



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

Office of Adolescent Health

Rockville, MD 20852

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Anjani Chandra, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator and Team Leader
National Survey of Family Growth
National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Dear Dr. Anjani,

First funded in 2010, the Office of Adolescent Health supports and evaluates evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention (TPP) programs and implements the Pregnancy Assistance Fund. The office is responsible for implementing the Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program, a \$105 million discretionary grant program, which works to prevent teen pregnancy by supporting the replication of evidence-based programs and the implementation of demonstration programs to develop and test new models and innovative strategies. OAH also manages the Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF), a \$25 million competitive grant program for states and Tribal entities to 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.

The mandated concerns of these programs create a strong need for the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), which provides national data on those factors that influence fertility, contraceptive behavior, adolescent sexual behavior, the number of sexual partners, age at first intercourse, and teen pregnancy. Often this survey is the only solid source of national data to which this office can turn in assembling the data required for matters of national policy.

Some of the ways in which OAH uses the data from the NSFG include the following:

- 1) As a member agency for the Family Planning Priority Area in Healthy People 2020: Health Objectives for the Nation, OAH relies heavily on estimates derived from the NSFG to provide reliable baseline data on adolescent sexual behavior for many of these family planning objectives.
- 2) OAH has relied on data from the NSFG for information about trends in sexual activity and related behavior among teens, as its best national source. Also useful have been many reports and publications that reveal important findings from the survey that help shed light on the decline in the teen birth rate, for example.
- 3) A number of projects to be funded by OAH to conduct evaluation are expected to rely on data from the NSFG to investigate questions of interest including births and contraceptive use by important demographic characteristics.

- 4) Information provided by the NSFG on the reproductive behavior and motivations of adolescents, including young men, has helped OAH to improve pregnancy prevention services that target adolescent populations. The data has proven valuable in the program's effort to develop evidence-based strategies.

OAH will continue to find data from the NSFG useful for the above-stated purposes as well as to provide evidence to help evaluate the effectiveness of its programs in serving the needs of the adolescents. OAH also benefited from a number of features that have enhanced the NSFG website including "Key Statistics from A to Z."

Sincerely,



Evelyn M. Kappeler

Director

Office of Adolescent Health

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

US Department of Health and Human Services