

Less stigma, More inclusion

Shifting the narrative to support expectant and parenting youth in APP programming

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May 23- 25, 2023

2023 ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY
PREVENTION GRANTEE CONFERENCE

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FYSB Family & Youth
Services Bureau

Adolescent Pregnancy
Prevention Program

ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES



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Session Objectives

By the end of this panel presentation, participants will be able to:

- **Recognize** the discriminatory history that has shaped the narrative around teen pregnancy
- **Identify** opportunities within research and programs to provide respectful, comprehensive sexual health programming to expectant and parenting youth
- **Describe** three ways in which the current narrative around teen pregnancy can be shifted to be more inclusive and supportive of expectant and parenting youth

Panelists

- **Tatiana Bell**, Context Partner at DC Next!
- **Elizabeth Cook**, Research Scientist II at Child Trends
- **Caroline Griswold Short**, Director of Programming at Generation Hope
- **Asari Offiong, PhD**; Research Scientist II at Child Trends
- **Valerie Sedivy, PhD**; Director of Capacity Building & Evaluation at Healthy Teen Network

Narrative

The girl who has an illegitimate child at the age of 16 suddenly has 90 percent of her life's script written for her. She will probably drop out of school; even if someone else in her family helps to take care of the baby, she will probably not be able to find a steady job that pays enough to provide for herself and her child; she may feel impelled to marry someone she might not otherwise have chosen. Her life choices are few, and most of them are bad.

Let's go back in time...

1950s

- Early marriage and childbearing was common
- Family life education focused on the redemptive value of marriage.

1960s

- Term "teen pregnancy" grew in popularity
- Sex education focused on preventing pregnancy more than premarital sex

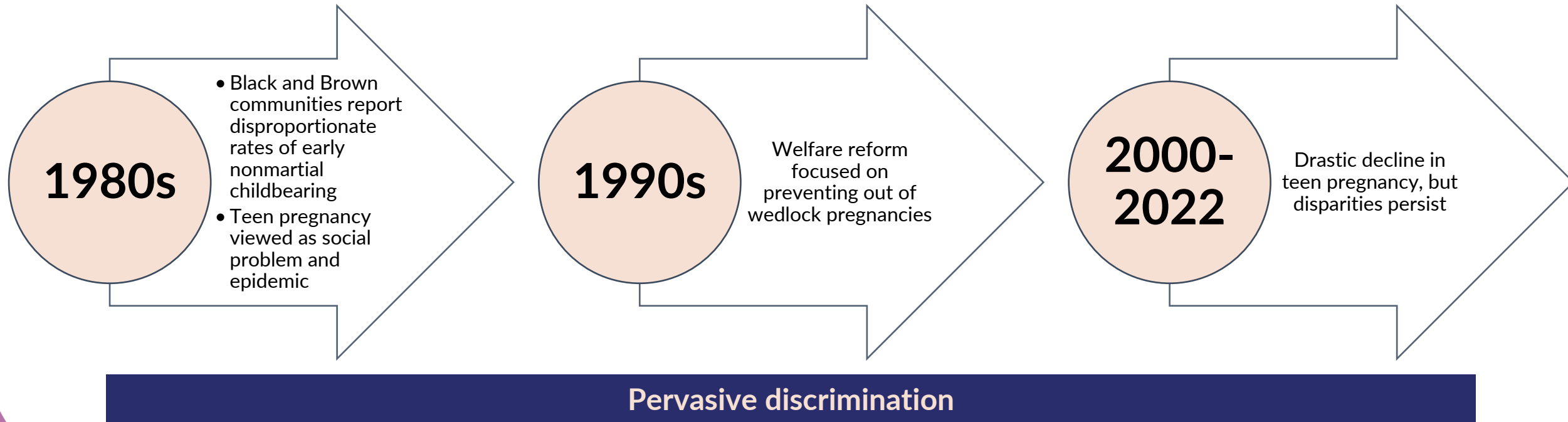
1970s

- Decline in early marriage
- Introduction of "welfare queens"

Pervasive discrimination

See references at the end of presentation

Let's go back in time...



