

OPRE 2014 Year In Review

Dear Colleagues,

As the end of the year approaches, I want to share some highlights of OPRE's work in 2014, and express my appreciation for our staff, contractors, and partners in that work. It is a privilege to work with so many talented people who are deeply committed to building and using evidence to improve social programs.

In 2014 we released 88 publications related to child welfare, child care, Head Start, Early Head Start, strengthening families, teen pregnancy prevention and youth development, home visiting, self-sufficiency, welfare and employment. Some of the highlights of our year include:

- In Head Start research, we released the initial impacts from our **Head Start CARES evaluation** and **a report** from the 3rd grade follow-up from the Head Start Impact Study examining the role of program quality in determining the impact on child development.
- Our work on the application of **behavioral economics** to social policy yielded an effective, low-cost approach to helping incarcerated parents apply for a child support order modification.
- The National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) continues to provide insights into the wellbeing and circumstances of children in the child welfare system. 2014 publications addressed **disconnected youth**, **domestic violence** among mothers of children reported for maltreatment, and **sexual activity** among teenage girls in the child welfare system. In fiscal year 2015, Congress provided funds to begin a new round of the study.
- We released a report on how states are implementing evidence-based teen pregnancy programs under the **Personal Responsibility Education Program**.
- This year we released the final impacts from our **Supporting Healthy Marriage** evaluation and awarded **grants to researchers** for secondary analyses of Strengthening Families datasets.
- Our **Pathways for Advancing Careers and Education (PACE) project** is evaluating nine innovative career pathways programs around the country. We published in-depth profiles of each participating program throughout 2014.
- We released a number of reports from the National Survey of Early Care and Education, including one on **how parents search** for early care and education and another on the **characteristics of center-based care**.
- As of the 2014 review, our **Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE) review** has found 17 models that meet the criteria for an evidence-based early childhood home visiting program.
- The **INQUIRE Data Toolkit** supports effective use of data in early care and education through the use of common data elements.
- Our **Understanding the Dynamics of Disconnection** project described experiences of material hardship and coping strategies among unmarried mothers who are neither receiving TANF nor working.
- We continued to increase the reach of our work through our newsletter, **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

Thank you for your support and best wishes for the New Year.

Naomi Goldstein
Director, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation

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Washington, D.C. 20447
202.401.9220
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