CALIFORNIA’S MOST VULNERABLE PARENTS:
WHEN MALTREATED CHILDREN HAVE CHILDREN

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Barbara Needell, PhD

Children’s Data Network
University of Southern California

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University of California, Berkeley
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
THANKS, THANKS, THANKS

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- This study arises from the *new* Children’s Data Network – a data collaborative funded by First 5 LA.

- Co-investigators: Bryn King, MSW and Julie Cederbaum, PhD

- Student partners: Jaclyn Cleveland, Andrea Lane, and Kasey Gilbert
Nationwide, teen pregnancy rates have declined by more than 40% during the last two decades, rising briefly in 2006/2007 before dropping to a historical low in 2011.

Yet, significant risk differences persist across groups, with variations by state, race, socioeconomic status, and other characteristics.

Research suggests that female youth involved with the child protection system have heightened teen birth rates...
OBJECTIVES

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

- Limited epidemiological data available from which we can ascertain teen parenting rates/dynamics among youth involved with child protective services in California

- These data are needed so that we can:
  - Document the public health burden of teen births for this population
  - Monitor trends and evaluate the efficacy of pregnancy prevention efforts for this population
  - Determine the nature of services that are needed for young mothers and children
  - Develop programs that are responsive to what may be unique parenting needs for youth who have been maltreated or are in foster care
THE LIMITATIONS OF ANY ONE SOURCE OF DATA...
THE CONTINUING PROBLEM OF SILOS

University and Foundation Partners

Government Agencies

Ongoing Collaboration

current.

linked data

near-term.

real-time access to integrated data

future.
DATA
RECORD LINKAGE

- Child Protective Services/Foster Care records from the California Department of Social Services (1998-2012)

- Vital Birth records from the California Department of Public Health (2000-2010) concerning births to teen mothers

- Statewide and Los Angeles County-specific analyses

- Birth information concerning all teens who had a live birth

- CPS information concerning teen mothers (retrospective) and the children they gave birth to (prospective)
OVERVIEW
TOPICS COVERED TODAY

- **Paper 1**
  - Population-level examination of past CPS involvement among teen mothers

- **Paper 2**
  - Cross sectional study of birth rates among girls in foster care

- **Paper 3**
  - Cumulative teen birth rates among girls in foster care

- **Paper 4**
  - Intergenerational CPS-involvement

- **Paper 5**
  - Infant health consequences
Adolescent health brief

A Population-Based Examination of Maltreatment History Among Adolescent Mothers in California

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: To document the abuse and neglect histories of adolescent mothers using official child protection records.
Methods: Vital birth records were used to identify adolescents 12–19 years of age who were born in California and gave birth in 2009. These records were linked to statewide child protective service data to determine maternal history of alleged and substantiated maltreatment victimization, as well as placement in foster care.
Results: A total of 35,098 adolescents gave birth in 2009. Before conception, 44.9% had been re-
PAPER 1
A POPULATION-BASED EXAMINATION OF MALTREATMENT HISTORY AMONG ADOLESCENT MOTHERS

Maternal History of CPS involvement

1998  →  conception

Births
2009
**POPULATION PROFILE**
- 35,098 teens (born in CA) gave birth in 2009 in California
- 12-15 yrs (5.3%); 16-17 yrs (28.6%); 18-19 yrs (66.1%)
- Latina (70.2%); Black (11.0%); White (15.7%)
- Prenatal Care initiated after 1st Trimester (32.6%)

**HISTORY OF ALLEGED MAL-TREATMENT**
- 44.9%

**HISTORY OF SUBSTANTIATED VICTIMIZATION**
- 20.8%

**HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE**
- 9.7%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maternal Age at Birth</th>
<th>Adolescent Births (N=35,098)</th>
<th>Reported for Alleged Maltreatment (N = 15,754)</th>
<th>Substantiated as Victim of Maltreatment (N=7,293)</th>
<th>Placed in Foster Care because of Maltreatment (N = 3,408)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n (col %)</td>
<td>row %</td>
<td>row %</td>
<td>row %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - 15 years</td>
<td>1,856 (5.3)</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 - 17 years</td>
<td>10,043 (28.6)</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 19 years</td>
<td>23,199 (66.1)</td>
<td>42.6</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Births</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Birth</td>
<td>29,224 (83.4)</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeat Birth</td>
<td>5,839 (16.6)</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race/Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>3,787 (11.0)</td>
<td>59.3</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>5,427 (15.7)</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latina</td>
<td>24,219 (70.2)</td>
<td>41.2</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>802 (2.3)</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>269 (0.8)</td>
<td>68.4</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEY FINDING
EVER REPORTED / EVER SUBSTANTIATED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Report of Alleged Maltreatment</th>
<th>Substantiated Report of Maltreatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>neglect</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>physical abuse</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sexual abuse</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emotional abuse</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A cross-sectional examination of birth rates among adolescent girls in foster care

