

ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN 2015 Executive Summary

*Services Addressing Sexually Transmitted
Infections and Teen Pregnancy in Omaha*

Prepared for
The Women's Fund of Omaha and
The Sherwood Foundation
by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The Adolescent Health Project has four goals:

1

Sexuality Education

Promote medically-accurate, age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education in all middle and high schools

2

STDs

Build capacity for STD testing and treatment among clinical providers

3

Awareness

Launch a cutting-edge media campaign that is informed by teens, aimed at teens and tested by teens to increase awareness, promote safe sex practices and promote STD testing

4

Pregnancy

Increase access to long-acting reversible contraception (LARC)

The design of the Adolescent Health Project was informed by the strengths and gaps in Omaha's adolescent sexual health services identified by an environmental scan conducted in Fall 2013 and Winter 2014 (Tibbits, 2014). A second environmental scan was conducted in the Winter of 2015 to assess changes in the community, and to gather ideas for new interventions. The findings of the 2015 environmental scan are presented in this report. When possible findings from 2014 and 2015 are compared.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key Themes



STD & Teen Pregnancy Interventions in Omaha

- Most 2014 interventions are still operating
- Very few universal interventions are available
- Most interventions are offered at the selective level
- The availability of free STD testing and treatment has expanded due to AHP funding

The Adolescent Health Project

- Many praised the first AHP media campaign, but were unfamiliar with later campaigns
- Some perceive the media campaigns to be shame-based and culturally insensitive
- AHP influenced the adoption of medically accurate content standards for OPS Human Growth & Development course



Service Delivery System

- Improving collaboration between AHP grantees, but stronger collaborations needed between sexual health and youth development organizations
- Need improved cultural competence in service delivery system
- Many youth-serving agencies unfamiliar with AHP services

School & After School Systems

- Absence of formal sexual education school policies prevents youth-serving agencies from offering sex education
- Students would benefit from hearing presentations from community sexual health providers
- Proponents of sex education need to invest more in advocacy, including with city officials



Parents & Other Adults

- Parents need additional training from trusted community leaders about comprehensive sex education and youth sexual health
- Parents are most likely to attend information sessions and trainings at community organizations or their children's schools
- Sexual health trainings are needed for youth mentors and staff at youth-serving agencies



Youth

- Want more sexual health information, but may be more likely to listen to peers
- STD stigma among youth is strong and must be reduced to effectively prevent STDs
- Youth trust school staff, but school-based health centers miss this opportunity owing to prohibitions against onsite sex education and contraception
- Youth feel uncomfortable at unfamiliar clinics



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendations

1

Continue focus on building strong relationships with diverse community organizations to better understand potential concerns about sex education and the broader AHP, and provide accurate information.

2

Expand promising selective interventions implemented in Omaha's after school programs, community agencies and new agencies in order to serve more youth. Additional funding will be needed.

3

Expand outreach and marketing efforts to correspond with implementation of new AHP initiatives to increase awareness of those initiatives. Youth should be heavily involved in marketing efforts. The sexual health service delivery system should be monitored and continually improved through trainings and technical support opportunities.

4

Prioritize peer-to-peer education and outreach initiatives; e.g. train youth to conduct outreach at locations youth frequent. The AHP should mobilize its community network to help organizations access locations for outreach.

5

Offer meetings and trainings to parents at community centers or neighborhood schools to encourage parent involvement in sex education, increase their comfort with the material, and enable them to discuss the material with their children in the context of their personal values. Offer more parent trainings to increase parents' knowledge of age-appropriate sexual health material and their comfort discussing material with their children.

*For a copy of the full Environmental Scan,
please contact*

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