



December 2002

Latino Teen Pregnancy Prevention

R2P compiles, on an ongoing basis, annotated bibliographies on various child welfare topics and related fields. The bibliographies are as inclusive and detailed as possible. Most entries include the following sections:

The Study: describes the project or program, location, number served, and purpose of the program.

The Methods: details how the study was conducted, who was involved, what instruments were used, and the rates of and reasons for attrition.

The Findings: lists outcomes of the study and possible implications for the field.

R2P Evaluation: helps the reader to evaluate the usefulness of the full publication. This section highlights, for instance, readability, the significance for practice, and the applicability of the results.

Not every article, book, or other publication in the annotated bibliography fits the above format. Some publications are not research driven but are nonetheless useful to the field. These entries may have only two sections: The Study and R2P Evaluation.

Abma, J., Driscoll, A., & Moore, K. (1998). Young women's degree of control over first intercourse: An exploratory analysis. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 30(1), 12–18.

- *This study explored the nonvoluntary initiation of adolescent girls sexual activity.*

The Study

- Girls who were more influenced by peer-pressure were more likely to engage in early and unwanted sexual activities.
- Family-type played a large role in when an adolescent girl initiates sexual activity. Girls with authoritative parents were less likely to engage in early, unwanted sex.
- Welfare had not been statistically connected to early sex. However, girls of parents who drank heavily or used drugs while they were young were more likely to experience early sexual activities.
- Some research indicated that early childhood sexual abuse is positively related to adolescent nonvoluntary sex.
- Subsequently, those who have experienced abuse and nonvoluntary sex were at an increased risk of adolescent pregnancy.

The Methods

- The researchers used a nationally representative sample of 2042 women between 15 and 24 years of age. The research took place in 1995.
- African American and Hispanic women were over-sampled to better examine the phenomena in these racial and ethnic groups.
- The survey looked at a variety of variables including first intercourse, family history, and risk factors.

The Findings

- Young, black women were more likely to rate first sexual experience as “least wanted.”
- Hispanic girls were more likely to rate their first experience as “most wanted.”
- Girls with younger first experience tended to rate it as less wanted.
- Hispanic and black women experienced higher rates of nonvoluntary first sex than white women (11% to 8%).
- There was a significant inverse relationship between age of male partner to girl and girls' rating experience as less wanted. The older the male partner the less likely the girl wanted the experience.
- Girls who rated their first experience as “least wanted” were less likely to use contraception. These girls were more likely to have mothers with less education.

R2P Evaluation

- This study highlighted research on the issue of nonvoluntary sexual experiences. The research here can help guide sexual education programming.

Allen, J. P., & Philliber, S. *Who benefits most from a broadly targeted prevention program? Differential efficacy across populations in the teen outreach program.* Charlottesville, VA: Author.

- *This study examined a national teen pregnancy/school failure prevention program to see if positive outcomes could be achieved for high-risk youth.*

The Study

- The researchers thought that a broadly targeted intervention focusing on development would have greater efficacy for those at the greatest risk of early sexual experiences.
- The program, started in 1978, was school-based and involves youth in community service projects and in-class discussions on a range of issues.

The Methods

- The authors collected research over four years through multisite data collection methods. More than 3,300 youth in Grades 9 through 12 participated.
- The researchers developed two theories: This program can work with high-risk kids, and the program's effectiveness will span all demographic groups.
- The program had three elements: volunteer service, classroom discussion of service experiences, and classroom discussion of adolescence.
- The cost was about \$600 per student per academic year, with 18 to 25 youth per class.
- The final samples were 1,673 in the treatment group and 1,604 in the comparison group—a combination of random and nonrandom assignment. Latino students made up 12.6% of the treatment group and 12.9% of the control group.

The Findings

- Authors ensured a mix of random and nonrandom samples would not affect outcomes.
- They analyzed three variables:
 - Prediction of pregnancy at program exit for the treatment group:
 - Students of color were more likely to be pregnant at program's end, but participation in treatment group had positive effects, and
 - A positive relationship existed between prior pregnancy and participation.
 - Prediction of course failure for the treatment group:
 - A positive relationship existed between minority status and course participation,
 - A positive relationship existed for students with prior failures and suspensions and course participation, and
 - A positive relationship existed for girls who participated.
 - The treatment group was less likely to face school suspension.

R2P Evaluation

- The research was thorough, and the evidence showed that the program worked for high-risk youth. Further investigation into replication possibilities should be explored.

Anderson, N. L. R., & Uman, G. C. (1996). The process of instrument development for ethnically diverse early adolescents. *Journal of Early Adolescence*, 16, 427–451.

- *The authors discussed the difficulty in creating and assessing instruments developed for family-life education programs.*

The Study

- The instrument evaluated in this article was developed for an adolescent family-life demonstration project in Los Angeles County.
- The project had a quasi-experimental design with a treatment group and rotating comparison groups, which received treatment later.
- Goals of the project were to:
 - Increase student knowledge of human reproduction,
 - Increase decisionmaking skills,
 - Increase family communication, and
 - Delay onset of sexual activity.

The Methods

- The instrument and project targeted children ages 11 to 14 years from the ethnically diverse Los Angeles County population.
- Test development had three components:
 - Performing a qualitative pilot study,
 - Constructing the instrument, and
 - Field testing.
- The pilot study was composed of 24 youth and families (13 Latinos, 4 African Americans, 3 Caucasians, and 4 others).
- Evaluation of the pilot study found that some questions were confusing or potentially embarrassing to younger adolescents. The authors held interviews to establish clarity.
- The questionnaire categories mirrored the curriculum: decisionmaking, peer influence, parent/child communication, self-efficacy, sexuality knowledge, and high-risk behaviors.
- All materials were in Spanish and were culturally sensitive.
- The study obtained construct validity and test-retest reliability.
- The final sample was 391.

The Findings

- This instrument was shorter and easier to use than other, similar tools, and it can be used or adapted for other studies.

R2P Evaluation

- Although this article did not directly address Latino teen pregnancy, it is very helpful for those interested in conducting studies on the issue because of the information on tool development.

Annie E. Casey Foundation. (1998). *Plain Talk: The story of a community-based strategy to reduce teen pregnancy*. Baltimore, MD: Author.

- *This monograph described Plain Talk, a neighborhood-based initiative funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in five urban neighborhoods.*

The Study

- Plain Talk helped adults develop the skills and tools necessary to talk effectively with youth about reducing risky sexual behavior.
- In 1993, the Annie E. Casey Foundation implemented a four-year, \$5 million project in five urban neighborhoods across the United States.
- The foundation gave communities one year to develop a plan and three years to implement it.
- Communities based plans on four basic principles:
 - Community residents should have a central role,
 - Residents should reach a consensus about needed changes,
 - Communities should be able to get reliable information about the problems they are trying to address, and
 - Adults should not deny the reality of sexual activity among youth.
- In each community, the researchers collected data to determine local characteristics, and they established networks of community leaders.
- The program emphasized adult peer education and used strategies such as home health parties and support groups to engage community members and provide educational opportunities.
- Of the five communities included in the initiative, Logan Heights (Barrio Logan) in San Diego has a largely Latino population.
- Plain Talk there became *Hablando Claro: Con Carino y Respeto* (Plain Talk: With Love and Respect). Members created a curriculum to engage and train adult volunteers. They also created a group for young men that encourages the development of values related to responsible sexual activity.

R2P Evaluation

- Although it did not include any evaluative data concerning the five Plain Talk programs, this article did contain useful descriptions of the underlying principles and the process by which groups were formed to consider the unique needs of each neighborhood.

Annie E. Casey Foundation. (1999, April). Teen childbearing in America's largest cities. Available from www.aecf.org/kidscount/childbear/cb-printer.htm.

- *This article discussed recent changes in the teen birth rate in the 50 largest U.S. cities.*

The Study

- This article was a supplement to a KIDS COUNT special report released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation titled "When Teens Have Sex."
- The three main areas in this article were:
 - The number of births by teens from 1991 to 1996,
 - The differences in the teen birthrate among cities in the United States, and
 - Changes in teen birthrates from 1991 to 1996.
- The *teen birthrate* was defined as the number of females ages 15 to 19 per 1,000 who give birth.
- The number of teen births was not the most accurate way to examine the changes in the teen birthrate, because cities that experience the lowest teen birthrate also experience the highest population decrease.
- Cities that have large Latino population have some of the highest teen pregnancy rates. Although rates for other ethnic/racial groups have declined substantially, rates for Latinos have not.
- Four conditions associated with teen pregnancy include:
 - Low socioeconomic status,
 - Low educational attainment and future aspirations,
 - Dysfunctional family, and
 - A history of substance abuse and behavioral problems.
- Programs and organizations in large U.S. cities contribute to the decrease in teen pregnancy rates. Examining programs and organizations in these cities can provide insight into the continued decrease in adolescent pregnancy.

R2P Evaluation

- This article was brief and had good information. The statistics span five years. This longitudinal information is needed to understand the decrease in teen pregnancy.

Annie E. Casey Foundation. (1999, January 20). When teens have sex: Issues and trends. *A KIDS COUNT Special Report*. Available from www.aecf.org/kidscount/teen/foreword.htm.

- *This report addressed the progress made on issues of adolescent sexuality and teen pregnancy.*

The Study

- This report had six sections that address various aspects of teen sexuality; three sections (overview of sexuality in the United States, national maps of rates and trends, and references and resources of programs, organizations, and research) offered in-depth information.
- Community reinforcement was needed to understand pregnancy prevention. This included having a clear action plan for focusing on reproductive health, sexuality education, and pregnancy prevention.
- Communities and families must take advantage of opportunities to motivate youth and provide them with a positive image of the future.
- Advocating for improving media images to include responsible sexuality is a community effort.
- The high incidence of teen births was not a new development in America.
- Teens had reported their parents as the preferred source of information about sexuality.
- Teen pregnancy is an issue for all communities, not just communities of color.

R2P Evaluation

- This report is an overview of how the United States is performing in its efforts to lower teen pregnancy rates. The charts, graphs, and annotated bibliography provided are extremely helpful in locating further research.

Blair, J. (1999). Why Latinas are more likely to be moms. *Christian Science Monitor*, 91, 233–236.

- *This article detailed the problems of adolescent Latinas and the issues that affected their greater likelihood of adolescent pregnancy.*

The Study

- Through statistical data and interviews with Latina leaders and Latina teen mothers, the author detailed some of the complexities associated with Latino culture, religion, and traditional agrarian values. This was especially important when these issues clash with urban cultures.
- Overall, teen pregnancy rates in the United States are down. The smallest decrease, however, is in the Latino population.
- Issues that affect the data for Latino populations include:
 - Limited access to health care,
 - The cultural importance given to motherhood, and
 - The pitting of motivations to delay childbearing against cultural norms.
- In the poorest Latino communities in the United States, childbearing gives girls self-worth and a feeling of respect.
- Ambivalence in Latino communities toward contraception and a bias against abortion influences adolescent pregnancy rates.

R2P Evaluation

- Although this article was short and contains little statistical data, the information is helpful for a basic understanding of the issue. The contact information for experts in the field is invaluable.

Brooks, T., & Murphey, D. (1999). *What works: Preventing teen pregnancy in your community*. Waterbury, VT: Planning Division, Vermont Agency of Human Services.

- *This report presented evaluated and promising programs designed to prevent teen pregnancy in a statewide community context. Teen pregnancy prevention is tied closely to Vermont student data that support variables associated with teen pregnancy.*

The Study

- This report was one of a series that offers brief overviews of programs that research had shown to be effective in achieving one or more of the ten outcomes that are conditions of well-being for the families, youth, and children living in Vermont.
- The report proposed that experts believe no single program is responsible for substantial reductions in teen pregnancy rates and birthrates but, rather, a number of strategies, working together and designed by community-state partnerships, make a difference.
- Key strategies noted are:
 - Access to comprehensive, preventive health care, including contraceptive services for youth who are sexually active,
 - Comprehensive sex education curricula,
 - Sexuality and family-life programs that reach out-of-school youth,
 - Active participation by youth, and
 - Community-wide engagement.

The Methods

- The article provides program results and full citations for each of five approaches, including:
 - Skill-based sexuality education,
 - Abstinence-based sexuality education,
 - Health clinics linked with schools,
 - Life options programs, and
 - Comprehensive programs.
- The authors noted that although pregnancy prevention programs do not typically focus on the family as a point of intervention, research supports the powerful effect parents have on adolescent sexual behavior.

The Findings

- The article clearly presented evaluation results and the programs that are highlighted under each of the five approaches.

R2P Evaluation

- This article presented information in an accessible format that is consistent with and supports the state's community-state approach to achieving good child and family outcomes.

Brown, S. S., & Eisenburg, L. (Eds.). (1995). *The best intentions: Unintended pregnancy and the well-being of children and families*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

- *This book on unintended pregnancy pulled together information from many groups and individuals dedicated to the issue.*

The Study

- The first section of the book summarized the recommendations and goals of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Unintended Pregnancy.
- Committee goals included:
 - Improve knowledge on contraception, pregnancy, and reproductive health;
 - Increase access to contraception;
 - Address opinions and attitudes toward contraception and unintended pregnancy;
 - Develop and evaluate programs on reducing unintended pregnancy; and
 - Encourage research to develop new contraception for men and women, organize services, and understand the ramifications of pregnancy.
- The committee developed a research method to examine and make recommendations on unintended pregnancy.

The Methods

- The committee:
 - Reviewed published data and analyses,
 - Met with other experts in the field,
 - Contracted with researchers to perform an analytical study,
 - Analyzed the U.S. childbearing population, and
 - Held committee meetings.
- Chapters in the book cover:
 - Data on unintended pregnancy;
 - Patterns of contraception use;
 - Knowledge of, individual feelings toward, and social effects of contraception use; and
 - Program reviews and committee conclusions.

The Findings

- The committee issued two recommendations:
 - All pregnancies should be intended, and
 - A long-term campaign is needed to educate the public and stimulate activities to reach the above goals.

R2P Evaluation

- This book contains information on several evaluated pregnancy prevention programs. The book shares key information on demographic populations and the effects of unintended pregnancy.

Card, J. J., Niego, S., Mallari, A., & Farrell, W. S. (1996). The promising archive on sexuality, health, & adolescence: Promising “prevention programs in a box.” *Family Planning Perspectives, 28*(5), 210–220.

- *This article highlighted an organization designed to archive and distribute effective pregnancy and STD prevention programs for teenagers.*

The Study

- Funders and lawmakers are requiring programs to show evidence-based and effective results. Change in behavior, as opposed to changed knowledge and/or attitudes, is the new norm.
- The Program Archive on Sexuality, Health, and Adolescence (PASHA) makes effective programs available for other agencies to replicate or adapt.
- Each program packet contains adaptation/replication materials, user guides, two evaluation instruments, and a directory of evaluators.

The Methods

- A program becomes part of the PASHA program by:
 - Establishing criteria for effectiveness:
 - Substantive relevance,
 - Positive behavioral effect, and
 - Positive effects on skills, values, and attitudes for younger teens.
 - Identifying and selecting programs:
 - PASHA examined 55 program candidates and chose 33.
 - Eleven were primary pregnancy prevention programs, 4 were secondary pregnancy prevention programs, and 15 were STD prevention programs.
 - Preparing program packages.
 - Reviewing and field testing packages.

The Findings

- Chosen programs vary in intensity, length of time, location, and instructional type.
- Demographics of programs vary.
- Common program effects for primary pregnancy prevention programs are:
 - Increased abstinence or delay in first intercourse,
 - Improved patterns of contraceptive behavior, and
 - Lower pregnancy rates.
- STD programs had a large variety of effects.

R2P Evaluation

- This article offers several programs for pregnancy and STD prevention. The programs have been evaluated and are demographically representative. PASHA offers an excellent model for information dissemination.

Corcoran, J., O'Dell Miller, P., & Bultman, L. (1997). Effectiveness of prevention programs for adolescent pregnancy: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 59, 551–567.

- *This article reported on a meta-analysis of 32 evidence-based primary pregnancy prevention programs..*

The Study

- The study analyzed three outcomes: sexual activity, contraception use, and pregnancy rates.

The Methods

- The authors included programs that were published in peer reviewed or juried journals. The studies addressed behavior change, not attitude or knowledge change.
- The authors studied several variables: locus of intervention, type of program, type of intervention, focus of intervention, design, and subject.

The Findings

- Sexual activity:
 - Studies involving youth ages 11 to 20 had a significant effect on decreasing sexual activity.
 - Studies with Caucasian and African American samples showed no difference in sexual activity and a negative effect for Latino youth.
- Contraception use:
 - Community- and school-based programs had a significant positive effect on contraception use, especially the community-based models.
 - Clinical programs had better results than nonclinical programs.
 - Knowledge building and contraception distribution had a more positive effect than sex education alone.
 - Mixed-gender groups seemed to learn more than single-sex classes.
 - Latino youth were most likely to perform best on measures of contraception use after intervention. This was less likely for others.
- Pregnancy rates:
 - Community-based were more successful than school-based programs.
 - Clinical programs were better than nonclinical programs.
 - The study found better outcomes for contraception programs than abstinence-only programs.
 - Overall, programs had a significant effect on girls but not boys.
- Overall, the programs did not ultimately affect youth sexual activity.
- Programs are more successful in affecting contraception use and pregnancy rates.

R2P Evaluation

- This meta-analysis is helpful in measuring the results of several programs. Sexual activity is less likely to be a changeable behavior, but many programs did successfully influence contraception use and pregnancy prevention behaviors.

Davison Aviles, R.M., Guerrero, M. P., Barajas Howarth, H., & Thomas, G. (1999).
Perceptions of Chicano/Latino students who have dropped out of school.
Journal of Counseling & Development, 77, 465–473.

- *This study examined the attitudes, beliefs, and reasons Latino students gave for dropping out of school.*

The Study

- The Minnesota Spanish Speaking Affairs Council collaborated with the governor's office to research the drop out rate of Latino students. This study was conducted by the Chicano/Latino Learning Resource Center of the University of Minnesota.
- The study goals were two-fold: first to profile of the Latino dropout, and second to understand the why Latino students dropout.

The Methods

- The first part of the study was a series of focus groups with Latino students who had dropped out within the past five years and were between 16 and 24 years old. A total of 72 students from rural and urban areas were interviewed, 33 female and 39 male.
- The second part of the study was to develop a profile of Latino dropout that can be used in a survey of fifth and eighth-grade students.

The Findings

- Six key reasons why Latino students reported dropping out of school were:
 - Difficulty in obtaining credits because of low attendance,
 - Lack of student involvement in school activities,
 - Overuse by schools of alternative educational for Latino students,
 - Low expectations among teachers and staff for achievement,
 - Personal reasons, and
 - Racism in schools among educators and students.
- Students reported being “facilitated out,” rather than dropping out. Facilitated out is defined as a school official encouraging a student to leave school before completion.
- Students who were pregnant when they dropped out of school reported not dropping out because of the pregnancy, but because of frustration with the school. Many of these students reported the pregnancy as planned.
- Recommendations on retaining Latino students included:
 - Changing from an epidemiology model to an empowerment model.
 - Using suggestions provided by students; teaching Latino culture and history in classes, teaching diversity, providing after school recreation, and hiring positive role models who represent the student population.
 - Providing structural support, create school/home links. School officials and staff must become accountable for the outcomes of their students.

R2P Evaluation

- Because low educational achievement is closely linked with Latino teen pregnancy, this study provides useful insight in working with this population.

Denner, J., Kirby, D., Coyle, K., & Brindis, C. (2001). The protective role of social capital and cultural norms in Latino communities: A study of adolescent births. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 23, 3–21.

- *This study examined the relationship between teen birthrates and community characteristics to identify factors that appeared to be associated with the protection of adolescents from teen pregnancy as a manifestation of poverty.*

The Study

- The authors referred to other research that demonstrated that communities that are high in “social capital” could lessen the negative effects of poverty.
- Social capital relates to community characteristics such as parental and kin support, relationship networks that provide collective supervision and resources for young people, positive opportunities, and norms that support education and enforcement of societal rules.
- The authors focus on the relationship between these factors and adolescent pregnancy for Latinas because of the high adolescent birthrate in that ethnic group.

The Methods

- This was an exploratory study using multiple methods.
- The authors identified, by zip code areas in California, Latino communities with either a much higher or lower teen birthrate than expected, given their level of poverty. They used 1990 to 1994 birthrate data for 15- to 17-year-olds and other demographic and socioeconomic indicators.
- The authors interviewed people from youth-serving agencies in the communities to determine possible reasons for the differences.

The Findings

- Specific quantitative indicators tied to lower birthrate included small population size, low density, low proportion of adults born in the United States, and a high percentage of Hispanic residents.
- Qualitative research indicated that communities with lower birthrates had more social networks and institutional collaborations, were more homogenous, and had stronger informal support systems. Parents shared a view of the communities as better places for their children.
- In addition, most of the low-birthrate towns had a nonprofit organization that had existed for 20 or more years and had a positive reputation for serving the Latino community. Cultural norms tended to be more reflective of traditional values regarding commitment to family and ties to religious institutions.

R2P Evaluation

- This study used a large sample to identify communities with greater or smaller rates of teen pregnancy than expected. The use of qualitative methods to explain these anomalous findings provides rich information about community characteristics that may serve to protect against high rates of adolescent parenthood.

Donoso, R. (2001). Afternoon panel: Coalition-based strategies for improving health access and outcomes for underserved women. *Berkeley Women's Law Journal*, 224–228.

- *This article, from a speech, discussed the work of the Latino Issues Forum (LIF), a San Francisco, California, organization. It listed the projects LIF was involved in, including a teen pregnancy prevention project.*

The Study

- The presenter discussed two specific ways organizations looking to work within the Latino community can produce successful programs. These suggestions include:
 - Collaborating with other organizations that work in the Latino community, and
 - Involving youth in the creation and implementation of programs.
- The author presented research conducted in a partnership with the Women's Health Rights Advocates.
- Workers created a hotline providing information on reproductive health issues and abortion. The hotline helps discredit the belief that Latino women do not get abortions because it is a cultural taboo.
- The panel addressed challenges to working in the Latino community, including:
 - Latinos' becoming active in an organization that does not have their needs and best interests in mind; some organizations focus on Latinos for diversity reasons, not because of real concern for them;
 - A lack of Latino decisionmakers and policymakers in California;
 - A lack of leadership roles and/or leadership opportunities for Latino women;
 - The lack of a well-defined "feminist analysis" in the Latino community.
 - A lack of research about Latinos that includes participants from the community.

R2P Evaluation

- This speech provides state-specific challenges that can potentially be seen in other locations where there are large Latino and Spanish-speaking immigrant populations. The panel offered more challenges than solutions, and gave no suggested action steps to help providers working with the Latino community.

Driscoll, A. K., Biggs, M. A., Brindis, C. D., & Yankah, E. (2001). Adolescent Latino reproductive health: A review of the literature. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 23, 255–326.

- *This article provided an overview of the literature on Latinos, offered recommendations for future research, and referenceed existing and past research.*

The Study

- Reproductive health includes sexual behaviors and attitudes; contraceptive use; pregnancy, abortion, and birthrates; and knowledge of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.
- The Latino population in the United States is still underestimated by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- As race is defined by the Census Bureau, Latinos may identify as any race.
- Some Latino immigrants have difficulty finding work and may not enroll in school; therefore, not all Latinos are dropouts, rather they may be non-enrollees.
- Latinos can be recent or long-term immigrants based on:
 - The proximity of Central and South America to the United States,
 - Changes the United States has made in immigration law, and
 - Historical expansion of the United States into land that was once part of Mexico.
- Latinos may engage in unprotected sex due to:
 - Inability to access pregnancy prevention programs,
 - Language barriers,
 - Fear of using services because of undocumented status, and
 - Desire to start a family.
- North Carolina, Minnesota, and Rhode Island are the three states that have the highest Latina birthrates in the United States.
- Latinas are more likely to report a pregnancy as intended instead of unplanned.
- At least two types of pregnancy prevention programs need to be offered to Latinas:
 - One focused on adolescent Latinas who are not parents, and
 - Another focused on adolescent Latinas who are already parents.
- Influences on adolescent Latino reproductive health include family, peers, and partners.
- Some children of immigrants living in poor, urban neighborhoods began to reject or oppose mainstream values of higher education and English fluency because they did not view these as relevant and attainable values.
- Compared to more acculturated teens, less acculturated teens display more positive attitudes about their pregnancy, and similar or better birth outcomes are seen; in addition, they have more support from the father, report the pregnancy as intended more often, and are less likely to be in an abusive relationship.

R2P Evaluation

- This study is quite notable. The summary of the research is extensive, clear, and provides recommendations for future research.

East, P. L., & Jacobson, L. J. (2001). The younger siblings of teenage mothers: A follow-up of their pregnancy risk. *Developmental Psychology*, 37, 254–264.

- *This study examined the likelihood of adolescent pregnancy for younger sisters and brothers of teenage mothers.*

The Study

- Prior research had indicated that sisters of teenage mothers were two to six times more likely to become pregnant in adolescence than a comparison group.
- The researchers also studied the effect of younger siblings caring for an older sibling's child.

The Methods

- Younger siblings of parenting and nonparenting teen were assessed twice, 1.5 years apart, or around 13.5 and 15 years of age. The participants were 67% Hispanic and 33% African American.
- At Time 1, the sample was made up of 309 younger siblings of pregnant, parenting, or never pregnant older teens.
- The time 2, final sample was 243 siblings, due to some changes in youth status (i.e pregnancy). This sample included 123 siblings of parenting youth and 120 siblings of nonparenting youth.
- Bilingual, female staff administered questionnaires that asked about:
 - Perceived mothers' parenting,
 - Sex and childbearing attitudes and expectations,
 - School aspirations and self-esteem,
 - Problem behaviors, and
 - Sexual behaviors and pregnancy.

The Findings

- Boys perceived more maternal approval of teen childbearing than girls did ($p < .001$).
- African American youth reported more maternal strictness ($p < .05$).
- Older youth reported less maternal strictness ($p < .001$).
- Boys perceived teenage childbearing as a greater hardship ($p < .05$).
- Youth with teen parent siblings identified more hardship ($p < .05$).
- Siblings of parenting teens had lower school aspirations ($p < .05$).
- Siblings of parenting teens had more school problems ($p < .05$).
- Sisters of parenting teens had higher rates of alcohol and drug use ($p < .001$).
- Sisters of parenting teens were more likely to be pregnant at Time 2.
- For Hispanic girls, more time caring for an older sibling's child led to lower school aspirations ($p < .01$).

R2P Evaluation

- This article contained strong research on parenting teens' influence on younger siblings. The research is easy to understand and raises new questions about targeting pregnancy prevention services.

Frost, J. J., & Oslak, S. (1999). *Teenagers' pregnancy intentions and decisions: A study of young women in California choosing to give birth* (Occasional Report No. 2). New York: Allen Guttmacher Institute.

- *The authors conducted research to see what the determining factors influence a pregnant teenager's decision whether or not to carry a baby full-term or not.*

The Study

- The authors conducted the study in four counties in California.
- The sample consisted of unmarried 15- to 18-year-olds who had decided to give birth.
- The goal of the research was to explore the possible factors that led the girls to the decision not to terminate their pregnancy and whether these girls intended conception.

The Methods

- Specifically, the sample was pregnant 15- to 18-year-old teens with no other children, who were unmarried at conception and planning to bear and raise the baby. The authors culled the sample between January and December 1996.
- The four counties in the study were representative of California.
- The final $n = 187$; each participant had to be at least three months pregnant.
- Participants' ethnicities were diverse: 35.3% were Hispanic and born in United States, 28.9% Hispanic and born elsewhere, 24.6% African American, 7% white, and 4.3% Asian.
- Researchers controlled for some variables so results could be more easily generalized.

The Findings

- Many participants had a common theme in their lives—turmoil.
- Approximately 32% of the participants intended to get pregnant, 25% did not care if they became pregnant, and 43% had not intended to become pregnant.
- Hispanic participants who were born outside the United States were more likely to intend to conceive and were older.
- Those who intended pregnancy expressed their desire to raise a child, have someone to love, and be a better mom than their own.
- Of the sample, 98% were in a steady relationship at time of conception.
- Half of the sample reported boyfriends who wanted the pregnancy.
- Of the participants, 63% used no contraception during the month of conception.
- Few considered abortion a feasible option.
- A limitation of the study was that it had a small sample primarily consisting of low-income girls of color.

R2P Evaluation

- The article presented the research in an easy-to-read manner, including charts and the instrument used in interviews.
- The charts were concise and gave the reader more information.
- The findings were credible and the research limitations were listed, but not necessarily limiting.

Get Real About Teen Pregnancy. (2002). *Voices of California: A multicultural perspective on teen pregnancy.* CA: Author.

- *This study offered insight and understanding into how culturally diverse populations in California understand and perceive adolescent pregnancy.*

The Study

- The Get Real campaign conducted this study during 2000 and 2001.
- The campaign held 14 focus groups and conducted 100 interviews with local organizations, health providers, and educators among the following ethnic groups:
 - Latino,
 - African American,
 - Thai,
 - Filipino,
 - Hmong,
 - Cambodian/Khmer, and
 - Pacific Islander.
- The study is separated into six compartments:
 - Background and demographics of each ethnic community,
 - Key findings,
 - Summary of each focus group,
 - Summary of each community roundtable,
 - Summary of stakeholders'/legislators' interviews, and
 - Key action steps.

The Findings

- California has six major ethnic groups that collectively speak over 150 languages.
- Of California adults, 56% think adolescent pregnancy is a “very serious” problem; of that group, 80% were Latino adults.
- All parents, no matter what their ethnicity, wanted “what was best for their child.”
- Youth development and socioeconomic opportunities are key factors in reducing adolescent pregnancy.
- All parents have a strong influence over teens.
- Although parents agree that their children need information and education about sex, they are worried about providing this information to their children.
- Behavior patterning (choosing future outcomes that are similar to peers) is seen across all ethnicities.
- Religion and spirituality play a key role for all youth.

R2P Evaluation

- This is a promising study. The research and responses are thorough.
- The information provided about each ethnic group offers a good starting point for providers who work with a diverse population and providers in need of basic demographic characteristics and information on cultural values.

Ginsburg, K. R., Alexander, P. M., Hunt, J., Sullivan, M., Zhou, H., & Cnaan, A. (2002). Enhancing their likelihood for a positive future: The perspective of inner-city youth. *Pediatrics*, 109, 1136–1143.

- *This study presented the perspectives of inner-city youth who identified the factors most important to promote their future success.*

The Study

- This study elicited input from youth in an inner-city area about the kinds of conditions and supports they believed would most likely contribute to their chances of future success. Adults who were concerned about problems of teen pregnancy and violence sought this information.

The Methods

- Researchers used the nominal group technique to elicit factors considered most important for a successful future from a group of 60 randomly selected 8th, 9th, and 12th graders.
- The authors used the factors to develop Likert-type scale surveys that they administered to 4,700 8th-, 9th-, and 12th-grade students in inner city schools in north Philadelphia.

The Findings

- The survey response rate was 69%.
- Overall, students rated items related to education and job opportunity most important and opportunities for positive connections with adults of secondary importance. The participants considered both of these more important than items that related to reduction of risk-taking behaviors associated with teen pregnancy and violence.
- Thus, although research should continue to address risk factors, it should also examine whether the enhancement of protective factors produces more positive outcomes.

R2P Evaluation

- This article is somewhat unique in that it obtains, directly from adolescents, their views about factors most supportive of their future success. It adds to other research that suggests that a focus on enhancement of protective factors is at least as important as the reduction of risk in youths' living environments.

Goodyear, R. K., Newcomb, M. D., & Allison, R. D. (2000). Predictors of Latino men's paternity in teen pregnancy: Test of a mediational model of childhood experiences, gender role attitudes, and behaviors. *Journal of Counseling Psychology, 47*, 116–128.

- *This study examined how developmental and psychosocial factors affect the number of teen pregnancies for which Latino men are responsible.*

The Study

- The purpose of this study was to test a mediational model on relationships across five domains. Each domain would have a significant bearing on the next:
 - Family experiences and developmental factors,
 - Gender-related attitudes and emotions,
 - Dating characteristics,
 - Sexual behavior, and
 - Number of pregnancies.

The Methods

- The final sample consisted of 307 Latino men with a mean age of 18.56 years. Of them, 79.1% were born in the United States, 17.2% were born in Mexico, and 3.7% were born elsewhere.
- The sample consisted of 207 men who had impregnated one or more teenage girls and 142 men who had not impregnated any girls.

The Findings

- Developmental, attitudinal, and dating variables predicted the number of teen pregnancies by examining data on sexual activity and birth control.
- Family neglect was related to birth control effectiveness. This suggests that exposure to neglect as a child led men in the sample to use birth control more often.
- There was a direct link between family abuse and sexual activity. This could indicate a possible search for intimacy, according to the study.
- A link also existed between willingness to engage in coercive sexual behaviors and the use of ineffective birth control. This confirms the findings of a previous study, which also used a Latino sample.

R2P Evaluation

- This was a very complex study designed for readers at an advanced research level.
- The change in sample size was not explained in the article, but there is a noticeable drop of 42 participants.
- The authors did not explain the results in a way that lay readers could find useful.

Gordon, C. P. (1996). Adolescent decision making: A broadly based theory and its application to the prevention of early pregnancy. *Adolescence*, 31(123), 561–585.

- *The author presented a broad-based theory of adolescent decisionmaking. The theory was applied to pregnancy prevention in an inner-city high school.*

The Study

- The study goal was to develop a broad-based adolescent decisionmaking theory.
- The author believed that some decisions by adults (e.g., educators, policymakers) are flawed in terms of preventing adolescent pregnancy. The adults assume that most young girls become pregnant accidentally, therefore program concentration should be on contraception. Adolescent decisionmaking, however, plays a large role.
- The report also contains an extensive literature review.

The Methods

- The adolescent decisionmaking model has three parts:
 - Cognitive factors,
 - Social and psychological factors, and
 - Cultural and societal factors.
- The article has many examples of what each of the three categories encompass.
- The authors gathered data on how adolescents make decisions about becoming pregnant. The ultimate goal of the study was to create programs to delay adolescent pregnancy.
- The authors obtained data on 10 days over a period of four months from 1993 to 1994 in a large, inner-city school. The participants were 43% Latino, 29% African American, and 27% white. Most were from low-income neighborhoods.
- Data collection was comprehensive and included classroom observation, interviews with students and teachers, and individual counseling sessions. The authors divided classes into two groups: pregnant students and high-risk students.

The Findings

- Many girls identified pregnancy with independence.
- Most girls were pregnant by choice and plan to raise their children as a single parent.
- Cultural influences play a large role for Latino and African American girls.
- Courses need to address reality and offer information on pregnancy, parenting, reproduction, and contraception. To understand adolescent decisionmaking, all three factors must be included.
- The United States may have a misplaced focus on curbing sexual activity rather than curbing teen pregnancy.

R2P Evaluation

- The conclusions in this article appear to be drawn from a qualitative study. Some findings are very interesting and deserve more exploration. The literature review is very helpful and contains many good references.

Hess, F. M., & Leal, D. L. (1999). Politics and sex-related programs in urban schooling. *Urban Affairs Review*, 35, 24–44.

- *This article reported on a test of a model incorporating factors expected to be associated with more or less explicit and extensive sexual health services offered by school districts.*

The Study

- The study asked why urban communities were more or less likely to adopt measures relating to teenage sexual activity and health, and why school districts chose to enact often controversial sex-related education and health programs.

The Methods

- The authors collected study data from the 1992 Council of Urban Boards of Education study and from the 1990 Census. Data were organized by school district.
- Though six years old, the data were reported to be the most comprehensive aggregate data on sexual health and family practice policies of the nation’s urban schools.
- Independent variables included median family income, total per pupil expenditures for 1989-1990 school year, public school enrollment, percentage of district student population in private schools, and percentage of district that is Hispanic.
- The dependent variables were four types of sexuality-related programs: (1) dispensing contraceptives, (2) offering family planning services, (3) providing counseling for HIV testing, and (4) offering day care services for student parents.
- Explanatory variables included parental support for sexual health policies, percentage of women on the school board, size of African American and Hispanic populations, and median family income in the school district.

The Findings

- Five variables proved to be substantively and statistically significant:
 - Community’s perceived support for these programs,
 - Percentage of women school board members,
 - Percentage of population that is Hispanic,
 - Median family income, and
 - Percentage of district in private schools.
- Many Hispanic populations achieved better outcomes because they participated in sexuality-related programs.

R2P Evaluation

- The authors note that much about a school district’s decision to offer these programs is missed by any one model, for instance, the model does not examine the policy process in rural and suburban schools.
- Further research is needed to test the reliability of these findings.
- An important contribution is a finding that prompts communities and policymakers to rethink assumptions about Hispanic attitudes toward educational programs separate from religious beliefs, together with the role women play in decisionmaking.

Hovell, M., Blumberg, E., Sipan, C., Hofstetter, C. R., Burkham, S., Atkins, C., et al. (1998). Skills training for pregnancy and AIDS prevention in Anglo and Latino youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 23*, 139–149.

- *This article reported the findings of a large-scale comparative study between social skills training (SST), didactic training (DT), and no training (NT) for Latino and white youth in AIDS and pregnancy prevention programs.*

The Study

- The authors believed this study would enhance the pregnancy and AIDS prevention literature by:
 - Using a large sample,
 - Including Latino youth,
 - Addressing refusal and negotiation skills,
 - Identifying objective measures of social validity, and
 - Performing rigorous evaluation.

The Methods

- The authors recruited youth between August 1989 and September 1991. They were between 13 and 18 years of age, Latino or white, not married, not pregnant, free of major illnesses, and planning on being in San Diego for two years.
- The sample was 144 males and 163 females, with 142 white and 165 Latino.
- Youth were randomly assigned to one of the three training groups. The training sessions were two hours in length, were coeducational, and lasted nine weeks.

The Findings

- Cohort retention was 81%.
- Knowledge of AIDS, STDs, and pregnancy prevention increased more for the DT group than for the SST or NT groups. The SST group gained significantly more knowledge than the NT group.
- Refusal (to have sex) skills results did not reach significance.
- Negotiation skills improved significantly for the SST group.
- The analysis seemed to indicate that “say no to sex” assertiveness increased only for Latinos in the SST group.
- Latino youth were significantly more anxious than white youth at baseline. Latinos in the SST group significantly decreased their anxiety levels.
- Analysis indicated that DT increased youth knowledge, whereas SST increased youth assertiveness to say no.

R2P Evaluation

- This article reports on a study with a solid research design. The samples were large and randomly assigned to three groups. The results indicated that a combination of social skills training and didactic training is needed to increase both knowledge and assertiveness among white and Latino youth participating in AIDS and pregnancy prevention programs.

James-Childs, E. Y. (2000). Adolescents and young adult male parenting: The forgotten half. Unpublished dissertation, University of Colorado, Boulder.

- *This thesis explored the processes of parenting for the young father, who was often forgotten in both pregnancy prevention and young parenthood.*

The Study

- Aims of this study included:
 - Describing the adolescent father based on interviews with men who are or were adolescent fathers, and
 - Developing a theory to describe the process of adolescent parenting.

