



**AMCHP/SAHCN Partnership  
Policy Agenda for Adolescent Health  
June 2003**

## **Introduction**

The Policy Agenda for Adolescent Health is a product of a Partnership between the Association of Maternal and Child Health (AMCHP) and the State Adolescent Health Coordinators Network (SAHCN), established with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation in 2001 to collaboratively strengthen the capacity of U.S. states and territories to address adolescent health through effective adolescent health programs. Through this Partnership, the leadership of AMCHP and SAHCN came to the consensus that together we must identify and build ownership for a common vision for adolescent health, and identify the strategies and resources for implementing this vision in public health agencies and maternal and child health programs.

The following Policy Agenda is based on this common vision, as established in the Conceptual Framework for Adolescent Health. Developed collaboratively with national and state experts in the field of adolescent health, including AMCHP and SAHCN members, the Framework includes: key definitions; a discussion of the role of public health and the relationship of adolescent health to state MCH/family health programs; guiding principles, and vision statements. The Conceptual Framework provides a theoretical basis for the Partnership as well as state MCH/family health programs to address adolescent health.

The ***Policy Agenda for Adolescent Health*** is a consensus document, reflecting a unified sense of purpose and a common set of goals and objectives for the Partnership and its member organizations. Since the policy agenda needs to be realistic, and therefore concise, it does not reflect or exhaust all possible strategies and activities, or even all of the key themes and issues identified through discussions and a review of relevant literature. Instead, it encompasses long-term goals with a set of immediate objectives and action steps that can realistically be achieved by the Partnership over the next 3-5 years.

**AMCHP/SAHCN PARTNERSHIP FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH  
SUMMARY OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES  
June 2003**

**GOAL I    The Partnership will strengthen the relationship between AMCHP and SAHCN at the national level.**

**Objectives**

1. The Partnership will identify and implement formal processes to foster regular communication between AMCHP and SAHCN.
2. The Partnership will identify and implement a formal process to work toward synchronization of key adolescent health policies/position statements and other educational materials of the partner organizations.
3. The Partnership will annually conduct at least one joint training for adolescent health coordinators, MCH/family health directors and/or other key MCH/family health personnel (such as data coordinators), to address an adolescent health issue of mutual interest.

**GOAL II   The Partnership will strengthen the relationship between State MCH/family health programs and their adolescent health components, and enhance their joint capacity [ability] to effectively address adolescent health issues.**

**Objectives**

1. The Partnership will develop a framework of core capacities for effective state adolescent health programs.
2. The Partnership will work toward each state implementing a multi-year strategic adolescent health program plan.
3. The Partnership will work toward all state MCH/family health programs having a comprehensive adolescent health program with at least one dedicated, full-time staff.
4. The Partnership will assist state MCH/family health programs and their adolescent health components in advocating for and utilizing a youth development approach.
5. The Partnership will assist state MCH/family health programs and their adolescent health components in working with other key stakeholders to address adolescent mental/behavioral health issues.
6. The Partnership will assist state MCH/family health programs and their adolescent health components in coordinating school health and adolescent health programs at the state level.
7. The Partnership will assist the state MCH/family health programs and their adolescent health components in implementing best practice approaches to promoting family involvement in their adolescent health and youth development work.

**GOAL III   The Partnership will work at the national level to strengthen public support for investment in youth and families.**

**Objectives**

1. The Partnership will disseminate to national policy makers adolescent health educational/informational resources highlighting the importance of investing in youth.
2. The Partnership will develop liaison relationships and activities with federal agencies and key organizations working on youth issues at the national level.
3. The Partnership will work with other partners to develop a national forum that brings together organizations, agencies, advocates and experts working on adolescent health in order to discuss key issues and develop a strategy to garner broad-based support for youth as a policy priority.
4. The Partnership will continue to identify and secure resources that enable it to achieve its goals and objectives.
5. The Partnership will advocate for state level funding and other resources that support state level system development, planning, and implementation.