

Organization: Hertford County Public Health Authority**County:** Hertford**Address:** P.O. Box 246
Winton, N.C. 27986**Phone:** 252-358-7833**Website:** <http://www.hertfordpublichealth.com/>**Project:** Event/ Teen Health Fair*****Below are excerpts from their final report*****

About the Project: The N.C. Healthy Start Foundation Community Grants Program award was used to help fund the Hertford County Public Health Authority "Youth Preconception Health Extravaganza." The fair was held on April 30, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. It was held during the month of April in observance of National Public Health Month. The event highlighted the provision of the Gardasil human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, reproductive life plan counseling, and educational information related to preconception healthcare. The entire health department clinic site was utilized to hold the different components of the fair. Aside from counseling and vaccination, other preconception health related services that the HCPHA offers were marketed. The Family Planning Program Public Health Educator was present to educate participants on general human papillomavirus (HPV) information and the significance that immunization provides in relation to preconception health. Once the participants received their vaccine they moved into the outreach section of the health department to view displays and gather preconception health information and incentive items from the vendors present. Information was available from the March of Dimes, North Carolina Folic Acid Campaign (NCFAC), North Carolina Health Check/Health Choice, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force (TPPTF), and the National Campaign for Teen Pregnancy Prevention. Staff from the HCPHA's WIC Division were present to provide information on the significance of proper nutrition to preconception healthcare. The Hertford County Preconception Coalition (HCPC) provided a display that highlighted the activities of the coalition and the importance of preconception. Several members of the coalition were present to support the event. The final stop for the health fair participants was one-on-one assistance with completing their own personal reproductive life plan guidebook as well as counseling.

Successes: The reduction of the county's infant mortality rate is a strategic priority for the HCPHA and focusing on preconception health has been identified as the necessary intervention. This grant



enabled us to expand our efforts to increase the awareness of the importance of preconception healthcare by creating an avenue to provide personal health services.