

... Local teens surveyed

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Some of those problems cited by local teenagers include: failing to understand the man who loves her so much on Saturday night will cool his feelings toward her in nine months; not having enough money to provide the baby with a good home; and emotional problems which may lead to child abuse.

The teenagers were also asked to express their feelings about birth control.

"If a person chooses to be sex-

ually active, he or she should take advantage of the precautions that can be taken," one local teenager responded.

Another said birth control methods are not readily available to teenagers.

One point the majority of those polled agreed upon was that most teenage girls in the county are aware of birth control methods.

Those polled were also asked to suggest methods on how to solve the adolescent pregnancy problem.

Some suggested giving teens more information at an earlier age and having freer access to birth control.

"Nothing short of making all teenagers sterile will work," one of the respondents said.

Another suggested, "having more extra curricular activities for teenagers or more social places to meet."

The survey has been made available to the newly-formed Hoke County Adolescent Task Force.

... Group working on problem

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task force member Bobby Rogers said.

"We're just seeing what the community can do to compliment the on-going work of the health department," Rogers said.

By having facts about adolescent pregnancies, the task force hopes to be prepared for any grant monies that may be available in the future.

Earlier this year, the Department of Social Services (DSS) learned that grant money to be used to combat adolescent pregnancy was available to the county.

But the grant application had to be completed within three weeks.

"It was decided then it would just be too much of a job for one person to gather the information necessary to apply for the grant," task force member Susan Moss said.

"We decided to come up with a strategy so the next time money becomes available, we'll be able to apply for it," Moss said.

More money for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy should be available in the future, according to DSS Director Ken Witherspoon.

"There is going to continue to be grant money to address the problems of adolescent pregnancy," Witherspoon said.

Statistics gathered by the task force so far show:

•From July 1984 to June 1985, 47 of the 186 Hoke County women to give birth were teenagers.

•Of those 47 teenage mothers, only five of them were married.

•For nine of those mothers, it was their second child.

•It was the sixth child for one of the women.

•A total of 99 induced abortions were reported in Hoke County in 1983.

•Of the 99 women receiving abortions, 26 were teenagers.

•In 1979, Hoke County had 112 live births per 1,000 females 15-19 years old; the county was rated second in the state.

•In 1983, the county had 68 live births per 1,000 females 15-19 years old and was rated 30th in the state.

•Since 1979 there has been an improvement, but there's certainly a ways to go," Diehl said.

Moss attributes the drop in the live birth rates to a health education plan in county schools.

Although statistics are not exact, Hoke County Juvenile County Court Counselor Jan Dial Smith estimates that about 80% of her caseload of youthful offenders were born to unwed teenage mothers.

The Hoke County juvenile caseload averages around 150 per year, Smith said.

Most of the youths' crimes range from petty larceny to truancy.

Hoke County Health Department statistics show that the county is only meeting the needs of 39.6% of the women in need of family planning services between the ages of 15 and 19.

The local task force has learned of a program it plans to further

study from the December 9 issue of Time magazine.

The plan is modeled after five full-service health clinics located in high schools in St. Pauls, Minnesota.

Along with offering a wide range of health services to its students, the clinics advise teenagers on methods of contraception.

Births to female students in the school system dropped from 59 per thousand to 26 per thousand between 1977 and 1984.

An additional aid to combating local teen pregnancies was instigated at the mid-month meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioners agreed to changes in the health board budget to allow the hiring of a maternal health social worker and a family planning clerk.

It is predicted that the problem of adolescent pregnancies will be reduced with the help of additional workers.

The health director presented methods of combating adolescent pregnancies to the commissioners.

Those strategies include:

•Increasing educational efforts to involve pre-teens and the adolescent male.

•Intensifying training of professionals in human resources organizations to work with adolescents.

•Encouraging community wide concern for the development and improvement of preventive programs for teens.



Santa arrives

After parachuting into the old Armory Park ball field on Thursday afternoon, Santa gets ready to distribute gifts to the good little boys and girls of

the Hoke County Children's Center. The bundle of gifts and toys were donated to make the Christmas merry for the children.

... Around Town continued

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spun in her loom house, where the thread was spun from wool, from your own sheep, or cotton from your own cotton patch. There were no cotton gins in those days. After supper, everyone (as we sat by the fire in the living room), must pick the seed from his shoeful of cotton for the spinner the following day. After freedom, the spinning and weaving fell upon our mothers for there was no money to hire it done, as the Yankee soldiers ransacked and took away the best in our homes. We took up the carpets for bed coverings. The feather beds in some places, were torn open and the feathers to the winds. For head covering, the hats were made at home from shucks or wire grass, and if you could find in the scrap bag, a ribbon band, you were quite dressed up. This scribe remembers what "thrill" she got by the purchase of her first store hat, with its pink moss roses and buds. Such

enchantment as a child of today can never experience — and the first calico dress at the same time. We knew nothing before but homespun checks and the first cake of toilet soap, another thriller. In those days, the dyes were also made at home, brown from walnut bark or hulls, yellow from copperas, red from sumac, and blue from indigo. A patch of this was grown at home. Soap was made at home from lye that was "run off" from your oak and hickory ashes. For needles and pins, thorn-bush was the only substitute.

The boys and girls were a hardy lot in those days and walked in many instances 4 or 5 miles to church, those even who had ridden in two or four-horse carriages before Sherman came along. Sherman's army swept everything, not even seed nor stock for another crop was left. My father, who was a big planter and owned many

slaves, walked to Raleigh near 100 miles to purchase stock and was able to buy only one small mule for which he paid four dollars. The children subsisted chiefly on green fruit that memorable spring and consequently were often yelling with the colic.

This generation has nothing to worry about, but everything to be thankful for. Then we had no public schools and the child whose parents could not afford to employ a teacher in their home, was unfortunate indeed.

Correction

It was incorrectly stated in an article in *The News-Journal* two weeks ago that a reward being offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction of persons responsible for the murder of William Daniel Morrison was \$10,000.

The reward is \$15,000. We regret the error.

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