



California Adolescent Health Collaborative

CAHC NEWS

Winter 2008

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California Adolescent Health Collaborative

National Center for Youth Law

National Adolescent Health Information
Center (NAHIC) at UCSF

Adolescent Health Working Group

Pictured: Members of the youth track at the CAHC conference.

California Adolescent Health Collaborative Winter 2008 Newsletter

Successful 2008 CAHC Conference!

Thank you for making the 2008 Adolescent Health Conference, "Youth Issues 2008," a success! The conference, held in Los Angeles, had over 230 people in attendance including young adult leaders and peer health educators in the conference's youth track. One highlight was the presentation of the Dr. Janet Shalwitz Adolescent Health Leadership Award to Serena Clayton, PhD, Executive Director of the California School Health Centers Association. The award honored Dr. Clayton for her work in improving access to quality health care for all children and teens.

[Check out pictures or download resources from select presentations.](#)

CAHC on Facebook!

CAHC has recently created a Facebook group. We hope to provide a dynamic online community for our members! The CAHC Facebook group includes:

- Regional discussion threads to enable colleagues to share local events, pose questions, and connect
- Links to adolescent health websites
- Breaking news
- Event invitations
- Photos & videos

If you're already a Facebook member, simply type "California Adolescent Health Collaborative" into the "Search for Groups" field within the Groups application. If you aren't a member of Facebook, you can join by clicking [here](#). We welcome your involvement, as well as suggestions for improving the group.

New Resources on our Website

Developed by a subcommittee of the California Adolescent Sexual Health Workgroup (ASHWG), the Core Competencies can now be downloaded on the [CAHC website](#). Read more about this publication below in the resources section of the newsletter. Also new to the website is a [data snapshot of adolescent health issues presentation](#) and [archives of CAHC newsletters](#).

In The News

California Falls Far Short of Federal Guidelines for Nurse-to-Student Ratios in Schools

Federal guidelines call for one school nurse to be available for every 750 healthy pupils. In California, the ratio is one school nurse for every 2,230 students.

[Read more.](#)

Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13-17 Years

In their second report of national adolescent vaccination coverage estimates, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report higher coverage rates in 2007 (since 2006) for all vaccines, including an increase of approximately twenty percent for the newly recommended vaccines Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine) and MCV4 (meningococcal conjugate vaccine). Vaccination coverage for HepB (hepatitis B), MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella), and VAR (varicella) also increased.

[Read report.](#)

Parents and Health Care Professionals Working Together to Improve Adolescent Health: The Perspectives of Parents

One proposed strategy to improve adolescent health and health care is to create working partnerships among adolescent health care professionals and families. In this pilot study, 17 mothers were interviewed about their perceptions of the role of parents, health care professionals (HCPs), and parent-HCP partnerships in addressing adolescent health issues.

[Read abstract.](#)

Structuring Health Care Reform to Work for Adolescents

This issue brief from the National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health examines key concepts in current reform proposals including the following: greater emphasis on prevention, redesigning primary care, changing payment incentives, and relying more on evidence-based care.

[Read more.](#)

Health Insurance Discontinuities Among Adolescents Leaving Foster Care

In this study published in the Journal of Adolescent Health, the authors examine whether adolescents who lose Medicaid entitlements when they leave foster care are subsequently able to secure employer-sponsored or student health insurance coverage.

[Read abstract.](#)

Gang Exposure and Pregnancy Incidence Among Female Adolescents in San Francisco: Evidence for the Need to Integrate Reproductive Health with Violence Prevention Efforts

The relationship between gang exposure and pregnancy incidence among a cohort of 237 sexually active females aged 14-19 years was examined over a period of two years between 2001 and 2004. The women were recruited from community venues in a predominantly Latino neighborhood in San Francisco, California. Evidence from this study shows an increase in pregnancy incidence among young women with gang-involved partners and highlights the importance of integrating reproductive health prevention into programs for gang-involved youth.

[Read abstract.](#)

Comprehension of a Prototype Emergency Contraception Package Label by Female Adolescents

This study evaluated female adolescents' comprehension of a prototype over-the-counter package label for an emergency contraceptive pill product. Researchers found that female adolescents aged 17 years and younger understand the prototype package label well enough to enable safe and effective use without assistance from a clinician.

[Read more.](#)

Adolescent-Only Substance Abuse Treatment: Availability and Adoption of Components of Quality

This research assesses whether organizational characteristics are associated with the availability of adolescent-only programming and measures components of quality within these programs. Significant organizational correlates of adolescent-only services include organizational size, location within a hospital setting, center accreditation, adherence to a 12-step treatment model, and reliance on public sources of funding.

