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

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)
OAH’s national call to action to promote adolescent health, Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® (TAG), calls upon organizations and individuals who work with adolescents to prioritize activities that improve adolescent health, including physical, social, emotional, and behavioral health. TAG provides free tools for professionals who work with adolescents in seven sectors - education, faith-based organizations, health care, public health, social services, out-of-school time and community programs, and workforce development - and resources for family members and teens. These tools include the TAG Playbook, TAG social media Toolkit, TAG in Action successful strategies and webinars, and TAG Talks videos.

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 $23 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.

**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.

**FY18 Accomplishments**

**Educating the public and professionals**

- Worked with the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs to produce the TAG Talks video series on topics including the adolescent brain and adolescent substance use and addiction. Each video is accompanied by discussion guides for professionals and family members and is posted on YouTube and accessible via the OAH and youth.gov websites.
- Provided tailored training and technical assistance to grantees in communities across the nation. Topics included sustainability planning and supporting young fathers. These resources are free to download and available for use by the public.
- Featured the newest data and resources on the OAH Website for grantees, practitioners and caregivers and new content on positive youth development, healthy relationships, and substance use. During FY 2018, the OAH website averaged 127,059 page views per month and the Grantee Resource Center averaged 2,797 page views per month.
- Co-hosted Twitter chats on HPV vaccination and cancer prevention and underage drinking prevention. Participated in 84 other Twitter events chats, Thunderclaps, and live tweeting during key events. Chat topics included bullying prevention, mentoring, school-based healthcare, teen dating violence, opioid use prevention, and mental health support.
- Received dotCOMM Gold award, honoring excellence in web creativity and digital communication, for Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® (TAG).
- Received Digital Health Awards for the 2018 TAG Playbook, New Heights: A Support Network for Expecting and Parenting Teens (PAF video), and The Changing Transition to Adulthood (TAG Talk video).
- Received MarCom Gold award for 90-second “TAG: How You Can Help” video.
- The National Resource Center to Prevent HIV/AIDS among Adolescents, funded through the Secretary’s
Minority AIDS Initiative, provided innovative and practical resources and capacity-building assistance 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**

- **Awarded $5.2 million** in new [TPP Program](#) competitive grants to 14 organizations to develop and test new and innovative strategies to prevent teenage pregnancy and promote healthy adolescence. 77 continuing TPP Program grants served over 240,000 young people with evidence-based and evidence-informed teen pregnancy prevention programs in multiple settings from in communities of greatest need using a holistic approach.

- **Awarded $21.3 million** in new competitive grants to 22 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 close to 15,000 participants.

- 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.

- Supported TPP Early Innovation Grants using Human-Centered Design and Systems-Thinking; through an accelerator model over 20 teams are developing new approaches to Teen Pregnancy Prevention.

- **Addressed 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.

- Disseminated [TPP](#) and [PAF](#) Program successful strategies highlighting the impact on the lives of young people. Release a videos highlighting PAF grantee project and a montage of clips from several PAF grantees.

- Conducted youth listening sessions with three TPP Program grantees and used human-centered design approaches to learn directly from youth.

**Leading through action**

- Continued to implement [Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow® (TAG)](#) approach challenges organizations and professionals to improve adolescent health through a strengths-based, positive youth development approach that emphasizes youth engagement.

- Released an updated [TAG Playbook](#), which includes data on adolescent health and development, the TAG Five Essentials for Healthy Adolescents, and new sections on workforce development and youth with disabilities.

- Engaged youth-serving professionals with information about TAG at the annual conferences of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, the American Public Health Association, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, and the National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media.

- Recorded and posted six [TAG in Action](#) webinars (Minnesota Play TAG, Identity Wellness Centers, Palm Beach County, Teen Health Van, Wisconsin PATCH, and The Rales Center for Integration of Health Education).
• Observed National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month, highlighting historic declines in teen pregnancy rates, with a supporter toolkit and other digital resources available for download.

**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 35 participants per month from various HHS agencies on topics such as cyberbullying, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations for adolescents, substance use, and telehealth in schools.
• 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 hosted region-wide meetings with Federal and non-Federal staff to expand partnerships and provided feedback on conducted several joint virtual presentations.
• Engaged the National 4-H Conference to host a roundtable discussion on positive youth development and youth engagement with approximately 20 youth.
• Conducted outreach to share resources and information with several national youth serving and public health organizations.
• Increased stakeholder engagement through growth of e-update subscribers: 6% growth in general e-update subscribers to 50,800 subscribers, 8% growth in TAG e-update subscribers to 27,200, and 8% increase in Twitter followers to 16,600 followers.

**Investing in evaluation and research**
• Evaluated programs for expectant and parenting young families in three sites as part of the Positive Adolescent Futures Study. The results from the New Heights program 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.
• Awarded new evaluation technical assistance contract to perform a cross-grantee implementation study and provide evaluation training and TA to grantees developing and testing new and innovative strategies to prevent teenage pregnancy.
• Developed new grant performance measures and awarded a new contract for the development of a user-friendly, cloud-based performance measures system.
• Presented evaluation work at several meetings and conferences including the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management and Rigorous Impact Evaluation in Europe conference.
• Assessed the extent to which former grantees of the PAF and TPP grant programs have sustained their programs post-grant funding. Posted a brief and three case studies on sustainability lessons learned from former TPP grantees.
• Hosted a series of workshops using Human-Centered Design methods to explore the topic of integrated approaches to adolescent and community health in the areas of health access, trauma, and juvenile justice.
• Prioritized and proposed a set of science-based, 10-year national adolescent health objectives for Healthy People 2030 with the goal of improving the health of all Americans.