

Who We Are and What We Do

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide education and services to prevent unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STI's) & HIV, and sexual violence in order to improve the health and quality of life for South Carolinians.

Our Goals and Strategies

- Increase access of preventive health services and education through community outreach and the provision of evidence-based interventions.
- Improve the health of adolescents through personal responsibility education and prevention training.
- Promote the provision of services for and the prevention of sexual and interpersonal violence through coordination and collaboration with community based organization.

Preventive Health Services

Preventive Health Services at DHEC works to promote positive birth outcomes, reduce unintended pregnancy, and encourage healthy families through clinical and education services in order for adolescents, women and men to achieve better health outcomes and meet their life goals.

Preventive Health Services are available on a sliding fee scale in 59 health clinics in all 46 counties in South Carolina. Services include:

- Preconception counseling/education
- Contraceptive supplies and education
- Pregnancy testing
- Screening for cervical and breast cancer
- Screening & treatment for STI's
- Screening for HIV/AIDS, including linkages to HIV care
- Referrals for other health and social services
- Health education

Adolescent Health Services

DHEC is the lead agency for the federally funded Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) Grant. These funds are used for evidence-based programs designed to educate adolescents on both abstinence and contraception to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS along with promoting healthy relationships and parent-child communication.

In addition to guiding efforts related to adolescent sexual/reproductive health, Adolescent Health Services seeks to identify and connect initiatives working to address adolescent health overall. DHEC contributes to the development of these initiatives in an effort to create healthy communities in which adolescents will thrive.



Division of Women's Health at-a-Glance

Title X Services	Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)	Human Trafficking
Title X services are for men and women! Title X services promote healthy pregnancies and healthy families through its education and services.	SC DHEC partners with the community to educate young people on both abstinence and contraception promoting a healthy lifestyle and providing life skills training among adolescents.	The Sexual Violence Services Program at SC DHEC is part of the Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force working to define, address and prevent this epidemic in our state.



Sexual and Interpersonal Violence Services and Prevention

The Sexual Violence Program at DHEC supports sexual violence intervention services provided by the state's sexual assault centers along with promoting awareness and implementing prevention education. The Program manages three grants:

- Rape Prevention and Education grant through the CDC
- US Department of Justice's Sexual Assault Services Grant
- Sexual Assault Prevention monies through Health and Human Services' Preventive Health Block Grant

The program also administers over \$1.2 million in state funding for the state's sexual assault centers and provides training for DHEC staff in identifying interpersonal violence and referring clients to services.

Focus Areas for 2019

- Strengthen the linkage between Preventive Health Services, mental health, and opioid treatment centers
- Improve access to and provision of pre-conception and inter-conception education
- Improve clinic efficiency through quality improvement initiatives
- Increase community outreach and education about Preventive Health Services access
- Lead clinical partner in South Carolina Choose Well Initiative
 - Choose Well is a privately funded statewide contraceptive access initiative:
 - Ensuring access to high quality reproductive health services
 - Removing cost barriers for contraceptive methods
 - Increasing health providers knowledge about research and best practices
 - Improving state policies about family planning
- Expand sexual violence services and prevention education in response to the #metoo movement and human trafficking
- Strengthen relationships between organizations working to improve adolescent health and access to services related to sexual/reproductive health, mental health, and physical well-being through community efforts in three SC counties with high teen pregnancy rates

For More Information, Contact:

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