



**The Evaluation of the Children’s Aid Society/Carrera Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program in Georgia**

Grantee	Morehouse School of Medicine, Health Promotion and Resource Center Project Director: Mary Langley, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N., I.C.P.S., <a href="mailto:mlangley@msm.edu">mlangley@msm.edu</a>
Evaluator	Tressa Tucker & Associates, LLC Evaluation Lead: Tressa Tucker, Ph.D., <a href="mailto:tressatuckerconsulting@comcast.net">tressatuckerconsulting@comcast.net</a>
Intervention Name	Children’s Aid Society/Carrera Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program
Intervention Description	The Carrera Program is a holistic youth development model inclusive of a comprehensive health and sex education curriculum. The program operates seven core elements or components during an after-school program. The Carrera after-school program operated 42 weeks per year, Monday through Friday from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m., with occasional Saturday activities. The core components are homework assistance (four hours per week), family life and sex education (FLSE) (one hour per week), power group (one hour per week), job club (one hour per week), life time sports (one hour per week), self-expression (one hour per week), and health and dental services (annually). Homework assistance provides daily educational support. FLSE is a comprehensive sex education class. Power group is a discussion group regarding relevant life issues. Job club teaches financial literacy and introductory vocational education. Self-expression enables youth to explore their creativity in the arts. Life time sports introduces youth to sports they can enjoy through adulthood. And, health and dental services provides immunizations and needed doctor visits. Carrera-certified staff trained by the developer and a fidelity monitor delivered the program.
Counterfactual	The Boys & Girls Club
Counterfactual Description	The Boys & Girls Club is a national program with after-school and summer programs strategically located throughout the country in predominantly low-income neighborhoods. The Boys & Girls Club provides a national curriculum, which all selected Boys & Girls Clubs use.  The after-school programs for these clubs operated from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. All clubs followed the national model with the following core components: education and career development (four hours per week), healthy life styles (one hour per week), character and leadership development (one hour per week), arts and cultural enrichment (four hours per week), and sports and recreation (five hours per week). The clubs used the evidence-informed Smart Moves curriculum for the healthy life styles component, which promotes abstinence from substance abuse and adolescent sexual involvement; as compared to the Carrera FLSE class, which focused solely on comprehensive sex education. Program staff trained in the national model by their administrative staff delivered the Smart Moves curriculum.
Primary Research Question(s)	(1) What is the impact of the Carrera Program relative to the Boys & Girls Club on sexual activity of program youth after three years of treatment?  (2) What is the impact of the Carrera Program relative to the Boys & Girls Club on risky sexual behavior (having unprotected sexual intercourse) of program youth after three years of treatment?
Additional Outcomes	Sexual initiation; intent to have sex; safe sex; academics; sexual education knowledge
Sample	The study sample included 400 youth who were in 6th or 7th grade (or ages 11 and 12) who applied to a Morehouse Carrera Program or selected Georgia Boys & Girls Club. The three intervention group sites were selected based on previous working relationships with Morehouse School of Medicine. The three regional Boys & Girls Clubs were selected based on demographic and geographic similarity to one of the Carrera Programs. Eligibility criteria for youth included (1) enrollment in the intervention or comparison group; (2) parental and youth consent; and (3) cognitive/academic functioning at a 5th-grade level, determined by program staff. In total, 220 youth were enrolled in the intervention group and 180 youth were enrolled in the comparison group.

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Setting	This study examined the effect of the Carrera Program in community-based organizations located in a rural, a micro-politan, and an urban setting, for both the intervention and comparison groups. The rural sites, Jasper County Carrera (intervention) and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mitchell County (counterfactual), are located in central/south Georgia. The micro-politan sites, Lamar County Carrera (intervention) and Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Georgia (counterfactual), are located in middle/central Georgia. The urban sites, Metro-Atlanta Carrera (intervention) and Cobb County Boys & Girls Club (counterfactual), are located in north Georgia, inside the metro-Atlanta area.
Research Design	The study used a quasi-experimental design. The research groups were formed by selecting existing community-based organizations. A series of meetings held from August to December 2011 secured parental consent and youths’ assent. The lead evaluator met with parents individually to read the consent form and explain the consent process. Baseline data collection began after consent was secured. The following data sources were collected: paper-and-pencil surveys, attendance, grades, and test scores each fall following the first three years of participation (2012, 2013, and 2014). All data are interim data as the program serves youth for four years.
Impact Findings	To be determined when data collection and analysis are complete.
Implementation Findings	To be determined when data collection and analysis are complete.
Schedule/ Time Line	Sample enrollment was completed in fall 2011. Interim follow-up data were collected in fall 2012 (after one year of programming), fall 2013 (after two years of programming), and fall 2014 (after three years of programming). A final report, which focuses on follow-up data for 3 years of program delivery, will be available to the Office of Adolescent Health in 2015-2016.