

PREVENTING ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY: LEARNING FROM THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Santa Clara County (California) Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Network (APPN) is a public-private sector coalition that is committed to reducing youth sexual risk-taking behavior and lowering teen pregnancy and birth rates in the County. Under the auspices of two projects funded by the David & Lucile Packard Foundation from 1999-2003 (see Projects 99 and 133), Sociometrics provided technical assistance to APPN and its member agencies for implementation of the *APPN Action Plan* of 1998; conducted evaluation of selected APPN programs, of the degree of collaboration among APPN members, and of countywide trends in youth sexual risk-taking and pregnancy and birth rates; and helped guide development of APPN processes and structures that would promote sustainability of the APPN effort.

Data released in 2005 showed that the teen birth rate in Santa Clara County declined by about half from 1995 to 2003, while the rate for the nation as a whole declined by only about a third in the same period. In the meantime, between 2003 and 2005, severe funding cuts for APPN and its member agencies led to a reduction in APPN membership and programming. Under the auspices of a new Packard-funded project, Sociometrics is collaborating with APPN to: (a) conduct a case study of the County's success through 2003 in lowering teen birth rates and plausible reasons for these successes and (b) develop a new action plan for how best to sustain the County's successes through 2010.

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