

"Pregnancy is really not thought about with people I know. They just want to do it [have sex] and do not care."

Maria*, High School Senior, Juvenile Probationer, New Mexico

*Name changed for privacy

PCI produces media that provides access to sexual health education and services for girls like Maria in underserved communities around the world. But there are still too many teens without access.

Maria is just one of over 265,000 teens involved in the justice system in the United States. 50% of teen girls involved in the system become pregnant by age 19, leading to adverse health and social outcomes for them and their children. Lack of access to sexual health education and trauma resulting in riskier behaviors are driving factors.

At a time when reproductive rights are under attack in this country, the need to generate solutions is paramount. With funding from the Office of Population Affairs (OPA), we developed "Unstained," a groundbreaking pilot miniseries to reduce teen pregnancy and STIs among at-risk youth in the US.

Preliminary study results show 70% of participants increased their knowledge about contraception, STIs, and consent. But this is just the beginning. We have the opportunity to expand this program in the US and globally to empower more teens to make informed choices about their sexual health.

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