

**Spartanburg County Adolescent Family Life  
Cumulative Results 2014 - 2017  
School Districts One-Seven**

The Spartanburg County Adolescent Family Life (AFL) program serves pregnant and parenting mothers up to age 24 who are enrolled in educational programs. AFL case managers are stationed in each of the seven school districts in the county, where they teach weekly Healthy Lifestyle Classes and meet one-on-one with each participant on a monthly basis. Case managers play a vital role in helping each participant build plans to reach educational goals, make choices that prevent subsequent pregnancies, access needed resources in the community, and navigate ways to raise healthy and happy children.

The AFL program has four primary goals: 1) The mother will reach educational goals; 2) The mother will not have a repeat pregnancy while in the program; 3) Mothers who enroll during pregnancy will have a healthy birth outcomes; 4) Children of mothers enrolled in AFL will receive recommended immunizations on schedule. In addition, adolescent parents participating in AFL services will increase their knowledge and practice of healthy and effective parenting strategies.

**Here is what we know about adolescent parenthood:**

- Only 38% of adolescent mothers who have their babies before age 18 will graduate high school by the time they are 22 years old.<sup>1</sup>
- 24% of births to teens in SC are repeat births.<sup>2</sup>
- 10% of babies born to adolescents will be born early (before 37 weeks of pregnancy) or with low birth weight (below 5 pounds 8 ounces).<sup>3</sup>
- Children born to adolescents have a 64% chance of growing up in poverty if the mother does not complete high school.<sup>4</sup>
- Only 2% of teen mothers will earn a college degree by the time they are 30 years old.<sup>1</sup>

**Cumulative AFL results in Spartanburg County**

<b>N=242</b>	<b>Education:</b>
	<b>93% of participants achieved an educational goal (stayed in school or graduated)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 111 out of 115 eligible high school seniors graduated (96%)</li> <li>• 10 students earned a GED               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 60 out of the 121 graduating seniors and GED recipients reported applying and being accepted into post-secondary education (50%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 6 students graduated college</li> <li>• 99 students remained in school; 16 students did not remain in school</li> </ul>
	<b>Repeat Pregnancies</b>
	Nine of the 188 <b>parenting</b> AFL participants reported a repeat pregnancy (4.8%). 54 participants remained pregnant at the time of report
	<b>Birth Outcomes</b>
	95% of babies born to AFL mothers had healthy births. A healthy birth is defined as the infant being born at 37+ weeks of pregnancy and having a birth weight of at least 5 pounds 8 ounces.
	<b>Immunizations</b>
98% of children of enrolled mothers received immunizations on schedule.	
<b>Parenting Skills</b>	
AFL participants reported an increase in all areas of parenting as measured by the Parents as Teachers “Parent Reflection Survey.”	

1. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2012) *Why it Matters: Teen Childbearing, Education, and Economic Wellbeing*  
 2. The South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2014) Spartanburg County Data  
 3. Birth Data Source: Department of Health and Environment Control, S.C. Community Assessment Network (SCAN), Births Module, 2014 data  
 4. The South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.  
 5. US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; [http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep\\_chart\\_001.htm](http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm)

## **With support, young families can thrive:**

According to the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, a high school graduate will earn about \$9,776 more per year than someone who dropped out of school. Over a 40 year career, this means a high school graduate has the potential to make \$391,040 more than someone who did not earn their diploma. With that number in mind, this means that the 111 AFL high school graduates and 10 GED recipients collectively have the potential to earn \$47.3 million dollars more than someone who did not earn their diploma. Furthermore, a college graduate will earn about \$21,944 more per year than a high school graduate, which means that our six college graduates have the potential to earn \$5.3 million dollars more over the course of their careers than if they had not pursued a post-secondary degree. However, the impact doesn't stop there. The children of these parents who graduated high school are in turn more likely to achieve their educational goals as well, giving them the power to continue to break their cycles of intergenerational poverty that plague this population of young parents.

Below are stories of two young mothers and how the AFL program helped them change the futures of their families.

- ❖ *Hailey, who became pregnant right before beginning her senior year in high school, simultaneously faced the difficult challenges of navigating her pregnancy, preparing for the birth of her child, and attending school so she could graduate. She learned about the help she could receive from the Adolescent Family Life program, and began attending weekly Healthy Lifestyle Classes at her school and meeting monthly with her case manager. Hailey worked really hard in school, and after having her baby in April, she graduated from high school on time. After she graduated, Hailey enrolled in classes at Spartanburg Community College, where she continues to excel academically. She told her case manager that if she had not participated in AFL, she would never have gone on to college because she didn't know she could! The support that AFL provided to this hardworking young mother enabled her to continue her education so that she can ultimately provide a stable home for her family.*
  
- ❖ *At the age of 20, Amanda discovered that she was pregnant. Nearing the completion of her college career, she became worried she wouldn't reach her goal of becoming a professional photographer. She was concerned about being able to care for a baby while also learning how to take care of herself. Amanda was referred by family members to the Adolescent Family Life Program. After learning about the individualized support she could receive, Amanda enrolled in the AFL program. In Amanda's words, "Not only has the AFL program enabled me to continue my education, it has also helped me develop better parenting skills." Amanda graduated from college in December 2015 with her associate degree and continues to grow her photography business.*

When a young girl becomes pregnant, it can seem like a devastating blow to her future. While it is true that teen mothers are less likely to graduate high school, less likely to go to college, and more likely to raise their children in poverty, with the right combination of services, referrals, and resources, a young mother can still reach her goals, raise healthy children, and become self-sustainable.

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