

2016 Program Report Card: Carrera Model – Department of Social Services

Quality of Life Result: Preventing too-early parenthood reduces long term social costs associated with public assistance.

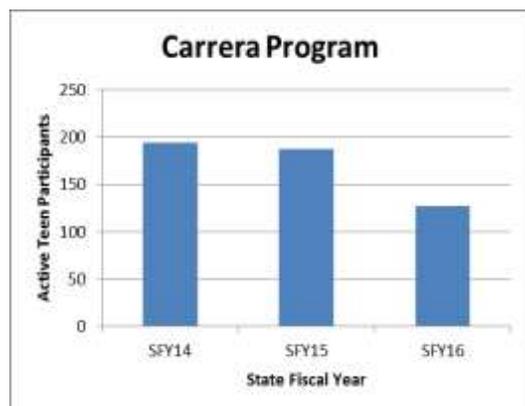
Contribution to the Result: DSS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative only funds evidence-based models of teen pregnancy prevention to maximize program effectiveness. Carrera is one such model.

Total TPP Expenditures	State Funding	Federal Funding	Other Funding	Total Funding
Actual SFY 16	1,630,024	6,000	0	1,636,024
Estimated SFY	1,728,305	6,000	0	1,788,305

Partners: Department of Social Services, UConn Health, Connecticut Junior Republic, Waterbury Public Schools, Torrington Public Schools, Pathways/Senderos Center, New Britain Public Schools, Philliber Research Associates.

How Much Did We Do?

Teens Served – Teens from communities with a high need for pregnancy prevention are targeted for participation in this program.

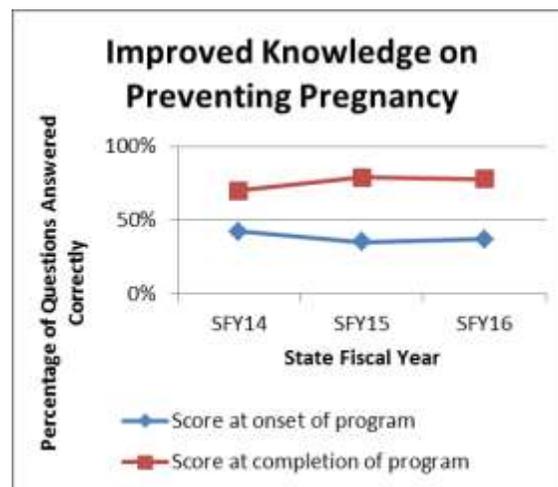


Story behind the baseline: The evidence-based model of teen pregnancy prevention known as the Carrera program is long-term (age 12 to high school graduation) and intensive (5 days per week, year-round.) Carrera teens benefit from ongoing assistance with academics, career development, family life & sex education, as well as other services to prepare for successful adulthood. In SFY16, due to budget reductions, the number of Carrera programs was reduced from three to two.

Trend: ◀▶

How Well Did We Do It?

Contraception & Sexuality Knowledge Improves – Program participants complete surveys at the time of enrollment in the Carrera program and then again at the completion of each year in the program.

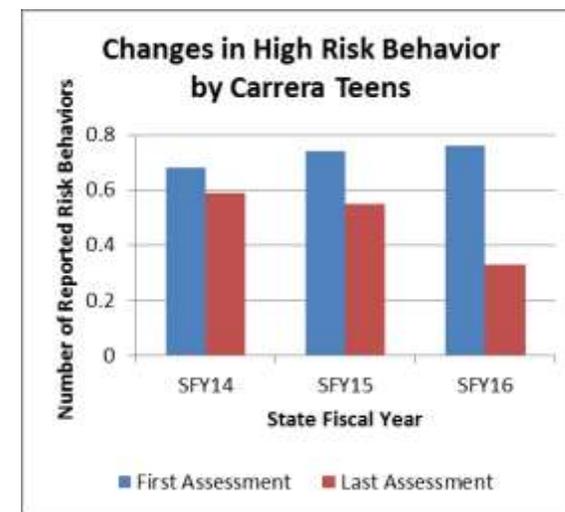


Story behind the baseline: According to an independent evaluator, Carrera teens' knowledge about how to prevent pregnancy increased significantly ($p < .001$) following program participation in each of the last three years.

Trend: ▲

How Well Did We Do It?

High Risk Behaviors – For teens in the Carrera program, reported high risk behaviors (including physical fighting, stealing, carrying or using a weapon, being arrested, vandalism and being a member of a gang) are tracked by an independent evaluator.



Story behind the baseline: The longer teens are in the Carrera program, the more pronounced the decrease in high risk behaviors.

