

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

GRADS PLUS: Making Connections for Success

Jessica Aufrichtig, Cris Kimbrough, GRADS Leadership Team



GRADS Core Leadership Team

Introduction

Funding Categories

- Support for High Schools
- Teen Dating Violence
- Public Awareness Campaign

Project Goals

- Increase teen family access to education, primary health care, behavioral health and other social services through increased collaboration with state and local partners
- Increase public awareness for needed services and supports for pregnant and parenting teens
- Increase awareness of teen dating and domestic violence

Target Population

Pregnant and parenting teens enrolled in the GRADS program in grades 7th-12th or a GED program and post graduates



2012 Graduation Rate: 79%



Engaged teen parents increase positive development of their children



Findings

Key Successes

- GRADS+ implemented a 9-component shared case management model
- Standard assessment tool developed to identify teen family needs
- Three new GRADS sites with school-based health centers
- Increased collaboration with school-based health centers and school/community partners
- Local multi-disciplinary resource teams meet to address teen parent needs
- Increased teen family access to services in most locations
- Nine school-based health centers provide well-child care to the children of teen parents
- Implemented career academies for pregnant and parenting teens
- Youth-led teams achieve teen dating violence awareness campaigns



22 GRADS Child Care Centers throughout the state

Performance Measures

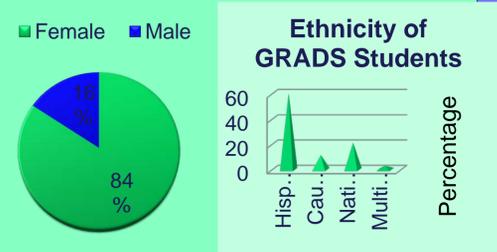
- Number and type of:
- referrals made for teen parents
 - school-based health center services received by teen parents
 - GRADS students who attended teen dating violence training

Key Stakeholders

- School Districts
- NM GRADS Program
- NM Attorney General's Office
- Pegasus Legal Services
- NM Department of Health
- NM Alliance for School-Based Health Care
- School-Based Health Centers
- Apex Education-Evaluator



RESULTS: 1490 Students Served in 25 Sites



GRADS Program Components

- Classroom intervention
- Case management
- Home visitation
- Child care
- Peer education
- Linkage to health services

Student Quote: "I never dropped out of school when I had my son. I returned to school after three weeks and my son went to the daycare when he was four weeks old. GRADS helped me stay in school by providing an on-site daycare for my son. The GRADS class has taught me about parenting, relationships, and how to parent the right way. They also taught me about birth control and how to prevent another pregnancy before graduating from high school." ~Charity Washburn



Discussion

Key Conclusions

- Collaboration and communication necessary at all levels for successful program implementation
- Case managers essential for increased teen family access to services
- Standard assessment tool enables GRADS staff to readily identify teen parent needs
- Ongoing training/technical assistance to all sites a must for effective model implementation
- Local partnerships and advocacy help sustain GRADS programs
- Promoting healthy relationships and raising awareness on the signs of dating violence is essential for teen parents
- Teen parents need information on reproductive coercion and effects of domestic violence on children

Future Activities

- Expand GRADS to new sites
- New program components for young fathers, college/career readiness and infant mental health.
- Implement Youth Leadership Institutes
- Prenatal model for school-based health centers

Sustainability Activities

- Develop local marketing strategies
- Continue effective collaboration with state and community-based partners
- Demonstrate program results

Acknowledgements

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Early Head Start End of Year Picnic

Over 5,000 Students received TDV Presentations

