Established in 1993, the Center for Adolescent Health works with community organizations, schools, local health departments, policy makers, federal and state agencies, and universities to develop programs and policies that promote adolescent health. The Center created the Youth Advisory Committee—or YAC—to ensure that young people have a voice in guiding our efforts.

"Being part of the YAC is a new experience." Dunbar Middle School, age 13

When was the YAC formed and who eligible to join the YAC?
The YAC was formed in 1995 and includes young people between the ages of 13 and 21 from different schools and neighborhoods in Baltimore City.

"I joined the YAC because it gives me a chance to voice my opinions and help support my community." Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School, age 15

What is the role of the YAC in the Center?
The YAC helps Center staff to better understand the concerns and priorities of young people, their families, and their neighborhoods by providing ideas and feedback about ongoing work.

What else do YAC members do?
YAC members participate in a wide range of activities including:
- Taking trips to fun and exciting places
- Community service activities, such as neighborhood clean-ups
- Team building activities
- Public service media projects
- Job readiness training and assistance
- Leadership skill building
- Recruiting new YAC members

Why do adolescents join the YAC?
YAC members say they join for many reasons:
- To help the Center for Adolescent Health do important work that benefits youth and their communities
- To meet young people from different schools and neighborhoods
- To obtain service learning credits
- To have fun!

"I joined because it gives me a chance to express myself." Dunbar High School, age 15
What is expected of Youth Advisory Committee members?

YAC members are expected to attend bi-monthly meetings, have a positive attitude, be open-minded, respectful of one another and the community, and take an active role in YAC projects!

“All of the YAC activities have been significant experiences in my life.” Polytechnic High School, age 14

How can adolescents join the YAC?

There is no screening or application process. You are considered a member once you have made a personal commitment, usually demonstrated by attending 2-3 consecutive meetings. The Center for Adolescent Health strives to have a diversity of opinions and life experiences reflected by its YAC members.

“Being a part of the YAC helps me to develop my social skills.”
Dunbar High School, age 15

Where and when does the YAC meet?

The YAC meets every Wednesday from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in Room E4611 at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health building at 615 N. Wolfe Street.

How do YAC members get to the meetings?

YAC members must arrange their own transportation. The Center is located near the subway and bus lines 13, 5, and 35. There is parking available on the street. The Center provides travel reimbursement for each meeting.

Give us a Call!

The Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 443-287-3006 and ask for Katrina Brooks.