

SOCIOMETRICS PROJECT No. 10

EVALUATION OF TEEN PREGNANCY, PREGNANCY PREVENTION, AND PARENTING PROGRAMS

A workshop on evaluation of adolescent pregnancy, pregnancy prevention, and parenting programs was held in Washington, D.C. on June 16-18, 1986. Drs. J. J. Card of Sociometrics Corporation and Deborah Klein Walker of Harvard University served as co-chairs. Participants consisted of a small invited group of persons who had been involved in evaluating programs for teens over the past decade. Holders of data from representative programs across the country participated, as did federal and other officials in a position to influence national data collection systems useful for program evaluation (national comparison group) purposes. The workshop addressed the following questions: (1) Can standard evaluation-related procedures and definitions be developed that maximize the resultant data's scientific quality, substantive utility, and policy relevance? (2) Can national databases be developed to provide comparison information of use to program evaluation? What specific information might be added to what specific national data collection systems? (3) What data needs do program personnel have? Can a standard data collection, management, and reporting system be developed to help program personnel become self-sufficient in meeting these needs? What would be the hardware, software, and training-related requirements of such a system?

An executive summary of the workshop's recommendations was prepared and circulated. A monograph was written that included prototypical evaluation-related research designs, instruments, and analytic strategies adaptable by prospective evaluators of teen pregnancy, pregnancy prevention, and parenting programs.

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