



Tracking Adolescent Health Policy:

AN ANNOTATED LIST, 2008 UPDATE

From the National Initiative to Improve Adolescent and Young Adult Health by the Year 2010

BACKGROUND

Adolescence represents a critical period of physical, social, psychological, and cognitive growth. As they become increasingly independent, adolescents take greater responsibility for health-related habits, such as diet and exercise. While not legally adults, many adolescents initiate adult behavior in areas such as driving, substance use and sexuality. These habits and behaviors have significant implications for health in the short and long term. Thus, adolescence presents an opportunity to promote a lifetime of health. Influences at the individual, family, school, community, and policy levels interact to shape the health and well being of adolescents.

Adolescent health priorities have been identified as part of *Healthy People 2010*, the nation's public health goals and objectives. A national expert panel selected 21 objectives as critical for adolescents and young adults, out of 107 *Healthy People 2010* objectives that pertain to this age group. These objectives address six areas: mortality, unintentional injury, violence, substance use and mental health, reproductive health, and the prevention of chronic disease. Many policies focus on these six areas, ranging from education programs that aim to influence individual behavior, to financing mechanisms to increase access to care, to structural reforms that shape the environment in which adolescents live.

ABOUT THIS BRIEF

This brief presents an annotated list of organizations and agencies that monitor trends in state and federal policies related to the areas covered by the 21 objectives.* While multiple policy-making venues exist within the U.S. political system, this brief focuses on federal and state policy.

The federal government and states share responsibility for many adolescent health policies.† For example, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was created at the federal level to expand health insurance coverage for children and adolescents. While the federal government broadly defines how SCHIP plans should function, states have considerable flexibility in establishing income eligibility and benefits. This joint federal-state implementation results in tremendous variation among SCHIP programs across states. In some areas of health, states have sole authority over health-related policies, such as graduated drivers' licenses and confidentiality laws and regulations.

Several policies that are monitored apply to all children, including adolescents. When possible, age distinctions are noted in the listings. Each listing includes an organization or agency description, a general website, a brief summary of relevant project areas, and specific web addresses for key publications and databases. Organizations and agencies were included in this brief if they: (1) broadly monitor federal policies and/or policies across all fifty states, and (2) regularly update their site (since 2006). We also include selected reports, published since 2004, that either summarize research on policies or describe case studies in policy implementation.

This brief begins with three groups of listings that track policies pertaining to multiple subject areas. The next listings are grouped into five* subject areas addressed by the 21 Critical Health Objectives. Readers can link to each of the areas, using the headings listed here:

- **General Adolescent Health**
- **Youth Development**
- **Access to Health Care**
- **Unintentional Injury**
- **Violence**
- **Mental Health & Substance Use**
- **Reproductive Health**
- **Chronic Disease Prevention**

* There is no separate section for mortality. Readers can find listings related to the three major causes of adolescent mortality: motor vehicle crashes, homicide and suicide, in the following sections, respectively: unintentional injury, violence and mental health & substance use.

† Brindis C, Ott M. Adolescents, health policy, and the American political process. *J Adol Health*, 2002; 30: 9-16.

GENERAL ADOLESCENT HEALTH

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS (AAP)

AAP is an organization of primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists committed to the attainment of optimal physical, mental, and social health for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. Among other documents, policy statements by AAP can be found.

<http://www.aap.org/>

AAP's Department of Federal Affairs maintains a Legislative and Regulatory Issues section, where updates on child health legislation from the current Congress are posted throughout the year. In addition, the News Releases & Press Statements section regularly provides updates on the status of current pieces of legislation.

<http://www.aap.org/advocacy.html>

AAP's Division of State Government Affairs recently issued a report, *2007 State Legislation Report*, that outlines state legislative activity on 11 issues related to children's health and safety, as well as issues to watch in the upcoming political cycle.

