

Pathways to Successful Partnerships for Adolescent Sexual Health Promotion: Lessons from El Camino

2024WARD: Building Brighter Futures for Today's Youth Leaders

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2024WARD: Building Brighter Futures for Today's Youth Leaders

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Grantee Conference

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Workshop Objectives



Understand the unique roles and strengths that curriculum developers, implementation partners, and independent evaluators play in ensuring high-quality programming and services.



Identify ways programs can better engage front-line staff in continuous quality improvement efforts that support both program delivery/fidelity and data collection.



Describe the ways in which constructive collaboration between implementation, evaluation, and community partners can increase the cultural responsiveness of evaluation.

Vote with your feet

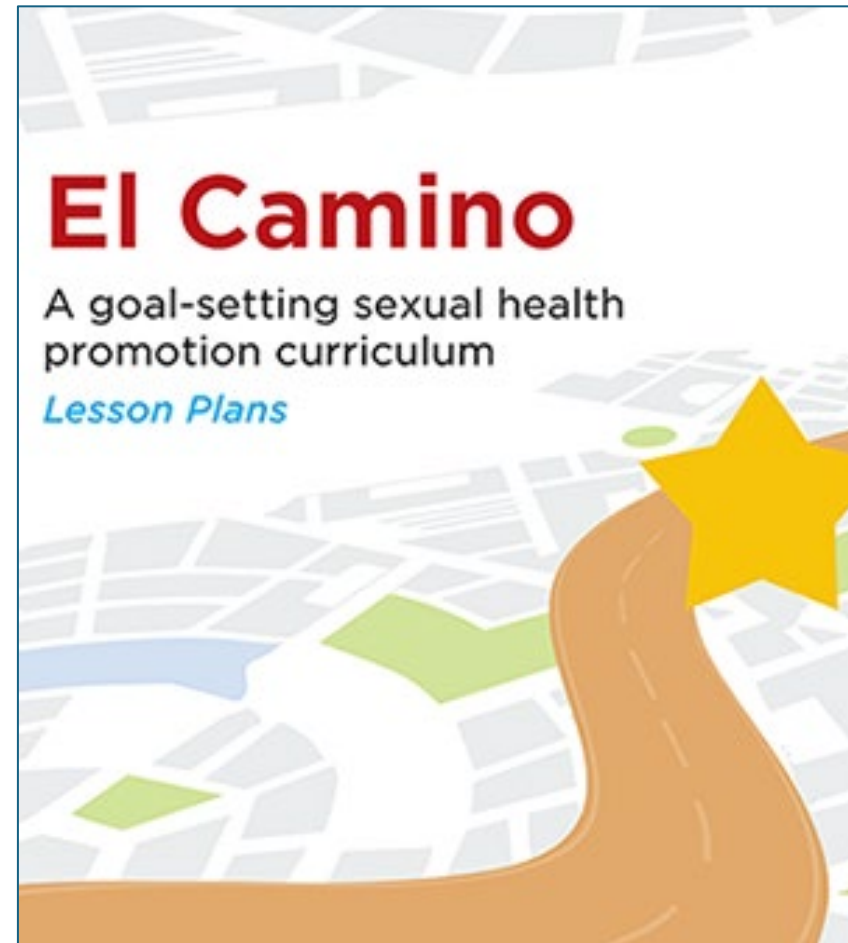
We will read a statement.

Move to the side of the room that matches your response.



El Camino

- A research-based goal-setting sexual health promotion program based on the principles of positive youth development
- Consists of 11 45-minute lessons divided into three sections
 1. Goal Setting
 2. Sexual and Reproductive Health
 3. Healthy Relationships
- Designed with a focus on the needs of Latino youth





Know your partners' role(s) and build on their strengths

Child Trends

- Curriculum Developer
- IRB
- Coordinated project
- Administered grant and electronic gift cards

Identity

- Implementation Partner
- Secured MOUs with schools
- Participant recruitment
- Outreach for data collection

