CHARLESTON TEEN AND FAMILY
EMPower PROGRAM

ETHNIC MINORITY PREVENTATIVE OUTREACH AND WEB-BASED EDUCATION FOR RISK REDUCTION

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT
2009

For the full report go to

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Did you know.....?

- South Carolina is 9th in the nation in new HIV/AIDS infections.
- 14,055 South Carolina youth and adults live with HIV/AIDS — enough to fill Joe P. Riley Park 2.5 times.
- 80% of South Carolina 15-24 year olds who test positive for HIV in SC are African American.
- North Charleston stands 29th in the entire U.S. in HIV cases.

Community Needs Assessment

In early 2009, EMPOWERR conducted a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) in the Charleston area. Over 100 African American families with teens ages 12-17 were asked to participate by either completing a telephone survey or a focus group session. Parents and teens answered questions regarding high risk teen behavior.

What did we find?

- Almost 60% of local African American teens have had either oral, anal, or vaginal sex.
- 1 in 3 local African American teens had sex in the last 30 days.
- Almost 40% of local African American teens reported that they were 14 years of age or younger when they had oral, anal, or vaginal sex for the first time.
- 1 in 10 local African American teens reported using marijuana and/or alcohol in the past month.
- Over 1 in 4 local African American teens had tried alcohol and marijuana for the first time before age 16.
- Almost 10% of local African American teens reported that their alcohol use caused them emotional problems in the past month.

Sources of Information

- Teens tend to rely on sources for information other than their parents for information despite the fact that 2/3 of their parents said they talk to their youth about sex once a month.
- Over half of young people reported that they had not talked to a parent in the last 12 months regarding use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.

Substance Use

- 1 in 10 local African American teens reported using marijuana and/or alcohol in the past month.
- Over 1 in 4 local African American teens had tried alcohol and marijuana for the first time before age 16.
- Almost 10% of local African American teens reported that their alcohol use caused them emotional problems in the past month.

What will we do?

- To improve the way local African American teens and parents talk about sex, substance use, and other risky behaviors.
- A place for families to get information about HIV and substance use prevention and services, such as testing and counseling.
- To help adults talk to teens about sex, HIV, and substance use.
- To have easy to reach media and internet sources for local African American teens and parents.