Because youth don't get disciplined at home anymore
- Youth have too much freedom and idle time on their hands
- Single parent homes and lack of father figure
- Rochester is a small town and has easier access to people and sex
- Females have low self-esteem and fall for any guy and become pregnant
- Don't know the facts and how to prevent pregnancy.

Are STIs a concern for teens in Rochester?

- STIs are not talked about within peer groups
- Youth don't think it will happen to them
- The conversation about STIs is awkward
- Takes too much time out of a youth's day to get tested
- Teens lack resources that will keep them safe
- Youth are too trusting of their partner and don't ask their partner to get tested

Why do you think the teen STI rates are high in Rochester?

- Small town and everyone knows everyone
- Teens don't know enough information about what is curable vs incurable STDs.
- Because no one wants to talk about STIs
- It's hard to have a conversation about STI with partner vs with your friends.

- Talking about STIs is a downer conversation and brings the mood down
- If partner wants to talk about STIs they think the other person is dirty, not loyal, and unsafe to be with

What more as a community can we do to solve these issues?

- More sexual health fairs to spread the information
- The city needs more youth groups like SOAR because they help youth feel connected to something and helps build their self esteem
- Health teachers should use a more interactive approach to teaching kids about sex / STIs
- More peer educators; youth are more likely to listen to other teens than adults
- Have more testing parties that make getting tested less awkward and more fun

**Group Name: THRIVE Youth Leadership Council**

**Date of Focus Group: October 21, 2015**

**# of Youth present: 6**

**The following responses are from the THRIVE Youth Leadership Council ages 11-14**

What do you feel are the biggest concerns for youth in Rochester?

- Pregnancy
- Gangs
- Being able to fit in at school
- To many abandoned homes when people are desperately trying to find somewhere affordable to live
- Drug houses, drinking and driving
- Relationships with other people (family, romantic, dating)
- Stranger danger, being kidnapped, perverts trying to hurt youth
- People who stand on the corner and bother kids

What do you think about kids your age having relationships?

- Most are too young but they still have them
- Relationships can make youth feel good about themselves and boost their confidence

- Can be hard if the other partner becomes abusive
- Relationships create competition between girls and guys
- Sometimes relationships can be bad because they are the start of wanting sexual contact and that can lead to pregnancy
- Girls have a tendency to fall in love too quick and if their partner doesn't feel the same way it can really hurt their self-esteem
- Relationships can lead to derogatory name calling (THOT (That Hoe Over There), Whores, Hoe)

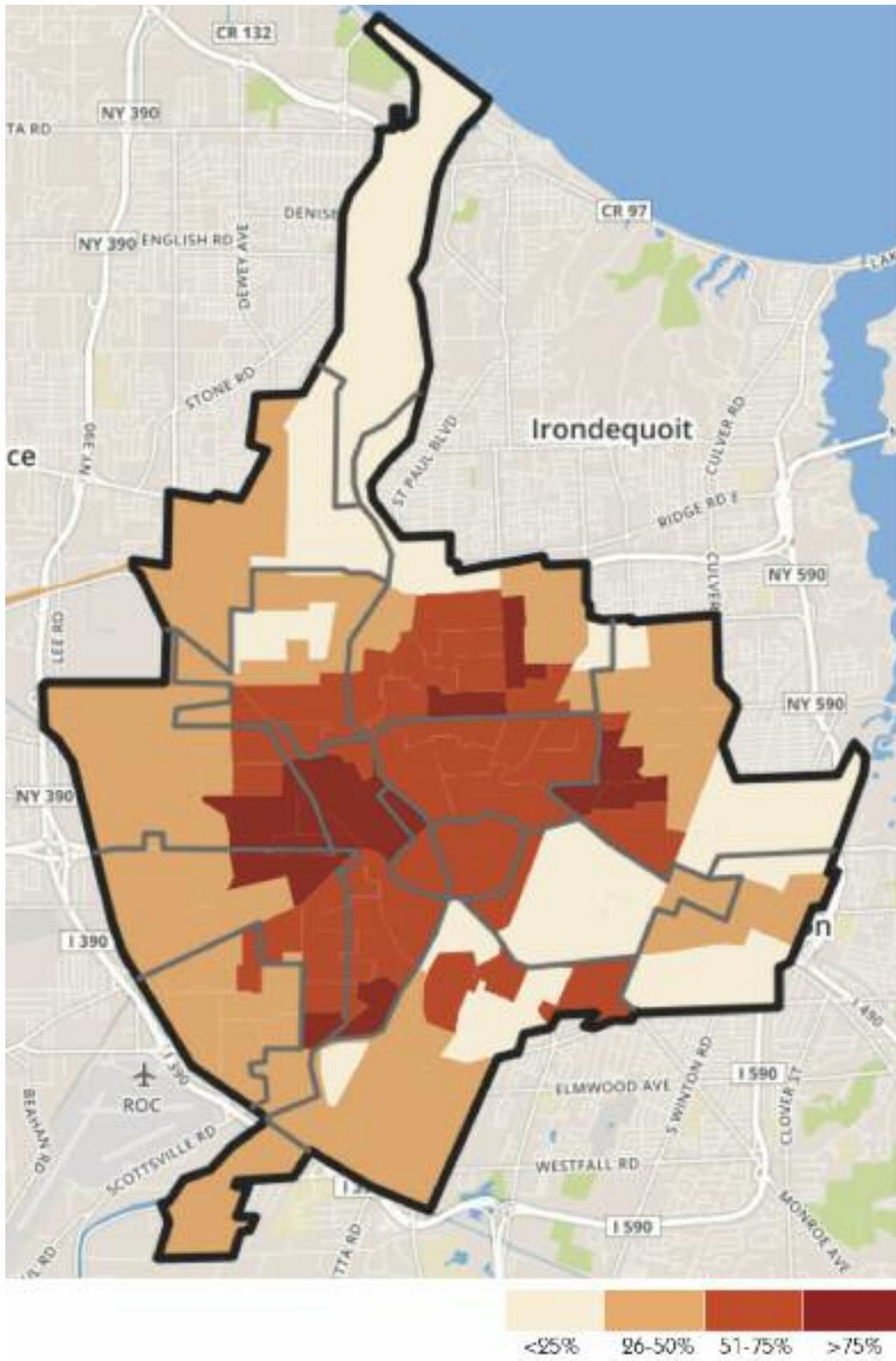
Is teen pregnancy a problem in the community?