<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/statelegrpt.pdf>

ASSOCIATION OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS (AMCHP)

A professional organization representing state public health leaders and others working to improve the health and well being of women, children, youth, and families, including those with special health care needs and the low income and underserved.

http://www.amchp.org/about_amchp/index.php

AMCHP's Legislative Center tracks and analyzes emerging policy issues that impact family health.

<http://www.amchp.org/policy/legislation/>

CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY

A national non-profit organization that works to improve the lives of low income people by conducting research, policy analysis and advocacy at the federal and state levels, and technical assistance on a range of family policy and equal justice issues. The website includes policy recommendations as well as information on current state and federal policy.

<http://www.clasp.org/>

State-by-state legislative analysis, policy briefs, reports and fact sheets in multiple policy areas:

<http://s242739747.onlinehome.us/publications.php?id=96#0>

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION: DIVISION OF ADOLESCENT AND SCHOOL HEALTH (DASH)

DASH is a division within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that analyzes, conducts and evaluates research to prevent serious health risks seen among children, adolescents and young adults.

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/index.htm>

School Health Profiles Project

Survey conducted biennially by state and local education and health agencies at the middle/junior and senior high school levels to help monitor the current status of school health education, including tracking policies related to HIV/AIDS, tobacco use prevention, unintentional injuries and violence, physical activity and food service, asthma management, health services and family and community involvement in school health programs.

<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/profiles/index.htm>

Profiles from 2006 survey by subject area and state and large school districts:

http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/profiles/pdf/profiles_2006.pdf

School Health Policies and Programs Study

A national survey conducted by the DASH to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. The survey, subsequent reports and fact sheets include sections on alcohol/drug use, unintentional injury prevention, mental health, physical education, food service, and many other topics.

<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/shpps/index.htm>

State level summaries of SHPPS 2006 results:

<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/shpps/2006/summaries/index.htm>

THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN

The Brookings Institute and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs collaborate to produce a series of journals on issues relevant to child and sometimes, adolescent health. The collection of articles published periodically seek to promote effective policies and programs for children by providing policymakers, service providers, and the media with timely, objective information based on the best research available.

<http://www.futureofchildren.org/>

Recent adolescent policy publications include *The Next Generation of Antipoverty Policies (2007)* and *Childhood Obesity (2006)*. Older publications, like *Unintentional Injuries in Childhood*, which includes a section on legislative and regulatory strategies to reduce unintentional injuries, while somewhat dated, do summarize policy relevant research findings.

<http://www.futureofchildren.org/homepage2824/index.htm>

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE (IOM)

As part of the National Academies, IOM is a national non-profit organization that works to provide science-based policy advice on issues regarding medicine, health and biomedical sciences.

<http://www.iom.edu/>

The organization's Board on Children, Youth and Families published a report entitled *Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility (2003)* which, although somewhat dated, provides the most up to date review of relevant policy research. Other reports like *Food Marketing to Children and Youth: Threat or Opportunity? (2005)* and *Preventing Teen Motor Crashes: Contributions from the Behavioral and Social Sciences (2007)*, can also be found on the site.

<http://www.iom.edu/CMS/2955.aspx?showoid=12552&list=board#OID12552>

The Board of Population Health and Public Health Practice focuses on public health issues in general and among other documents, has recently published a report titled *Ending the Tobacco Problem: A Blue Print for the Nation (2007)*.

<http://www.iom.edu/CMS/3793.aspx>

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH POLICY CENTER

The Center draws upon the science base of the university setting to inform policies, programs, and the practice of maternal and child health nationally.

<http://www.jhsph.edu/WCHPC/index.html>

The Center publishes MCH Policy Briefs periodically that highlight key maternal and child health policy activities at the federal level.

<http://www.jhsph.edu/WCHPC/Resources/>

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION: CENTER FOR BEST PRACTICES

The Center for Best Practices is designed to develop and implement innovative solutions to public policy challenges and serve as consultants to governors and their key policy staff. Website includes periodic reports on state policies related to children and youth. In addition to briefs below, the site includes numerous policy statements, some of which are relevant to adolescents.

