

Bridging the Gaps: Eliminating Disparities in
Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Sexual Health

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***Reaching the Hard to Reach through
Shared Goals, Relationship Building,
and Evidence-based Practices***

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Acknowledgement

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Objectives

- Participants will be able to:
 - identify 3 methods to connect and collaborate with state agencies that share similar goals and objectives in teen pregnancy prevention and sexual health to reach vulnerable populations, specifically foster care youth;
 - identify at least 3 barriers and solutions when working with vulnerable populations;
 - describe how a youth development approach can be successful in reaching vulnerable populations.

Presentation by:

Arizona Department of Health Services
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program



University of Arizona Cooperative Extension-
Maricopa County
Personal Responsibility Education Program



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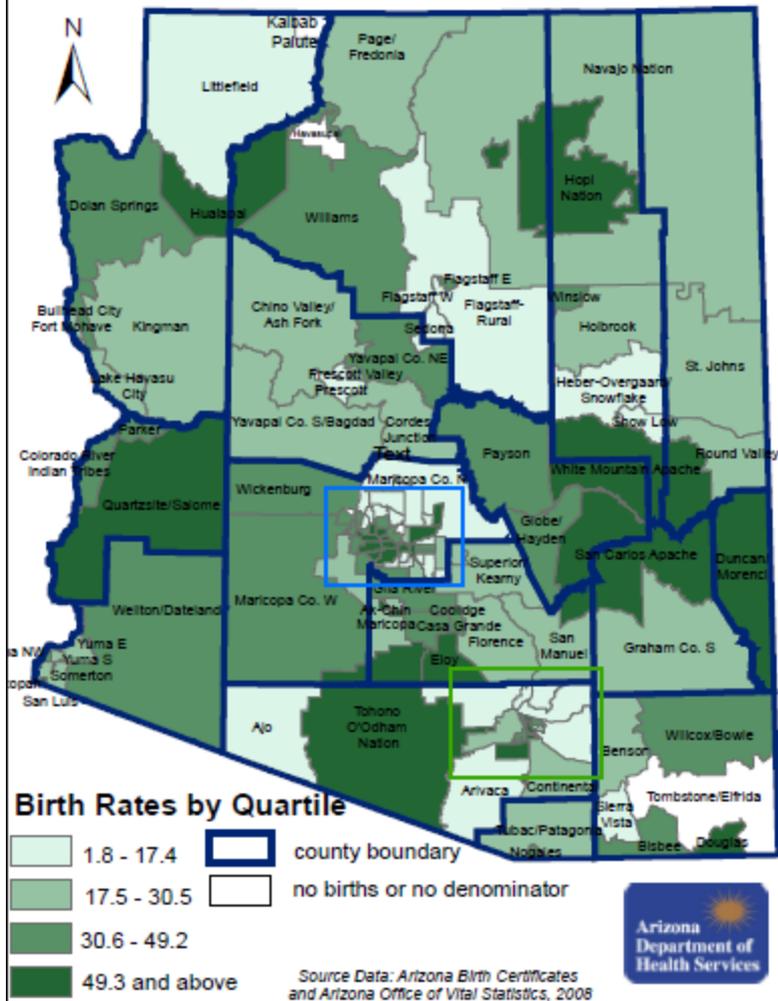
Background

- ADHS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program in existence since 1998
 - Abstinence only & Abstinence plus
- Identified areas and populations of need
 - Collected stakeholder feedback
 - Reviewed data
 - Assessed Community Health Analysis Areas (CHAAs) data
- 2010 awarded PREP & Title V funds
 - Focus on vulnerable populations, especially youth in foster care