[Read abstract.](#)

Resources

Core Competencies for Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health

Developed by a subcommittee of the California Adolescent Sexual Health Workgroup (ASHWG), the Core Competencies can now be downloaded on the CAHC website.

The Core Competencies for Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health are intended for adult providers and educators of adolescent sexual and reproductive health. These competencies are the foundation of professional capabilities - knowledge, skills, attitudes - that all providers might strive to possess in order to deliver effective, sensitive, and appropriate sexual and reproductive health programs and services to adolescents. Programs and agencies might use the Core Competencies to:

- guide the hiring, training, development, and evaluation of staff,
- increase collaboration and cross training between agencies,
- support and measure consistent health outcomes for adolescents, and
- ensure that all programs are grounded in a shared body of knowledge and skills.

The Core Competencies are not intended as requirements or mandates binding a program or an agency to particular standards. They do not represent a curriculum or outline of topics/issues to be taught to adolescents. Rather they are intended as an interdisciplinary guide for providers to be used across various programs and service settings to enhance the level of service delivery and to improve continuity and consistency.

ASHWG is comprised of program managers from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Department of Education (CDE), and key non-governmental organizations (NGOs) committed to working more effectively to address the sexual and reproductive health of California adolescents.

[Download Core Competencies.](#)

Reproductive Behaviors and Motivation Among Adolescent and Young Adult Males

"Sexual and Reproductive Health Behavior Among Teen and Young Adult Men: A Descriptive Portrait" draws on the male data file from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. These data present a descriptive portrait of reproductive health behaviors among U.S. adolescent and young adult males (ages 15-24). The research brief examines results on several dimensions of reproductive health by age and by race and ethnicity. Topics include sexual experience and activity, use of reproductive health services, condom use and contraceptive use, and fertility. The brief is intended to help health professionals, policymakers, and parents learn more about the circumstances of males in the adolescent and young adult years.

[Download brief.](#)

The Constitutionality of Teaching Sex Stereotypes in Abstinence-Only Programs

In this brief from the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, the authors describe and analyze aspects of abstinence-only sex education programs taught in US schools which have gone virtually overlooked, and discuss their reliance on and perpetuation of gender stereotypes.

[Read brief.](#)

School Health Center Model Program Overview- Improving Nutrition and Physical Activity

California School Health Centers Association has updated their nutrition and physical activity fact sheet.

[Download fact sheet.](#)

Tracking Adolescent Health Policy: An Annotated List, 2008 Update

This updated brief provides an annotated list of organizations and agencies that monitor trends in federal and state policies related to adolescent health priorities. The brief begins with lists of organizations and agencies that track policies pertaining to multiple subject areas (general adolescent health, youth development, and access to health care). The next lists are grouped into five subject areas addressed by the 21 Healthy People objectives deemed critical for adolescents and young adults; the areas include unintentional injury, violence, mental health and substance use, reproductive health, and chronic disease prevention. The brief was produced by the Public Policy Analysis and Education Center for Middle Childhood, Adolescent, and Young Adult Health at the University of California, San Francisco.

[Read brief.](#)

America's Health Starts with Healthy Children: How Do States Compare?

This report provides state and national data on two widely used measures of child health: infant mortality and children's general health status. The report also compares the current state of child health to national benchmarks. Content includes a national overview, state-by-state comparisons, a state snapshot of North Carolina, and profiles of all states.

[Download individual state data.](#)

[Download full report.](#)

Adolescent Health Resource List

This list of best practices and other resources was developed by the staff at the State Adolescent Health Resource Center (SAHRC), for the New Coordinator Training this spring. SAHRC is part of the Konopka Institute in the Division of Adolescent Health at the University of Minnesota. This list contains links to resources on specific adolescent health topics, adolescent development and system capacity resources.

[View list.](#)

E-Journal Focuses on Juvenile Justice

The fall 2008 issue of "The Future of Children" examines juvenile justice policies and practices with the goal of promoting reforms to the juvenile justice system. The volume was published by Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the Brookings Institution. Topics include changes in the law's conception of young offenders, professional judgments of risk and amenability to treatment among adolescent offenders, minority overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system, the boundary between the juvenile and criminal justice systems, juvenile justice and substance use, and prevention and intervention programs for juvenile offenders.

