



YOUNGLIVES

IMPACTING TEEN MOMS.
SHAPING GENERATIONS.

LEARNING + IMPACT REPORT



ABOUT YOUNGLIVES

Young Life is an international non-profit serving teenagers of all kinds since 1941. In 1991, Young Life staff saw the need to reach teen moms - and YoungLives was born.

The need for YoungLives continues to be great - about 6% of all births in the U.S. are to teens¹ and children of teenage mothers face myriad increased risks - from lower school achievement to increased poverty.² YoungLives faces these challenges with a mix of peer support and life-on-life mentoring relationships where teen moms find hope, confidence, and meaning. YoungLives has sought to inspire positive, sustainable change in young moms for over 25 years - and as you will see, it's working!

over
15,000
teen moms
impacted
annually

over
300
ministry
locations

nearly
2,000
mentors

140
staff

GROWING
international
presence

¹ Hamilton BE, Martin JA, et al (2015). *Births: Final data for 2014*. National vital statistics reports; vol 64 no 12. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

² Ng, A. S., & Kaye, K. (2012). *Why It Matters: Teen Childbearing, Education, and Economic Wellbeing*. Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

As the number of teen moms impacted by YoungLives has increased, so has our desire to better understand and measure the impact YoungLives creates for teen moms and their children.

We invested in an independent evaluation by 3 Flights, Inc. Over the course of fifteen months in 2014-15, over 2,000 teen moms and 1,500 staff and volunteers in YoungLives were surveyed at least once.

The evaluator looked at how YoungLives teens changed over time and isolated the impact teens' participation in YoungLives has on their behaviors and attitudes. All findings presented are statistically significant, such that they are meaningful and not a chance occurrence.

THE DATA CONFIRMS THAT
YOUNGLIVES' METHOD OF PUTTING
RELATIONSHIPS FIRST - AND GIVING TEEN
MOMS A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK - IS WORKING.

FROM INCREASED EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND ASPIRATIONS,
TO IMPROVED PARENTING SKILLS, TO A NEW SENSE OF HOPE
AND PURPOSE AND A STRONG SUPPORT SYSTEM - YOUNGLIVES
IS MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR TEEN MOMS TO BEAT THE ODDS AND
BUILD A SECURE FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN.

NOT ONLY DO YOUNG MOMS GAIN A GROUP OF PEERS AND
MENTORS TO HELP THEM NAVIGATE A DAUNTING PATH, BUT THEY
FIND VALUE, MEANING AND HOPE ALONG THE WAY.

AND THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.



THE YOUNGLIVES DIFFERENCE

BREAKING THE CYCLE

The arrival of a new baby brings joy – and also great challenges – to even the most prepared parents. But for teen moms, the challenge of parenting can be particularly difficult to tackle. Research shows children of teen parents are more likely to suffer higher rates of abuse and neglect.³

But teen moms who have a high-quality mentor in YoungLives report feeling:



MORE IN CONTROL
WHEN THEY NEED
TO DISCIPLINE
THEIR CHILD



INCREASED NURTURING
BEHAVIORS TOWARD
THEIR CHILD



A STRONGER CONVICTION
THAT IT IS IMPORTANT
TO AVOID SUBSEQUENT
PREGNANCIES

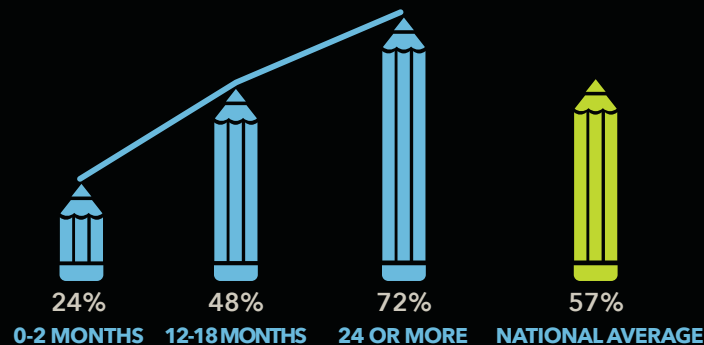


"YOUNGLIVES HAS HELPED ME EMOTIONALLY AND MENTALLY. THEY MADE ME SO MUCH PROUDER TO BE A MOM AND HELPED ME TO BUILD A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH MY FAMILY AND NEW PEOPLE."

