

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Women's Health Timeline

1984

- Provided the first federal funding for emergency shelter and services for victims of domestic violence and their children, as authorized under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. **(ACF)**
- Confirmed that the acne medication *isotretinoin* was linked with serious birth defects. **(CDC)**
- Delivered *Report of the Public Health Service Task Force on Women's Health Issues*, Volume I, to the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Task Force was appointed to identify women's health issues that were important to society and to establish a blueprint for integrating these issues into the priorities of the Public Health Service. **(HHS/Public Health Service Task Force)**
- Established the *Public Health Service (PHS) Coordinating Committee on Women's Health Issues* to identify women's health issues that were important in society and lay out a blueprint for meshing those issues with the priorities of the Public Health Service. **(OWH)**
- Approved the first drug for the treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis. **(FDA)**

1985

- Released the *Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Black and Minority Health*, which underscored the importance of addressing interpersonal violence as a public health problem and identified homicide as a major contributor to health disparities among African Americans. **(ACF)**
- Identified disorders of reproduction as one of ten leading work-related diseases and injuries. Evidence from laboratory studies and clinical investigations indicated that a wide range of microbiologic, physical, and chemical agents (i.e., ionizing and nonionizing radiation, heat and vibration, tobacco, alcohol, and certain drugs) can adversely affect reproductive outcomes. **(CDC)**
- Reported lumpectomy combined with radiation therapy is as effective a treatment as mastectomy for many breast cancers. **(NIH)**
- Participated in the *Laboratory Standardization Panel of the National Cholesterol Education Program* to develop national standards for improving measurements of cholesterol in clinical laboratories (1985 through 1990). The lipid standardization program was subsequently developed, thus assuring that measures of cholesterol are accurate across laboratories. CDC provides the "gold standard" for accurate cholesterol measurements. **(CDC)**

1986

- Initiated national surveillance of pregnancy-related deaths with the implementation of the National Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System. **(CDC)**
- Established the *Advisory Committee on Women's Health Issues*, which recommended increasing women's participation in biomedical research. **(NIH)**
- Established a policy for the inclusion of women in clinical research following the issuance of the report of the Public Health Task Force on Women's Health in 1985. The policy first appeared in the *NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts* in 1987. **(NIH)**
- Established the *Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program* to promote and improve the health and well-being of women, children, and families by building capacity at state, local, and tribal levels. The program applied sound epidemiologic research and scientific information to maternal and child health programs and policies. **(CDC)**

1987

- Approved the first drug treatment for AIDS. This therapy slowed the progression of HIV infection, and it was particularly effective in preventing the transmission of HIV from infected pregnant women to their fetuses. **(FDA)**
- Reported that women's use of a multivitamin containing folic acid before conception through early pregnancy is associated with a reduced risk for neural tube defects. **(CDC)**
- Established the *Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System* to identify groups of women/mothers and infants at high risk for health problems, monitor changes in their health status, and progress made towards goals in improving health outcomes. **(CDC)**
- Reported that about 7,000 workers die on the job annually; 42 percent of female workers who died on the job were murdered. **(CDC)**
- Began collecting state-specific data on mammogram use and frequency through the *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*. **(CDC)**
- Approved the first of a new class of drugs, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) for treatment of Major Depressive Disorder. **(FDA)**

1988

- Approved the *Dual-Energy X-ray Absorptiometry* (DEXA) for clinical use in the measurement of bone mass to inform osteoporosis treatment decisions. **(FDA)**
- Required manufacturers of breast implants to submit safety and effectiveness data or have their product removed from the market. **(FDA)**

- Launched the *National Maternal Infant Study Health Survey* to study factors related to poor pregnancy outcomes, including low birthweight, stillbirth, infant illness, and infant death. The survey expanded on information available for birth, fetal death, and infant death vital records and was the first national survey that included data on the three pregnancy outcomes simultaneously. **(CDC)**

1989

- Designated October as *National Domestic Violence Awareness Month*, as required in Public Law 101-112. **(ACF)**
- Published a report that identified birth defects as a leading cause of infant mortality. **(CDC)**

1990

- Established the *Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH)*, which was reaffirmed by statute in the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993. ORWH works in partnership with the NIH's Institutes and Centers to (1) stimulate research, (2) monitor the inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research, and (3) foster the development of biomedical career opportunities for early-stage scientists who are focused on women's health research. **(NIH)**
- Provided outpatient or ambulatory family-centered primary medical care for women, infants, children, and youth with HIV/AIDS through the *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, Title IV*. The program authorized demonstration grants to conduct clinical research on therapies for children and pregnant women with HIV and provide health care, case management, and support services for these patients and their families. The programs played a leading role in reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV. As many as 2,000 babies were born HIV-positive in 1990, as compared to 200 HIV-positive babies in 2005. **(HRSA)**

1991

- Established the *National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program* to provide free or low-cost mammograms, Pap tests, and follow-up services to low-income women for the early detection and control of breast and cervical cancers. **(CDC)**
- Established the *Office on Women's Health (OWH)* within HHS to improve the health of American women. OWH serves as the focal point for women's health activities across HHS offices and agencies. It leads HHS efforts to ensure that all women and girls achieve the best possible health. **(OWH)**
- Dr. Bernadine Healy appointed the first woman NIH Director **(NIH)**

- Launched the *Women's Health Initiative*, which was proposed by Dr. Bernadine Healy. A set of clinical trials and an observational study was conducted on the effects of postmenopausal hormone therapy, diet modification, and calcium and vitamin D supplements on heart disease, fractures, and breast and colorectal cancer. More than 160,000 postmenopausal women participated in this landmark study. A May 2014 report entitled *Economic Return From the Women's Health Initiative Estrogen Plus Progestin Clinical Trial: A Modeling Study* supports a substantial return on investment of public funds for this large study. **(NIH)**
- Published the *Action Plan for Women's Health*, which identified widely disparate health needs of women that required more attention and scrutiny. The plan called for interventions in research, prevention, access to health care, education and prevention, training and policy. The plan was delivered to the U.S. Congress and member nations of the World Health Organization. **(OWH)**
- Launched the *Healthy Start* program to reduce the rate of infant mortality and improve perinatal outcomes. Grants were given to organizations in areas that had high annual rates of infant mortality. Healthy Start projects address the significant disparities in the health of mothers and babies experienced by racial and ethnic minority populations. **(HRSA)**
- Convened the Hunt Valley Conference, *Opportunities for Research on Women's Health*. **(NIH)**
- Began collecting state-specific data on Pap test use and frequency through the *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*. **(CDC)**
- Published the *Report of the National Institutes of Health: Opportunities for Research on Women's Health*. Experts proposed directions for an NIH research agenda that would address gaps in scientific knowledge about women's health across the lifespan. It also focused on increasing the number of scientists pursuing investigations that would reveal sex differences in outcomes. **(NIH)**
- Approved the first diagnostic test for the detection of high-risk Human Papilloma Virus types. **(FDA)**

1992

- Established long-term, residential, comprehensive substance abuse treatment programs for women and their infants after the U.S. Congress authorizes the *Residential Treatment Programs for Pregnant and Postpartum Women*. These programs evolved into family-focused residential treatment programs. They served as a national model for the substance abuse treatment field. **(SAMHSA)**
- Created the first *National Diethylstilbestrol (DES) Education Campaign for Consumers* because of the lack of awareness of risks for DES-exposed mothers, daughters, and sons. **(NIH)**
- Issued a recommendation that women who have had a pregnancy affected by a neural tube defect (NTD) consume 4 milligrams of the B-vitamin folic acid daily, prior to pregnancy, for preventing the recurrence of NTDs. **(CDC)**

- Collaborated with several international organizations to develop *The Victoria Declaration on Heart Health*. The Advisory Board of the International Heart Health Conference in Victoria, Canada, issued the first declaration in 1992 to give a sense of urgency to preventing and controlling cardiovascular disease worldwide. Subsequent Heart Health Declarations were developed in 1995, 1998, 2001, and 2004. **(CDC)**

1993

- Revoked the 1977 regulatory restrictions against the participation of women in clinical trials by issuing the *Guideline for the Study and Evaluation of Gender Differences in the Clinical Evaluation of Drugs*. This change reflected the general consensus that women should be allowed to participate in clinical investigations of drugs and analysis for sex-specific differences. **(FDA)**
- Required, for the first time, food manufacturers to provide an easy-to-understand food label, listing per-serving information on calories, fat, protein, sodium, cholesterol, dietary fiber, and vitamins. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first female condom, a barrier contraceptive for women that also offered limited protection against sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). **(FDA)**
- Established the *WISEWOMAN* (Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women) program to provide screening for heart disease factors, dietary and physical activity interventions for women with abnormal screening results, and referral and follow-up, as appropriate, for participants in the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection program. **(CDC)**
- Created the *Domestic Violence Resource Network*, funded through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. The Network included the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, the Battered Women's Justice Project, the Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody, and the Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence. **(ACF)**
- Started chlamydia testing and HIV testing and counseling in Title X family planning programs. **(OPA)**
- Released *The Picture of Health: How to Increase Breast Cancer Screening in Your Community*, evidence-based results and practices from the NCI (National Cancer Institute) Mammography Consortium that served as a guide for the nation. **(NIH)**
- Sponsored a public hearing on recruitment and retention of women in clinical studies. A task force on recruitment and retention of women in clinical studies worked throughout the year to develop recommendations for NIH. **(NIH)**
- Issued a program announcement in the *NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts* announcing the availability of research supplements (to current NIH awarded grants) to promote re-entry of women into biomedical and behavioral research careers. **(NIH)**

- Established the *National Action Plan on Breast Cancer*, a public-private partnership to establish a comprehensive national plan to address breast cancer. **(OWH)**
- Expanded the case definition of AIDS to include all HIV-infected persons with certain CD4+ T-lymphocyte test results and added three categories for associated clinical conditions, including invasive cervical cancer. **(CDC)**

1994

- Revised the *Guidelines on the Inclusion of Women and Minorities As Subjects in Clinical Research*. All research applications and proposals for NIH funding had to comply with this statute and the guidelines that implement it. The guidelines were updated in October 2001. **(NIH)**
- Established the *CDC Office of Women's Health* to provide agency leadership to promote and improve the health of women, with a focus on prevention. **(CDC)**
- Published the first recommendations for the prevention of perinatal transmission of HIV. **(CDC)**
- Funded coordinated community responses to the prevention of intimate partner violence and state grants for rape prevention and education, and authorizes the *National Domestic Violence Hotline*. **(ACF)**
- Discovered the *BRCA1* gene, the first breast cancer gene, through the efforts of NIH researchers. Diagnostic tests can now identify women who have inherited defective copies of the gene and are more likely to develop breast cancer. **(NIH)**
- Conducted the *Study of Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN)*. It was the first major longitudinal study of the biological, behavioral, and psychosocial changes that occur in women as they transition from pre- to post-menopause. More than 200 scientific papers have been published. **(NIH)**
- Established the *National Women's Resource Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Abuse and Mental Illness* to gather, synthesize, and disseminate innovative and promising research and demonstration findings with critical implications for women. **(SAMHSA)**
- Launched an initiative to create partnerships that addressed the needs of older women and their capacity to make significant contributions to society throughout their lives. An *Older Women's Policy and Resource Center* was established to educate women at the grassroots level. Topics included income security, health, housing, domestic violence, and caregiving. **(ACL)**
- Implemented the *Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA)* program to ensure that U.S. mammography facilities met quality standards for equipment, personnel, and quality control and that they underwent annual inspections. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first diagnostic test to detect *HER2/Neu* gene in breast cancer tissue as a prognostic indicator for the recurrence of breast cancer. **(FDA)**

- Approved the first drug treatment for the prevention of transmission of HIV from infected pregnant women to their fetuses. **(FDA)**
- Published the first report concluding that zidovudine monotherapy could prevent maternal-to-infant transmission of HIV-1. **(NIH)**
- Established the *FDA Office of Women's Health* to protect and advance the health of women through policy, science, and outreach; to advocate for the participation of women in clinical trials; and to promote sex, gender, and subpopulation analyses. **(FDA)**

1995

- Collaborated with the National Institute of Justice on the *National Violence Against Women Survey* conducted in 1995–1996. The survey provided the first national data on the incidence and prevalence of violence against U.S. women. **(CDC)**
- Created the *Advisory Council on Violence Against Women*, which is co-chaired by the Attorney General and the HHS Secretary. Members of the council developed and distributed a *Community Guide* to help communities address domestic violence. **(OWH)**
- Recommended all pregnant women be tested for HIV and, if found to be infected, offered treatment to improve their health and prevent passing the virus to their infant. **(CDC)**
- Conducted the first U.S. reproductive health survey of immigrant populations. **(CDC)**
- Approved the first of a new class of drugs — bisphosphonates — for treating postmenopausal osteoporosis. **(FDA)**
- Seized *Rio* “natural” hair treatment products following reports of injuries. **(FDA)**

1996

- Conducted the *Women's Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation (WISE)*, a multicenter study. It has greatly increased understanding about coronary heart disease (CHD) in women and about gender-specific symptoms, risk factors, and pathology. **(NIH)**
- Established the *Rape Prevention and Education Grant Program* to award grants to states and territories for rape prevention and education programs. **(CDC)**
- Organized the first *Canada-USA Women's Health Forum* for top executives of health agencies in each country. The forum led to several international collaborations. **(OWH)**
- Led a consortium of representatives from the Departments of Defense, Commerce, and Energy; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to develop collaborations to improve imaging technologies for the early detection of diseases in women. **(OWH)**

