

Completed Metadata

San Joaquin Health Adolescent Health Report

Promoting healthy and appropriately timed pregnancies and births are key objectives for public health. Research indicates that early investments in reproductive health initiatives improve the health and well-being of all individuals.^{1, 2} While substantial achievements have been made over the last 100 years, progress has slowed in the United States and we are now behind many peer high-income nations in achieving key maternal and child health goals as outlined by the World Health Organization.³ Further, there is much variability in outcomes across the US and California. An evidence-based consensus has emerged that potentially modifiable individual factors and more difficult but still modifiable environmental and social exposures dramatically impact reproductive health outcomes. The importance of a comprehensive assessment of reproductive health outcomes and determinants in the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) is key to improving the health of young women and future generations of SJV residents.

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Program	Central California Center for Health and Human Services
Homepage URL	http://www.fresnostate.edu/chhs/cvhpi/programs/sjvphc.html
Temporal Coverage	A common set of individual and neighborhood factors have been linked to adverse maternal and child health outcomes such as PTB. Many of these same factors have been linked to teenage pregnancy and child-bearing. Women with individual risk factors such as poverty, low education, challenging work, and racial/ethnic “minority” status face greater stresses before and during pregnancy, have less access to preventive care and pregnancy care, and have more adverse birth outcomes. Similarly, living in poor, segregated, conflict-filled and polluted neighborhoods seems to increase risk for adverse birth outcomes beyond the effect of individual factors. These stark differences are explored in research utilizing the life course perspective, a combination of early programming, and cumulative pathway theories.

Teen Child-Bearing: Because pregnancy and child-bearing by teenagers is associated with long term negative social, economic and health outcomes for the teen mother, her child and the larger society, reductions in teen pregnancy and births has been a major focus of public health initiatives. By 2014 the teen birth rate was about 24 births/1,000 adolescent females, almost 1/3 of the 1990 rate. California teen child-bearing varies by race/ethnicity, social class, and place of residence. The recent California legal mandates to provide comprehensive reproductive health education and confidential access to health care have broadened access to effective programs, but many also face barriers to accessing care.

Birth Outcomes - Preterm Birth: For newborns, there are multiple measures of well-being that are complexly correlated. Adverse birth outcomes include low birth weight (LBW), preterm birth (PTB), infant morbidity (failure to thrive and other diagnosed medical conditions) and infant mortality (birth - one year). Recent studies have pointed to PTB as the most consistent indicator of poor maternal and infant health. PTB is associated with other poor infant health outcomes and long term economic and social challenges for individuals and communities. PTB has been attributed to maternal age, chronic health conditions, and high risk behaviors. According to March of Dimes data, women who become pregnant in the SJV face a much higher risk of PTB compared to other regions within the state, particularly women of color and those who reside in low-income communities.

Current San Joaquin Valley Public Health Consortium Programs Supporting the Health of Young Women San Joaquin Valley Public Health Consortium (SJVPHC) member local health departments have extensive programming centered on women and children. The success of these initiatives hinge on state and federal policies and funding priorities. Notable reductions in funding for public health maternal and child health initiatives in California have also influenced the range and scope of interventions supporting this vulnerable population. Despite these factors, Table 1 shows diverse examples

	<p>from the SJV county local health departments of ongoing initiatives and activities to promote the health of young women. By examining variations across the SJV, this analysis can help local health departments and their partners identify additional avenues to improve the health of young women.</p>
Spatial/Geographic Coverage	All residents in the San Joaquin Valley.
Language	English
Frequency	Annually
Data Collection Tool	CVHPI is actively working with the Consortium to provide research and policy expertise.
License	Terms of Use
Limitations	
Additional Information	This Consortium is facilitated by the Central California Center for Health and Human Services and funded by The California Endowment.
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