See references at the end of presentation

Why is this relevant?

- Teen pregnancy has been stigmatized, particularly targeting youth of color
- Negative narrative has left young parents underserved
- Opportunity to take a youth-centered and reproductive justice lens approach to supporting young people

Result of the current narrative

When I got pregnant, I was kicked out of the program. I wasn't allowed to participate because I represented the very thing they were trying to prevent. In other words, I was a lost cause



Think-Pair-Share

Tatiana Bell
DC Next!

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Share positive words or thoughts that come to mind when you think of young parents.



Shifting the narrative through messaging and framing

Valerie Sedivy
Healthy Teen Network

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Destructive Frames



I'm twice as likely not to graduate high school because you had me as a teen.

KIDS OF TEEN MOMS ARE TWICE AS LIKELY NOT TO GRADUATE THAN KIDS WHOSE MOMS WERE OVER AGE 22.

Text "NOTNOW" to 877877 for the real price of teen pregnancy.
Donation not necessary. We're not asking for anything. Just call or text us.

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene



YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CHANGING THE WORLD... NOT CHANGING DIAPERS.



Nearly 750,000 teenage girls will become pregnant this year.
Change it! #NoTeenPreg

Carly Rae Jepsen

thecandiesfoundation.org

Photo Credit: Appears in New York Times print on March 7, 2013, Section A, Page 21 of the New York edition with the headline: Posters on Teenage Pregnancy Draw Fire.

Constructive Frames

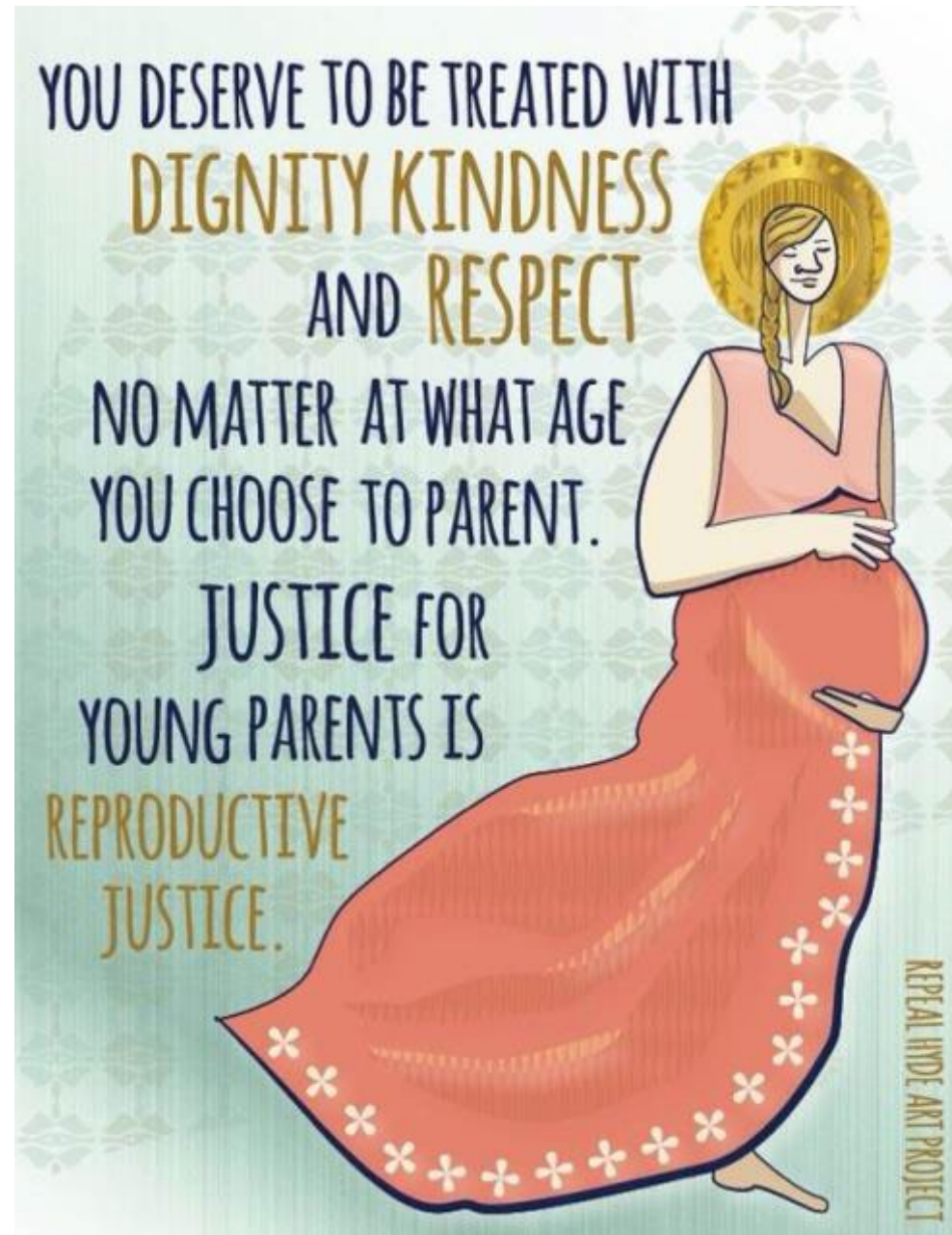
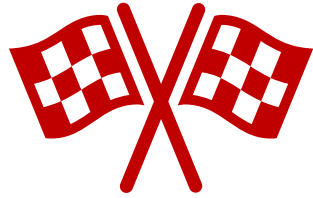