- Yes, because it causes teens to drop out of school
- Can lead to conflict in the home and parents will kick them out the house
- Teens are too young to raise a child and get a job
- Because they are not able to get a good job they will have to get on welfare
- Teen pregnancy also leads to young girls having “baby daddy drama” or conflict with the child's father

If you could solve these problems what would you do?

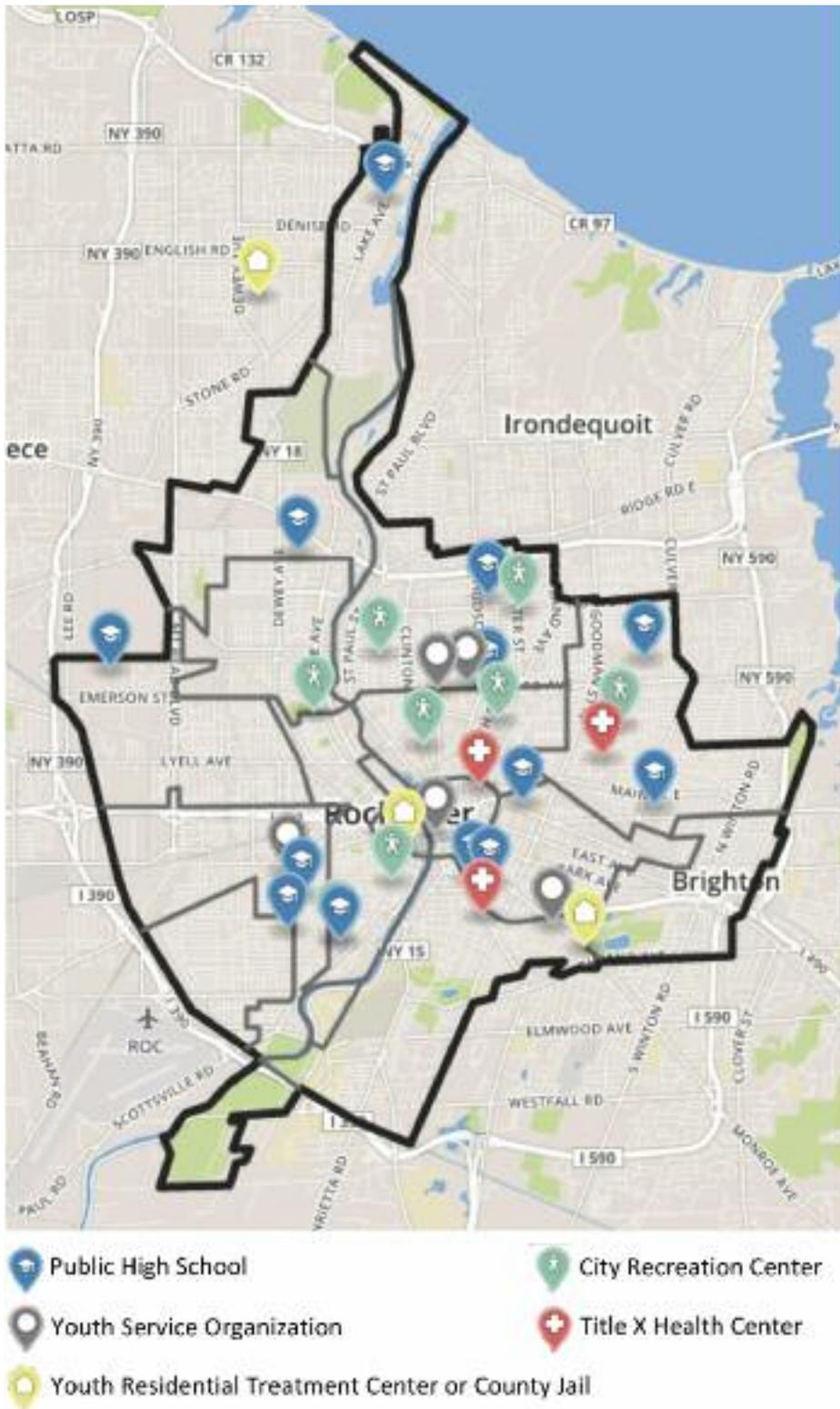
- Use protection when having sex
- More rehab programs for people with a drug problem
- Mentors for kids
- Classes with both boys and girls where they can sit down and talk about sexuality, risky behavior and see how they both feel about it.