The Methods

- This qualitative study had a sample of 10 fathers (4 African American and 6 Latino), ages 15 to 27 years, who resided in the western United States.
- Categories of interest to the author included:
 - Experiencing a turbulent early life,
 - Participating in gang activity,
 - Enhancing life through fatherhood, and
 - Becoming a responsible father.

The Findings

- Early turbulent life findings:
 - Most of the fathers felt unloved or un-cared for by their families, and
 - Poverty and drug use played major roles.
- Gang involvement findings:
 - Gangs became a surrogate family with a sense of belonging and security;
 - Involvement led to more negative behaviors including early sex, skipping school, substance abuse, and adolescent fatherhood; and
 - Most fathers desired to change their lives after becoming a parent.
- Enhancing their life through fatherhood findings:
 - The majority of fathers responded positively to the pregnancy,
 - There was evidence of a stronger bond and commitment for fathers who were actively involved,
 - Many fathers felt dissuaded from asking questions of medical staff, and
 - Some had difficulty adjusting because they had little structure growing up.
- Becoming a responsible father findings:
 - Those who had some responsibilities as a child were better adjusted to taking on responsibilities of fatherhood, and
 - Many had financial struggles. Only five participants were employed.

R2P Evaluation

- This thesis highlights one of the problems with adolescent pregnancy—exclusion of the father. The findings of this study can be used to better target programs for adolescent fathers.

Johns, M. J., Moncloa, F., & Gong, E. J. (2000). Teen pregnancy prevention programs: Linking research and practice. *Journal of Extension, 38(4)*.

- *This article reports on major literature reviews of best practices aimed at preventing adolescent pregnancy. It raises the significance, given population trends, of a slower decline in teen birthrates in California among Hispanic youth compared with other youth in California and the nation.*

The Study

- The authors cited the following 10 best practices in teen pregnancy prevention:
 - Youth development,
 - Involvement of family and other caring adults,
 - Male involvement,
 - Cultural relevance,
 - Community-wide campaigns,
 - Service learning programs,
 - Programs to improve employment opportunities,
 - Outreach in teen pregnancy prevention programs,
 - Access to reproductive health services, and
 - Sexual education and AIDS education programs.

The Methods

- The authors used these criteria to distill best practices:
 - Is the best practice research-based?
 - Does the evaluation show positive effects?
 - Does the best practice meet the needs of multiethnic audiences? Is the practice culturally relevant?
 - Does it meet the needs of various socioeconomic populations?
 - Does the identified practice have application in a variety of settings?
 - Is it sustainable?

The Findings

- The National Council of La Raza identifies key characteristics of effective programs targeting Hispanic pregnant and parenting teens while recognizing and responding sensitively to cultural values regarding gender roles. For example, Hispanic teen mothers might not see the importance of becoming self-sufficient.
- A caution is that research on adolescent pregnancy in the Hispanic community is limited, and rigorous program evaluations are lacking.

R2P Evaluation

- This report provides a useful overview of one system's method of identifying best practices and a reference list of reviews for those seeking further information.

Kirby, D. (2001). *Emerging answers: Research findings on programs to reduce teen pregnancy*. Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

- *Emerging Answers is a follow-up to the 1997 book No Easy Answers. Both publications present research findings on programs to reduce teen pregnancy.*

The Study

- Teen pregnancy and childbearing rates have dropped among all racial and ethnic groups in the United States.
- This report finds that there are now more programs for teens, and they are having greater effects on teen decisionmaking. The United States, however, still has the highest teen pregnancy rates of all industrialized nations.
- This review only includes primary prevention programs.
- Author stresses that efforts cannot end—there are new teens every year.

The Methods

- Program inclusion criteria included:
 - 1980 or newer In U.S. or Canada
 - Target ages 12 to 18 Experimental/quasiexperimental
 - Total sample = 100+ Measure affects predefined behaviors
- The author looked at more than 250 studies for this publication.
- The author gathered more than 100 precursors to early teen sexual intercourse and potential pregnancy or STDs, including family structure and economic disadvantage.

The Findings

- The author divided pregnancy prevention programs into three types: focus on sexual risk factors, focus on nonsexual risk factors, or focus on both.
- A few abstinence-only programs were examined and showed few positive results.
- Sex and HIV education programs' evaluations showed that exposure to these types of programs does not hasten onset of sex, increase its frequency, or increase the number of partners. Some of these studies have shown delay in sexual activities.
- The most effective programs shared 10 characteristics:
 - Focused on reducing sexual behaviors,
 - Based on theoretical approaches,
 - Reinforced abstinence or condom use,
 - Provided accurate information,
 - Addressed social pressures,
 - Provided communication skills,
 - Involved participants,
 - Lasted a sufficient amount of time,
 - Were age and culturally appropriate, and
 - Used trainers who are invested.

R2P Evaluation

- Good resource for those needing program recommendations. This informal meta-analysis assembled the common threads of successful programs.

Kirby, D. (2001). Understanding what works and what doesn't in reducing adolescent sexual risk-taking. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 33(6), 276–281.

- *This article was an addition to a previously published study, Emerging Answers: Research Findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy, by the same author. The author provided a closer examination of adolescent norms to help understand findings not included in the first publication.*

The Study

- The article discussed the importance of stability for teens and focuses on three specific settings where teens found norms that can help prevent teen pregnancy, including:
 - Parents,
 - Community, and
 - Self.
- These preventive norms could be challenged when:
 - A lot of disorganization and disadvantage existed;
 - Teen was sexually abused, causing them to have unclear messages about sex and sexuality; and
 - The norms and behaviors of peers promoted premarital sex without contraceptive use.

The Findings

- Norms are not just taught through verbalization, but they are also taught through behavior and actions.
- Positive connectedness results from a strong attachment to family, school, religion, and peer groups.
- Programs that the author found to effectively reduce teen pregnancy had the following characteristics:
 - They provided information about avoiding unprotected sex and condom use,
 - The staff believed in the programs and could relate to youth, and
 - There was good follow-up with each youth, resulting in high connectedness and a decrease in repeat pregnancies.

R2P Evaluation

- This report offers good information on teen pregnancy in general. For workers who did not read the other published study, this provides a good summary.
- The information provided on norms and connectedness may be applicable to the Latino community when their cultural values and characteristics are considered.

Kirby, D. (2002). The impact of schools and school programs upon adolescent sexual behavior. *Journal of Sex Research*, 39(1), 27–34.

- *This article explored the theory that schools have great potential to reduce sexual risk-taking in youth because schools are where most children spend a large part of their adolescence.*

The Study

- Studies showed that being in school reduced sexual risk-taking behaviors in youth.
- Youth in the United States who dropped out of school were more likely to initiate sex earlier, not use contraception, become pregnant, and have the child.
- For youth who stayed in school, investment, involvement, attachment, performance, and plans to go to college were all positively related to age of initial sex, frequency of sex, pregnancy, and childbearing.
- Youth in communities and schools with high rates of poverty and social disorganization were more likely to become pregnant.
- Some preliminary research shows that enhanced nonsexuality school programs that promote education and careers could delay childbearing among students.
- Research indicates that programs that combine contraception and STD education with abstinence have better outcomes than contraception and STD education alone.
- Weaker results were found for school-based and school-linked health clinics. This research did indicate, however, that clinics that dispense contraception but also give a clear message about delaying sex and safe sex may be effective.

R2P Evaluation

- This article is a good review of many school-based programs on pregnancy prevention. The reference list contains many other readings as well as research studies.

Kirby, D., Coyle, K., & Gould, J. B. (2001). Manifestations of poverty and birthrates among young teenagers in California zip code areas. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 33(2), 63–69.

- *This study examined the relationship of teen birthrates and community demographic variables such as poverty, education, employment, and ethnicity.*

The Study

- Researchers sought to determine community characteristics associated with higher rates of teen child bearing.

The Methods

- Using a sample of 1,192 California zip codes, researchers compared the annual birthrates for 15- to 17-year-old females between 1991 and 1996 with social indicators of race, ethnicity, education, employment, income status, and housing.
- They first calculated bivariate correlations between the variables, then used multiple regression to determine more accurately the contribution of the indicators to teen child bearing.

The Findings

- Low income had a greater relationship with young teen birthrates than any other indicator measured. It appeared to play a greater role in both the African American and Hispanic populations than in the white population.
- The second largest statistically significant outcome in all racial and ethnic groups was for college education. The effect was greatest for Hispanics and least important for non-Hispanic whites, meaning college education had the greatest positive effect for Hispanics.
- After poverty, employment, and other community characteristics were controlled for, race and ethnicity had a statistically significant, but very small, positive effect on teen birthrates.
- Researchers also noted that birthrates for a particular ethnic group were lower when that group constituted a larger proportion of the area population.
- The researchers point out that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon and that although poverty as a whole is difficult to address, programs have successfully addressed some of its manifestations, such as school failure and dropout and positive connections with adults. They contend that this research supports the importance of such efforts.

R2P Evaluation

- This study uses a large sample of communities to identify characteristics associated with higher rates of teen pregnancy. Results support other findings that point to the significance of income, education, and ethnic homogeneity.

Kirby, D., Korpi M., Barth, R. P., & Cagampang, H. H. (1997). The impact of the postponing sexual involvement curriculum among youths in California. *Family Planning Perspectives, 29(3), 100–108.*

- *This study examined the short-term, intermediate, and long-term positive effects of a curriculum in wide use in middle schools throughout California.*

The Study

- This study highlighted an evaluation of the effectiveness of Postponing Sexual Involvement (PSI) among seventh and eighth graders in California. The authors recruited 10,600 youth from schools and community-based organizations statewide and randomly assigned them to intervention or control groups.
- Either adult or youth leaders implemented the curriculum.
- The California replication included PSI as part of a larger 1992 to 1994 Education Now and Babies Later initiative.

The Methods

- Of 28 organizations, 21 completed all of the requirements of the evaluation and are included in the results. In all, 56 middle or junior high schools and 17 community-based agencies participated in the evaluation.
- The authors drew on previous research in the field for outcome measures; when no appropriate scales were available, researchers developed their own items.
- The authors collected three waves of survey data—pretest, at 3 months, and at 17 months.

The Findings

- At three months, the authors found small, but statistically significant, changes in fewer than half of the measured attitudes, behaviors, and intentions related to sexual activity.
- At 17 months, the students had not sustained any of the significant positive effects.
- At follow-up, youth in the treatment and control groups were equally likely to have become sexually active; youth in treatment groups were not less likely than youth in control groups to report a pregnancy or a sexually transmitted infection.
- The evaluation suggested PSI may be too modest in length (five sessions) and scope to affect youths' sexual behavior.

R2P Evaluation

- The evaluation has several notable strengths: a strong design with random assignment, short- and long-term follow up, and large sample sizes. It allowed for evaluation of youth- and adult-led PSI in school and community-based settings.
- Limitations include the lack of a strict no-treatment control group; the authors evaluated whether PSI had a significant effect when it was taught in addition to other limited instruction on human sexuality.

Koniak-Griffin, D., & Turner-Pluta, C. (2000). Health risks and psychosocial outcomes of early childbearing: A review of the literature. *Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing*, 15(2), 1–17.

- *This article provided a review of the literature on the outcomes associated with early child bearing and offered recommendations for new models and strategies in providing care for young mothers.*

The Study

- This article was separated into five areas of focus:
 - Obstetric and neonatal health risks,
 - Low birthweight (LBW) and preterm birth,
 - Medical risks,
 - Psychological risks, and
 - Nursing care of childbearing adolescents.
- LBW was disproportionately higher for infants of adolescents than adult mothers.
- Perpetuators of child abuse shared some of the same characteristics as many young parents. These characteristics included:
 - Low educational attainment,
 - History of sexual and/or physical abuse,
 - Poverty during youth, and
 - Being raised by a single parent.
- The medical risks specific to young mothers were:
 - Anemia,
 - Sexually transmitted infections,
 - Urinary tract infections, and
 - Pregnancy-induced hypertension.
- Young mothers who did not use birth control because of potential side effects also lacked motivation to postpone early motherhood and were most likely to have repeat pregnancies.
- Four things for nurses to keep in mind when working with young mothers include:
 - Provide guidance on breastfeeding,
 - Offer information about contraception,
 - Focus on risk reduction, and
 - Provide culturally and ethnically sensitive programs.
- Three recommendations for providers who want to have successful outcomes for the young parents and their children:
 - Consistent follow-up and home visits,
 - Prenatal care focused on behavior change, and
 - Postnatal care to help the new parents understand the physical development and care of their new child.

R2P Evaluation

- This article provides a summary of numerous research articles, which can be very useful for providers who may not find time to read each individual article.

Lesser, J., Tello, J., Koniak-Griffin, D., Kappos, B., & Rhys, M. (2001). Young Latino fathers' perceptions of paternal role and risk for HIV/AIDS. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 23, 327–343.

- *This study explored young Latino fathers' feelings about and perceptions of fatherhood and HIV risk.*

The Study

- Little research exists on young fathers, even less on young Latino fathers.
- AIDS rates have increased markedly among Latino and African American youth.
- In Los Angeles County, 80% of all teen births are to Latinas.
- The idea behind this study was to develop a better HIV-prevention curriculum for Latinos.

The Methods

- The researchers conducted focus groups and interviews with 45 young, Latino fathers in Los Angeles County. They also distributed a questionnaire. They conducted the interviews and focus groups between May 1999 and June 2000.

