



*MyPower is now the largest
youth development program in Lea County.*

October 2017

MyPower, Inc. Background and Progress

Since 2010, *MyPower, Inc.* has worked with more than 5,700 5th – 9th grade girls in its *MyPower* Elementary Mentoring Circles, the *MyPower* Middle School Edition, and *MyPower*-Quantum Leadership Camps to empower girls to make wise choices, set goals, succeed academically, and avoid teen pregnancy.

MyPower is actively working in 12 schools!

Recent teen pregnancy statistics released by the New Mexico Department of Health are encouraging for Lea County. Teen birth rates are down by 60% for the 15-17-year olds since 2009! The Hobbs Municipal Schools (HMS) previously announced a huge drop in the number of pregnant high school girls, a 20-year low, despite a record number of students enrolled in HMS.

Addressing the tough issues and alarming statistics for STD's and teen pregnancy in Lea County, *MyPower* has worked closely with the Hobbs Municipal Schools (HMS) to implement major changes in the sex education program for 7th – 10th graders. This change to Abstinence PLUS information, evidenced-based programs was exciting news for the Hobbs community. Science and health teachers teach factual information, and parents can choose to “opt-out” their children from the program. *MyPower* advocated for this change, and commends the HMS Board for implementing the new policy.

MyPower Offers Three Quality Programs to All Girls at NO-COST:

- *MyPower's Mentoring Circles* work with girls in their last year of elementary school (5th grade) and have grown to the following eight elementary schools: Southern Heights, Jefferson, Will Rogers, Broadmoor, Edison, Mettie Jordan (Eunice), College Lane and our recent expansion to Jal Elementary. These Circles are held after school, once a week, for 12 weeks. 50 women volunteer their time to make this program possible each year. 207 girls participated and graduated in May 2017. We had 97.2% of 5th grade girls who participated.
- *MyPower's Middle School Edition* had more than 800 students who are participated in our seven-session program in the three Hobbs' middle schools and Caton Middle School (Eunice) from August 2016-May 2017. These sessions are held during the advisory/home room period and offer an energetic and inspiring study of the Quantum Learning Keys of Excellence and real-life scenarios. These sessions are facilitated by *MyPower* staff and trained volunteers for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