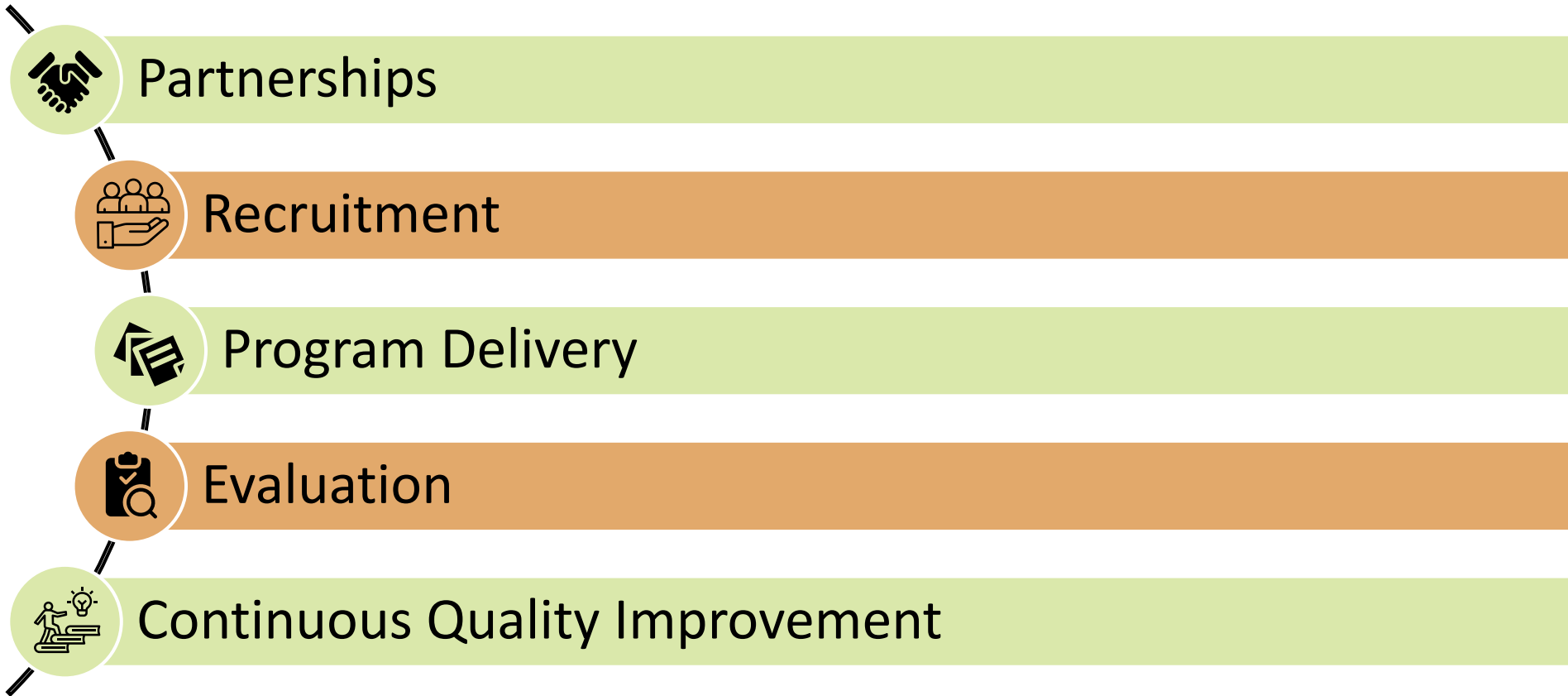
University of Maryland

- Evaluation Partner
- Baseline, post-test, and long-term survey administration
- Data analysis

A group of diverse people, including a woman in a plaid shirt, a man in a brown shirt, a man in a red shirt, and a woman in a black top, are holding hands in a circle. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with trees. A light blue rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text.

