HYP’s Teen Pregnancy Prevention Needs Assessment

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Objective: to better understand the supports and barriers within our community to prevent teen pregnancy.

Research question: What is the status of teen pregnancy prevention in Austin and surrounding areas?
Advisory Team

- Literature Review
- Training
- Facilitation
- Instrument Creation
- Recruitment
- Data Analysis

Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators
Methods

Focus groups with:
- Teens (14-19)
- Teen mothers
- Teen fathers
- Parents

Online surveys with:
- Service providers
- Educators/school staff
- Medical providers
KEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS
Working with Youth

Gender-Transformative Approach

– “Strive to examine, question, and change rigid gender norms and imbalance of power”
– Address unhealthy relationship dynamics
– Opens the door for advanced conversations around gender and sexuality

“Well the girls who have sex are sluts and the popular guys all have sex.” -Teen

“It’s a double standard between girls and guys. Guys, they see him like, ‘oh he’s a player,’ you know, he has all these girls, but for girls it’s ‘she’s a ho’.” -Teen
Working with Youth

Pathways to Adulthood

– View parenthood as entry into adulthood
– Educational and occupational opportunities

“The majority of teens are living for now... they’re not thinking about the future, or tomorrow, or next week, they’re thinking about now, today.” -Teen

“Also I would like to bring something to the world, like not a kid, but like something that I am proud of like a creation, like a book or movie or something....I’d like to be able to show my kids that I’ve done this...” -Teen
Youth-Driven Programs

- Peer education, especially with teen parents
- Address realities

“Bring in people [teen parents] cause those are the people that have been through those situations... have them speak in front of people. They actually make more of a difference than the parents just telling them, ‘No don’t do it, it’s bad and stuff and like you'll die or something.”-Teen

“I’ll go to schools and talk to kids.”
-Teen parent
Prioritize teen-friendly policies and practices
- Build trust and rapport with youth participants
- Professional development for staff

“I know they have programs for teens and dads to find a job or something but they always told me I wasn’t in need or I didn’t go to an at-risk school” — Teen parent

“One of the biggest things that drives me nuts is that they [adults] don’t have anything positive to say.” — Teen parent

“If you’re not doing it their way, then you’re not doing it right. Because you’re young so you don’t know.” — Teen parent
Supporting Parents

Education around talking with their children
- Challenge parents to talk with kids
- Ongoing communication
- Promote sex positivity
- Normalize sexuality

“...you can always learn something, you know, and I’m still learning, I learn something new every day... we need to be updated because stuff changes—all the time more modern.” - Parent

“They [parents] don’t tell you about the things that’s out there. Like they’ll tell you about STDs and all that but they won’t tell you like what you can do to deal with stuff. Like honestly, the stuff I know I learned it in school from like people my age.” - Teen

“For example, between me and my daughter- I don’t know what age is the right age to begin talking.” - Parent
Advocating for Policies

Fund services

– teen pregnancy prevention efforts, including access to contraception
– teen parent supports, including financial assistance, parenting classes, and mental health services

“My parents are super against it and it really irritates me... it would be an awesome option if Texas allowed teenagers to get birth control like without parental consent.” – Teen

“This situation is permanent you no longer have an option. You’re a parent let’s figure out how to make this a good situation not bad this and bad that. Let’s figure out how to make this a positive thing. Like how to make this child’s life easier and better and not have to hear negative people all the time.” – Teen parent
Advocating for Policies

Space for real, open, honest discussions in schools and public places

- comprehensive sex education
- local resources

"Be blunt and very forward about it. Being honest about it and not shying away.” - Teen

"I think that they should like show people how to use a condom and stuff.” - Teen

"... they don’t have sex education in school anymore. And I think that’s what help a lot of people when I was growing up, was sex ed in school.” - Parent
Advocating for Policies

Space for real, open, honest discussions in schools and public places

- positive messaging
- earlier timing

“People who’s like teachers, principals, parents, need to educate the kids a lot more earlier... because like 8th grade is not good enough.” - Teen

“I do like the idea of... discussing the kinda like the real life consequences. But I don’t think it should be- I think that the health conversation for teenagers should be less about, ‘I’m going to scare you into never wanting to have sex ever ever ever!’” - Teen

“At school [if] they would talk to us about preventing pregnancy, instead of preparing for pregnancy, I think that would have helped a lot.” - Teen Parent