

## 2016 Program Report Card: Teen Outreach Program (TOP) – Department of Social Services

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

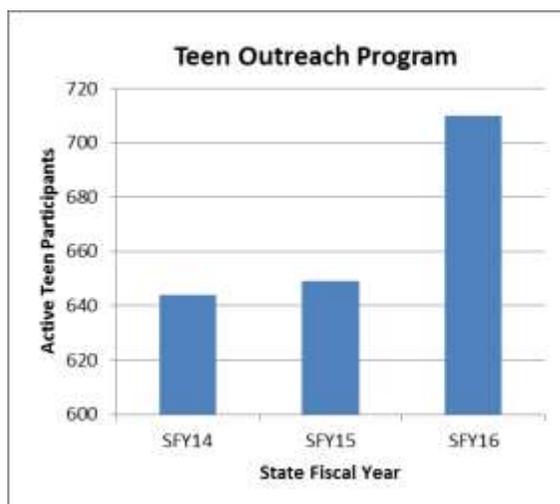
*Contribution to the Result:* DSS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative only funds evidence-based models of teen pregnancy prevention to maximize program effectiveness. TOP is one such model.

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, East Hartford Public Schools, Meriden Public Schools, Torrington Public Schools, Uncas Health District, Norwich Public Schools, New London Public Schools, Family Centered Services of Connecticut, Park City Magnet School, New Haven Public Schools, West Haven Public Schools, Village for Families and Children, Hartford Public Schools, Pathways/Senderos Center, New Britain Public Schools, EASTCONN, Middle College at Quinebaug Valley Community College, Windham ACT, Philliber Research Associates; Wyman Teen Outreach Program.

### How Much Did We Do?

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



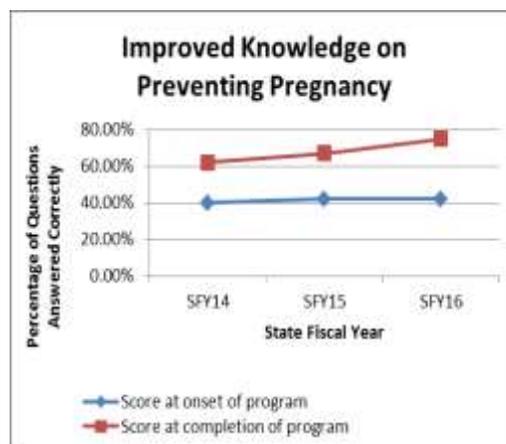
Story behind the baseline: DSS only funds evidence-based models of teen pregnancy prevention and TOP is one such model. TOP teens prepare for successful adulthood, avoid problem behaviors, and contribute to their communities through service learning.

Trend: ▲

Rev. 5 (12 15 12)

### How Well Did We Do It?

Contraception & Sexuality Knowledge Improves – Program participants complete surveys at the onset and then again at the completion of participation in the school year long program.



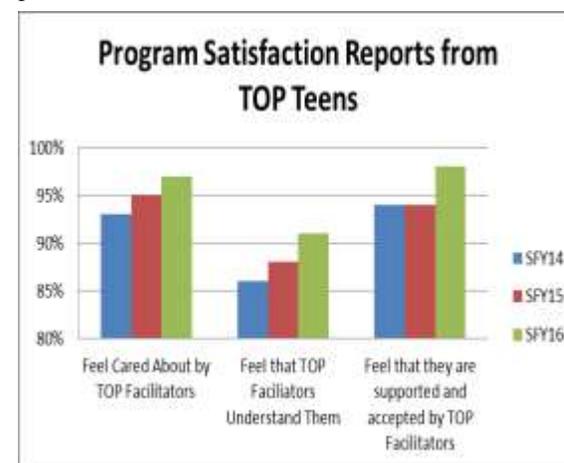
Story behind the baseline: According to an independent evaluator, TOP teens' knowledge about how to prevent pregnancy increased significantly ( $p < .001$ ) following program participation in each of the last three years.

Trend: ▲

Trend Going in Right Direction? ▲ Yes; ▼ No; ◀▶ Flat/ No Trend

### How Well Did We Do It?

Program Satisfaction – TOP teens participate in an annual survey about their experience in the program and virtually all teens report that they enjoy being a part of TOP.



Story behind the baseline: All TOP facilitators undergo a rigorous three day training before beginning work with TOP teens, and then are regularly monitored by DSS to ensure that they are maintaining fidelity to the TOP model and facilitate teen groups in a positive manner.

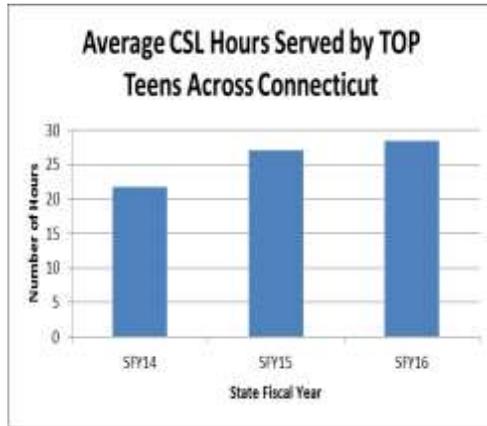
Trend: ▲

## 2016 Program Report Card: Teen Outreach Program (TOP) – Department of Social Services

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

### Is Anyone Better Off?

TOP teens contribute a minimum of 20 hours of meaningful service to their communities and concurrently develop a sense of purpose, learn healthy behaviors, and expand their real life skills.

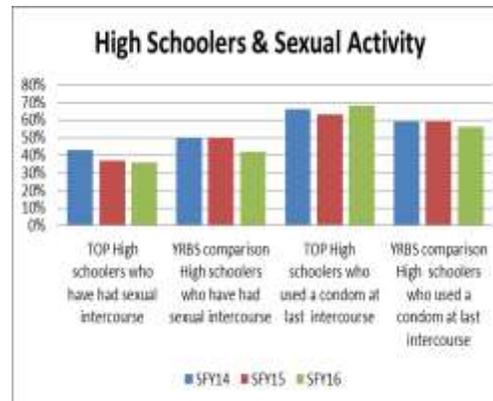
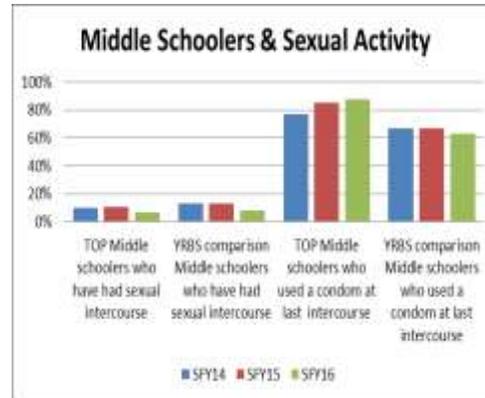


Story behind the baseline: Community service learning is a key component of the TOP model and gives teens an opportunity to develop a sense of self-efficacy. TOP facilitators are tasked with ensuring that service learning opportunities are meaningful and engaging for program participants. Studies have shown that it is the service learning component of the TOP model that has the greatest impact on teens' choices to avoid unwanted pregnancy.

**Trend:** ▲

### Is Anyone Better Off?

TOP 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 and 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 at [www. http://health.uconn.edu/teen-pregnancy-ct/teen-pregnancy-ct](http://health.uconn.edu/teen-pregnancy-ct/teen-pregnancy-ct)