Research on Teen Parent Programs:

Program Impacts on Repeat Pregnancies and Births

Rebecca A. Maynard
University Trustee Professor
University of Pennsylvania
March 6, 1998

Experimental Field Tests

Voluntary

- **Job Start** ($6,000)
  - Emp & Training
  - Mixed Target Groups
  - ✶ ↑ **GED**

- **New Chance** ($9,000)
  - Teen Parents Only
  - Comprehensive Services
  - Family Planning & Health
  - ✶ ↑**GED, HS, Emp**

Mandatory

- **Ohio's LEAP** ($1000)
  - Teen Parents only
  - Sanctions & Lim. Services
  - ✶ ↑**HS, GED, & Emp**

Welfare Based

- **Teen Parent Demo**
  - ($2,000 per year)
  - Sanctions & Services
  - Family Planning
  - ✶ ↑**HS, GED, & Emp**

Family Planning: Variable Input and Output

Voluntary

→Job Start

Not program goal

No systematic services

→New Chance

Core goal

Core Service

1 - 4 sessions per month

Case manager counseling

Referral to local clinics

Mandatory

→Ohio LEAP

Not program goal

No systematic services

→Teen Parent Demo

Core goal

On-site workshops (2 - 100 hours)

Case manager follow-up

Referral to clinics (sometimes co-located)

Few Programs Help Postpone Future Births

Measured Impacts (% Gains/Losses)

	Pregnancies	Births
Job Start	**13%**	**17%**
New Chance	**7%**	**8%**
**San Jose	-12.4	—
Ohio LEAP	—	**4%**
Teen Parent Demo	**<1%**	**7%**
**Camden	-8%	-5%
✷**Elmira Home Visit**	**-43%**	—

Common Features in More Effective Programs:

Clear, unambiguous message

Build on teen's goals

Real family planning services

No celebration of births

Modest size case loads

Consequences for noncompliance with program guidelines

Health-Based Programs Show Strongest Outcomes

- **Not tested in universal program setting**
- **More costly than welfare-based programs**