

March 17, 2003

**No Time for Complacency: Teen Births in California  
Addendum to Full Report**

The full report section beginning on page 15, titled *California Policies and Programs of the Last Decade*, summarizes California teen pregnancy prevention efforts, focusing on primary prevention programs and policies. The following programs, and their precursors, are also critical components of the package that has contributed to California's teen birth rate reduction of the last decade, and their continuation is important to maintaining this success: the California School Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE), the Adolescent Family Life Program, the Adolescent Sibling Pregnancy Prevention, and the Cal-Learn Program.

**California School Age Families Education** (Cal-SAFE) is a secondary prevention program administered by the California Department of Education to increase the availability of support services necessary for enrolled expectant/parenting students to improve academic achievement and parenting skills and to provide a quality child care/development program for their children. One of its statutory goals is "Students served will not have a repeat birth or father a repeat pregnancy before graduating from high school." This comprehensive, continuous and community-linked school-based program replaces the Pregnant Minors Program (PMP), School Age Parenting and Infant Development (SAPID) Program, and Pregnant and Lactating Students (PALS) Program. The Cal-SAFE Program builds upon education reform initiatives, assures a quality education program with high standards for enrolled students, and mandates accountability of local educational agencies for performance of students and their children in meeting program goals. This approach couples quantifiable program goals with an evaluation for guiding program implementation and determining cost effectiveness and student results.

The **Adolescent Family Life Program** (AFLP, \$22.2 million/year) is administered by the California Department of Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Branch, and provides comprehensive, continuous case management and counseling services for pregnant and parenting teens age 18 and under. Case management services include outreach services, comprehensive assessments, community referral, counseling, follow-up, and advocacy for services that are not yet available. The underlying objective of the AFLP is to maximize the teen's potential through skill development, leading to self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and the ability to make responsible choices for herself and her child. Specific program goals are to: ensure healthy pregnancy outcomes for mother and infant, including a reduction of low birth weight babies; reduce the incidence of subsequent teenage pregnancies; and help teens complete educational or vocational programs and become emotionally, socially, and economically self-sufficient. A companion program, the **Adolescent Sibling Pregnancy Prevention Program** (ASPPP), is a primary prevention program that serves to break the cycle of early sexual activity and pregnancy among younger brothers and sisters of teen parents through case management, mentoring, and referral to needed services. Approximately \$3 million of the AFLP program budget is being used to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy in siblings of pregnant and parenting adolescents by addressing factors that contribute to teen pregnancy.

The **Cal-Learn Program** is administered by the California Department of Social Services as a strategy for reducing teen pregnancy rates and long-term welfare dependency. Cal-Learn assists teen parents receiving California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), and helps pregnant and parenting teens to attend and graduate from high school or its equivalent. This ambitious effort consists of three coordinated services designed to help teens become self-sufficient adults and responsible parents: intensive case management assists teen parents to obtain education, health and social services; payments for necessary child care, transportation and educational expenses enable pregnant/parenting teens to attend school; and bonuses and sanctions encourage school attendance and good grades. Four \$100 bonuses/sanctions per year may be earned/applied based on report card results, plus a one-time \$500 bonus for graduating or attaining an equivalent high school diploma. Pregnant/parenting teens who are receiving CalWORKs are required to participate in Cal-Learn if they are under the age of 19 and have not graduated from high school or its equivalent. Cal-Learn currently serves 15,000 teens each month.