



Promoting Sexual Health Through STD Prevention

NCSDDC.ORG

1029 Vermont Ave NW
Ste 500
Washington, DC 20005

202.842.4660
202.842.4542 (Fax)

Re: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Docket No. CDC-2018-0093

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSDD), I am writing to provide comments in support of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) continuing information collection proposal, entitled "[Assessments to Inform Program Refinement for HIV, other STD, and Pregnancy Prevention among Middle and High-School Aged Youth](#)." NCSDD is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that advances effective sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention programs and services in every community across the country. Our vision is a nation without sexually transmitted diseases. Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on this proposal.

In partnership with the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), NCSDD works diligently to improve adolescent sexual health throughout the country. Our partnership supports state education agencies in their work to build the capacity of schools and districts to facilitate access to STD prevention and other sexual health services for middle and high school students. This work includes policy assessment, referral system development, communication strategies, and identifying youth-friendly providers. These core components of our partnership could be improved through the CDC's proposed project.

Because of the general lack of research around adolescent sexual health, and the overall challenges posed by an absence of this information, NCSDD appreciates and fully supports the CDC's proposed information collection campaign. As the CDC states, "Adolescents have specific developmental, health, social, and resource needs" when it comes to addressing their STD, HIV, and pregnancy prevention needs. In order to better understand what this adversely effected population requires, it is essential that we recognize where our qualitative and quantitative data is lacking and use that data to facilitate age-appropriate and medically accurate information getting to young people. We are particularly interested in expanded efforts to better understand experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth when it comes to sexual health education, access to key sexual health services, and the environments in which they live and learn. We can improve programmatic practices by implementing recommendations that utilize research with a strong foundation in scientific evidence.

By addressing adolescents, parents, and caregivers, by way of electronic, telephone, and paper platforms, the CDC is receiving information directly from the most crucial sources through the most efficient means. The combination of questionnaires, interviews, and focus groups serve as diverse platforms that will strengthen the analysis of the collected data. Through collecting and analyzing the information related to these population's demographics, perceptions about adolescent programs and services, awareness of adolescent health risks, and overall parenting knowledge and attitudes, the CDC will have

a more complete understanding of the challenges adolescents face in attaining healthy and positive sexual livelihoods.

We appreciate your attention to these comments and the opportunity to provide them. If you have questions related to these comments, please contact NCSD's Senior Manager, Policy and Government Relations, Rebekah Horowitz, at rhorowitz@ncsddc.org or 202-618-4035.



Promoting Sexual Health
Through STD Prevention