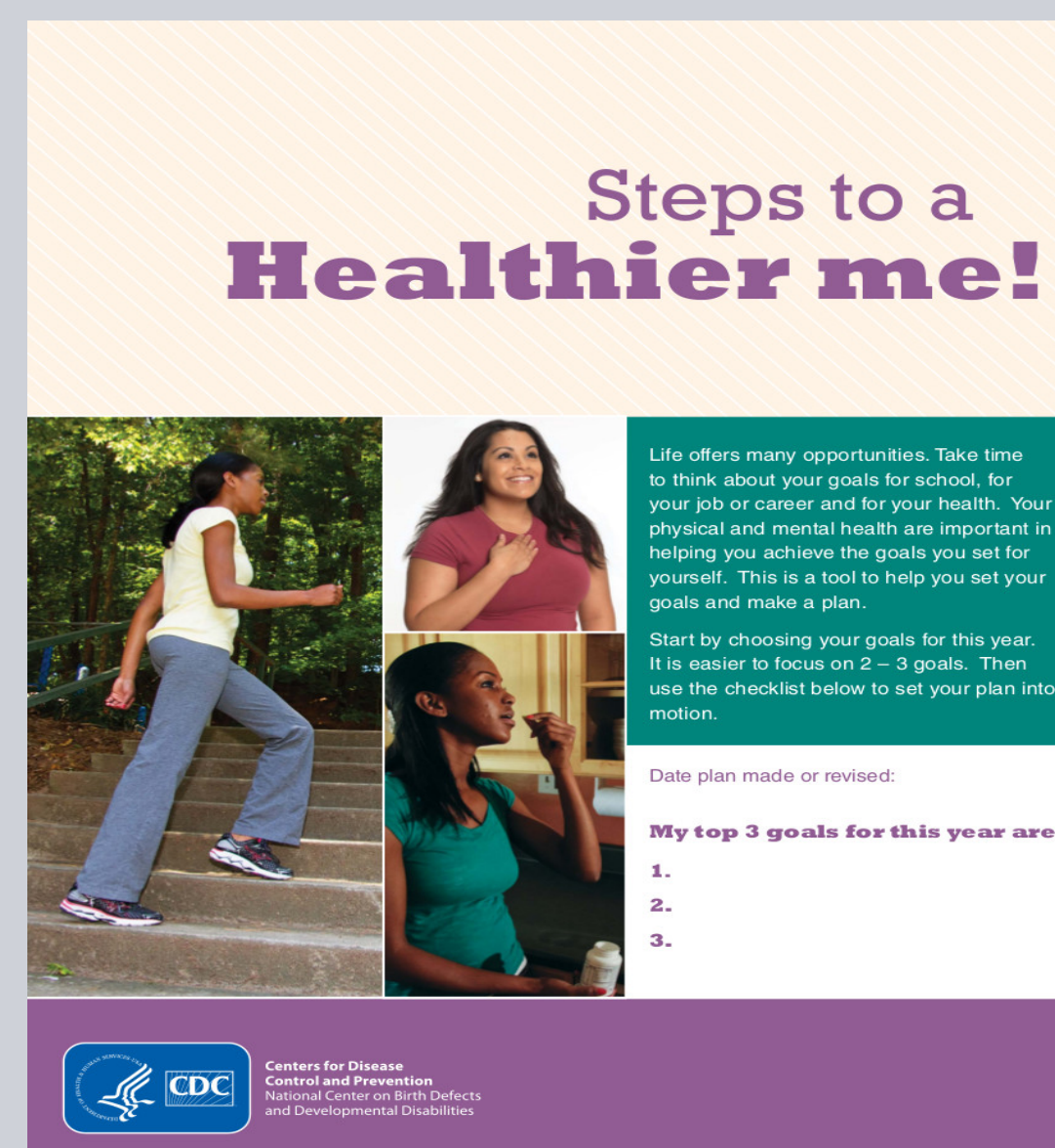


PURPOSE

This project focused on infant mortality within the African American and minority communities among women between the ages of 18 to 25, from Jackson, TN, and the surrounding areas. Statistics have shown that the African American community has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the U.S. One of the primary reasons for this epidemic is the lack of prenatal care. This project created awareness and stress the importance of prenatal care and preconception health. Also, it examined the targeted population's comprehension of the infant mortality disparity and incorporate intervention techniques by providing two beneficial phases including accessible information to promote a healthy life for the baby to exceed one year old.



DEMOGRAPHIC

The demographic targeted African American and other minority females between the ages of 18 to 25.

METHODS

Student Health Ambassador used her Platform as Miss Lane to promote Preconception Health Awareness in West Tennessee. She held a zoom meeting and “Miss Lane Speaks Sessions” to help women learn more about infant mortality, preconception healthcare, the importance of folic acid, and reproductive life planning. This initiative demonstrated how to take better of yourself as well as shared information with women and some men them the more creative ways to help them lead healthier, more productive stress-free lives. She was also able to speak with 26 contestants at the Miss Tennessee 2021 Pageant to educate them about preconception health and infant mortality. During her reign as Miss Lane College students spoke at several churches, community events, and schools about infant mortality and how it can be prevented. The student also passed out information about preconception health at events on and off-campus. The student investigator partnered with 3 other students to host Girl's Night In a zoom meeting for young women.

The Student Investigators created QR codes for pre and post-touchless surveys to reduce contact with attendees the surveys were administered to measure if any of the participants are ready to make behavioral changes related to risk factors associated with preconception health.

OUTCOMES

- 1) 113 surveys were completed.
- 2) 112 people did not have a perception health plan in place or had ever heard about the concept.
- 3) Following the presentation, 80 people said that preconception health is important to them.

STUDENT LESSONS LEARNED

I learned that perception health is very important in a young woman's life.

This project provided motivation for me to move past my comfort zone and do more public speaking.

It was empowering to empower other young women.



COMMUNITY PARTNER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lane College

TN-MMC HBCU Wellness Project

Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant

Jackson Madison County Regional Health Department.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention