



Adolescent Health Matters @ AMCHP 2019: *Here's Why Your Adolescent Health Coordinator Should Be There*

- 1. Adolescent Health is a conference focus.** As a Title V Block Grant domain, adolescent health has its own dedicated AMCHP conference track, with pre-conference sessions, networking opportunities, and youth-led sessions focused on improving, promoting, and protecting adolescent health.
- 2. Title V Block Grant National Performance Measures include Adolescent Health.** AMCHP directly supports states working to address national performance measures. While there are two that specifically address adolescents, nearly all performance measures include data from older adolescents. The health and wellness of adolescents has a direct impact on outcomes for states. Many states have embraced direct input from young people by engaging them in Block Grant needs assessments. AMCHP offers a chance to learn and share valuable on-the-ground examples and strategies for improving these performance measures in your state.
- 3. Your Adolescent Health Coordinator is *powered by* NNSAHC.** The National Network of State Adolescent Health Coordinators (NNSAHC) is ready to engage and empower your coordinator by providing resources, guidance, and networking opportunities during the AMCHP conference and beyond.
- 4. Adolescent Health is an integral part of public health.** Adolescence is one of the most critical developmental phases in life. The support, messaging, and resources needed to promote health and wellness for adolescents require an intentional approach. States that invest in adolescent health are ultimately investing in the future of their citizens and communities.
- 5. Coordinators gain access to emerging research and best practices in adolescent health.** The AMCHP annual conference hosts national leaders in topics ranging from trauma informed care to tele-health to brain development. Coordinators can interact with leaders in the field to discuss challenges, successes, and implementation strategies.
- 6. Youth and young adults are emerging leaders in public health.** AMCHP continues to engage youth and young adults to participate as speakers and attendees at the annual conference. Adolescent health coordinators benefit greatly from working shoulder to shoulder with the very population being served.
- 7. Coordinators share experiences and best practices.** Throughout the conference, coordinators contribute to valuable conversations around the reality of adolescent health on the ground. Missouri engages rural youth as leaders, despite transportation challenges. Puerto Rico empowers youth to educate their communities on Zika. States share practical examples like these of youth engagement and the impact it has on health outcomes.
- 8. Continuing Education Credits & strengthened staff.** Certain break-out sessions offer continuing education credits for participants. This opportunity ensures increased knowledge for staff through quality technical assistance.
- 9. Participation promotes a systems-approach.** Adolescent health coordinators have the opportunity to learn about efforts in other maternal and child health areas. This not only builds stronger, cross-trained staff, but allows silos to be removed for a coordinated public health approach.
- 10. Adolescent Health Coordinators embody the fun, creative and enthusiastic energy of youth!** With a direct line to young people in their states through grantees and partners, and in many cases working directly with them, adolescent health coordinators have their finger on the pulse of needs, dreams and ideas of young people, and they bring that same creative and hopeful energy we see in young people when given opportunities to thrive and grow!