Photo Credit: Repeal Hyde Art Project

Pro Tip #1:

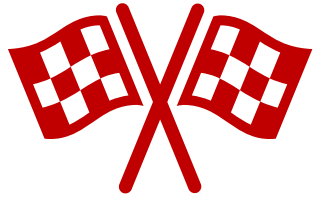


DON'T assume your lessons are inclusive



DO review sex ed lessons for stigmatizing language and activities

Pro Tip #2:

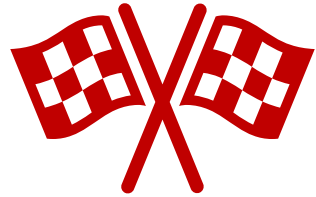


DON'T say "You wouldn't want to be a teen parent."



DO say "Teen parents want to be great parents and can succeed, but you should have the option to become a parent only if and when you're ready."

Pro Tip #3:

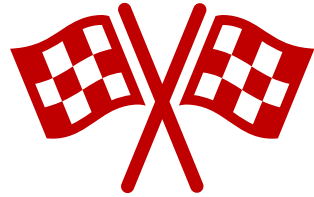


DON'T assume that facilitator/teacher training covers inclusivity of expectant and parenting youth



DO insist that training cover inclusivity of expectant and parenting youth and review content with lived experts

Pro Tip #4:



DON'T expect youth to know where to go for help



DO talk to youth about their rights, particularly as expectant and parenting youth

PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS:

for youth who are pregnant and parenting



Sample posters



hey, expectant and parenting students! that means partners, too!