[Review full text issue, executive summary, and policy brief.](#)

The School Environment and Adolescent Well-Being: Beyond Academics

This Child Trends research brief looks at schools more comprehensively as an environment affecting multiple aspects of adolescent development. The brief is designed to be of particular interest to school principals, district staff, and individuals responsible for school functioning, and others who want a better sense of how their concerns fit into the larger environment.

The brief presents national estimates from a variety of sources on the school environment of adolescents in the areas of health, safety, social support, academics, and civic engagement.

[Read brief.](#)

Policy Updates

2008 Election Roundup

This November's election, both on the state and national level, included several initiatives important to adolescent health.

Proposition 4 (Parental Notification)

Proposition 4 was defeated with a vote of 52.6% No, and 47.4% Yes. California has always been a pro-choice state. This vote guarantees that all teens, no matter what their circumstances, will be able to access qualified doctors, nurses and counselors when they need them.

The real answer to teen pregnancy is family communication and comprehensive, age appropriate sex education including abstinence. California has been recognized as a national leader in reducing teen pregnancy rates through education and information. We must all work to continue that trend.

Proposition 6 (Safe Neighborhoods Act/Runner Initiative)

Billed as a "tough on crime" anti-gang and anti-drug bill, Proposition 6 proposed an additional one billion dollars each year in criminal justice and prison spending. Proposition 6 would have required youth 14 years old or older convicted of a gang-related felony to be tried as adults. It also included penalties targeting undocumented immigrants and public housing residents.

Proposition 6 was soundly defeated, gaining just 30.6% of the vote. If passed, opponents feared that Proposition 6 would divert money away from healthcare, schools, public safety, and other vital programs.

Presidential Election

Barack Obama was elected the 44th president of the United States in November in an historic victory. California's 55 electoral votes brought the total over the 270 number necessary to achieve victory. Twenty percent of California voters were age 18-29. Of all eligible voters, 62% of Californians turned out to cast ballots; essentially the same as the US rate. Stay tuned to see how the new administration responds to issues in adolescent health, we'll be watching!

Budget

As we go to press, the California state budget is still not finalized, and will be front and central for the 2009 legislative session. Please take the time to advocate for adolescent health issues in California. In conjunction with TeenNOW California, we are encouraging you to follow this three-step process to make your voices heard:

1. Write letters to your legislators educating them about what your programs do, why they're important, and what the consequences of cutting funding would be. Use the resources below to assist you.
2. Call your legislators to reinforce this message. The more ways you use to communicate, and the more often you contact them, the likelier they will be to listen.
3. Visit your legislators' offices, either in Sacramento or in the district. Bring youth. Legislators are more likely to be moved when they see young people advocating for programs that have impacted them. Bring as many as you can, and be sure that the young people are prepared with talking points and an understanding of how to approach legislators to be most effective.

Advocacy resources can be found at [Teen NOW California](#), [Advocates for Youth](#) and [Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest](#).

Educating legislators is not lobbying. Nonprofits have the right to educate lawmakers about their issues and their programs.

Contact your legislators TODAY to inform them of the impacts that proposed budget cuts will have on the youth of California!

Governor Signs School Health Centers Expansion Act

On September 27th, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Senator Ridley-Thomas' SB 564, the School Health Centers Expansion Act, which puts health care where kids are - in school. The Governor issued a statement describing school-based health centers as "an efficient and effective way to provide health care to all students." SB 564, which creates a grant program for school health centers, combined with Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas' prior legislation (AB 2560 of 2006), marks the first effort to provide direct state assistance to school health centers. While SB 564 sets up the framework for expanding the number of school health centers in California, expansion will not take place until dollars are appropriated.

[Learn more.](#)

California's Family PACT Waiver Extended

The state has received another waiver extension through December 31st. This will be the sixth two- week extension since the September CMS action and comes with the 24% payment reduction to the state, the same reduction placed on the last four extensions. There is still no new information from CMS regarding the new proposed terms and the state has still not received anything in writing.

[Stay updated.](#)

HHS Regulations: Rule will Strengthen Right to Refuse Care

The Bush administration is planning to announce a broad new "right of conscience" rule permitting medical facilities, doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health care workers to refuse to participate in any way in morally "objectionable procedures" such as abortion. This rule could be expanded to include birth control and artificial insemination.

