



Teen Pregnancy Prevention in California after State Budget Cuts

SUMMARY

Background

California's long and exemplary tradition of support for teen pregnancy prevention (TPP) programs has eroded in recent years. In state fiscal year 2007-08, California budgeted \$46.4 million for five programs devoted to primary or secondary teen pregnancy prevention. These included educational and positive youth development programs for teens; supportive services for teen parents; and outreach programs to connect teens with family planning and reproductive health services. In 2007-08, according to provider reports, up to 300,000 participants received direct services through these five programs. In addition, many more were reached through media campaigns and community events.

After 2008, funds for these programs were significantly reduced or eliminated. The MIP and TSO programs lost all funding in 2008, while the CCG program lost all funding in 2011. From 2007 to 2011, funding for the AFLP and I&E programs was reduced by 42%, contributing to a 94% decline in total participants served by all TPP programs.

**TPP Program Total (and CA General Fund) Allocations
in 2007-08 and 2011-12 (\$Millions)**

Program	Years Funded	Total Funding Allocation (CA General Fund ^a)	
		2007-08	2011-12
Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP)	1985-Present	\$19.2 (\$7.3)	\$10.9 (\$0)
Community Challenge Grant (CCG)	1996-2011	\$20.0 (\$0)	\$0 (\$0)
Information & Education Program (I&E)	1974-Present	\$3.1 (\$1.6)	\$2.0 (\$1.0)
Male Involvement Program (MIP)	1995-2008	\$2.3 (\$1.2)	\$0 (\$0)
TeenSMART Outreach Program (TSO)	1998-2008	\$1.8 (\$0.9)	\$0 (\$0)

Source: California Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Division, Contracts and Grants Unit.

a Amount that comes from State General Fund dollars (rounded). The balance of funding is from federal sources: AFLP (Maternal and Child Block Grant-Title V and Medicaid-Title XIX); CCG (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-TANF Block Grants); I&E, MIP, TSO (Medicaid-Title XIX).

Agencies have scaled back their TPP programs and services since the state budget cuts.

Agencies reported widespread curtailment of their TPP program offerings since the state budget cuts:

- 69% stopped offering a TPP program or service
- 26% no longer provide any TPP programs or services

Agencies that still offer TPP programs reported substantial reductions in their program reach since the state budget cuts:

- 78% reported a decline in participants
- 61% reported a decline in the number of service sites

ABOUT THIS BRIEF:

This brief is based on a 2012 University of California, San Francisco study of funding cuts in the California Budget for teen pregnancy prevention (TPP) programs. Data collection included an online survey (n=130, 86% response rate) and in-depth interviews (n=24) with staff at agencies that received TPP program funding in fiscal year 2007-08.

KEY FINDINGS:

- In the last several years, the State of California has dramatically reduced funding for TPP.
- Most agencies have curtailed their TPP programs and services since the state budget cuts.
- Agencies are providing TPP programs and services to fewer sites and participants than before the state budget cuts.
- Even with much effort, most agencies have not been able to replace the lost state funding.
- Despite the tough funding climate, the benefits of TPP programs for youth, families, schools, and communities are key reasons for reinstating TPP funding.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD:

“Our numbers for health education and outreach have gone down by thousands – at least 4,000 people each year. This then cuts back on the number of people who learn about the [family planning] clinic and come seeking services.”

- Program Manager at an agency that lost CCG and AFLP funding

“We were able to be at every school on a weekly basis... Now, we’re probably at the schools once a month and at many of the schools, every six to eight weeks. Instead of being at the school all day, we are there probably for a couple of hours.”

- Staff Member at a public health agency that lost TSO funding

“TPP has been a foundation to build a healthy young person and to increase positive decision-making skills and to know what healthy relationships look like, not necessarily just to prevent getting pregnant by a certain age, but to gain skills to plan for your future.”

- Program Manager at a rural agency

“Although one would hope that parents would provide the comprehensive reproductive health [education] as their children grow up, many parents got no information themselves growing up and don’t have the skill set to talk to their kids about sex and sexuality issues.”

- Health Educator at an agency that lost MIP and CCG funding

*“When you’re not out there reaching out to teens, they don’t come into clinics. So my theory is that **our low rates of teen pregnancy that we have now will start to climb as we see less and less outreach being done in the various communities throughout California.**”*

- Program Manager at a public health agency in the Central Valley

*“It’s a good investment. Prevention is much less expensive than intervention... **In this economy it’s hard, but it’s the right thing to do.**”*

- Educational Programs Director at an agency that lost CCG, MIP and TSO funding

Since the state budget cuts, many agencies that continued to offer TPP programs have reduced their “dosage” or intensity. For example, agencies that provide prevention education reported fewer class sessions, larger class sizes, and less frequent opportunities for valuable one-on-one interaction between health educators and students.

Agencies that still offer TPP programs reported reductions in their capacity to run them since the state budget cuts:

- 88% reduced the number of staff
- 60% reduced staff hours
- 56% reduced professional development opportunities for staff

Agencies have struggled to replace the lost state funding for TPP programs:

- 85% reported a decline in their total budget for TPP programs
- 55% were unable to find a new funding source for TPP programs
- 28% reported no current funding for TPP programs

Adolescent pregnancy prevention is a public health goal that requires state funding.

Key reasons for reinstatement of TPP funding that emerged in the program manager interviews:

- TPP programs promote broad life opportunities for young people through positive youth development activities.
- TPP programs teach young people lifelong skills needed to take responsibility for their reproductive health.
- TPP programs are needed to maintain the declining trend in teen birth rates.
- The benefits of TPP programs extend to families, schools, and communities.
- Agencies cannot rely on the private sector alone; state funding is required to ensure the long-term sustainability of TPP programs.

**The full report is available at
<http://bixbycenter.ucsf.edu/publications.html>**

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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