**Partnerships are crucial for
successful program delivery
and evaluation!**

Panel discussion with El Camino partners



Partnerships



- Communication is key
- Establish and meet regularly with your team
- Ensure all partners know the role they play in your work
- Involve partners in product development and dissemination

Recruitment



- Relationships with school staff and students matter
- Give yourself ample time to recruit youth
- Share what incentives youth will get from participation
- See if your IRB allows you to obtain verbal consent from parents
- If you're looking to build new school partnerships, share how your program can address unmet needs within a school or the larger community

Program Delivery



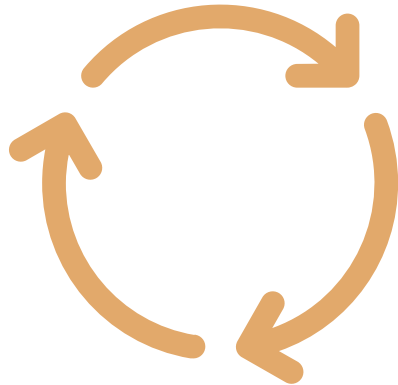
- Build rapport with participants
- Group chats and reminders go a long way with getting youth to come back to your program
- Talk with curriculum developers about approved adaptations
- Complete fidelity logs and make note of any changes
- Seize opportunities

Evaluation



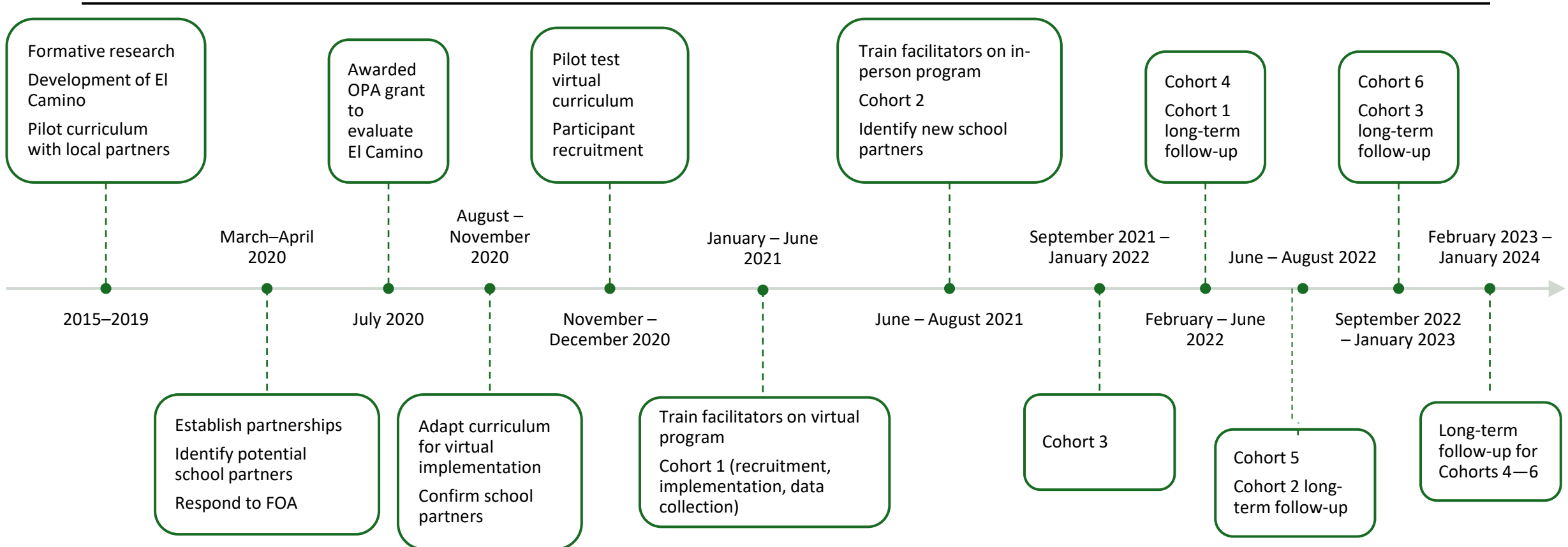
- Have back-up plans if in-person data collection does not go as planned
- Having audio files with survey questions can make surveys more accessible
- Frontline staff play a crucial role in evaluation
 - Tap into frontline staff's relationships, knowledge, and creativity!

