



## PUERTO RICO

In Fiscal Year 2010<sup>1</sup>, the territory of Puerto Rico received:

- **Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling \$740,740**
- **Title V State Abstinence Education Program funds totaling \$1,965,832**

### SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY

Puerto Rico's health education policy asserts that such education should lead students to develop "fundamental habits" for maintaining good health, including "respect for the human body," in order to develop positive sexual behavior.<sup>2</sup> To this end, the commonwealth provides students with information "to know, understand, and become acquainted with the development of their bodies so that they can assume their sexuality responsibly."<sup>3</sup> Puerto Rico schools are required to implement sexuality education programs that address the "physiological and emotional aspects of sexual relations," "family responsibilities," and the health risks related to sexual relationships.<sup>4</sup>

Puerto Rico does not require 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 Laws of Puerto Rico Title 3 Chapter 9A subchapter III, § 144d.

### RECENT LEGISLATION

*SIECUS is not aware of any proposed legislation regarding sexuality education in Puerto Rico.*

### YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH DATA

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

#### **Puerto Rico Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Data<sup>5</sup>**

- In 2005, 44% of female high school students and 43% of male high school students in Puerto Rico reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.

- In 2005, 3% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students in Puerto Rico reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 4% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 13% of female high school students and 13% of male high school students in Puerto Rico reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 12% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 35% of female high school students and 32% of male high school students in Puerto Rico reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 35% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 59% of females and 74% of males in Puerto Rico reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 24% of females and 23% of males in Puerto Rico reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 16% of females and 20% of males in Puerto Rico reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, 88% of high school students in Puerto Rico reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

### **Puerto Rico Teen Pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and Sexually Transmitted Disease Data**

#### *Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion*

- Puerto Rico has a teen birth rate of 54.9 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the U.S. national rate of 41.5 births per 1,000.<sup>6</sup> In 2008, there were a total of 8,030 live births reported to young women ages 15–19 in Puerto Rico.<sup>7</sup>

#### *HIV and AIDS*

- In 2008, there were a total of 1,133 new cases of HIV infection diagnosed in Puerto Rico.<sup>8</sup>
- Puerto Rico's HIV infection rate is 28.7 cases per 100,000 individuals compared to the national rate of 19.5 cases per 100,000.<sup>9</sup>
- Puerto Rico's HIV infection rate is 4.8 cases per 100,000 young people compared to the national rate of 9.1 cases per 100,000.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2008, there were a total of 819 new AIDS cases reported in Puerto Rico.<sup>11</sup>

- Puerto Rico's AIDS rate is 20.7 cases per 100,000 individuals compared to the national rate of 12.3 cases per 100,000.<sup>12</sup>
- Puerto Rico's AIDS rate among young people ages 13–19 is 1.2 cases per 100,000 young people compared to the national rate of 1.8 cases per 100,000.<sup>13</sup>

*Sexually Transmitted Diseases*

- In 2008, there were a total of 2,000 cases of Chlamydia reported among young people ages 15–19 in Puerto Rico.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2008, there were a total of 49 cases of gonorrhea reported among young people ages 15–19 in Puerto Rico.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2008, there were a total of 15 cases of syphilis reported among young people ages 15–19 in Puerto Rico.<sup>16</sup>

**FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SEX EDUCATION, TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION, AND ABSTINENCE-ONLY 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 \$110 million in discretionary funding for Fiscal Year 2010. 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. TPPI also dedicates \$4.5 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, underlying behavioral risk factors, or other associated risk factors.

- There are no TPPI Tier 1 grantees in Puerto Rico.

*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 are no TPPI Tier 2 Innovative Approaches grantees in Puerto Rico.

*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) administer the grant program in partnership with OAH.

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

### **Personal Responsibility Education Program**

The Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) totals \$75 million per year for Fiscal Years 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, \$3.5 million for Indian tribes and tribal organizations, and \$6.5 million for evaluation, training, and technical assistance. Details on the state-grant program and PREIS are included below. At the time of publication, the funding for tribes and tribal organizations had not yet been awarded.

#### *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 sexually transmitted infections (STIs). 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 Puerto Rico Department of Health received \$740,740 in federal PREP funds for Fiscal Year 2010.

The department of health refused to provide SIECUS with any information on the state’s PREP grant program.

#### *Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies (PREIS)*

The PREIS Program supports research and demonstration programs to develop, replicate, refine, and test innovative models for preventing unintended teen pregnancy. The Administration for Children and Families 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 Puerto Rico.

