

Hawaii

Promoting Science-based Approaches to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, HIV and STDs

Public Health Problem

Nationally, Asian/Pacific Islanders (A/PI) have the lowest teen birth rate of all reported racial and ethnic groups. However, the teen birth rate among Hawaiian A/PIs is more than twice that of the U.S. A/PI rate (39/100,000 in Hawaii versus 17/100,000 in the U.S., 2005), and it is higher than Hawaii's overall teen birth rate (36/100,000). With 74% of teen births in Hawaii being to A/PI mothers, it is critical to provide these youth with culturally appropriate, effective prevention programming.

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy reports:

- Between 1991 and 2004 there were more than 25,300 teen births in Hawaii.
- In 2004 alone, preventing teen childbearing in Hawaii would have cost tax payers an estimated \$22 million.
- Most costs of teen childbearing are associated with negative outcomes for the children of teen mothers, including public health care, child welfare, incarceration, and lost tax revenue due to decreased earnings and spending.

Initiative Goal

To increase the capacity of youth-serving organizations statewide to select, implement, evaluate, and sustain science-based approaches and programs to prevent teen pregnancy, HIV and STDs.

Program example in state

Through the Promoting Science-based Approaches-Getting to Outcomes (PSBA-GTO) process, Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) provides intensive technical assistance and training to schools, community based organizations and health educators serving Hawaiian youth.

- HYSN has implemented science-based teen pregnancy prevention programs in 20 public school classrooms, 2 Native Hawaiian charter schools, a residential substance abuse and mental health treatment center for youth, and in after school programs.
- HYSN provides training and technical assistance to Catholic Charities of Hawaii to build that organization's capacity to evaluate its abstinence-only until marriage curriculum.
- Two after school programs and a juvenile crime prevention program have implemented a youth development program shown to reduce teen pregnancy.
- In collaboration with Hawaii Student Television, HYSN adapted a HIV teaching video from the science-based curriculum most frequently implemented by project partners to more effectively meet the needs of Hawaiian youth.
- HYSN works with parents to increase their understanding of school-based teen pregnancy prevention curricula, and provides workshops on parent-child communication to promote positive outcomes in youth.

Successful Impact

- Over 900 middle school and high school aged youth received science-based teen pregnancy prevention programming in 2007-2008 in schools, public housing communities, after school programs and residential services.

Safe Motherhood

Hawaii (continued)

- Evaluation data to date show significant improvement in knowledge, attitudes, and behavior related to sexual and reproductive health sustained at three month follow up after program completion. Some examples:
 - At 3 month follow-up, 94% of students in one middle school (n=187) responded correctly to the statement, “Being a teen parent makes it harder to reach your goals,” versus 69% prior to taking the course.
 - At 3 month follow-up, 81% of students responded correctly to the statement, “because teen girls’ bodies are still growing, having a baby can be harder on the body”, versus 56% prior to taking the course.
 - At 3 month follow-up, 94% of students responded correctly to the statement, “It is important to me that I avoid getting a sexually transmitted disease,” versus 80% prior to taking the course.
 - At the end of course completion (3 month follow-up not yet completed), 73% of students in one high school (n=15) reported having no sexual partners in the last three months, versus 53% prior to taking the course.