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Racial disparities

Abstract
Although research has suggested that girls in foster care are at high risk of teen birth, limited data have been available from which rates could be calculated and characterized. This California study was based on a dataset constructed by probabilistically matching foster care records to statewide birth records. Using these linked data, we computed cross-sectional birth rate estimates for 15- to 17-year-old girls who were in foster care during each year from 2006 to 2010, characterizing the placement-related experiences and timing of births. Results indicated that although only a small number of 15- to 17-year-old girls in foster care gave birth each year, their birth rate was somewhat higher than the rate observed in the general population. Girls who were in foster care for less time or experienced greater placement instability had higher rates of birth. In terms of race and ethnicity, Black and Latina adolescents in foster care were more likely to give birth than their White counterparts. During the 5-year period, there were no detectable trends in the overall birth rate of girls in foster care, despite significant declines in the birth rates of 15–17 year olds in California overall. This linked data contributes new information that can be used to inform the targeting of prevention and intervention resources to girls involved with child protective services.

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PAPER 2
A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY OF BIRTH RATE TRENDS AMONG GIRLS IN FOSTER CARE
Over time, birth rates for the general population are decreasing, but there is no analogous decline for the foster care population.

Across all five years, average birth rates for the general population are 2.0 per 100 vs. 3.2 per 100 for the foster care population.

On a relative basis, birth rates among youth in foster care are higher than in the general population (~60% on average).

Yet, on an absolute basis, only a small percentage of girls in foster care give birth in any given year (≤3.5%).
KEY FINDING
RACIAL/ETHNIC DIFFERENCES
FOSTER CARE VS. GENERAL POPULATION

- Foster Care vs. General Population
  - White: 3.1
  - Black: 1.3
  - Latina: 1.2

- General Population Racial Disparities
  - Black vs. White: 3.6
  - Latina vs. White: 5.5

- Foster Care Racial Disparities
  - Black vs. White: 1.5
  - Latina vs. White: 2.2
KEY FINDING
TIMING OF BIRTHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Birth in Care</th>
<th>Birth After Care</th>
<th>Birth Before Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>65.1%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>67.4%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average: 64.7%
Among girls who were in foster care and gave birth – less than 50% were in a placement when they became pregnant.
KEY FINDING
BIRTH RATES ACROSS FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT EXPERIENCES

- Highest birth rates observed among girls:
  - In care for less than 12-months (no surprise – often pregnant or already parenting)
  - Experienced extreme placement instability (9+)
  - Placed in non-relative foster care
  - Removed for neglect

- Substantially lower birth rates observed for girls:
  - In care for 60+ months (stability?)
  - In guardian placement
Cumulative teen birth rates among girls in foster care at age 17: An analysis of linked birth and child protection records from California

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Teen pregnancy
Adolescence
Emancipation

ABSTRACT
This study used linked foster care and birth records to provide a longitudinal, population-level examination of the incidence of first and repeat births among girls who were in foster care at age 17. Girls in a foster care placement in California at the age of 17 between 2003 and 2007 were identified from statewide child protection records. These records were probabilistically matched to vital birth records spanning the period from 2001 to 2010. Linked data were used to estimate the cumulative percentage of girls who had given birth before age 20. Birth rates and unadjusted risk ratios were generated to characterize foster care experiences correlated with heightened teen birth rates. Between 2003 and 2007 in California, there were 20,222 girls in foster care at age 17. Overall, 11.4% had a first birth before age 18. The cumulative percentage who gave birth before age 20 was 28.1%. Among girls who had a first birth before age 18, 41.2% had a repeat teen birth. Significant variations by race/ethnicity and placement-related characteristics emerged. Expanded data and rigorous research are needed to evaluate prevention efforts and ensure parenting teens are provided with the needed services and supports.

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PAPER 3
CUMULATIVE TEEN BIRTH RATES AMONG GIRLS IN FOSTER CARE AT AGE 17
KEY FINDING #1
CUMULATIVE RISK OF TEEN BIRTHS IS HIGH
KEY FINDINGS #2
HIGH RATES OF REPEAT BIRTHS

Second Teen Birth by Age at First Birth

- 11.4% first birth before age 18
- 19.0% first birth before age 19

31.0% 41.2%
A Population-Level and Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Mothers and Intergenerational Maltreatment

Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD (corresponding author)
Julie A. Cederbaum, PhD
Bryn King, MSW
Andrea Lane, MS
Penelope Trickett PhD

