



California Adolescent Health Collaborative

CAHC NEWS

FALL 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

Conference -- See You Soon!
In The News
Resources
Policy Updates
Program Profile
Upcoming Events
Funders

Sign Up

SIGN-UP!

QUICK LINKS

California Adolescent Health Collaborative Fall 2008 Newsletter

California State Budget

As we go to press, the California state budget still has not been passed. The consequences of this impasse will continue to be felt for the foreseeable future. CAHC will continue to keep you posted on the impact for adolescent health. [Read more.](#)

We Want To Know What You Think!

In an effort to understand if and how our activities make a meaningful contribution to programs and policies for young people, CAHC has developed a brief informational survey for our constituents. Your answers will help us make important improvements to our work. This is a great chance to make your voice heard and have an impact on the future direction and vision of your California Adolescent Health Collaborative! [Take the survey.](#)

Conference -- See You Soon!

California Adolescent Health Collaborative

National Center for Youth Law

National Adolescent Health Information
Center (NAHIC) at UCSF

Adolescent Health Working Group

Youth Issues 2008: Transforming Services, Transforming Community

The California AHC 2008 Conference is coming up in just a few weeks and will take place Thursday and Friday, September 18-19, 2008 in Los Angeles. The theme of the conference is "Youth Issues 2008: Transforming Services, Transforming Community." Plenary Sessions will highlight Teen Dating Violence, Reproductive Justice Issues, and School Health Centers. With the pending budget crisis in California, it is imperative we share our ideas and talents. To find out more about the conference visit our [website](#).

For further details please contact Sharon Kosch, Conference Coordinator at skosch@californiateenhealth.org.

In The News

California Dreamers: A Public Opinion Portrait of the Most Diverse Generation the Nation Has Known

A poll of approximately 600 Californians between ages 16 and 22 years conducted last year by New America Media was one of the first polls of young people conducted entirely via cell phone. California's young people, as reflected in this poll, are strong believers in the American Dream, harbor deep concerns about family stability, cite marriage and parenthood as life goals, and are as apt to define their identity by music and fashion taste as by the color of their skin. Despite real or perceived obstacles, young people expect to create successful lives for themselves and imagine a more inclusive and tolerant society for one another.

[Read more.](#)

Rising Teen Birth Rate Takes \$1.7 Billion Toll on California Taxpayers

According to the "No Time for Complacency: Teen Births in California" report released by the Public Health Institute, rising teen birth rates are costing California taxpayers \$1.7 billion dollars a year, levying an average taxpayer cost per county of more than \$29 million.

[Read more.](#)

FDA and CDC Continue to Find Gardasil A Safe and Effective Vaccine

Responding to concerns raised by consumers, health professionals and parents about the HPV vaccine Gardasil, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) jointly released a statement in July reporting that they continue to find the vaccine safe and effective.

[Read more.](#)

Celluloid Youth

2008 has produced a bumper crop of films about adolescents. Three documentaries and one foreign-language drama hit the theaters this summer, to much critical acclaim.

[XXY](#): In this Argentinean film, an intersex youth and her family decide whether or not she should undergo "corrective" surgery.

[American Teen](#): Hailed as the "Breakfast Club of the 21st Century," this film documents the senior year of students from

different cliques at a high school in a small Indiana town.

[Going on 13](#): This documentary follows four years in the lives of four young women of color coming of age in the San Francisco Bay Area.

[Hard Times at Douglas High](#): The struggle of an under-resourced urban Maryland high school trying to meet the standards of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act is chronicled in this film.

Family Computing and the Academic Engagement and Achievement of Low-Income, Urban Adolescents: Findings From the Computers for Youth Intervention

Computers for Youth, a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the home learning environment of low-income middle school children, looks at how family computing can connect adolescents with their parents and sustain their engagement in school.

[Read more.](#)

Trends in Fast Food Intake During the Transition from Adolescence to Young Adulthood

"Findings of this study indicate there is a need for nutrition interventions to address fast food intake during the transition to young adulthood," state the authors of an article published in the July 2008 issue of the Journal of Adolescent Health.

[Read abstract.](#)

Bullying and Being Bullied Linked to Suicide in Children

Researchers at Yale School of Medicine have found signs of an apparent connection between bullying, being bullied and suicide in children, according to a new review of studies from 13 countries.

"While there is no definitive evidence that bullying makes kids more likely to kill themselves, now that we see there's a likely association, we can act on it and try to prevent it," said review lead author Young-Shin Kim, M.D., assistant professor at Yale School of Medicine's Child Study Center.

[Read more.](#)

Trends in Cigarette Use Among High School Students.

"Current cigarette use among high school students declined from 1997 to 2003, but rates remained stable from 2003 to 2007," write the authors of an article published in the June 27, 2008, issue of Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Report.

