



ALASKA

In Fiscal Year 2013,¹ the state of Alaska received:

- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative funds totaling \$599,985**
- **Division of Adolescent and School Health funds totaling \$60,000**
- **Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling \$250,000**

SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY

Alaska does not have a law that governs sexuality education; therefore, schools are not required to teach sexuality or sexually transmitted disease (STD) education. The state's department of education explains that it "does not endorse specific curricula, but seeks to provide districts with the most up-to-date materials and research-based programs so schools can evaluate what best meets the needs of their student population."²

In addition, the "Skills for a Healthy Life" section of the *Content and Performance Standards for Alaska Students* provided by the Department of Education and Early Development states that students should, among other things:

- understand the physical and behavioral characteristics of human sexual development and maturity;
- develop an awareness of how personal life roles are affected by and contribute to the well-being of families, communities, and cultures;
- understand how respect for the rights of self and others contributes to relationships; and
- take responsible actions to create safe and healthy environments.³

Alaska neither requires parental permission for students to participate in sexuality or HIV/AIDS education nor does it say whether parents or guardians may remove their children from such classes.

See *Content and Performance Standards for Alaska Students*.

2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION ACTIVITY

SIECUS is not aware of any proposed legislation regarding sexuality education in Alaska.

YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH DATA

SIECUS has compiled the following data to provide an overview of adolescent sexual health in Alaska. The data collected represents the most current information available.

Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data⁴

- In 2013, 39.5% of female high school students and 37.7% of male high school students in Alaska reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 46% of female high school students and 47.5% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2013, 3.1% of female high school students and 5.8% of male high school students in Alaska reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13, compared to 3.1% of female high school students and 8.3% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2013, 26.8% of female high school students and 22.4% of male high school students in Alaska reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey), compared to 35.2% of female high school students and 32.7% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2013, 11.3% of female high school students and 6.2% of male high school students in Alaska who dated or went out with someone during the 12 months before the survey reported experiencing physical dating violence one or more times during that time period (defined as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with), compared to 13% of female high school students and 7.4% of male high school students nationwide.

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Youth Online database](#) for additional information on sexual behaviors.

Alaska Teen Pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and Other STD Data

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- In 2010, Alaska's teen pregnancy rate ranked 12th in the United States, with a rate of 64 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 57 per 1,000.⁵ In 2010, there were a total of 1,600 pregnancies among young women ages 15–19 reported in Alaska.⁶
- In 2012, Alaska's teen birth rate ranked 15th in the United States, with a rate of 34.5 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 29.4 per 1,000.⁷ In 2012, there were a total of 817 live births to young women ages 15–19 reported in Alaska.⁸
- In 2010, Alaska's teen abortion rate ranked 10th in the United States, with a rate of 17 abortions per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 15 per 1,000.⁹ There were a total of 410 abortions among young women ages 15–19 reported in Alaska in 2010.¹⁰

HIV and AIDS

- In 2011, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among adolescents ages 13–19 in Alaska was 5.8 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 7.6 per 100,000.¹¹
- In 2011, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among adolescents ages 13–19 in Alaska was 1.5 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 1.9 per 100,000.¹²

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- In 2011, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among young adults ages 20–24 in Alaska was 7.4 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 36.3 per 100,000.¹³
- In 2011, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among young adults ages 20–24 in Alaska was 5.7 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 10.9 per 100,000.¹⁴

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- In 2012, Alaska ranked seventh in the United States for reported cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19, with an infection rate of 2,583.5 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 2,001.7 per 100,000. In 2012, there were a total of 1,329 cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 reported in Alaska.¹⁵
- In 2012, Alaska ranked 37th in the United States for reported cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19, with an infection rate of 167.2 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 376.8 per 100,000. In 2012, there were a total of 86 cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 reported in Alaska.¹⁶
- In 2012, Alaska joined nine other states with a primary and secondary syphilis infection rate of zero among young people ages 15-19, compared to the national rate of 4.1 cases per 100,000.¹⁷

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SEX EDUCATION, TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION, AND ABSTINENCE-ONLY-UNTIL-MARRIAGE PROGRAMS

