

# **Books Before Babies**

## Preventing Unplanned Pregnancy and Completing College

Katy Suellentrop  
Family Opportunity Forum  
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# What We'll Cover

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- Why we're here
- What we know from data and experience
- Strategies and resources to take action
- What other states and colleges are doing

# The Campaign's Mission and Goal

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- Our **mission** is to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families and, in particular, to help ensure that children are born into stable families who are committed to and ready for the demanding task of raising the next generation.
- Our **strategy** is to reduce teen pregnancy and also unplanned pregnancy, especially among single young adults.

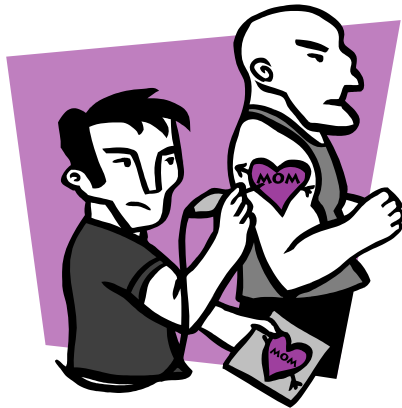
# Reducing Teen Births

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- Since its peak in 1991, the teen birth rate declined by 64%.
- Nationally, more than 7 in 10 teen births are to 18-19 year olds.
- To further reduce teen births, we need to focus on older teens. To reach 18-19-year-olds, we need to think beyond K-12.

# Older teens? Young adults? At age 18, people are given many responsibilities

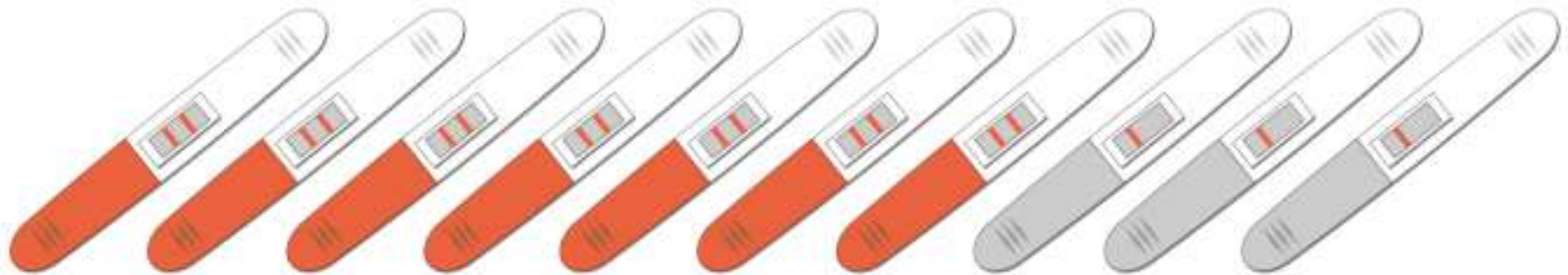
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# Unplanned Pregnancy

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AMONG UNMARRIED YOUNG WOMEN (AGE 20–29),  
**NEARLY 70% OF ALL PREGNANCIES ARE UNPLANNED—**



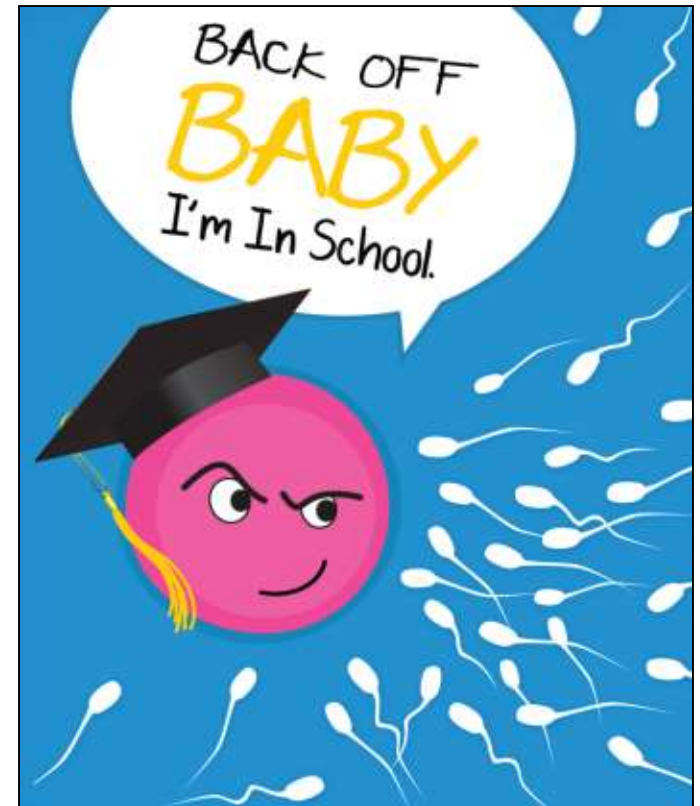
THAT IS, A PREGNANCY THAT THE WOMAN HERSELF SAID SHE WAS NOT INTENDING

# Why Does Unplanned Pregnancy Matter to Colleges?

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## *Retention and completion:*

- Unplanned births account for   ? percent of all dropouts among female community college students.
- **61%** of women who have children after enrolling in community college do not finish their education.



# Why Does Unplanned Pregnancy Matter to Colleges?

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- ***Student Achievement:*** Students suffer increased emotional and financial stress, which can impede academic performance.
- ***Costs:*** Colleges have additional operating costs through increased demand for child care and related support services.



