

The AAP Adolescent Health Partnership Project

(a member organization in the Partners in Program Planning for Adolescent Health (PIPPAH) Project)

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is expanding its promotion of adolescent health issues. The AAP Adolescent Health Partnership Project is a grantee under the Partners in Program Planning for Adolescent Health (PIPPAH) cooperative agreement program funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau. The eight PIPPAH grantees are diverse, national professional membership organizations that work individually and collaboratively to improve adolescent health, safety and well-being. PIPPAH grantees are also leading partners in the National Initiative to Improve Adolescent Health (NIAH), a broader collaborative effort facilitated by two federal agencies to improve the health, safety and well-being of adolescents and young adults.



PIPPAH contributes to the improvement of adolescent health, safety and well-being by promoting a multidisciplinary comprehensive adolescent health agenda among professionals who either serve or are administratively responsible for adolescents and their families. The initiative focuses on:

- 1) Strengthening the leadership, infrastructure and capacity of national professional membership associations to address adolescent health comprehensively, both within their organizations and across their respective disciplines and fields; and
- 2) Promoting adolescent health at a national level through a collaborative project by all PIPPAH grantees.

PIPPAH grantee efforts are devoted to the following four areas:

- ❖ Elevating national, State and community focus on, and commitment to, the health, safety and well-being of adolescents and their families;
- ❖ Increasing adolescents' access to quality health care, including comprehensive general health, oral health, mental health, and substance abuse prevention and treatment services;
- ❖ Improving health and safety outcomes in the six content areas defined by the 21 critical adolescent health objectives of *Healthy People 2010*; and
- ❖ Eliminating health disparities among adolescents.

The AAP Adolescent Health Partnership Project will focus on promoting and improving adolescent health through the AAP membership, other PIPPAH grantees, and other collaborative national organizations including those involved in the NIAH. Through this initiative, the AAP will strengthen the leadership, infrastructure and capacity of the AAP member pediatricians to address adolescent health, including general and specialty pediatric disciplines and pediatric residents. The AAP will work with AAP committees, sections, and councils to promote and enhance adolescent health activities related to their discipline or special interest. The AAP will provide continuing education opportunities on relevant adolescent health issues and increase the promotion of existing continuing education opportunities and relevant resources. Educational resources on adolescent health issues will assist pediatricians in increasing access to health care services for adolescents and improving the quality of care provided to this age group, who has unique developmental growth and high-risk behavioral issues.

The AAP will focus on two critical concepts – reduction of health disparities and promotion of a strength-based approach to youth development – throughout its activities.



Reducing health disparities: The reduction of health disparities between ethnic and racial groups is a strategic aim for the AAP, the Healthy People 2010 Objectives, and the MCHB. The adolescent population has specific health disparities that differ from other age groups. This project will collect and disseminate relevant information that illuminates the disparities relevant to the adolescent population, as well as strategies that can assist in reducing health disparities in youth.

Encouraging a strengths-based approach in caring for adolescents: Focusing on the strengths that youth already possess and helping teens and parents build these internal and external strengths is important in the reduction of risk behaviors. This project will disseminate information about what is a strength-based approach

and how it can be promoted and easily adapted by pediatricians and other health care professionals who serve adolescents.

The AAP will collaborate with the other PIPPAH grantees to share expertise in addressing complex issues, promote a youth development framework, and contribute toward the efforts of State adolescent health programs. The other grantees include the American Bar Association, American College of Preventive Medicine, City MatCH, Healthy Teen Network, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Conference of State Legislatures and National Institute for Health Care Management. The PIPPAH grantees are working collectively on a collaborative project which includes innovative communication products that will instill a sense of excitement about and commitment to both the needs and potential of youth. The project is based on a set of interviews with individuals well-known for their contributions to the fields of adolescent health and safety and youth development. In addition, the AAP also will be developing activities that promote adolescent health in collaboration with its many other partners, including other allied health professional organizations and child advocacy groups.

PIPPAH grantees also are leading partners in the NIIAH, a collaborative effort facilitated by two federal agencies to improve the health, safety and well-being of adolescents and young adults (ages 10-24). Over 25 NIIAH partners collaborate to elevate the focus on and commitment to adolescents, increase access to health care, improve health and safety outcomes and eliminate their health disparities. The NIIAH also has focused on 21 critical adolescent health objectives that relate to reproductive health, chronic diseases, mortality, unintentional injury, violence, mental health and substance abuse.



For more information about the AAP Adolescent Health Partnership Project, contact:

Charlotte O. Zia, MPH, CHES
Program Manager, Adolescent Health Partnership Project
141 Northwest Point Blvd.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Phone: 847-434-7870
Fax: 847-228-7320
czia@aap.org