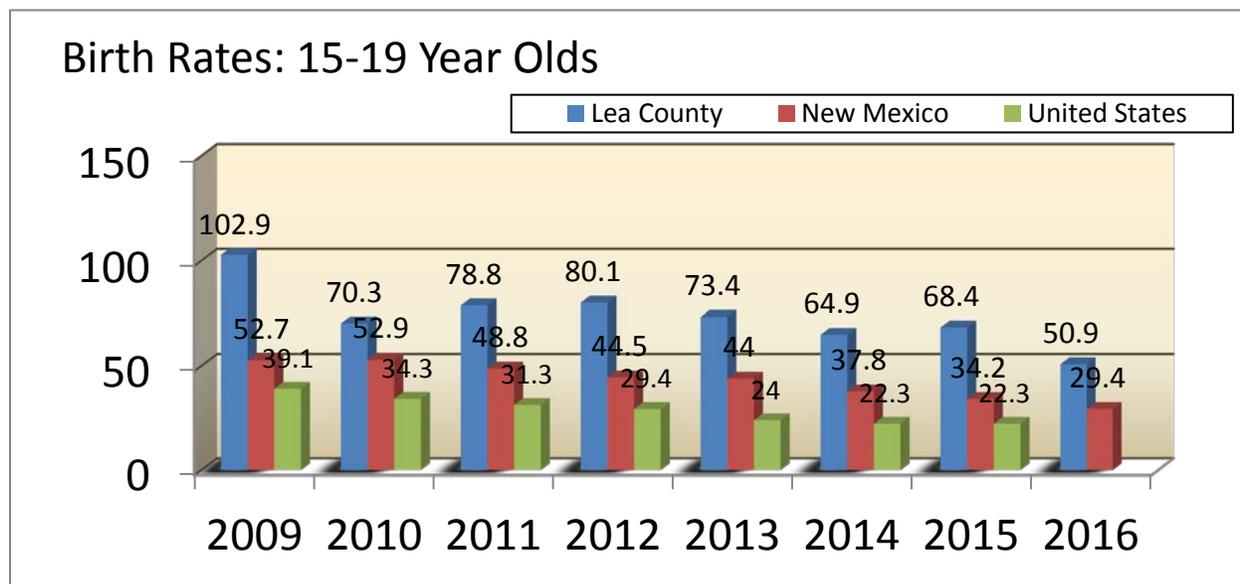
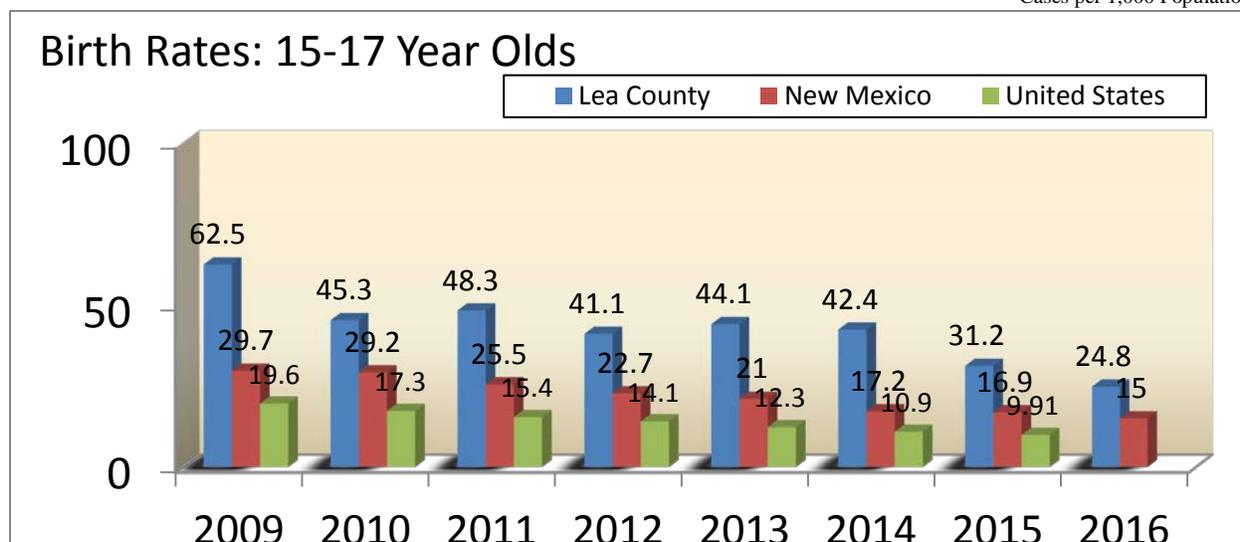
- MyPower Quantum Leadership Camps** have had 1,796 middle school girls participate in exciting life skills and academic strategy camps at the University of the Southwest campus, Hobbs High School, Freshman Commons, and the Training Center since 2010. These annual camps are held in late summer right before school starts. Quantum Learning Network of California facilitates the camps, with **MyPower** providing all logistics. Many of the hired facilitators are teachers, providing them hands-on teaching strategies to later implement in their classroom. In July 2017, **MyPower**-Quantum Leadership Camps had four camps simultaneously for 361 students in the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grades.

The Alarming Statistics for Lea County

MyPower was founded in 2009 specifically to address Lea County’s alarming teen pregnancy and STD rates. For years, Lea County ranked #1 in both the 15-17-year-old and 15-19-year-old teen birth categories in New Mexico. New Mexico has consistently moved between 1st and 3rd place nationally, as of 2016 New Mexico ranks #4. The U.S. leads the industrial world in teen births. While rates are down in Lea County there is still a long way to go.

