

CALIFORNIA'S PREGNANT AND PARENTING FOSTER CARE DEPENDENTS



A REVIEW OF CURRENT POLICY PRACTICES



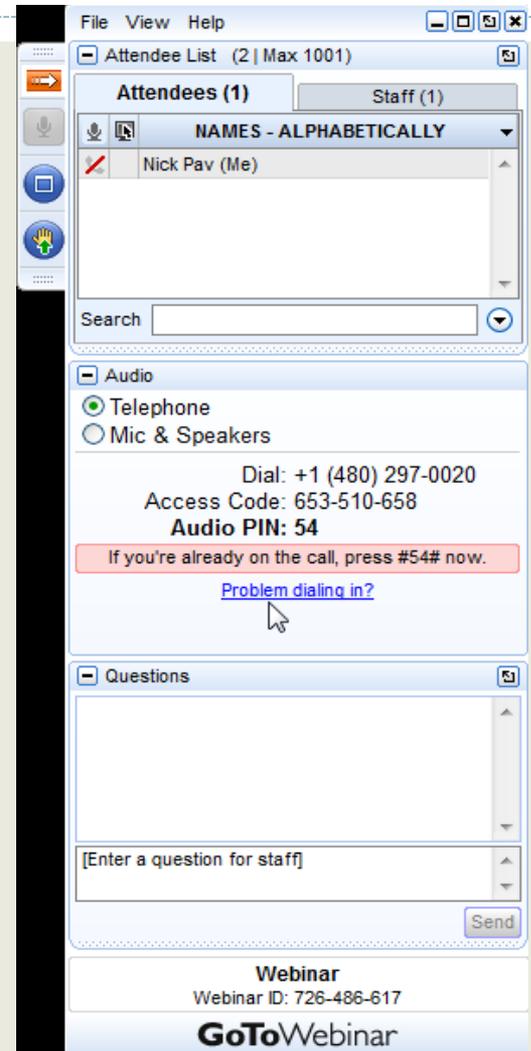
**JOHN
BURTON
FOUNDATION**

FOR CHILDREN
WITHOUT HOMES

MAY 22, 2014

Information to Participate

- Call-in number is (415) 655-0061 and access code is 950-644-500.
- To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “Send”
- Presentation materials and audio will be posted at www.johnburtonfoundation.org



The screenshot displays the GoToWebinar interface. At the top, there is a menu with 'File', 'View', and 'Help'. Below this is the 'Attendee List' window, which shows 'Attendees (1)' and 'Staff (1)'. The attendees list is titled 'NAMES - ALPHABETICALLY' and contains one entry: 'Nick Pav (Me)'. Below the list is a search bar. The 'Audio' section is active, showing 'Telephone' selected and 'Mic & Speakers' unselected. It displays the dial-in information: 'Dial: +1 (480) 297-0020', 'Access Code: 653-510-658', and 'Audio PIN: 54'. A red banner below this text reads 'If you're already on the call, press #54# now.' and there is a blue link 'Problem dialing in?'. The 'Questions' panel is empty, with a text input field containing '[Enter a question for staff]' and a 'Send' button. At the bottom, the 'Webinar' information is shown: 'Webinar ID: 726-486-617' and the 'GoToWebinar' logo.

Today's Participants



- Amy Lemley, John Burton Foundation
- India Alarcon, UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy
- Cathi Palatella, County of San Diego
- Barbara Facher, Alliance for Children's Rights

of 18 to 20 year-olds has increased 260% since 1/1/12



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?



- California is responsible for over 53,000 children and youth
 - ~25% of foster care youth are 16 – 20 years old
- Teen birth rate is declining, BUT teen parents and their children experience poor lifetime outcomes
 - Poor physical and mental health, lower educational achievement and workforce participation, and reduced lifetime earnings
 - Children of teen parents have an elevated risk of maltreatment

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?



- Teen pregnancy is notably higher among foster youth
 - 48% of young women in care experienced at least one pregnancy by the age of 19
 - 35% of young women in foster care will give birth at least once by the age of 21
- The incidence of repeat pregnancies is higher among foster youth
 - Nearly a quarter of youth who had been pregnant by age 17 or 18 experienced more than one pregnancy

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?



