

NYC Uses Matchmaker Collaborations To Improve Sexual Health Education and Reduce Teen Pregnancy

*2014 Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grantee Conference
Bridging the Gaps: Eliminating Disparities in
Teen Pregnancy and Sexual Health*



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NYC Matchmaker Philosophy

I am struck by one truth: there is no example of a successful school without a productive partnership. No school can achieve in isolation.

Carmen Fariña

Chancellor, NYC Public Schools

Public health has at its root the quest for social justice. It is also personal - the human story that underlies the statistics we cite.

Dr. Mary Bassett

Commissioner, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

NYC Matchmaking Strategies That Could Work for You

In 1.5 hours today, you will:

- Learn how NYC Departments of Education (NYC DOE) and Mental Health and Hygiene (NYC DOHMH), and Working to Institutionalize Sexuality Education (WISE) leveraged their resources for implementing sexual health education in middle and high schools.
- Meet your match(es) in small groups to identify potential partners to address your community's sexual health education goals.
- Explore strategies for partnering with those organizations and create a plan for moving forward.

Problem:

High teen pregnancy rates, especially among the poorest teens in NYC

Matchmaker solution:

Targeted collaboration between educational and health experts working with schools

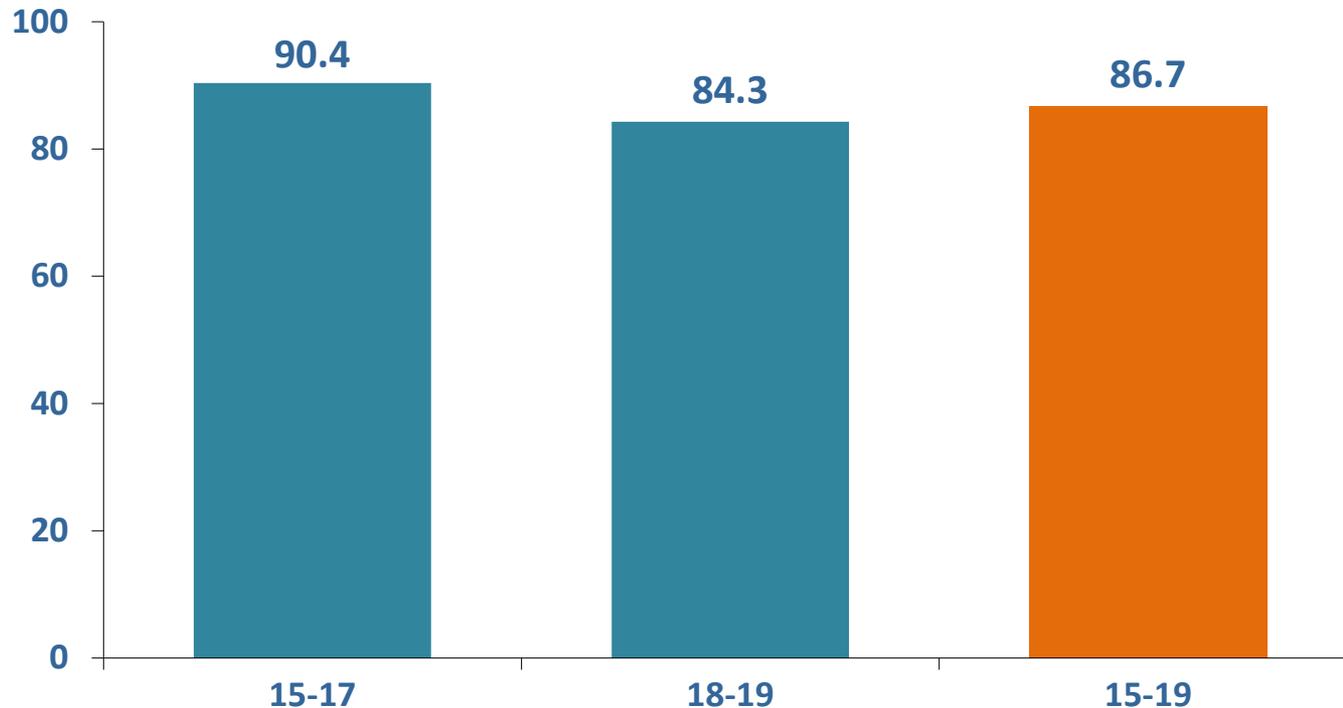
2011 CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey NYC vs US High School Results