Teen Birth Rates are **DOWN** by **60%** in Lea County for the 15-17-Year Olds Since 2009!

New Mexico Indicator-Based Information Systems (NM-IBIS), 2017
Cases per 1,000 Population



Community Impact

High teen pregnancy rates hurt communities, as less than 1/3 of teens who begin families before 18 ever complete high school; only 2% of teen mothers complete college before age 30; and the children of these parents are often not ready for school themselves and are more at risk for child abuse. In New Mexico, the gross impact of teenage parenting is more than \$100 million annually (Source: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy). Single women who have a baby during the teen years are also at a high risk of poverty.

MyPower, Inc. Founded in 2009 to Empower Pre-Teen and Teen Girls

MyPower's program is Abstinence PLUS information, and is designed to help empower girls in grades 5-9 to successfully navigate the teen years by empowering them to make wise choices, set goals, succeed academically, and avoid risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy. These youth development programs provide girls with straight talk about issues they will face as they enter the teen years. *MyPower* uses tools such as refusal skills, training and practice with real life situations to prepare these girls.

Specifically, our **Abstinence PLUS Information** curriculum works to empower girls to think about their goals, and it presents very straight talk concerning sexual issues, including basic facts of life, the importance of waiting, teen STD and teen birth statistics, how to prevent STDs, birth control options and the facts about common myths. *MyPower's* straight talk and Abstinence PLUS Information mentoring programs give girls the answers to their questions about the consequences of risky sexual behavior. *MyPower* utilizes area nurses and doctors who volunteer their time to present the anatomy and facts of life sessions, as well as the teen pregnancy and STD issue in the community.

MyPower-Quantum Leadership Camps



Parent Meetings are an Essential Part of *MyPower*

Each year, *MyPower* meets with more than 1,000 parents and community members about the alarming STD and teen birth rates in Lea County. For parents, *MyPower* distributes straight forward materials from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy that provide advice on talking to children about sexual issues.

MyPower Mentoring Circles



MyPower's message is that it takes an entire community to address this crisis – parents, schools, churches, our political leaders, and committed volunteers. The City of Hobbs, the Lea County Commission, the J. F Maddox Foundation, Chevron North America, URENCO USA, the MyPower Board of Director members, the Stevan and Cynthia Pearce Foundation, Watson Truck & Supply, and many local businesses and individuals have stepped up to help fund our programs. (Businesses named have contributed more than \$15,000. Please see “Passing on the Power.”).

MyPower also commends the Hobbs Municipal School Board for adapting a sex education policy of Abstinence PLUS Information Comprehensive Sex Education with instruction in 7th-10th grades.

