

## Health Equity

### May is National Adolescent Health Month

Each May, the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) celebrates National Adolescent Health Month™ (NAHM™). This annual observance emphasizes the importance of building on young people's strengths and potential, encouraging meaningful youth engagement in adolescent health activities, and highlighting key topics in adolescent health. Each week during NAHM, OPA will share information and resources to help you engage with the many facets of adolescent health.

This year, NAHM will focus on Take Action for Adolescents– A Call to Action for Adolescent Health and Well-Being (“Take Action for Adolescents”), which envisions that all adolescents in the United States have the safety, support, and resources to thrive, be healthy, and have equitable opportunity to realize their full potential. It outlines eight goals, each with initial action steps, designed to inspire individuals and organizations to develop innovative approaches that help young people thrive.

[Learn more](#)<sup>7</sup>

### Adolescence Post-Dobbs: A Policy-Driven Research Agenda for Minor Adolescents and Abortion (May 7, 10:00-11:00)

Abortion policy is changing every day. Minor adolescents are impacted by these changes, yet they are vastly underrepresented in research on abortion access. In order to inform evidence-based policy on minor adolescents' access to abortion, we must include them in research. This report outlines why minor adolescents are important in the context of abortion policy, outlines the state policies that are specifically impacting minors, acknowledges the challenges to conducting research on abortion with minors, and suggests solutions to those challenges and an actionable research agenda on minors and abortion, with implications for studying adolescents and sexual and reproductive health more broadly. This webinar is hosted by Youth Reproductive Equity.

[Register for the webinar](#)<sup>7</sup>

## Trainings

### **Drop In Active Learning Session: Meeting the Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Needs of Sex Workers (May 17, 11:00-12:00)**

Join Dr. Cheryl Radeloff and Dr. Amanda Morgan for this presentation and discussion hosted by the Clinical Training Center for Sexual + Reproductive Health about the state of the healthcare needs of sex workers in the United States.

“Sex work” is an umbrella term for sexual or other intimate or erotic labor provided by a person in exchange for money, substances, or other resources. Other terms include “prostitution,” “transactional sex,” “survival sex,” or “exchange sex.” Sex workers are a diverse group of people who often experience multiple disadvantages, including mental ill health and problematic substance use. Mainstream healthcare services are generally not configured to facilitate engagement with sex workers and services are needed that are accessible to this population. Direct sex work occurs in all areas of the United States. Healthcare providers often care for these patients without knowing it because of the reluctance to report illegal activity and concern about perceived healthcare provider bias. After attending this session, participants should be able to:

1. Identify the current state of sex work in the US.
2. List at least three priority health concerns for sex workers.
3. Identify strategies for meeting unmet health care needs for sex workers.
4. Discuss client-led counseling and education approaches for people involved in sex work.

[Register here](#)<sup>↗</sup>

## Herpes Stigma Virtual Conference (*May 23, 10:00-4:00*)

This virtual conference is hosted by Something Positive for Positive People (SPFPP), The theme of this conference, "Sexual Health is Mental Health", which offers a different lens on STD Prevention than what we're taught in early sex education. Analyzing the lived experiences of people navigating herpes stigma shows us there is so much to learn from the populations of people who have in fact tested positive for an STI. We listened to them and we've come up with a need to speak to the crippling psychological impacts of herpes stigma in a way that can alleviate much of the suffering people living with herpes experience by addressing the undercurrents of the experience people shared with us.

[Purchase tickets \(\\$75\) here](#)<sup>7</sup>

## Recorded Webinar: The Benefits of Person-Centered Contraceptive Counseling Webinar

The Person-Centered Contraceptive Counseling (PCCC) measure is a tool that all clinics, including RHCare agencies, can use to evaluate how well clients are supported during contraceptive counseling. During this webinar, participants hear from experts at the Person-Centered Reproductive Health Program (PCRHP) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), who developed this validated measure through a patient engagement process. This webinar took place on February 27, 2024.

[Watch the webinar](#)<sup>7</sup>

## Title X Convening for RHCare Staff (*June 12-13*)

RHCare uses Title X funding, and the Reproductive Health National Training Center (RHNTC) invites clinic staff to join a Title X convening on June 12–13, 2024, in Denver, Colorado. **RHNTC will provide a \$1,500 fixed travel expense reimbursement toward travel and lodging costs.** Registration is limited to the first 50 registrants and will be capped at two staff members per agency, so make sure to register on or before Friday, May 10, 2024.

[Learn more](#)<sup>7</sup>

## **PrEP Connect (June 28, 2024)**

PrEP Connect, hosted by the Oregon AIDS Education & Training Center, is a free, biannual event convening Oregon stakeholders to learn about HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) updates and identify evolving opportunities for innovation and collaboration to improve PrEP access. Clinicians, pharmacists, social workers, program administrators, public health, patient navigators, and individuals working with people who use substances are encouraged to attend. .

[Learn more<sup>↗</sup>](#)

## Resources

### **Job Aid: How to be Reasonably Certain that a Person is Not Pregnant**

This algorithm assists providers in accurately determining pregnancy status before prescribing contraception. Grounded in the U.S. Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (US MEC), this job aid ensures thorough assessment for patient safety. By following this methodical approach, providers can confidently prescribe contraception, prioritizing patient well-being and contraception effectiveness.

[View the job aid<sup>↗</sup>](#)

### **NACHC Workforce Wellness Toolkit**

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) has developed a toolkit to support health center leaders who are building comprehensive plans to enhance workforce health and well-being. The toolkit offers sample workflow changes, emails, meeting agendas, and brief individual and team exercises that health centers can download, customize, and integrate into day-to-day health center operations.

[See the toolkit<sup>↗</sup>](#)