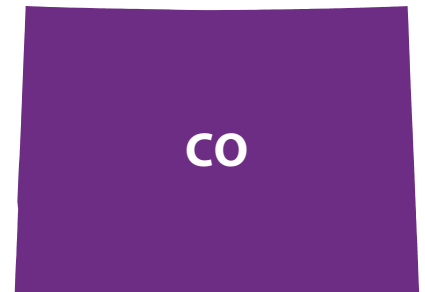


Colorado Prevents Teen Pregnancies Using Evidence Based Practices

Using the Guide to Community Preventive Services (2013)

Summary

This collaborative project brought together two public health institutes (Colorado Foundation for Public Health and the Environment) and the Colorado Health Institute) and the state association of county and city health officials (Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials). With their combined skills, connections and experience, the team guided four health departments covering six counties in the Southeast corner of the state, a region of low-ranking counties per the County Health Rankings, in the consideration and use of evidence-based practices based on the Guide for Community Preventive Services (the Community Guide) to engage in teen pregnancy prevention.



Activities

- Two public health institutes and the state association convened the health departments to determine the regional health issues to be addressed and the evidence-based strategies to be used. The group decided to focus on teen pregnancy prevention and use the *Comprehensive Risk Reduction Interventions for Adolescents*.

Building Partnerships to Increase Capacity in Evidence-Based Public Health through the Use of the Guide to Community Preventive Services, 2011-2013

The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), in collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provided funding and capacity building assistance to public health institutes and their state, territorial, local, and tribal health department partners to promote the adoption and use of evidence-based approaches outlined in the Guide for Community Preventive Services (<http://www.thecommunityguide.org/>) to address priority public health issues.

For a table with basic information about all of the projects supported through this program and links to more information, go to <http://www.nnphi.org/CMSuploads/CommunityGuideAbbreviatedTable>.

Activities (continued)

- The Colorado Department of Health and Environment trained the other team members and partners on how the *Comprehensive Risk Reduction Interventions for Adolescents* is used within Southeast Colorado and how it could be used.
- Through a Consensus Building Workshop, the team and partners selected five strategies from within the *Comprehensive Risk Reduction Interventions for Adolescents* to employ to prevent teen pregnancies: 1) implement comprehensive health education in schools; 2) engage youth throughout the process; 3) make sexual health resources available to youth; 4) promote youth-adult connectedness; and 5) empower youth to advocate for themselves.
- In order to promote sustainability, the team and partners hired a grant writer to assist the health departments with securing additional funding to implement the risk reduction interventions.
- **Update!** The team secured one out of the four grants for which they applied, and are hiring a program manager and a youth to work on risk reduction efforts in the community. Additionally, the team received feedback on one of the other grants they applied for and were told by the foundation that they will likely receive a strong second review in the near future.

Key Insights

- It is best to address health issues when the issues and strategy selection are driven by the communities in which they will be implemented.
- Facilitating a “regional approach” can help to build political will.
- Local health departments often lack the staff time to secure implementation funds; support from community partners to create sustainable programs can be invaluable.
- **Update!** Collaborating on these efforts has helped the counties to present a unified voice in implementing evidence-based risk reduction services.

Funding

\$65,000

Lead Team

Colorado Foundation for Public Health and the Environment, Colorado Public Health Institute, and Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials

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Team Partners

Baca County Public Health Agency, Bent Count Public Health, Otero County Health Department, Colorado Department of Health and Environment and Prowers County Public Health

Resources Developed

[Keep It or Drop It: Decision Tool for Review of Potential Community Guide Strategies](#)