



NATIONAL TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH, 2015

Statement by: Evelyn Kappeler, Director
HHS Office of Adolescent Health (OAH)

May 5, 2015 – The teen birth rate in the United States is now at a record low and everyone working to support adolescent health and reduce teen pregnancies is encouraged by this positive news, yet there is still a lot of hard work to do. One in four teen girls in the U.S. will become pregnant before the age of 20, many communities in the U.S. continue to experience higher rates of teen births than others, and disparities continue to exist with African-American and Hispanic young women having teen birth rates about twice that of white women the same age.

The HHS Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) leads the national, evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program which targets social and health issues which may interfere with a young person making a successful transition to healthy, productive adulthood. The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program funds over 100 community-based organizations that serve more than 140,000 youth each year using a wide range of evidence-based and innovative approaches, in a variety of settings, and designed for diverse populations. OAH Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs have trained more than 7,000 professionals and established more than 3,000 community partnerships. These activities are essential to building the workforce and increasing a community's capacity to prevent teen pregnancy.

National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month provides us with an opportunity to reflect on how we can keep working to help adolescents fulfill their potential and becoming healthy adults.

Additional information:

2015 also marks the 5th anniversary of the HHS Office of Adolescent Health and among its achievements is its work to prevent teen pregnancy. Preventing pregnancy during the teen years allows young people to plan their futures and prepare to fulfill their potential as healthy adults.

Learn more about the HHS Office of Adolescent Health's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program and its free training, technical assistance and evaluation resources:

- About the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, visit http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/oah-initiatives/teen_pregnancy/about/
- Free training and technical assistance resources, visit http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/oah-initiatives/teen_pregnancy/training/
- Evaluation, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/oah-initiatives/for-grantees/evaluation/>

Locate evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Programs and tips for selecting one that's right for your community, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/resources-and-publications/db/>

Sign up for OAH's call to action to improve adolescent health, Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow (TAG), visit <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/tag/>

Follow the HHS Office of Adolescent Health @TeenHealthGov and visit <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/>