

NOTE: In addition to asking about social determinants, a comprehensive intake or history taking process for teen clients may also include questions about mental health and substance use issues. Here are links to short, validated screening tools for adolescents:

Mental health (depression, anxiety, etc.) screening tools: <http://teenmentalhealth.org/care/health-professionals/clinical-tools/>
CRAFT (behavioral health screen for persons under 21): <http://www.ceasar-boston.org/clinicians/crafft.php>

Social Services Providers

Your program's referral network should include:

- Food assistance programs (e.g. SNAP), emergency food assistance (food pantry)
- Housing assistance, emergency housing/shelters
- Substance abuse treatment services for teens
- Support groups for teens affected by others' substance use (e.g. Alateen)
- Adolescent mental health services/CMHC
- Emergency mental health services (crisis counseling)/hotline
- GED program
- Youth employment program
- Navigator/health insurance enrollment assistance (for family)
- Community health center/teen clinic
- School nurse/school-based health clinic/school guidance office
- Legal Aid/Juvenile justice
- LGBT youth program
- Child protective services
- Rape crisis center
- Family violence prevention program
- Domestic violence shelter/hotline

For guidance on building your referral network and compiling a referral directory, see *Broadening the Base for Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Expanding Community Partnerships & Referral Networks*. <http://rhey.jsi.com/files/2014/02/Partnership-Toolkit-Final.pdf.pdf>

Tools and Resources

Getting into adolescent heads: An essential update <https://www2.aap.org/pubserv/PSVpreview/pages/Files/HEADSS.pdf>

Health Begins: We move healthcare upstream. <http://www.healthbegins.org/>

Tools for assessment of social needs in clinical settings: <http://healthbegins.ning.com/page/social-screening-tools>

Health Leads: Better health. One connection at a time. <https://healthleadsusa.org/>

Teen Mental Health.org <http://teenmentalhealth.org/>

Whole-Person Care (California Improvement Network 2014): <http://www.chcf.org/~media/MEDIA%20LIBRARY%20Files/PDF/C/PDF%20CINQtrMtngReportJan2014.pdf>

Adolescents' Experiences and Views on Health Care: <http://www.thenationalalliance.org/pdfs/Report2.%20Adolescents'%20Experiences%20and%20Views%20on%20Health%20Care.pdf>

National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health: <http://www.thenationalalliance.org/>

Adolescent Substance Abuse and Mental Health: A Public Health Priority Resource guide for professionals in health care, education, community organizations, treatment, and the juvenile justice system: <http://www.plndp.org/Resources/GenericGuideFinal.pdf>

Sources

Garg A, et al. Improving the management of family psychosocial problems at low-income children's well-child care visits: The WE CARE Project. *Pediatrics* 120, 547-558 (2007). http://api.ning.com/files/JXndiEzV63s0hlzerJdlVgjpY1dX1*yaMqRYwjuPbr58TTZ*ggm8lhfcTv7g8kSD8nKFY0JkbpSDKIAXVzklpdW92BeC7Nyd/Pediatrics2007Garg54758.pdf

Getting into adolescent heads: An essential update <https://www2.aap.org/pubserv/PSVpreview/pages/Files/HEADSS.pdf>

Plan your Health, Live Your Life. Utah Department of Health, Reproductive Health Program. 2009. http://health.utah.gov/mihp/pdf/Teen_RLP_082709.pdf

HEADSS—A Psychosocial Interview for Adolescents http://www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/medical_education/undergraduate/spm/SPM_100/documents/HEADSS_000.pdf

WHOLE TEEN ASSESSMENT: QUESTION BANK

Social Determinants of Health Questions to Add to Client Intake Interviews and Forms

Purpose

A “social determinants of health” approach views teen pregnancy and other adolescent health outcomes as the product of the conditions in which teens live, learn, work and play, and not simply as the result of individual behavior or biology. This question bank offers a variety of ways for teen pregnancy prevention programs, teen clinics, and other youth-serving programs to incorporate into their client assessments, questions about social determinants that may affect a teen's health, well-being, and risk behaviors. The purpose of asking these questions is to gain a more comprehensive understanding of teen clients' life circumstances, and to connect them to needed social services, as the foundation for promoting their physical and emotional health, as well as their healthy decision-making.

How to Use this Question Bank

Youth-serving programs have their own protocols, processes and forms for conducting risk or intake assessments that may or may not include social determinants of health. For programs that would like to add such items to their assessment procedures, this question bank offers both open-ended and close-ended questions related to an array of social determinants including: basic needs such as housing, food and transportation, social connections, school involvement and out-of-school activities, safety and interpersonal violence, legal issues and health care access. The open-ended questions are best asked as part of a face-to-face encounter, visit or intake meeting with a teen.

