

About the HHS

Office on Women's Health (OWH)

Our Mission: Provide national leadership and coordination to improve the health of women and girls through policy, education, and model programs.

Our Office

OWH was established in 1991 as part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). OWH was reauthorized in 2010 under Public Law 111-148 section 3509 of the 111th Congress.

OWH coordinates women's health efforts across HHS, working collaboratively with other federal agencies and external partners to address crucial women's health topics. OWH chairs the Coordinating Committee on Women's Health, which advises the Assistant Secretary for Health on activities across HHS that would improve the health of U.S. women and girls.



Our Vision

All women and girls achieve the best possible health.

Our Work

OWH supports women and girls through our policies, programs, and educational initiatives to improve health. Our activities directly support our goals to:

- **Inform and Influence Policies**

OWH drives health equity, access, and quality by assuring policies at all levels address women's and girls' health needs across the lifespan.

- **Support Innovative Programs**

OWH develops innovative, evidence-based programs that incorporate the unique determinants of health for women and girls.

- **Educate Consumers**

OWH offers reliable, accurate health information through social media, websites (womenshealth.gov and girlshealth.gov), the OWH Helpline (800-994-9662), and educational campaigns and initiatives.

- **Educate Health Professionals**

OWH develops accurate, evidence-based health information and continuing education lectures, webinars, case studies, online curricula, and other tools for women's health professionals.

Current Examples of Our Work

Inform and Influence Policies

- **Women and Opioids**

Through a 2016 white paper and conference, OWH examined the prevention, treatment, and recovery issues for women who use, misuse, or overdose on opioids.

- **Supporting Nursing Moms at Work: Employer Solutions**

This online resource provides employers with innovative and cost-effective solutions to support employees who want to continue breastfeeding after returning to work in any industry setting.

- **College Sexual Assault Policies and Prevention**

This initiative supports colleges and universities in their efforts to increase awareness of sexual assault and implement successful prevention strategies and policies on campuses.

Support Innovative Programs

- **Interpersonal Violence (IPV) Provider Network**

This program requires collaboration between health care providers and IPV service programs to evaluate systems for integrating IPV intervention into basic clinical care.

- **Preventing and Addressing Female Genital Cutting (FGC)**

Eight grantees across the country help prevent and address FGC-related health care services for women and girls living in the United States.

- **Stop. Observe. Ask. Respond. (SOAR) to Human Trafficking**

In 2016, over 700 first responder health care professionals and social service workers were trained

through the SOAR program to identify and respond to victims of human trafficking.

Educate Consumers and Health Care Professionals

- **National Women's Health Week**

This observance begins on Mother's Day each year and serves as a time to encourage women of all ages to make their health a priority and take steps to improve their physical and mental health.

- **Breast Cancer Patient Education Campaign**

This campaign informs patients and health care professionals about the availability and coverage of breast reconstruction and prostheses.

- **Addressing Opioid Use Disorder in Women**

OWH developed this CDC grand rounds session to explore how women's unique biology and sociology influence their susceptibility to opioid misuse. Experts introduced gender-specific and trauma informed prevention and treatment approaches. Continuing education is available.

- **Social Media**

OWH reaches close to 1.5 million people with public health messages on social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. Our @womenshealth Twitter account is the second most popular Twitter account in HHS.



How to Partner With Us: OWH works with partners to extend our messages and promote healthy behaviors. Contact us at womenshealth@hhs.gov to discuss how we can work together.



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@GirlsHealth
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