

Teen Pregnancy Prevention



RTI International has a wealth of experience in teen pregnancy prevention, including program evaluation, substantive expertise pertaining to primary prevention and programs for pregnant and parenting teens, training and technical assistance on adaptation of evidence-based programs, and performance measures. RTI's capabilities in rigorous evaluation design, data collection, and state-of-the-art analysis have been applied to randomized controlled trials, large multi-site evaluations, media campaigns, and qualitative research about teen pregnancy prevention efforts.

Teen pregnancy is a significant public health problem with substantial public costs. Multiple federal and state teen pregnancy prevention initiatives focus on replication and dissemination of evidence-based prevention programs, innovation, evaluation, technical assistance, community-wide initiatives for high-risk communities, and support for pregnant and parenting teens. As a result, federal and state agencies, teen pregnancy prevention grantees, and teen pregnancy prevention program delivery staff and service providers often need assistance with multi-site or local evaluations, including cost-effectiveness or cost-benefit analyses, training and technical assistance, performance measure development and training, analysis of existing data, or dissemination of findings.

RTI's researchers have successfully conducted large multi-site evaluations of federally funded primary prevention programs and programs serving pregnant and parenting teens. Our work focuses on program effectiveness, associations between specific approaches and outcomes, and cost implications of positive outcomes. Substantive knowledge gained from RTI's evaluation and other teen pregnancy prevention work informs training and technical

assistance for teen pregnancy prevention grantees. We have also developed teen pregnancy prevention performance measures to assess agency and grantee performance. RTI has assisted teen pregnancy prevention grantees and local evaluators with data analysis and reporting findings in peer-reviewed journal articles. Finally, our strong economic evaluation capabilities in cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis may also benefit the field in assessing program costs in relation to teen pregnancies prevented and costs of teen pregnancies to society.

Areas of Expertise

RTI's substantive expertise offers familiarity with the current state of research, literature, and practice priorities regarding primary prevention of teen pregnancy, services for pregnant and parenting teens, and the influence of parent-teen relationships on teen sexual risk behavior. Our research and program delivery expertise surrounding related adolescent risk behaviors can also inform training and technical assistance about adolescent development, parent-child communication, healthy relationships, teen dating violence, and negative impacts of trauma related to domestic violence.

RTI's technical expertise encompasses outcome evaluation (with a focus on randomized controlled trials), process evaluation, large-scale data collection and data management, quantitative data analysis, qualitative data collection and analysis, evaluation and implementation technical assistance and training, data collection training, performance measure development, literature review, and manuscript preparation.

Our multidisciplinary staff are experienced in working with culturally and ethnically diverse populations, including urban and rural populations. We are knowledgeable about within-culture differences in navigating different cultural groups, bringing them together, and the influence of religious beliefs and intergenerational and cultural norms on risk and protective factors for teens. RTI projects focus on

- Evaluation of teen pregnancy prevention programs, including
 - Federal cross-site evaluations of primary pregnancy prevention programs and programs serving pregnant and parenting teens
 - Evaluation of a media campaign to promote parent-child communication about waiting to have sex
- Partnering with ETR Associates, Healthy Teen Network, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unintended Pregnancy, and John Snow, Inc., to provide training and technical assistance to federally funded teen pregnancy prevention programs
- Developing a performance measurement system for teen pregnancy prevention programs
- Adaptation of evidence-based programs for high-risk, urban communities
- Developing client-centered strategies to improve the efficiency of the family planning encounter and to promote effective contraceptive use and adherence among teens and women
- Examining contraceptive use by adolescent mothers

Selected Project Highlights

- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Training, Technical Assistance, and Annual Meeting Logistical Support (2011–2015)
- Evaluating the Title XX Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Program: Stage 4 (2008–2011)
- Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) Evaluation of the Pregnancy Assistance Fund 2011–2013 Cohort Contract (2011–2014)
- OAH—Performance Infrastructure (2010–2012)
- Evaluation of the Parents Speak Up National Campaign (2005–2010)
- Dissemination of Findings of AFL Demonstration Projects (2007–2009)
- An Assessment of Parent Involvement Strategies in Programs Serving Adolescents (2004–2006)

Related Research at RTI

Teen pregnancy prevention research at RTI is part of a spectrum of work that includes family planning and reproductive health, as well as other multidisciplinary research relevant to adolescent risk behavior:

- Adolescent dating violence prevention
- Adolescent substance abuse prevention
- Parenting research promoting positive parenting strategies

More Information

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