- Youth with a history of maltreatment experience a higher birth rate
 - 35% of foster teens who gave birth had experienced abuse or neglect prior to their pregnancy
- Foster youth have an increased risk of intergenerational maltreatment
 - 40% of the children of maltreated foster youth were reported for abuse and neglect by age 5

CHILD WELFARE HAS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY



- As guardians, child welfare can work to set Pregnant and Parenting (P/P) youth and their children up for success.
 - Support young P/P youth
 - Give P/P youth guidance and resources to maintain stability
 - Build their skills to be successful parents
 - Monitor and support their progress

WHAT DOES THIS RESEARCH HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?



- 1) Understand the approaches that county child welfare agencies are currently employing
- 2) Discover what is working for others
- 3) Identify promising practices that can improve systems of care

WHAT ARE COUNTIES DOING?

- Only LA County has a P/P policy in place
 - Detailed procedural guides
 - PP-specific conferences
- A majority of counties are engaged in less formalized practices
 - Partnerships with Public Health and PHNs
 - Transitional Living Conferences
 - Resource Guides

POPULATION OF PARENTING DEPENDENTS

(AS OF JANUARY 1, 2014)

Los Angeles	293
San Diego	68
Riverside	52
San Bernardino	34
Napa	3
Alameda	n/a
San Francisco	n/a

