



EngenderHealth
for a better life



A 5-year HHS Funded Teenage Pregnancy
Prevention Demonstration Project





EngenderHealth
for a better life

Improve the health and well-being of people in the poorest communities of the world.

Share our expertise in sexual and reproductive health and transforming the quality of health care.

Promote gender equity, advocate for sound practices and policies, and inspire people to assert their rights to better, healthier lives.

Work in partnership with local organizations, we adapt our work in response to local needs.

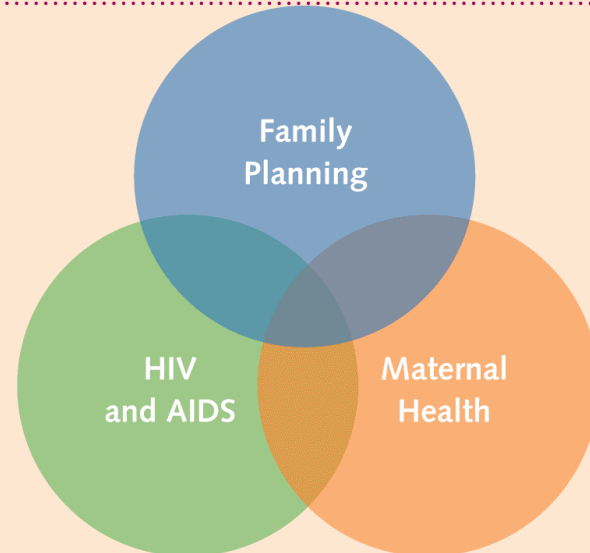


Focus Areas & Cross-Cutting Approaches

CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES

Quality Improvement
Service Integration
Community Engagement
Gender Norms Transformation

PROGRAM AREAS





Mission:

SafePlace exists to end sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing, prevention, and social change.

Vision:

A community free of rape, sexual abuse, and domestic violence.

Gender Matters Project

Funding:

- Recipient of Tier II Teen Pregnancy Prevention grant under Office of Adolescent Health
- Five year project (9/10 – 8/15)

Partner Organizations:

- Austin / Travis County Summer Youth Employment Program
- SafePlace
- Columbia University
- Mathematica Research Policy, Inc.



Gender Matters Project

Target Population

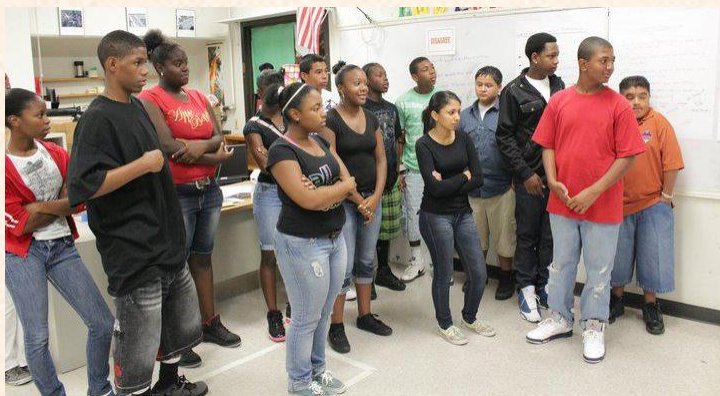
- 14-16 year old youth enrolled in Travis County Summer Youth employment program.
- 90% African American or Latino.
- Majority reside in 12 low income zip codes accounting for 80% of teen births in Travis County.



Gender Matters Intervention


Workshops: 20-hour curriculum

- Day One: Understanding Gender
- Day Two: Healthy Relationships
- Day Three: Are You Ready to Become a Teen Parent?
- Day Four: Skills to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- Day Five: Taking Action



Reinforcing Messages: Video and Social Media

- Facebook & Text Campaign
- Youth generated video
- Movie premiere



**Gender Matters
Movie Night**

*September 29th, 2011
Ventana del Soul
6-8pm*

*6:00pm: reception, contests, and
activities begin*

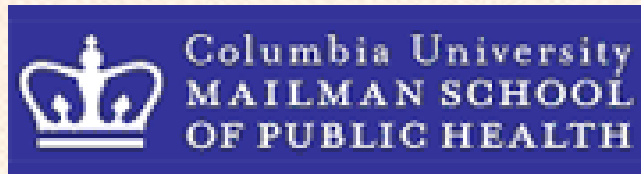
*7:00pm: Contest and trivia
winners announced*

The poster features a black and white border with white dots, resembling a film strip. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold and italicized fonts.

facebook

Evaluation

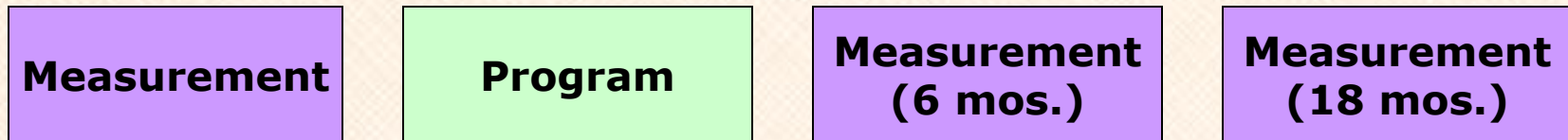
- Independent Evaluators – Columbia University and Mathematica Research Policy, Inc.