<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.50aee5ff70b817ae8ebb856a11010a0/>

The Center has recently published an issue brief, *State Strategies to Reduce Child and Family Poverty*, which outlines possible policy and program options for states.

<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.9123e83a1f6786440ddcbeeb501010a0/?vgnnextoid=7eaa021bf995a110VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD>

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH (NNFY)

A national non-profit membership and advocacy organization that provides networking, training, materials, and policy work for federal, state, and local lawmakers in order to improve the lives of runaway, homeless, and other disconnected youth.

<http://www.nn4youth.org/>

NNFY's Public Policy Section contains an analysis of the annual budget reauthorization process and how programs and policies that focus on youth were funded; also includes fact sheets & issue briefs on specific pieces of legislation that pertain to adolescents and young adults.

<http://www.nn4youth.org/getinvolved.aspx>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department of Education is the federal agency charged with ensuring equal access to education and promoting educational excellence.

<http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml?src=a>

The Department of Education's Policy Center contains information about national education policy initiatives. The site provides links to state and school district organizations that may also be tracking policy. Many facets of adolescent and young adult health are addressed in education policies; violence prevention is most common.

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/landing.jhtml?src=rt>

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

THE FORUM FOR YOUTH INVESTMENT

The Forum is a nonprofit, nonpartisan "action tank" that works with communities, policymakers, researchers and advocates to prepare youth for college, work and life.

<http://forumforyouthinvestment.net/>

The Forum's Publication section contains a database of reports and state legislative/executive orders.

<http://forumforyouthinvestment.net/pubs>

NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION CENTER (NYDIC)

NYDIC serves as a resource for youth workers with questions about funding, programming, research, policy, job and training opportunities in addition to news in the field of youth development. The center is part of a larger group, the National Human Services Assembly, which includes various nonprofit youth development organizations.

<http://www.nydic.org/>

The Center's Policy and Advocacy Section includes legislative updates and analysis of Congressional action on policies that affect youth and youth workers.

<http://www.nydic.org/nydic/policy.htm>

The Center's Policy Briefs/Position Statements section includes briefs, position statements and policy recommendations on appropriations priorities/programs under consideration in Committee and funding of specific programs in recent years.

www.collab4youth.org/ncy/PolicyAgendaandissues.htm

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

See General Adolescent Health Section for more listings that track policies pertaining to access to health care.

CENTER FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND THE LAW

The Center is a national nonprofit legal and policy organization that works to promote adolescent health and comprehensive health care services for adolescents. Site includes publications on state laws regarding consent and confidentiality, as well as financial access to care.

<http://www.cahl.org/>

THE CENTER FOR HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE IN SCHOOLS

A non-partisan policy and program resource center whose mission is to explore ways to strengthen the well-being of children and youth through effective health programs and health care services in schools.

<http://www.healthinschools.org/>

The Center publishes an electronic journal (E-Journal) monthly with updates on the policies, politics, and financing of health programming in schools.

<http://www.healthinschools.org/ejournal/ejournal.htm>

The Center also maintains a news alert service that includes timely information on court decisions, important publications, and government actions at the local, state, and federal levels.

<http://www.healthinschools.org/news-room/news-alerts/newsalerts.aspx>

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE: CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Center is an independent, nonpartisan policy and research center that works to improve and expand health coverage for children and families.

<http://ccf.georgetown.edu/>

There is a State Resource Center that provides Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) eligibility, enrollment and retention among other aspects across all 50 states. From here a State Activity section can be accessed which monitors recent legislative activity regarding health coverage, Medicaid and SCHIP.

<http://ccf.georgetown.edu/index/medicaid-and-schip-programs>

THE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION (KFF)

A non-profit, private foundation that focuses on the major health care issues facing the nation and serves as a source of facts and analysis for policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the general public.

<http://www.kff.org/>

The State Health Facts search engine, in particular a section devoted to Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), allows the user to search by state for information on the number of uninsured and publicly insured individuals under 18 and the eligibility criteria of state SCHIP programs.