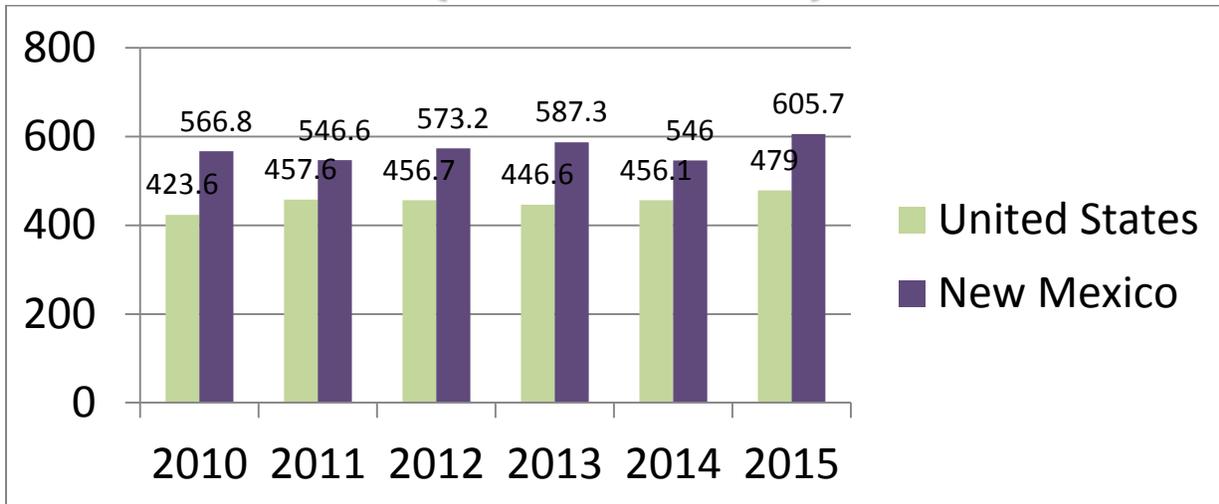
MyPower Middle School Edition



Sexually Transmitted Diseases Among Teens at Epidemic Levels

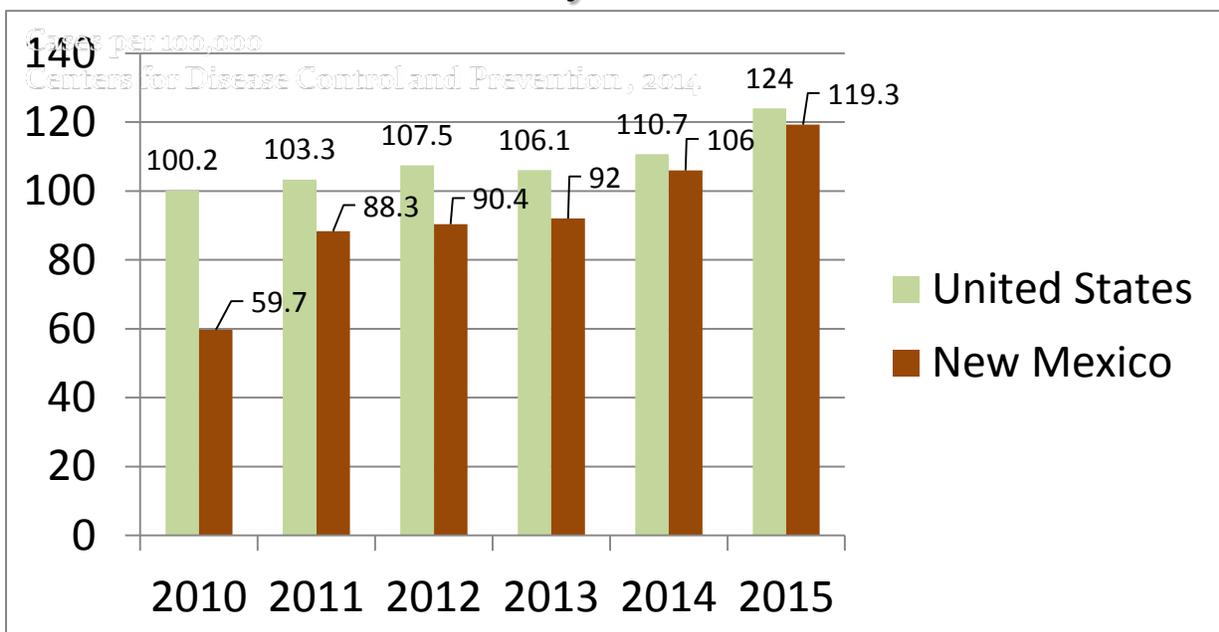
FACT: Despite the fact that Sexually Transmitted Diseases for teenagers in Lea County are below the state rate, these are still at epidemic rates. Long-term health issues can result from a lack of treatment. Girls are often non-symptomatic for many STDs, and these diseases can result in health issues like long-term pain, sterility and even cancer.

New Mexico ranked #4 in the nation for Chlamydia in 2015 (Most common STD)



Cases per 100,000 Population
Nmhealth.org, 2017 & cdc.gov, 2017
Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017

Gonorrhea: On the rise! New Mexico cases increased by 13% since 2014



Cases per 100,000 Population
Nmhealth.org, 2017 & cdc.gov, 2017
Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017

Parent Comments

MyPower Mentoring Circles

“I would recommend this program to ALL girls. This program has opened the doors to conversations that my daughter should have had a long time ago. It made it easy to talk to about issues that she is facing and will face”.