President's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative

The President's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI) funds medically accurate and age-appropriate programs to reduce teen pregnancy. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) administers the grant program, which totaled \$105 million in discretionary funding for FY 2013. TPPI consists of two funding tiers that provide grants to local public and private entities. Tier 1 totals \$75 million and provides funding for the replication of evidence-based programs proven to prevent unintended teen pregnancy and address underlying behavioral risk factors. Tier 2 totals \$25 million and provides funding to develop and test additional models and innovative strategies. A portion of the Tier 2 funds, \$15.2 million, was allocated for research and demonstration grants to test innovative approaches, while the remaining funding, \$9.8 million, was allocated for grants to support communitywide initiatives. OAH utilizes the remaining appropriated funds to provide program support, implementation evaluation, and technical assistance to grantees. TPPI also dedicates \$8.5 million in funding to conduct evaluations of individual programs.

TPPI Tier 1: Evidence-Based Programs

The TPPI Tier 1 grant program supports the replication of evidence-based programs proven effective through rigorous evaluation to prevent unintended teen pregnancy and minimize underlying behavioral risk factors or other associated risk factors.

- There are no TPPI Tier 1 grantees in Alaska.

TPPI Tier 2: Innovative Approaches

The TPPI Tier 2 grant program supports research and demonstration programs in order to develop, replicate, refine, and test additional models and innovative strategies for preventing teenage pregnancy.

- There is one TPPI Tier 2 Innovative Approaches grantee in Alaska, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, which received \$599,985 for FY 2013.

State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health \$599,985 (FY 2013)

The Section of Women's, Children's and Family Health of the Division Public Health in the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services administers the state's Tier 2 grant. With the Tier 2 funds, the department implements an adaptation of *Promoting Health Among Teens! (PHAT)—Comprehensive*, using trained peer educators. The program serves at-risk youth ages 13–19 in five communities throughout Alaska, including young people who are in the juvenile justice system or foster care, who are living in behavioral residential care facilities or transitional housing, and who attend alternative high schools. The program also serves Alaska Native youth in rural areas that experience high rates of teen pregnancy. The program plans to serve approximately 225 young people each year.

TPPI Tier 2: Communitywide Initiatives

The TPPI Tier 2 grant program also supports communitywide initiatives to reduce rates of teenage pregnancy and births in communities with the highest rates. The program awards grants to national organizations as well as state- and community-based organizations. Funded national partners provide training and technical assistance to local grantees. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) implements the grant program in partnership with OAH.

- There are no TPPI Tier 2 Communitywide Initiatives grantees in Alaska.

Division of Adolescent and School Health

The Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provides funding to 17 state and 19 local education agencies to help districts and schools strengthen student health through exemplary sexual health education (ESHE), that emphasizes HIV and other STD prevention, increased access to key sexual health services (SHS), and the establishment of safe and supportive environments (SSE) for students and staff. In addition, DASH funds nine national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help state and local education agencies achieve these goals.

- There were no DASH grantees in Alaska funded to strengthen student health through ESHE, SHS, and SSE in FY 2013.

DASH also funds three local education agencies and one NGO to implement multiple program activities to meet the HIV/STD-prevention needs of young men who have sex with men (YMSM) and to develop strategic partnerships and collaborations between schools and community-based, mental health, and social services organizations to accomplish this work.

- There were no DASH grantees in Alaska funded to deliver YMSM programming in FY 2013.

DASH also provides funding for state, territorial, and local education agencies and state health agencies to establish and strengthen systematic procedures to collect and report Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and School Health Profiles data for policy and program improvements.

- There was one DASH grantee in Alaska funded to collect and report YRBS and School Health Profiles data for FY 2013, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (\$60,000).

Pregnancy Assistance Fund

The Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF), administered by OAH, provides expecting and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families with a network of support services. Established in FY 2010 through a 10-year authorization (FY 2010–FY 2019) in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), PAF is a \$25 million competitive grant program for state and tribal entities. PAF grants support programs that include at least one of the following four components: 1) support for expectant- and parenting-student services at institutions of higher education; 2) support for expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families at high schools and community centers; 3) improved services for pregnant women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and 4) increased public awareness and education services for expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families. Now in the second round of awards, PAF supports 17 entities in 14 states and three tribal entities, most of which focus their efforts on serving teen parents.