<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparecat.jsp?cat=4>

NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR STATE HEALTH POLICY

A non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice through policy analysis, technical assistance to states, and state, regional, and national forums.

<http://www.nashp.org/index.cfm>

The Children's Health Section includes information about state level SCHIP policies, including program type, eligibility requirements, and links to state program sites.

http://www.nashp.org/_catdisp_page.cfm?LID=2A78988C-5310-11D6-BCF00A0CC558925

UNINTENTIONAL INJURY

NATIONAL CENTER FOR INJURY PREVENTION AND CONTROL

A center within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that works to reduce morbidity, mortality, and costs associated with injuries. Site includes sections on youth violence and unintentional injury, including motor vehicle related injury.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/>

Information sheet on Impaired Driving & policies that reduce injuries due to impaired driving.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/driving.htm>

NATIONAL SAFE KIDS CAMPAIGN

A national non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury. Site includes position statements and letters submitted to Congress as well as comments on federal and state legislation.

<http://www.safekids.org/>

Public Policy Center includes comments on federal and state legislation or regulations aimed at reducing unintentional injury.

The site also includes a search engine that allows users to search by state for Child Safety Laws & Regulations via a drop down menu.

http://www.usa.safekids.org/tier2_rl.cfm?folder_id=540

Motor Vehicle Injuries:

ADVOCATES FOR HIGHWAY AND AUTO SAFETY

An alliance of consumer health and safety groups and insurance companies that advocate for state and federal laws, policies, and programs that reduce traffic related injuries and fatalities.

<http://www.saferoads.org/>

The organization maintains two legislative sites which are periodically updated with legislation that they support. Many policies aim to improve adolescent passenger and driver safety.

Federal Legislative Program (also contains Advocates' position statements for the given legislation):

http://www.saferoads.org/sec_federal2003.htm

State Legislative Program with current and suggested legislation for all 50 states:

http://www.saferoads.org/sec_states.htm

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (MADD)

According to its website, MADD is a non-profit organization whose mission is to "stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime, and prevent underage drinking." Site includes MADD position statements, as well as reports and a state alcohol policy database.

<http://www.madd.org/>

The site includes a search engine for State-by-State Alcohol Related Laws.

<http://www.madd.org/professionals/educators/laws.aspx>

MADD issued a ranking of the states based on the total number of traffic related fatalities involving alcohol, along with notes including policy measures that would either mediate or maintain the current fatality percentage.

<http://www.madd.org/Drunk-driving/Drunk-driving/resources.aspx>

*Drivers licensing & safety belt laws:***INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY**

A non-profit scientific and educational organization dedicated to reducing the losses—deaths, injuries, and property damages—from crashes on the nation's highways.

<http://www.iihs.org/>

Site contains regulatory comment section on various highway safety issues

<http://www.iihs.org/laws/comments/default.html>

The site contains a search engine that allows its user to search for licensing systems for young drivers for each state.

<http://www.iihs.org/laws/graduatedlicenseintro.aspx>

The site updates safety belt and child restraint laws by state annually.

<http://www.iihs.org/laws/restraintoverview.aspx>

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES (NCSL)

NCSL is a bipartisan organization that provides research and technical assistance to the legislators and staff of state governments.

<http://www.ncsl.org/>

NCSL maintains an Online Legislative Tracking Database that allows its user to search for state legislative activity on issue areas such as driver's licensing, school buses, and teen drivers.

<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/transportation/trafsafdb.cfm>

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Federal agency that works to prevent injuries and reduce economic burden of traffic related accidents through research, education, enforcement activities and imposition of safety standards. Issues occasional fact sheets and reports on child and adolescent safety policy.

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>

VIOLENCE

See General Adolescent Health Section for policies that address violence prevention in schools.

THE BRADY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

According to its website, the Campaign serves as an advocacy organization dedicated "to preventing gun violence and promoting sensible gun policies."