The Findings

- Three major themes emerged from the interviews:
 - Poverty, social oppression, violence, and alcohol and drugs marred the childhoods of these fathers;
 - The role of gangs was very influential; and
 - Becoming a father changed their lives, causing them to leave the gang, gain empathy from others, and modify their perspectives on male/female relationships.
- Despite this major life change, many in the sample still did not practice safe sex.

R2P Evaluation

- This qualitative study is easy to read. The authors, however, do not fully articulate potential changes for HIV and pregnancy prevention curriculum based on their findings.

Lieberman, L. D., Gray, H., Wier, M., Fiorentino, R., & Maloney, P. (2000). Long-term outcomes of an abstinence-based small-group pregnancy prevention program in New York City schools. *Family Planning Perspectives, 32(5), 237–245.*

- *This article reported on the research of an abstinence-based, small group program conducted in three New York City middle schools.*

The Study

- There are a wide variety of school-based programs. Some show positive outcomes for preventing increased sexual activity. Few, however, show significant long-term reductions in onset of sexual activity, number of sexual partners, and increased contraception use.
- Also, no published studies show better results for abstinence-only programs.
- Project IMPACT (Inwood House Model of Pregnancy Prevention and Care for Teenagers) is a small-group, mental health model that focuses on relationships, communication, skill-building, and positive mental health. The program also provides up-to-date, accurate information on sexuality, pregnancy, and STDs.

The Methods

- The sample for this program was self-selected. At pretest, the intervention group $n = 223$, at posttest 168, and at follow-up 125. The comparison group at pretest $n = 304$, at posttest 249, and at follow-up 187. The intervention group included 17.6% Latino male and 19.8% Latino female. The comparison group included 26.7% Latino male and 23.5% Latino female.
- Groups consisted of 8 to 12 members and met for 12 to 14 sessions. The groups were single-sex or coeducational.
- The authors collected pretest data from February to March 1996, posttest data from May to June 1996, and follow-up data from April to August 1997.

The Findings

- There were few significant short-term outcomes. Long-term outcomes were better.
- The self-selection process resulted in a “needier” intervention group.
- There were some long-term positive gains for the intervention group in attitudes about sex, control over their lives, relationships, and communication with parents.
- Some girls reported that their first sexual experience was nonvoluntary or unwanted. This is a concern, and the authors believe this needs to be addressed in abstinence-based curricula.

R2P Evaluation

- The results of this study are limited, but key findings are noteworthy, particularly regarding girls’ first sexual experience being unwanted. The charts are helpful, and the data are clear and concise. The article also discusses study limitations.

Manlove, J., Terry-Humen, E., Romano Papillo, A., Franzetta, K, Williams, S., & Ryan, S. (2002, May). Preventing teenage pregnancy, childbearing, and sexually transmitted diseases: What the research shows. *Child Trends Research Brief*.

- *The authors reviewed more than 150 research studies on adolescent reproductive health. The report includes a “what works” table that identifies successful programs and practices.*

The Study

- Older teens were more likely to use contraception than younger teens.
- Adolescents who participated in school, religion, and sports were less likely to engage in risky behaviors.
- Parents and family factors were significantly related to adolescents’ reproductive health and decisionmaking.
- Adolescents tended to seek out friends who have similar interests and attitudes.
- Teens who had experienced nonvoluntary or unwanted sex and those with much older partners seemed to be at the greatest risk for early intercourse, multiple sex partners, lack of contraception, and pregnancy.
- The type and location of schools teens attended could affect their reproductive health choices. Poorer schools and neighborhoods tended to have higher rates of adolescent pregnancy.
- Newer studies on early childhood education interventions for disadvantaged children showed that these programs affect their reproductive health decisions in adolescence.

The Findings

- There were few well-researched reproductive health programs that show significant results.
- Many abstinence-only programs showed no significant improvements in adolescent decisionmaking.
- Most programs received mixed reviews—some components showed significantly positive results or worked well for girls but not boys.
- The authors highlighted programs that appear to be making a difference but have no formal research.

R2P Evaluation

- This research brief summarizes the key points of a longer publication on adolescent reproductive health. The summary is concise, and the “what works” section is extremely helpful for determining what programs and practices are worth pursuing further. The reference section is also a good source for further information.

Marano, M. (2000). *The creation of the Latina Values Scale: An analysis of Marianismo's effect of Latina women attending college*. Unpublished dissertation, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

- *This study focused on the mental health of Latino women and provided an instrument to measure the cultural value of marianismo. Marianismo was defined as traditional values and cultural norms imposed by Latino society and the Catholic Church on Latinas.*

The Study

- The researcher created an instrument to measure *marianismo*, a term used to understand a Latina's social interactions.
- The study introduced marianismo, then included chapters about:
 - Latinos in the United States,
 - Latinas mental health,
 - The definition of marianismo,
 - Self-esteem and assertiveness,
 - Other implications for treatment, and
 - The purpose of the study.
- The researcher hypothesized that higher marianismo scores would translate to lower self-esteem scores.

The Methods

- The investigator developed a Latina Values Scale (LVS).
- There were two phases to the research. First, nine students tested the proposed LVS and participated in a focus group about marianismo and cultural conflicts. Second, the author tested LVS on 63 Latina undergraduate college students.

The Findings

- Women reported receiving messages about appropriate behavior for women, which included not having premarital sex and not leaving home until married.
- Goals of being a good woman, wife, and mother were agreed to be positive, however, pressure to achieve the goals was sometimes overwhelming.
- Latina participants reported receiving negative messages about sexual activity, however, some participants reported gaining positive beliefs about respecting their bodies.
- Marianismo plays a role in the level of a Latina's self-esteem, in that it is linked to how a woman believes others perceive her.

R2P Evaluation

- This study is very promising. The research focuses on issues that are at the core of understanding young Latinas and pregnancy prevention: self-esteem, femininity, and cultural characteristics.

**Martinez, L. L. (1997). *The Latino teenage father: Perceptions of fatherhood.*
Unpublished dissertation, California State University, Fullerton.**

- *This study explored how Latino males define fatherhood and seeked to provide a better understanding of Latino teenage fathers.*

The Study

- The study question was, What effect did ethnicity have on a Latino male's perception and role as a father?
- The literature review of this study included:
 - Contraception,
 - Consequences for children of teenage parents,
 - Race and socioeconomic differences,
 - Teenage fathers,
 - Developmental considerations,
 - Lack of services,
 - Male roles in the Latino culture, and
 - Acculturation.

The Methods

- The researcher conducted individual interviews with 12 Latino teenage fathers from ages 16 to 19.
- The author conducted a three-part interview with each participant, for a total of 18 questions. Questions were asked about demographics, a father's relationship with his child, and definitions of the term *fatherhood*.

The Findings

- Of the 12 fathers, 8 had negative relationships with their fathers; these experiences shaped their perceptions of the kind of father they wanted to be.
- Themes that emerged from the interviews included:
 - Fathers need to be there for their children,
 - Fathers are important to families, and
 - Fathers desire a connection with their children.
- The data suggest a strong link between partner relationship and parental involvement.

R2P Evaluation

- This study provides important information with regard to Latino teenage fathers and their perceptions of masculinity and fatherhood.

Mayden, B., Castro, W., & Annitto, M. (1999). *First talk: A teen pregnancy prevention dialogue among Latinos*. Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America.

- *This book provided a thorough discussion of Latino culture, policy issues, and recommendations for program development.*

The Study

- The Child Welfare League of America and the National Council of Latino Executives collaborated on a Latino pregnancy prevention symposium with professionals from the pregnancy prevention, health, social services, and the Latino community.
- Symposium participants discussed three characteristics of the Latino population:
 - The importance of family, or *familism*,
 - The importance of respect, or *respeto*, and
 - The cultural characteristic of masculinity, *machismo*.
- The factors that contribute to Latino teen pregnancy are:
 - Socioeconomic status,
 - Access to health care,
 - Educational attainment,
 - Importance of religion, and
 - Adolescent development.
- According to research, young Latinos engage in some sexual activity, but report low contraceptives use.
- Approaches to adolescent pregnancy prevention targeted to Latinos include:
 - Providing programs that promote family relationships and communication,
 - Addressing the factors that contribute to Latino teen pregnancy,
 - Providing sexual health education to parents and children,
 - Providing birth control information and services,
 - Incorporating a male responsibility component, and
 - Using a youth development model.
- Statutory rape is seen differently in the United States than in Central and South America, where younger women dating older men may not be seen as a problem.
- The participants discussed recommendations for providers on how to advocate for more funding for Title X. Title X is the Public Health Service Act, and it provides federal funding to family planning programs that provide confidential services to minors without parental consent.
- The participants discussed principles of underlying program development. Suggestions included:
 - Promoting open communication;
 - Recognizing the roles of race, ethnicity and culture; and
 - Acknowledging diverse sexual orientations.

R2P Evaluation

- This book provides a good start in the discussion of preventing Latino adolescent pregnancy. The list of participants and the list of resources are very useful.

Maynard, R. A. (Ed.). (1997.) *Kids having kids: Economic costs and social consequences of teen pregnancy*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press.

- *This publication addressed three social forces: the rise of child poverty, the increasing number of welfare recipients and rising costs, and the higher proportion of never-married young women who remain dependant for many years.*

The Study

- This book addressed trends in adolescent childbearing and factors that potentially exacerbate the trends and their consequences.
- *Kids Having Kids* research showed that there are several poor outcomes for adolescent parents; early childbearing is only one of them.

The Methods

- The authors compared adolescents who have children before age 18 with those who wait at least four more years, or until age 21. The authors believed that this waiting period has a positive effect on adolescent outcomes.

The Findings

- Teen pregnancy and childbirth outcomes in the larger context of social and economic change:
 - Employment and earnings potentials for least-educated people are worse.
 - The rising rate of out-of-wedlock births and the rising age of marriage means that more teen mothers will probably have only their own earnings to support themselves and their children.
- A consequence for teen mothers is spending a larger percentage of their lives single.
- Consequences for fathers:
 - Men who delay childbearing have more education and economic success.
 - Fathers who marry the teenage mothers of their children work more hours than fathers who do not marry the mother.
- Consequences for children:
 - The home environment tends to be poorer for children of teenagers, and these children score lower on educational markers.
 - Both of these trends apply to subsequent children of the teen mother also.
- Child's health and medical outcomes:
 - Children born to nonteen mothers are in better overall health.
 - More teen mothers receive public assistance for their child's health care.
- Children of teen mothers are more likely to be indicated for abuse or neglect.
- Children of teen parents are almost three times as likely to be incarcerated.
- Being the child of a teen parent reduces the chances of economic, education, and family formation success later in life.

R2P Evaluation

- This publication contains economic models and negative trends for adolescent childbearing. The theories are documented and thought provoking.

McBride, C. K. (1999). *Individual, familial, and contextual factors predicting situations of sexual possibility in Latina adolescents*. Unpublished dissertation, University of Miami, FL.

- *This dissertation examined several factors that potentially lead to situations of sexual possibility for Latina adolescents. Specifically, the author examines individual, familial, and contextual factors.*

The Study

- Minority communities tend to have a greater number of risk factors for pregnancy and STDs, including poverty, inner-city stresses, and conflicts with the majority culture.
- The author presented three hypotheses:
 - Time since first menarche, parental monitoring, and family support will play a factor in Latino adolescent sexual risk taking;
 - Acculturation of mother and adolescent will predict situations of sexual possibility; and
 - Family support will play a major role in sexual risk taking of Latina youth.

The Methods

- The author used data from two other studies. The final sample was 112 Latina girls in the sixth and seventh grades around the Miami area.

The Findings

- By itself, early onset menarche was not significantly related to sexual risk taking.
- Not surprisingly, age showed a direct relationship with sexual possibility. As a Latina girl aged, she was more likely to engage in sexual risk taking.
- Parental monitoring was inversely significantly related to sexual possibility—the more involved the parents were in the child’s life, the less likely she would engage in sexual risk taking.
- Family support had a weak inverted relationship with sexual possibility, meaning more family support equaled less chance of sexual possibility.
- The more time a Latino mother and daughter spent living in the United States the more likely the daughter would engage in sexual possibilities.

R2P Evaluation

- This research supplies needed information for pregnancy prevention programs that work with Latino adolescents. The findings indicate that parental involvement leads to less risky behavior. This information is valuable for developing ways to reach out to the Latino community to engage them in pregnancy prevention work.

Medora, N. P., & von der Hellen, C. (1997). Romanticism and self-esteem among teen mothers. *Adolescence*, 32(128), 811–825.

- *This study examined demographic and situational factors associated with romanticism and self-esteem in a population of teen mothers. More than half of the study sample was Latino.*

The Study

- Objectives of the study were:
 - To investigate the degree of romanticism and self-esteem in teen mothers;
 - To compare feelings of romanticism and self-esteem among pregnant teens, parenting teens, and a control group of nonpregnant, nonparenting teens; and
 - To explore the relationship between romanticism and the independent variables:
 - Mother’s age,
 - Age at birth of first child,
 - Incidence of sexual abuse,
 - Incidence of abortion,
 - Current sexual activity,
 - Adoption considerations,
 - Current use of birth control,
 - Whether the baby’s father denied paternity,
 - Whether the mother’s parents were living together, and
 - The quality of the relationship between the mother’s parents.