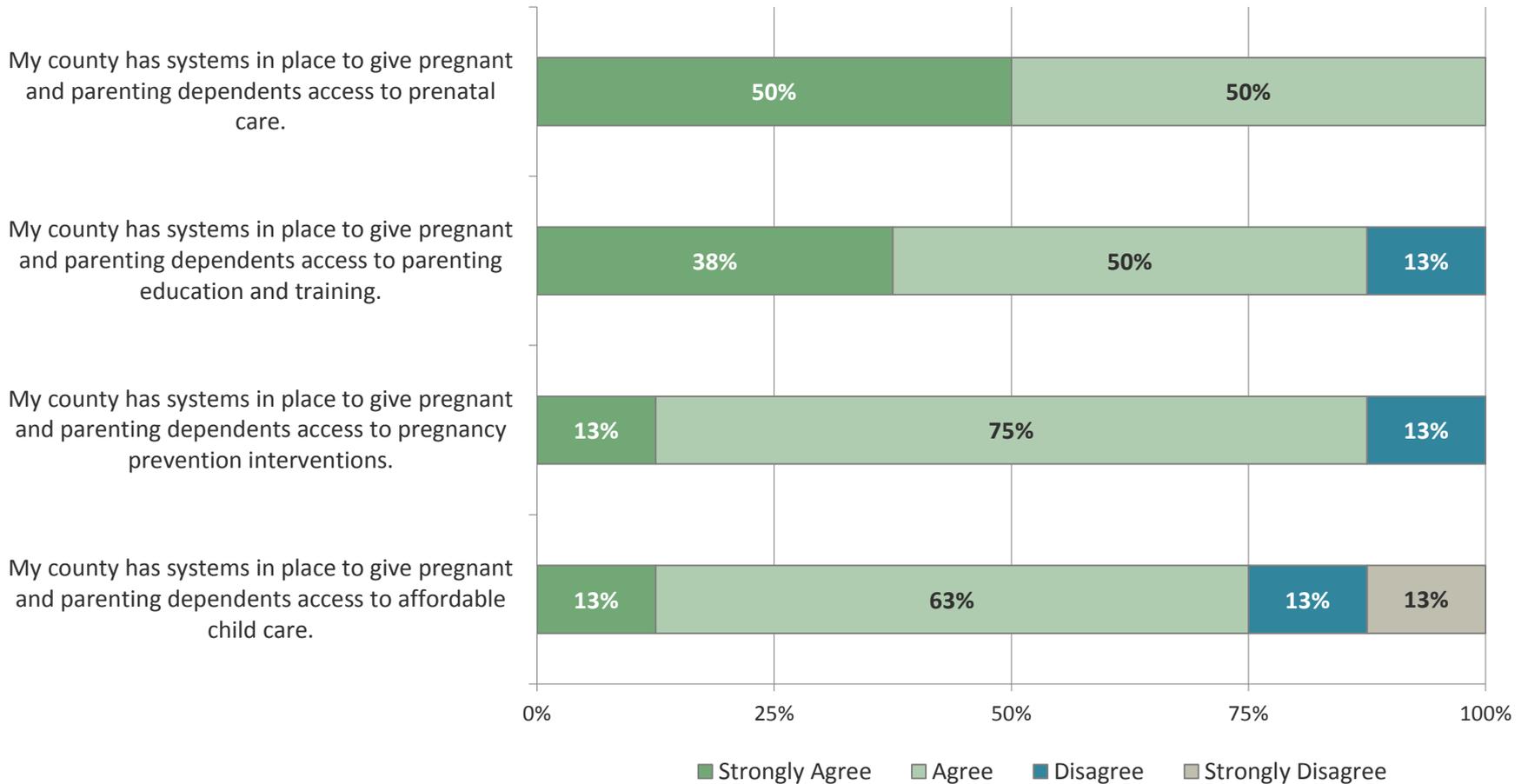
COUNTY PERSPECTIVES



Even though our [PPY] numbers aren't high right now, I see the possibility of those numbers increasing. It makes sense to look at this issue. I dare say this is something for us to build on what we have, and look at this population in ways it hasn't been looked at [before].

