

Introduction

Since 2010, Centerstone's Be In Charge program has provided quality education throughout Middle Tennessee. Be in Charge has been offered free of charge through a grant provided by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health [OAH]. Be in Charge staff facilitated Making a Difference!, an evidenced-based curriculum that provided students with medically accurate and age-appropriate information about pregnancy and STIs/HIV prevention. This OAH approved curriculum encouraged participants to develop skills in both personal responsibility and accountability. However, the funding for Be In Charge is finite. This has left many counties questioning how they will continue to provide family life education for their students. This is important for all counties in Tennessee because:

- Tennessee is ranked the 9th highest in the country for teen pregnancy rates (The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy)
- Tennessee is ranked 9th highest for Gonorrhea, 12th highest for Chlamydia, and 19th highest for Syphilis in the country (Centers for Disease Control)
- Tennessee is ranked 18th highest in the country for rate of HIV infection among 13-19 year olds (Centers for Disease Control)

These are issues that are ravaging our state and deeply affecting the lives of our young people. Adolescent sexual health should be a concern for everyone: teachers, parents, community members, and so on. This toolkit has been designed for the purpose of helping communities implement their own curriculum that is legally compliant and fulfills the objectives for Tennessee's family life education.