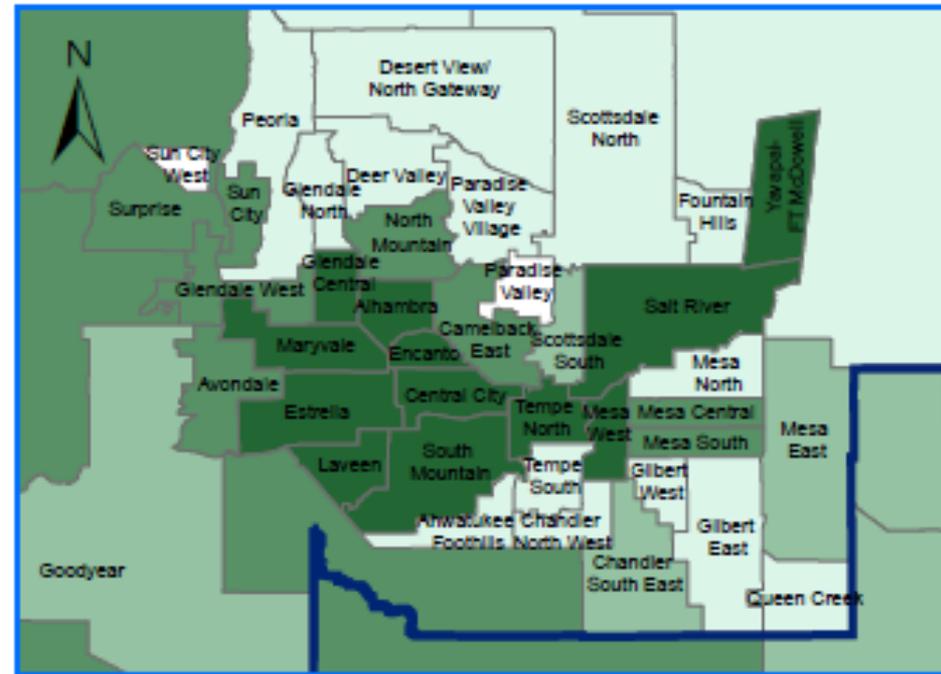
Identifying Arizona's Areas of Need

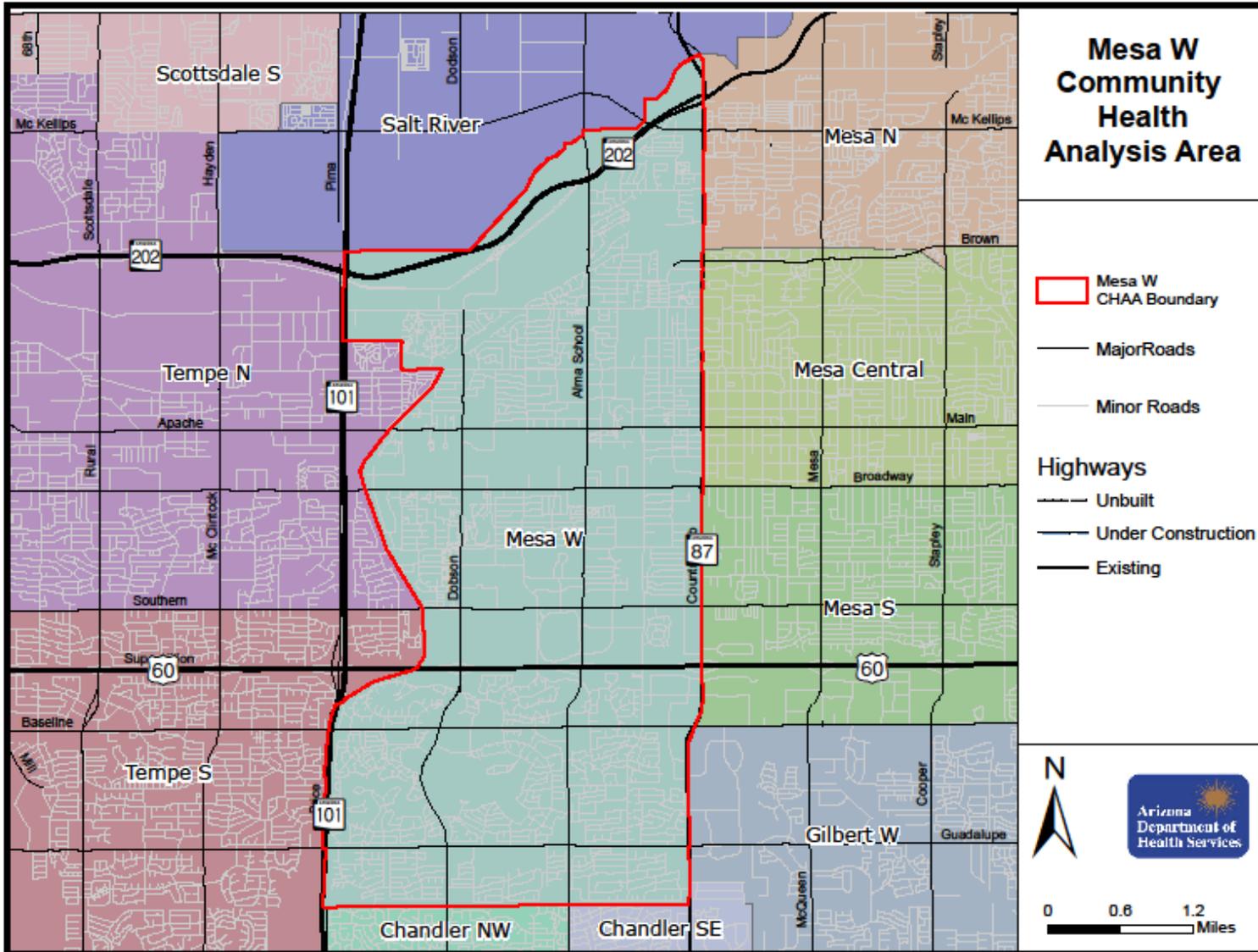
- Community Health Analysis Areas (CHAAs)
 - Breakdown of Arizona into small geographic units/regions
 - Allows analysis of communities smaller than a County
 - 126 CHAAs in Arizona
- CHAAs for teen pregnancy
 - Total population, total births, birth rate for youth 15-19 years of age
 - Breakdown by ethnicity/race
 - 16 CHAAs selected across the state