Survey Question	NYC	USA	USA more likely
Ever Had Sexual Intercourse	37.8%	47.4%	★
Had Sexual Intercourse For The First Time Before Age 13 Years	7.0 %	6.2 %	=
Had Sexual Intercourse With Four Or More Persons (during their life)	12.3 %	15.3 %	★
Had Sexual Intercourse With At Least One Person (during the 3 months before the survey)	25.1 %	33.7 %	★
Drank Alcohol Or Used Drugs Before Last Sexual Intercourse (among students who were currently sexually active)	19.2 %	22.1 %	★
Did Not Use A Condom During Last Sexual Intercourse (among students who were currently sexually active)	34.6 %	39.8 %	★

Source: <http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/>

More Than 20,000 Teen Pregnancies Annually in NYC – The Vast Majority Unintended

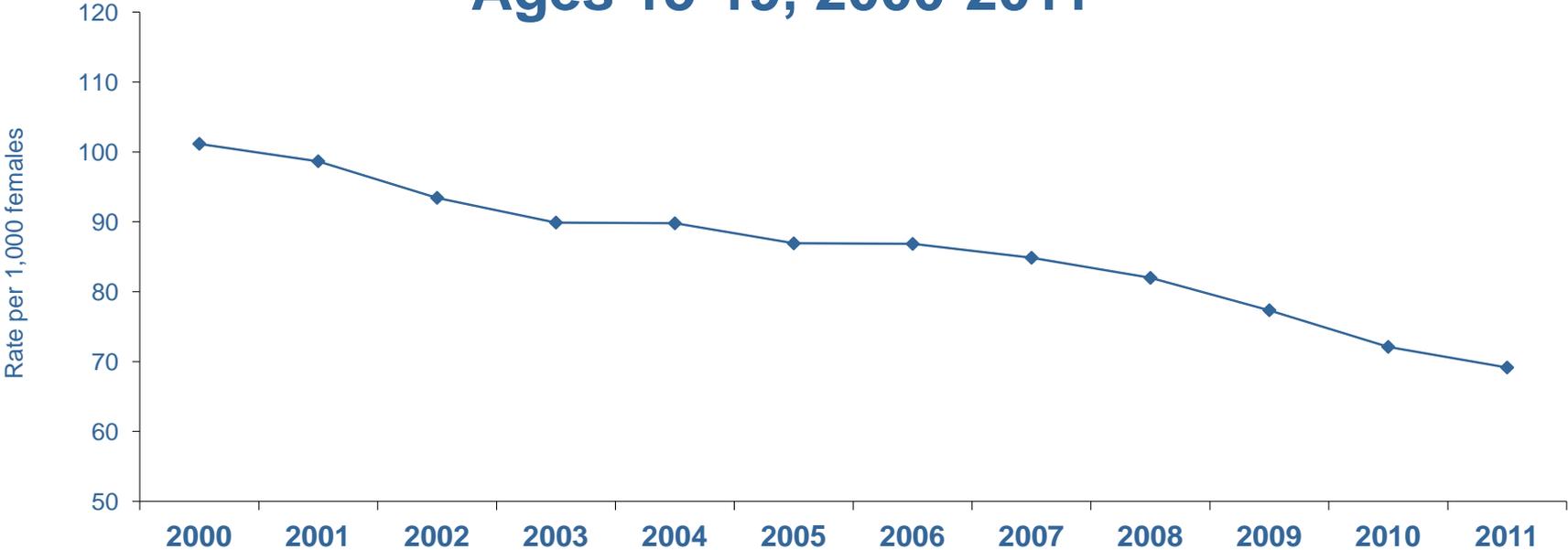
Percent of Pregnancies Among NYC Residents Ages 15-19 That Were Unintended, by Age – 2009



