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.

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.

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

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

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

* 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
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

Acknowledgements:

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention in California after State Budget Cuts project was funded by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF). Created in 1992 as a private independent foundation, TCWF’s mission is to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. We thank all of the agency staff and former TPP grantees who shared their views with us.

Suggested Citation:


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