



Working with Diverse Communities Update September 2014

September Greetings from JSI!

JSI's *Root Cause Analysis and Action Planning Tool* has been utilized by many grantees to unearth and address the social and environmental factors impacting teen pregnancy in their specific communities. Whether it is with community stakeholders or a group of youth, conducting a Root Cause Analysis (RCA) is valuable for community engagement and strategic planning. Read this case study about how Part A grantees have used the RCA process in their teen pregnancy prevention work.

[Engaging Community Stakeholders to Address the Social Determinants of Teen Pregnancy](#)

Engaging Community Stakeholders to Address the Social Determinants of Teen Pregnancy

Root Cause Analysis Case Study August 2014

Background
In 2012, teen birth rates dropped to a record low with 20.4 births per 1,000 15-19 year old females. This data also showed teen birth rates lowering across all racial and ethnic groups however, even with strong prevention messages (disparities persist among racial and ethnic groups with teen birth rates for non-Hispanic Black (43.0) and Hispanic (40.3) over twice that of non-Hispanic white (20.0) 15-19 year old females in 2012).

Where teens live, learn, work, and play influences their reproductive health decisions. Referred to as "social determinants of health" these factors include culture, economic, environmental, and social conditions that influence health outcomes such as teen pregnancy.¹ The availability of school-based or job training programs, exposure to violence, lack of educational opportunities, and unemployment are all examples of contextual factors that may impact rates of teen pregnancy in a particular community. A model literature review conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) pointed to overwhelming evidence of the relationship and impact of social and economic influences on teen childbearing.² Considering teen pregnancy through a social determinants of health lens, such as taking into account community risk factors (e.g., employment and practice factors (e.g., access to culturally competent, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services), can help identify root causes contributing to teen pregnancy and potential strategies to address these causes resulting in a deeper and more sustainable impact.

In 2014, the CDC in partnership with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) and Population Affairs (OPA), funded nine state and community-based organizations in high-need communities as part of the Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Integrating Services, Programs, and Strategies Through Community-Based Approaches. The President's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative.

The five key components of this program model are:

1. Community Mobilization and Sustainability
2. Evidence-Based Programs
3. Increasing Youth Access to Contraceptive/Reproductive Health Care
4. Stakeholder Education
5. Working with Diverse Communities

CDC funded five national organizations to provide training and technical assistance (TCA) to grantees for each of the five strategies listed above. As a national partner, JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI) provides TCA to grantees related to key component 5, raising awareness of social determinants of health and engaging a framework to address the social conditions that create and influence health inequalities and disparities in these communities.

Root Cause Analysis (RCA)
All project grantees and TCA partners highlighted in this case study to conduct a Root Cause Analysis (RCA) to identify the social conditions risk and protective factors influencing teen pregnancy in their communities. First used in the field of engineering, RCA was adopted by the health care system to improve patient safety by examining adverse events (e.g., medication errors) and developing systems improvements to prevent them from happening again. This model is now widely used in a variety of fields including public health.³

RCA

- Is based on the theory that addressing the root causes of an issue is more effective and efficient than addressing the symptoms of the issue.
- Is a process used to identify contributing risk and protective factors and underlying causes of a health issue such as teen pregnancy.
- Provides an opportunity for diverse stakeholders to contribute to the understanding of teen pregnancy in their communities.
- Develops a facilitator's guide to guide grantees to conduct RCA with stakeholders to identify both risk and protective factors related to teen pregnancy in their communities. The process includes mapping these factors onto the Social Ecological Model (Figure 1) as individual, environmental, community, and system level factors influencing teen pregnancy.

Figure 1. Social Ecological Model of Health

The guide provides an overview of the process and step-by-step instructions to facilitate RCA with stakeholders to identify factors that impact teen pregnancy in their community, focus their activities on their needs, and develop an action plan. The RCA guide is available online at [http://jsi.com/toolbox](#).

This case study highlights the use of the RCA process with varying stakeholder populations. The 7 partners included in this case study are:

- Brook-Turner Connections
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Indiana Department of Public Health
- Middle County Health Department
- UT-Texas Health
- University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Working with Diverse Communities - JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. Page 1 of 5
http://jsi.com/toolbox

If you are interested in technical assistance related to conducting a RCA, or

doing follow-up planning for one you have already done, please [contact JSI](#).

To find the [RCA Tool](#) and other resources on working with diverse communities, visit our [website](#).

This update is published by JSI Research & Training Institute's Working with Diverse Communities Component, part of the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention: Integrating Services, Programs, and Strategies Through Community-wide Initiatives project, funded by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health (OASH), Office of Adolescent Health (OAH)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the President's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI).

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)