Sources: Bureau of Maternal, Infant & Reproductive Health, using data from the Bureau of Vital Statistics, the NYC Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), and unpublished Guttmacher Institute analysis of the 2006-2008 National Survey of Family Growth

NYC Teen Pregnancy Rates Declining Over Time

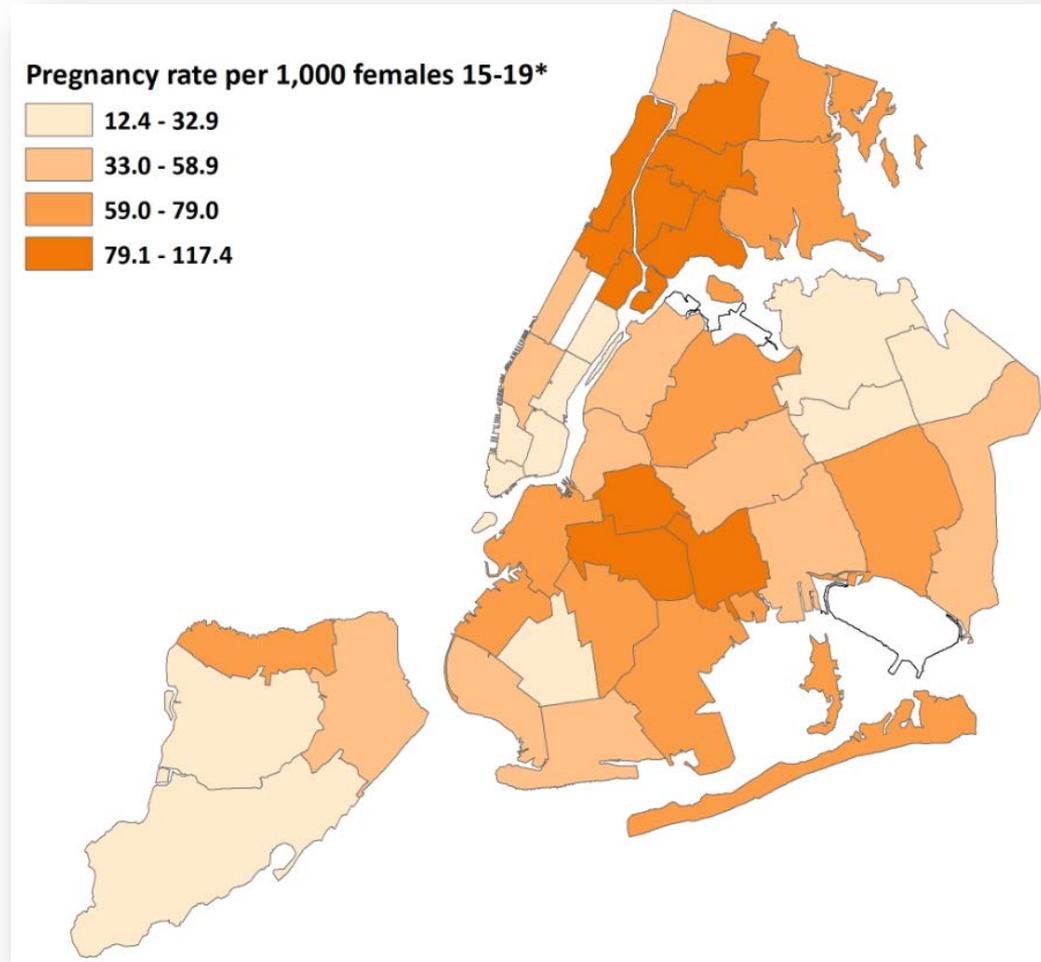
Ages 15-19, 2000-2011



Note: NYC rates for 2011 may be adjusted after new population denominators for 2012 are released by the US Census Bureau.



