

# Documenting Pregnant and Parenting Adolescent Experiences in Tampa Bay, Florida

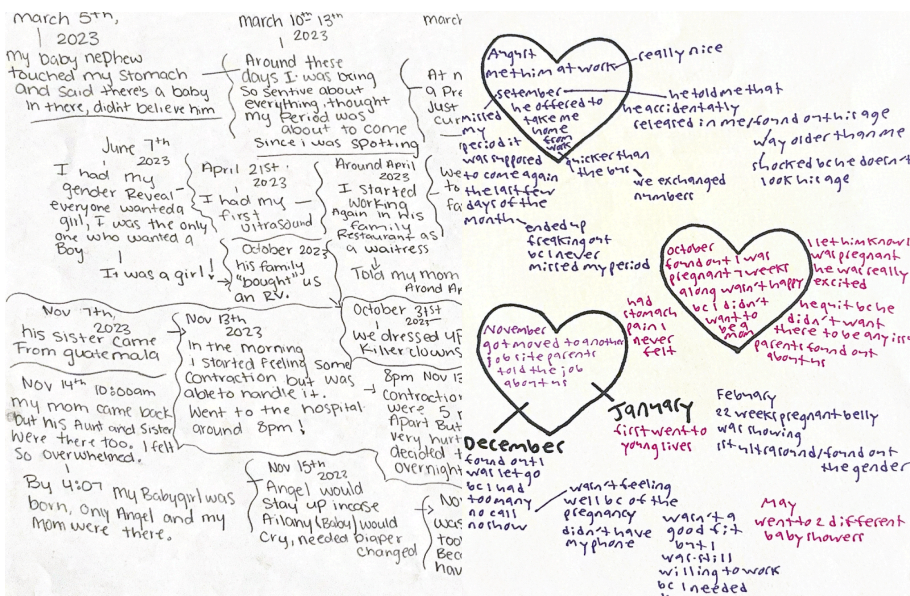
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“I am a young mother, I am somebody and I am worth just as much as a girl who went her entire life beating pregnancy. Us young moms are important. We are strong young women in the world with just an extra human on our side. **My story isn’t done being written, in fact the story has barely begun for me.**”

– Young Mom, Hillsborough County

Narratives of teen pregnancy in Hillsborough County are reiterated in hospitals, schools, and clinics. Hillsborough County is confronted with the complexities of adolescent pregnancy through medical procedures, academic continuity, and social support. Very rarely are the concerns of the adolescents in these contexts heard to better understand their needs. This project seeks to highlight the voices of pregnant and parenting adolescents, share their stories, and emphasize their need for contextualized and individualized services. *This project is focused on addressing adolescent pregnancy as a “matter of health” rather than a “health problem”.* In other words - how can we support, empower, and impact our young moms?

10 young moms from the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County network and the YoungLives network were invited to complete **journey maps, retrospective photovoice, and semi-structured interviews** to detail their pregnant and parenting journey.



*“I’ve experienced moments of judgment and loneliness, but love for my son and small success kept me motivated.”*



## What can we do?

This project provides powerful insight into the complex and multifaceted experiences of young moms as they navigate pregnancy and early motherhood. The findings suggest that this transition is shaped by a combination of emotional duality, structural challenges, shifting identities, and social support, while participants faced significant challenges, they all demonstrated resilience and personal growth.

### Job Support

- Create pathways for long-term and sustainable employment opportunities in safe environments.
- Develop initiatives to equip young moms with interview and general career development skills.

### Legal Support

- Provide legal support to improve living, employment, and clinical interactions.

### Clinical Interactions

- Integration of medical rights into care interactions.
- Employment of best adolescent-centered patient practices for patient-provider interactions.
- Create a comprehensive list of care providers specifying insurance availability, language access, cost transparency, and more.

### Group Pregnancy Care + CenteringPregnancy

- Develop systems of care that emphasize social support, belonging, and community connection.

Scan here to read the full report!



Scan here to see the exhibition!

