

COMMUNITY YOUTH FOCUS

Adolescent Health Alliance (AHA) - Building a network of services for youth

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Youth Engagement in Community Health Assessment Methods

AHA Awarded Kaiser Grant Grant to Provide Training Opportunities in CC County

Youth participation in community health assessment is a powerful way to connect health programs with youth development. The Community Network for Youth Development defines youth development as “an approach in which young people are supported as they build their capacities and strengths to meet their personal and social needs” (2003). Engaging youth in a health assessment process provides an opportunity for an authentic exploration of community issues and assets; builds critical skills for youth to contribute as valuable community members; and increases community awareness of important health issues. As we work towards creating healthier communities, engaging youth as partners in this process can only maximize our opportunities for success.

These tools have been effective in engaging youth in community health assessments:

Photovoice: Through Photovoice, participants reflect on assets and issues of concern in their community, take photographs, engage in discussion about what they captured, and develop narratives to accompany their photographs. Participants then share their photos and narratives with the community and influential decision makers who can respond to the identified themes. Photovoice provides an opportunity for other community members to truly see the community through a youth lens. Through Photovoice, youth have an opportunity to build photography, writing and critical reflection skills.

Community Walk-Around: During a Community Walk-Around, participants identify an issue they want to explore in their community, select a geographic area where they live, work and/or socialize; and establish indicators for the issue they are exploring. Participants often create a checklist to guide their observations. Youth can use their access to non-adult spaces and their understanding of how the environment affects youth to draw powerful conclusions about

CONT ON PAGE 2

We are thrilled to announce that the Adolescent Health Alliance received a generous grant from Kaiser Permanente to provide a number of exciting training opportunities for all adolescent health service partners in Contra Costa County. This financial support will allow us to offer these trainings free of charge.

We encourage all AHA members and other providers to join us throughout the coming year. The training topics will include: Resiliency, Asset Development, Youth Development and Youth Engagement, Useful Application of Health Behavior Theory, Diversity Issues, Contraceptive and STD Updates, Navigating Clinical Services in the County, and Recruitment and Retention of Youth Patients and Participants.

If you would like your contact information added to or updated on our mailing list or information on a specific training please contact Jeffrey Gould at 925-313-6437 / jgould@hsd.cccounty.us.

Upcoming AHA Sponsored Trainings	
May 18	Youth Participation Community Network for Youth Development
June TBA	Youth Participation Workshops Center for Human Development
July 28	Youth Assets/Resiliency Training Nancy Facher
August TBA	TRIBES for AHA Members
Sept. TBA	Inclusive Intake/Clinic Interviewing
TBA	Brown Bag Content Trainings - LDBTQ Issues, Substance Use, and more!
TBA	en Español—STD Overview / Bridging Theory and Practice

SHARE THE WEALTH: Please make sure to share this information with your co-workers and community partners

Current Headliners

The Latest Buzz

Many 'Virginity Pledgers' Substitute Other High-Risk Behaviors for Vaginal Intercourse

A recent report says that although teens who take "virginity until marriage" pledges wait to engage in vaginal intercourse longer than teens who have not pledged, they are more likely to engage in oral and anal sex and less likely to use condoms when they do become sexually active. This is according to a recent study published in the April issue of the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, as reported by the *Washington Post*.

The report shows that "pledgers" have similar rates of sexually transmitted diseases as "non-pledgers." The report uses data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health which surveyed 12,000 students nationwide in grades seven through twelve and followed up with interviews at one, two and six year intervals.

For additional information on this story go to:
http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?hint=2&DR_ID=28813

Did You Know?

The Percentage of Students in Grades 9-12 Who Have Ever Had Sexual Intercourse

source: <http://www.childtrendsdatbank.org/23SexuallyActiveTeens.cfm>

	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003
All	54.1	53.0	53.1	48.4	49.9	45.6	46.7
Race/Ethnicity							
White/ non-Hispanic	50.0	48.4	48.9	43.6	45.1	43.2	41.8
Black/ non-Hispanic	81.5	79.7	73.4	72.7	71.2	60.8	67.3
Hispanic	53.1	56.0	57.6	52.2	54.1	48.4	51.4
Grade							
9	39.0	37.7	36.9	38.0	38.6	34.4	32.8
10	48.2	46.1	48.0	42.5	46.8	40.8	44.1
11	62.4	57.5	58.6	49.7	52.5	51.9	53.2
12	66.7	68.3	66.4	60.9	64.9	60.5	61.6

AHA Meetings for '05

Thursday, May 26, 2005, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
 597 Center Avenue, Suite 200, Martinez

Thursday, August 25, 2005, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
 597 Center Avenue, Suite 200, Martinez

Thursday, December 1, 2005, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
 597 Center Avenue, Suite 200, Martinez

CONT FROM PAGE 1

environmental influences on health. Through a Community Walk-Around, youth build critical awareness of issues they are confronted with on a daily basis.

Community Comparison: During a Community Comparison, participants compare and contrast the physical and social environments of two, or more, different communities. The communities may differ based on access to resources, cultural demographics, city structure, history, socio-economics, etc. The comparison focuses on a specific health issue or a specific environmental factor and aims to capture each community's strengths and challenges. Through this process, youth gain an environmental perspective of a health issue and are able to explore creative solutions to the challenges each community faces.

Through the effective use of community assessment tools, youth build interest and understanding of community issues to improve youth programs.

Resources

Photovoice: A comprehensive site on the history and implementation of Photovoice, social change through photography. www.photovoice.com

Community Network for Youth Development: Provides a great overview of youth development theory and an array of publications, training materials and links to support youth engagement. www.cnyd.org

Youth Leadership Institute: Provides training and resources for engaging youth in social change. www.yli.org

Child Trends Data Bank: A one-stop-shop for the latest national trends and research on over 90 key indicators of child and youth well-being. <http://www.childtrendsdatbank.org>



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