

How to contact us:
PHONE: 612-627-0160

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ResearchBRIEF
Youth Community Connections
Minnesota's Statewide Afterschool Alliance

Afterschool Programs Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Teens engaged in afterschool programs are less likely to become young parents.

OUR COMMUNITIES AND COUNTRY FACE TEEN PREGNANCY CHALLENGES

- ◆ Although teen pregnancy rates have decreased every year from 1990 - 2005, they increased in 2006.
- ◆ The US has the highest teen pregnancy rate of any industrialized nation.
- ◆ More than 7000 teens became pregnant in Minnesota in 2006. That is about 19 every day.
- ◆ Minnesota's minority teen pregnancy rates are considerably higher than nationwide rates for these same groups of young people.

TEEN PREGNANCY CREATES CHALLENGES FOR YOUNG MOTHERS, FATHERS, AND THEIR CHILDREN

Teen pregnancy has a causal effect on negative outcomes:

- ◆ Teen mothers and fathers are less likely to graduate from high school or attend college.
- ◆ Teen parents face great financial difficulty. It is estimated that it costs at least \$27,000 per year to support a child in Minnesota. A full time, minimum wage job will earn about \$13,000
- ◆ Teen parents, on average, earn less than their peers over their lifetime.
- ◆ The children of teen mothers are more likely to be abused OR neglected, drop out of school, become teen parents themselves, and become incarcerated. These rates greatly decrease for children born to mothers in their 20's.
- ◆ About 60% of foster children were born to teen parents.

Communities benefit from decreased numbers of teen pregnancy.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS HELP PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

- ◆ Teens who are not engaged in afterschool programs are nearly 40% more likely to become parents.
- ◆ Afterschool programs reduce the amount of time that teens spend unsupervised and provide positive activities as alternatives to risky behaviors.
- ◆ Afterschool programs instill teens with a belief in themselves and their future. Teens that believe they have positive life options are less likely to become pregnant.
- ◆ Afterschool programs teach teens responsibility: how to make life decisions and how to consider consequences.
- ◆ Afterschool programs can reduce teen pregnancy rates without focusing on sexual education. This is important for communities where such issues are controversial.
- ◆ Afterschool programs reach teens that school programs can't because they are not in school. These teens are some of the most at risk for teen pregnancies.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS CAN HELP TO SUPPORT TEENS THAT ARE ALREADY PREGNANT OR PARENTING

- ◆ Afterschool programs allow teen parents to continue their learning and development even if they are unable to attend school. They can also provide flexible schedules.
- ◆ Afterschool programs can provide a support group to teen parents that they may not be able to find elsewhere.
- ◆ Afterschool programs can drastically reduce second pregnancies

Sources

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- ◆ Manlove, Jennifer; Franzetta, Kerry; McKinney, Krystal; Palillo, Angela; Terry-Humen, Elizabeth. A Good Time: Afterschool Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy. January, 2004.
- ◆ “Minnesota Adolescent Sexual Health Report 2008,” MOAPP
- ◆ Afterschool Alliance Issue Brief #11 – “Afterschool and Pregnancy Prevention”