

Evidence-Based Initiatives: Opportunities and Challenges

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Why is Evidence Important?

- Demand for effective programs for children and youth
- Informs decisions by local organizations, states, and the Federal government
- Need to focus limited resources in effective strategies in current fiscal climate



Reviews of the Evidence

- Emerging Answers (Kirby, 2001; Kirby, 2007)
- National Campaign's What Works series
- Program Archive on Sexuality, Health, and Adolescence (PASHA) (sponsored by NIH and others)
- CDC's HIV/AIDS Prevention Research Synthesis
- HHS List of Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program Models¹



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¹The HHS List of Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program Models is a list of programs with evidence of effectiveness for impacting rates of pregnancy, STIs, or sexual risk behaviors.

HHS List of Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program Models

- HHS Evidence Review systematically reviewed programs to reduce teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and associated sexual risk behaviors
- 28 evidence-based program models identified
- Range of program models: sex education, HIV/STI prevention, abstinence, youth development



What is the State of Evidence for Teen Pregnancy Prevention?

- Strengths:
 - Growing evidence base
 - Large quantity of experimental studies
- Limitations:
 - Few replicated or independently evaluated
 - Few strategies for vulnerable populations
 - Not many long-term impacts



Evaluating Evidence-Based Initiatives

- Important to continue research and evaluation:
 - Assessing program implementation
 - Efficacy vs. effectiveness research
 - Replication studies
 - Building the field: evaluating innovation



How We are Building the Evidence

- Local Grantee-Level Program Evaluations
- Federal Program Evaluation Studies
 - TPP Replication Study (OAH and ASPE)
 - Evaluation of Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Approaches (PPA) (OAH and ACF)
 - Evaluation of community-wide, multi-component program models (OAH and CDC)
 - PREP legislation requires an evaluation

