About OAH

Key Facts
- Served 300,000+ youth per year
- Funded 110+ grants to states, tribes and communities
- Trained 10,000+ professionals
- Created more than 3,800 community partnerships
- Completed 40+ rigorous program evaluations

History
The Office of Adolescent Health was established in 2010 within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health. OAH authorities are broad and include:
- Implementing and administering evidence-based grant programs
- Coordinating adolescent health initiatives across HHS
- Communicating adolescent health information
- Serving as the catalyst and convener of a national agenda for adolescent health

Strategic Framework
To guide the work of the office, OAH developed a strategic framework for FY 2016-2021. It identifies strategies to improve adolescents’ health and wellbeing and continue work with professionals and communities serving young people. The strategic framework informs decisions to ensure talents and resources are aligned to achieve OAH’s mission. OAH’s work is focused in five areas:

1. Educating the public and professionals
2. Supporting evidence-based programs and practices
3. Leading through action
4. Promoting multi-sector partnerships
5. Investing in evaluation and research

Initiatives
Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program
OAH implements and administers the national, evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program, a $101 million discretionary grant program. The TPP Program works to prevent teen pregnancy by funding grants in communities to replicate evidence-based programs and to implement demonstration programs to develop and test new models and innovative strategies.

Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) Program
Through the Affordable Care Act, OAH administers the Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF), a $25 million competitive grant program to states and Tribal entities. PAF grantees provide expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families 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 supports.

Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® (TAG)
Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® (TAG) calls upon organizations and individuals working with adolescents to prioritize activities that improve adolescent health, including physical, social, emotional, and behavioral health. TAG provides tools for professionals working with adolescents in six sectors: education, faith-based organizations, health care, public health, social services, and out-of-school time and community programs.

Last Updated: 11/28/2016
Evaluation and Performance Measurement
The OAH evaluation work supports several rigorous evaluation efforts to significantly contribute to the evidence base of what works to prevent teen pregnancy. OAH's evaluations examine the effectiveness of new models and strategies and how to effectively replicate the findings found in evidence-based models of teen pregnancy prevention.

OAH uses performance measures to assess grantee progress and for continuous quality improvement.

FY 2016 Budget

- Public Health Service (PHS) Evaluation of TPP, $6,800,000
- Pregnancy Assistance Fund Program, $23,300,000
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, $101,000,000
- 76.2%
- 17.6%
- 5.1%
- 1.1%
- Other OAH activities, $1,442,000

FY16 Accomplishments

Educating the public and professionals
- Released findings from the first five years of the Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program, including the results of 41 rigorous evaluation studies of teen pregnancy prevention programs.
- Provided tailored training and technical assistance to 100+ TPP and PAF grantees in communities across the nation. Topics included using trauma-informed approaches, the role of community advisory groups and youth leadership councils, and workforce development to support and engage young fathers. Materials are posted on the OAH website. These resources are free to download and available for use by the public.
- In collaboration with the My Brother’s Keeper Initiative, released five new resources to help programs reach and engage young fathers.
- The OAH website featured the newest resources from other federal agencies and new OAH developed content on topics such as tobacco use, America’s Adolescents, and vaccines for teens. During FY16, the OAH website averaged 65,127 page views per month. The TPP Resource Center and PAF Resource Center averaged 6,892 and 1,189 page views per month, respectively. The TAG section of the website averaged 2,492 page views per month. At the end of FY16, OAH had 13,840 Twitter followers, a 20% increase from the end of September 2015. OAH gained an average of 209 Twitter followers per month in FY16.
- Routinely reached 44,000+ professionals working with adolescents with various e-updates.
- Awarded a grant to operate a National Resource Center to Prevent HIV/AIDS among Youth with funding from the Secretary’s Minority AIDS Initiative.
Supporting evidence-based programs and practices

