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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Orange County Teen Pregnancy Rate Drops by 35% and Reports as Lowest Rate in the State

Orange County, NC (October 14, 2014) – Last week the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina released their [annual report on teen pregnancy](#) in North Carolina. Overall, in 2013, the state reported a record low for the sixth consecutive year. Of the 75 counties with reportable rates, Orange County has the lowest with 9.6 per 1,000, which was a total of 68 pregnancies in 2013.

“The research is clear on how to reduce teen pregnancy,” stated Dr. Colleen Bridger, Orange County Health Director. “It takes comprehensive sex education, parental involvement, access to affordable reproductive health services, and intensive work with teen parents to prevent additional teen pregnancies. We do that in Orange County and it’s working.”

Orange County’s teen pregnancy rate dropped 35% from 2012. The rate moved from 14.8 pregnancies per 1,000 15 to 19-year-old women to 9.6 per 1,000 in 2013. This number represents a total of 102 teen pregnancies in 2012 down to 68 in 2013. Orange County has historically had one of the lowest rates in the state, but this large reduction year-to-year is notable and a positive step. However, even with this lowest, and dropping overall rate, rate disparities exist by race and ethnicity similarly to many other counties. While rates among white, African American, and Hispanic teens have continued to drop, the pregnancy rates among African American and Hispanic teens are significantly higher than the rates of white teens on average from 2010 to 2013.

“The disparity in teen pregnancy rates between whites and non-whites is not acceptable. We will re-double our efforts to eliminate all unplanned pregnancies, especially in our teens,” added Dr. Bridger.

As part of Orange County’s efforts to continue the reduction in teen pregnancies, the Orange County Health Department is exploring innovative ways to increase access to comprehensive sex education through technology. One example is an interactive health education avatar named “Anna”, who can interact with users by asking questions and providing education tailored to the user. “Anna” was created by the North Carolina Institute of Public Health, a department of the UNC-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health, and has been used with Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program clients to educate them about their benefits in Western North Carolina. Orange County hopes to pilot a new adaptation of “Anna” to provide a more personalized sex education tool for adolescents in the county.

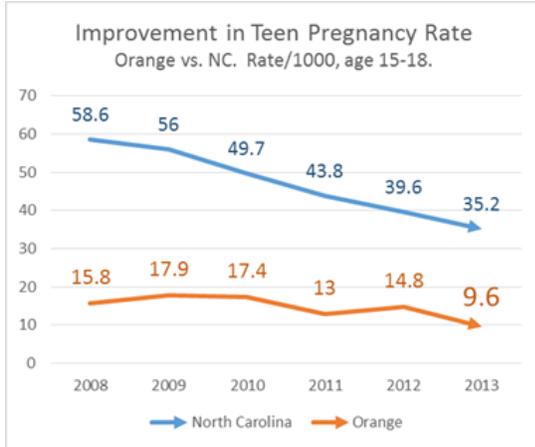
For complete report on teen pregnancy in North Carolina visit:

<http://www.appcnc.org/data/map/northcarolina>

For a County-by-County breakdown visit:

<http://www.appcnc.org/data/map>

Attached: Orange County teen pregnancy data sheet



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