## Rochester Child Poverty by Census Block Group (2010)





## Youth Program Delivery Sites in Rochester, NY — TPP Program



## Teen Pregnancy Rates in Rochester Zip Code Areas — 2006 to 2014

Teen pregnancy rate is the annual number of pregnancies per 1000 females, ages 15-19

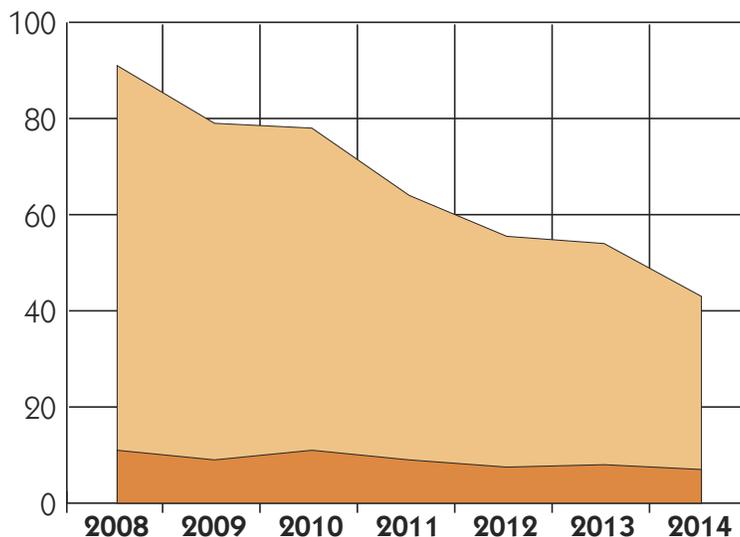
Zip Code Area	2006–2008	2008–2010	2009–2011	2010–2012	2012–2014
14621 (NE Roch)	201	191	148	132	89
14608 (SW Roch)	181	180	158	146	115
14613 (NW Roch)	177	179	146	124	69
14611 (SW Roch)	195	178	138	116	86
14605 (NE Roch)	172	165	124	107	92
14619 (SW Roch)	162	159	106	94	63
14607 (SE Roch)	124	126	128	77	58
14609 (NE Roch)	132	123	93	82	64
14606 (NW Roch)	120	119	95	80	51
14615 (NW Roch)	108	103	87	99	84
14620 (SE Roch)	63	63	49	41	39

Source: NYS Dept. of Health

The teen pregnancy rate (ages 15 - 19) in NYS in 2011-2013 was **20** per 1000. Teen pregnancies include births, abortions and miscarriages per 1,000 female population ages 15-19. (Rates are computed using the 3-year average number of teen pregnancies and the population for the middle year of the three- year time period).

## Substantial Progress Since 2008

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



City of Rochester

Monroe County Suburbs

Source:  
Monroe County Department of Public Health

Note:  
Between 2009 and 2011, several new teen pregnancy prevention programs were launched in Rochester.

The rate of teen birth in Rochester is 1.6 times the national rate (24 births per 1,000 girls) and 2.5 times the rate in NYS (16 births per 1,000 girls)

## Teen Pregnancy Rate Reductions in Rochester ZIP Codes

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

	2008–2010	2012–2014	CHANGE
14621	191	89	-53%
14608	180	115	-36%
14613	179	69	-61%
14611	178	86	-52%
14605	165	92	-44%
14619	159	63	-60%

Source: NYS Department of Health

## Top 10 New York State ZIP Codes

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

2008-2010		2011-2013	
12307	Schenectady	12307	Schenectady
14621	Monroe	12759	Sullivan
14608	Monroe	13205	Onondaga
14613	Monroe	14211	Erie
14611	Monroe	14215	Erie
13204	Onondaga	12206	Albany
13205	Onondaga	13204	Onondaga
14605	Monroe	14204	Erie
14619	Monroe	10039	New York
14209	Erie	10035	New York

Source: NYS Department of Health

## Comparison to New York State

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

2011-2013			
NYS	20	14613	75
		14608	105
14619	69	14605	103
		14609	66
14621	97	14606	59
		14611	90
14607	53	14615	87
		14620	23

Source: NYS Department of Health

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