



OAH Overview

The Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) was established in 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 expectant and parenting teens and maintains an evaluation portfolio associated with these grants. OAH operates a website with extensive resources regarding adolescent health and leads collaborative activities with other federal agencies and national groups that serve adolescents.

■ 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, and associated risky sexual behaviors among teens age 19 and younger. Studies, 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 original [HHS Pregnancy Prevention Research Evidence Review \(Evidence Review\)](#).

The Evidence Review was updated in 2012 and now includes 31 program models. It will be updated periodically. The Evidence Review 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. A searchable database of the model programs and a description of the evidence review methods are located on the OAH website at http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/oah-initiatives/teen_pregnancy/db/programs.html

■ Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Grant Programs & Evaluation

The evidence-based programs from the 2010 Evidence Review provided a solid foundation for OAH to establish competitive grant programs that will contribute knowledge to the field. OAH administers two types of teen pregnancy prevention grant programs and works in concert with closely-aligned programs which are supported by other agencies.

- **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:

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- **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 Evidence Review through 75 different grantees. Grantees selected the appropriate program model/s to replicate based on their communities' needs. Program models being replicated include: 10 abstinence education programs, 44 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 18 TPP research and demonstrations programs and the Administration on Children and Families (ACF) funds 12 projects testing innovative strategies which target high risk populations such as youth in foster care and homeless youth. OAH also provides funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to manage eight innovative *community-based* initiatives among high risk populations. The funding agencies collaborate to provide technical assistance, information exchange, and reporting by grantees.
 - See the listing of OAH grantees at <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/grants/current-grantees.html>
- **TPP Program Evaluation:** A performance measurement system was 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 program underway using up to 25 percent of grant funding. To ensure that these evaluations meet Evidence Review standards, OAH provides extensive training and technical assistance. All grantee evaluation plans are reviewed and approved by OAH.

OAH and the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) are carrying out two federally-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 federal contractor is Abt Associates.
- **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. The federal contractor is Mathematica Policy Research.



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■ **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Resource Center**

The TPP Resource Center was designed for OAH's teen pregnancy prevention grantees as well as other organizations working to prevent teen pregnancy and improve adolescent health and healthy development. The TPP Resource Center provides skill-building materials in a one-stop shop which contains the webinars, tip sheets, e-learning modules, podcasts, and other training resources developed by OAH and its partners. OAH identifies and gathers resources from across the federal government on a range of topics related to teen pregnancy prevention, including mental health, substance use, and dating violence. These resources are stored in an extensive library and updated on a monthly basis. The TPP Resource Center also showcases TPP grantee success stories from across the country—highlighting the positive accomplishments made through federal teen pregnancy prevention investments at the community level. Visit the TPP Resource Center at http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/oah-initiatives/teen_pregnancy.

■ **Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF)**

With funding provided by the Affordable Care Act, OAH awarded the second cohort of competitive PAF grants to 14 states and three tribes in 2013. Grantees provide expectant and parenting teens, young women and men, and their families with a seamless network of supportive services to help them complete high school or postsecondary degrees and to gain access to health care, child care, family housing, and other critical support. Some PAF projects also work to improve services for pregnant women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault and stalking.

The feasibility of a study to determine the effectiveness of selected programs is currently being assessed. Such a study would look at the implementation and impact of select programs.

■ **Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) Resource and Training Center**

The PAF Resource and Training Center was designed to provide extensive training and technical assistance to PAF grantees, and to make those resources available to other organizations that provide services to similar populations. OAH identifies and gathers resources from across the federal government on topics including: engaging diverse populations, building collaborations, strategic communications, performance management, and sustainability. The PAF Resource and Training Center showcases PAF grantee success stories—highlighting the accomplishments and lessons learned through federal pregnancy assistance investments at the community level. 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 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 François-Xavier



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Bagnoud Center in the Rutgers (NJ) School of Nursing and includes national partners with expertise in HIV and STD prevention.

■ OAH Communications

In 2011, OAH established a monthly e-newsletter on adolescent health topics and launched a fully re-designed website which disseminates information on adolescent health to health and social service professionals who work with young people. The [website](#) 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 launched a YouTube page at <http://www.youtube.com/user/TeenHealthGov>. The OAH Web site can be accessed at <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/>

OAH is leading development of a national adolescent health agenda which is engaging national groups in health care, public health, education, social services, after-school and community programs, and faith-based organizations in work to support adolescent health and healthy development. Resource materials will become available in 2014.

■ 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.

■ OAH Budget FY2012

(Most Recent Appropriation)