The Methods

- The authors administered the Dean Romanticism Scale and the Bachman Self-Esteem Scale to 94 mothers ages 13 to 18 in southern California to measure the dependent variables of romanticism and self-esteem. Of the sample, 54% was Latino, 23% African American, 18% Anglo, and 4% Asian.
- The study examined the relationship between the dependent variables and 10 independent variables.

The Findings

- Mothers had lower romanticism scores if they had considered adoption, had previously had an abortion, were currently sexually active, had parents who did not live together, or were not described as having positive relationships.
- Being older (16-18) and using birth control were associated with higher self-esteem.

R2P Evaluation

- The identification of factors associated with the psychological variables of romanticism and self-esteem may have implications for counseling and educational programs directed at teen pregnancy prevention.

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2000). *Hispanic research project* (PowerPoint presentation). Available from <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/reading/ppt/hisp.ppt>.

- *This report was a presentation that contains graphs and charts highlighting Hispanic community growth in the United States.*

The Study

- Latino teen pregnancy rates and birthrates have not decreased as much as the overall U.S. teen pregnancy rates and birthrates.
- The teen pregnancy rates in the United States for Latina girls is 165 per 1,000 15- to 19-year-olds. The overall U.S. teen pregnancy rate is 97 per 1,000 15- to 19-year-olds.
- The report features charts that bolster the author's theory that Latino teen pregnancy will become a major issue if not addressed now. The charts show that Hispanics are going to be the largest minority group in the United States by 2010.
- U.S. Hispanics, on average, are young, have not finished high school, and make less money than other U.S. ethnic groups.
- The population growth rate of Hispanic teenagers far outpaces other U.S. teen population growth rates—68% Hispanic to 7% other by 2020.
- Of U.S. Hispanics, 72% are foreign-born and maintain strong cultural ties to their homelands.

R2P Evaluation

- The charts and population data are very useful in detailing the changing demographics of the United States.

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2001). *It all starts at home: Helping the Hispanic community prevent teen pregnancy.* Washington, DC: Author.

- *This article discussed the challenges providers of pregnancy prevention programs may encounter when working with the Latino community.*

The Study

- This article was based on a conference call that took place on December 13, 2001. Participants in the call included six professionals working with the Latino community on pregnancy prevention issues.
- The discussion had three main objectives:
 - Dealing with challenges and opportunities,
 - Creating and marketing prevention messages for Latinos, and
 - Creating programs for Latino teens.
- The National Alliance for Hispanic Health reported that Latino parents desire more information to use in talking with their children about sexuality. This trend has been seen since the early 1980s.
- The assimilation process plays a large role in why first-generation Latinas get pregnant.
- Better subgroup data is needed for the Latino community because it is important to know if a population is first or second generation.
- When working with the Latino population, it is important to look at family resources as well as community resources.
- Strengths of the Latino community include:
 - Relationships,
 - Deep sense of spirituality,
 - Strong commitment to children and families,
 - Strong family values that are transmitted to future generations, and
 - Respect that is valued and reciprocated.
- Challenges for Latino parents wanting to speak with their children about sex include:
 - A cultural taboo in talking about sexuality,
 - Feeling that religious beliefs do not allow discussions on premarital sex,
 - A feeling of lack of control over the environment children are growing up in compared with the environment parents grew up in, and
 - Lack of skills in communicating with their children about sexuality.
- Reinforcing the positive characteristics of *machismo* are essential in helping young Latino males become involved in pregnancy prevention programs.
- Including Latino youth in the decisionmaking process will result in more effective programming.

R2P Evaluation

- This article provides useful information for providers working with the Latino community. The participants presented many ideas about what local organizations have done to work with the Latino communities in their areas.

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2001). *Partners in progress: The education community and preventing teen pregnancy*. Washington, DC: Author.

- *This article presented noncontroversial ways to present teen pregnancy prevention information for educators and to strengthen and provide new ideas for existing programs.*

The Study

- There is a strong connection between school failure and teen pregnancy. School failure can be the first step toward an unplanned pregnancy.
- The consequences of teen pregnancy include:
 - High dropout rate for teen parents, and
 - Difficulty finding a well-paying job.
- Children of teen parents experience:
 - Being left behind in grades,
 - Being more likely to not complete high school, and
 - Scoring lower on standardized tests.
- Besides providing sexuality education classes, schools can help decrease the rates of teen pregnancy by:
 - Providing education that includes information about managing pressure to become sexually active and the handling emotional consequences of sex,
 - Hosting parent forums where parents can discuss their concerns and receive training,
 - Providing health clinic services in the schools that include information on contraception, and
 - Recognizing that teens receive information about sexuality from various sources.
- Tips for successful programs and approaches that schools, educators, and people concerned with teen pregnancy can use include:
 - Set high standards for all students,
 - Involve parents and youth,
 - Create partnerships with organizations and people who are working in this area,
 - Use a youth development model,
 - Create an environment where youth can succeed,
 - Prepare teachers for encountering youth who seek them as advisors for information about sexuality, and
 - Let research assist in guiding new program development or improving existing programs.

R2P Evaluation

- Although this was not a research study, the campaign used pregnancy prevention research in the development of pregnancy prevention tips for educators. The tips included are extensive and informative.

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2002). *Not just another single issue: Teen pregnancy prevention's link to other critical social issues.* Washington, DC: Author.

- *This article discusses the link between teen pregnancy and other social issues. The author believed that preventing teen pregnancy will positively influence the welfare, well being, future births, responsible fatherhood, and workforce development of youth.*

The Study

- This article addresses teen pregnancy in the context of five different social issues:
 - Welfare dependency and poverty,
 - Child well-being,
 - Out-of-wedlock births and marriage,
 - Responsible fatherhood, and
 - Workforce development.
- The article states that although teen pregnancy rates are decreasing, policymakers, the media, and the public should not think the problem is solved.
- The number of welfare cases has declined, however, to sustain this progress, communities need policies and resources that help young boys and girls avoid adolescent pregnancy.
- One way to improve the overall well-being of children in the United States is to reduce the number of children born to young women.
- Assisting more women to reach adulthood before they have children will ensure that more children are born into stable, married families.
- A strong message to avoid adolescent parenting must focus on reaching young men.
- Reducing teen pregnancy can have a direct positive effect on the future of the U.S. workforce.

R2P Evaluation

- This article addresses five important issues in teen pregnancy prevention. The endnotes and statistics included are helpful.

National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth. (1998). *Preventing adolescent pregnancy: A youth development approach*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- *This publication was a compilation of strategies in youth development as it pertains to pregnancy prevention. The book featured the federal Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) and its grantees.*

The Study

- Adolescent pregnancy prevention:
 - Some evidence indicates that girls between 15 and 17 years of age who have a baby will have another within the next 18 to 24 months. Once young girls become pregnant, they often get little support to go back to school or to work toward self-sufficiency.
 - Due to widely available contraception, people have less sympathy for adolescents who become pregnant. Teenage pregnancy, however, is often more complicated than just poor choice.
 - As children grow, parents teach them basic lifeskills, but not enough effort is put into teaching them about sexuality. It is often uncomfortable.
 - Many institutions are competing to define appropriate sexual behavior: religious institutions, policymakers, and families.
 - A common ground for both abstinence and education campaigns is in delaying sexual activity as a best outcome. Renewed interest in positive youth development also exists.
 - Sex education courses are most successful when communities are supportive.
- Pregnancy prevention from a positive youth development perspective:
 - FYSB experience shows that focusing on undesirable outcomes for youth is less effective than focusing on a positive vision for youth.
 - The FYSB Transitional Living Program (TLP) offers state agencies a funded placement option for young pregnant and/or parenting teens.
 - TLP is a holistic program of graduated steps that move youth from a highly structured environment to independence.
 - This chapter also highlights examples of TLP programs.
- Ideas for getting started are included for those interested in starting comprehensive services for pregnancy prevention.
- Building on lessons learned:
 - Researchers must work with practitioners and policymakers.
 - Community involvement is key.
 - Abstinence education is effective in a larger framework.
 - Young people need positive influences surrounding them.

R2P Evaluation

- This publication offers examples of programs and practices in the field. A good reference list is also included.

**National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organization. (1999).
The state of Hispanic girls. Washington, DC: COSSMHO Press.**

- *This study examined health and mental health issues of U.S. Latinas.*

The Study

- The National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organization conducted a series of focus groups in 1998 with Latinas, parents, and youth workers that covered seven topics:
 - Latino culture,
 - Family and peer relationships,
 - School performance,
 - Self-esteem,
 - Specific risk behaviors (teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and violence),
 - General health and health-damaging behaviors, and
 - Messages to support the empowerment of Latinas.
- Although Latinas are the largest minority group of girls in the United States, fewer prevention and treatment services are available to them.
- Latinas have the highest rates of teen pregnancy, suicide attempts, alcohol and drug abuse, and gun possession.
- It is essential to have bilingual and bicultural providers and role models.
- It is important to remember where sources of information on Latinas come from. For example, the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance only collected data on high school students enrolled in school, leaving out middle school students and youth who dropped out or were facilitated out of school.
- Latinas who drop out of school tend to get pregnant and not return to school or work.
- Latino youth are twice as likely to depend on hospital health care because of financial barriers, lack of access to quality and affordable health care, and a high dropout rate, which leaves Latinos at a loss for school-based health education.
- Culturally competent outreach services for Latinos should include:
 - Fully bilingual staff and educators,
 - Collaboration with respected members of the community, and
 - Emphasis on culturally appropriate practices.
- Factors that are linked to Latinas' delaying sexual activity include:
 - Speaking Spanish as their first language,
 - Being a new immigrant to the United States, and
 - Attending church regularly.
- Factors linked to low self-esteem for Latinas include:
 - Arrival in the United States during adolescence or early childhood,
 - Unhappiness with physical appearance, and
 - Failure to attract members of the opposite sex.

R2P Evaluation

- This study is promising and provides essential information and insight on Latinas.

National School Boards Association. (1999). Curricular programs to curb teen pregnancy. *School Board News*, 18(8), 38–41.

- *This report discussed recommendations from a December 1998 conference on preventing teen pregnancy in Washington, DC.*

The Study

- The National School Boards Association and National Association of State Boards of Education sponsored the conference and report, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funded them.
- The conference goal was to improve student achievement and decrease rates of teen pregnancy.
- Teenagers who are most at risk of becoming pregnant include:
 - Teens who live in low-income communities,
 - Sisters and/or peers of teens who are pregnant,
 - Teens who live in foster care or other unstable housing,
 - Youth who have low expectations about their future, and
 - Youth who experience low school achievement.
- Programs that are successful in decreasing teen pregnancy:
 - Provide accurate information about sexual intercourse and advice on protection;
 - Offer communication, negotiation, social, and refusal skills;
 - Incorporate peer education;
 - Are long term, not just a few short sessions; and
 - Target boys and girls.
- This program incorporates a positive youth development model that helps youth develop into healthy adults, which is essential to reducing teen pregnancy.

R2P Evaluation

- This report was brief, but offered suggestions from experts in the field of teen pregnancy prevention that can be useful for any provider.
- The report highlighted local community and media efforts to decrease adolescent pregnancy and discusses why they were successful.

Orshan, S. A. (1996). Acculturation, perceived social support, and self-esteem in primigravida Puerto Rican teenagers. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 18, 460–473.

- *This study reported dissertation research undertaken as part of a larger study of reproductive and sexuality issues of distinct U.S. mainland Hispanic cultures.*

The Study

- The purpose of this descriptive study is to learn about acculturation and its possible relationship to planned and unplanned teen pregnancy. Perceived social support and self-esteem are variables of interest.
- Primigravida is defined as a person pregnant for the first time.

The Methods

- The sample was composed of 63 adolescents ages 13 to 17 experiencing first pregnancies and residing in low-income neighborhoods, who self-reported being Puerto Rican.
- After they volunteered to participate, the researcher asked participants to complete a questionnaire that combined demographic information and three instruments that measured social support, self-esteem, and acculturation.

The Findings

- The author analyzed data for two groups that responded to the question about planned pregnancies: those teens who planned ($n = 19$) and those who did not plan ($n = 37$) their pregnancies.
- The author found no significant differences concerning the groups' scores on the study variables of total acculturation, perceived social support, or self-esteem.
- Mainland acculturation was not related to either perceived social support or self-esteem.
- Though not highlighted or discussed, an incidental fact related to establishing group comparability concerned the planned pregnancy group. Of these teens, 18 (94.7%) reported having either friends or relatives who had become pregnant as teenagers.

R2P Evaluation

- This exploratory study recognizes the high pregnancy rate among teenagers of Puerto Rican background and begins to explore teenage pregnancy for the Puerto Rican subculture, bringing attention to the dual cultural influences on U.S. teens of their Puerto Rican and American backgrounds.
- Given the significance of socialization on traditional Puerto Rican attitudes toward motherhood, questions of shifting values associated with acculturation, current living arrangements, and significant people in the teens' networks are worthy of study.
- The author acknowledges several definitional and measurement limitations, leaving questions about whether lack of support for the hypothesis was due to theoretical, instrumentation, or data collection issues.

O'Sullivan, L. F., Meyer-Bahlburg, H. F. L., & Watkins, B. X. (2001). Mother-daughter communication about sex among urban African American and Latino families. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 16, 269–292.

