

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan,
 Elizabeth Kushman, MPH,
 Program Director

Support Network for Anishinaabe Pregnant & Parenting Teens



**Maajtaag Mnobmaadziid
 "The Start of a Healthy Life"**

- ❖ Serving American Indian Pregnant and Parenting teens, and Pregnant Women And parents under age 24 without H.S. degree or GED as a secondary target group
- ❖ Using Home Visiting Case Management and Community Awareness and Capacity Building as key strategies
- ❖ Network of Ten Community Service Sites Including 8 Tribal Community Health Centers and 2 Urban based service delivery sites
- ❖ Goals are to improve parent and child health and social outcomes, education completion, delaying of subsequent pregnancies and increasing access to support services

Who We Are

Home Visiting Case Management Service Delivery Team at Community Service Sites

- Nurses
- Outreach Workers
- Social Workers

Grant Administration and Technical Assistance Team at the Inter-tribal Council of Michigan

- Project Director
- Evaluator
- Administrative Assistant

Description of Issues faced by our Target Population

- Severe economic situation and unemployment throughout Michigan, but worse in inner city and rural isolated counties included in the project area
- History of mistrust of services, and governmental/public programs, experience of discrimination in school systems and health care services for the general population
- No school based support program for teen parents in target area High Schools
- Significant disparity in drop out rates, experience of violence, substance abuse, smoking, and repeat pregnancy before the age of 20

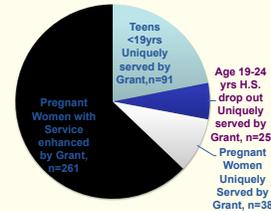
Description of Major Activities Supported by the Grant

- Additional staff and service sites added to existing Home Visiting Network to create a focus & expertise on recruiting and serving teens
- Motivational Interviewing Techniques training and guided practice for all staff
- Outreach to community partners to identify all available resources for teen parents, and establish referral agreements
- Home visits, office visits and "other community location" visits to accommodate clients service location preferences
- Use of the Partners for a Healthy Baby and Baby Basics Curricula for health education
- Regular Assessment of health, educational, social and basic needs, with appropriate education, referral, and assistance and advocacy provided in response
- Educational group outings, craft classes, etc. to build peer support and cultural identity



Who We Have Reached

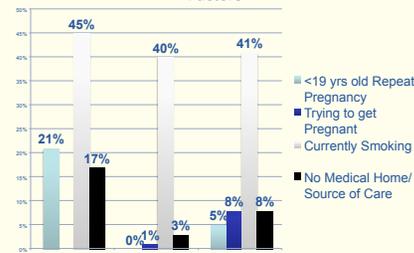
Families Served with Case Management by PAF Grant by Parent Characteristics



Participants in classes, groups & community events: 1,200

Impact and Outcome Measures

Reduction in Primary Target Client Risk Factors



Primary Target Positive Client Outcomes



Successes

- ❖ Engaging Teens in program activities
- ❖ Connecting clients to medical care and services
- ❖ Delaying Repeat Pregnancies
- ❖ School Retention

Challenges

- Meeting the time frames we originally set
- Multiple sites across the State
 - Difficult to schedule time for work as a team
 - Conference calls vs. face-to-face meetings
- Differing community needs – isolated rural reservation areas to urban inner city populations
- Balancing the benefit of standardization across all sites in intervention vs. providing flexibility for each community to respond to needs according to local resources, opportunities and priorities/conditions
- Smoking Rates are very hard to impact

Key Lessons Learned

Teens required more staff time to serve: locating, contacting, arranging for services, etc. Visits required time to counsel, advise and work with their parents as well

Even though program was integrated into an existing, established MCH Home Visiting structure, still required significant amount of central grant administration staff time

Establishing a trusting relationship with teen client and their parent(s) was key to retention & engagement

Next Steps

- Sustainability Ideas – tapping into other sources of support, integrating with other programs;
- Integrating new Native-specific Evidence-Based Model: Family Spirit Curriculum;
- Transition planning for clients;
- Reaching out to current & potential Partners;
- In-depth evaluation



INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN

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