

*Bridging the Gaps: Eliminating
Disparities in Teen Pregnancy and
Sexual Health
June 4-6, 2014*

*So why do communities of faith
matter in adolescent sexual health?*

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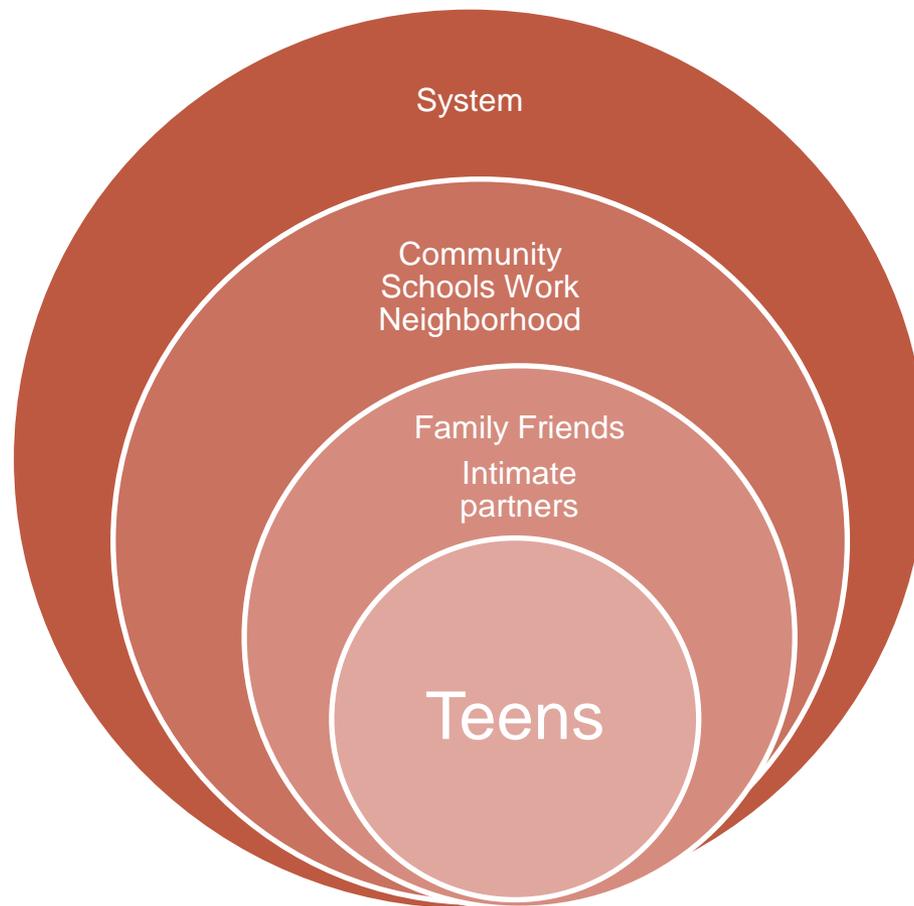
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Objectives

- By the end of the session participants will be able to:
 - Identify at least 3 factors that highlight the importance of linking faith based organizations and teen pregnancy prevention programs.
 - Match a minimum of 5 steps to engage communities of faith with the categories what to do "before", "during" or "after" engagement.
 - Create a draft plan to engage a community of faith.

Expectations Activity

Social Ecological Model



Source: JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

Communities of faith... adolescent sexual health... what's important?

Social Determinants

Where adolescents live, learn, work and play influences their decisions and health.

Source: JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

What are communities of faith?

Communities of faith include...

- Christian
- Jewish
- Islamic
- Buddhist
- Hindu

Source: Pew Research

Defining Terms

Spirituality

- The quality or state of being concerned with religion or religious matters
- Being concerned or relating to, or affecting the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things

Source: Merriam Webster

Fundamentalism

- A movement in 20th century Protestantism emphasizing the literally interpreted Bible as fundamental Christian life and teaching.

Source: Merriam Webster

Pentecostal

- Of, relating to, or belonging to a Christian group that emphasizes the power of the Holy Spirit and the authority of the Bible.

Source: Merriam Webster

Paranormal belief

- Believing in something that is beyond the range of common experience or scientific explanation.

Source: Merriam Webster

Research Says...

Research Says

- More than half of teen girls, 57 %, said that they had never had sex, and nearly one-half of these young women said that the main reason they had abstained from sex was that it was against their religion or morals.

Source: National Survey of Family Growth

Research Says

- Spirituality may be especially important to adolescent's search for self identify, life purpose, life direction and meaning in life.

Source: Doswell, Kouyate & Taylor. (2003).

Research Says

- Religious involvement often acts as a source of support, resiliency, encouragement, coping, meaning, satisfaction, values and behavioral perspectives.

Source: Wagener, Furrer, King, Lefert & Benson. (2003).

Research Says

- Frequent attendance of religious services is related to greater sexual abstinence, less sexual activity, less frequent sexual intercourse, fewer lifetime sexual partners and delayed age of first intercourse.

Source: Farmer, Trapnell & Meston.(2008).

Research Says

- Teens say that their congregations do a fairly good to very good job helping them understand sex/sexuality.

Source: National Study of Youth and Religion

Drawing conclusions

What does the research say about communities of faith and adolescent sexual health?

Concepts related to adolescent development

10 Tasks of Adolescence

- Adjust to sexually maturing bodies and feelings
- Develop and apply abstract thinking skills
- Develop and apply more complex level of perspective taking
- Develop and apply new coping skills
- Identify meaningful moral standards, values and belief systems

Source: Simpson. (2001).

- Understand and express more complex emotional experiences.
- Form friendships that are mutually close and supportive
- Establish key aspects of identity
- Meet the demands of increasingly mature roles and responsibilities
- Renegotiate relationships with adults in parenting roles

Positive Youth Development

- Positive Youth Development is a strengths based perspective or approach that emphasizes providing services and opportunities to support all young people in developing a sense of a competence, usefulness, belonging and empowerment.

Source: National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth

Asset Building

- Positive approach to working with children and youth that focuses on cultivating the relationships, opportunities, skills, values, and commitments they need to grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

Source: Search Institute

Developmental Assets

External

- Support
- Empowerment
- Boundaries and Expectations
- Constructive use of time

Internal

- Commitment to learning
- Positive values
- Social competencies
- Positive identity

Source: Search Institute

Activity

- Link a concept and a fact from the research to propose why communities of faith matter in adolescent sexual health.

Activity

Communities of Faith Before-During-After Engagement

Examples from the field

AFAHO

African Family Health Organization

Works to address an unmet need among members of the African and Caribbean immigrant and refugee communities in the greater Philadelphia area who experience difficulties accessing healthcare and social services due to cultural, geographic, linguistic, and other barriers.

Examples from the field

Sharon Baptist Church

TWIST - is teen church which is part of the youth ministry and an outreach for older kids. T.W.I.S.T. stands for Teens Worshipping In Spirit & Truth.

Examples from the field

Your examples

Work plans

Questions?

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