Research has shown that in most cases, teens in the USA who are most apt to become pregnant are the ones who do not receive sex education. In most cases, adults are uncomfortable to discuss sex with their children. In some communities, it is even considered to be a taboo to talk about sex. In 2013, it was reported that there were 26.6 birth for every 1,000 adolescents females of the ages of 15-19. This can be calculated to show that there were 274,641 babies who were born to females who are in this age group. Although this was a decline from 2012 that recorded a birth rate of 29.4 per 1,000, it still shows that a lot needs to be done to ensure that teenage pregnancy numbers are reduced.

In this paper, it will look at two programs i.e. the Teen Outreach Program (TOP), and the Teen Pregnancy Prevention 2010-2015 program.

**Teen Outreach Program**

The Teen Outreach program was developed by Brenda Hostetler, and the program is based on the youth development framework. In this program, the belief system is that the youth should be valued, and provided with sufficient opportunities so that they can be able to grow. It relies on adults building relationships with children or adolescents in order for them to have a chance to grow and become important members of the community. The program has three goals i.e.

* Healthy behaviors- Young people should be involved in both positive and constructive functions that will ensure that they are successful in life both at the present and in the future.
* They are provided with essential life skills that will help them to grow both in a healthy and self-sustaining manner.
* They should have a sense of purpose i.e. know their worth, which will help them grow in a positive manner.

To ensure that the adolescents can be able to achieve these goals, it uses two avenues that will help the child grow and develop in a positive manner. The first avenue is the Changing scenes curriculum, and the second avenue is the community service learning. The changing scene curriculum is divided into four levels i.e.

Level 1which is focused on the youth of ages of 12 to 13 years old.

Level 2 which is focused on youth of ages 14 years

Level 3 which is focused on youths of ages 15 to 16 years old

Level 4 which is focused on youths who are 17 years old.

This program is meant to empower the adolescents and ensure that they are not taken advantage of. They understand that adolescents today no more about sex, than the adolescents of previous generations. However, they use the information that these children know about in order to empower them, and ensure that they know more about sex, and how they can practice it in an efficient manner. This program has been introduced in most schools in order to reach as many adolescents as possible in the USA.

**Teen Pregnancy Prevention 2010–2015**

The Teen Pregnancy program is being run by the President’s Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI) through the CDC. The aim of this program is to reduce teen pregnancy and address on issues such as disparities in teen pregnancy and even the birth rates. The program mostly focuses on reaching out to the most affected communities i.e. African American, and the Latino/Hispanic youth of the ages 15-19 years.

The goals of this program are as follows:

* To reduce the rates of pregnancies and births among the teenagers in the targeted areas
* To be able to increase the youth access in terms of evidence-based and even the evidence-informed programs to be able to prevent the teenage pregnancy
* To increase the linkages that exist between the teen pregnancy prevention programs and the community based clinical services.
* Educate the stake-holders in relation to reduction of teen pregnancy and the data in terms of the needs and even the resources that exist in the targeted communities (CDC, 2014).

In order for this program to become successful there is the need to conduct community mobilization and even sustainability of the program in the community, and conduct evidence-based programs in the community. It is important to show the community the effects of teenage pregnancy, and how they can be reduced. These two programs have already been implemented in most areas of the USA such as in the school curriculum, and in the communities that are most affected, and they are meant to ensure that teenage pregnancy in the country reduces.

Reference

CDC. (2014). Teen Pregnancy Prevention 2010–2015. *CDC*, 1.