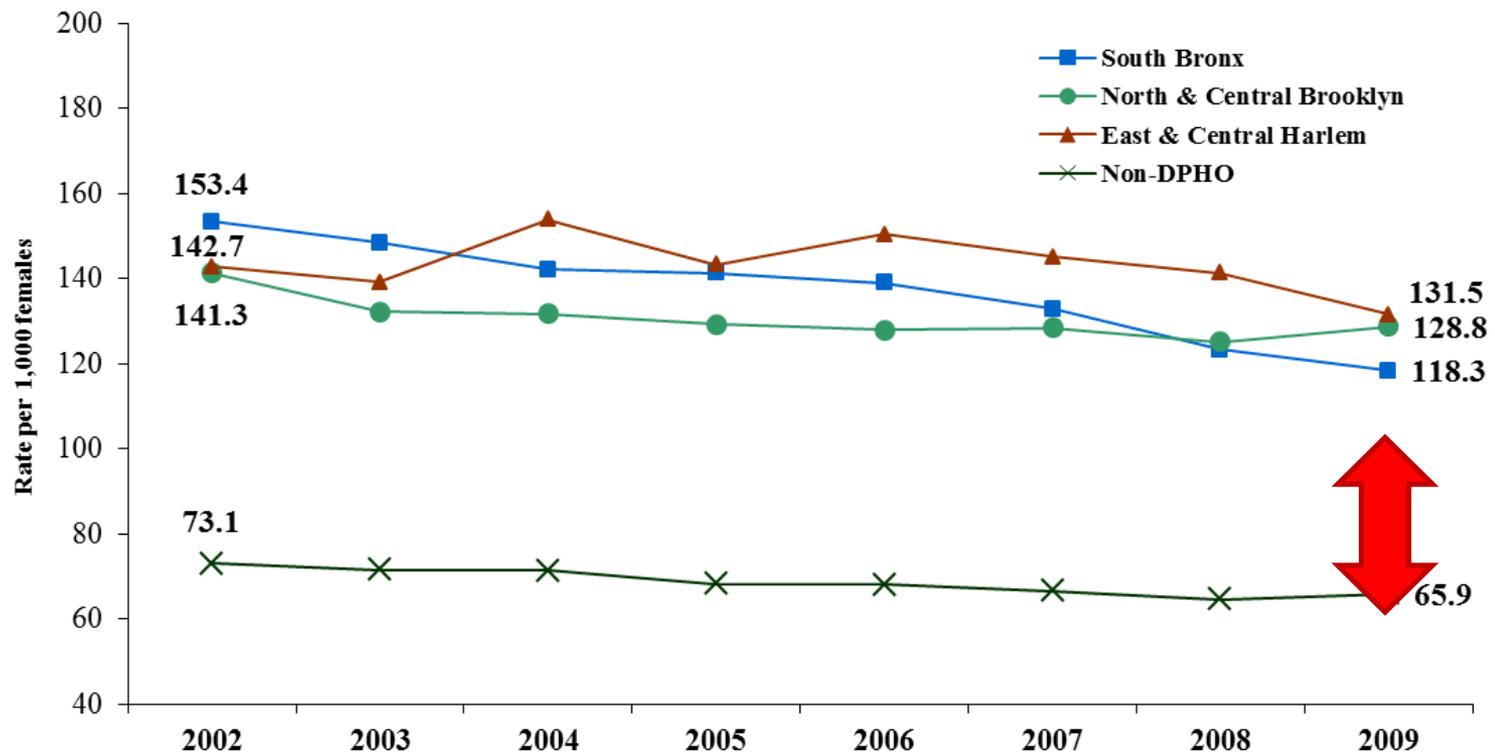
Unacceptable Disparities Exist Across NYC



Source: 2011 Bureau of Vital Statistics
Prepared by the Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health

Markedly Higher Teen Pregnancy Rates In Poor Neighborhoods

Pregnancy Rates Among NYC Residents Ages 15-19, by District Public Health Office (DPHO) Area*, 2000-2009



*DPHOs were established in 2002. DPHO rates based on combined United Hospital Fund neighborhoods.

NYC Public Schools Background

- 1.1 million students attend more than 1,800 schools.
- Approximately 70% of students live at or below the federal poverty line.
- 180 plus languages are spoken across the city and parent materials are routinely translated into 10 home languages.
- Broad cultural and religious diversity shape family values, particularly regarding sexual health topics.

