Introduction and Partners

In collaboration with 1000 Feathers and a range of other partners, UNC Charlotte’s Academy for Population Health Innovation (APHI) and Urban Institute helped conduct a needs assessment on unintended pregnancy and access to family planning services and contraceptives for 18-29 year-olds in Mecklenburg County.

Goals

1. To increase awareness, build capacity, and identify opportunity for intervention(s) to reduce unintended pregnancy in Charlotte-Mecklenburg;

2. To examine the existing landscape of service provision in Charlotte-Mecklenburg with the specific goal of identifying and creating linkages between existing service providers, community organizations, and health care providers in Charlotte-Mecklenburg County;

3. To identify a feasible and appropriate path forward, delivered to the assembled funders in early 2018, which will highlight and identify the appropriate interventions and efforts that will lead to success preventing unintended pregnancy in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Background

54% of births among all ages in NC are unintended

There are 1,054,835 people in Mecklenburg County

17.5% of the total population is in the target age range of 18-29

Unintended pregnancies are linked to:
- Less healthy birth outcomes.
- Increased levels of physical abuse.
- Less stable romantic relationships.
- Education dropouts.
- Lower earnings and upward mobility.

Methods

- Review of relevant existing national, regional, state and local demographic and health data.
- Two advisory boards.
- Focus groups with 18-29 year-olds in Mecklenburg.
- Key informant interviews with community leaders.
- Random Digit Dial survey with Mecklenburg adults.
- Policy analysis.
- Environmental assessment of clinics and providers using CATS.
- Clinic assessment.
- Three community forums.

Community Engagement

- 47 people in face-to-face interviews
- 128 people in focus groups
- 400 people in phone surveys
- 56 people in community forums
- 24 respondents to neighborhood survey
- 63 key informant interviews
- 2017 - 2018 demographic analysis

Areas of Greatest Need

Map with areas of greatest need based on 12 health, economic and social factors for each Mecklenburg County census tract.

Next steps

A comprehensive report was submitted to the funders who sponsored the assessment in early 2018, outlining the results from the needs assessment and recommendations moving forward.

- Share results back to community through reports and presentations;
- Translate research and collected data into actionable strategies;
- Seek a comprehensive, community plan;
- Evaluate and measure outcomes.

Acknowledgements

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