

# Likelihood of teen pregnancy among youth in system-involved care

## Who is the Focus of This Research?

Adolescents and young adults in child welfare, of whom there is a disproportionate number of youth of color and youths who identify as LGBTQIA2S+. These young people are at an increased risk for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

## Why Are They at an Increased Risk of Pregnancy and STIs?

- They receive unclear and inconsistent messages about sex.
- They lack access to reproductive health services and programs.
- The sexual health education that they do receive tends to come after they have become sexually active.
- They are likely to engage in high-risk behaviors, such as unprotected sex and sex with multiple partners.

## What Are We Doing About It?

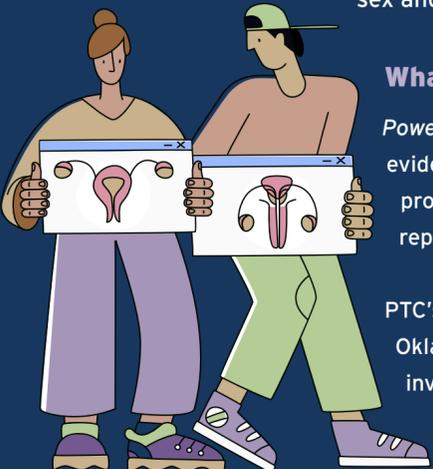
Power Through Choices (PTC) is a comprehensive, evidence-based teen pregnancy, HIV, and STI prevention program designed specifically to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of system-involved youth.

PTC's original, national evaluation involved group homes in Oklahoma, California and Maryland serving young people involved in child welfare. Concurrently, the Baltimore City- specific trial involved young people in out-of-home placements (e.g. foster homes, kinship care, and juvenile detention programs) but not

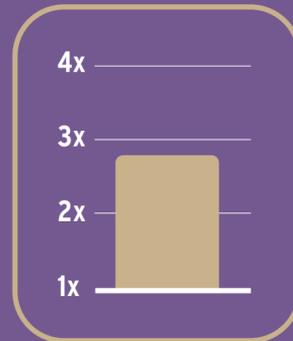
group homes. Combined, there were 1500 young people across the two evaluation studies .

## Is PTC Effective for Every Young Person in Systems of Care?

We performed a mixed methods secondary analysis of research data from the original PTC evaluations. By linking the evaluation data, we had a larger sample to see if the intervention worked differently based on gender, age, race/ethnicity, or the type of system (such as child welfare or juvenile justice). We also wanted to see if the intervention had any effects after accounting for other factors that might have influenced the results in the original evaluations.



# What did we learn?

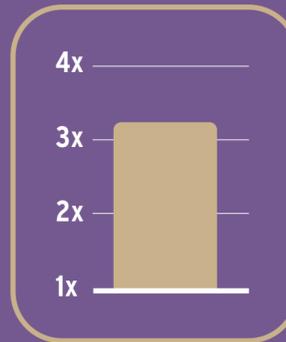


**2.8x↑**

Young people who reported having had oral sex and unfavorable attitudes about condoms at baseline were more likely to have ever been pregnant or gotten a partner pregnant.

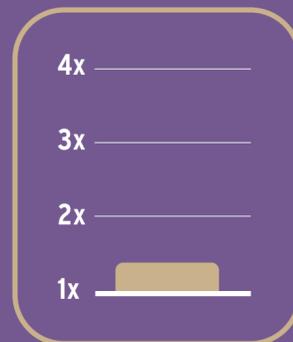
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Males who reported having had sex at age 11 or younger were more likely to have gotten a partner pregnant than other age groups of males.



**1.4x↑**

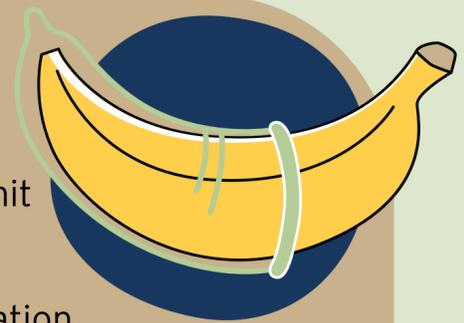
Those young people who reported having never had a sexually transmitted infection/disease (STI) were more likely to have ever been pregnant or gotten a partner pregnant.



# What Do We Recommend?

## Sex Education:

- Include skills to delay onset of sexual behaviors that transmit STIs and/or cause pregnancy.
- Provide males/men more education and earlier.



- Adapt programs, such as PTC, to address the diverse needs of this population and help reduce birth disparities among various subgroups of system-involved young people who are most at risk.

## Sexual & Reproductive Health Care:

- Provide access to condoms at a younger age.
- Provide reproductive and sexual health screenings and services at a younger age.
- Increase STI testing especially among young people who have engaged in sexual behaviors, consensual or not, at age 11 or younger.

