



# Engaging Young Men of Color in Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Context Matters

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# Disclaimers

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*The findings and conclusions for this presentation are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

# Objectives

By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the importance of engaging young males in teen pregnancy prevention efforts;
2. **Discuss social determinants of health that have an impact on the sexual and reproductive health of young men;**
3. Describe select best practices for engaging young males; and
4. **Describe examples of technical assistance provided to CDC grantees to enhance male participation in teen pregnancy prevention efforts**

# Background

- One in five sexually active teen males report ever getting a partner pregnant<sup>1</sup>
- **Adolescent males who reported getting a female pregnant were more likely to be non-Hispanic Black and have a mother who gave birth as a teen<sup>1</sup>**
- ~20% of fathers are <20 years old at the birth of their first child<sup>1</sup>
- **Becoming a teen father may have negative consequences for teen fathers, their children, and their families<sup>2</sup>**
  - Low socioeconomic status
  - Low educational attainment
  - Poor parental attachment

# Why Engage Young Males in Teen Pregnancy Prevention?

- Young men are often not the target of health care services and education activities related to preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections<sup>3</sup>
- **Young men have limited knowledge about the range of available contraceptive methods<sup>4</sup>**
- Young men want healthy relationships and want to delay fatherhood<sup>4</sup>





# The Importance of Context: Social Determinants of Health

Reflect the **social factors**  
and the **physical conditions** in the  
environment in which  
people are **born, live,**  
**learn, play, work** and  
**age**, which impact  
people's health.



# Social Determinants that Influence Sexual & Reproductive Health

- Socioeconomic status<sup>5</sup>
- **Health care provision and use<sup>5</sup>**
- General neighborhood disadvantage<sup>6</sup>
- **Gender norms<sup>7</sup>**
- Connectivity to parents, schools, and faith communities<sup>8</sup>
- **Racism & discrimination<sup>9</sup>**

<sup>5</sup>Hogben M, Leichter JS. Social determinants and sexually transmitted disease disparities. *Sex Transm Dis* 2008;35(12 Suppl):S13–S18.

<sup>6</sup>Lindberg LD, Orr M. Neighborhood-level influences on young men's sexual and reproductive health behaviors. *Am J Public Health* 2011;101:271-274.

<sup>7</sup>Marsiglio W, Ries A, Sonenstein F, Troccoli K & Whitehead W. 2006. *It's a guy thing: boys, young men, and teen pregnancy prevention*. Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

<sup>8</sup>Kirby D, Lepore G. (2007). Sexual risk and protective factors: factors affecting teen sexual behavior, pregnancy, childbearing, and sexually transmitted disease: which are important? Which can you change? Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

<sup>9</sup>Bowleg L, Burkholder GJ, Massie JS, Wahome R, Teti M, Malebranche DJ, Tschann JM. Racial discrimination, social support, and sexual HIV risk among black heterosexual men. *AIDS Behav* 2013;17:407–441.

# Key Best Practices for Engaging Young Males

- *Don't make young men an "add-on"*<sup>3</sup>
- *Consider other aspects of their lives*<sup>3</sup>
- *Address gender norms*<sup>3</sup>
- *Include a cultural component*<sup>7</sup>
- *Create a "male-positive" environment*<sup>7</sup>
- *Involve parents and guardians*<sup>10</sup>
- *Get to know the males and their communities*<sup>10</sup>
- *Incorporate mentoring opportunities*<sup>10</sup>



# JSI's Young Men's Program

**Goal:** *To build grantees' capacity to engage young men as active participants in teen pregnancy prevention efforts by taking into account the context where young men live, work, and play, which impact sexual and reproductive health decisions and outcomes.*

# Young Men's Program Components – JSI's Roles

## **1. Conduct Root Cause Analysis in select communities**

- Identifies community-specific social determinants that affect teen pregnancy
- Engages community members in prevention efforts, such as teens & other non-traditional stakeholders

## **2. Help grantees conduct focus groups with young men**

- Identify ways to tailor programs, services

## **3. Conduct bi-monthly conference calls**

- Increase grantees' skills, share information

## **4. Provide in-person technical assistance & training**

# Young Men's Program Support

*National Compadres Network  
National Latino Fatherhood & Family Institute*

Héctor Sánchez-Flores



# National Compadres Network

- Working with male & father-serving communities, organizations >20 years
- Goal: strengthen development of children, families, communities
- Dispel myth that Latino men cannot contribute to health, well-being of their communities
- Increasing awareness that young & adult Latino men are dedicated to reconnecting with their cultural values
- Helpful to self, collective betterment





# National Latino Fatherhood & Family Institute



- Is NCN's policy, advocacy, & training arm
- Assists with development & implementation of programs
- NCN-NLFFI partnership facilitates trainings & provision of technical assistance
- NLFFI identifies policies that provide for the development of programs & strategies





# CDC Project Effort

- Presentations to support grantees:
  - From Community Engagement to Implementation
  - Working with Diverse Communities: Engaging Special Populations
  - Youth Leadership Team Summit
  - South Carolina Youth Summit
  - Bronx Teen Connection: Community Partner Training
  - YEAH! Network: Male Involvement
  - South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
  - Augusta, GA: Trauma-Informed Care



# Topics Addressed

- History of Male Involvement in TPP
- Opportunities & barriers to engaging young men
- Importance of culturally centered interventions
- Recognizing the community context of young men
- Moving from trauma-informed care to healing-centered care
- Engagement of community partners in prevention
- Making young men & fathers a part of the solution to early parenthood
- Creating a male-inclusive program



# Challenges

- Hard to identify evidence-based & culturally inclusive TPP programs designed for men
- Challenging to incorporate culturally based interventions into existing evidence-based programs
- Male involvement could become a significant component of grantee's efforts
- Root cause analysis for young men may involve different systems than for young women
- Programmatic sustainability



# Lessons Learned from Grantees

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- Recognition of the role young men play in the solution to teen pregnancy
- Sincere commitment to developing services for young men
- Willingness to examine staffing configuration of programs
- Clear understanding of male friendly clinical services
- Seeking programmatic clues supported by evidence





# Moving Forward

- Institutionalization of TPP efforts
- Building strong community partnerships
- Clinical services that include males
- Making the case for culturally centered programs that address the root causes of TPP
- President Obama's White House Initiative: My Brother's Keeper





# White House Initiative: My Brother's Keeper

- Promising vs. Evidence-based practice
- Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Early childhood education
- Grade-level reading
- A comprehensive effort



<http://www.whitehouse.gov/my-brothers-keeper>

# We Strongly Believe

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“Within the collective dignity, love and respect of all people, exists the wisdom and resources for a beautiful, harmonious tomorrow”

Jerry Tello, Director, National Latino Fatherhood & Family Institute; and 2012 Fatherhood Champion of Change Awardee



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Thank You!

Questions