What is Behind California’s Success in Reducing Its Teen Pregnancy Rate?

Cost-Effective Strategies in Public Health:
The “Winnable Battles Initiative”
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The Campaign’s Mission

• Our mission is to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families and, in particular, to help ensure that children are born into stable families who are committed to and ready for the demanding task of raising the next generation.
The National Campaign’s Strategy

• Our specific strategy for reaching our goal is to prevent teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy, especially among single young adults.

• We support a combination of responsible values and behavior by both men and women.

• We also support responsible policies in both the public and private sectors.

How California Ranks: Teen Pregnancy

• In 1992, California had the highest teen pregnancy rate in the nation, ranking 50th of 50 in the United States.

• Between 1988 and 2005, California’s pregnancy rate for girls ages 15-19 declined an astonishing 51%.

• California is now ranked 36th.
Leadership and Commitment

- Governor Pete Wilson launched the largest statewide teen pregnancy prevention effort ever in the United States.
- Collected data, conducted research and acted on it.

Multi-Pronged Approach

- Sexual education
- Family planning waiver/expansion
- Teen pregnancy prevention programs
- Private/public partnerships
## Multi-Leveled Approach

- **Federal** – Family Planning Waiver
- **State** – Sexual Education Statute
- **Local** – Grantees
- **Private** – Foundations
- **Interagency:** Adolescent Sexual Health Working Group (ASHWG)
  - CA Dept. of Education
  - Office of Aids
  - Office of Family Planning
  - Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program
  - California Family Health Council
  - California Adolescent Health Collaborative

## Sexual Education

- **1991** HIV/AIDS prevention education mandated in schools for ages.
- **2003** California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act.
- **2007 AB 629** Sexual Health Education Accountability Act compliments the 2003 statute.
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs

One Size Doesn’t Fit All

- Information and Education (I&E)
- Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP)
- Cal-Learn
- Male Involvement Program (MIP)
- Community Challenge Grant Program (CCG)
- TeenSMART Outreach (TSO)
- Cal-SAFE

California’s Family Planning Waiver

- Formally State-only Family planning program – grant program.
- December of 1999, 1115 Medicaid Demonstration waiver approved by CMS to provide federal funding for FPACT. First of its magnitude.
- California’s Family PACT (Planning, Access, Care and Treatment) program ensures that low-income women, men and adolescents have access to health education; counseling and clinical services they need to reduce unintended pregnancy and improve reproductive health.
Family Planning Waivers

- Waive the Medicaid eligibility rules.
- Receives a 9 to 1 Federal Match.
- Both California statute and Federal waiver regulations requires an annual analysis of key program metrics.
- Waivers have to be renewed few years therefore it is time limited.
- More than 20 states have participated and showed the effectiveness of family planning waivers.

Medicaid Expansion into family planning

- States have the option to make their family planning waivers a permanent part of their Medicaid program due to the Affordability Care Act.
- State Plan Amendment Process.
- Eliminates the reauthorization of Waiver process.
- California applied state plan amendment Sept. 30th
  - Submitted an Application after received authority by CA legislature
  - Received Federal approval on March 24th
California’s Family Planning Waiver

Family PACT’s unique features help break down barriers to care for Teens.

- Teens can enroll in the program based on their own income.
- Access to confidential reproductive services.
- On-site enrollment: One can enroll and receive services on the same day.

- Delivery system under Family PACT includes private physicians and health centers (80% served by public centers but increases access.)
- Services are available to all low-income California Residents teens.
California’s Family Planning Waiver increase access for teens.

- Number of adolescents participating in the program doubled between 1997 and 2008.
- 20% of Family PACT clients are younger than 20.
- Latinos make up 41% of California Population and 52% of Family PACT’s teen clients.

Private/Public Partnerships

- Several private foundations have invested in teen pregnancy prevention efforts.
- Activities included research, public education, training to health care workers, etc.
- Foundations regularly communicated with the State.
Return on Investment

Taxpayer Cost Savings vs. TPP Investments in CA (2007) Public Health Institute

Conclusion

• Bi-Partisan Support
• Maintenance of Effort is Key
• Multi-Pronged Approach
• Collective effort – not top down.
• Long term effort
• Policy Impacts resources and what types of information and services available.
• Consistency
• DATA COUNTS
THANK YOU

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