- Established the first six *National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health* at academic medical centers around the country. **(OWH)**
- Established the *National Domestic Violence Hotline* to provide crisis intervention, information and referral to victims of domestic violence, perpetrators, friends, and families. **(ACF)**
- Launched the *Girl Power!* campaign to help delay and reduce the use of drugs among girls ages 9–14. The initiative addressed the health and social issues girls faced, including poverty; dropping out of school; violence; mental health problems; unprotected sex resulting in pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; and alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use. **(SAMHSA)**
- Approved a liquid-based cytology preparation instrument for use in Pap smears. It improved specimen adequacy and disease detection. **(FDA)**
- Published *Women's Health in the Medical School Curriculum*. It evaluated women's health curricula in U.S. and Canadian medical schools. **(NIH, HRSA, OWH)**

1997

- Issued withdrawal of “fen-fen” — fenfluramine (Pondimin) and dexfenfluramine (Redux) — appetite suppressants used disproportionately by women for the short-term management of obesity. fen-fen was associated with the development of heart valve disease. **(FDA)**
- Released the first annual report of pregnancy success rates for U.S. fertility clinics. **(CDC)**
- Published *Women: Work and Health*, the first comprehensive report on the health and well-being of America's working women. **(CDC)**
- Launched *Best Bones Forever!* a national education campaign on osteoporosis that targeted girls ages 9–14. It encouraged healthy behaviors such as exercise and adequate calcium intake to improve bone strength. The benefits of making these changes at an early age would last a lifetime. **(OWH)**
- Established the *Senior Advisor for Women's Health* position at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) within the Office of the Administrator to provide guidance and recommendations on timely women's health matters and sex/gender issues. **(HRSA)**
- Partnered with three universities to develop and test *Project CHOICES* (Changing High-Risk Alcohol Use and Increasing Contraception Effectiveness Study), a motivational intervention aimed at preventing alcohol-exposed pregnancies. Study results showed that a brief motivational intervention can reduce the risk of an alcohol-exposed pregnancy. **(CDC)**
- Began the first of five reports that addressed the integration of women's health issues into curricula across several health professions. These reports were written between 1997 and 2005 and focused on the following health professions: medicine, baccalaureate nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, and public health. **(HRSA, NIH, OWH, AHRQ, FDA, CDC)**

- Convened the Minority Women's Health Conference that established the *Minority Women's Health Panel of Experts* (MWHPE). MWHPE members provided guidance for over 15 years on issues of cultural competency and diversity among minority and underserved women. **(HHS/OWH)**
- Published *Women of Color Health Data Book*, a comprehensive report on the health issues of minority women. **(NIH)**.

1998

- Issued withdrawal of terfenadine (*Seldane*), a popular antihistamine whose interaction with certain other drugs could result in life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias (*torsades de pointes*) to which women are especially prone. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first product for chemoprevention of breast cancer in premenopausal and postmenopausal women who are breast cancer-free but at high risk for developing the disease. **(FDA)**
- Conducted the *Breast Cancer Prevention Trial (BCPT)* and the *Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene (STAR)*. They demonstrated that half of breast cancers can be prevented with a medical intervention and provided a beginning from which a new paradigm for breast cancer prevention is evolving. Women at increased risk of this common disease now have preventive options where none had existed. **(NIH)**
- Approved the first genetically engineered cancer drug for treating *HER2*-positive metastatic breast cancer in women. **(FDA)**
- Approved an *in vitro* diagnostic and drug combination for identifying and targeting the *HER2* gene, which is expressed by about 25 percent of all breast cancer patients. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first computer software that assists radiologists in detecting mammogram abnormalities. **(FDA)**
- Required the addition of folic acid to grain products as an essential nutrient to help prevent birth defects of the brain and spine (*spina bifida*) in the developing fetus. **(FDA)**
- Launched *Take Time to Care*, a multifaceted outreach program focused on the dissemination of health education materials to women and their families through collaborative partnerships. **(FDA)**
- Established the *National Education and Resource Center on Women and Retirement Planning*, which provided basic information on financial and retirement planning to women with low incomes, women of color, and women with limited English-Speaking Proficiency. This unique Center helped women plan for secure, healthy lives as they aged. **(ACL)**
- Demonstrated effectiveness of short-course zidovudine to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission. **(CDC)**

- Launched the *National Women's Health Information Center*, the first combined website and toll-free phone number to provide reliable, accurate, commercial-free information on the health of women. **(OWH)**
- Supported a five-year study on *Women, Co-occurring Disorders and Violence* in order to develop and evaluate new trauma services paradigms. It was the first large-scale federal research project to involve trauma survivors as partners in research design, implementation, and analysis. The study demonstrated that trauma requires a central focus in treatment and that it needs to be integrated into the provision of related public health and social services. **(SAMHSA)**
- Started the *Reproductive Health for Refugees* initiative. **(CDC)**
- Published the *Women of Color Health Data Book* in Spanish. It was a comprehensive report on the health issues of minority women. **(NIH)**

1999

- Launched the *Use Medicines Wisely* outreach campaign with the support of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores. The campaign reached millions of women with information on safe medication use. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first molecular assay based on DNA amplification for detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoea*. **(FDA)**
- Sponsored *The Changing Face of Women's Health* exhibit, the first national exhibit dedicated to women's health. **(CDC, NIH, OWH)**
- Organized the *National Folic Acid Campaign*, along with the March of Dimes and the National Council on Folic Acid. It promoted the use of folic acid to prevent two serious birth defects, spina bifida and anencephaly. **(CDC)**
- Released the revised and updated report, *Agenda for Research on Women's Health for the 21st Century*. **(NIH)**
- Demonstrated the effectiveness of short-course *zidovudine* in preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission and the effectiveness of antibiotic prophylaxis in preventing deaths and hospitalizations in HIV-infected TB patients. **(CDC)**
- Developed *Women and Heart Disease: An Atlas of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mortality*, the first county-level atlas and interactive website that highlighted geographic variations in heart disease among women. **(CDC)**

2000

- Approved the first non-surgical drug product to end a pregnancy up to 49 days after the last menstrual period. **(FDA)**