According to Maryland Law, as an expectant or parenting student, any of the following will result in an excused absence:

Prenatal and postnatal appointments

Labor and delivery

Care for a sick child or to go to medical appointments

Recovery time

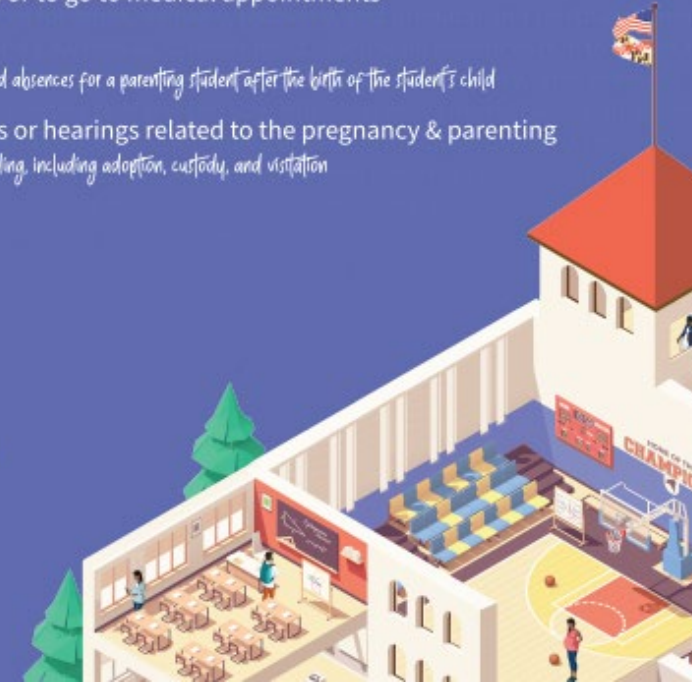
at least 10 days of excused absences for a parenting student after the birth of the student's child

Legal appointments or hearings related to the pregnancy & parenting such as family law proceeding, including adoption, custody, and visitation

More for Healthy Babies.
Every baby counts on you.

healthybabiesbaltimore.com

This poster was supported by grants from the Department of Health and Human Services, Baltimore, Maryland. The poster was developed by the Baltimore Department of Health and Human Services, Baltimore, Maryland. The poster was developed by the Baltimore Department of Health and Human Services, Baltimore, Maryland.





Shifting the narrative through wraparound service in schools

Caroline Griswold Short
Generation Hope

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GENERATION HOPE



All photos owned by Generation Hope

WALK IN A SCHOLAR'S SHOES

<https://bit.ly/TeenParentWalk>



DEBRIEF

- Why do you think more young people don't know about financial aid or resources in general that may provide more flexibility for parenting, work, and school?
- Why aren't there more resources distributed throughout cities for young parents so they don't have to relocate across town for safety?
- What are some ways that the systems the student interacted with could help them in advocating for themselves?
- What could a support person do to support a student in this scenario?





OUR MISSION

To ensure all student parents have the opportunities to succeed and experience economic mobility, Generation Hope engages education and policy partners to drive systemic change and provides direct support to teen parents in college as well as their children through holistic, two-generation programming.

OUR STORY



Generation Hope began in March 2010 when Nicole Lynn Lewis, a former teen mother who attended the College of William & Mary while raising her infant daughter, decided to put her dream of helping more teen parents beat the odds in motion.

Fueled by this passion, by November 2010, the organization was incorporated and we accepted our first class of seven Scholars in 2011.

Currently, we are serving around 140 young parents in the DC region in our Scholar program as well as up to 300 expecting and parenting high school students annually through our outreach work. We are welcoming our first class of Scholars in New Orleans, Louisiana, this summer.

SCHOLARS RECEIVE...



College tuition assistance:
\$1,200/year for a 2-year college
\$2,400/year for a 4-year college



Customized career-
readiness
programming



Emotional support from a
Mentor, and a Hope Coach
to help in crisis situations



Mental Health, tutoring,
and life skills support



Access to crisis assistance
and emergency funding
(up to \$1,000)



Wish Lists, holiday
gifts, social activities,
and more!

OUR IMPACT

75%

of Generation Hope Scholars earn a GPA of 2.5 or higher each semester

8x

Generation Hope Scholars are 8x more likely to earn a degree within 6 years than single mothers nationwide

89%

of 2021 graduates were employed full time and/or in graduate school within 6 months of graduation

89%

of 2021 graduates reported an income level above the federal poverty line within 6 months of graduation

90%

of Generation Hope Scholars stay in college and in our program from year to year

142

142 degrees earned so far!

