

What you should *know* about CHART

SEPTEMBER 2014

THE SEX EDUCATION CRISIS IN MISSISSIPPI

92%

92% of Mississippi public school parents support sex education in their schools.¹

58%

58% of Mississippi high school students say they have had sex by the end of 12th grade.²

#2

Mississippi is ranked #2 in the nation for highest teen birth rate and chlamydia and gonorrhea infection rates.³

HOUSE BILL 999

In 2011, the Mississippi Legislature mandated school districts to adopt a sexuality education policy (“abstinence-only” or “abstinence-plus”) and a curriculum approved by the Mississippi Department of Education no later than the 2012-2013 school year.

CHART has made great strides in improving teen sexual health in Mississippi after the passage of Mississippi’s sex education law, HB 999, in 2011.

The goal of CHART is to reduce teen pregnancy, improve teen sexual health, and increase responsible decision-making. CHART works with school districts to provide teens evidence-based, medically accurate, and age appropriate abstinence-plus sex education.

Watch the new
15-minute
CHART video
to learn more
(<http://bit.ly/1vXI22H>).

1. “What do Parents Think about Sex-Related Education in Public Schools?” Issue Brief. Center for MS Health Policy, Dec. 2011. 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 2011. MMWR; 61(4). Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf>. 3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics Reports. (2013). Births: Final Data for 2011. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_01.pdf#table02. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). 2012 Sexually Transmitted Diseases Surveillance. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats12/tables/14.htm> (Gonorrhea) & <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats12/tables/3.htm> (Chlamydia)

**MISSISSIPPI
FIRST**

125 S. Congress Street, Suite 1510
Jackson, MS 39201
www.mississippifirst.org



CHART
Creating Healthy and Responsible Teens

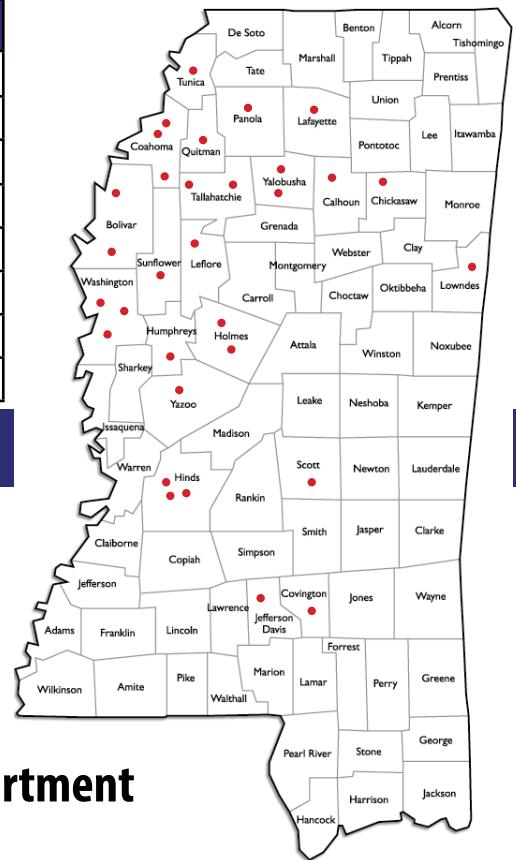
Why you should *join* CHART

School districts adopting CHART receive the evidence-based abstinence-plus curricula (*Draw the Line/Respect the Line* for Grades 6-8 & *Reducing the Risk* for Grade 9), teacher trainings, and technical assistance from Mississippi State Department of Health throughout the year free of cost. Check out the CHART Implementation Guide (<http://bit.ly/1qu1XCW>). The CHART Implementation Guide and Adult Preparation Toolkit seeks to help school districts understand and comply with the requirements of the CHART Initiative and House Bill 999 (Mississippi's sex education law).

CHART-approved abstinence-plus programs address the needs of all students – those that are waiting, those that may not wait, and those that did not wait.

Students are taught how and why to abstain as well as medically accurate and age-appropriate information on how to protect themselves from pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) once they become sexually active. These abstinence-plus sex education programs provide accurate and complete sexual health information that will help teens make more informed, safe, and responsible decisions. Based on rigorous research, such programs have shown effectiveness in improving teen sexual health behaviors.

2014-2015 CHART SCHOOL DISTRICTS			
Calhoun County	Durant	Jackson Public Schools	Quitman County
Clarksdale	East Tallahatchie	Jefferson Davis	Sunflower Consolidated
Cleveland	Forest Municipal	Leflore County	Tunica County
Coahoma County	Greenville	Leland	Water Valley
Coahoma AHS	Hinds County	MS School of the Deaf	West Bolivar Consolidated
Coffeeville	Holmes County	North Bolivar Consolidated	West Tallahatchie
Columbus	Houston	North Panola	Western Line
Covington County	Humphreys County	Oxford	Yazoo City



TAKE *action*

- 1 **Contact** Mississippi First's Deputy Director of Advocacy Sanford Johnson at sanford@mississippifirst.org or Teen Health Policy Coordinator Josh McCawley at josh@mississippifirst.org.
- 2 **Adopt the CHART policy.**
- 3 **Sign a MOU with the Mississippi State Department of Health.**



125 S. Congress Street, Suite 1510
Jackson, MS 39201
www.mississippifirst.org