- Approved digital mammography systems to detect subtle differences in breast tissue for the screening and diagnosis of breast cancer. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first device for treating female sexual dysfunction. **(FDA)**
- Reported data in the *National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Annual Report 1999–2000*. It announced record low declines in teen pregnancy and birth rates in the United States for all 50 states, all adolescent age groups, all racial and ethnic groups, and both first and second births to teens. **(ASPE)**
- Established the *Safe Motherhood* initiative to better understand the burden of maternal complications and mortality. **(CDC)**
- Published *HHS Blueprint for Action on Breastfeeding*, the first comprehensive policy by the federal government on breastfeeding. The report covered guidelines and called for widespread changes in the health care system, in workplaces, and in the community. **(OWH)**
- Launched *National Women’s Health Week* to encourage women to make their health a priority. **(OWH)**
- Created the *National Family Caregiver Support Program* to provide essential services and support to family caregivers — with more than 60 percent of those receiving services being the wives or daughters of those provided care — and to more than 40,000 grandparents, most of whom were grandmothers (2010 data). **(ACL)**
- Held the *First International Conference on Women, Heart Disease and Stroke* in Victoria Canada. It was co-sponsored by Health Canada, CDC, the American Heart Association, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, and the Canadian Cardiovascular Society. **(CDC)**
- Convened the *1st National Young Women’s Health Summit* in Washington, DC. Adolescent and teenage girls from around the country gathered to discuss various girls’ health topics and develop girls’ health projects to implement in their schools and communities where they lived. **(OWH)**

2001

- Advised women who were considering pregnancy or who were pregnant or nursing, as well as young children, to limit their intake of certain fish and shellfish in order to reduce their exposure to mercury. Mercury may harm the fetus or a young child’s developing nervous system. **(FDA)**
- Launched *A National Agenda for Action: The National Public Health Initiative on Diabetes and Women’s Health*, an action plan on diabetes and women’s health. **(CDC)**
- Sponsored the National Bone Health campaign, *Powerful Bones, Powerful Girls*, to promote bone health in girls aged 9–12 and to reduce their risk of osteoporosis. **(OWH, CDC)**
- Funded *Title X family planning centers* to provide additional HIV testing, prevention, counseling, and linkages to care in high-need areas. **(OPA)**

- Launched the *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Center For Excellence* to (1) reduce the number of infants born prenatally exposed to alcohol, (2) increase the functioning of persons who have an FASD, and (3) improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by FASD. **(SAMHSA)**
- Launched *Bright Futures for Women's Health and Wellness* to support increased delivery of preventive health care to women by engaging providers and community partners. **(HRSA)**
- Released *Women and Smoking: A Report of the Surgeon General*. It summarized what was known about smoking among women, including patterns and trends in smoking prevalence; factors associated with smoking initiation and maintenance; the consequences of smoking for women's health; and interventions for smoking cessation and prevention. **(OSG)**
- Initiated the *Interdisciplinary Career Development Program: Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health*. **(NIH)**
- Launched international programs on prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission. **(CDC)**
- Published *Exploring the Biological Contributions to Human Health: Does Sex Matter?* The report was based on an Institute of Medicine workshop on the influence of sex in biological research. **(NIH)**
- Produced *Women Living Long, Living Well (WLLLW)*, a framework for developing and implementing women's health research, services, and education within HHS. It was undertaken at the request of the HHS Secretary. WLLLW promoted an expanded understanding of women's health throughout their lifespan. **(HHS)**

2002

- Halted the estrogen-plus-progestin element of the *Women's Health Initiative (WHI)* trial because researchers found the risks of long-term estrogen-plus-progestin therapy outweighed its protective benefits. Study participants taking estrogen plus progestin were at increased risk of heart attacks, stroke, invasive breast cancer, and blood clots as compared to women taking placebo pills. **(NIH)**
- Launched *girlshealth.gov*, a website committed to empowering girls to create strong, positive relationships and happy, healthy futures. *Girlshealth.gov* offers girls ages 10 to 16 reliable, useful, and science-based information on health and well-being. **(OWH)**
- Restricted the marketing of *Lotronex* (alosetron hydrochloride) for treating only women with severe diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome. **(FDA)**

- Published the randomized clinical trial *Prevention or Delay of Type 2 Diabetes — The Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)*. It demonstrated for the first time that type II diabetes can be prevented or delayed in women and men through intensive lifestyle intervention to induce modest weight loss. Treatment with an oral diabetes medication (metformin) was also effective. Both strategies are effective in women with a history of gestational diabetes, who are at greatly increased risk of developing diabetes after pregnancy. A ten-year follow-up study demonstrated sustained benefits of the DPP. **(NIH)**
- Approved the first drug for the treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis that works by stimulating bone formation. **(FDA)**
- Expanded the *Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission* program in South Africa from a pilot program to a national program. **(CDC)**
- Published *Trends in Deaths from Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) — United States, 1979–1998*, which reported marked age-, sex-, and race-specific disparities in SLE death rates. During the study period, mortality rates among African American women aged 45–64 years increased by approximately 70 percent. **(CDC)**
- Launched *Quick Health Data Online* to provide a quick and easy-to-use comprehensive interactive data source for hundreds of women’s health indicators by race. It remains uncommon to find this depth of information on women in national statistical databases. **(OWH)**
- Initiated the *Specialized Centers of Research (SCOR) on Sex and Gender Factors Affecting Women’s Health* program. **(NIH)**
- Supported *Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Trial in Costa Rica*, which were clinical trials to test the efficacy of a vaccine to prevent cervical cancer. These trials led to FDA’s approval of the vaccine *Gardasil®* in 2008 and *Cervarix®* in 2009 for preventing cervical cancer. **(NIH)**
- Developed the annual *Women’s Health USA* data book series, an easy-to-use collection of current and historical data on some of the most pressing health challenges facing women, their families, and their communities. **(HRSA)**
- Convened the 2nd *National Young Women’s Health Summit* in Washington, DC. Adolescent and teenage girls from around the country gathered to discuss various girls’ health topics and develop girls’ health projects to implement in their schools and communities where they lived. Regional Women’s Health Summits for girls were convened within the 10 HHS Public Health Service regions of the country, so the health concerns of girls could be addressed closer to home. **(OWH)**
- Initiated a study of 5,000 individuals, 58 percent of whom were female, with either early knee osteoarthritis or risk factors for the disease. More women are afflicted with osteoarthritis more severely than are men. *The Osteoarthritis Initiative* — a public-private partnership between the National Institutes of Health and the pharmaceutical industry — increased scientific understanding of how modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors are linked to the development and worsening of knee osteoarthritis. **(NIH)**

2003

- Added a box warning to estrogen products and estrogen-plus-progestin products used to treat menopausal symptoms. It warned women of increased risk for heart attack, stroke, invasive breast cancer, and blood clots. FDA advised that these products be used at the “lowest effective dose for the shortest duration to reach treatment goals.” (FDA)
- Awarded funds to state domestic violence coalitions to help develop and coordinate activities to prevent domestic violence in communities across the country. (CDC)
- Launched the *Diethylstilbestrol (DES) Campaign* to raise awareness of possible health problems associated with DES exposure in women who were prescribed DES between 1938 and 1971 while they were pregnant. The campaign also focused on the women’s daughters and sons. (CDC)
- Started work in Afghanistan to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality. (CDC)
- Updated the fit of respirators using newly designed head-forms based on anthropometric data from 3,997 civilian workers: men and women between the ages of 18 and 65 and from different racial backgrounds. These new forms better reflect the diversity in face size and shape in today’s workers. Manufacturers of all types of safety equipment are using the data to improve the products they make, including better fit for women. (CDC)
- Published results of *Women’s Contraceptive and Reproductive Experiences (CARE)* study that found no increased risks of invasive breast cancer among women who used oral contraceptives and hormone replacement therapy (HRT). (CDC)