STAY IN TOUCH

generationhope.org | info@generationhope.org



@SupportGenHope



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Support Generation Hope



Generation Hope



Shifting the narrative through youth-centered SRH outcomes in research

Elizabeth Cook

Child Trends

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Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review

youth.GOV

HHS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review on youth.gov

HOME FIND A PROGRAM PUBLICATIONS ABOUT THE REVIEW REVIEWED STUDIES FAQs ABOUT US

Home >

Welcome to the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review



Recent Publications

- **NEW:** Read the summary of findings (560 KB) from the last round of review (released April 2023)
- Read the **Review Protocol 6.0** guiding the 2021-2022 review (1277 KB) and a **summary of changes made** (November 2022)(236 KB)

Since 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has sponsored an independent systematic review of the teen pregnancy prevention literature to identify programs with evidence of effectiveness in reducing teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and associated sexual risk behaviors. The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review expects to release a call for papers in spring 2023. Sign up for the youth.gov listserv and check this homepage for updates on the review's status.

Quick Links

- **NEW:** Read the **summary of findings** (560 KB) from the last round of review (released April 2023)
 - Please note: The findings are updated in the brief only. Updates to the program database and program profiles will be available on the website in summer 2023.
- Read the **Review Protocol 6.0 guiding the 2021-2022 review** and a **summary of changes made**.
- Learn about **programs** that may be right for your community.
- Search the **database of studies** included in the review.
- Read about the **review process** and learn how the review was conducted.
- Read answers to **frequently asked questions**.

Primary and Secondary Outcomes

Primary outcomes are the most important behaviors the program is designed to change.

- Engaging in sexual activity
- Sex without a condom
- Sex without a contraceptive method

Secondary outcomes are less important but are part of the plan for evaluating the impact of the program.

- Knowledge
- Attitudes
- Intentions
- Self-efficacy

Person-centered Primary Outcomes

- Can choose to prioritize primary outcomes that are **person-centered** rather than agenda-driven.
 - Has a trusted adult to talk to
 - Knows how to get sexual health care services
 - Demonstrates agency in sexual situations
 - Feels confident communicating preferences about sex with a partner
 - Feels in control of their reproductive health

Example: SafeSpace

- An app-based program focused on learning how to communicate about sexual and reproductive health topics with trusted people, knowing when to determine if ready to have sex, communicating with a partner about sex, and accessing sexual health services.
- Outcome(s) of interest
 - *Where we started:* unprotected penile-vaginal sex
 - *Where we are now:* **sexual agency self-efficacy, recent communication with a trusted person about SRH**

A photograph of a man with dreadlocks, wearing a grey t-shirt, sitting and reading a book to a baby. The baby is wearing a white shirt and a grey hat. The man is smiling and looking at the book. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple decorative border in the top right and bottom left corners, featuring yellow starburst patterns.

Open Discussion

Points to Remember!

- In **messaging and framing:**
 - Recognize the history and context that informs our perspectives
 - Be strengths-based
- In **program design and delivery:**
 - Be thoughtful and aware of young people's experiences and context, often it's a systems issue
 - Be youth-centered
- In **research and evaluation:**
 - Challenge the status quo, and seek different measures to truly capture optimal health and well-being for youth

Just a few resources...

- Activate: [Sexual and Reproductive Health Resource Explorer](#)
- [Alliance for Children's Rights](#)
- Annie E. Casey Foundation, [Expectant and Parenting Youth](#)
- [California Expectant Parent Support Hub](#)
- [CASA Expectant and Parenting Youth Guide](#)
- [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)
- The Exchange
 - [Using conceptual models to tailor APS programming for pregnant & parenting youth](#)
 - [Working with pregnant and parenting youth: healthy parents, healthy children](#)

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Thank you!

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Session Evaluation

Please complete a brief evaluation form by scanning the QR code below or visiting the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/SessEval232323>

