

**Department of Health Services/Primary Care and Family Health
Maternal Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch
Male Involvement Program (MIP)**

Program California's MIP started as a demonstration effort in 1995 and is at the forefront of teen pregnancy prevention programming directed to adolescent and young adult males 12 –24 years of age. MIP prevention efforts have been focused in California communities identified as having teen pregnancy "hot spots." These projects have developed unique strategies to reach males to promote responsibility in preventing too early and unintended fatherhood. Currently, 21 local projects have five-year grants to conduct their prevention activities.

The specific goals of the MIP program are to:

- Reduce teen and unintended pregnancies.
- Promote responsible parenting.
- Promote the roles of males in the prevention of teen and unintended pregnancies
- Increase the number of fathers who support the economic, social and emotional well-being of their children.
- Promote postponing parenthood until one is able to provide for the physical, emotional, social and economic well being of a child.
- Increase community involvement in building healthy families through awareness of the effects of teen and unintended pregnancies.
- Promote and support the development of self-assured, future-oriented youth capable of navigating through adolescence to responsible adulthood and contributing positively to society.

MIP uses a wide variety of strategies appropriate for their community. Required strategies include: Prevention education – Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Clinical Linkage Services. Other strategies utilized by projects include: Informational Presentation, Education and Support for Significant Adults, Parents, and other Caregivers of Adolescents; Education and Support for Teen Fathers; Male Involvement; Services Learning; Peer Provided Services; Train the Trainer; Mentoring; and Community Awareness and Mobilization.

Start date The MIP was established in FY 1995/96 as a teen pregnancy prevention demonstration project. In 2003, MIP was established in California statute (AB 561, Chapter 643, Statute of 2003).

Fund Source General Fund, Title XIX

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History The governor's budget of FY 1995-96 included the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative to have OFP involve adolescent males and young adult men in teen pregnancy prevention efforts. MIP was supported entirely by General Fund from FY 95/96 – 02/03. Effective FY 03/04, MIP funding includes General Fund and Federal Title XIX. For FY 07/08, MIP expects to receive less Title XIX funding. Review of MIP statutes showed that MIP activities do not support receiving Title XIX at a full 50/50 (GF/FF) matching ratio, but at an estimated 63/37 (GF/FF) matching ratio, meaning that grant levels will be reduced accordingly.

Outcomes and Continuing Need

- In 2005, births to teens ages 15 – 19 years declined to 37.1 per 1,000 live births. In 2000, the rate for that age group was 46.7 per 1,000 live births.
- Teen births cost American taxpayers approximately \$7 billion in state and federal money each year.
- Nearly 80 percent of all unmarried teen mothers receive public assistance services.
- Two out of three teen moms never finish high school.
- California must continue the teen pregnancy prevention efforts to promote youth development and avoid unintended pregnancies.

Program Evaluations

- Male Involvement educational services are offered in diverse setting such as mainstream and alternative schools, social service agencies, juvenile detention facilities and youth centers.
- The majority of the participants are between the ages of 15-17 years of age (45%), with 29% is 18 years or older and 26% is 14 years old or younger.
- Fifty- three percent of program participants is Latino, African-American and White Anglos each represent 17% of participants, Six percent are Asian, and two percent are Native American.
- Overall, 62% of MIP participants indicated they were sexually active and 13.6 years of age was the average aged of first sex.

- Thirty-four percent of program participants have experienced a pregnancy and 24% of the young men that participated in the evaluation already have children.
- In spite of serving a population with high needs, the projects have increased participant's knowledge of the risk of pregnancy at first intercourse from 75% to 86%. An increase in knowledge of where on can obtain birth control from 83% to 90% and an increase in awareness of California's statutory rape law from 84% to 90%.
- Male participants experience ambivalent feelings toward pregnancy and parenting. Although the majority of males reported that do not want their partners to be pregnant, nearly half believe they would gain respect from friends.
- Sexually active males participating in the MIP indicate positive feelings toward contraception. The majority believes that ensuring contraceptive use is a shared

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responsibility and report they are able to communicate with their partners about contraception and sex.

Program Accomplishments

- MIP Programs developed creative holistic approaches in order to effectively reach and engage males in teen pregnancy prevention efforts.
- Due to the ethnic diversity of the MIP participants, programs encourage participants to embrace the positive aspects of their cultural heritage and use cultural teachings to strengthen young men's sense of responsibility and respect for self and others.
- Institutionalization of activities (e.g. school districts offering MIP classes for credit) has helped to ensure that male involvement becomes an integral component of the community.
- Building relationships with clinical service providers ensure the needed access to family planning and reproductive health services for males.
- MIP projects involve their target population in the program planning and keeping a strong focus on youth development activities.
- MIP has been the catalyst in identifying and addressing the historically overlooked needs of males in pregnancy prevention and continues to be the testing ground for male positive prevention programs.
- California is the leader in funding male involvement services aimed at adolescent pregnancy prevention and thus far has made one of the largest, state-level efforts targeting males. The California MIP has served as a model for programs across the nation and has received national attention