



Media contact:

DeShay Oliver

Deputy Health Director/Public Information Officer

Cleveland County Health Department

Office: 980-484-5199

Deshay.oliver@clevelandcountync.gov

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Event to Address Teen Pregnancy in Cleveland County

What is being done and how can you help?

SHELBY, NC – The Cleveland County Health Department in partnership with the Cleveland County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition will be hosting a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Event on Tuesday, May 21 from 6:30 – 7:45 pm at the Cleveland County Health Department located at 200 S. Post Rd, Shelby.

Attendees will hear from local public health and school representatives on the work that is being done in our county to prevent teen pregnancy and why it's important. Topics will include current data on teen pregnancy and STDs, communication tips for parents on how to have “the talk” with their teens, and the importance of comprehensive reproductive health education in our schools.

“Reproductive Health education is important because it teaches students how to make good decisions based on goals and values and impresses upon them the need to protect their health,” said Hallie Boggs, Community Health Educator, Cleveland County Health Department.

“Reproductive Health education also highlights the potential lifelong impacts associated with STDs and adolescent pregnancies so that students learn the importance of making proud choices.”

When the health department and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition started to work to address the issue of teen pregnancy in 2009, our teen pregnancy rate was 64.6/1000 females ages 15-19 compared to the state rate of 58.6/1000.

In 2022, our teen pregnancy rate was 25.0/1000 females ages 15-19 for a total of 82 pregnancies, compared to the state rate of 21.8/1000 females ages 15-19.

In 2022, we had 582 cases of Chlamydia. 29.7% of these cases were in individuals aged 10-19. In the same year, we had 290 cases of Gonorrhea. 18.9% of these cases were in individuals aged 10-19.

“We have seen definite improvements in reducing teen pregnancies,” said Anne Short, Director of Community Health Services, Cleveland County Health Department. “However, we still have room for improvement, and we must continue to address this issue.”

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

If you are raising children or work for a youth serving organization, this event is for you. For more information, please call 980-484-5128.

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