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Writing on the Wall: The Effects of Neighborhoods on Teen Reproductive Health

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Photo: Ebony Counseling Center

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Presenter Disclosures

Mara Decker

The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

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Photo: Operation Samahan

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Agenda


- **Background**
 - Teenage pregnancy at the national and state level
 - Conceptual framework
- **Literature review**
 - Methods
 - Findings



Photo: Santa Rosa Community Health Centers

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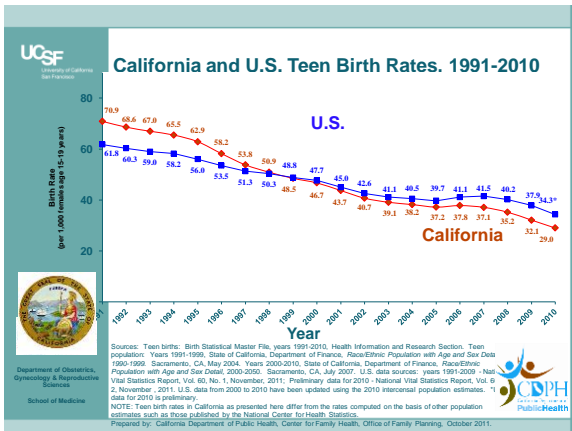
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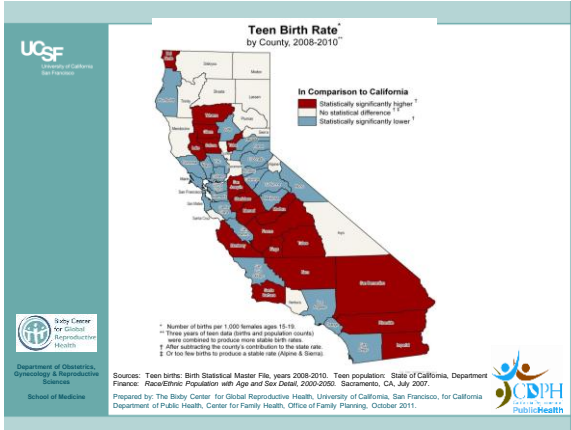


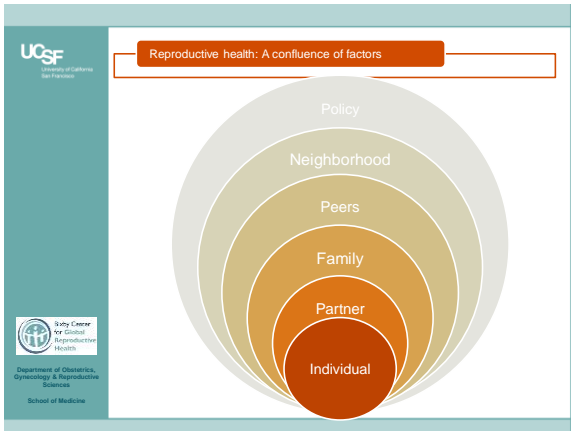
BACKGROUND

Photo: California Health Collaborative

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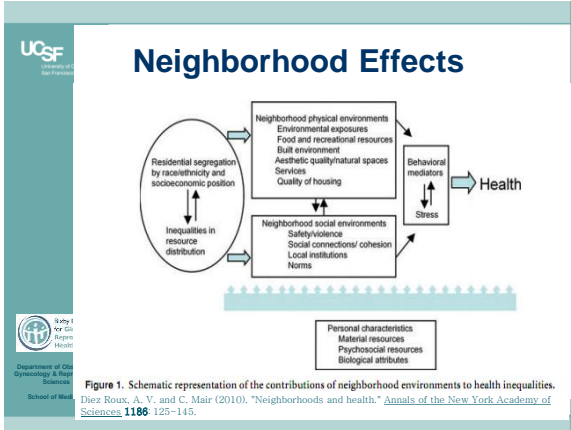




Neighborhood Effects

- Four classes of neighborhood mechanisms:
 - Social ties/Interactions
 - Norms and collective efficacy
 - Institutional resources
 - Routine activities

(Sampson, R. J., et al., 2002)



Individual and neighborhood factors

Individual	Neighborhood
Race/ethnicity	Neighborhood composition (% Hispanic in census tract)
Family income	Neighborhood poverty (Proportion of families below poverty level)
Education level	Neighborhood education status (proportion of adults aged 25+ w/ college education)
Arrested/detention	Community arrest rate
Employed	Labor force participation
Violence (hit by partner)	Ambient hazards
Acculturation (time in the US)	Proportion immigrants



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Study design: literature review

- **Systematic search: PubMed, Web of Science, JSTOR**
 - Reviewed references in other articles
 - Published between 1990-2011
- **Three outcome variables:**
 - Teen pregnancy
 - Sexual initiation
 - Contraceptive use
- **Only included studies with sub-county geographic units (census tract, zip code)**
- **22 quantitative studies met search criteria (out of 50)**

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Neighborhood factors associated with teenage pregnancy

Indicator	Example	Relationship
Poverty	% of population living below FPL	+
Affluence	Neighborhood affluence	-
Education status	Proportion of adults 25+ with college education	-
Neighborhood composition	>50% Hispanic in census tract Increasing % of a given racial/ethnic group	+ -
Collective efficacy	In neighborhoods with <50% Hispanic (unmarried TBR) In neighborhoods with >50% Hispanic (married TBR)	- +
Safety	Community arrest rate (African American)	+
Residential stability	Home ownership	-

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Neighborhood factors associated with sexual initiation

Indicator	Example	Relationship
Poverty	% of population living below FPL Underclass/working class neighborhoods	+
Affluence	% households income >\$75,000 (boys)	-
Education status	Proportion of adults with >16 years education	-
Neighborhood composition	% married households Proportion foreign born % African American >15% Hispanic	- - -/+ -
Employment	Full time female labor force Proportion of all adults unemployed	+ +
Youth idleness	Proportion who are school dropouts and not working	+
Collective efficacy		-
Safety	Higher levels of ambient hazards	+

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Neighborhood factors associated with contraceptive use

Indicator	Example	Relationship
Poverty	% of population living below FPL (use at last sex, boys)	+
Affluence	Median income (use, girls)	+
Neighborhood composition	% adult females divorced or separated (use, girls)	-
	% Hispanic (use at last sex, boys)	-
Employment	Female labor force opportunities	+
Collective efficacy	Neighborhood cohesion (condom use)	+

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Limitations

- Geographic variables
 - Census tracts and zip codes
 - Defining "neighborhoods"
- Differing definitions
 - Sexual initiation: ever had sex, age at first sex
 - Neighborhood cohesion, efficacy
- Distinguishing between effect of family and neighborhood socioeconomic characteristics

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Discussion


- **Measurement challenges**
 - Defining neighborhood boundaries
 - Measuring dynamic social processes
- **Differences in effect by gender**
- **Difference by race, ethnicity, and immigration**
- **Policy and program implications**
 - Focusing on high-need areas
 - Recognizing and adapting to specific neighborhood context

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QUESTIONS?


Photo: California Health Collaborative (Park Clean up)


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