

News Release

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HHS OFFICE OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT PUBLISHED

Implementation findings and lessons learned from the Teen Pregnancy Prevention grant program

Today the *Journal of Adolescent Health* published a special supplement featuring findings and lessons learned from the HHS Office of Adolescent Health's Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) grant program.

Teen birth rates for all age groups and all racial and ethnic groups are now at historic lows. "This progress is tremendous, but we have more to do. Even at its current low, the rate of adolescent pregnancy in the United States is higher than rates of other resource-rich nations," said HHS Assistant Secretary for Health, Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH. He adds, "This publication can add to our knowledge of implementing and testing teen pregnancy prevention programs."

Evelyn Kappeler, director of the HHS Office of Adolescent Health (OAH), agreed. "Advancing knowledge of 'what works' for reducing teen pregnancies and enhancing healthy development is central to the mission of OAH. We remain committed to helping communities move forward to implement proven strategies so that more young people can grow into healthy, productive young adults."

Each paper in the supplement -- "Implementing Evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs: Legislation to Practice" -- addresses a unique topic in implementation science while reinforcing common themes, such as the importance of planning, monitoring fidelity, and assessing and building capacity. The supplement highlights various programs being implemented by the TPP grantees, which include both evidence-based replications as well as innovative strategies to reduce teen pregnancy among different populations and in different communities and settings. Also included are articles on the historical context and development of the Office of Adolescent Health and the TPP program and the processes developed to support TPP grantees and monitor program outcomes.

OAH administers the TPP Program and works to prevent teen pregnancy by supporting the replication of evidence-based programs and the implementation of demonstration programs to develop and test new models and innovative strategies. The five-year grant programs are nearing completion of their fourth year of funding.

For more information on the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah>.

For the full copy of the *Journal of Adolescent Health* March 2014 Special Issue Supplement, Volume 54, Number 3S, please visit <http://www.jahonline.org/content/suppl>. The full issue will be available via open access for the next six months.

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Note: All OASH press releases, fact sheets and other news materials are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/news/>

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