



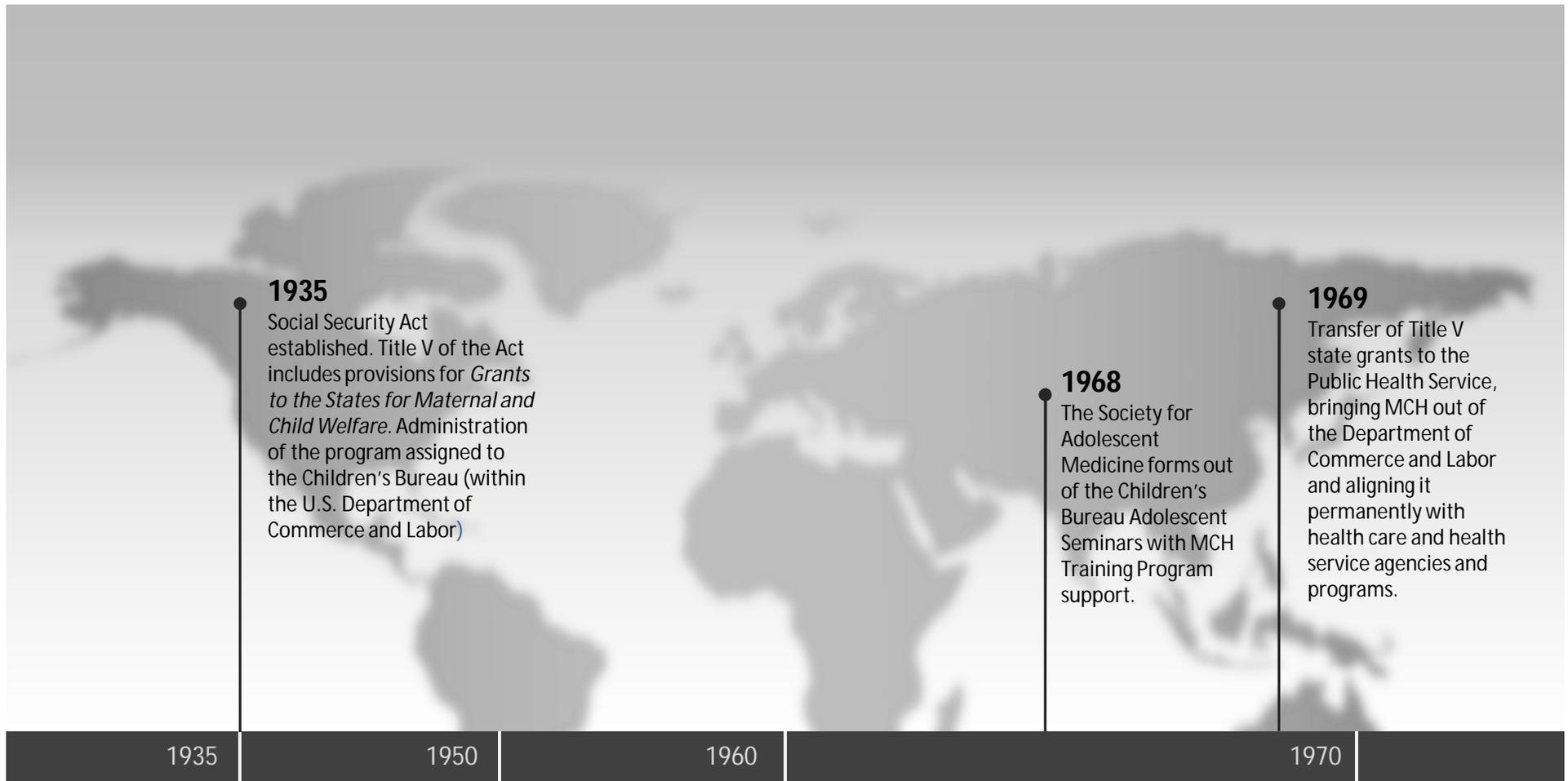
critical points in the evolution of
adolescent health coordinators

HISTORY

***The State Adolescent Health
Coordinator
position has been part of the
MCH Public Health system
formally since the mid-1980's.***

***It's a position
that isn't well understood
and often vaguely defined.***





1935

Social Security Act established. Title V of the Act includes provisions for *Grants to the States for Maternal and Child Welfare*. Administration of the program assigned to the Children's Bureau (within the U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor)

1935

1950

1960

1970

1951

The Children's Bureau recognizes the needs of special groups of children, including "adolescents who are having trouble finding a significant place for themselves in life."