ABSTRACT
We generate population-level estimates of the relationship between maternal history of maltreatment and next generation abuse and neglect. California birth records for all infants born in 2006 or 2007 to primiparous teen mothers were linked to statewide child protective service (CPS) records. For each birth we used CPS records to document whether: (1) the teen mother had a history of reported or substantiated maternal maltreatment victimization after age 10 and before the estimated date of conception; (2) the child was reported or substantiated as a maltreatment victim before age 5. We specified multivariable survival models to examine the association between a maternal history of CPS involvement and child maltreatment, after adjusting for other factors. Our final dataset included 85,084 births to first time mothers 15-19 years of age. Significantly heightened rates of abuse and neglect were observed for children of teen mothers who had been reported to CPS as possible victims of maltreatment (P<0.001). After adjusting for other risk factors, a maternal history of either unsubstantiated (HR: 2.22; 95% CI: 2.09, 2.35) or substantiated maltreatment (HR: 3.27; 95% CI: 3.08, 3.48) emerged as the strongest predictors of maltreatment in the next generation.
PAPER 4
ADOLESCENT MOTHERS AND INTERGENERATIONAL CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE INVOLVEMENT

Birth 2006 / 2007

Mother’s 10th birthday → reported substantiated → Child’s 5th birthday

Birth 2006 / 2007
KEY FINDING
HIGH RISK SUGGESTS NEED FOR ENHANCED SUPPORTS TO BREAK CYCLE OF ABUSE & NEGLECT
### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maternal Maltreatment</th>
<th>Child Reported for Maltreatment (vs. no report by age 5)</th>
<th>Child Substantiated for Maltreatment (vs. no substantiation by age 5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adj. HR</td>
<td>(95% CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Maltreatment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Report</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsubstantiated Report</td>
<td>2.08***</td>
<td>(2.00, 2.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantiated Report</td>
<td>2.66***</td>
<td>(2.57, 2.76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Age at Birth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-16 years</td>
<td>1.63***</td>
<td>(1.57-1.70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-18 years</td>
<td>1.19***</td>
<td>(1.16-1.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 years</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Race/Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>(0.91, 1.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latina</td>
<td>0.53***</td>
<td>(0.51, 0.55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.51***</td>
<td>(0.47, 0.56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>(0.92, 1.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth Payment Method</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>1.11***</td>
<td>(1.08, 1.15)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[other covariates not shown]

*children maltreated at twice the rate*
Infant Birth Weight and Maltreatment of Adolescent Mothers

Julie A. Cederbaum, PhD, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD, Bryn King, MSW, Kaycee Gilbert, BA, Barbara Needell, PhD

**Background:** Emerging literature suggests that maternal exposure to stress and adversity throughout the life course may have health consequences for offspring.

**Purpose:** To examine the maltreatment history of adolescent mothers as an independent predictor of infant birth weight.

**Methods:** Birth records for all infants born between 2007 and 2009 to mothers aged 12–19 years were extracted from California’s vital statistics files. Maternal information from the birth record was linked to child protection data (1999–2009) to identify young mothers with substantiated maltreatment. Generalized linear models run in 2012 were used to estimate the relationship between maternal maltreatment and infant birth weight, after adjusting for maternal sociodemographic risk factors and health behaviors.

**Results:** Among the 153,762 singleton infants born to adolescent mothers, 7.1% (n=10,886) weighed <2500 g at birth. Of all adolescent mothers, 13.6% had been substantiated as victims of maltreatment after age 10 years and before giving birth. After adjusting for known factors predictive of negative birth outcomes, maltreatment history was associated with a slight yet significantly increased risk of low birth weight among infants (risk ratio=1.06, 95% CI=1.01, 1.12).

**Conclusions:** Findings from this study suggest that maltreatment history of adolescent mothers is associated with infant low birth weight (<2500 g). Although the increased risk was small and the mechanism unclear, these data indicate that maternal maltreatment not only may have consequences for the victim but also may contribute to intergenerational health disparities.

INFANT BIRTH WEIGHT AND MALTREATMENT OF ADOLESCENT MOTHERS

Mother’s 10th birthday

substantiated

Birth 2007-2009

Normal Birth Weight (≥ 2500g)

Low Birth Weight (< 2500g)
Documenting the prevalence of past abuse and neglect among adolescents who give birth and understanding its role in pregnancy decisions is critical to the development of informed prevention programs.

Recognizing that a history of maltreatment characterizes many adolescent mothers may be relevant to the development of interventions that enhance parenting capacity and protect against abuse and neglect in the next generation.

Monitoring the incidence of first and repeat births among girls currently and formerly involved with CPS is critical to evaluating the efficacy of pregnancy prevention efforts and determining the nature of services that are needed for young mothers and children.
Data from the present study indicate that more than 1 in 4 young women in the foster care system at age 17 is parenting during her teens (this will be 1 in 3 before age 21).

The extension of foster care to youth over the age of 18 means that the nature of the state’s parenting obligations will expand and will increasingly include the next generation of children.

Maternal maltreatment may not only have consequences for the victim but also may contribute to next-generation health outcomes and maltreatment risk.
QUESTIONS?

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MORE INFORMATION?

http://www.hiltonfoundation.org/teenparents