2004

- Launched the first Ad Council *National Breastfeeding Awareness Campaign* to increase the rates of breastfeeding by all women, particularly first-time mothers, during the first 6 months of their babies’ lives. One component of the campaign was targeted to African American mothers. The campaign used television, radio, billboards, newspapers, and magazines. (OWH)
- Concluded that breastfeeding can reduce the risk of death for infants in their first year of life. Researchers concluded that promoting breastfeeding can potentially prevent nearly 1,000 post-neonatal deaths in the United States each year. Children who were breastfed had 20 percent lower risk of dying than children who were not breastfed. Longer breastfeeding was associated with lower risk, and the effect was the same in both black and white children. (NIH)
- Launched the expansion of the *Heart Truth Campaign* to educate health care providers about preventing heart disease in women. Education and knowledge about the topic was lacking in medical and nursing schools. (NIH)
- Published *Women’s Health and Mortality Chartbook* with state data and rankings for more than 25 leading health indicators. (OWH, CDC)
- Launched international *Early Infant HIV Diagnosis* program using inexpensive dried blood spot tests that are stable in harsh conditions. (CDC)

- Held the first *International Conference on Women and Infectious Disease*, Atlanta, GA. It addressed a wide range of infectious diseases affecting women, including neglected tropical diseases, HIV, malaria, infections affecting pregnancy and birth, and women's role in preventing infectious diseases. **(CDC)**
- Convened the *2nd Minority Women's Health Summit* in Washington, DC, to address health disparities across diverse populations of women of color. **(OWH)**
- Released ten-year results from the LUMINA study, *Lupus in Minorities: Nature versus nurture*, a multiethnic cohort study of the clinical course of systemic lupus erythematosus. **(NIH)**

2005

- Launched the educational program *Preventing Listeriosis — In Pregnant Hispanic Women in the U.S.*, which spread the message that pregnant women should never eat dairy products made with raw unpasteurized milk. Consumption of these foods may lead to *listeriosis*, causing health issues for the fetus or newborn. **(FDA)**
- Launched the *Food Safety Moms-To-Be* outreach initiative to both educate pregnant women on food safety messages and provide information to health educators on advisories related to methyl mercury in fish/shellfish. **(FDA)**
- Issued the *Guidance for Industry: Labeling for Cosmetics Containing Alpha Hydroxy Acids (AHA)*, which recommended that the label of topically applied cosmetic products containing AHA include a statement that their use may increase the possibility of sunburn. **(FDA)**
- Published *A Guide to the Clinical Care of Women with HIV/AIDS* to address the health care needs unique to women with HIV. Its target audiences are clinicians who provide primary care to women and those seeking a more in-depth understanding of how to care for women with HIV/AIDS. This edition updates data from the 2005 guide. **(HRSA)**

2006

- Approved the first vaccine for preventing cervical, vulvar, and vaginal cancers and genital warts caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV) for females ages 9–26. **(FDA)**
- Approved a previously prescription-only emergency contraceptive drug for over-the-counter use for women aged 18 years and older, thereby broadening the drug's availability. **(FDA)**
- Reapproved silicone breast implants for use in breast reconstruction and cosmetic augmentation. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first gene expression diagnostic test to assess risk of breast cancer recurrence. **(FDA)**
- Published *Recommendations to Improve Preconception Health and Health Care — United States: A Report of the CDC/ATSDR Preconception Care Work Group and the Select Panel on*

Preconception Care to improve the health of women and couples, before conception of a first or subsequent pregnancy. (CDC)

- Launched *National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day* to raise awareness of the increasing impact of HIV/AIDS on this population. This observance was designed to offer support to women and girls, reduce stigma, and prevent new infections as well as empower women to get tested, educate their peers, and seek care if they are HIV-positive. (OWH)
- Designated the first full week in February as *National Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Week* to call for an end to dating abuse. (ACF)
- Launched the *Choose Respect, Dating Matters*TM initiative to help adolescents form healthy relationships and prevent dating abuse. It was a comprehensive, evidence-based violence prevention initiative for teens. (CDC)

2007

- Launched the *Inside Knowledge* campaign to raise awareness about five main types of gynecologic cancer: cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal, and vulvar. (CDC)
- Launched the *One Test. Two Lives.* campaign to promote the message that all women should be tested for HIV early in their pregnancy. The campaign provided quick access to resources for providers and patients to help encourage universal voluntary prenatal testing for HIV. (CDC)
- Launched the *Vulvodynia Education Campaign* to raise awareness about vulvodynia, a chronic unexplained pain or discomfort of the vulva. (NIH)
- Completed a national tour of *The Changing Face of Women's Health* exhibit. It explored menopause, society and body image, puberty, osteoporosis, breast health, heart disease, sexually transmitted diseases, smoking, research and gender issues, real women's stories, and women's health history. This first national exhibit dedicated to women's health began its tour to different cities around the United States in 1999. (CDC)
- Published the first *Evidence Report on Breastfeeding and Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes in Developed Countries*. It made a strong case for the many beneficial health outcomes of breastfeeding for full-term infants, preterm infants, and mothers. (OWH, AHRQ)
- Published a special issue of *Women and Health*, titled "Black Women and HIV/AIDS: Epidemiology, Risk Behaviors and Prevention." (CDC)
- Convened the 3rd *Minority Women's Health Summit* in Washington, DC, to establish partnerships between minority organizations and federal agencies that focus on minority women's health. (OWH)
- Established the *NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers*, a trans-NIH effort to consider barriers for women in science and to develop innovative strategies to promote entry, recruitment, retention, and sustained advancement of women in biomedical and research careers. (NIH)

- Launched the *Special Projects of National Significance Enhancing Access to and Retention in Quality HIV/AIDS Care for Women of Color*. The initiative focused on improving HIV care for women of color. Nine demonstration sites and one evaluation/technical assistance center were funded. **(HRSA)**

2008

- Served more than five million clients annually through the Title X family planning program. It was the first time the program had reached that many clients. **(OPA)**
- Launched the *First Time Motherhood/New Parents Initiative*, which used innovative social media techniques to reach women, girls, and their families before and between pregnancies. **(HRSA)**
- Published *Identification of Severe Maternal Morbidity during Delivery Hospitalizations, United States, 1991–2003*. It indicated that severe maternal morbidity was 50 times more common than maternal deaths. Reducing the risks for these life-threatening complications could help reduce maternal mortality. **(CDC)**
- Examined gender differences in a wide variety of health-related areas through data from the *National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health* (also known as *Add Health*). Compared with males, female adolescents were more likely to overestimate their weight and were more likely to diet. Overweight and obese females were less likely to complete high school and as young adults have lower social status and more depressive symptoms. Obesity was unrelated to psychosocial outcomes such as mental health and social status among males. **(NIH)**

