A Prevention Research Center funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Mission

The Center for Adolescent Health (CAH) is committed to helping Baltimore’s youth to become healthy and productive adults. We collaborate with community partners and youth-serving organizations to conduct research and develop programs that are tested and proven to advance healthy adolescent development.
CAH location and structure

- CDC-funded Prevention Research Center over the past 25 years
- Dr. Philip Leaf has directed the Center since most recent round of CDC funding; Dr. Mendelson joined as new director
- Located in the Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health (PFRH)
- Affiliated faculty from several JHSPH departments, Kennedy Krieger Institute, and the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Education, and Arts & Sciences
Center for Adolescent Health (CAH) Organizational Chart

Advisory Groups
- Community (CAB)
- Youth (YAB)

Citywide Practice Networks
- YLAN
- theConnect
- Baltimore's Promise

CAH

Training

Community Engagement & Partnerships

Research

Communication

Bloomberg American Health Initiative
- Risks to Adolescent Health Workgroup

Translation & Dissemination
Center Faculty and Staff

Beth Marshall, DrPH
Associate Director

Terri Powell, PhD
Co-Investigator

Kristin Mmari
Co-Investigator

Lauren Burns, BA
Communications Specialist

Katrina Brooks, MA
Community Relations Director
CAB and YAB

- Community Advisory Board (CAB)
  - 21 members
  - Representation from community sectors serving youth in Baltimore

- Youth Advisory Board (YAB)
  - 12 young adults aged 17-22
  - Includes high school students, recent graduates, and young people attending local colleges
  - Many have histories of adverse childhood experiences and disconnection
Citywide practice networks

• The Youth Advocacy and Leadership Network (YLAN)
  Citywide youth leadership network of 45+ organizations and individuals

• The City’s Youth Opportunity Network (TheCONNECT)
  Cross-sector collaborative to promote opportunities for disconnected youth in education, entrepreneurship, and employment

• Baltimore’s Promise
  Citywide collaborative to promote youth educational success
Bloomberg American Health Initiative

• Close partnership and synergy between CAH and the *Risks to Adolescent Health* focal area in the Initiative
  ▫ Share Youth Advisory Board
  ▫ Share focus on preventing youth disconnection and re-engaging opportunity youth
  ▫ Share projects
Training

- Expand bi-directional training opportunities
- Encourage effective implementation of research, effective practices and policies
- Expose high school and undergraduate students to the field of public health
- Educate graduate students on the research and practice of public health through courses and research
- Enhance the postdoc and junior faculty experience through career development supports
Community Engagement

• Maintain a Community Advisory Board to serve a guide in Center activities

• Increase capacity of Baltimore City youth leaders to effectively participate in research, policy and practice

• Provide adolescent health focused technical assistance
Communications

- Center website
- Blog posts
- Email updates (“Weekly Items of Interest”)
- Fact sheets
- Goal to establish Center as a “go-to” source of expertise on adolescent health issues, research, programs, and education
Test the benefits of adapting and effectively implementing multi-year, evidence-based interventions that reduce health risks among adolescents
Special Interest Projects (SIPs)

- Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (jgittel1@jhu.edu)
- Physical Activity Policy and Evaluation Research Network Plus (kpollac1@jhu.edu)
- Reducing Youth Exposure to Alcohol Marketing (djernigan@jhu.edu)
Current Projects

• The Ruth and Norman Rales Center for the Integration of Health and Education*
• Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative Strategic Plan
• Youth Health and Wellness Strategy*
• Summer Youth Leadership Institute
• UChoose: Replicating Evidence-Based TPP Programs to Scale in Communities with the Greatest Need (Tier 1B)
Current Projects

- Faith Leader Informed Prevention (FLIP)
- Baltimore City Call to Action
- Baltimore City Public Schools Promoting Student Resilience Initiative
- Project POWER
- Effects of mindfulness on stress physiology in Baltimore City high school students
Get involved!

- Center datasets
  - 10+ datasets (6 related to school interventions or outcomes)
- 2 full-time positions open
  - Research Program Coordinator
  - Research Assistant
- Other opportunities…
Thank you!

- Tamar Mendelson – tmendel1@jhu.edu