



## OAH Overview

The Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) was established within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health in 2010. OAH coordinates adolescent health promotion and disease prevention programs and initiatives across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and works in partnership with other HHS agencies to support evidence-based approaches to improve the health of adolescents.

OAH operates grant programs aimed at reducing teen pregnancy and supporting pregnant and parenting teens and maintains a substantial evaluation portfolio associated with these grants. In addition, OAH provides on-going training and technical assistance to its grantees and collaborates extensively with the other HHS agencies which fund teen pregnancy prevention programs.

### ■ Identifying Evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs

In 2010, HHS conducted an independent review of the evidence on programs to reduce pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and associated risky sexual behaviors among teens age 19 and younger. Studies, which were published or produced between 1989 and 2009, were assessed for the quality of the study design and the strength of the methods used in implementing the program evaluation. Of the approximately 1,000 potentially relevant studies, 199 met screening criteria. Of these, 93 studies received a high or moderate rating. From the 93 studies, 28 model programs were identified which make up the [HHS List of Evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs](#). A searchable database of the model programs and a description of the evidence review methods are located on the OAH Web site at <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/oah-initiatives/tpp/tpp-database.html>

The *HHS List of Evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs* includes programs which use a number of approaches—abstinence, sexual health education, youth development, and programs for delivery in clinical settings and for special populations—all of which show positive results in at least one rigorous program evaluation. The evidence review will be updated periodically.

### ■ Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative

The evidence-based programs on the *HHS List of Evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs* provide a solid foundation for OAH to develop and implement discretionary grant programs that will contribute knowledge to the field. OAH administers two teen pregnancy prevention grant programs and works in concert with closely-aligned programs which are supported by other agencies.

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- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program:** Competitive grants were made to public and private entities in 2010 to fund medically accurate and age appropriate programs that prevent and reduce teen pregnancy. Two types of programs are supported:
  - **Replication of Evidence-based Programs:** In order to learn more about how programs which were shown to be effective in reducing sexual health risks in one setting perform in another setting or with a different population, OAH funds replications of 23 program models from the *HHS List* through 75 different grantees. Organizations applying for the grant funding selected the appropriate program model/s to replicate based on their communities' needs. Program models being replicated include: nine abstinence projects, 45 sexual health education projects, 30 youth development projects, seven clinic-based projects, and four projects for special populations.
  - **Research and Demonstration Projects:** In order to develop and test additional models and innovative strategies to prevent teen pregnancy, OAH funds 19 TPP research and demonstrations programs and the Administration on Children and Families (ACF) funds an additional 13 innovative strategy projects targeting very high risk populations such as youth in foster care and homeless youth. OAH also provides funds for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to manage eight additional innovative *community-based* initiatives among high risk populations. The agencies collaborate to provide technical assistance, information exchange, and reporting among grantees. See the complete listing of grantees at <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/grants/current-grantees.html>
- **TPP Program Evaluation:** A performance measurement system has been developed and will be implemented in 2012 for all TPP grantees. Performance measures include grant-level measures of the processes and accomplishments of the project and participant-level measures of the impact of the project on the young people it serves.

Some projects have an independent evaluation of their project underway which can utilize up to 25% of their grant funding. To ensure that the evaluations meet the standards set forth by the HHS evidence review, OAH provides extensive training and technical assistance. All grantee evaluation plans are reviewed and approved by OAH.

OAH and ASPE are carrying out two federal-led evaluations of a sub-set of replication and demonstration grant projects.

**TPP Replication Study Evaluation** assesses whether program models are achieving impacts when implemented with different populations in different settings. Three popular program models (*iCuidate!* (Take Care of Yourself), Reducing the Risk and Safer Sex) are being assessed, each in three sites, for a total of nine sites participating in this study. The contractor is Abt Associates.



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- **Evaluation of Pregnancy Prevention Approaches** assesses three OAH TPP Research and Demonstration Projects, three ACF innovative strategies projects, and one non-federally funded site to add to the evidence base of program models and strategies. Mathematica Policy Research is the evaluation contractor.

### ■ **Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF)**

OAH funds competitive grants to states and Tribal entities to provide pregnant and parenting adolescents and women with a seamless network of supportive services to help them complete high school or postsecondary degrees and gain access to health care, child care, family housing, and other critical support. PAF funds are also used to improve services for pregnant women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault and stalking. OAH provides extensive training and technical assistance to the grantees. An evaluation of the PAF program is creating case studies to document grantee activities, and generate lessons for strengthening programs and services for the populations served. See the complete listing of grantees at <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/grants/current-grantees.html> and visit the PAF Resource and Training Center at <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/oah-initiatives/paf>.

### ■ **National Resource Center for HIV/AIDS Prevention among Adolescents**

With a competitive award from the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund, OAH created a National Resource Center for HIV/AIDS Prevention among Adolescents (Center) which can be accessed at <http://preventyouthhiv.org/>. The Center supports adolescent service providers with web-based resources, evidence-based research, and training and technical assistance to promote HIV/AIDS prevention among adolescents, in particular adolescents from minority and high-risk populations. The Center is operated by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) working closely with the University of California San Francisco's Center for HIV Information and the National Network of STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers.

### ■ **OAH Communications**

In 2011, OAH established a monthly e-newsletter on adolescent health topics and launched a fully re-designed Web site which disseminates information on adolescent health to health and social service professionals who work with young people. The [Web site](#) also contains information for parents on ways they can positively influence the health of their teens and information for OAH grantees. OAH is building its Twitter presence [@TeenHealthGov](#) and plans to launch a Facebook page to reach additional viewers with information on adolescent health. The OAH Web site can be accessed at <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/>

### ■ **Adolescent Health Working Group**

OAH convenes the Adolescent Health Working Group (AHWG) which provides a forum for HHS agencies and a few other federal agencies to learn from each other and support a full-range of evidence-based approaches to improve adolescent health, to address adolescents' health risks, and highlight programs focused on positive youth development.



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### ■ OAH Budget FY2012

