

Acknowledgments

The authors wish to express their appreciation for the input of numerous PAHO technical staff and consultants whose valuable expertise and insights helped to sharpen the focus and strengthen the messages presented in this book. These include Benjamin Berman, Paul Bloem, Jose Miguel Caldas, Gloria Coe, Lucimar Coser Cannon, Jane Ferguson, Rafael Flores, Francisca Infante, Enrique Jacobby, V. Chandra Mouli, Rafael Obregón, Armando Peruga, Marilyn Rice, Jessie Schutt-Aine, Heather Selin, Sylvia Singleton, and Alex Vega. Practical feedback was additionally provided by numerous professionals working in adolescent health promotion and prevention programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. The authors especially thank Gina Tambini, PAHO's Family and Community Health Area Manager, and Yehuda Benguigui, PAHO's Child and Adolescent Health Unit Chief, for their continuous support to our work. A special debt of gratitude is owed to Stanley Greenspan and Georgia DeGangi, who generously shared their time and clinical experiences, thereby providing important underpinnings for Section Three's focus on the preadolescent and early adolescent stages of development and on the importance of early intervention. Finally, the authors reserve a special mention for the leadership and talent of PAHO's Publications Area team, without whom this book could not have been possible.

The Pan American Health Organization extends its appreciation to the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for their collaboration on this project. The support of these organizations has been crucial to the formation of this book's developmental approach and focus on innovative ways to promote healthy lifestyles among youth.