2009

- Approved the first blood test for ovarian cancer that allowed a gynecologist to assess whether a woman's ovarian mass is likely malignant and should be referred to a gynecologist specializing in reproductive system cancers. **(FDA)**
- Approved a genotype assay to identify high-risk Human Papillomavirus types (Type 16 and Type 18) that are responsible for the majority of HPV-caused cancers. **(FDA)**
- Approved a second-generation female condom for preventing pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted infections. **(FDA)**
- Developed a method to analyze lipstick for traces of lead. **(FDA)**
- Launched *The Right to Know* campaign to increase awareness of breast cancer among women with physical disabilities and to encourage these women to get screened. **(CDC)**
- Launched *Could I Have Lupus?* campaign. It was the first national public service campaign to raise awareness of lupus in women of color. Partners included the Ad Council, the Surgeon General's office, Oprah.com, and over 40 non-profit organizations. **(OWH)**

- Published interim H1N1 flu guidance for clinicians and pregnant or breastfeeding women. **(CDC)**
- “Demonstrated its value,” wrote the Institute of Medicine (IOM) after its review of the *HHS Title X* family planning program. “The Title X program has demonstrated its value over time and its success in providing critical services to those who have the most difficulty obtaining them.” **(OPA)**
- Published the first *Breastfeeding Report Card*, which included state-by-state information to disseminate information about breastfeeding practices. **(CDC)**
- Published an epidemiologic review of occupational hazards experienced by cleaning workers and janitors, many of whom are women. It found significant risks for respiratory and dermatologic diseases, infections, musculoskeletal discomfort, and psychological distress from exposure to cleaning agents, rubber latex, broken needles and glass; prolonged standing and awkward working postures; and poor pay and promotional opportunities. **(CDC)**
- Published *Action Steps for Improving Women's Mental Health* for health care professionals and *Women's Mental Health: What it means to you*, a companion booklet with resources for consumers. They addressed the burden of mental illness on women and the stigma surrounding mental illness. The publications resulted from the Surgeon General's Women's Mental Health Initiative. **(OWH)**
- Launched *Best Bones Forever!* which continued the work of the National Bone Health Campaign. It encouraged adolescent girls (ages 9–14) to build strong bones by eating plenty of foods with calcium and vitamin D and getting regular physical activity. To make the campaign appealing to girls, themes of friendship and fun were woven throughout campaign messages, materials, and activities. **(OWH)**
- Sponsored the report entitled *Supports for Single Parent Caregivers: Review of Existing Literature*. It was conducted in an effort to determine what programs and supports exist for this population, to identify and assess gaps, and to recommend programs that could address these needs. **(OWH)**

2010

- Added warnings to a class of drugs (bisphosphonates) used to prevent and treat osteoporosis. They disclosed the possible risk of rare but serious adverse events such as femoral fractures in patients who take the drug for long periods of time. **(FDA)**
- Published *Highlights of NIH Women's Health and Sex Differences Research, 1990–2010*, as part of the 20th Anniversary of the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health. **(NIH)**
- Approved a smaller left ventricular assist device for heart failure that would be a more appropriate size for many women. **(FDA)**

- Published the first *United States Guidelines on Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (MEC)*. It provided guidance to health care providers on the safety of various contraceptive methods when used by women with specific characteristics and medical conditions. **(CDC)**
- Implemented *the President's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative* to support both evidence-based programs and innovative approaches to prevent teen pregnancy and STDs, including HIV. **(OAH)**
- Established an independent systematic review of the evidence base on programs to reduce teen pregnancy, STDs, and associated sexual risk behaviors. Findings have been used to identify effective programs to prevent teen pregnancy. **(ASPE, OAH)**
- Established the *Office of Adolescent Health (OAH)* within the Office of the Secretary of HHS. OAH addresses the interrelated health needs of adolescents, including preventing teen pregnancy and supporting pregnant and parenting young families. **(OAH)**
- Launched *Text4baby*, the first mobile information service in the US to provide free text messages to pregnant women and new moms on health topics. It provides them with information on how to care for their health and give their babies the best possible start in life. *Text4baby* is a public-private partnership with the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition and other federal and non-federal partners. **(HHS)**
- Launched *Make the Call. Don't Miss a Beat.* campaign to address the low recognition of the seven symptoms of a heart attack in women and the need to call 9-1-1 first if any of these symptoms appear. The campaign used television, radio, billboards, newspapers, magazines, and social media. **(OWH)**
- Affordable Care Act:
 - Established the *Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer in Young Women*, a federal advisory committee established by the Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young (EARLY) Act. **(CDC)**
 - Mandated the establishment of women's health offices at HHS, CDC, HRSA, AHRQ, and FDA. **(HHS)**
 - Required new non-grandfathered health plans established after March 2010, to cover all U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations with an "A" or "B" rating, including 22 that are specific to women. **(HHS)**
 - Amended Title V of the Social Security Act and authorized the creation of the *Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program*. It encourages collaborations and partnerships at the federal, state, tribal, and community levels to improve health and development outcomes for at-risk children through evidence-based home visiting programs. **(HRSA)**

- Launched a two-year project focused on integrating women’s health into public health education and practice. Five accredited Schools of Public Health were given funding for mentored graduate student-faculty projects focused on maternal and child health. **(HRSA)**
- Developed the *State Women's Health Profiles* to provide insight into how Title V agencies are incorporating and tracking women’s health-related needs, particularly outside of pregnancy. **(HRSA)**
- Established the *Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative* to fund Tribes to develop domestic violence prevention activities. **(IHS)**
- Established the *Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team Initiative* to develop sexual assault forensic examination services in each Indian Health Service (IHS) hospital with an Emergency Department. **(IHS)**
- Published the *NIH Strategic Plan for Women’s Health Research, Moving into the Future with New Dimensions and Strategies: A Vision for 2020 for Women’s Health Research*. **(NIH)**
- Celebrated Title X’s 40th year of delivering high-quality, affordable family planning and reproductive health care to low-income women, men, and adolescents. **(OPA)**
- Reported results of a study that did not support an association between prenatal and infant exposure to vaccines that contained thimerosal with an increased risk for autism spectrum disorder. **(CDC)**
- Published the *2010 STD Treatment Guidelines*, which recommended annual chlamydia screening for sexually active women age 25 or younger. **(CDC)**
- Published *Guidelines for the Identification and Management of Lead Exposure in Pregnant and Lactating Women*. Topics included preventing lead exposure during pregnancy, developing strategies to reduce fetal exposure, and following up infants and children exposed to lead *in utero*. **(CDC)**
- Conducted a comprehensive environmental scan of girl and female adolescent websites, programs, and initiatives as well as a review of the literature. It was made available for use by federal agencies who serve adolescent and teen girls. **(OWH)**
- Launched the *Health and Wellness Initiative for Women Attending Minority Institutions*. This initiative focused on health promotion for women attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. Health issues included HIV/AIDS education, ending violence against women, and overall wellness. **(OWH)**

