

Where are the parents?

The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy's
4th Annual Symposium

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Background

- Failed attempts at engaging parents in programming
- Initiated a qualitative study utilizing focus groups with parents of teenagers in high risk areas
- Purpose of the study was to gain greater understanding of parental perspectives of teen pregnancy in areas of Dallas with significantly higher teen birth rates compared to national rates.

Focus Groups

- The focus groups were conducted at four afterschool program locations in zip codes with high birth rates.
- Parents were recruited and enrolled through the afterschool programs.
- Refreshments were provided as well as incentives for participation.
- Before the sessions began, information about the study was provided and informed consent was obtained. In addition, participants were asked to complete a short demographic questionnaire.
- The focus group sessions were audio recorded for accuracy but no names were shared to protect anonymity.

Focus Group Questions

1. What expectations/aspirations do you have for your daughter?
How would becoming a teen parent impact these expectations/aspirations?
2. What barriers, if any, do you face in addressing teen pregnancy?
3. Do you perceive your daughter to be at-risk for teen pregnancy?
4. Do you see teen pregnancy as a problem in your community?
5. As a parent, how confident do you feel in your ability to help prevent your daughter from becoming a teen parent?
6. How confident do you feel about communicating with your daughter about sensitive subjects such as teen pregnancy?

Participants

- 35 Participants, 33 women, 2 Men
- 19 African American and 16 Hispanic
- Zip codes represented have birth rates from 88-101
- Impoverished areas, high drop out, drugs, STIs, DISD

Analysis

- The audio files were listened to by the researchers as well as transcribed by a graduate student assistant.
- Thematic analysis was conducted and codes were developed independently by the researchers and then categorized into themes.

Results/Themes

- Teen pregnancy as a social norm
- Lack of parental engagement
- Make it too easy for teens
- Resource accessibility
- Differences in self-efficacy between ethnicities
- Mistrust

Discussion

- Awareness/Mobilization is imperative
- Parents must be engaged
- Suggestions from participants included:
 - More sexuality education in schools
 - Mobilize utilizing community insiders
 - Better education tracking for kids