1968

The Society for Adolescent Medicine forms out of the Children's Bureau Adolescent Seminars with MCH Training Program support.

1967

Children's Bureau expands fellowship training for physicians in response to growing support for adolescent health from the medical and public health communities.

1969

Transfer of Title V state grants to the Public Health Service, bringing MCH out of the Department of Commerce and Labor and aligning it permanently with health care and health service agencies and programs.

Adolescent Health Focus, 1935 -1970

Adolescent Health Focus, 1970's

Lack of Training

1976

Lack of training in adolescent health was identified as a serious gap in child health services by the Task Force Report on Pediatric Education (American Academy of Pediatrics)



Recognition of Adolescents

MCH/Bureau of Community Health Services published, *Approaches to Adolescent Health Care in the 1970s* to recognize adolescents' unique characteristics, and need for organized health services. It highlighted scattered, fragmented, and uncoordinated services, health problems evident at increasingly early ages, and the need for effective preventive measures and health education initiated early.



New Morbidities

National data documented "new morbidities" (e.g., injuries, mental and emotional disorders, developmental problems, other complex emotional and behavioral issues) that greatly affected the health of adolescents; however, health professionals received little training on how to address these problems.



Adolescent Health Focus, 1980-1990

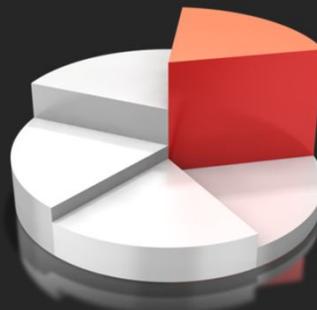
Youth with Disabilities 1984

Youth with Disability: The Transition Years Conference identified 4 areas of challenges faced by adolescents with disabilities: social maturation, developing independence, education and career preparation, and community services.



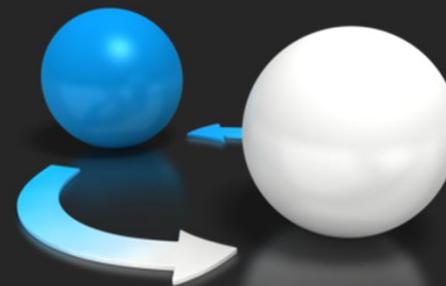
Blueprint 1986

Health Futures of Adolescents Conference established a 15-year blueprint for adolescent services, research and training. One recommendation was the need for having one person responsible for assembling national-, state- and community-based data on adolescent health services and health problems.



Title V Changes

Conversion of Title V Act to a Block Grant program. This led the way to the 1990 creation of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) to administer Title V.

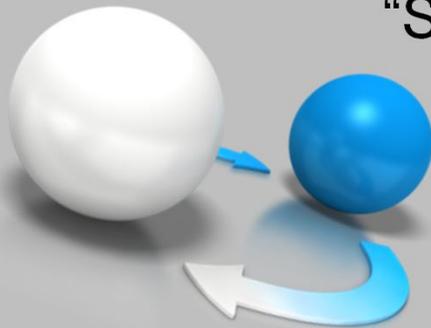


The response to recommendations from the 2 milestone conferences was far-reaching. Several grants resulted through the Office of MCH's Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS).

STATES' RESPONSE TO ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Conversion of Title V to state formula Block Grant in the 1980's

- + Gave states more leeway in how to use these funds for self identified MCH needs.
- + Some states established staff positions dedicated to adolescent health within their Title V/MCH programs.
- + These positions became known as "State Adolescent Health Coordinators"



EVOLUTION OF AHC'S

1980's

- ✗ 33 states have designated State Adolescent Health Coordinators.
- ✗ Because little is known about the adolescent populations served by Title V/MCH programs, MCHB funds a survey on the role of MCH and CSHCN programs in serving adolescents – it becomes the first published analysis of its kind on Title V's role in serving adolescents.

1990 to present

- ✗ MCHB establishes *Adolescent Health Resource Centers* to help Title V programs to serve adolescents.

1990

- ✗ *State Adolescent Health Coordinator Network* (now NNSAHC) is formally organized.

1992 - 1997

- ✗ Grants awarded to 8 state Title V/MCH programs to fund state AHC positions.

AHC's Today

- × **2011:** 42 states and 3 territories with designated AHC (or someone designated as contact for adolescent health)
- × **Varies significantly:** Title, funding source, location in the Health Department.

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Prepared by the State Adolescent Health Resource Center

University of Minnesota

September 2013

For more information, visit:

<http://www.nnsahc.org>