- Continued support for 84 TPP Program grants which are expected to serve over 1.2 million youth during the five-year grant period. A two-day orientation for new grantees provided guidance and support to ensure high quality programming.
- Awarded $2.9 million to five grantees to provide TPP capacity building assistance in five priority areas: (1) program implementation, (2) community mobilization and sustainability, (3) ensuring safe and supportive environments, (4) establishing and maintaining linkages and referrals to youth-friendly health care services, and (5) communications and dissemination.
- Continued to rigorously evaluate TPP grantees to examine the effectiveness of new models and strategies, and how to effectively replicate evidence-based models of teen pregnancy prevention.
- Continued to address disparities in teen pregnancy by serving areas with higher than average teen birth rates through: capacity building, replicating programs to scale, supporting early innovation, and rigorously evaluating new and innovative approaches. Grantees also focus on vulnerable youth such as those in juvenile detention, foster care, LGBTQ youth, rural youth, and Latino and Native American youth.
- Continued supporting 20 PAF grantees. Grantees are expected to serve over 30,000 expectant and parenting young people by summer 2017. OAH hosted the PAF Project Directors meeting focused on sustaining program impacts and building leadership for continued success.

Leading through action

- 40+ national organizations committed to promoting OAH’s call to action, Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® (TAG) which challenges organizations and professionals to improve adolescent health through a multi-sector, strengths-based approach that incorporates youth engagement and positive youth development principles.
- Among 25+ presentations, OAH promoted TAG at the annual conferences of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, and American Public Health Association. TAG was a feature story in The Nation’s Health.
- Sponsored National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month (NTPPM), which occurs annually in May. In recognition of NTPPM, OAH released resources, tools, and ideas to fit any budget or amount of time, including a NTPPM Supporter Toolkit, webinar and Twitter Chat about how to get involved in NTPPM. Hosted a Digital Town Hall webinar about the results and successes from the TPP program and the importance of a continued focus on teen pregnancy prevention. OAH presented on a CDC webinar highlighting new findings on reductions in teen birth rates and persistent disparities.
- Selected as a finalist in the HHS Idea Lab's Ignite Accelerator, Coordinating and Collaborating across Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs is developing an app to allow communication and collaboration between the nearly 300 TPP and PAF grantees funded by three HHS agencies—OAH, ACF, and CDC.

Promoting multi-sector partnerships

- Participated in the new National Millennial Health Coalition which focuses on national healthcare enrollment outreach efforts and best practices for youth engagement.
• Increased the focus on adolescent health at the HHS regional level by partnering with the Regional Health Administrators to support various projects across six regions (II, III, V, VI, VII, and X) that seek to enhance the reach and impact of OAH programs and activities. These projects include collaboration and coordination with OAH grantees and other grantees in the region, engagement of key stakeholders to support TAG activities, and special projects to highlight significant adolescent health issues.

• Led planning for the biennial HHS TPP Grantee Conference titled Connecting the Dots: Collaborating to Achieve Lasting Impacts for Youth in collaboration with ACF/FYSB, CDC/DASH and CDC/DRH to provide onsite training, technical assistance, and networking for HHS grantees working to prevent teen pregnancy and promote adolescent sexual health. More than 950 representatives from over 300 federal grantee organizations attended.

• Established partnerships to share TPP Program evaluation findings and information with various organizations including the National Council of La Raza, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Rural Health Association, USDA’s Women, Infants and Children program, and the HHS Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

• Maintained communication among adolescent health specialists within HHS through the Adolescent Health Working Group.

Investing in evaluation and research

• Released findings from the first cohort of TPP grantees. 41 evaluations were conducted for evidence-based TPP program replications and on innovative approaches to preventing teen pregnancy. Four replications were found effective in new settings and eight new programs impacted behavior and met criteria to be considered an HHS evidence-based program. The evaluations build the body of evidence for when, where, and with whom specific teen pregnancy prevention program models are most effective.
  o The TPP evaluation results were published in a supplement of the American Journal of Public Health on September 30. The supplement summarizes lessons learned from grantees and the evaluation technical assistance provided by OAH to grantees.
  o OAH’s work in evidence-based programming was referenced by a number of reports and articles including from GAO, Results for America, and the Social Innovation Research Center.

• Released an implementation report, “Launching Programs to Support Expectant and Parenting Youth.” This report is the first systematic description of the PAF program’s efforts to support expectant and parenting youth. It details the 17 PAF grantees’ program plans and components, strategies, and implementation designs.

• New and ongoing TPP evaluations include: Exploration of new questions in teen pregnancy prevention through analyses of existing TPP Program data, focusing on programs implemented with middle school youth; assessment of the extent to which former PAF grantees have sustained their programs post-OAH funding; and an evaluation of a commonly implemented teen pregnancy prevention intervention.