

Frequently Asked Questions on CCG & Cal-Learn Elimination Proposal

1. Does UCSF have any evaluation data to show that CCG programs work?
 2. Are there evaluation data for Cal-Learn?
 3. Isn't one of the purposes of TANF to prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies?
 4. If CCG and Cal-Learn funds come from the federal TANF block grant, how does elimination of these programs save the state money?
 5. How do legislators propose to prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies if they eliminate funding for primary and secondary teen pregnancy prevention?
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1. Does UCSF have any evaluation data to show that CCG programs work?

Yes. One of the problems with teen birth rate data is that they suggest that CCG programs are effective when the rate goes down but do not demonstrate that programs change youth behavior. Dr. Claire Brindis presented findings from the last statewide survey of youth in teen pregnancy prevention programs (FY06/07) at the meeting of OFP Stakeholders held in Sacramento on February 25, 2009. I cannot share the final report on the data because it is under review at OFP. The evaluation sampled 2,600 youth in predominantly CCG Prevention Education programs and 2,600 matched comparison youth. Youth survey data were collected before and after program participation by 78 grantee-agencies to assess changes in knowledge, beliefs and behavior as a result of Prevention Education. The sample of youth participants in Prevention Education improved in statistically significant ways relative to their matched comparisons on various measures. The results were all positive for the program, that is, there were no negative findings. However, there were a few measures on which we found no differences between program and comparison youth. Key findings from the PowerPoint presented by Dr. Brindis are that youth in the program reported they were:

More likely to have spoken with a parent or adult about sex within the month;
More likely to agree that abstinence is a better choice for people their age;
More comfortable asking a partner to get tested for STD or HIV;
More confident in their ability to cope with things generally;
More knowledgeable about STD/HIV prevention methods;
More likely to agree that it is easy to obtain birth control;
More likely to know how to use a male condom;
More likely to believe in using a condom every time;
More likely to agree they know of a doctor or clinic providing family planning services in their communities;
More knowledgeable about family planning clinic policies;
More likely to have a Family PACT Health Access Program card; and
For those who were already sexually active...
More consistent about using condoms during vaginal sex each time.

2. Are there evaluation data for Cal-Learn?

Yes. I am not aware of any recent controlled experiments, but Cal-Learn was subjected to rigorous evaluation in a randomized study when it was a demonstration program in California. Between 1994 and 2000, UC DATA at the University of California, Berkeley evaluated Cal-Learn and found that the main research question was supported by the data – teens in Cal-Learn completed high school with a

diploma or GED at a significantly higher rate than teens on welfare who were not in the Cal-Learn program. <http://ucdata.berkeley.edu/pubs/CLFE.pdf>

3. Isn't one of the purposes of TANF to prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies?

Yes. But the TANF block grant and the financing structure of the "Maintenance-of-Effort" (MOE) requirement for receipt of TANF funds gives the states considerable flexibility to spend on CalWORKS or other programs. http://www.lao.ca.gov/handouts/socservices/2011/CalWORKs_Budget_02_02_11.pdf

According to the LAO, "TANF funds may be used for any activity which is reasonably calculated to meet a purpose of the federal TANF program. The four stated purposes of TANF are:

--Assisting needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes.

--Reducing the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

--Preventing out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

--Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families."

http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis/2010/health/hss_primer_0310.aspx; see also,

<http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/TANFBlockGrant.pdf>

Although "Preventing out-of-wedlock pregnancies..." is an objective of TANF, it is not required that all States do this.

4. If CCG and Cal-Learn funds come from the federal TANF block grant, how does elimination of these programs save the state money?

See above. The state has flexibility under TANF and reducing out-of-wedlock pregnancies is not required but simply permitted so we must assume the funds will be redeployed to support other programs.

Note from UCSF: CCG grantees were required to match a portion of their grant funds with cash or in-kind contributions to leverage their grant awards and provide more resources to programs and teens. UCSF found that the grantees exceeded their minimum match requirements by one third (required match amount = \$2.8 million; reported match amount = \$3.7 million).

5. How do legislators propose to prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies if they eliminate funding for primary and secondary teen pregnancy prevention?

This is a question to ask legislators. Do they no longer think that's a worthy goal? Do they think other state programs contribute to meeting that goal?

The California legislature has historically included primary and secondary teen pregnancy prevention in its TANF State Plan. <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/entres/pdf/2003stplan.pdf>

Excerpt from 2003 Plan, the one currently on the DSS site: "As evidenced by the statistical data, California, through a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach, has dramatically reduced the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies. An example of these programs are the Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP), AFLP Siblings Program, Cal-Learn, CalWORKS Family Planning Information Project, Community Challenge Grants, Teen Pregnancy Prevention (It's Up to Me) Media Campaign, Male Involvement Program, Family PACT Program, and the Information and Education Program. We intend to continue our efforts in order to fully explore which strategies (or combination thereof) are the most effective and to what extent. Armed with this evidence, we will be able to begin developing numerical goals as we develop our future program budgets." (Page 7 of 14).