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)



- Engage frontline staff in CQI efforts
- Learn from past experiences
- Trial and error is your friend
- **Don't be afraid to pivot and try something new!**

Successful partnerships take time and planning



Weekly meetings with project partners to discuss implementation and data collection progress; brainstorm and discuss ways to improve processes; and make changes to training, curriculum resources, schedule, etc.

Now, it's time for you to plan!

Think about a goal you have for your program or a challenge you're facing. Move to the breakout table that best aligns to brainstorm and workshop with others and the El Camino team.



Working with school-based partners



Evaluation



Recruitment



Administrative management of partnerships

Reflect and share

- What challenges have you had with these types of partnerships?
- What successes have you had with these types of partnerships?
- If you've worked with partners in a similar way, what other takeaways or lessons learned do you have from that work?



**Where did our partnership
take us?**

Mi Camino

State your goal.
Think about the steps.
Assert your camino.
Reach your goal!

Project goal:
Implement & evaluate El Camino

Formative research and development (2015-2019)

1 July 2020

Obstacle:
COVID-19
Resource:
OPA award

2 Next 3 years

6 implementation cohorts across 2020–2023 school years

3 12th grade

Obstacle:
Resource:

5 Age 20

Obstacle:
Resource:

4 After HS graduation

Obstacle:
Resource:

1

Adapt curriculum for virtual implementation and pilot with feedback from facilitators and youth who previously completed El Camino in-person

2

Reflect on how last cohort of implementation and evaluation went, identify ways to improve process and communication between partners, schools, & students

4

5

- 746 students participated in the study (68 classes total)
- 396 students received El Camino
 - 350 students received a control curricula

Participant demographics

Demographics and background of students participating in the evaluation



Age

Mean: 16.3



Race/ethnicity

Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-origin: 84%

Black or African American: 9%

American Indian or Alaska Native: 2%

Asian: 2%

White: 2%

Other: 4%



Time in the United States

Percentage born outside the United States: 75%

Age upon coming to the United States (mean): 14.1



Percentage in each grade

9th: 34%

10th: 39%

11th: 17%

12th: 8%



Language spoken at home

Mostly Spanish: 68%

Mostly English: 11%

Both Spanish and English: 19%

Other: 2%



Gender identity

Male: 43%

Female: 54%

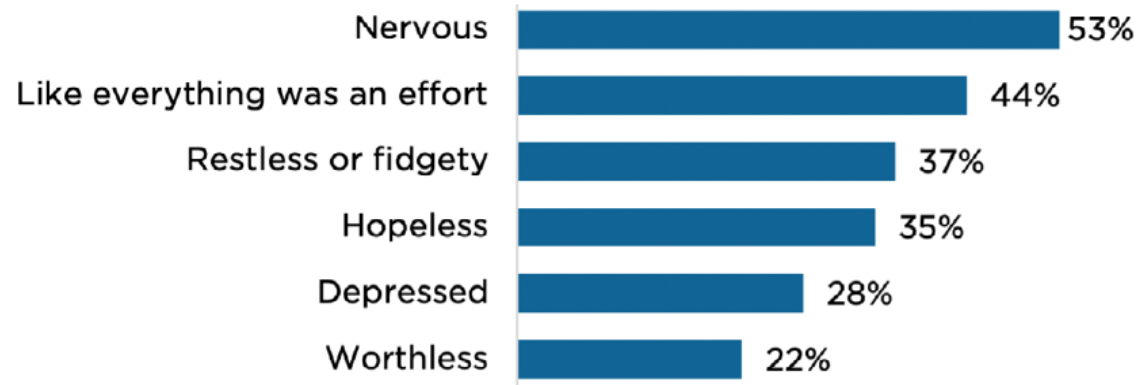
Other/missing: 3%

Student's pre-program survey responses highlight the need for sexual health and positive youth development curricula.

Many students reported mental health struggles in the past 30 days.

Mental health at baseline

Percent of students who reported feeling each emotion some of the time, most of the time, or all of the time in the past 30 days



A quarter of students had had penis-vagina sex by the start of the program, and more than half of sexually active students reported having unprotected sex.