[Read report.](#)

Resources

Adolescent Health Brief: Nutrition and Physical Activity

Poor diet and physical inactivity are second only to tobacco as preventable causes of death among adults living in the United States. Childhood and adolescence are critical times in the development of lifelong healthy eating and physical activity habits. This new nutrition brief put out by CAHC is designed to help policy makers, service providers, and communities implement comprehensive, youth-friendly nutrition and physical activity programs.

[Read brief.](#)

Barriers to Care: Implications of Requiring Parental Involvement for California Minors Seeking Abortions

Just out, CAHC's Parental Notification brief is designed to help policy makers, service providers, and communities implement comprehensive, safe, and confidential reproductive health programs.

[Read brief.](#)

How Much Do You Know About Teen Sexual Behavior?

True or False: A third of teenagers have had sex by age 14. Test your Teen Sexual Behavior IQ with Child Trend's new fact sheet!

[View quiz.](#)

Half of Teens Don't Discuss Contraception or STDs with Partners

Only half of teens report discussing contraception or sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) with a partner before having sex for the first time, according to new research. A Child Trends fact sheet summarizes the study's findings and includes tips for parents and programs to encourage teens to engage in safer sexual behavior. Teens who discuss these issues are more likely to use contraception, which can reduce their risk of unintended pregnancy and STDs.

[Read the fact sheet.](#)

Fact Sheet on Adolescent and Young Adult Population Demographics

The 2008 Fact Sheet on Demographics: Adolescents and Young Adults contains the most recent available data on the U.S. adolescent and young adult population (ages 10-24) through 2006. The updated fact sheet, produced by the National Adolescent Health Information Center, highlights trends and presents data on racial and ethnic make-up, poverty rates, family structure types, school-enrollment rates, the median age of first marriage, and childbearing among unmarried young adult females.

[Download fact sheet.](#)

Safeguarding Adolescents' Confidentiality

"State Policies Affecting the Assurance of Confidential Care for Adolescents", published by Incenter Strategies, provides an overview of states' minor consent laws and new information on the use of explanation-of-benefit (EOB) statements by state Medicaid agencies and their contracting managed care organizations. The fact sheet explains how and why EOBs are used and addresses the implications of state policies for adolescents and for health professionals. Data on state protections for sensitive services are included.

[Read the fact sheet.](#)

Tween and Teen Dating Violence and Abuse Study

Sponsored by Liz Claiborne Inc., this study explores the dating behavior and potential signs of abuse among Tweens and Teens.

Findings include:

- * Dating relationships start younger than realized: nearly half of 11- to 14-year olds have been in a dating relationship.
- * Sex is considered part of tween dating relationships by a surprising number of tweens and parents, though parents believe it is not their tween who is having sex.
- * Significant levels of abusive behavior are reported in tween dating relationships, and teens report that abusive behavior increases dramatically in the teen years (age 15-18).

[Read Study.](#)

Resource Guides for Survivors of Violence

These manuals are step-by-step guides to resources for families and individuals and were developed by the UCSF Community Partnership Resource Center (CPRC) with assistance and guidance from survivors of violence, health professionals, medical students and community-based experts. These guides will be updated periodically and available on the CPRC website.

[Grief Support and Recovery After Homicide: A Manual for Survivors and Providers](#)

[Support and Recovery for Survivors of Violence: A Manual for Survivors and Providers.](#)

Engaging Youth On Their Turf: Creative Approaches to Connecting Youth through Community

This new publication from Healthy Teen Network focuses on how adolescent health professionals can utilize creative approaches to engaging youth in positive youth development. The publication highlights six examples of programs that reach out to youth in non-traditional communities, and provides some next steps for professionals to develop or adapt creative approaches.

[Read Report.](#)

Policy Updates

Protections Set for Anti-Abortion Health Workers

At the end of August, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced plans to implement a controversial regulation designed to protect doctors, nurses and other health-care workers who object to abortion from being forced to deliver services that violate their personal beliefs. The rule empowers federal health officials to pull funding from more than 584,000 hospitals, clinics, health plans, doctors' offices and other entities if they do not accommodate employees who refuse to participate in care they find objectionable on personal, moral or religious grounds.

[Read more.](#)

Kids Affected by Violence Could Get Mental Health Care Under California Bill

Assembly bill (AB 2809) before Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) would provide up to \$5,000 in mental health services to children who witness violent crimes. Funding for the services would come from the Victim Compensation Program, which collects money through traffic offenses, restitution fines and other penalties imposed on people convicted of crimes. Last year, the fund collected \$145 million in revenue but paid out \$75 million in medical and mental health care and funeral expenses. A legislative analysis estimates that about 40 children would apply for funds through the program annually, but Assemblymember Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who carried the bill, said far more children would qualify for benefits under the bill.

[Read more.](#)

Adolescents Deserve Special Attention in SCHIP Outreach Programs

"SCHIP works to help adolescents get the targeted health care they deserve, but states must pay more attention to outreaching to teens and their parents."

[Read article.](#)

Other Legislative Updates

The following bills have passed through both the California Assembly and Senate and awaiting the Governor's signature in order to become laws.

