Normal, healthy youth development includes sexual health. The Information & Education (I&E) Program provides funding for education that emphasizes prevention of adolescent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The program provides comprehensive sexual health education through 14 local agencies serving high-need youth statewide.

I&E informs young people about eligibility and access to federal, state and local clinical services, and offers life-skills instruction in areas such as partner communication, negotiation and refusal skills, and communication with a trusted adult. Services are offered in diverse settings, such as mainstream and alternative schools, social service agencies, juvenile detention facilities and youth centers.

Through I&E, young people gain knowledge and are empowered to make responsible decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health. Providing youth with the information and skills they need to make healthy choices is a critical component in promoting the positive development of California’s youth.

**OUR GOAL:** To decrease adolescent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections by educating young people about sexual and reproductive health, providing information on eligibility and access to reproductive health care services, and engaging local communities to promote adolescent health.

**WE SERVE:** Youth ages 12-19 who meet at least one of the following criteria: reside in a high-need community, are homeless/runaway, dropped out of school, attend an alternative or continuation school, are in or emancipated from foster care, are in the juvenile justice or probation system, identify as LGBTQ, reside in a migrant farmworker household, are in gangs or an ex-gang member, or have special health care needs.

**OUTCOMES:** Youth who have participated in I&E report increased knowledge around prevention of pregnancy and STIs, and increased awareness of access to local sexual and reproductive health services.

**FINANCING:** I&E is financed through State General Funds and Title XIX (Federal Financial Participation).
I&E agencies implement interventions specifically to meet the needs of their chosen target populations and the communities they serve. The I&E Program approach includes the following three components:

**Comprehensive Sexual Health Education and Life Skills:** Agencies implement interventions that are evidence-based or evidence-informed, culturally and linguistically appropriate, incorporate behavioral practice skills, and address contraception and decision-making.

**Clinical Linkages:** The Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment (Family PACT) Program is California’s approach to providing comprehensive family planning services to eligible low-income individuals. Agencies actively partner with Family PACT and other local providers to ensure adolescents are aware of and have access to sexual and reproductive health services.

**Community Engagement:** Agencies collaborate with community representatives to raise awareness about adolescent pregnancy, STI prevention efforts and educate the community about adolescent sexual health services.

**WHERE WE ARE**

I&E services are provided in schools, juvenile justice facilities, community-based organizations and county offices. There are 14 I&E agencies in nine (9) counties:

- Fresno
- Kern
- Lake
- Los Angeles
- Merced
- Riverside
- San Bernardino
- Santa Barbara
- Stanislaus

**RESOURCES:**

Information & Education Program:  
http://www.cdph.ca.gov/IE

Family PACT:  
http://www.familypact.org/Home/home-page

Healthy Teen Network:  
http://www.healthyteennetwork.org/

Family and Youth Services Bureau:  
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/adolescent-pregnancy-prevention

National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy:  
http://thenationalcampaign.org/

Adolescent Sexual Health Work Group  
http://ashwg.org/

Health Resources and Services Administration  

Office of Adolescent Health:  
https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/

**PROGRAM SERVICES**

**CALIFORNIA HEALTHY YOUTH ACT**

- In 2016, the state’s emphasis on providing youth with comprehensive sexual health education was strengthened by the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA).
- CHYA mandates school districts to provide integrated, comprehensive, sexual health and HIV prevention education.
- It outlines new content standards that include, among others, affirmative recognition of different sexual orientations, exploring the harm of negative gender stereotypes, and providing youth with the knowledge and skills to form healthy relationships.
- I&E agencies delivering programs in publicly-funded schools are required to coordinate efforts with school districts to ensure their alignment with CHYA requirements.

**CONTACT IN YOUR AREA:**

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