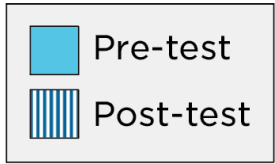
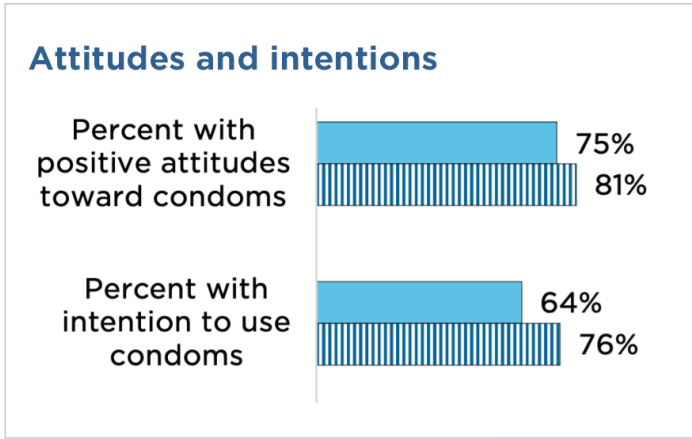
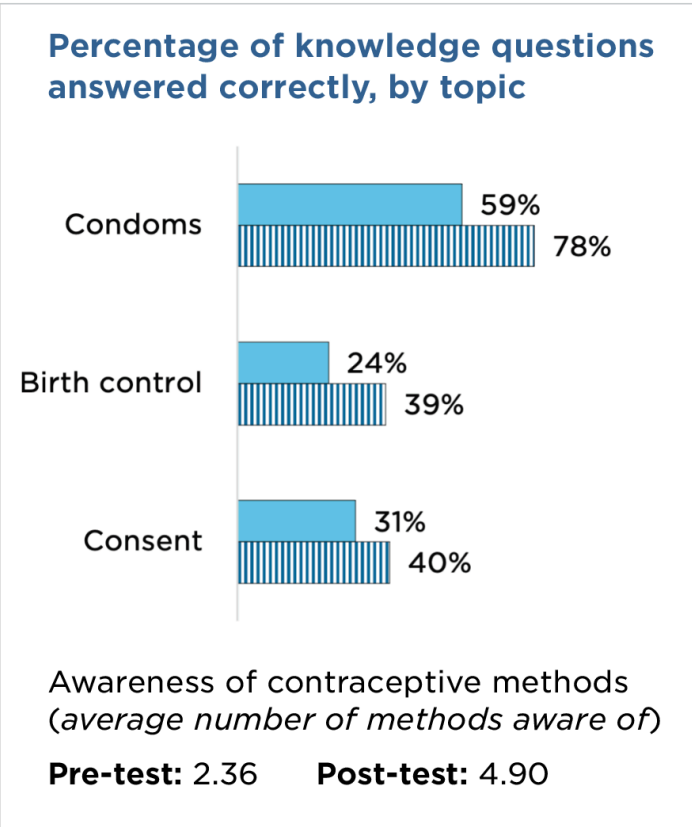
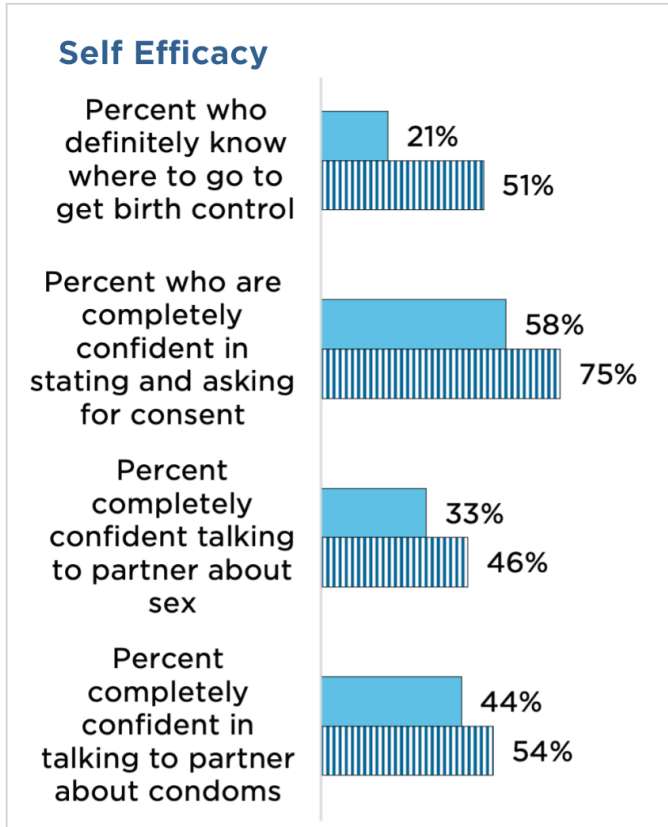


