

Statistics and Highlights



Teen and Young Adult Health Connection (TAYA) is a non-profit reproductive healthcare organization, established in 2000, whose mission is to provide teens and young adults, ages 12-35, with affordable, timely and culturally competent direct clinical care and educational outreach services. TAYA is supported by a combination of private foundation (23%), government (23%), and individual (3%) funds; as well as fees for service (28%), insurance reimbursements (8%), and in-kind support (14%). Through TAYA's clinic services and Education and Outreach program our goal is to prevent teen and unplanned pregnancies, as well as sexually transmitted infections and HIV.

In FY 2013:

- TAYA served over **3,000 unique patients** in our clinic locations in Silver Spring and Gaithersburg.
- TAYA reached over **4,000 people through our community-based education** and outreach at health fairs, community meetings and events, as well as intensive workshops for youth, parents, and social service providers.
- **Prevented over 200** unplanned pregnancies – potential **savings of over \$4 million** to the Region.
- Over **two-thirds (73%)** of TAYA's patients lived at or below **100% of the federal poverty level**.
- **Sixty-two percent** of patients self-identified as **Hispanic; 18% Non-Hispanic Black, and 16% Non-Hispanic White**.
- **Eighty percent** of patients were in their **teens and twenties**.
- **Eighty-six percent** of patients were **uninsured or confidential youth**, and approximately 50% lack the immigration status necessary to become insured under the Affordable Care Act.

Collaborated with over 85 organizations, public agencies, and schools to provide educational and clinical services in non-clinical settings:

- Provided over 120 risk-reduction workshops to youth in job readiness, educational, and youth development programs such as the Maryland Multicultural Youth Centers and Hearts & Homes For Youth.
- Worked with County ESOL Counselors and School Nurses, as well as non-profit partners such as Linkages to Learning and Guide Youth Services to provide 21 award-winning educational workshops to parents aimed at increasing age-appropriate parent-child communication to prevent teen pregnancy.
- Developed and conducted 8 preventive reproductive health presentations to women and their daughters in the County as part of the Office on Women's Health funded National Women's Health Week.
- Collaborated with the County's African American Health Program on the two Teen Summits, "Getting Real and Going In," in recognition of National STD Awareness Month and National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.
- Currently in year four of a five-year collaborative project with Identity, Inc., the George Washington University School of Public Health and Mary's Center, funded by the Office of Adolescent Health. The program is designed to delay sexual onset, decrease desire for early pregnancy and ambivalence toward it, increase contraceptive use, and decrease teen pregnancy among high school Latino youth.
- In second year of "Connections to Contraception," a joint program with the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC), which strives to combat teen pregnancy by engaging youth in a culturally competent, comprehensive, and integrated contraceptive access program. This program places a TAYA Nurse Practitioner on-site at LAYC one day every week to provide preventive reproductive health services.
- Coordinate over 150 diagnostic tests and advanced clinical GYN procedures at little or no cost to patients through continued successful cooperative agreement with Sibley Memorial Hospital's Community Assistance Program and numerous private physicians/surgeons.
- Entered into collaboration with the Primary Care Coalition and 7 other safety-net clinics in Montgomery County to purchase and implement a shared Electronic Health Record system to coordinate care for uninsured and underinsured patients in the County.
- Began implementation of new 3-year strategic plan focused on evaluation, sustainability and partnerships.

Patient and Partner Organization Testimonials



"I just can't overstate how wonderful your [outreach staff] is! She knows exactly how to talk to this age group about this topic. She makes her presentations educational yet entertaining. She engages students right from the start and makes them feel comfortable about an awkward topic. She encourages them to ask questions and never makes them feel their questions are anything but brilliant.

In my six years as an ESOL counselor in MCPS, I have seen about 20 pregnancies among my students... All have been unplanned and almost all heartbreaking. We see girls delaying prenatal care for fear of letting the secret out. Girls tell us they have been kicked out of their homes. We watch as fathers refuse to acknowledge paternity until the baby's DNA is tested. We see girls drop out to take care of the children, dreams of a better future ruined and another generation living in poverty. I have done home visits in which five or six babies and toddlers are plunked down in front of the television all day long in a small apartment by unlicensed day care providers...

Self-esteem is at the root of the problem...Girls do not feel empowered to say no, to ask her partner to use a condom, or to seek birth control on their own. **TAYA has been our only hope in changing the girls' attitudes toward their participation in sex, and to get them to take precautions. I really don't know of another place to send students who ask. I know I speak for our school nurses and ESOL department heads when I say thank you and fervently hope we can continue to work together in future."** – *High School ESOL Counselor*

"Thank you for making your presentation comfortable for me to talk about, it is a tricky subject. I learned more about STDs and HIV. Now I know more about using protection too. It was so nice of you to give us things to take home with us. There are a lot of things for me to think about now." – *Special Needs High School Student*

"Our eternal gratitude for your valuable collaboration and support!" [translated from original Spanish] – *Parent Program Coordinator, Community Service Organization*

"We are all so thankful to have TAYA as such a reliable community partner!!" – *Coordinator, Youth Serving Organization*

"I can truly say that TAYA changed my life...I felt that I was respected here, was given all the options, and was informed. And that made me feel like I could make good decisions about my health on my own. But beyond that, I feel like TAYA changed my whole life because I really felt empowered here and I carried that throughout... it kind of became part of my personhood." – *TAYA Patient*

"I knew after the first visit that my sister was right to recommend TAYA to me. The personnel and staff helped me get exactly the care I needed and didn't judge me for my behavior or for not speaking English. I would say that there aren't any other Spanish-language services that are as sensitive and wonderful as TAYA, but truthfully since I started coming here, I haven't even looked." – *TAYA Patient*

"Every time I come, I receive the care that I need and have a really good experience. I would choose TAYA over other clinics every time because they are so caring and loving here. My favorite part is probably that they always give me the information I need. I never leave without knowing exactly what's going on." – *TAYA Patient*

"From the clinicians to the receptionists, the people at TAYA treat me warmly and respectfully at every visit, making TAYA really feel like my medical home." – *TAYA Patient*