



HHS Office of Adolescent Health Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

About OAH

Leading the nation to ensure that America's adolescents thrive and become healthy, productive adults

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

physical, social, emotional, and behavioral health. TAG provides free tools such as the TAG Playbook for professionals who work with adolescents in six sectors: education, faith-based organizations, health care, public health, social services, and out-of-school time and community programs, and resources for family members and teens themselves.

Evaluation and Performance Measurement

OAH supports several rigorous evaluation efforts that build 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.

Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) Program

OAH administers the [Pregnancy Assistance Fund \(PAF\) Program](#), a \$25 million competitive grant program for states and tribal entities that is funded by the Affordable Care Act. PAF Program 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, gain access to health care, child care, family housing, and other critical supports, and learn parenting skills and about healthy relationships.

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 well-being and support work with professionals and communities serving young people. The strategic framework helps OAH to ensure that talents and resources are aligned to achieve its 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

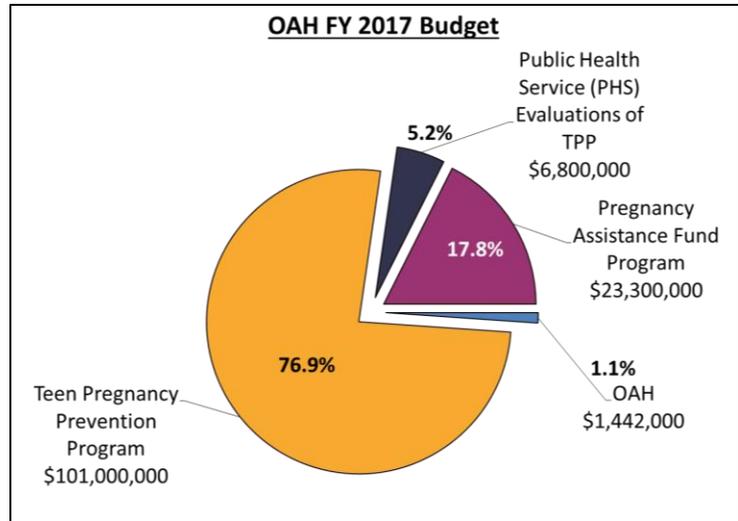
Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® (TAG)

[Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® \(TAG\)](#) calls upon organizations and individuals who work with adolescents to prioritize activities that improve adolescent health, including



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 and improve outcomes for young people by funding grants in communities to replicate evidence-based programs and to implement demonstration programs that develop and test new models and innovative strategies. TPP Program grantees engage families, communities, and youth to implement holistic programs in safe and supportive environments that address the needs of young people at multiple points during adolescence.



FY17 Accomplishments

Educating the public and professionals

- Featured national experts on adolescent health through a video series of [TAG Talks](#) and highlighted successful programs in a set of three webinars that exemplify one or more of the TAG Five Essentials for Healthy Adolescents. These videos are posted on YouTube and accessible via the OAH website.
- Provided tailored **training and technical assistance** to 100+ Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) and Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) grantees in communities across the nation. Topics included [co-parenting](#) and [continuous quality improvement](#). These resources are free to download and available for use by the public.
- **Revamped the OAH Website** to align with HHS standards, become mobile friendly, streamlined for easier navigation, and optimized for search engines. The website featured the newest data and resources for practitioners and parents and new content on mental health, chronic conditions and disabilities, and bullying. During FY 2017, the OAH website averaged 95,000 page views per month. In the second half of FY 2017, the Grantee Resource Centers were combined and averaged approximately 1,400 page views per month.
- The [National Resource Center to Prevent HIV/AIDS among Adolescents](#), which provides innovative and practical resources for professionals, more than tripled the number of unique visitors to its website. Funded through the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative, the resource center also provided capacity-building assistance, including conducting five webinars and releasing four podcasts, to help youth-serving providers and peer leaders meet the needs of youth at highest risk for HIV/AIDS.

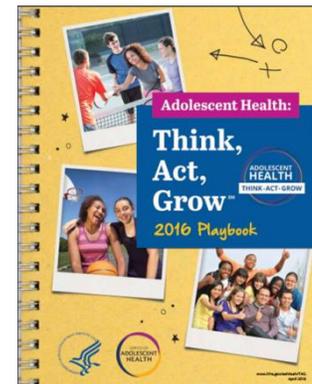


Supporting evidence-based programs and practices

- Continued support for 84 [TPP Program grants](#) which more than tripled the number of youth served in 2017 compared to 2016, reaching 213,000 young people with evidence-based and evidence-informed teen pregnancy prevention programs.
- 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.
- **Awarded \$22 million** in new competitive grants to 15 States and 1 Tribe through the **Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF)**. [PAF Program grantees](#) provide support services to expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families to improve educational, health, social, and economic outcomes. In the previous year, the PAF Program served over 16,000 participants.
- Highlighted ground-level impact of the [TPP](#) and [PAF](#) Program grantees on the lives of young people with profiles of their **successful strategies**.
- The final report of the [Commission on Evidence-based Policymaking](#) cited OAH and the TPP Program as a model of a Federal program developing increasingly rigorous portfolios of evidence.

Leading through action

- Continued to implement OAH's call to action to improve adolescent health, **Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® (TAG)**. This multi-sector approach challenges organizations and professionals to improve adolescent health through a strengths-based, positive youth development approach that emphasizes youth engagement.
- **Engaged national professional organizations** with information about TAG at the annual conferences of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, the American Public Health Association, and the National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media and on webinars with the USDA/4-H/Cooperative Extension and HHS Regional Offices' Adolescent Health Liaisons.
- Supported the LEAD Collaborative, a group of five grantees funded to **advance best practices** for OAH grantees. In 2017, the LEAD Collaborative provided capacity building assistance to OAH grantees through two in-person trainings, six webinars, six communities of practice, development of an online resource library, and numerous hours of individual technical assistance.
- Hosted a Twitter chat (#NTPPM) for [National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month](#), highlighting historic declines in the rates of teen pregnancy. Featured several OAH grantees for the #NTPPM chat, which had 3,949,000 Twitter impressions and 54 participants.



Promoting multi-sector partnerships

- Coordinated adolescent health promotion and disease prevention programs and initiatives across HHS with the **Adolescent Health Working Group**. The working group hosted monthly meetings with an average of 40 participants per month from various HHS agencies on topics such as substance use among adolescents and the NIH Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study.
- Partnered with the all ten **OASH Regional Offices** to expand and enhance the focus and attention on adolescent health in the regions. Through these collaborations, OAH staff and staff in the regional office hosted several region-wide meetings with Federal and non-Federal staff to expand partnerships, conducted joint site visits to grantees, submitted a proposal to the HHS Ignite Accelerator, conducted several joint virtual presentations, and started the first-ever all region collaboration on adolescent health.
- Engaged the National 4-H Conference to host a roundtable discussion on **healthy relationships** and mentoring with approximately 20 youth.
- Hosted a collaborative meeting on **expectant and parenting young families** with federal partners and the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs.
- **Established partnerships** to share evaluation findings and information with various organizations including America's Promise Alliance and the American Youth Policy Forum.
- Increased **stakeholder engagement** through growth of e-update subscribers: 9% growth in general e-update subscribers to 48,000 subscribers, 25% growth in TAG e-update subscribers to 25,000, and 12% increase in Twitter followers to 15,400 followers.

Investing in evaluation and research

- Released findings from the [evaluation](#) of the New Heights program for expectant and parenting high school students, part of the Positive Adolescent Futures Study. The results showed that the **program increased** the school days parenting females attended per semester, the number of credits they earned per year, and their graduation rates.
- **Published a supplement** in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* (JAH) sharing findings and lessons learned from the implementation of CDC and OAH's communitywide teen pregnancy prevention initiatives project (CWI). The CWI project focused on communities with the highest rates of teen pregnancy, with an emphasis on reaching African American and Latino or Hispanic young people aged 15 to 19 years.
- Conducted a **meta-analysis** of federally-funded TPP evaluations completed prior to October 1, 2016 to (1) help program developers design more effective programs; (2) help practitioners select programs most appropriate to the characteristics of their communities and their local youth populations; and (3) help guide funding decisions by federal, state, and local entities.
- Assessed the extent to which former grantees of the PAF and TPP grant programs have **sustained** their programs post-grant funding. Conducted an **implementation study** of the TPP Tier 1 scale-up strategy documenting grantees' strategies and creating project profiles to provide information about each individual project.