<http://www.bradycampaign.org/>

The Campaign maintains two large legislative tracking systems, both of which include policies that apply to individuals of all ages. The user will need to sort out those policies that apply to adolescents.

Federal legislation tracking system:

<http://www.bradycampaign.org/legislation/>

State legislation tracking system:

<http://www.stategunlaws.org/>

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

A national, bipartisan, nonprofit anti-crime organization consisting of law enforcement officials and crime survivors. The organization researches crime prevention to inform policy makers and employ preventative programming.

<http://fightcrime.org/index.php>

Policy section contains position statements, as well as federal legislative updates by issue.

<http://fightcrime.org/policy.php>

JOHN HOPKINS CENTER FOR GUN POLICY AND RESEARCH

A policy center that performs research on gun violence prevention laws and gun control policies. The Center posts information on gun violence laws and legislation aimed at all populations, therefore current policies and programs relevant to adolescents will have to be sorted out.

<http://www.jhsph.edu/gunpolicy/index.html>

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE

Suicide:

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

National nonprofit organization dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide by programming implementation, education and policy work.

<http://www.afsp.org/>

Advocacy and Public Policy section contains position statements as well as national legislative initiatives. Legislation covers all age groups, therefore adolescent relevant information will have to be sorted out.

http://www.afsp.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.viewPage&page_id=742A7AD2-C8D5-C18D-0A2665B3F8977D99

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

A collaborative effort of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and the Health Resources and Services Administration, that lays out a framework for action to prevent suicide and guides development of an array of services and programs that must be developed. Although there is no section devoted solely to adolescent health, many policy and legislative documents focus on this population.

<http://www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/suicideprevention/>

The Policy & Legislation Section includes links to various organizations focused on suicide prevention as well as links to searchable legislative websites.

<http://www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/suicideprevention/policy.asp>

The State Prevention Programs page links to many state plans.

<http://www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/suicideprevention/stateprograms.asp>

SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER

The resource center is a collaborative effort of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Education Development Center that works to support suicide prevention with the best of science, skills, and practice.

<http://www.sprc.org/>

The Center has created a system that allows users to links to state suicide prevention plans and accomplishments.

<http://www.sprc.org/stateinformation/index.asp>

Mental Health:

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY (AACAP)

A membership organization of child and adolescent psychiatrists and other interested physicians who actively research, evaluate, diagnose, and treat psychiatric disorders and give direction and respond to new developments in addressing the health care needs of children and their families. In addition to the legislative alert listed below, the site includes other resources such as AACAP policy statements.

<http://www.aacap.org/>

The Academy's Legislative Alerts section includes issue alerts from the 110th Congress on legislation that pertains to the mental health of children and adolescents.

http://www.aacap.org/cs/legislative_action_110th_congress/legislative_action_110th_congress

JUDGE DAVID T. BAZELON CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH LAW

The Center works on a national level to advance and preserve the rights of people with mental illnesses and developmental disabilities.

<http://www.bazelon.org/>

Legislative Updates and Action Alerts

<http://www.bazelon.org/takeaction/index.htm>

The Center releases a *Mental Health Policy Reporter* with updates on significant policy developments that affect people with mental illnesses, many of which are related to adolescents.

<http://www.bazelon.org/newsroom/reporter/index.html>

Substance Use:

ALCOHOL POLICY INFORMATION SYSTEM

An online resource that provides detailed information about state and federal alcohol related policy in the U.S.

<http://alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov/>

The Highlight on Underage Drinking section of the website includes an overview of underage drinking policy in the U.S.

http://alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov/index.asp?SEC={DA5E054D-FB8E-4F06-BBBC-6EED9F37A758}&Type=B_BASIC

CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST: ALCOHOL POLICY

The Center is aimed at focusing public and policy maker attention on high-leverage policy reforms to reduce the health and social consequences of drinking. At the time of publication, the Center was updating its website, but most youth-related policy tracking resources are four to five years old.