SB1132: Medi-Cal for Foster Care Adolescents

Senator Carole Migden's bill reduces the barriers to Medi-Cal coverage for emancipated foster youth up to age 21 by eliminating previously required paperwork.

AB 86: Pupil Safety- "Cyberbullying"

Introduced by Assemblyman Ted Lieu of Torrance, this bill adds "cyberbullying" to the list of school crimes.

AB 16: Human Papillomavirus Vaccination

Santa Rosa Assemblymember Noreen Evans' bill requires health plans and insurers to cover the cost of vaccinating young women against the the human papillomavirus (HPV), which causes most cases of cervical cancer.

Program Profile

The SPARK Programs

The Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health calls SPARK a "school based solution to our nation's health care crisis." SPARK (Sports, Play, and Active Recreation for Kids) is a comprehensive curriculum and professional development program designed to promote physical activity in and out of school. Modules are available for a range of ages: high school, middle school, and elementary age students. Modules include a physical education curriculum (SPARK PE), a self-management curriculum, as well as a professional development program. The curriculum teaches activity skills and provides physical activity for all students during class. The self-management curriculum promotes physical activity outside of school. The professional development program trains classroom teachers to implement the curricula for their students. SPARK also implements an after school programs component. Over thirty-five studies have proven that students who participate in SPARK PE demonstrated achievement in a variety of areas. These areas include moderate to vigorous activity (above Healthy People Goals 2010 objective), fitness, enjoyment of PE, and academic achievement. SPARK PE kids did as well or better on standardized tests despite 200-300% more time out of the classroom.

[Learn more about SPARK.](#)

Upcoming Events

California Adolescent Health Conference 2008, September 18-19, 2008

The 2008 Adolescent Health Conference, "Youth Issues 2008: Transforming Services, Transforming Communities," will be held September 18-19 in Los Angeles, CA. The conference is coordinated by the California Adolescent Health Collaborative and will provide opportunities to challenge your thinking, collaborate with your colleagues, and join in creative problem solving to address the issues of youth. This is a conference for doctors, nurses, social workers, program staff, peer educators, health educators, advocates, youth development staff, parents, youth and behavioral health professionals who work with and support youth. A youth track is being planned by youth for youth health educators.

[Find out more.](#)

California Alliance Concerned with School-Age Parenting and Pregnancy Prevention (CAC SAP) Conference 2008, September 24-26, 2008

CACSAP's 2008 Conference, "Step up to the Challenge: Turning Obstacles into Opportunity", will be held in Irvine, CA, at the Hyatt Regency.

[Find out more.](#)

Dimensions X: The Conference, September 26, 2008

"Dimensions X: The Conference" will be held September 26 at the LGBT Center in San Francisco. This conference will provide a forum for healthcare providers to learn about Dimensions' unique and effective model that serves Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Intersex/Queer (LGBTQIQ) adolescents and to learn about current practices for providing culturally competent care to this population.

[Find out more.](#)

Northern California Conference on Transgender Health & Wellness, October 10-11, 2008

Held in Rohnert Park, CA, and sponsored by Sutter Medical Center of Santa Rosa & Sonoma County Academic Foundation for Excellence in Medicine, this conference will focus on expanding the clinical knowledge and comfort level of health care professionals to provide quality health care to transgender people of all ages.

[Find out more.](#)

Healthy Teen Network Conference, October 29- November 1, 2008

The 2008 Healthy Teen Network Conference, "Speaking Many Languages: Respecting Diversity, Believing in Equity," will be held this fall in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference features advances in the fields of teen pregnancy, parenting and prevention, and offers concrete strategies to increase one's ability to serve youth in the 21st Century.

[Find out more.](#)

It's My Life Conference, October 31-November 2, 2008

"It's My Life" convenes over 700 participants --youth in foster care, alumni of foster care, caregivers, practitioners, and advocates --who share innovative practices designed to guide preparation for adulthood services for youth aging out of foster care. "It's My Life" takes place in Los Angeles, CA.

[Find out more.](#)

NEXUS XIII: Violence Within the Home and its Effects on Children, October 30, 2008

Held in Los Angeles, this conference includes sessions on adolescent suicide, teen dating violence & youth involvement in violence prevention and intervention.

[Find out more.](#)

Funders

The California Adolescent Health Collaborative is funded by The California Wellness Foundation, The California Endowment, and the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Program, California Department of Public Health.

The CAHC would like to thank these organizations for their commitment and generous contributions to improving adolescent health.

Taproot Service Grant

CAHC has been awarded a Taproot Service Grant. The Taproot Foundation pairs non-profits with consultants from the business sector to provide competitor/collaborator analysis. Through March, Taproot will be assisting CAHC in defining the competitive landscape and identifying potential collaborators and competitors.

If you have an item you would like to include in CAHC's newsletter, please contact us at newsletter@californiateenhealth.org

Sincerely,

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