

Science-Based Approaches and Departments of Public Health: Creating Partnerships and Changing Policies to Reduce Teen Pregnancy, STIs and HIV

JSI New England Training Center for Adolescent Pregnancy
Prevention (NETCAPP)

APHA- Washington DC
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Presented by
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About JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. is dedicated to improving the health of individuals and communities in the United States and around the world.

Headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts, JSI helps organizations build capacity to address critical health problems.

Through research, management assistance, and education JSI strives to improve access to and quality of health care.

Currently operating from four U.S. and 28 international offices, JSI has implemented project in 84 countries and has more than 400 U.S.-based staff and 700 staff worldwide.



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Presentation's Objectives:

- Identify at least two ways a DOH can support science-based approaches in their state to reduce teen pregnancy, STIs and HIV;
- Identify potential stakeholders for coalition building to increase interest in science-based approaches; and
- Create partnerships with local organizations to mobilize communities for the prevention of teen pregnancy, STIs and HIV.



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About NETCAPP

“Strengthening Capacity, Using What Works”

In 2004 JSI was funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to serve as the New England Training Center for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (NETCAPP)

www.netcapp.jsi.com

Overall Project Goal:

To assist local, state and regional partners in creating the infrastructure and capacity needed to incorporate science-based approaches into their prevention efforts to significantly reduce unintended teen pregnancy, STIs and HIV infection.



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Objectives:

In order to help partners be successful in incorporating SBAs into their prevention efforts, within the five years of the cooperative agreement with the CDC, JSI will work with agencies to:

- Increase knowledge of science-based approaches;
- Increase commitment and motivation to use science-based approaches;
- Assess barriers to implementing science-based approaches;
- Increase level of skills or capacity to implement science-based approaches; and
- Increase ability to evaluate programs' effectiveness.



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Getting Started

- **Identifying Key Partners :**

- National Organizations
- State and local organizations

- **Methods :**

- Relationship Building
- Meetings
- Conference calls
- Trainings



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Two Case Studies

Each case study will provide a different example of how a DOH is participating in the promotion of science- based approaches for teen pregnancy prevention and also how to build community coalitions with key Partner organizations:

- **Connecticut:**
 - **State Level:** Department of Public Health & Department of Education
 - **Local Level:** New London Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force; Planned Parenthood of CT
- **Maine:** Family Planning Association of Maine



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Barriers to Adopting SBAs

- Lack of funding
- Perceived incompatibility with community characteristics
- Leadership and turf issues
- Time commitment by organizations to build coalitions
- Local coalitions require much support and maintenance



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JSI/NETCAPP Successes

- One all-day training for ninety six participants for the CT Department of Public Health in collaboration with Healthy Teen Network. (May, 2007)
- One two-day conference with CT Department of Education to launch comprehensive sexuality education guidelines. (October 30-31, 2007)
- TA to Family Planning Association of Maine (Funded three CBO's to select, implement and evaluate SBA).
- Strengthening our own capacity by collaborating with national, state and local organizations.



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Feedback

- “Today’s training was very informative—motivated me to become more involved in community to inform key players about SBAs.” (Attendee at the 5/18/07 training in CT)
- “The most important thing I learned today was The effort it takes to identify, research and promote a program” (Attendee at the 5/18/07 training in CT)
- “The most important thing I learned today was perspectives from both state and community program people on barriers and possibilities to implementing a SBA.” (Attendee at the 5/18/07 training in CT)



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Conclusions:

- State, city and local health departments can play a key role in increasing adoption of SBAs by:
 - Providing funding
 - Facilitating forums
 - Requiring SBAs to be included in RFPs
 - Providing policy recommendations
 - Sharing leadership and decision making
 - Providing support to community coalitions



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JSI/NETCAPP looks forward to:

- The tremendous opportunity to work intensively and extensively in collaboration with national, regional, and state-wide organizations to promote SBAs and to see a positive impact in reducing teen pregnancy, STI and HIV infection in New England.

Project Team :

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