NYC Comprehensive Health Education Requirements

Elementary School

- Health education is integrated into classroom instruction

Middle School

- One semester of daily health education
- Recommended for 6th or 7th grade
- Must include sexual health education

High School

- One semester of daily health education
- Graduation requirement (1 credit)
- Recommended for 9th or 10th grade
- Must include sexual health education

HIV/AIDS
Lessons
Every Year

K-6: 5 lessons
7-12: 6 lessons

DOE Office of School Wellness Programs

- Provides educator professional development, aligned with core academic frameworks, in comprehensive health education (CHE), sexual health education (SHE), mental health, and drug prevention.
- Reviews and recommends research based comprehensive health education curricula and supplementary health education curricula.
- Offers @YourSchool technical assistance to principals who seek to improve their health education programs.



DOE Office of School Wellness Programs

- Supports the mandated Condom Availability Program in every high school to supply free condoms and individual student support in Health Resource Rooms.
- Health Education Leadership Program in 55 middle and high schools
- Health Education Leadership Circle in 20 high schools



Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs Used in NYC Public High Schools

- **Condom Availability Program** in all high schools (with few exceptions)
- **School-Based Health Centers**
- **CATCH** (Connecting Adolescents to Comprehensive Health)
- **STEP-UP** (School-Based STD Testing and Education Program for Urban Populations)
- Referrals to community-based adolescent reproductive health care providers
- Free **Teens in NYC** mobile app

OSWP Pursues Partnerships to Leverage Resources

Health professionals:

- NYC DOHMH, non-profits, and community groups support SHE and other interventions to promote healthy sexual behaviors.

Local government:

- Funding from the Mayor's Office supports the Young Men's Initiative and Health Education Leadership Program

Case studies of two effective partnerships:

- *Bronx Teens Connection (BxTC)*
- *Working to Institutionalize Sexuality Education (WISE)*

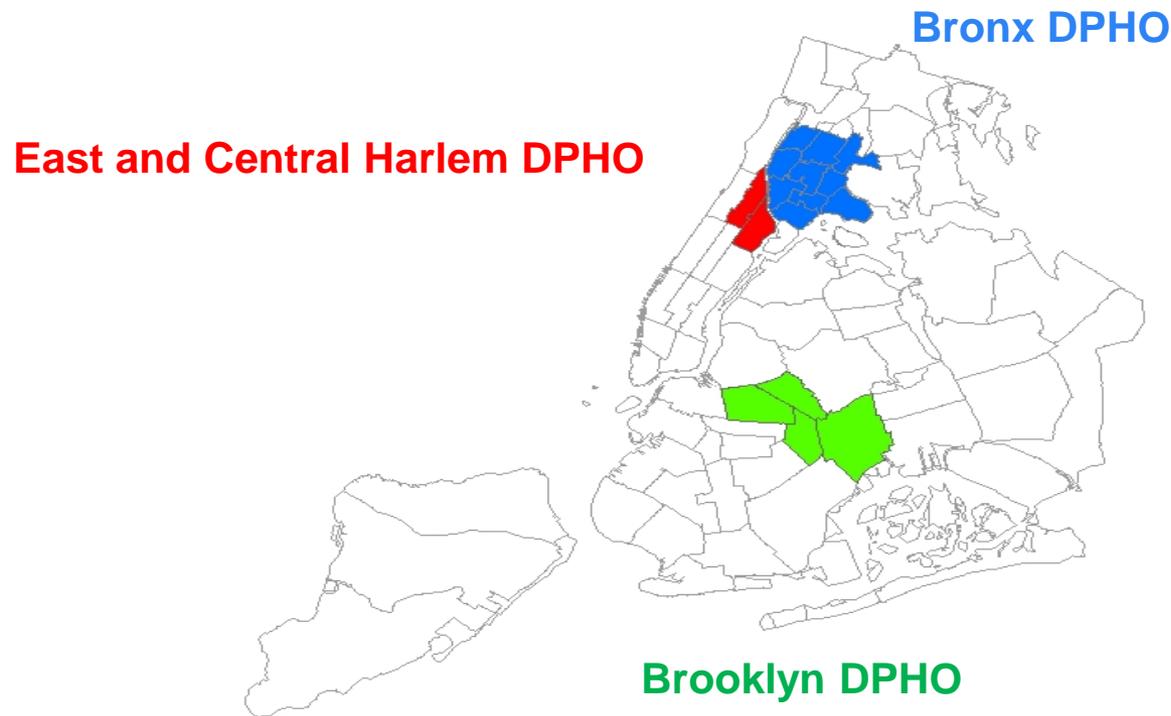
Bronx Teens Connection (BxTC)