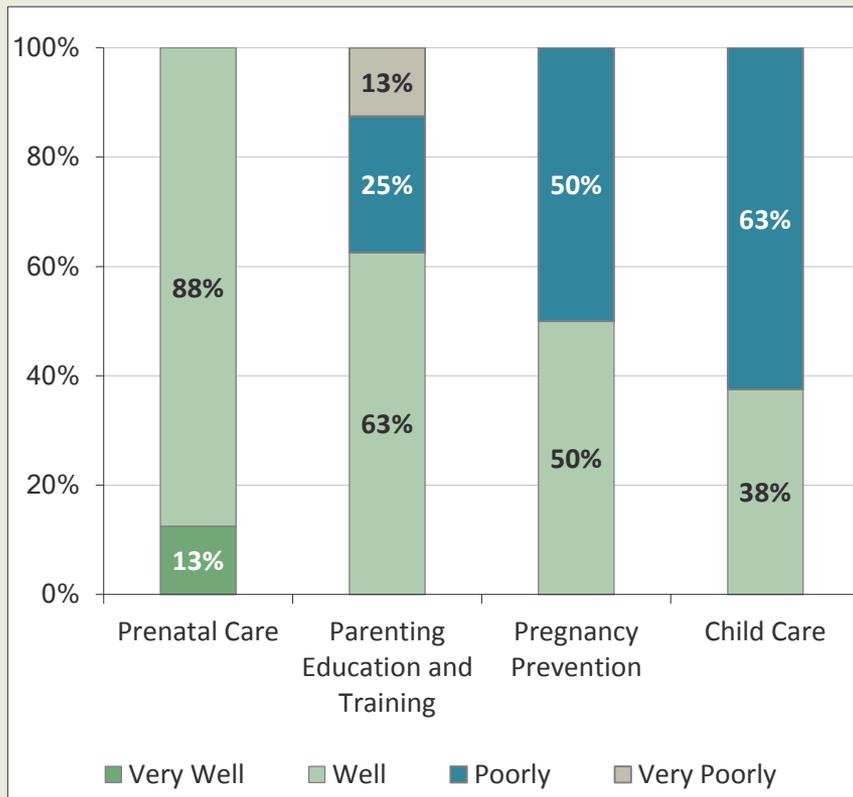
-County Representative

ASSESSMENT OF COUNTY SYSTEMS

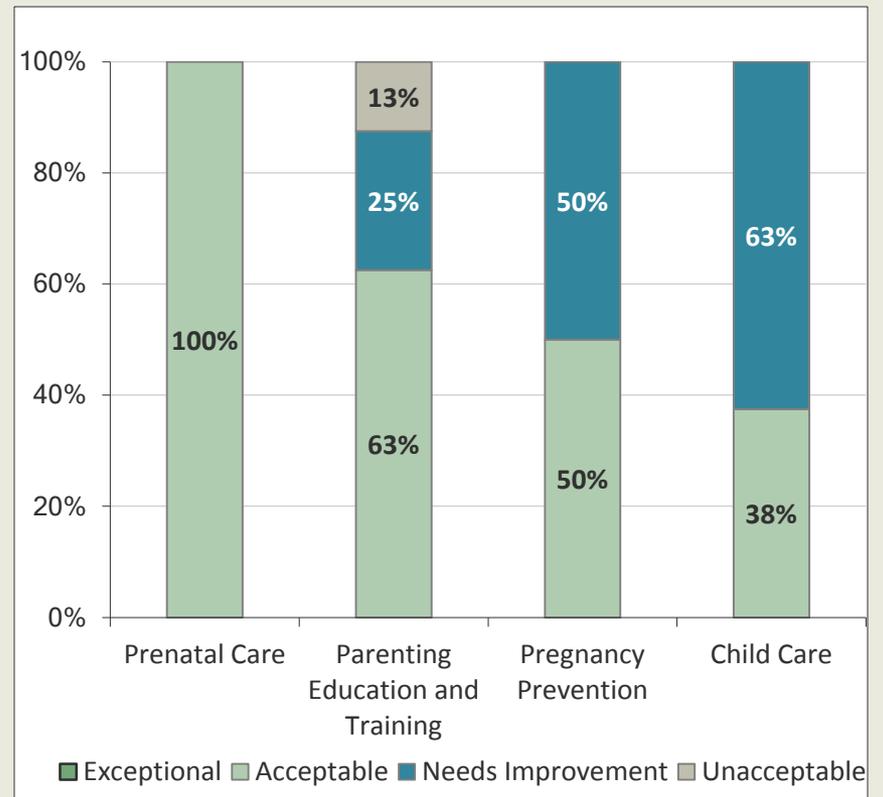


ASSESSMENT OF INTERVENTIONS

How well is each intervention implemented?



What is the quality of the intervention?



WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?



- Supportive and Adequate Placements
- Access to Child Care Options
- Jurisdiction over Non-Dependent Children
- Data Collection and Tracking Systems
- Assessing the Number of Parenting Fathers

COUNTY PERSPECTIVES



We do face concerns when we have youth who are parenting and their children are not dependent. This is a real challenge because caregivers are concerned about having responsibility when a baby is in the home and that baby is not dependent.

We have a statewide system but we're not able to track parents in that system. [...] Right now we'd have to figure out through case notes or a separate access database for our ILSP.

-County Representatives

WHERE IS THERE ROOM TO IMPROVE?



- Continued Learning Opportunities
 - Specialized Training
 - Data Tracking Processes
 - Partnership Alignment and Collaboration
 - Accountability and Follow-Up
- Service Advancements
 - Sexual and Reproductive Health
 - Male Participation

