



ENGAGING TOMORROW'S FUTURE, TODAY:

THE NCS HINDS COUNTY YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

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Hinds County MS Study Location

National Children's Study



INTRODUCTION

Outreach and engagement is essential for spreading the word about the NCS in study communities and gaining support from stakeholders. The Hinds County MS Study Location Community Advisory Board (CAB) defined the need for a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) to assure input of the youth population. The YAB was established to engage and acknowledge the youth of Hinds County as a significant partner in the NCS.

METHODS

YAB members were recruited from local school districts, community colleges, and universities in Hinds County. To recruit a 9-member YAB, outreach team members sought statements of interest, community involvement, and advice from CAB members. The YAB reports activities quarterly to the CAB. The YAB reviewed and affirmed CAB Bylaws, elected officers, and identified key activities. They hosted NCS-led activities in specific Boys and Girls Clubs to increase awareness of the study and provide health education. Four weekly activities were offered. Parental permission was obtained and NCS information was disseminated as part of the activities.

RESULTS

Children were engaged in the activities. Parents were given information about the NCS. Those who were pregnant or planning pregnancies were invited to consider participation. Evaluations were positive from Club administration, parents and children.

CONCLUSIONS

The YAB provides a creative engagement approach to reach a variety of audiences. The interaction between the YAB and Club attendees demonstrates comfort and trust in the NCS. It serves as an opportunity to inform the youth and their families about the Study, while showing that Study investigators value their opinion.



YAB Pictures 006.jpg



YAB Pictures 034.jpg



YAB Pictures 039.jpg



YAB Pictures 042.jpg



YAB Pictures 046.jpg



YAB Pictures 067.jpg



YAB Pictures 005.jpg