Adolescent and Young Adult Health Research Network (AYAH RN)

HRSA/MCHB Cooperative Agreement: UA6MC27378

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

Key Accomplishments

Created Research Agenda
- Review articles in three priority areas, April 2017, with editorial
- 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
- Seven post-doctoral fellows
- One resident
- 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
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)
- Medical Vulnerability of Young Adults to Severe COVID-19 Illness, Data from the National Health Interview Survey (Adams S, Park A, Schaib J, Brindis C, Irwin, CE, Jr., JAH, 2020)

Updated September 2021