COUNTY PERSPECTIVES



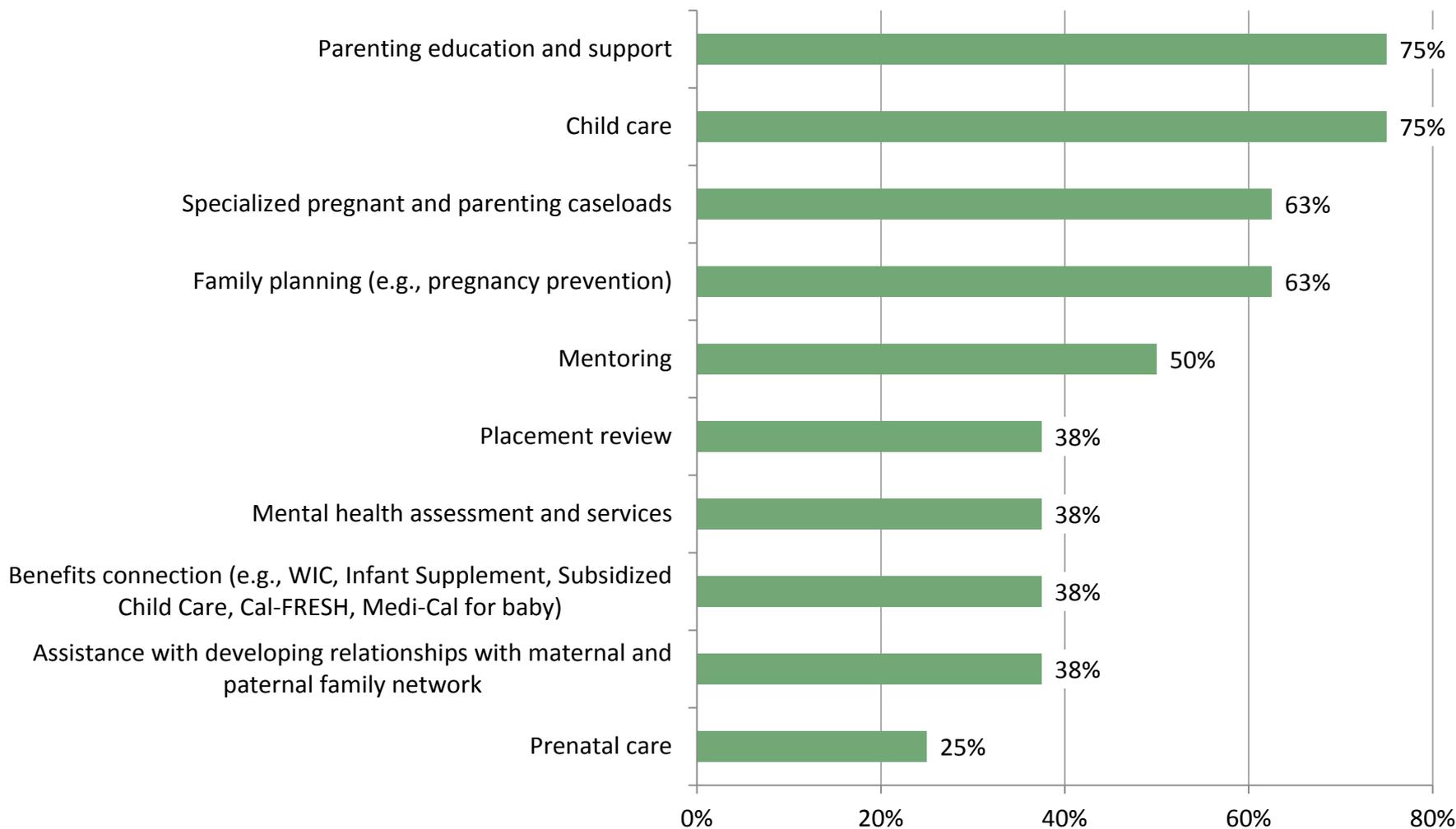
We could benefit from ongoing training about how to best serve our pregnant and parenting youth and how to support them with their parenting decisions and their future family planning.

One statistic I think about for emancipated foster youth is do they have babies, do they have them early, do those babies become dependent too? We need to get clarity on this.

When it comes to reducing unwanted pregnancies, we are aware that foster youth are a vulnerable population and the number of unplanned pregnancies is significantly higher among foster youth when compared to the general population. But, whatever we have been trying has not been sufficient to adequately address the issue.

-County Representatives

WHAT ADDITIONAL SERVICE STRATEGIES WOULD COUNTIES CONSIDER?





WHAT WOULD A MODEL POLICY ENTAIL?

- Early Intervention and Prevention Strategies
- Early Prenatal Care and Parenting Programming
- Dedicated P/P Experts
- Detailed Placement Procedures
- Caregiver Training
- Tracking and Monitoring Practices
- Resource Guide
- Male-Specific Support

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM OTHERS?



- Illinois has a robust model for its P/P population
 - Parent Coordinator
 - Child and Family Meetings & Transition Meetings
 - Birth Assessments for All Children
 - Specialized P/P Caseworkers
 - Continued Learning Requirements for Staff
 - Integrated Electronic Monitoring and Data Tracking System

RECOMMENDATIONS



- Implement pregnant and parenting meetings
- Develop clearly defined placement procedures
- Create specialized training modules
- Build P/P foster youth expertise
- Advance the statewide tracking system
- Leverage expertise through a P/P collaborative

Perspectives from San Diego & Los Angeles Counties



**CATHI PALATELLA,
SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

**BARBARA FACHER,
ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

QUESTIONS?



TO SUBMIT LIVE QUESTIONS, CLICK ON THE
"QUESTIONS" PANEL, TYPE YOUR
QUESTION, AND CLICK "SEND"

THANK YOU!

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