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The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) studies Administration for Children and Families (ACF) programs and the populations they serve through rigorous research and evaluation projects. These include evaluations

Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE).

Spotlight on Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Evaluating a New Federal Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative

Although teen birth rates are improving, in 2011 more than 300,000 children were born to teen mothers, ages 15 to 19, in the U.S. OPRE is building knowledge about what works to reduce teen pregnancy through an evaluation of a new federal initiative, the [Personal Responsibility Education Program \(PREP\)](#).

The PREP program was created through the Affordable Care Act of 2010 and is designed to educate adolescents about both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy. It is a tiered, evidence-based program. OPRE and the Family and Youth Services Bureau in ACF are collaborating to oversee an evaluation of the program.

The [PREP Evaluation](#) will 1) document how state PREP programs are designed and implemented, 2) measure and report on program performance, and 3) conduct rigorous impact evaluations of selected sites to estimate program effectiveness on key outcomes, such as rates of sexual initiation and abstinence, contraceptive use, and teen pregnancy. Beginning in 2013, reports will be released periodically.

Understanding How to Prevent Repeat Teen Births

Approximately 1 in 5 to teen mothers, ages 15 to 19, in the U.S. give birth to another child within 24 months of their last pregnancy. Such rapid repeat births can damage maternal health, child health, family economic self-sufficiency, and other outcomes. For teen mothers, rapid repeat births are correlated with not finishing high school. OPRE is overseeing two projects that address this outcome:

1. The [Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness](#) project is a systematic review of the effectiveness of home visiting program models on

of existing programs, evaluations of innovative approaches to helping low-income children and families, research syntheses and descriptive and exploratory studies.

maternal and child outcomes. The review identified two home visiting models that affect the spacing between births: Nurse Family Partnership and Oklahoma's Community-Based Family Resource and Support Program.

2. The [Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation](#) (MIHOPE) is a national random assignment study looking at the impact selected [Mother, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program](#) (MIECHV) models on a range of outcomes. The study will examine whether participation in home visiting programming has impacts on mothers' reproductive health, including their access to contraceptives and spacing of subsequent births. The results of this study will be published in 2017. You can sign up for updates on the project [here](#).

Other News

Policy Forum on Early Development and Education of Dual Language Learners: Recent Research Findings and Recommendations

On May 14, the [Center for Early Care and Education Research: Dual Language Learners](#) (CECER-DLL) will host a Policy Forum on Capitol Hill to highlight and expand the work of the CECER-DLL in relation to research and policy. The Center is a cooperative agreement awarded by OPRE to the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The primary goal of the Center is to advance the research field to improve assessment, child care, and education for dual language learners (DLLs) from birth through five years of age.

16th Annual Welfare Research and Evaluation Conference

Registration is open for OPRE's 16th Annual Welfare Research and Evaluation Conference (WREC) to be held May 29 - 31, 2013 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. This year's WREC features a dynamic agenda highlighting research in several areas, including:

- TANF
- Education, Training and Success in the Labor Market
- Child and Youth Well-Being
- Fatherhood, Relationships and Strengthening Families
- Building and Using Evidence on Social Programs
- Approaches to Alleviate Poverty and Strengthen the Safety Net

Other conference highlights will include:

- Keynote address by Dr. Jack Shonkoff (Harvard Center on the Developing Child) on the lingering effects of adverse early childhood experiences
- Facilitated roundtable discussions on diverse topics, including TANF-funded subsidized employment, using performance management data, social impact bonds, and many more.
- Emerging Scholars Poster Session highlighting the work of scholars

who are early in their careers.

The WREC, which is free and open to the public, is intended for a broad audience, particularly Federal, State and local government practitioners and researchers. For those unable to attend in person, select sessions will be live streamed via the internet.

To register or to find out more, please visit www.wrconference.net. Advance registration will be open through May 10th.

OPRE's Behavioral Interventions to Advance Self-Sufficiency (BIAS) Initiative Highlighted in Government Executive

A recent [Collaborative Forum](#) event examined behavioral interventions in government. In response, an article in the Government Executive newsletter highlights three projects applying and examining behavioral interventions. The article, "[3 Governments Playing on Human Nature to Improve Program Performance](#)," discusses efforts underway in the UK, OPRE's [Behavioral Interventions to Advance Self-Sufficiency \(BIAS\) project](#), and work done by the Texas Child Support Division as part of the BIAS project.

Recently Released Reports



Report to Congress on Dual Language Learners in Head Start and Early Head Start Programs

In response to a requirement in the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-134), this report describes the characteristics, services received, and well-being of Head Start children and families who speak a language other than English at home, approximately a quarter of all children served by Head Start in the 2007-2008 program year. Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. assisted ACF in compiling and analyzing data to develop the report. The full [Report to Congress](#) and an [Executive Summary](#) are available on the OPRE website.

[> Read Full Report](#)



A Framework for Thinking about Job Search Assistance Programs

How can federal programs support low-income and low-skilled individuals find and keep employment? OPRE released a new brief that describes an overarching framework for thinking about job search assistance programs, including an overview of service delivery methods, key program components, and the key steps that make up the job search process. This brief was written by Robin Koralek and Jacob Klerman and produced by Abt Associates.

[> Read Full Brief](#)



Two Reports on disseminating findings from human services research

OPRE released a review of literature, titled "[Human Services Research Dissemination: What Works?](#)" A companion piece, "[The Value-Added Research Dissemination Framework](#)," builds on this literature to construct a framework for dissemination. The literature review and framework are designed to assist researchers in ensuring that their work reaches its intended audiences. Both products were authored by Jane Macoubrie and Courtney Harrison and created by Public Strategies.

[> Read Full Reports](#)