- *This study of mother-daughter communication about sexual matters yielded information about the timing and content of such discussions and both mothers' and daughters' views about the discussions' value as determinants of daughters' sexual behavior.*

The Study

- The authors conducted this research as part of a larger qualitative study of social cognitions of urban girls regarding sexual behaviors and relationships. Its purpose was to explore the extent to which mother-daughter communications served as meaningful sources of sexual information.

The Methods

- The authors recruited a sample of African American and Latina mothers and daughters from inner-city neighborhoods in New York City. A total of 72 mothers and 72 daughters took part in 22 focus groups.
- The authors conducted 16 groups with girls or mothers of girls ages 10 to 13, and 6 groups with girls or mothers of girls ages 6 to 9.
- The authors conducted the mothers' and daughters' focus groups separately.

The Findings

- The authors grouped findings into three areas:
 - Timing of parent-child talk about sexuality: Mothers initiated discussions about sex as daughters approached puberty or when mothers became aware of their daughter's interest in the opposite sex.
 - Content of communications: Mothers tell daughters of dire consequences associated with sexual activity, or mothers tell girls to take responsibility for avoiding sexual activity, or girls reassure mothers that they avoid sexual activity.
 - Approaches: Mothers sought information about their daughters' sexual activity, or daughters withheld information from their mothers.
- African American mothers tended to focus on pregnancy prevention in their communications, whereas Latina mothers focused on avoidance of sexual contact.
- Overall, communications between mothers and daughters were strained and tended to focus on reproduction and hygiene rather than on psychosexual issues.
- The best sources of information for girls appeared to be someone other than a parent.
- Findings suggested that girls may benefit from the counsel of a trusted older woman other than a parent.

R2P Evaluation

- This study provided insight into the views of Latino and African American mothers and daughters regarding their communications about sexual activity.

Perkins, D. F., Luster, T., Villarruel, F. A., & Small, S. (1998). An ecological, risk-factor examination of adolescents' sexual activity in three ethnic groups. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 60, 660–673.

- *The authors conducted this study to determine the utility of an ecological risk-factor model previously found useful in studies with European Americans for studying adolescent sexual activity in other ethnic groups.*

The Study

- The study examined adolescent sexual behavior across three ethnic groups: African American, white, and Latino. Its goal was to determine:
 - The usefulness of an ecological risk-factor model for predicting sexual behavior in African American and Latino populations, and
 - Whether risk factors were the same or different across groups.

The Methods

- The authors administered self-report surveys to 15,362 7th-, 9th-, and 11th-grade students in 43 schools in 36 communities. The measure used was the Search Institute's Profile of Student Life: Attitude and Behavior Questionnaire.
- The study measured sexual activity against 12 risk factors.

The Findings

- The return rate on the survey was about 44%.
- Analysis showed relationships between sexual activity and risk factors at all three levels of the social ecology: individual, familial, and extrafamilial.
- Physical abuse predicted sexual activity for Latino and white males, and for females in all three groups.
- Sexual abuse predicted sexual activity for white males and for females in all groups.
- A positive association existed between negative peer group characteristics, greater alcohol use, and sexual activity for all adolescents.
- Findings differed from those of earlier studies, in that parental monitoring and family support were not associated with sexual activity for any of the ethnic groups.
- Differences in predictive risk factors across ethnic groups included the finding of a negative relationship between religiosity and sexual activity in African American and white females but not in Latinas. In males, this factor was significant for white and Latinos, but not for African Americans.
- Lower grade point average was predictive for adolescents of both genders except in the African American group. Overall, however, little difference was found among predictive factors across ethnic groups.

R2P Evaluation

- This study provides useful findings regarding the importance of risk factors associated with sexual behavior among adolescents in three major ethnic groups in the United States. Similarities among the groups was highlighted.

Philliber, S., Kaye, J., & Herrling, S. (2001). *The national evaluation of the Children's Aid Society Carrera-model program to prevent teen pregnancy.* Accord, NY: Philliber Research Associates.

- *This publication reported findings from a three-year random assignment evaluation of the Children's Aid Society's Carrera-model teen pregnancy prevention program, tested at 12 sites in seven cities.*

The Study

- The study delineated a distinctive approach to sexuality and pregnancy prevention implemented in 1984.
- The model offered five program components and two services—comprehensive medical services and mental health services, as needed.
- An experimental design study began in 1997 at six sites in New York City, and with additional foundation funding, the researchers added six sites outside New York City.
- The researchers also implemented the program and evaluated it in Baltimore, MD; Broward County, FL; Houston, TX; Portland, OR; Rochester, NY; and Seattle, WA.

The Methods

- Eligible youth included those not currently enrolled in an ongoing structured afterschool program, not pregnant or parenting, and 13 to 15 years old.
- The authors recruited approximately 100 boys and girls per site prior to random assignment to either the Carrera program or alternative regular youth programming offered by cooperating agencies.
- About 47% of participants were African American or Caribbean black, and most of the others were Latino.

The Findings

- After three years, 70% of the original participants were involved to some degree.
- The 30% who were permanently inactive included those youth who had never been engaged, who had moved, who had lost interest, who had scheduling/family conflicts, or who were incarcerated.
- Girls in the program had significantly lower rates of pregnancy than did girls in the control group.
- Program males had significantly higher gains in knowledge than did males in the control group.
- Behavioral outcomes found among girls were not evident for young men.
- Youth in the program were more likely to obtain health care in a non-emergency room setting and to have bank accounts, work experiences, and computer skills.

R2P Evaluation

- This is an important study. Although gains were not noted for all outcomes and educational gains are not yet final, of only 10 programs, in the United States, shown to have an effect on teen pregnancy rates or birthrates, this is one of only four evaluated using a random assignment design.

Philliber, S., Kaye, J.W., Herrling, S. & West, E. (2002). Preventing pregnancy and improving health care access among teenagers: An evaluation of the Children's Aid Society – Carrera program. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 34(5), 244–251.

- *This article reported the results of a three-year, random assignment evaluation of the Carrera adolescent pregnancy prevention program.*

The Study

- The Carrera program was developed in 1984 and principles of the program include:
 - Staff treat adolescents like they were their own children,
 - Child is viewed as pure potential,
 - Holistic approach is used,
 - Contact with participants is continuous and long-term,
 - Services aim to involve parents and other adults, and
 - Services are all under one roof in the community.
- The program has five activity components - job club, arts, academic aid, sports, and comprehensive family and sexuality education.
- Service components include medical and mental health care.

The Methods

- Data were gathered from six New York City sites.
- Eligible youth could not be enrolled in another after school program, were between the ages of 13-15 as of July 1, 1997, and not currently pregnant or parenting.
- Each site recruited 100 students for randomized treatment and control groups.
- The final sample that completed posttesting was 81% of the original 500 students and was comprised of African American, Caribbean, and Hispanic youth.

The Findings

- Three years after the start of the program 79% of the treatment group was still involved with the program at some level. The control group had 36% participation in some program at the three-year mark.
- Gains in knowledge were significant for program participants.
- Treatment group females had significantly fewer pregnancies and births than the control group.
- Program limitations include possible contamination between the groups (treatment sharing information with control), and potential diminished returns over time.
- Program youth had better access to health care at the three-year mark compared to the control group.

R2P Evaluation

- The Carrera program has strong, significant findings. The program is being replicated and has conducted some limited comparisons to other pregnancy prevention programs. Findings indicate that the Carrera model outcomes hold longer than other programs.

Population Reference Bureau for the Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch, Center for Population Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health. (1999, December). Less sexual activity, more education, changes in contraception: Key to declining teen birth rates. *Research on Today's Issues*, 10.

- *This article summarized the results from recent national surveys of teens and their views on sexuality, sexual activity, birth control, and pregnancy.*

The Study

- The teen birthrate and the number of terminations of pregnancies among teens in the United States has been steadily decreasing.
- Reasons for the decrease could include:
 - Decrease in sexual activity,
 - Increase in condom use and injection hormonal contraceptives,
 - Effect of AIDS education and prevention programs, and
 - Declining approval of premarital sex.
- Research has shown an increase in the use of contraceptives at first intercourse linked to condom use.
- Reasons for the decrease in repeat pregnancies may be linked to the increase in injection hormonal contraceptives, for which the user failure rate is much lower.
- Abstinence programs promoted by religious groups that teens are involved in can also have an effect on delaying sexual activity.
- Teens who are connected to their family and school avoid early sexual activity.

R2P Evaluation

- This article is a summary of several national surveys completed by teens. The summary of results and explanations provided are helpful for readers who may have difficulty reading each new published survey.

Raffaelli, M., & Ontai, L. (2001). "She's 16 years old and there's boys calling over to the house": An exploratory study of sexual socialization in Latino families. *Culture, Health, & Sexuality*, 3, 295–310.

- *This study explored the role of cultural beliefs and values in sexual socialization. The authors focused on family socialization of adolescent romantic and sexual behaviors.*

The Study

- The researchers explored four broad themes:
 - Parental concerns about dating,
 - Family communication about sexual issues,
 - Family rules about dating, and
 - Actual dating and sexual experiences.
- Limited research exists regarding Latino culture and its influence on sexuality. Available information suggests that most families want to safeguard their daughters' virginity until marriage. When these families come to the United States, however, their cultural identities are challenged.

The Methods

- The authors conducted this study in the Midwest. They recruited 22 Latinas between the ages of 20 and 45 who had lived in the United States for at least eight years and who grew up in a Spanish-speaking family. The sample had more education than their parents.
- The authors conducted interviews in three topic areas: sexual socialization, early romantic and sexual experiences, and sexuality-related beliefs.

The Findings

- Parents mistrusted males, worried about how their daughter's behavior would be viewed by the community, and found that U.S. dating styles clashed with traditional Latino culture.
- Parents' sexuality expectations were more warnings than advice.
- Parents tried to shield their daughters by keeping them at home.
- Not many parents were supportive of adolescent dating, and if daughters were allowed to date, parents made it difficult.
- Adolescent pregnancy occurred often because the daughters did not know about protection. Of the sample, 32% became pregnant around the time of their first sexual experience because they lacked basic contraceptive information.

R2P Evaluation

- This article raises questions about parent-child interaction in Latino families. Some indications are that many Latinas do not have adequate information about contraception and sexuality. Because the sample was small and isolated, this study merits replication in other areas of the country. The results of these studies can help inform pregnancy prevention initiatives.

Romo, L. F., Lefkowitz, E. S., Sigman, M., & Terry, K. (2002). A longitudinal study of maternal messages about dating and sexuality and their influence on Latino adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 31*, 59–69.

- *This article discussed the nature of mother-adolescent interactions and conversations about sexuality. The article also examined the influence mothers had on their adolescents' behaviors and attitudes.*

The Study

- Parents can be the most influential source of information for adolescents. A recent national survey echoed this long-held belief.
- There is little research on Latino parent-child discussions of sexuality.
- Latino youth often know less about sexuality issues than their U.S. counterparts, and Latina youth are less positive about school, potentially enhancing their interest in becoming an adolescent mother.
- This study looked at how maternal messages about dating and sexuality affected adolescents:
 - Experience with sexual behavior,
 - Openness of parent-child relationship, and
 - Attitudes toward premarital sex.

The Methods

- Fifty-five Latino mothers and their adolescents (35 girls and 20 boys) participated in the study. The youth had to be at least 12.5 years old and in the seventh grade.
- At the one-year follow-up, attrition was 17 dyads (mothers and adolescents).
- Each of the participating dyads received questionnaires and participated in a recorded mother-child discussion on a given topic.

The Findings

- Spanish-speaking mothers were less educated and had lower family incomes than mothers who spoke English ($p < .001$).
- No difference existed, however, across language and gender lines in the messages mothers communicated to their children.
- Mothers who talked longer about their beliefs and values had adolescents who reported fewer sexual behaviors.
- Discussions that only included day-to-day activities predicted more youth sexual activity.
- Maternal self-disclosure led to more open communication.

R2P Evaluation

- This article shares important information about mother-child communication about sexuality issues. The authors reported tests of validity and cultural competence to ensure valid and reliable results. Although the sample was small and exclusive of California, the results can be used with a larger Latino population. The research is worth replicating.

Schram, J. D. (1998). *High-risk attitudes and behaviors of troubled Latina Adolescents: Does pregnancy status make a difference?* Unpublished dissertation, California State University, Northridge.

- *This study explored the attitudes and behaviors of troubled Latina adolescents.*

The Study

- The purpose of this study was to explore the differences in attitudes among Latina adolescents by pregnancy status.
- The literature review of this study included:
 - Current trends in adolescent pregnancy,
 - Adolescence,
 - Latino adolescence,
 - High-risk Latina adolescents,
 - Latina adolescent sexual behavior and pregnancy, and
 - Social work and adolescent pregnancy.
- The researcher defined *adolescents* as young people between the ages of 14 and 19.
- The definition of *adolescent pregnancy* is a female between the ages of 14 and 19 who conceives a child. This definition is different from the definition of *teen birth*.

The Methods

- The researcher conducted a secondary analysis of 67 Latina youth ages 14 to 19 at an alternative school in Los Angeles, California.
- Data collection included a self-administered questionnaire of 85 items with five sections that included demographics, perceptions of parents or guardians, and adolescent knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors.
- The author selected the 67 youth based on their Latino ethnicity.

