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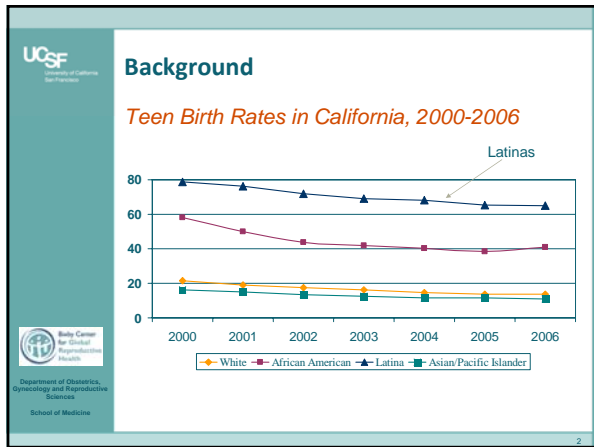
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**A Question of Hope: Reducing
Latina Teen Childbearing in
California**

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Study goal

**Inform efforts to reduce the high rate of
adolescent childbearing among foreign
and U.S. born Latinas in California**

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Study Design

The diagram illustrates the study design. At the center is a circle containing '65 2 hour, in person Interviews'. Four lines radiate from this central circle to four surrounding circles, each representing a different demographic or methodological aspect of the study:

- Top:** 1st time expectant women
- Left:** Latina women Immigrant & U.S. born. Below this circle is the text 'Foreign vs U.S. born'.
- Right:** 2 study sites: Los Angeles Fresno. Below this circle is the text 'Urban vs rural'.
- Bottom:** Teens (15-19) Adults (22-35). Below this circle is the text 'Teens vs adults'.

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4

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Research domains

- Pregnancy**
 - Their feelings and attitudes towards childbearing and reasons for current pregnancy
- Neighborhood and community**
 - The influence of neighborhood environments, family, partners, peers, and mentors on Latina teen childbearing
- Education**
 - Their perception and characterization of their current and future educational and career opportunities, aspirations, and expectations
- Birth control**
 - Their attitudes about birth control, experiences using birth control methods, and access to birth control services

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5

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Key study findings

- Many participants – especially teens – were misinformed about fertility and birth control and used birth control ineffectively.
- Many Latina teen pregnancies were intended. Access to contraception, while essential to prevent unintended pregnancy, will not fully address this issue unless additional efforts are directed at young women who perceive that childbearing is the most viable solution.
- Male partners played an influential role in the childbearing decisions of Latino youth.
- Parents and other family members generally played an important role in guiding the lives of Latino youth, but often had limited resources.
- Many Latina teens have – and perceive themselves to have – few socioeconomic opportunities; for some, pregnancy represents an opportunity for a brighter future.

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Recommendations

- Provide **educational and employment opportunities** for youth so that pregnancy itself is not seen as an opportunity
 - Expand community and school-based mentorship and tutoring programs and vocational training options for youth
- Recognize the strength and **importance of the family** in Latino culture; encourage and facilitate better parent/child communication on sex
 - Provide resources for parents for: 1) talking to their children about sex, and 2) helping their children define and set life goals
- **Improve the quality of sex education** received by young Latino men and women
- Provide **comprehensive clinical services** to youth; ensure that such services address common misperceptions about birth control

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Film: A Question of Hope

Available for viewing/downloading at:
<http://bixbycenter.ucsf.edu/videos/video-lo-1.html>

For more information and to request copies in English/Spanish:
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