Despite the controversy over the rule, HHS Secretary Michael O. Leavitt said he intends to issue it as a final regulation before the Obama administration takes over. If the regulation is issued before Dec. 20, it will be final when the Obama administration takes office, HHS officials say. The new administration would then have to begin new rule-making procedures to overturn it. Abortion rights advocates think it might be easier to get Democrats in Congress to reject the rule. Democratic Sens. Hillary Clinton of New York and Patty Murray of Washington have said they will move to reverse it. The HHS proposal has set off a sharp debate about medical ethics and the duties of health care workers. CAHC has submitted public comment on this regulation.

[Read more.](#)

Program Profile

Campaign for Teen Safety

Campaign for Teen Safety is a broad-based coalition of doctors, nurses, health care providers, educators, civil rights and women's groups, including the League of Women Voters and millions of parents joining together to protect the safety of our daughters.

[Read more.](#)

Upcoming Events

Engaging Parents in Creating Healthy Food and Physical Activity Environments, January 12, 2009

California Department of Public Health and the Public Health Institute are sponsoring this training which will focus on new ideas for engaging parents in local school wellness policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation. School district wellness leads, parent involvement coordinators, local community leaders, PTA leaders, and community health workers are all invited to attend. The training will be held at the California Endowment in Los Angeles, California.

[Find out more.](#)

Minor Consent and Confidentiality in Reproductive Health Training, February 3, 2009

Learn how to effectively utilize the Confidentiality & Minor Consent in California Toolkit! Adolescents cite concerns with confidentiality as the number one reason they might forgo medical care. At the same time, providers indicate that they are mystified and confused by the various confidentiality and minor consent laws and their reporting responsibilities. Our Confidentiality & Minor Consent Toolkit trainings cover practice standards and guidelines, policy issues, and laws on minor consent/confidentiality, including an overview of HIPAA and are facilitated by an attorney specializing in adolescent health and a reproductive health provider. Case scenarios are presented for discussion and questions. This training is sponsored by TeenNOW California and will be held between 10AM-2PM in San Diego (location TBA). Please contact us at info@californiateenhealth.org or 510.834.4433 to be added to the interest list.

[Find out more.](#)

Putting the Pieces Together: Policy, Practice and Resources for School Health and Mental Health, March 3-4, 2009

The California School Health Centers Association's annual conference will be held in Sacramento, California. For the first time in recent history school nurses, mental health providers, oral health providers, health center staff and other practitioners will come together to explore how best to provide services in schools, in a coordinated effort to increase access and acceptability.

[Find out more.](#)

10th Annual California Prevention Summit, March 8-10, 2009

Since 1998, the California Prevention Collaborative (CPC) has been hosting an Annual Summit to dialogue about current issues and to share and learn about current evidence-based alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) prevention strategies. The summit will be held in Napa, California.

[Find out more.](#)

Sex::Tech Conference: Focus on Youth, March 22- 23, 2009

This STD/HIV prevention conference will focus on youth and technology. Sex::Tech 2009 will explore available tools and methods for reaching youth with culturally appropriate STD/HIV prevention and sex education interventions from a youth perspective, with input from public health professionals, educators, researchers, and technology developers. The conference will be held in San Francisco, California.

[Find out more.](#)

The Society of Adolescent Medicine, Annual Meeting, March 25-28, 2009

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Society for Adolescent Medicine (SAM) will be held March 25-28 in Los Angeles, California. Innovative research, clinical workshops and discussion forums will be presented from diverse disciplines around the world.

[Find out more.](#)

Adolescent Sexuality Conference, April 6-7, 2009

"Today's Youth - Tomorrow's Voice" is the theme of this year's Adolescent Sexuality Conference which will be held April 6-7 at

the Seaside Convention Center in Seaside, OR. The conference is for educators, health personnel, administrators, counselors, social and youth service workers, parents, clergy, teens and community members.

[Find out more.](#)

Fostering Resilience: Better Outcomes in Tough Times, May 13-15, 2009

California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth's (CMHACY) 2009 conference will highlight programs that are relevant, efficient, and effective in achieving outcomes in these times of fiscal restraints. Innovative collaborations across systems will also be featured. The conference will be held at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California

[Find out more.](#)

Childhood Obesity Conference: Creating Healthy Places for All Children, June 9-12, 2009

The Childhood Obesity Conference draws more than 1,800 participants, representing a wide range of people from health care professionals who work with children to health care policy makers. The conference will be held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles, California.

[Find out more.](#)

Funders

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

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

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

Sincerely,

California Adolescent Health Collaborative

email: newsletter@californiateenhealth.org

phone: 510.834.4433

web: <http://www.californiateenhealth.org>

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