

## Holyoke Takes On Teen Pregnancy

For years, Holyoke has had the highest teen birth rate in the state. Now city officials, parents, and other teens are finally coming together to bring that statistic down.

The grass in front of Holyoke City Hall was turned into a testimonial to end teen pregnancy. On Wednesday, the mayor along with city teens and community leaders established the teen pregnancy task force. Its goal is to educate the city's youth about the risks of getting pregnant at a young age, and how to prevent it.

"It's actually pretty surprising to see all the kids right now being pregnant and they don't even know the risks they are getting into while they are pregnant" says 15-year-old Keisha Bellibarra.

Teens like Keisha Bellibarra are supporting the task force. She's seen her friends lose a lot at a young age.

"Most of them end up dropping out, I knew a friend, she ended up dropping out while she was pregnant" says Bellibarra.

"To teach kids the risk you are taking, by having sex and having a kid at a young age, " adds Bellibarra.

With the help of the city's task force, that message will soon be brought straight to Holyoke's Schools. Starting next fall a new science based health class will be offered to the city's 9th graders to teach them the basics.

"In fact I'd like to start at an even younger age before they get to the age to make choices they will have this education to make right decisions for their future and go in the right direction, " says Holyoke's Mayor Elaine Pluta.

If you would like to share your ideas, and join Holyoke's teen pregnancy task force contact the mayor at city hall.

## About the Author

Sex Positions for Getting Pregnant BabyCenter

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