Teen Sexual and Reproductive Health in New York City

Citizens’ Committee for Children of NY
Policy Briefing
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A Youth Development Framework

Provide teens with the information, skills and resources they need to make healthy decisions
Teen Pregnancy is More Common in the Bronx, NYC and the United States than in Most Other Industrialized Countries

Teen Pregnancy, rate per 1000 15-19 year old females, Bronx, NYC, U.S., and Europe

- Bronx: 137.2
- NYC: 99.4
- United States: 79.8
- France: 20.2
- Germany: 16.1
- Netherlands: 8.7
Teen Pregnancy in NYC

• Each year, 17,000 NYC teens ages 15-19 become pregnant

• Many do not know where to go for confidential services

• Limited awareness of and access to highly effective contraceptive methods

• Many providers serving teens do not offer reproductive health services during primary care visits
About 9 in 10 teen pregnancies in NYC are unintended

Percent of Pregnancies Among NYC Residents Ages 15-19 That Were Unintended, by Age, 2011

- 15-17: 94%
- 18-19: 85%
- 15-19: 88%

Sources: Bureau of Maternal, Infant & Reproductive Health calculations, using data from the Bureau of Vital Statistics, the NYC Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), and unpublished Guttmacher Institute analyses of the 2006-2008 National Survey of Family Growth
NYC’s teen pregnancy rate has declined 30% since 2001

Pregnancy Rates Among NYC Residents & U.S. Teens
Ages 15-19, 2001-2011

Note: Population estimates are updated to reflect the best information available at the time and may result in differences compared with previously published rates. U.S. rates are only available through 2008 and are from National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 60, No. 7.
The poorest neighborhoods have the highest teen pregnancy rates

Pregnancy Rates Among NYC Residents Ages 15-19, by Neighborhood Poverty Rate*, 2011

*Percent of population in neighborhood below the federal poverty line, American Community Survey 2007-2011.
Note: Population estimates are updated to reflect the best information available at the time and may result in differences compared with previously published rates.
Rates among black and Hispanic teens are 4-7 times higher than rates among white & Asian teens.

Pregnancy Rates Among NYC Residents
Ages 15-19, by Race/Ethnicity, 2001-2011

Note: Population estimates are updated to reflect the best information available at the time and may result in differences compared with previously published rates.
The percent of public high school students who ever had sex has declined 26% since 2001.
Use of hormonal birth control or long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) increased among sexually active female public high school students over the past two years.

Percent of Sexually Active* NYC Female Public High School Students Who Used Hormonal Birth Control or LARC at Last Sex, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2009-2011

*Had sex in the past 3 months. **Hormonal birth control includes birth control pill, Depo-Provera, patch, ring, and emergency contraception. Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) includes intrauterine device (IUD) and Implanon.
DOHMH Four-Pronged Strategy to Reduce Unintended Teen Pregnancy

- Evidence-Based Programs (Sex Education, Youth Development)
- Clinic Linkage
- Quality Sexual & Reproductive Health Services
- Community/Stakeholder Education & Engagement

- Delay Initiation of Sex/2° Abstinence
- Increase Contraceptive Use Among Sexually Active Teens

- Reduce Unintended Teen Pregnancy
DOHMH’s programs are concentrated in neighborhoods with the highest teen pregnancy rates

DOHMH Adolescent Reproductive Health Programs and Pregnancy Rates Among NYC Residents Ages 15-19, by United Hospital Fund (UHF) Area, 2009

*Each interval contains approximately one-quarter of the UHF neighborhoods.*
What are we doing citywide?

- Best clinical practices and Clinic Linkage
  - Teens in NYC (TNYC) Portal
  - Preferred Referral Guide
  - Mobile App/Clinic locator
  - Family Planning Benefit Program
    - presumptive eligibility

- Public Awareness Campaigns
  - Dual protection
  - Contraception Tear-off sheet
Teens in NYC mobile app launch

YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW!
Community and Stakeholder Engagement: Public Awareness Campaign
School-Based Health Center Reproductive Health Project

• Increasing access to reproductive health services, including contraceptive methods onsite

• 39 out of 44 public high school SBHCs are participating (serving 67,000 = ~25% of public HS students)

• Coordination with 19 implementing agencies

• SBHC providers receive training and technical assistance on evidence-based practices for adolescents, including on-site contraception
Connecting Adolescents to Comprehensive Healthcare (CATCH)

• First in the country to provide critical reproductive health services using existing school nurses and physicians
  • Pregnancy Testing
  • Emergency Contraception (EC)
  • Oral Contraception (birth control pills) and condoms
  • Referrals to Community-based Clinics
  • Reproductive health education and counseling
• Offer services in schools without SBHCs: ~100 high school sites
Bronx Teens Connection

• Multicomponent program to reduce unintended teen pregnancy in the South Bronx
NYC Nurse-Family Partnership

- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence-based, nationwide nurse home visiting program

- Improves the health, well-being and self-sufficiency of low-income first-time mothers and their children

- NYC NFP is the largest urban site in the country

- >10,000 clients since its 2003 inception, > 40% teens

- NYC NFP teen clients versus comparable NYC teens
  - Higher rates postpartum contraception and use of the most effective contraceptive methods
  - Fewer closely-spaced pregnancies
  - Higher rates high school graduation or receipt of GED
Proud high school grad and NFP client Raquel Liriano-Garcia shares her special day in June 2013 with 6-month-old daughter Leslie. Liriano-Garcia, 18, started classes at Lehman College this fall. Her graduation from the NFP program will be in December 2014, when Leslie turns two.
Minor’s Right to Confidential Services in NYS

• Minor’s have the right to confidential sexual and reproductive health services without the consent of a parent or guardian

• Many “teen-friendly” free or low cost health services

• Many safe, effective contraceptive methods available for teens to prevent unintended pregnancy
Take Care New York (TCNY) Goal: Decrease teen pregnancy 15% by 2016

- **Healthcare Providers**
  - Establish routine screening for sexual activity and contraception at all visits with adolescents
  - Provide appropriate services and resources or referrals

- **Youth-Serving Organizations**
  - Establish and build relationship with teen-accessible clinics

- Advocate for Medicaid reimbursement for immediate post-abortion and post-partum contraception
The best contraceptive is a real future

Marian Wright Edelman