Alternatively, many but not all of these questions can be asked as yes/no or multiple choice questions that can be added to self-administered forms that your program currently uses. Multiple choice options are provided here for some questions as an alternative to simple yes/no responses.

Key Considerations for Conducting a “Whole Teen Assessment”

- Conduct the assessment in a private space and allow enough time for discussion, addressing concerns and questions, and making referrals.
- Introduce yourself and demonstrate friendliness, genuine interest, and respect. Explain that you will be asking about issues that a lot of teens face in their lives, the sensitive nature of some of the questions, and that they can choose not to answer any of the questions.
- Assure confidentiality, while also explaining its limits. For example: “Everything you tell me here is completely confidential. There is one exception, however: If someone says they are in danger of being harmed or harming themselves or someone else, I would have to do everything I could to be sure they are protected. And that can mean involving others.”
- Most importantly, be well prepared with referral information so that you can connect the teen with the appropriate social, health, educational and assistance services immediately, or as soon as the teen expresses the need/desire to seek services. See the list on the back cover for types of community providers that should be part of your program's referral network.

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QUESTIONS FOR ASSESSING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH

The questions below are categorized into the social determinants domains--as factors related to the conditions in which teens **LIVE, LEARN, WORK** and **PLAY**. These questions help to get at the root causes of teen health outcomes beyond biological factors and individual behavior. Please note, if you are adding these questions to an intake or risk assessment form, most of the questions are yes/no questions. For a few questions, multiple choice response options are provided.

LIVE

BASIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

These questions ask about such issues as housing stability, food security and transportation.

Where are you living now?

Multiple choice response options: *In a house or apartment with my family, In a house or apartment with my foster family, In someone else's house or apartment for a short time because I/my family have no place else to go, On the street, In a shelter, In a car, or Some other temporary place*

Do you ever worry about losing your place to live?

Is your home warm enough in the winter/cool enough in the summer?

Is there anything in your home that you think might make you sick—like mold or bugs or mice?

Who lives at home with you?

Multiple choice response options: *Mother, Father, Brothers and/or sisters, Other relatives, Other adults who are not relatives, Other children or teens who are not relatives*

In the past 12 months have you every worried about running out of food?

Multiple choice response options: *always, usually, sometimes, never*

Does your family have enough money to pay for rent, food, heat and other things you or your family need?

Multiple choice response options: *always, usually, sometimes, never*

How easy is it for you to get to places you need to go, like school, afterschool programs or your job?

Multiple choice response options: *very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult, very difficult*

SAFETY/INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

These questions ask about personal safety and exposure to violence in the teen's neighborhood, family and other relationships.

Do you feel safe in your neighborhood?

Are you ever afraid that someone in your family or another person you live with might hurt you?

Is there anybody in your life who physically hurts you (pushes, slaps, kicks, chokes, etc.)?

Does someone in your life say mean or hurtful things to you a lot?

Are you ever forced to take part in sexual activities (including touching) that make you uncomfortable?

LEGAL ISSUES

This question asks about problems with the law.

Have you been in trouble with the police or the law in the past year?

Have you needed a lawyer for any reason in the past year?

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

These questions ask about access to needed health services.

Do you have a doctor's office, health center or clinic that you go to for check-ups or when you are sick?

Does your family have health insurance, like Blue Cross or Medicaid or other health insurance?

In the past year, have you or your family had any trouble paying for your health care costs, like doctors' visits, or medicines that you need?

How easy is it for you (in terms of transportation) to get to the doctor's office or clinic when you need to go there? Multiple choice response options: *very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult, very difficult*

LEARN

EDUCATION/TRAINING/FUTURE PLANS

These questions ask about the teen's engagement in education and aspirations for the future.

Are you in school? If not in school, how do you spend your days?

What do you like best about your school? What are you good at in school?

What is hard for you at school?

How do you get along with teachers and other students at school?

What do you want to do when you finish school? What future plans, dreams, or goals do you have?

WORK and PLAY

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

These questions ask about the teen's network of social support.

Do you have family or friends you can count on in times of need?

Do you have a person, or more than one person, you consider a close friend?

Do you have someone who you can talk to about problems? Share good news with?

Do you have a trusted adult outside your family that you can talk to if you need to?

OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND WORK

These questions ask about the teen's engagement in activities and group programs outside of school.

Do you have any hobbies or special interests? What after school programs or groups or teams do you go to?

Do you do any sports or regular exercise?

Do you have a job? How much do you work in a week?

Do you belong to a church or other place of worship, or practice some kind of spiritual belief?