



ALEXANDRIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Stephen A. Haering, MD, MPH, FACPM
Health Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 8, 2013

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Stephen A. Haering, MD, MPH, Director, Alexandria Health Department

SUBJECT: Alexandria Overall Teen Pregnancy Rate Drops to 33.4 per 1,000 for Calendar Year 2011 – Lowest in Over 15 Years – 20% Improvement Compared to 2010

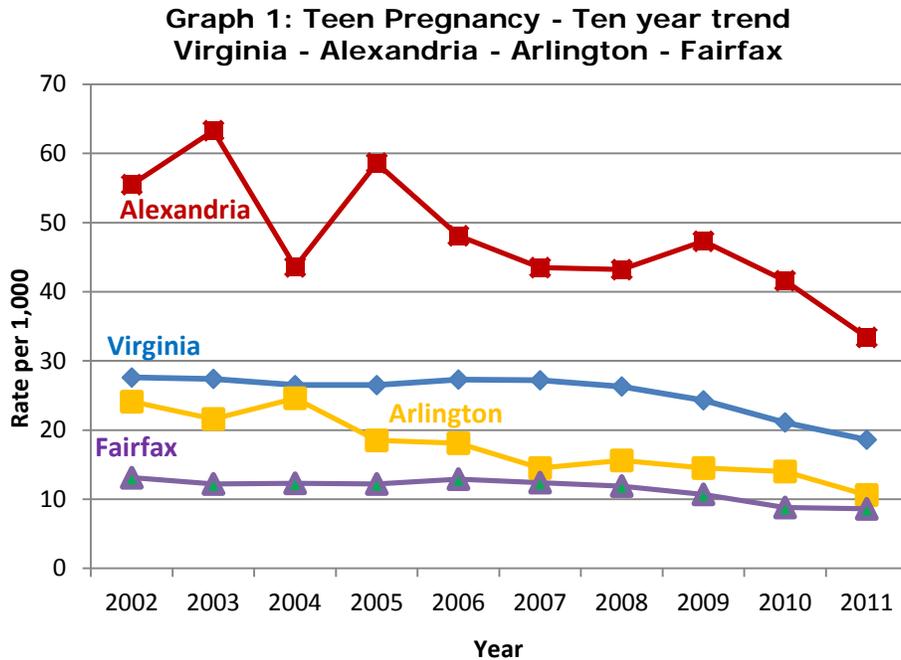
The Virginia Department of Health Division of Health Statistics has published 2011 data on teen pregnancies in Virginia. The City of Alexandria's 2011 teen pregnancy rate was 33.4 per 1,000 10-19 year-old females; this is a 20 percent decline from the 2010 rate of 41.6. This marks the lowest overall teen pregnancy rate Alexandria has had in over 15 years.

The dramatic improvements in Alexandria's teen pregnancy rates are a reflection of the City of Alexandria's dedication to reducing teen pregnancy through evidence based approaches and strong alliances between city agencies and community partners. There are daily efforts by staff at the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP), Alexandria City Public Schools, Teen Wellness Center (TWC) and mental health counselors, the Department of Community and Human Services, Healthy Families, Resource Mothers, Community Lodgings and Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. Unwavering support from Mayor Euille, City Council, Dr. Mort Sherman and the Alexandria City School Board have been invaluable.

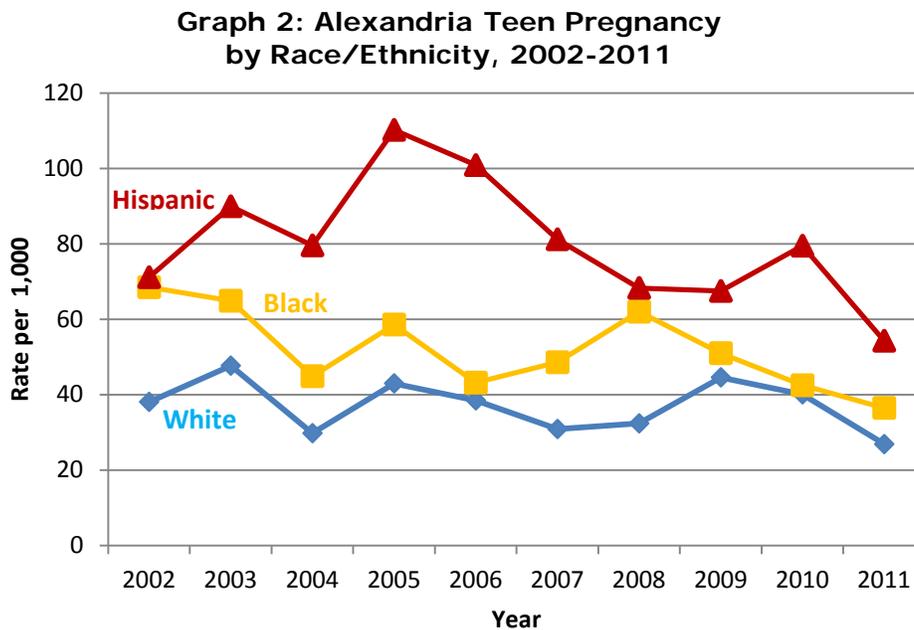
While the 2011 data are encouraging, Alexandria's rate of 33.4 is still very high – the Virginia 2011 teen pregnancy rate was 18.6. The 2011 teen pregnancy rates for Arlington County and Fairfax County were 10.6 and 8.6 respectively. Alexandria's 2011 teen pregnancy rate is the third highest in the Northern Virginia region (behind only Manassas City at 52.3 and Falls Church City at 37.2).

Although Alexandria age groups and racial/ethnic groups saw improvements, the 2011 data demonstrate persistent disparities: white teens had a rate of 26.9 per 1,000, while black teens had a rate of 36.5 and Hispanics had a rate of 54.3.

Graph 1, below, shows the 2002-2011 trends of teen pregnancy rates for Alexandria, the state of Virginia, and Fairfax and Arlington counties. This graph demonstrates that Alexandria's rates continue to be higher than Virginia and our neighbors.



Graph 2, below, shows the 2002-2011 trends for Alexandria's youth divided by their race/ethnicity. While there have been overall improvements for each race/ethnicity since 2002, the graph reveals persistent disparities.



As we celebrate the improvements in Alexandria's teen pregnancy rates, we must acknowledge that the true measure of success will be sustained and continuous reductions in teen pregnancies and the elimination of health disparities.

To achieve this, we must maintain our collective dedication and commitment to protecting our youths' futures by continuing to employ innovative and evidence-based programs. Alexandria Health Department looks forward to continuing this work with our partners.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact me at stephen.haering@vdh.virginia.gov or 703.746.4956.