- **Three Behavioral Outcome Objectives**
 1. Delay onset of sex
 2. Increase use of condoms
 3. Increase use of contraceptives
- **10 Psychosocial Determinants**

Randomized Control Study (N=1080)

Experiment Group

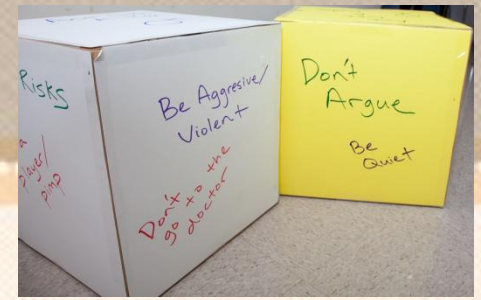


Randomized Comparison Group



Three cohorts: Summer 2012, Summer 2013, and Summer 2014

Harmful Gender Messages



Masculinity

- Demand sex
- Have lots of sexual partners
- Take advantage of women, “play women”
- Be in control
- Abuse drugs and alcohol
- Don’t talk about feelings
- Solve problems with violence
- It’s ok to cheat
- Be strong

Femininity

- Need to be in relationship
- Go along with partner’s decisions about sex
- Stay in relationship, even if partner cheats
- Don’t talk about sex
- Be sexy, skinny
- Be a virgin until marriage
- Defer to men
- Be passive about sex and other relationship matters



Why Gender Matters:

How harmful gender norms impact sexuality and sexual risk of teens

- Body image and self-esteem
- Communication
- How teens view sex
- Sexual risk taking
- How teens behave sexually



17.8% of high school girls were forced to engage in sexual activity by a dating partner (US DOJ, 1997)

- Threats
- Forced condom use
- Birth control sabotage
- Pregnancy coercion



Why Gender Matters:

Risk outcomes associated with harmful gender norms

Adolescent males who hold traditional attitudes towards masculinity:

- report more sexual partners
- less likely to use condoms consistently
- more likely to believe that pregnancy validates masculinity
- less likely to access health care
- More likely to use drugs and alcohol
- More likely to express aggressive and violent behaviors
- More likely to use sexual pressure or coercion

(Pleck, 1993; Stewart 2003; Jewkes, 2010)



Adolescent females who hold traditional attitudes toward femininity:

- more likely to have an unintended pregnancy
- less likely to use condoms consistently
- more likely to accommodate the interests and desires of men
- More likely to use sex to get or keep a guy
- Less likely to communicate sexual limits



Girls in abusive relationships are at a higher risk of becoming pregnant or contracting an STI

- *Condom use is significantly lower among girls who have experienced dating violence.¹*
- *Teen girls who are abused by male partners are 3 times more likely to become pregnant than non-abused girls.²*
- *Adolescent girls in physically abuse relationships were 3-6 times more likely to become pregnant than non-abused girls.³*
- *Adolescent mothers who experienced physical abuse within three months after delivery were nearly twice as likely to have a repeat pregnancy within 24 months than non-abused mothers.⁴*



¹ Silverman, Raj, Clements – 2004; ² Decker, Silverman, Raj . Peidiatrics– 2005; ³ Roberts, Auinger, Klein. J Adolesc Health. 2005;

⁴ Raneri, Wiemann. Perspect Sex Reprod Health. 2007





“Teens in abusive relationships are at significantly higher risk for unintended pregnancy, poor pregnancy outcomes, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. These can be reduced if we teach young people how to create and build healthy relationships.”

Esta Soler, Founder and President
of Futures Without Violence



Gender Matters Curriculum –

A gender transformative approach

- Youth critically analyze gender messages they receive and how they influence their beliefs, behaviors, and relationships.
- Youth examine characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships.
- Youth learn about asking for consent, refusing unwanted sex, and accepting no.
- Youth learn how to set deal breakers and sexual limits for themselves.
- Youth practice supportive and assertive communication skills.
- Youth resolve ambivalence about teen pregnancy.
- Youth increase knowledge around correct and consistent condom and contraceptive use, and practice how to negotiate condom use with a partner.
- Youth learn about how to recognize and prevent sexual risk factors such as sexual and reproductive coercion.



Collaboration Lessons Learned

Sex Positive vs. Trauma Focused Perspective

Lesson Learned: How to use a condom is a necessary skill for youth to learn. Educators must recognize that condom demonstrations may trigger emotional trauma for youth who have experienced sexual abuse and steps should be taken to create emotional safety and support as part of any sexual health, pregnancy prevention program.



Collaboration Lessons Learned

Consent, Refusal, and Accepting No

Lesson Learned: Consent is a skill that must be identified and practiced.



Collaboration Lessons Learned

Hidden Messages

Lesson Learned: Be aware of hidden messages.



Collaboration Lessons Learned

Are you “ready for sex?”

Lesson Learned: Being ready for sex doesn't just happen at one point in time, but is a decision that needs to be made each and every time.



Collaboration Lessons Learned

The Gender Box

Lesson Learned: Not all girls today prescribe to traditional gender roles, so they need the flexibility to define their own gender narrative.



Collaboration Lessons Learned

Protecting the domestic violence message

Lesson Learned: Know up front what elements are essential so that key messages are clear, and understand what you are willing to give up and what you stand to gain through collaboration.



Collaboration Lessons Learned

Other collaboration issues

1. Role of the facilitator
2. Trust and relationship building
3. Who has the power?



For More Information...

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