Community-Wide, Multi-Component Initiative

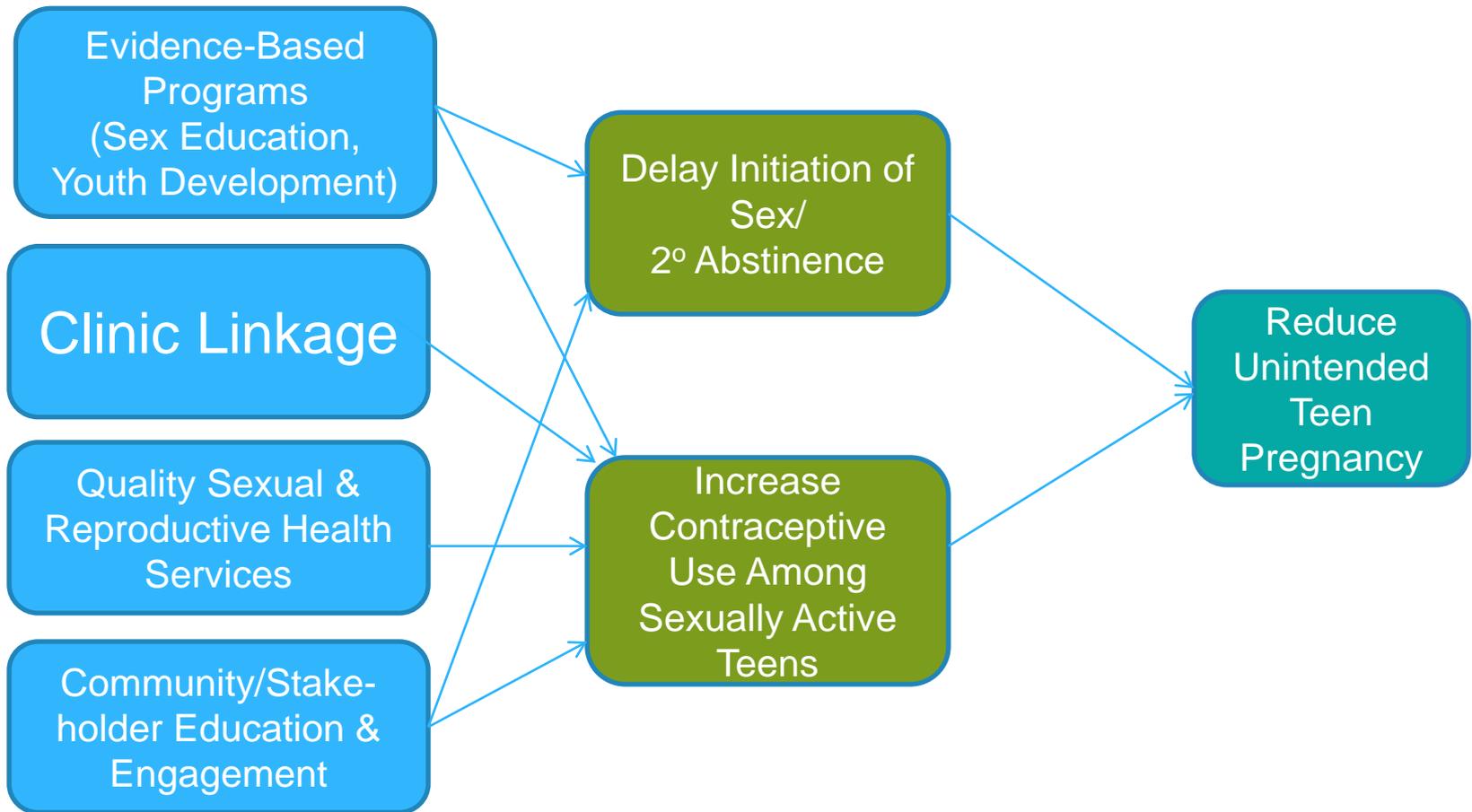
Joining with community partners to create an environment where all teens have the information, skills and resources to act upon healthy decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.



NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene District Public Health Office Neighborhoods



DOHMH Four-Pronged Strategy to Reduce Unintended Teen Pregnancy



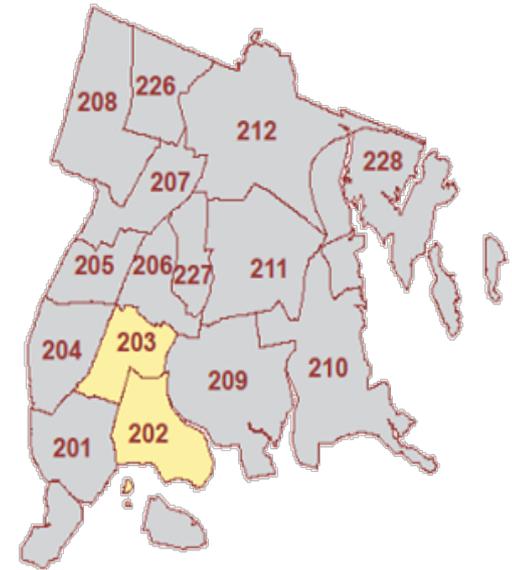
BxTC Targets and Goals

Target Communities

- 2 Community Districts in the South Bronx
 - Hunts Point (CD2)
 - Morrisania (CD 3)

CDC Goal

- 10% reduction in births to 15-19 year-olds in Bronx Community Districts 2 & 3 by 2015



BxTC Project Components

- Evidence-Based / Evidence-Informed Programs
- Access to Quality Clinical Services
- Community Engagement & Mobilization
- Educating Stakeholders



How This Match Worked: What NYC DOE Provided

- Identified Bronx schools.
- Co-created 3-day sexual training design for teachers.
- Allowed BxTC to conduct classroom condom demonstrations despite a long-standing city ban.
- Co-created a LGBTQ Supplement for *Reducing the Risk*.

How This Match Worked: What NYC DOHMH Provided

- Expertise for classroom condom demonstrations.
- Shared program evaluation data.
- Focused on the value of dual pregnancy protection.
- Created a health insurance lesson plan.
- Provided letters of support for grant proposals
- Promoted best practices for school/health clinic partnerships

How Will BxTC Continue to Help DOE?

- Gain principals' commitment to prioritize sexual health education and referrals to care.
- Develop teacher supports.
- Increase provider partnerships and referrals to care.
- Provide a dual agency platform for rallying support for sexual health education.