- There are no PAF grantees in Alaska.

Personal Responsibility Education Program

The Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) totals \$75 million per year for FYs 2010–2014 and is the first-ever dedicated funding stream for more comprehensive approaches to sexuality education. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) administers the grant. PREP includes a \$55 million state grant program, \$10 million to fund local entities through the Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies (PREIS) program, \$3.1 million for Tribal PREP, for tribes and tribal organizations, with remaining funds for evaluation, training, and technical assistance. In addition, provisions within the statute for PREP enable a competitive application process for community- and faith-based organizations within states and territories that do not directly seek PREP funding by the third year of the program; these competitive PREP (CPREP) grants were awarded to organizations in five states and three territories in FY 2013. Details on the state grant program, PREIS, Tribal PREP, and CPREP are included below.

PREP State-Grant Program

The PREP state-grant program supports evidence-based programs that provide young people with medically accurate and age-appropriate information for the prevention of unintended pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other STDs. The grant program totals \$55 million per year and allocates funding to individual states. The grant does not require states to provide matching funds. Funded programs must discuss abstinence and contraception, and place substantial emphasis on both. Programs must also address at least three of the following adulthood preparation subjects: healthy relationships, positive adolescent development, financial literacy, parent-child communication skills, education and employment skills, and healthy life skills.

- The State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health received \$250,000 in federal PREP funds for FY 2013.
- There is one sub-grantee for the Alaska PREP state-grant program: The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (\$150,000).¹⁸

The Alaska PREP state-grant program is implemented through a partnership between the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Section of Women's, Children's and Family Health, and the Department of Education and Early Development. The target population is youth ages 11–19 in seventh through tenth grade who reside in areas of the state with a high rate of teen births, such as the Lower Kuskokwim, Northwest Arctic Borough, and the North Slope Borough school districts. However, all schools in Alaska with an identified need are welcome to participate. The Department of Education and Early Development uses their sub-granted funds to supplement teacher travel to the trainings, purchase curriculum, and provide stipends to schools/teachers to support evaluation efforts by the DHSS. The DHSS provides training and technical assistance to aid school districts' implementation of *Fourth R—Alaska Perspectives*, which addresses the adulthood preparation subjects of adolescent development, healthy relationships, and healthy life skills.¹⁹

Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies (PREIS)

PREIS supports research and demonstration programs to develop, replicate, refine, and test innovative models for preventing unintended teen pregnancy. ACF administers the grant program in collaboration with OAH and provides a total of \$10 million in funding directly to local public and private entities.

- There are no PREIS grantees in Alaska.

Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program (Tribal PREP)

Tribal PREP supports the development and implementation of comprehensive teen pregnancy prevention programs within tribes and tribal communities. Tribal PREP programs target youth ages 10–19 who are in or are aging out of foster care, homeless youth, youth with HIV/AIDS, pregnant and/or parenting youth who are under 21 years of age, and youth who live in areas with high adolescent birth rates. Programs must address at least three of the following adulthood preparation subjects: healthy relationships, positive adolescent development, financial literacy, parent-child communication skills, education and employment skills, and healthy life skills.

- In FY 2013, 16 tribes and tribal organizations from nine states received a total of \$3.1 million.
- There are no Tribal PREP grantees in Alaska.

Competitive Personal Responsibility Education Program (CPREP)

CPREP grants support evidence-based programs that provide young people with medically accurate and age-appropriate information for the prevention of unintended pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other STDs. Organizations and institutions in states and territories that did not apply for PREP formula grants in either of the past two fiscal years were eligible to submit competitive applications for CPREP grants. Thirty-seven grants, totaling \$18.6 million, were awarded in FY 2013 to organizations in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Florida, Guam, Indiana, North Dakota, Texas, and Virginia.

- There are no CPREP grantees in Alaska.

Title V State Abstinence Education Grant Program

The Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage (Title V AOUM) program, administered by ACF, allocates \$50 million per year to states for FYs 2010–2014. The Title V AOUM program requires states to provide three state-raised dollars or the equivalent in services for every four federal dollars received. The state match may be provided in part or in full by local groups. All programs funded by the Title V AOUM program must promote abstinence from sexual activity as their exclusive purpose and may provide mentoring, counseling, and adult supervision toward this end. Programs must be medically accurate and age-appropriate and must ensure abstinence is an expected outcome.

