

Heritage Community Services

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[South Carolina's Heritage Keepers Abstinence Education Program put on federal list of effective teen pregnancy prevention programs.](#)

Heritage Keepers® Abstinence Education is 1 of the 31 programs now identified by the US Department of Health and Human Services as effective. It is the only authentic abstinence education program in the nation recognized on the current federal teen pregnancy prevention program list.

Since 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has contracted with Mathematica Policy Research and Child Trends, to conduct an independent, systematic review of programs effective in reducing teen pregnancy, STIs, and related sexual risk behaviors. The review identifies, assesses, and rates the rigor of program impact studies and describes the strength of the evidence supporting different program models. The findings were used to identify program models meeting the criteria for the HHS List of Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs.

41 South Carolina schools were involved in the study which was comprised of 63% African American students, grades 7-9, both males and females. The study demonstrated a positive behavioral change in Heritage program students who were 1/3 as likely to initiate or continue having sex as similar students not in the program, one year after the Heritage Keepers® program was complete.

This is the third study re-affirming the success of the Heritage Keepers® Abstinence Education program.