# What Do Students Say about Unplanned Pregnancy?

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# Gap between Students' Aspirations and Actions

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82%

of community college students reported that having a child while still in school would make it harder to accomplish their goals

of students say that preventing pregnancy is very important to them, yet **1/3** of these students said it was likely they would have sex without using birth control in the next three months

More  
than  
3/4



# Many College Students Are Already Parents

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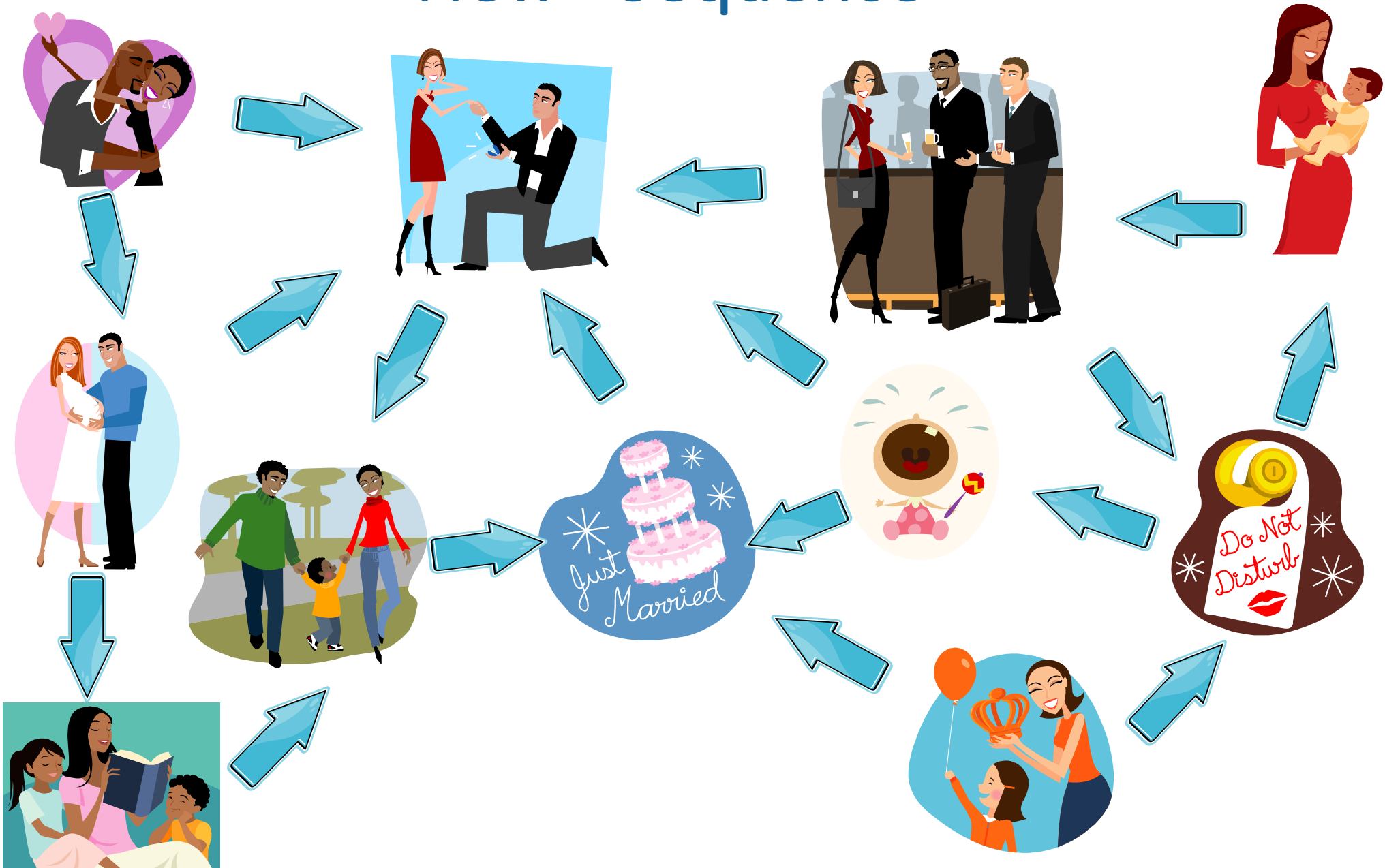
- Nationally, **one-quarter** of college students are parents.
- The number of unmarried or single parents among undergraduate students has nearly **doubled** in the past 20 years.
- **31%** of female community college students in Mississippi reported having a child under 18.

# Old Sequence

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# New "Sequence"



# Areas of Focus

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- Policy and systems change
- Student Access to Sexual Health Services
- Student-led programs/education awareness
- Curricula
- Campus-led programs
- Equity

# Statewide Efforts

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- 2014 -- Mississippi enacted 1<sup>st</sup> statewide effort in U.S. to begin addressing teen/unplanned pregnancy among college students.
- 2015 – MS legislature appropriated \$250,000 for the 2015-16 school year and community colleges began implementing pilot programs
- 2015 – Arkansas passed similar legislation; colleges planning now for implementation in the fall of 2016

# Hinds Community College, MS

Spring 2015 semester—piloted activities

- Professional development for more than 200 faculty at five campuses
- Included online lessons in orientation/first-year experience courses
- Faculty incorporated into academic courses
- Sponsored campus activities
- Activities in residence halls
- Distributed Bedsider materials, including postcards, pamphlets, and magnets





# Tips and Lessons Learned

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- Don't reinvent the wheel—use existing tools and resources.
- A lot can be done without a lot of funding.
- Let colleges choose which strategies they think will work for their students and community.
- Colleges should meet students where they are and listen to them...It's about them, not us.
- Include assessment in the legislation so colleges know to include this in their efforts from the start.

# Thank You!

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**The National Campaign**

We're here to help!

Contact us: Katy Suellentrop

(202) 202-478-8515

[Ksuellentrop@thenc.org](mailto:Ksuellentrop@thenc.org)