- Alaska chose not to apply for Title V AOUM funds for FY 2013.

Competitive Abstinence Education Grant Program

Administered by the ACF, the Competitive Abstinence Education (CAE) grant program provides grants for “abstinence education” as defined by the A–H statute in Title V of the Social Security Act, as well as for mentoring, counseling, and adult supervision that promotes abstinence outside of marriage. As currently implemented by ACF, the programs must also be medically accurate. In FY 2013, \$4.3 million was granted through a competitive application process to 10 grantees across nine states, in addition to the nine grantees implementing the second year of their CAE awards in some overlapping and additional states, for a total of 19 CAE grantees in 14 states.

- There are no CAE grantees in Alaska.

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Alaska TPPI, DASH, PAF, PREP, Title V AOUM, and CAE Funding in FY 2013

Grantee	Award	Fiscal Years
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI)		
<i>TPPI Tier 2: Innovative Approaches</i>		
State of Alaska Department of Health and Human Services	\$599,985	2010–2014
TOTAL	\$599,985	
Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)		
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services	\$60,000	2013–2017
TOTAL	\$60,000	
Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)		
<i>PREP State-Grant Program</i>		
State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (federal grant)	\$250,000	2013
TOTAL	\$250,000	
GRAND TOTAL		
	\$909,985	2013

POINTS OF CONTACT

Adolescent Health Contact²⁰

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¹ This refers to the federal government’s fiscal year, which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, FY 2013 began on October 1, 2012, and ended on September 30, 2013.

² State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, “HIV/STD and Sexuality Education Curricula,” accessed May 28, 2013, <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/schoolhealth/curriculum.html>.

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- ³ “Content and Performance Standards for Alaska Students,” Alaska State Board of Education, p24–27, <http://bit.ly/1Cu4pyw>.
- ⁴ Kann, Laura, et. al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2013,” *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Vol. 63, No. 4 (June 13, 2014): accessed July 17, 2014, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6304.pdf>.
- ⁵ Kost, K., and S. Henshaw, *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions, 2010: State Trends by Age, Race, and Ethnicity* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2014), accessed July 8, 2014, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends10.pdf>, Table 3.1.
- ⁶ *Ibid.*, Table 3.2.
- ⁷ Martin, J.A., et al., *Births: Final Data for 2012*, National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 62, No. 9, (December 30, 2013), accessed July 30, 2014, http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_09.pdf, Table 12.
- ⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, VitalStats Interactive Data Tables, Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm>.
- ⁹ Kost, K., and S. Henshaw, *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions, 2010: State Trends by Age, Race, and Ethnicity* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2014), accessed July 8, 2014, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends10.pdf>, Table 3.1.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Table 3.2.
- ¹¹ Slide 9: “Rates of Diagnosis of HIV Infection among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years, 2011—United States and 6 Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed May 30, 2013, <http://bit.ly/1dbYpAJ>.
- ¹² Slide 18: “Rates of Stage 3 (AIDS) Classifications among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years with HIV Infection, 2011—United States and 6 Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed May 30, 2013, <http://bit.ly/1dbYpAJ>.
- ¹³ Slide 10: “Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Young Adults Aged 20–24 Years, 2011—United States and 6 Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed May 30, 2013, <http://bit.ly/1dbYpAJ>.
- ¹⁴ Slide 19: “Rates of Stage 3 (AIDS) Classifications among Adolescents Aged 20–24 Years with HIV Infection, 2011—United States and 6 Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed May 30, 2013, <http://bit.ly/1dbYpAJ>.
- ¹⁵ NCHHSTP Atlas, “STD Surveillance Data,” (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed July 16, 2014, <http://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/NCHHSTPAtlas/main.html>.
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁸ Information provided by Katie Reilly, Adolescent Health Project Coordinator for the Alaska Division of Public Health, June 23, 2014.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*
- ²⁰ The person listed represents the designated personnel in the state responsible for adolescent reproductive health.