

**Unplanned Pregnancy Action Plan and Results for
Southern Arkansas University**

**Submitted to the Arkansas Department of
Higher Education by:**

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Introduction:

Southern Arkansas University is currently utilizing several different avenues to educate students, particularly first-year students, about the statistics regarding unplanned pregnancies in Arkansas and how unplanned pregnancies can impact educational attainment. Using the template provided by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and noted in HB 1534, the current practices used at the University are documented in the sections to follow.

1. Incorporation of unplanned pregnancy prevention information for students into student orientation and student advisors' unit plan.

In the fall of 2017, incoming freshman attending orientation (Mulerider Round-Up) were required to attend a presentation regarding unplanned pregnancy issues. During the presentation, students were presented with the Arkansas unplanned pregnancy statistical information (<https://thenationalcampaign.org/data/state/arkansas>) and shown the original Unplanned Pregnancy and Community Colleges video (<http://thenationalcampaign.org/resource/unplanned-pregnancy-and-community-colleges>). The University will, in subsequent years, present the video specifically for Arkansas students which was, coincidentally, produced at Southern Arkansas University.

Starting in the Summer of 2018, the parents of all students attending our Becoming A Mulerider (BAM) one-day orientation program were provided with statistics for unplanned teen pregnancy in Arkansas and made aware that their students would be provided with information and resources during the coming school year.

2. Integrate information that is recognized as medically accurate by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists about the prevention of unplanned pregnancy into academic courses if and when appropriate, including without limitation abstinence education.

Currently, Southern Arkansas University provides all Freshman Seminar and Career/Life Courses instructors with resources from the National Campaign website (<http://thenationalcampaign.org/featured-topics/colleges>). All instructors are encouraged to share this information with their classes.

3. Identification of opportunities to raise awareness and provide resources about the prevention of unplanned pregnancies across the student population.

University Health Services shares information about unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases with every student who sees a nurse or nurse practitioner regardless of the ailment for which they are being treated. Condoms are available for all students in the lobby of University Health

Services.

- 4. Identify opportunities for current students to reach out to younger teens to serve as mentors or role models of successful behaviors and healthy choices, including opportunities for outreach during summer vacation or during traditional after-school hours for grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12).**

Upward Bound students have been counseled about the consequences of unplanned pregnancies. The program is re-instituted this practice in 2017. It had been a yearly discussion in years past.

- 5. Identify private or federal grants available to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancy and promote student success, including any partnerships necessary to compete for such grants. Refer to Exhibit B.**

The university is currently looking for new sources of funding to improve and initiate unplanned pregnancy awareness and prevention programs.

- 6. Collaboration with the Department of Health or federally qualified health centers to promote access to care.**

University Health Services currently cooperates with the local health unit to provide laboratory work at a lower cost than the university can provide.

- 7. Identify child care, transportation, financial aid and other challenges specific to existing single parents.**

Students have access to the Single Parents Scholarship Fund ([www. Aspsf.org](http://www.Aspsf.org)). Additionally, Southern Arkansas University offers the **Gordon, Alma, and Frank Hartrick Scholarship Endowment**, through which funds are provided by Dr. and Mrs. W. Ves Childs in honor of Gordon and Alma and in memory of Frank Hartrick. Preference is given to a student with financial need, especially a single parent with financial need.

- 8. Identify a method to measure effectiveness.**

The University will identify means by which the effectiveness of unplanned pregnancy programs can be determined. The most likely mechanism will be through assignments in Freshman Seminar or Career/Life Planning classes.

- 9. Identify other topics or issues relating to the prevention and reduction of unplanned pregnancies among older teens.**

In addition to information provided through orientation, first-year seminar classes, and University Health Services, Southern Arkansas University also publishes

online our own Pregnancy Resource Guide (<https://web.saumag.edu/ct/files/2013/12/SAU-Pregnancy-Resource-Guide-web.pdf>) to acquaint student with resources at their disposal.

There is also a significant opportunity for Greek and student organizations to conduct awareness programs to provide their fellow students with information and resources regarding the challenges of unplanned pregnancies.

Summary:

Prior to state legislation to help educate older teens about unplanned pregnancies, Southern Arkansas University was already engaging in practice through University Health Services, and the publication of the Pregnancy Resource Guide. The past year has seen the inclusion of National Campaign resources in freshman orientation and first-year seminar classes. In the coming years, the University will look to new forms funding for programs as well as expanding the role of residence life and Greek/student organizations.