2011

- Charged IOM with reviewing what preventive services were important to women’s health and well-being, so comprehensive guidelines could be established following the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010. HHS adopted the recommendations contained in IOM’s report entitled *Clinical Preventive Services for Women: Closing the Gap*. **(HHS)**

- Revoked approval of Avastin's (bevacizumab) indication to treat breast cancer after two confirmatory trials submitted to FDA concluded the drug had not been shown to be safe and effective for that use. **(FDA)**
- Released a safety communication to inform health care professionals and patients about complications that can occur when surgical mesh is used to treat pelvic organ prolapse and stress urinary incontinence. **(FDA)**
- Approved a hyperthermia system to treat cervical cancer that delivers localized heat through radio frequency energy. It is approved to be used with radiation therapy for the treatment of cervical cancer in patients who are not eligible for treatment with chemotherapy. **(FDA)**
- Released a safety communication warning against certain uses of the asthma drug terbutaline for preterm labor. These uses could lead to serious maternal health problems. **(FDA)**
- Released a safety communication for women with breast implants describing a small but increased risk of developing anaplastic large cell lymphoma (a cancer) near the implant. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first machine to produce both two- and three-dimensional images to improve visualization of breast tissue for screening and diagnosis of breast cancer. **(FDA)**
- Initiated the first annual HHS-wide event to recognize *Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month*. It highlighted HHS' coordinated program efforts to prevent teen pregnancy. **(OAH)**
- Awarded funds to increase the number of *Baby-Friendly Hospitals*, so mothers and babies are better supported to breastfeed. **(CDC)**
- Published the first report of the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, *Intimate Partner Violence in the United States — 2010*. It provided baseline data to track trends in sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence. More than 1 in 3 women (35.6%) and more than 1 in 4 men (28.5%) in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. **(CDC)**
- Released *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding*, an issue that has been a continuing focus of the Surgeon General's office for more than 25 years. Breastfeeding rates have since increased to their highest levels. **(OWH, OSG)**
- Established the CHOICES Grant Program as a *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Prevention Initiative*. CHOICES is an evidence-based program that addresses alcohol use and abuse in American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls of childbearing age who access clinics for preventive health services. **(IHS)**
- Established a national *Sexual Assault Response Policy* for a uniform standard of care, so sexual assault victims (both adults and adolescents) seeking clinical services at an IHS hospital receive culturally sensitive, patient-centered care; they have their needs addressed; and community response is coordinated. **(IHS)**

- Formalized a partnership with the Department of Justice, Office on Victims of Crime, to address sexual assault in Indian Country by establishing three new *Sexual Assault Programs*. **(IHS)**

2012

- Convened a workshop of NIH-supported grantees performing research on the causal factors and interventions that affect the careers of women in biomedical and behavioral science and engineering. The report, *Causal Factors and Interventions Workshop*, showcased the findings from this research and made recommendations for implementation strategies. **(NIH)**
- Approved the first over-the-counter, home-use, rapid HIV kit to test for most strains of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first automated breast ultrasound device for breast cancer screening in women who have dense breasts, a negative mammogram, and no symptoms. **(FDA)**
- Published *Nurses' Miscarriages Linked to Chemicals at Work*. It reports a greater-than-expected risk of miscarriages among nurses, which is associated with their occupational exposures to hazardous drugs. **(CDC)**
- Launched *Healthy Weight in Lesbian and Bisexual Women: Striving for a Healthy Community*. This model program in five communities assesses strategies for achieving a healthy weight in overweight lesbian and bisexual women. **(OWH)**
- Launched the *Special Projects of National Significance Enhancing Engagement and Retention in Quality HIV Care for Transgender Women of Color*. The initiative supports organizations that design, implement, and evaluate innovative interventions to improve HIV care for transgender women of color living with HIV. **(HRSA)**
- Launched *Take Charge. Take the Test.*TM This social marketing campaign was designed to help African-American women recognize their risk of getting HIV and increase HIV testing among this population. **(CDC)**
- Reported historic declines in U.S. birth rates in 2010 for teens ages 15–19 and for nearly all race and Hispanic origin groups. Since 1991, the birth rate for teens ages 15–17 has fallen 63 percent, and the rate for teens ages 18–19 has fallen 45 percent. **(CDC)**

2013

- Approved a single-dose, over-the-counter emergency contraceptive for women of childbearing age, without age or other restrictions. **(FDA)**
- Required manufacturers of zolpidem (*Ambien*) products used in the treatment of sleep problems to lower the recommended dose for women. Higher drug doses can impair morning activities that demand alertness such as driving. **(FDA)**

- Hosted the *2013 Trans-HHS Intimate Partner Violence Screening and Counseling: Research Symposium*. The HHS Coordinating Committee on Women's Health (CCWH), with leadership from NIH and ACF, convened this meeting of experts to identify gaps in research on screening and counseling for intimate partner violence in primary health settings and to shape priorities for a public health research agenda moving forward. **(OWH, NIH, ACF, HRSA, AHRQ, SAMHSA, OPA, ASPE, IHS, CDC)**.
- Released a safety communication that pregnant women should not take a certain anti-seizure medication and related products to prevent migraine headaches because these drugs can cause decreased IQ scores in their children. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first non-hormonal treatment for moderate-to-severe hot flashes associated with menopause. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first estrogen combination product that does not contain a progestin for uterine protection. This product is approved for moderate-to-severe hot flashes associated with menopause and for preventing postmenopausal osteoporosis. **(FDA)**
- Approved a combination product for nausea and vomiting during pregnancy that has not adequately responded to conservative management. It is the only FDA-approved treatment for this condition. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first over-the-counter treatment for women with overactive bladder. **(FDA)**
- Approved a tablet that has an estrogen-like action and treats women with moderate-to-severe pain during sexual intercourse (dyspareunia) associated with vaginal and vulvar atrophy due to menopause. **(FDA)**
- Approved the first cohesive silicone gel-filled breast implant, providing additional options for breast reconstruction and breast augmentation in women at least 22 years of age. **(FDA)**
- Drafted *Good Manufacturing Practice* guidance for cosmetics manufacturers. **(FDA)**
- Launched the *Teen Pregnancy Prevention Resource Center* to help professionals across the country better serve adolescents. **(OAH)**
- Launched the *Show Your Love* campaign to improve the health of women and babies by promoting preconception health and health care. Its main goal is to increase the number of women who plan their pregnancies and engage in healthy behaviors before becoming pregnant. **(CDC)**
- Published the *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*. The survey is the first of its kind to present comparisons of victimization by sexual orientation for women and men. **(CDC)**

