

Adolescent Risk Behavior Research



Adolescent risk behavior research focuses on evidence-based models and rigorous evaluation designs to test innovative strategies. RTI International offers an exceptional combination of evaluation research methods and substantive expertise pertaining to adolescent risk behavior, including teen pregnancy, dating violence, delinquency, and substance use prevention.

RTI's work is at the forefront of funding priorities in the areas of teen pregnancy prevention and adolescent dating violence. Federal and state teen pregnancy prevention initiatives are shifting from abstinence-only education to the use of comprehensive programs proven effective through rigorous evaluation and development, replication, and refinement. Future work on adolescent dating violence will enhance efforts to develop, implement, and evaluate programs in high-risk, urban communities by building on current evidence-based practice and experience. RTI is well positioned to support these efforts, with a strong history of conducting quality research for government and private-foundation clients in the area of adolescent risk behavior.

Areas of Expertise

RTI's substantive expertise offers familiarity with the current state of research, literature, and practice priorities regarding teen pregnancy prevention, pregnant and parenting teen services, adolescent dating violence, adolescent substance use, and the impact of the parent-teen relationship on adolescent risk behavior.

Our technical expertise encompasses outcome evaluation (with a focus on randomized controlled trials),

Select Project Highlights

- Evaluating the Title XX Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Program: Stage 4 (2008–2011)
- Effectiveness and Implementation Trial of the Safe Dates Program (2008–2011)
- Evaluation of the Parents Speak Up National Campaign (2005–2010)
- Dissemination of Findings of Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Demonstration Projects (2007–2009)
- Parent Corps Evaluation (2003–2008)
- An Assessment of Parent Involvement Strategies in Programs Serving Adolescents (2004–2006)

process evaluation, large-scale data collection and data management, quantitative data analysis, qualitative data collection and analysis, literature review, evaluation technical assistance, intervention implementation training, data collection training, and manuscript preparation.

Many of our researchers are active members of the Society for Prevention Research, the Society for Research on Adolescence, and the American Public Health Association.



RTI's research focuses on

- Designing and implementing federal cross-site evaluations of primary prevention programs and programs serving pregnant and parenting teens
- Conducting effectiveness, implementation, and cost-effectiveness evaluations of school-based adolescent dating violence prevention programs
- Conducting qualitative research to explore program adaptations needed for high-risk, urban communities
- Evaluating a national media campaign to promote parent-child communication about sex
- Evaluating and publishing results of innovative strategies to prevent subsequent pregnancy among pregnant and parenting teens and promote healthy development of their babies
- Assisting federal grantees with improving their evaluation designs and methods, as well as publishing journal articles addressing program descriptions, qualitative research, and outcome evaluation.

Our expert researchers, multidisciplinary teams, and collaborations with other national experts—combined with rigorous evaluation methods and internal scientific review—yield quality products and useful research findings for our clients.



Related Research at RTI

Adolescent risk behavior research at RTI is part of a spectrum of work that includes other multidisciplinary research practice areas relevant to youth and family issues:

- Family and intimate partner violence
- Community-based substance abuse prevention
- Workplace programs and work-family connections
- Development of advanced statistical methods for evaluation of prevention programs.

More Information

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