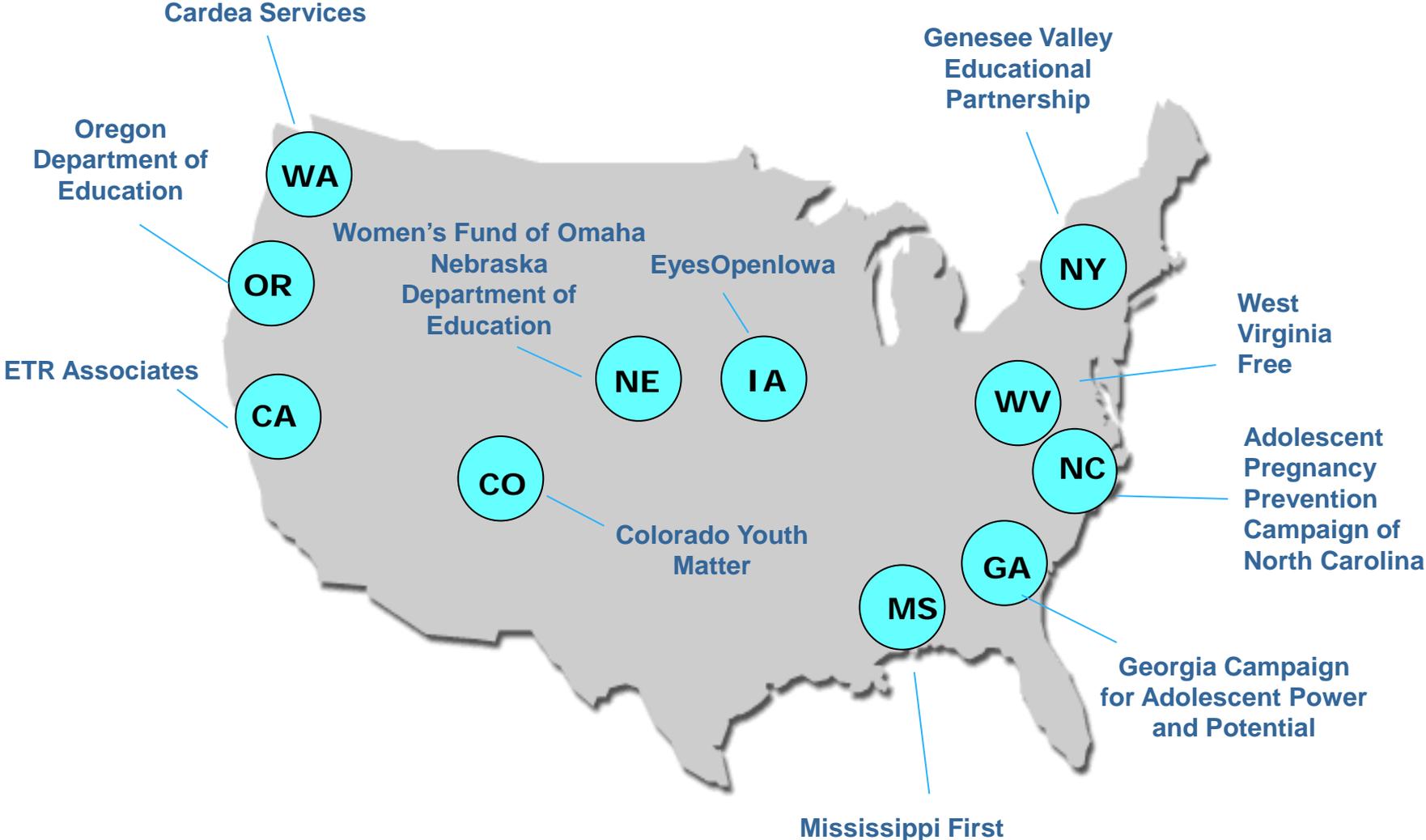
Working to Institutionalize Sexuality Education (WISE)

National Initiative

WISE is a national Initiative through which eight *lead partner* organizations are funded to *work with* school communities in their states to institutionalize sexuality education.



Overview of WISE



Source: <http://www.wisetoolkit.org>

How This Match Worked: What WISE Provided

- Maximized NYCDOE buy-in.
- Offered assessment of district capacity to provide CSE.
- Guided implementation of NYC programs.
- Provided training on Common Core and CSE.
- Led middle school CSE curriculum review and gap analysis.
- Helped to embed broad-based strategies for planning, staff training, and instructional best practices.

Challenges and Solutions to Consider In Matchmaking

Challenges:

- Useful data about the needs of youth in your community are not available.
- The health and education departments don't speak to each other or leverage messaging and resources.
- Policy prevents educators from teaching what research shows is best practice.

Finding Solutions In the Room Today:

- Make a list of your top challenges.
- Choose 4-6 specific areas where a partnership could be useful.
- Join a station around the room to brainstorm solutions and to match with a partner also working on that issue or who may be able to help.

How to Establish A Successful Match

- Identify potential partners whose expertise is aligned with your needs areas.
- Pinpoint all the shareholders of each potential partner.
- Define shared goals where resources and expertise could be leveraged.
- Target and prioritize the list of shared goals.
- Develop a shared vision statement for the partnership.
- Create buy-in across all constituents to ensure that the partnership benefits everyone involved.

Contact Us

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References and Citations

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