<http://www.cspinet.org/alcohol/index.html>

The Center's Youth & Alcohol Policy Project frequently updates national legislation pertaining to youth and alcohol on its website.

http://www.cspinet.org/booze/iss_youth.htm

The Center also releases a *Washington Report* several times annually that provides updates on federal legislation and other policy issues.

<http://www.cspinet.org/booze/WashingtonReportIndex.htm>

JOIN TOGETHER

Program of the Boston University School of Public Health that works to promote leadership development and planning assistance for community-based efforts to promote effective drug and alcohol policy, prevention and treatment.

<http://www.jointogether.org/>

The site has a State Policies section that contains policy recommendations, as well as state-by-state data for each recommendation.

<http://www.jointogether.org/keyissues/state-policies/>

UNDERAGE DRINKING ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER (UDETIC)

UDETIC is a center within the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention that supports the Office's Underage Drinking Laws Program. In addition to resources listed below, the site includes older reports (some are 9 years old, others are only 2 years old) examining policy implementation in selected states.

<http://www.udetc.org/>

This search engine allows site users to identify state and local policies that have been implemented in support of the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws program.

<http://www.udetc.org/SuccessStories.asp>

The Spotlight: What's happening section details a number of current events issues and recent publications in the field of underage drinking, many of which are policy related.

<http://www.udetc.org/links.asp?id=7&lnks=r>

The Resource Alerts section provides summaries of current issues and research findings in underage drinking (published monthly).

<http://www.udetc.org/resourcealerts.asp>

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

THE GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE

The Guttmacher Institute is a non-profit organization focused on sexual and reproductive health research, policy analysis, and public education.

<http://www.guttmacher.org/>

A State Policies in Brief section provides information on key policies affecting sexual and reproductive health and rights, updated monthly by the Institute's staff. One topic area is devoted entirely to youth.

<http://www.guttmacher.org/sections/adolescents.php?pub=spib>

The State Center allows users to search by state for sexual and reproductive health policies.

<http://www.agi-usa.org/statecenter>

THE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION (KFF)

A non-profit, private operation foundation that focuses on the major health care issues facing the nation and serves as a source of facts and analysis for policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the general public.

<http://www.kff.org/>

KFF maintains a large database with state-by-state information on health topics. The HIV/AIDS section of State Health Facts includes information on state-specific HIV/AIDS related policies, including funding sources for prevention efforts and state policies for minors rights to consent to HIV/STD services and education policy.

<http://www.statehealthfacts.kff.org/comparecat.jsp?cat=11>

KFF issued the report *HPV Vaccine: Implementation and Financing Policy in the U.S. Fact Sheet* with background information and key policy highlights.

<http://kff.org/womenshealth/7602.cfm>

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN AND UNPLANNED PREGNANCY

The Campaign is a national non-profit, non-partisan initiative to improve the well-being of children, youth, and families by reducing teen pregnancy.

<http://www.teenpregnancy.org/>

Policymakers section contains information on current federal legislation, as well as a document titled *Summary of Teen Pregnancy-Prevention Related Funding*.

<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/policymakers/default.aspx>

State and Communities section has a resource section with fact sheets and publications including *State and Local Efforts to Reduce Unplanned Pregnancy Among Adults*, as well as *State Legislation to Reduce Teen Pregnancy*.

<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/sla/resources.aspx>

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS (NCSL)

NCSL is a bipartisan organization that provides research and technical assistance to the legislators and staff of state governments.

<http://www.ncsl.org/>

Under the health section of State and Federal Issues is a report on federal and state legislation on the HPV vaccine.

<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/hpvvaccine.htm#hpvlegis>

SEXUALITY INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES (SIECUS)

An organization that works to promote sexuality education for people of all ages, protect sexual rights, and expand access to sexual health through information, education, and public policy. Site includes SIECUS position statements in addition to the following resources.

