

About the HHS

Office on Women's Health (OWH)

Our Mission: Provide national leadership and coordination to improve the health of women and girls through policy, education, and model programs.

Our Office

OWH was established in 1991 as part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). OWH was reauthorized in 2010 under Public Law 111-148 section 3509 of the 111th Congress.

OWH coordinates women's health efforts across HHS, working collaboratively with other federal agencies and external partners to address crucial women's health topics. OWH chairs the Coordinating Committee on Women's Health, which advises the Assistant Secretary for Health on activities across HHS that would improve the health of U.S. women and girls.



Our Vision

All women and girls achieve the best possible health.

Our Work

OWH supports women and girls through our policies, programs, and educational initiatives to improve health. Our activities directly support our goals to:

- **Inform and Influence Policies**
OWH drives health equity, access, and quality by assuring policies at all levels address women's and girls' health needs across the lifespan.
- **Support Innovative Programs**
OWH develops innovative, evidence-based programs that incorporate the unique determinates of health for women and girls.
- **Educate Consumers**
OWH offers reliable, up-to-date, plain language health information in English and Spanish for women and girls through mobile-friendly websites, social media, email, print publications, and a toll-free helpline.
- **Educate Health Professionals**
Through continuing education, lectures, webinars, case studies, and online curriculum, OWH develops timely educational materials about women's unique health needs for health care professionals.

Current Examples of Our Work

Inform and Influence Policies

- **Women and Opioids**
The 2017 *Final Report: Opioid Use, Misuse, and Overdose in Women* examines the prevention, treatment, and recovery issues for women who misuse, develop use disorders, or overdose on opioids.
- **College Sexual Assault Policy and Prevention**
This initiative supports nine organizations over three years to partner with colleges and universities to increase awareness of sexual assault on campus and implement successful prevention policies.

Support Innovative Programs

- **Stop. Observe. Ask. Respond. (SOAR) to Human Trafficking**
Over 700 health and social service professionals have been trained through the SOAR program to identify and respond effectively to victims of human trafficking.
- **Supporting Nursing Moms at Work: Employer Solutions**
This easy-to-use website provides brief videos for managers and human resource professionals who need to provide time and space for lactating employees.
- **Interpersonal Violence (IPV) Provider Network**
This program requires collaboration between health care providers and IPV service programs to evaluate systems for integrating IPV intervention into basic clinical care.
- **Preventing and Addressing Female Genital Cutting (FGC)**
Eight grantees across the country address FGC-related health care needs of women and girls living in the U.S., and work to prevent the practice from occurring.

Educate Consumers and Health Care Professionals

- **Addressing Opioid Misuse in Women**
Twenty grantees across the country develop activities to prevent prescription and non-prescription opioid misuse among women and girls across the lifespan.
- **National Women's Health Week**
OWH's signature observance serves as a time to encourage women of all ages to make their health a priority and take steps to improve their physical and mental health.
- **National Women and Girls HIV and AIDS Awareness Day**
This observance, led by OWH each year on March 10, highlights the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls and their unique risks and challenges in HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and treatment.
- **National Women's Health Information Center (NWHIC)**
OWH reaches millions of people each year with up-to-date, plain language health information for women and girls on the devices they use every day through our toll-free helpline, our mobile-friendly websites at www.womenshealth.gov and www.girlshealth.gov, and social media channels on Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest.



How to Partner With Us: OWH works with partners who can extend our messages and promote healthy behaviors. Contact us at womenshealth@hhs.gov to discuss how your organization can partner with us.



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