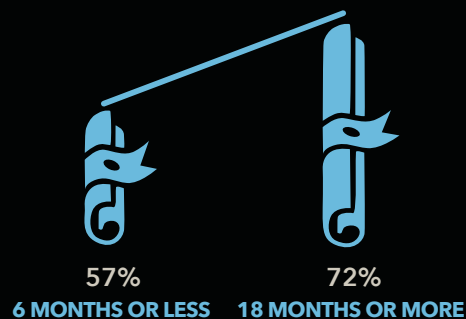
³ Hoffman, S.D., *By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Adolescent Childbearing*. 2006, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Washington, DC

BEATING THE ODDS

On average, only 57% of teen moms graduate from high school or complete their GED.⁴ YoungLives teen moms face even greater challenges: only one in four teen moms new to YoungLives will graduate or earn a GED. However, after two years participation her chances of graduating triple.



But that's not all. The longer teen moms are involved, the more likely they are to say they want to pursue a degree even *beyond* a high school diploma from **57%** at 6 months or less participation, to **72%** at 18 months or more participation.



⁴ Perper, K., Peterson, K., & Manlove, J.(2010). *Diploma Attachment Among Teen Mothers*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.





A PLACE TO BELONG

Teen moms often report feeling lonely, isolated or overwhelmed. YoungLives welcomes teen moms into a community of support, where attentive adults treat them with dignity and respect.

This acceptance and connectedness within YoungLives is a key protective factor against many negative outcomes - ranging from depression and anxiety, to lack of purpose, to child abuse and neglect. Giving teen moms a place to belong is a crucial step in counteracting the many increased risks they face.

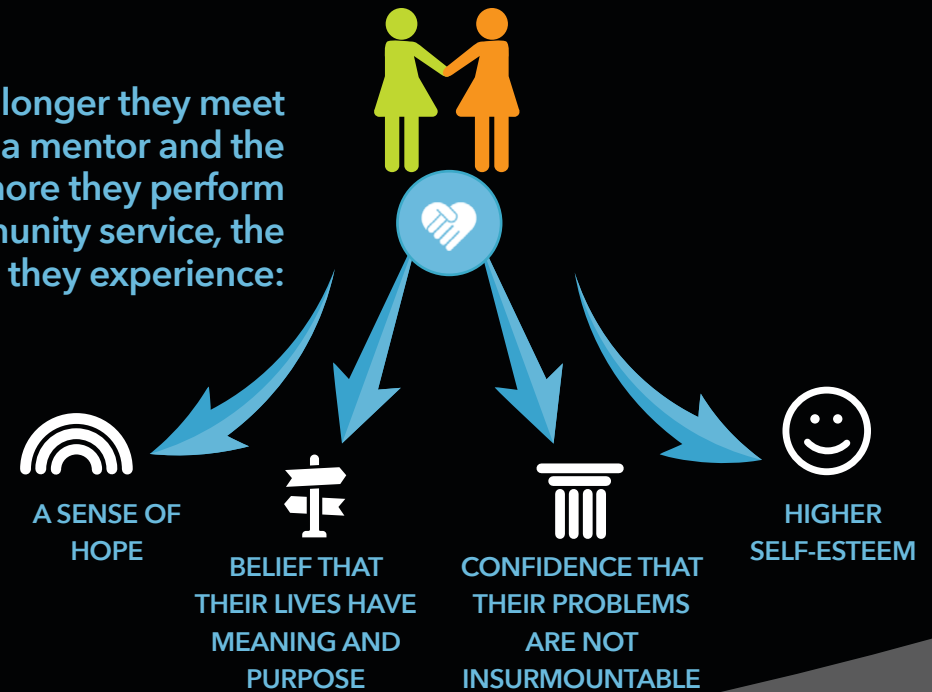


A SENSE OF MEANING

Being involved in YoungLives and having a quality relationship with a mentor also significantly increases teen moms' sense of hope and belief that their lives have meaning and purpose. Hope is not merely a vague feeling for them - rather, it is the sense that their problems are not insurmountable.

Through YoungLives, teen moms gain confidence that there is much more to life beyond the obstacles they currently face, and that they have what it takes to get there.

The longer they meet with a mentor and the more they perform community service, the more they experience:



"YOUNGLIVES MADE ME FEEL LIKE I WAS WORTH SOMETHING, AND I WAS A PART OF SOMETHING. I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THAT BEFORE."





 **younglife**

YoungLives

Impacting teen moms. Shaping generations.

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