26% of students reported that they had had penile-vaginal sex.



53% of sexually active students had sex without any contraceptive method (including condoms) in the last 3 months

Students who participated in El Camino had greater improvements in knowledge, self-efficacy, intentions, and attitudes from pre-test to post-test, relative to students who were enrolled in an alternative program.



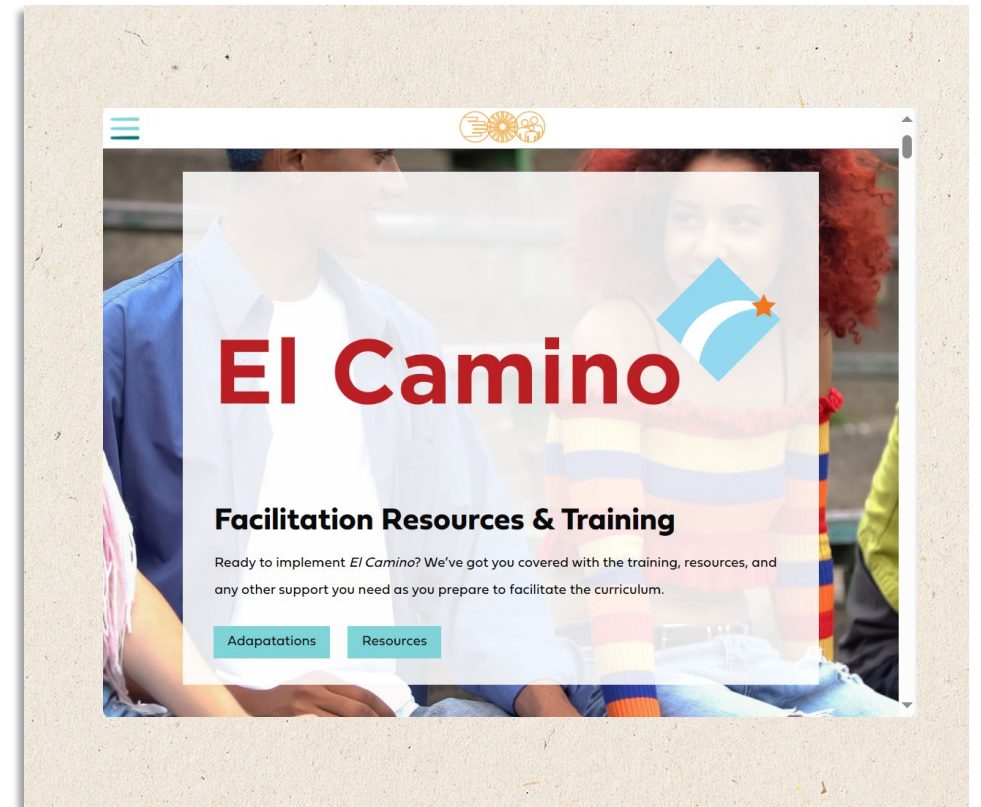
What's next for El Camino?

Healthy Teen Network now hosts the curriculum and provides training on El Camino.



Impact analyses are underway!

Stay tune! Study results will be posted to Child Trends' website when they're ready for release.