“I wish I would have had this opportunity in school. They learn so much about themselves and who they can become. They see what can be achieved when they set goals. Thank you for spending time with my daughter!”

“I love the character building MyPower creates”.

“I would recommend this program for other young girls. I loved it and my daughter did too. I am so glad there is a program for our young ladies. I wish there would have been something like this when I was growing up”.

“MyPower has helped my daughter to be more confident in herself and her plans for the future. Her focus is college, a career and then a family!”

“This is the place that helps parents instill positive attitudes in our young women. It builds confidence in our girls. Wonderful program!”

“I highly recommend this program to other parents. It’s very important for girls to learn self-respect, self-confidence, and empowerment.”

“It helps them hear information from others, not just from their mom or dad. Positive reinforcement helps”.

“MyPower promotes a positive self-image and focuses on issues that are sometimes difficult for parents to start conversations about.”

“It changed her attitude and outlook on school. It gave her the courage to stand up for what she believes in.”

We want the youth in our community to live their best life. Not just to live it, but to have that paradigm shift...that they **DESERVE** to live their very **BEST LIFE**.

-Elaine Sena, Executive Director



Parent Comments

MyPower-Quantum Leadership Camps

“I would highly recommend this program because it is a forum that builds high self-esteem and gives them “tools” to rise above peer-pressure and negative influences to obtain goals in which they have set.”

“My daughter likes that she matters.”

“She has learned to be herself and no longer is afraid of what others think about her. She knows she has a voice and can express herself more without being afraid.”

“This truly is a miracle program.”

“My daughter’s attitude has improved 1,000%. She is more positive and more pleasant to be around.”

“My daughter sees a wonderful future for herself! She doesn’t see boyfriends, children and failure anymore. She sees college, career success and self-confidence.”

“I would recommend MyPower, because it paves the way for child-parent communication. It also taught my daughter self-confidence and to accept herself for who she is.”

“Knowledge is power”.

“MyPower teaches self-love, kindness, setting boundaries, communication, honesty, and accountability.”

“This program empowers our girls, gives them great information about themselves, and reminds them of the inner power they have.”

“It has helped her learn to stick to something she starts and not give up. She learned just how valuable she is and that she is capable of so much”.

“Girls this age have a hard time adjusting to their life and this experience gives them hope and opens their eyes to the future. It’s okay to be yourself! Thank you, MyPower!”

“My daughter is more positive and her behavior has improved. She is more loving and more willing to try new things because of MyPower.”

“MyPower helped my daughter blossom and realize she matters and that she can make a difference in our community. Thank you for empowering our youth and future leaders!”



MyPower's Mission

To empower Lea County's youth to reach their full individual potential by providing FUN, social and learning activities geared toward developing personal confidence, academic excellence and enhanced life skills.

MyPower's Goals

Training and Mentorship: Target Lea County's youth at critical developmental stages for engaging academic and social skills activities, with a goal to provide open communications about the long-term benefits of staying in school, choosing friends wisely and making healthy choices.

Vision for the Future: Expose participants to new ideas, skills, mentorship, and the limitless possibilities and opportunities available to all youth regardless of race or socioeconomic background.

Constructive Life Choices: Increase knowledge of how to make positive personal decisions and constructive life choices, especially with the temptations of drug abuse and teenage sex, regardless of peer pressure or other outside negative factors.

Joie de Vivre: Enhance their spirit to enjoy life and plan for the future using fun learning activities and exercises designed to boost personal confidence and self-concept.

MyPower, Inc. Board Members:

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Lisa Hardison, Ed.D., URENCO USA
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Crystal Marin, Police Office, Hobbs Police Department
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Jennifer Smith - Program Director
Sandi Socolofsky - Executive Assistant