The Findings

- Teen pregnancy is an issue of substance use, violence, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), poverty, low educational attainment, lack of job skills, and lack of life options.
- Issues that affect teen pregnancy include an increase in adolescents having sex and having it at a younger age.
- All adolescents reported positive attitudes toward the use of birth control, future planning, higher education, pregnancy, parenting, nonuse of drugs, and avoidance of STIs.

R2P Evaluation

- This study helps demonstrate the inconsistency of what adolescents perceived and how they behave. The questionnaire included questions on sexual orientation and labeled such behavior as a high-risk activity. The discussion of termination of pregnancy may be perceived as biased.

Sciarra, D. T., & Ponterotto, J. G. (1998). Adolescent motherhood among low-income urban Hispanics: Familial considerations of mother-daughter dyads. *Qualitative Health Research, 8*, 751–764.

- *This study applied a family systems perspective in understanding how family member involvement with child rearing can function as a central activity in a household.*

The Study

- The study called on family systems theory that compares the family life cycles of professional and lower income families with regard to delay of pregnancy.
- This study sought to answer the extent to which adolescent pregnancy can bring about or preserve a familial homeostasis.

The Methods

- Eleven mother-daughter groups participated in the study. The daughters were adolescent mothers 14 to 16 years of age. Of these, five were Puerto Rican, three were Dominican, two were Ecuadorian, and one was Honduran.
- The authors collected data using a semistructured interview lasting from 1 to 1 1/2 hours.
- The author knew some participants in a counselor-counselee relationship prior to the study, which could raise issues of validity.
- The author did not identify a comparison group.

The Findings

- Findings focus on the role of the adolescents' families prior to, during, and after the teens' pregnancy.
- Nearly all teens had positive child care responsibilities prior to motherhood.
- Mothers' reactions to their daughters' pregnancies varied with whether they had been teen mothers themselves.
- Most teens were more dependent on and accepting of their mothers' supervision after their pregnancy than before.
- The author noted a positive effect on the family system in the form of reduced sibling conflict and more positive level of functioning. Older male siblings and fathers had negative reactions to pregnancies.

R2P Evaluation

- A stated goal of the study was to investigate socioeconomic factors and family development in relation to adolescent motherhood, but the data are more about family dynamics in response to teen pregnancy.
- Although mentioned, information reported in the study about teen interest in and aspirations to complete a high school education and pursue a career are not tied to theory, family demographics, or related findings.

SIECUS. (1995). Guidelines for comprehensive sexuality education for Hispanic/Latino youth: Kindergarten-12th grade. *SIECUS*, 56(6).

- *This report established guidelines for kindergarten through 12th-grade educators who were interested in creating or improving the comprehensive sexuality education provided in schools or organizations that have large Latino populations.*

The Study

- This report was based on the efforts of experts and professionals in the fields of health, education, and sexuality who created a national task force and worked with SIECUS (Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States).
- The national task force created concepts that influenced these guidelines, keeping in mind the unique stresses of acculturation and the cultural values and characteristics of Latino youth. These values and characteristics include:
 - The Latino family,
 - The cultural value of respect, and
 - The cultural characteristic of trust.
- The national task force discussed these key concepts:
 - Human development,
 - Relationships,
 - Personal skills,
 - Sexual behavior,
 - Sexual health, and
 - Society and culture.
- The national task force and SIECUS identified four primary goals for comprehensive sexuality education. These goals include:
 - Providing accurate information;
 - Providing an opportunity for youth to explore, question, and evaluate their attitudes, values, and insights on sexuality;
 - Helping youth create healthy relationships and interpersonal skills; and
 - Helping youth recognize responsibility and sexuality issues.

R2P Evaluation

- This report was very detailed and addresses every aspect of sexuality within the six key concepts in a culturally sensitive way.
- A primary focus on family existed within the key concepts, however, other important cultural characteristics and values found in the Latino community are not noticeably presented for providers who may not be familiar with this population.

SIECUS. (2001). Sexuality and underserved youth in communities of color. *SIECUS Report Supplement, 29(5)*.

- *This article explored the challenges affecting the sexual health needs for communities of color by summarizing research that has surveyed youth of color.*

The Study

- This article addressed four major themes in sexuality. They include:
 - Sexual behavior,
 - Contraceptive use,
 - Sexually transmitted diseases, and
 - Pregnancy.
- When compared to females, males in communities of color are initiating sexual activity at younger ages.
- Youth who are survivors of physical and/or sexual abuse reported having more sexual activity than youth who were not abused.
- More youth of color reported using condoms at their last sexual encounter than white youth, with the exception being Latino girls.
- Males of color who were unsure of their sexual orientation reported using unreliable methods of contraception, including withdrawal or the rhythm method.

R2P Evaluation

- This article provided good information on all youth of color, especially Asian/Pacific Islanders and Native American youth. The information provided on Latino youth is minimal.
- The information in the article is a good summary for professionals who do not have access to these surveys and research with populations of color.
- The author made no reference to the challenges facing youth of color.

**Smith, M. G. (1999). *The long-term effects of a miscarriage for adolescent girls.*
Unpublished thesis, University of Illinois, Chicago.**

- *The purpose of this thesis was to study the long-term response to early pregnancy loss for Latina adolescents.*

The Study

- The two goals of this research were to describe the experience of early miscarriage and the feelings that follow for Latino teens, and to explore how perceptions of the event subsequently affected these girls.

The Methods

- The sample included fourteen 17- to 23-year-old Latino adolescents who miscarried between the ages of 13 and 17. The author interviewed them two to five years after their miscarriages.
- The interviews examined psychological changes (grief/self-esteem), relationship changes (families/boyfriends/peers), changes in sexual behavior, and religiosity.

The Findings

- The author found no quickly identifiable pattern of responses. Four themes emerged, however: emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and interpersonal responses.
- Emotional response:
 - Most teens experienced some level of sadness:
 - Seven became pregnant again, and
 - Six experienced prolonged grief.
- Cognitive response:
 - Many felt that the miscarriage allowed them to remain an adolescent,
 - Five felt that the miscarriage negatively affected their education, and
 - Prolonged grievers had the most trouble completing their education.
- Behavioral response:
 - Drug and alcohol use did not increase after the miscarriage for most,
 - Most abstained from sex for some time and were more likely to use contraception when they resumed, and
 - Those who resumed sexual activity immediately after miscarriage were more likely to have unsupportive mothers and not complete high school.
- Interpersonal relationship responses:
 - Most had a good support network;
 - Prolonged grievers felt supported but could not resolve grief;
 - If girls felt their boyfriends were supportive, the boyfriends remained; and
 - Supportive mothers gave the girl a better chance to finish school.

R2P Evaluation

- This thesis introduced a new element that needs to be explored in pregnancy prevention programs. Although the sample was too small to make generalizations, teen miscarriage should be considered in prevention programming.

Sonenstein, F. L. (1997). Involving males in preventing teen pregnancy: A guide for program planners. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.

- *This guide to involving males in pregnancy prevention had three purposes: to dispel myths about male partners of potential teen mothers, identify pregnancy prevention programs that involve males, and share lessons learned.*

The Study

- There are new trends and issues that lead to more male involvement in pregnancy prevention:
 - Public health and STD prevention,
 - Child support policies,
 - Statutory rape enforcement, and
 - Fatherhood movement.
- Over the years, most pregnancy prevention programs have targeted girls, yet most adolescent girls say that men often supply the contraception.

The Methods

- Selection criteria for including programs in this guide included:
 - Programs must be non-school-based,
 - Programs must focus on male role in reproduction,
 - Pregnancy prevention must be the primary or secondary program objective, and
 - The program must be three years old or older.
- Twenty-four programs were included; some had formal evaluations.

The Findings

- Males who are most likely to be involved in teen pregnancy and birth have a problem with substance abuse, criminal justice, and school; and are older males (in their 20s) involved with teen girls.
- School and television are the primary sources of contraception information for males.
- Common themes of the 24 selected programs were:
 - Knowing the community and its needs is important;
 - Collaboration and flexibility are important;
 - Male staff are essential;
 - Recruit males by offering employment, training, and recreation;
 - Develop a relationship with the community;
 - Have lengthy relationship with participants;
 - Use different messages for different developmental stages;
 - Satisfied participants equals positive publicity;
 - Active parents are difficult to find; and
 - Be resourceful with funding.

R2P Evaluation

- This is a great resource with information and contacts for several programs.

Stevens-Simon, C., Kelly, L., & Brayden, R. M. (2001). A health passport for adolescent parents and their children. *Clinical Pediatrics*, 40(3), 169–173.

- *This study tested the hypothesis that a child health passport program would increase immunization rates for children born to adolescents and would prevent a second pregnancy during study period.*

The Study

- A 2000 Colorado initiative set a 90% immunization rate for all children at two years of age. Colorado did not reach that rate. This could be attributed to:
 - Lack of parental knowledge, and/or
 - Missed immunization opportunities.
- The study hypothesis included:
 - Program recipients would be less likely to be underimmunized,
 - Adolescent mothers would be less likely to take their children to the emergency room, and
 - Adolescent mothers would be less likely to conceive again during the study period.

The Methods

- The participants were ethnically diverse (21% Hispanic). The sample was 188 participants between the ages of 13 and 20, all involved in the Colorado Adolescent Maternity Program. The authors randomized the study, with 71 mothers in the treatment group.
- Each mother in the treatment group received a health passport containing information for mother and child health needs.
- The authors also used interviews and questionnaires.

The Findings

- The authors tracked the participants for up to two years. Large attrition existed in both treatment and control groups.
- The treatment and control groups did not differ significantly. Passport use was positive through the first six months but then dropped off markedly.
- There was a correlation between underimmunized children and their mothers' lack of consistent prenatal care.
- In conclusion, the hypothesis was not supported.

R2P Evaluation

- This article presented a good example of formal research that did not support the hypothesis. The passport program did not work, and the authors review their study to theorize possible reasons for failure. This type of research is just as valuable to the field as programs that succeed. Program failure allows for a project to be very self-critical and reexamine their priorities.

Walker, K. E., & Kotoff, L. J. (1999). *Plain Talk: Addressing adolescent sexuality through a community initiative: A final evaluation report prepared for the Annie E. Casey Foundation*. Philadelphia: Public/Private Ventures.

- *The Annie E. Casey Foundation developed Plain Talk as a unique way to address teen pregnancy and STD prevention. Goals of the program include:*
 - *Creating consensus that the community needs to encourage sexually active youth to consistently use contraception,*
 - *Providing parents and other community leaders with the skills and knowledge to communicate effectively with teens, and*
 - *Improving teen access to quality, age-appropriate information and to make reproductive health care readily available.*

The Study

- The Plain Talk program workers believed that by providing youth with information, contraception, and reproductive health education they could positively affect pregnancy and STD rates of adolescents.
- This report covers the three-year implementation period in five areas: Atlanta, GA; Hartford, CT; New Orleans, LA; San Diego, CA; and Seattle, WA. In 1993, the program chose these sites because they were low income, had many sexually active youth, had high rates of teen pregnancy, and demonstrated readiness to confront these problems. The Hartford and San Diego sites had Latino populations in the program.

The Methods

- The review asks:
 - Were sites able to create structures and processes to develop community consensus around the issues of STD and pregnancy prevention for teens?
 - Were community education efforts successful in targeting adults?
 - Was the program able to link with other institutions?

The Findings

- Overall, the five sites were successful in engaging the community and spreading information on STD and pregnancy prevention for teens.
- The researchers saw improvements at reproductive health sites, but less change was seen in public schools. Schools were willing to allow Plain Talk to conduct workshops but were not willing to adopt Plain Talk in their curriculum.
- The program involved residents by engaging them as “community mapping” researchers. This helped solidify the communities’ commitment to the project.
- Resident commitment and involvement affected the reach and shape of the program.
- Programs that are designed to engage the community are difficult to implement, however, especially when the program depends on resident involvement.

R2P Evaluation

- This report is a process evaluation and gives little information on outcomes and demographics.

Wood, D. B. (2001). Latinos redefine what it means to be “manly.” *Christian Science Monitor*, 93(161), 1.

- *This article discussed support groups for Latino men provided through the National Compadres Network.*

The Study

- The National Compadres Network has provided a *Circulo de Hombres* (men’s support group) for the past 15 years where Latino men can find support and a safe space to discuss issues affecting them.
- In forming the support group, the National Compadres Network contacted several Central and South American organizations and elders to gain information on traditional and indigenous rituals for positive male involvement.
- The Circulo de Hombres focuses on many issues, including:
 - Examining and redefining the cultural value of masculinity called *machismo*,
 - Understanding the assimilation process, and
 - Discussing challenges to being a good father.
- In examining and redefining machismo, the National Compadres Network has embraced seven tenets that make a man noble:
 - Keeping his word,
 - Having a sense of responsibility for the well-being of himself and others,
 - Rejecting any form of abuse,
 - Understanding the importance of having personal time for himself,
 - Demonstrating sensitivity and understanding,
 - Offering support and clarification to his men in his community, and
 - Demonstrating his values with honesty and love.

R2P Evaluation

- This article raises interesting questions about how masculinity is defined within a cultural context.
- The article provides a view of Latino masculinity from a Latino male perspective, which is often not heard.