

**KRONKOSKY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

TOPIC: Teen Pregnancy
DATE: February 13, 1998
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PARTICIPANTS

Invited Agency Representatives

Becky Cervantez	Executive Director	AVANCE
Cathy Clough	Executive Director	Seton Home
Geri Felios	V.P. of Programs and Development	Mexican American Unity Council
Cathy Fletcher	Project Director	Project Better Future
Karen Norman	Coordinator of School Teen Parent Program	Northside Independent School District
Jennifer Rodriguez	Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program	San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
Helen Wronski	Executive Director	YWCA

Foundation Staff and Trustees

Palmer Moe	Executive Director
Megan Kromer	Director of Programs & Evaluations
Michael Bacon	Grants Manager
Mark Carmona	Grants Manager
Yolanda Uranga	Student Intern

OVERVIEW:

Factors Contributing to Teen Pregnancy

- Family foundations and individuals are fragmented, family relationships are dysfunctional, (teen pregnancy is a symptom of problems)
- There are no primary prevention programs
- Most teen moms are more likely to have been sexually abused
- Contrary to belief, most teen pregnancies are planned
- 86% of pregnant teens are impregnated by adult males
- Sometimes pregnancies are condoned by teen s parents because of hopes for economic relief
- Pregnancy is sometimes a way out of gang activity
- School failure

Cultural Issues

- In the Hispanic culture, having children is welcomed and is cyclical
- Family values and religion play an important role
- Pregnant teens receive special attention and care and are thought to be more beautiful during this time

- Adoption is not usually an option
- Teen dads are interested in parenting their children

Model for Youth Development The key to prevention

- Teach the development of relationships, using networks, mentoring
- Provide enrichment activities
- Involve parents in the teaching of their children instead of abdicating responsibilities to the schools
- Encourage and teach parents to teach their children values
- View teens as assets
- Involve the entire community in the development of children in order to give consistent messages
- Provide a holistic approach to youth development (physical, emotional, spiritual)
- Focus on adolescents in all age groups
- Raise the level of expectations; teach empowerment
- Instill need to get ahead
- Provide role models
- Teach goal setting, instilling values of success

Church Involvement

- Churches have available unused facilities for providing recreational activities; funding needed for the operation of youth programs
- Develop church mentoring
- Develop youth programs which will involve the church community
- Increase in church attendance needed for healing the individual; church attendance is a key protective factor for resiliency

Statistics:

- The U.S. has the highest adolescent pregnancy, abortion and birth rates in the developed countries
- **In 1995**, Texas ranked 2nd highest among all states in the nation in teen birth rate for ages 15-17 years.
- **In Bexar County, in 1996**, 2148 teenagers (10-17 yrs.) became pregnant.

1,685	teenagers gave birth
459	teenagers terminated their pregnancies
4	miscarried (unknown miscarriages)
232	of these births were second or subsequent births
- **1996 teen pregnancy by ethnicity:**

Hispanic	80%
Black/Other	11%
White	9%

- **1996 Induced Terminations**

< 15 yrs.	30
15 — 17 yrs.	<u>429</u>
	459

- **1996 Adolescent Birth/Terminations:**

	Births	Terminations
Hispanic	1311	277
White	67	106
Black	165	46

- Most teen pregnancies end in births
1996: 1685 births, 459 Terminations, 4 miscarriages
- **In Bexar County**, over 30% of fathers of children born to young teens are 19 years or older.

Implementing Systemic Change

- Make a shift toward viewing children and adolescents as assets instead of liabilities
- Ask people in the community, in the neighborhoods, what they need and want
- Make policy changes which will protect children and adolescents
- Establish longitudinal care
- Ensure success in school through early prevention programs
- Continue to build coalitions to strengthen social services
- Establish additional services and advocacy
- Teach families how to deal with own problems (family resiliency)
- Evaluate what is working and replicate
- Place accountability and ownership of the problem back on the community
- Provide opportunities for enrichment (provide accessibility, transportation, supervision)

Needs and Recommendations

- There is no primary prevention program
- Accessibility to primary health care
- Need programs that provide enrichment activities
- Mobilize the community

Attachments

- Statistics from the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
- Agency Program Descriptions

AGENCY PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

AVANCE:

Works with teen parents to teach parenting skills. The program, concentrated in the housing projects, includes special services for teen dads ages 14-16 years.

Northside Independent School District:

Provides a program for 2,000 teen parents in the district with the objective of keeping teens in school and providing parenting classes and vocational skills. Day care is provided.

Project Better Future:

Is a collaborative mobilizing the community toward youth development as an intervention model for prevention for at-risk behaviors in youth.

Seton Home:

Seton Home provides a long-term (2-3 year) residential and transitional living environment for homeless, pregnant girls. Residents are expected to complete their education and learn new skills in parenting, nutrition, child development and other life skills.

San Antonio Metropolitan Health District:

Provides a prevention program which teaches sexuality and other health issues

YWCA

Provides three programs concentrated in the Edgewood Independent School District s middle and high schools and San Antonio area housing projects. The programs focus on helping at-risk students stay in school by providing mentoring opportunities and education on such issues as substance abuse, self-esteem, sexual orientation, and other topics for self-development.