- Reported in *Overdoses of Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers and Other Drugs Among Women — United States, 1999–2010*, that a total of 15,323 deaths among women in 2010 were attributed to drug overdose, a rate of 9.8 per 100,000 population. Between 1999 and 2010, deaths from opioid pain relievers increased fivefold for women. **(CDC)**
- Published the second *Health Disparities & Inequalities Report — United States, 2013*. It highlighted health disparities and inequalities across a wide range of diseases, behavioral risk factors, environmental exposures, and social determinants as well as health-care access by sex, race and ethnicity, income, education, disability status, and other social characteristics. The first report was published in 2011. **(CDC)**
- Launched *It's Only Natural*, the first breastfeeding awareness campaign focused on African American women, whose rates of breastfeeding continue to be substantially lower than that of Caucasian or Hispanic mothers. Radio ads, videos, and print materials are tailored toward this population. **(OWH)**
- Released *A Comprehensive Approach for Community-Based Programs to Address Intimate Partner Violence and Perinatal Depression* toolkit, which highlights innovative state and community-based strategies. It also provided a resource that assists community-based organizations address the intersection of intimate partner violence and perinatal depression. **(HRSA)**
- Published the results of the *Reduction in Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Prevalence among Young Women Following HPV Vaccine Introduction in the United States, National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, 2003–2010*. The prevalence of HPV infections in girls and women before and after the introduction of the HPV vaccine shows a significant reduction in vaccine-type HPV in U.S. teens. Since the vaccine was introduced in 2006, vaccine-type HPV prevalence decreased 56 percent among females ages 14–19 years. **(CDC)**
- Published *Clinical Guidelines for Occupational Lifting in Pregnancy – Evidence Summary and Provisional Recommendations*. It guides decisions by medical providers about permissible weights for lifting tasks that are performed by pregnant women at work over the course of an uncomplicated pregnancy. **(CDC)**
- Published research results showing that female workers employed in alternative shifts are more likely not to adhere to screening recommendations for breast and colorectal cancers as compared to workers on daytime shifts. **(CDC)**
- Released an online training course entitled *Workplace Violence Prevention for Nurses*. It gives healthcare workers an opportunity to acquire free training in workplace violence prevention while earning continuing education units. **(CDC)**
- Published the *U.S. Selected Practice Recommendations for Contraceptive Use, 2013*. It provided recommendations for health care providers and addresses a select group of common, yet sometimes complex, management issues around the initiation and use of specific contraceptive methods. **(CDC)**

- Launched the *Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative*, a \$100-million grand challenge by President Obama. It is designed to revolutionize current understanding of the human brain. Tools will be developed and applied to map the circuits of the brain, measure the dynamic patterns of activity within those circuits, and understand how they create unique cognitive and behavioral capabilities. **(NIH)**
- Provided \$31 million in funding to conduct research on multiple factors related to violence against women. **(NIH)**
- Awarded 20 NIH-funded new investigators the *Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)*. It is the highest honor the U.S. government bestows on outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their independent research careers. Sixty percent of the award winners were women, and several of the funded projects addressed women's health topics. **(NIH)**
- Developed the *Reducing Cancer Among Women of Color Challenge*, an app challenge to create a tool for mobile devices that would provide women with high-quality health information about prevention, screening, and treatment of breast and gynecologic cancers. The challenge was a first-of-its-kind effort to address health disparities among minorities. In May 2013, \$100,000 in prizes was awarded to the top four winners. **(OMH, NCHIT)**
- Included questions on sexual orientation and gender identity for the first time in the *National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)*. Through personal household interviews, answers to these questions will yield important health data on a nationally representative sample of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender adults. **(CDC)**

2014

- Launched the *Accelerating Medicine Partnership (AMP)*, a public-private partnership between NIH and 10 drug companies. It was formed to accelerate the development of cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's, rheumatoid arthritis, and lupus, which affect more women than men. **(NIH)**
- Published guidelines on the *Special Considerations for Prophylaxis for and Treatment of Anthrax in Pregnant and Postpartum Women*. **(CDC)**
- Reinforced NIH's decision to fund the *Women's Health Initiative*. An in-depth health and financial analysis of final data from one of the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) Postmenopausal Hormone Therapy Trials was published. The analysis found that the investment in the WHI resulted in a return of \$140 in net economic value for each dollar invested in the trial. **(NIH)**

Acronyms of HHS Agency, Administration, and Institute Names

ACF	Administration for Children and Families
ACL	Administration for Community Living
AHRQ	Administration for Healthcare Research and Quality
ASPE	Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DOJ/OVAW	U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
HHS/CCWH	HHS Coordinating Committee on Women's Health
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration
IHS	Indian Health Service
NCHIT	National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
NCI	National Cancer Institute (part of NIH)
NIH	National Institutes of Health
OAH	Office of Adolescent Health
ONC	Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
OPA	Office of Population Affairs
ORWH	Office of Research on Women's Health (part of NIH)
OSG	Office of the Surgeon General
OWH	Office on Women's Health
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Acronym Glossary

Add Health	National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health
AHA	Alpha Hydroxy Acids
AI/AN	American Indian/Alaska Native
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AMP	Accelerating Medicine Partnership
BCPT	Breast Cancer Prevention Trial
BRAIN Initiative	Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies
CARE study	(Women's) Contraceptive and Reproductive Experiences
CCWH	Coordinating Committee on Women's Health
CHD	Coronary Heart Disease
CHOICES	Changing High-Risk Alcohol Use and Increasing Contraception Effectiveness
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
DES	<u>Diethylstilbestrol</u>
DEXA	Dual-Energy X-ray Absorptiometry
DPP	Diabetes Prevention Program
EARLY Act	Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young
FASD	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
HRT	Hormone Replacement Therapy
ICWID	International Conference on Women and Infectious Disease
IMS	Inclusion Management System
IOM	Institute of Medicine
LUMINA	L Upus in M inorities: N ature versus N urture
MEC	Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use
MQSA	Mammography Quality Standards Act
MWHPE	Minority Women's Health Panel of Experts
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NHIS	National Health Interview Survey
NTD	Neural Tube Defect
PECASE	Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers
PHS	Public Health Service
SCOR	Specialized Centers of Research
SLE	Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
SSRIs	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors
STAR	Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
SWAN	Study of Women's Health Across the Nation
TB	Tuberculosis
USPSTF	U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
WHI	Women's Health Initiative
WISE	Women's Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation
WISEWOMAN	Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women
WLLLW	Women Living Long, Living Well