<http://www.siecus.org/>

Public Policy Updates

<http://www.siecus.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewpage&pageid=483&parentid=478>

A Portrait of Sexuality Education and Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in the States (Fiscal Year 2006 Edition)

<http://www.siecus.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewpage&pageid=487&parentid=478>

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES (NCSL)

NCSL is a bipartisan organization that provides research and technical assistance to the legislators and staff of state governments.

<http://www.ncsl.org/>

Within its health promotion section, NCSL maintains a State Legislation and Statutes Database that allows users to identify state policies on a particular issue area (childhood obesity, nutrition, physical activity, youth access to tobacco, etc.) by state, year, and legal status.

<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/pp/healthpromo.cfm>

Tobacco use:

CAMPAIGN FOR TOBACCO FREE KIDS

The Campaign is a non-governmental initiative whose mission is to protect children from tobacco addiction and exposure to secondhand smoke.

<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/>

The organization's federal and state initiative links detail current regulatory and legislative policies on tobacco and youth.

<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/campaign/federal/>

<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/campaign/state/>

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION: OFFICE ON SMOKING AND HEALTH (OSH)

OSH is a division within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that acts as the lead federal agency in comprehensive tobacco prevention and control.

<http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/>

State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation System: This electronic data warehouse is sponsored by OSH and contains current and past state level data on tobacco use, prevention, and control. Allows site user to search by legislation.

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/statesystem/>

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA)

A federal agency within the Department of Health and Human Services that works to build resilience and facilitate recovery for people with or at risk for substance abuse and mental illness.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/index.aspx>

The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention within SAMHSA has released information about the *Synar Amendment, Protecting the Nation's Youth from Nicotine Addiction*.

<http://prevention.samhsa.gov/tobacco/>

Obesity, Physical Activity & Nutrition:

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION (AHA)

The AHA is a national voluntary health agency that works to reduce coronary heart disease and stroke.

<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=1200000>

Legislative and regulatory issues section has policy statements, as well as a link to information on the FIT Kids Act.

<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=1038>

CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST: NUTRITION PROJECT

The Center's Nutrition Project conducts research in support of public policy that can make it easier or people to eat well, be physically active, and maintain a healthy weight.

<http://www.cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/index.html>

The Nutrition Project includes a section on the main page regarding policy options to promote nutrition and physical activity, with specific mention of policies related to marketing to children, school foods, and physical activity in schools.

http://www.cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/policy_options.html

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION (RWJF)

RWJF is a national nonprofit organization working to improve health and healthcare for all Americans.

<http://www.rwjf.org/>

Site contains a database of publications and research including issue and policy briefs and legislative tracking documents. Some recent reports include: *Balance: A Report on State Action to Promote Nutrition, Increase Physical Activity and Prevent Obesity (2007)* and *Quarterly Report on State Legislation and Policies Affecting Child and Adolescent Nutrition, Obesity and Physical Activity (2006)*.

<http://www.rwjf.org/pr/>

SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION (SNA)

National nonprofit professional organization that works to ensure all children have access to healthy school meals and nutrition education. In addition to the resources below, the website contains SNA position statements.

<http://www.schoolnutrition.org/>

SNA has a state policy index with a searchable database of state policies related to child nutrition.

<http://docs.schoolnutrition.org/childnutrition/govtaffairs/statutes/>

The Legislative Action Center presents current legislative action and alerts relevant to child nutrition and nutrition education.

<http://capwiz.com/asfsa/issues/>

The information in this brief was compiled by The Public Policy Analysis & Education Center for Middle Childhood, Adolescent, & Young Adult Health in order to provide users with information on organizations and agencies that actively monitor health policy in the United States. The Policy Center does not necessarily endorse the opinions or policies of organizations that are included in this list.

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For more information on the National Initiative, please visit the Official Federal National Initiative website (<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/NationalInitiative/>) and the National Initiative page of the National Adolescent Health Information Center website (<http://nahic.ucsf.edu/nationalinitiative>).

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