U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Task Force on Research Specific to Pregnant and Lactating Women

**Agency Activities: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)**

**Research**

OASH sponsors research related to therapies for pregnant and lactating women mostly through the National Vaccine Office Program (see separate document).

**Clinical Practice Information and Recommendations**


OASH's Regional Offices have incorporated USPSTF recommendations into provider training and resources, in collaboration with AHRQ. For example, the Healthier Pregnancy provider training initiative informs providers about successful efforts to implement USPSTF recommendations.

OASH's Region 5 held an education and training event in August 2016 to engage health and social services professionals who serve pregnant women and young mothers, to help promote breastfeeding. In the same region, provider training has focused on the impact of traumatic exposure on pregnancy health and breastfeeding. OASH's Region 7 supports a regional breastfeeding outreach effort.

**Research Policies and Regulation**

The Office for Human Research Protections provides regulations for the protection of human research subjects, including information specifically tailored to research involving pregnant and lactating women ([https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/](https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/)).

**Communications**

The Office of Women's Health (OWH) includes a wide array of pregnancy-related information on its website, [https://www.womenshealth.gov/pregnancy](https://www.womenshealth.gov/pregnancy). Examples of specific items include:

- Information on medications in pregnancy is available in multiple forms and levels of detail: [https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/pregnancy-and-medicines](https://www.womenshealth.gov/a-z-topics/pregnancy-and-medicines); [https://www.womenshealth.gov/files/assets/docs/fact-sheets/pregnancy-medicines.pdf](https://www.womenshealth.gov/files/assets/docs/fact-sheets/pregnancy-medicines.pdf)
• Information on tobacco and pregnancy: [https://betobaccofree.hhs.gov/gallery/pregnant.html](https://betobaccofree.hhs.gov/gallery/pregnant.html)
• Supporting nursing moms at work: [https://www.womenshealth.gov/breastfeeding/employer-solutions/?from=breastfeeding](https://www.womenshealth.gov/breastfeeding/employer-solutions/?from=breastfeeding)

OWH also supports a National Breastfeeding Helpline at 1-800-994-9662, which provides telephone access to trained breastfeeding peer counselors, in English and Spanish.


**Other Collaborative Efforts**

OWH supported a conference and subsequent publication on opioid use which incorporates information on use by pregnant women: [https://www.womenshealth.gov/files/documents/final-report-opioid-508.pdf](https://www.womenshealth.gov/files/documents/final-report-opioid-508.pdf). OWH also supports the United States Breastfeeding Committee, an independent nonprofit collaboration of over 50 organizations that support breastfeeding initiatives across the United States.