Resources

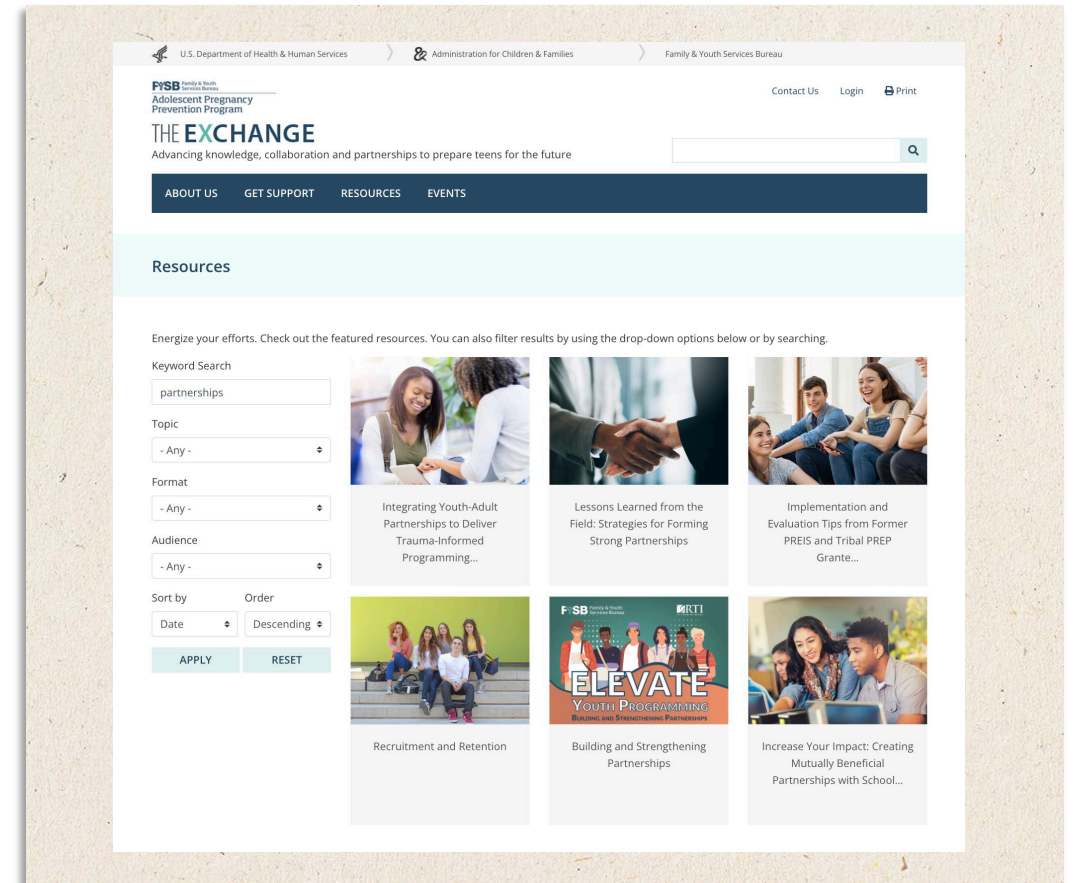
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- Child Trends. (2022). *El Camino: Helping teens set life goals and promote sexual health*. <https://childtrends.org/publications/el-camino-helping-teens-set-life-goals-and-promote-sexual-health>
- Finocharo, J., Manlove, J., & McConnell, K. (2024). *Findings from an evaluation of the El Camino sexual health program*. Child Trends. <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/findings-el-camino-sexual-health-program>

Scan to learn more!



Resources

- [Lessons Learned from the Field: Strategies for Forming Strong Partnerships](#)
- [Implementation and Evaluation Tips from Former PREIS and Tribal PREP Grantees](#)
- [Recruitment and Retention](#)
- [Building and Strengthening Partnerships](#)
- [Increase Your Impact: Creating Mutually Beneficial Partnerships with Schools](#)



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If you would like to learn more about this project, please contact us at ElCamino@childtrends.org.

Session Evaluation

Please complete a brief evaluation form for all workshop, forum and networking sessions by scanning the following QR code or visiting the following link:

<https://bit.ly/2024Evaluations>



THANK YOU!