Birth Rates per 1,000 Females Age 15-17 Years by Arizona Community Health Analysis Area (CHAA), 2008



Metro Phoenix





- 2,863 teens
- Birth rate of 94.3 per 1,000 females, 15-19 years of age

Arizona's Vulnerable Populations

- Vulnerable populations identified
 - Youth in foster care, Latinos, African Americans, Native Americans, 15-17 years of age
- Youth in foster care
 - Over 2,300 youth (15-18) in Arizona's foster care system
 - Little access to information about sexual health
 - Less likely to use contraception in first sexual encounter
 - 2.5 times more likely to become pregnant by age 19

What Would You Do?

(WWYD?)

What Would You Do?

As a Program Manager, you have asked your contractor to serve foster care youth. The contractor responds, “I’m not comfortable working with this population.”

What would you do?

Activity Reflection - WWYD?

Why do we do this activity?

Activity Reflection - WWYD?

- Why do we do this activity?
 - Understand what is a barrier
 - Learn to problem solve
 - Think realistically about solutions
 - Practice speaking in a group
 - Practice listening to others

Overall Strategies

- Developer curricula trainings
- Professional development
- ADHS reporting systems
- Development of handbooks to guide sub-awardees through performance measures process
- Quarterly meetings

Strategies to Reach Youth in Foster Care

- Inter-governmental partnership
 - Department of Economic Security (DES)
- Trainings
- Evidence-based curriculum

Inter-governmental Partnerships

- Department of Economic Security (DES)
 - DES Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force
 - Presentation of program services at group home meetings
 - Develop information tools for youth and parents
 - Crosswalk group home contractual requirements with teen pregnancy prevention services

Strategies

Trainings

- Trainings for Health Educators
 - Understanding foster care culture
 - Understanding youth perspective
 - Understanding difficulties in recruitment/retention
 - Strategies for engaging and connecting with youth

Strategies

Evidence-based Curriculum

Teen Outreach Program® and Positive Youth Development

<i>Positive Youth Development Literature</i>	<i>Teen Outreach Program®</i>
Physical and psychological safety	Safe and supportive environment
Appropriate structure	Consistent format, group ROPES
Supportive relationships	Caring adult facilitator
Support for efficacy and mattering	Youth empowerment through CSL
Opportunities for skill building	Lessons and CSL activities reinforce PREP Adulthood Preparation Subjects

What Would You Do?

When brainstorming differences between men and women, a youth responds, “Women have boobs.”

What would you do?

Vulnerable Systems Affecting Youth in Foster Care

Vulnerable systems can add to youth vulnerability

- Group home staffing
- CPS case loads
- Juvenile Justice System
- Psychological difficulties
- Lack of control by youth
- Youth are highly scheduled
- Transitory populations

Activity: Vulnerable Populations

Small groups activity:

- How would you identify vulnerable populations in your community?
- What strategies can you implement to reach vulnerable populations in your community?
- What partnerships do you need to develop to reach these populations in your community?

Special Considerations

- Consents
- Sensitive issues
 - “Parent-centric language”
 - Potential trauma triggers
 - Pregnant or parenting youth
- Criminal records

What Would You Do?

You know that your TOP club includes juvenile sex offenders. When discussing their next community service learning project, a youth says, “Let’s go to the children’s hospital.”

What would you do?

Skill Building

- Importance of skill building with foster youth
- Strong emphasis on skill building in TOP
- Covered by both lessons and CSL projects
 - CSL process reinforces lesson content
 - Lesson reflection includes CSL application questions

Skill Building Activity

Agree-Disagree

Activity Reflection – A/D

Why do we do this activity?

Activity Reflection – A/D

- Why do we do this activity?
 - Gives youth the opportunity to express their opinion
 - Encourages critical thinking
 - Youth practice active listening and learn to respect differing opinions

Conclusion

- Strategizing Objectives Activity: Small groups activity
 - Identify 3 ways to connect and/or collaborate with state agencies sharing similar goals and objectives of reaching vulnerable populations, specifically youth in foster care.
 - Identify 3 barriers and 3 solutions when working with vulnerable populations.
 - Identify how a youth development approach can be successful in reaching vulnerable populations.
 - Identify at least one partnering agency you will contact in your community.

Questions?

References

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Thank You

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