

Adolescent and Young Adult Health Research Network (AYAH RN)
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Established 2014, renewed funding in 2017 through 2022

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Website: <http://nahic.ucsf.edu/research-network/>

Brief Description of AYAH-RN:

The overall **purpose** of the Adolescent and Young Adult Health Research Network is to develop and maintain a transdisciplinary, multi-site research network that will: accelerate the translation of science into MCH AYA practice; promote scientific collaboration; and develop additional research capacity in the AYA health field.

University of California, SF acts in **partnership** with the other six university-based Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) projects located throughout the U.S. The LEAH projects are joined by the Center for the Developing Adolescent, University of California, Berkeley, a national leader in transdisciplinary research that examines the implications of neuro/developmental science for AYA practice, and the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM), the only health professional organization dedicated exclusively to advancing the health and well-being of AYA. The AYAH-RN addresses **four major foci:**

- Developmental Science
- Integration of Care (primarily behavioral and physical health)
- Clinical Preventive Services
- Emerging Issues

Key Accomplishments

Created Research Agenda

- Review articles in three priority areas, April 2017, with editorial
- Two review articles in innovative technology, August 2020[†]
- Overarching Research Recommendations*

Advance Research:

- Network support contributed to 33 articles published in the peer-review literature
- Added items to national and state-based health surveys
- Network efforts helped leverage eight new research grants

Engaged 21 New Investigators

- Ten assistant professors
- One resident
- Seven post-doctoral fellows
- Three undergraduate students

Advanced Practice

- Reached nearly 1,700 practitioners and researchers through workshops and keynote addresses, curricula and other educational materials, focused on translating research into practice
- Promoted clinical tools and guidelines across multiple domains (e.g., preventive services and behavioral/emotional health screening) and practice areas (e.g., EHRs, primary care & mental health)

*Review articles, editorial & articles available from top of AYAH-RN home page: <https://nahic.ucsf.edu/research-network/>

[†]Technology review articles: [https://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X\(20\)X0014-0](https://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X(20)X0014-0)

Launched 30 Research/Dissemination Projects: Selected Examples

Developmental Science

- Linkage between civic engagement in adolescence and physical and mental health status in young adulthood (*Ballard P, Wake Forest; Hoyt L, Fordham U.; Pachucki M, U. Mass, Amherst; Child Development 2019*)
- Leveraging technology to improve health in adolescence: A developmental science perspective (*Giovanelli A & Ozer E, UCSF; Dahl R, UCB, JAH 2020*)

Preventive Interventions

- Create website teaching materials to engage parents in preventing opioid abuse (signs of abuse, prevention tips, & links to resources) (*Harris S, Boston Children's/ Harvard*)
- Digital Health Technology to Enhance Adolescent and Young Adult Clinical Preventive Services: Affordances and Challenges (*Wong CA, Madanay F, Duke; Ozer E, UCSF; Harris SK, Boston Children's/ Harvard; Moore M & Master SO, Duke; Moreno M, UWisc/Madison; Weitzman ER, Boston Children's/Harvard; JAH 2020*)
- Behavioral/Emotional Screening Tool for clinical settings (*Ozer E, PhD, Mesheriakova V, MD, Berna M, BA & Buckelew S, MD, UCSF*)

Emerging Issues

Technology

- Assessing adolescent technology use; household rules; sleep hygiene and related clinical screening (*California Health Interview Survey, UCSF, Giovanelli A, Adams S, Park J, Ozer E, UCSF, JAH 2021*)
- *Journal of Adolescent Health* Supplement on the Integration of Innovative Technologies to support improving AYA health (*Organized by E. Ozer, UCSF & James Lester, NC State*)

Gender identity screening

- Examining use of gender identity screener across multiple clinical settings (*Guss C, Boston Children's/Harvard; Inwards-Breland D, Seattle Children's/UW; Ozer EM & Vance S, UCSF; JAH 2018*)

Supporting Parent/Caregivers of AYAs

- Multi-site project to develop and evaluate a primary care screening tool for parents, including assessing parents' needs, providing information, and linking to additional resources; added items to 2021 TAPS (AmeriSpeaks Teen & Parent Surveys of Health/CDC-DASH) (*Harris S, Boston Children's/ Harvard, lead; Aalsma M, Indiana U; Ozer E & Penilla C, UCSF; Sieving R & Mehus C, UMN; Ford C, CHOP/UPenn, Richardson L & McCarty C, Seattle Children's/UW*)

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Examining Telemedicine: rapid adaption and experiences of youth and caregivers (*Barney A, Buckelew S, Mesheriakova V, & Raymond-Flesch M, JAH, 2020*)
- Monitoring COVID status and symptoms, mental health disparities, Covid-related behaviors in a National Sample of College Students (*Hoyt LT, Cohen AK, Dull BD, Maker Castro E, Yazdani N. JAH 2021 & Cohen AK, Hoyt LT, Nichols CR, Yazdani N, Dotson MP. JAH 2021*)
- Medical Vulnerability of Young Adults to Severe COVID-19 Illness, Data from the National Health Interview Survey (*Adams S, Park A, Schaub J, Brindis C, Irwin, CE, Jr., JAH, 2020*)

Updated September 2021