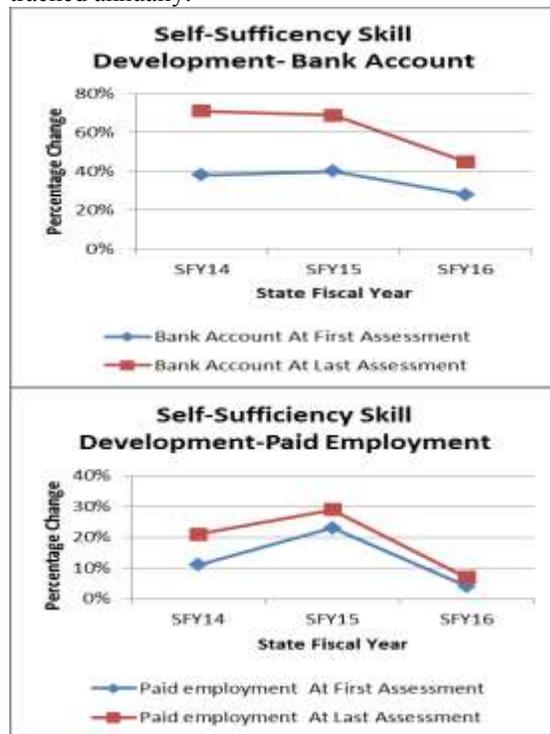
Trend: ▲

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Is Anyone Better Off?

Self-Sufficiency Skill Development Carrera teens learn about the value of paid employment and saving money. The number of teens who have bank accounts and are currently working a paid job are tracked annually.

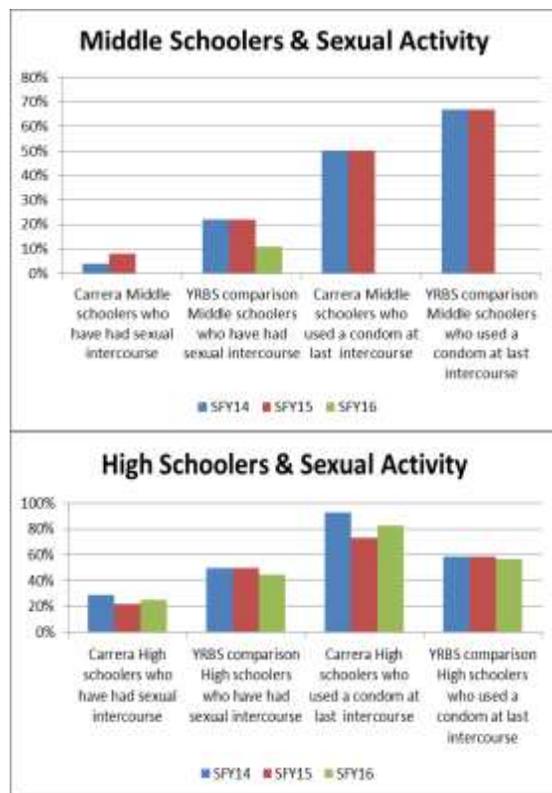


Story behind the baseline: Development of self-sufficiency skills is paramount in the Carrera model. While teens demonstrated more self-sufficiency skills after enrollment in the Carrera program in each of the last three years, when compared to earlier years, in 2015-16 fewer teens were working or had opened bank accounts, a possible result of the slowed economy.

Trend: ◀▶

Is Anyone Better Off?

Carrera teens use pregnancy prevention strategies more consistently when compared with teens in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).



Story behind the baseline: Delaying the onset of sexual behavior, and using a condom at every instance of intercourse are both strategies that teens can use effectively to avoid pregnancy.

Trend: ▲

Proposed Actions to Turn the Curve:

- Preventing too-early parenthood reduces long term social costs associated with public assistance following the birth of teen mothers' children—roughly 25 percent receiving TANF and 40 percent receiving food stamps (US Dept. of Health & Human Services.) Continued investment in effective efforts to reduce too-early parenthood can reduce DSS demand for both TFA and SNAP.
- Careful monitoring of any repeal of the Affordable Care Act will be critical as this may impact teen access to birth control and subsequent too early parenting.

Data Development Agenda:

- Teen reproductive health services that delay sexual initiation, reduce other risky sexual activity, or increase the use of contraception have other economic benefits, both for the adolescents served and their communities. These include higher future earnings and associated tax revenues from better academic performance and high school completion. (Economic evaluation of a comprehensive teen pregnancy prevention program: Pilot program. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. November, 2009.) Continued tracking of this data will better delineate the societal value of preventing teen pregnancy.
- RBA report cards will be accessible on-line after 2/15/17 at [www.health.uconn.edu/teen-pregnancy-ct/teen-pregnancy-ct](http://health.uconn.edu/teen-pregnancy-ct/teen-pregnancy-ct)