### **Title V State Abstinence Education Grant Program**

The Title V State Abstinence Education Grant Program (Title V Abstinence-Only Program) allocates \$50 million per year to states for Fiscal Years 2010–2014. ACF administers the grant program. The Title V Abstinence-Only 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 Abstinence-Only 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.

- The Puerto Rico Department of Health received \$1,965,832 in federal Title V abstinence-only funding for Fiscal Year 2010.

The department of health refused to provide SIECUS with any information on the state's Title V Abstinence-Only Program.

**Puerto Rico TPPI, PREP, and Title V Abstinence-Only funding in FY 2010**

Grantee	Award	Fiscal Years
<b>Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)</b>		
<i>PREP State-Grant Program</i>		
Puerto Rico Department of Health (federal grant)	\$740,740	2010
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$740,740</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Title V Abstinence Education Grant Program (Title V Abstinence-Only)</b>		
Puerto Rico Department of Health (federal grant)	\$1,965,832	2010
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,965,832</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		
	<b>\$2,706,572</b>	<b>2010</b>

**COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES TO SEXUALITY EDUCATION**

*SIECUS is not aware of any examples of model programs, policies, or best practices being implemented in Puerto Rico public schools that provide a more comprehensive approach to sex education for young people.*

*We encourage you to submit any updated or additional information on more comprehensive approaches to sex education being implemented in Puerto Rico public schools for inclusion in future publications of the SIECUS State Profiles. Please visit SIECUS' "Contact Us" webpage at [www.siecus.org](http://www.siecus.org) to share information. Select "state policy" as the subject heading.*

**POINTS OF CONTACT**

**Adolescent Health Contact<sup>17</sup>**

Carmen Barbosa  
 Puerto Rico Department of Health  
 Maternal, Infant, and Adolescent Division  
 P.O. Box 70184  
 San Juan, PR 00936  
 Phone: (787) 274-5634

### **PREP and Title V Abstinence-Only State-Grant Coordinator**

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Assistant Secretary for Family Health, Integrated Services and Health Promotion  
Puerto Rico Department of Health  
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Phone: (787) 274-5635

### **ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION**

Asociación Puertorriqueña Pro-Bienestar  
de la Familia  
Hato Rey, PR  
Phone: (787) 765 7373  
[www.profamiliapr.org](http://www.profamiliapr.org)

ACLU of Puerto Rico National  
Chapter  
San Juan, PR  
Phone: (787) 753-8493  
[www.aclu-pr.org](http://www.aclu-pr.org)

### **ORGANIZATIONS THAT OPPOSE COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION**

Asociación Pro Derechos de la Familia  
(APRODEFA)  
Guaynabo, PR  
Phone: (787) 272-5404  
[www.aprodefa.com](http://www.aprodefa.com)

Centro Guadalupe Vida y Familia  
San Juan, PR  
Phone: (787) 504-6942

### **MEDIA OUTLETS**

#### **Newspapers in Puerto Rico<sup>18</sup>**

*Primera Hora*  
Cataño, PR  
Phone: (787) 641-5450  
[www.primerahora.com](http://www.primerahora.com)

*El Vocero de Puerto Rico*  
San Juan, PR  
Phone: (787) 725-4700  
[www.vocero.com](http://www.vocero.com)

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the federal government's fiscal year, which begins on October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, Fiscal Year 2010 began on October 1, 2009 and ended on September 30, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Puerto Rico Act 70; Senate Bill 475.

<sup>3</sup> Puerto Rico Act 68; Senate Bill 674; House Bill 847.

<sup>4</sup> Puerto Rico Act 146 (2000).

<sup>5</sup> Danice K. Eaton, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2005," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 55, no. SS-5 (9 June 2006): 1-108, accessed 19 October 2008, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>. Note: Puerto Rico did not participate in the 2007 or 2009 YRBS.

<sup>6</sup> Joyce A. Martin, et. al., "Births: Final Data for 2006," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, vol. 57, number 7 (Hyattsville, MD: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 7 January 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57\\_07.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_07.pdf)>, Table B.

<sup>7</sup> “VitalStats: Birth Data Files by State, Age of Mother in Years, 2008,” (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed 30 June 2011, <[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data\\_access/vitalstats/VitalStats\\_Births.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/vitalstats/VitalStats_Births.htm)>.

<sup>8</sup> *HIV Surveillance Report, 2008*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 2010), accessed 28 June 2011, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/surveillance/resources/reports/2008report/pdf/2008SurveillanceReport.pdf>>, Table 19.

<sup>9</sup> Slide 9: “Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years, 2009—40 States and 5 U.S. Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, July 2011), accessed 27 September 2011, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>>.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> *HIV Surveillance Report, 2008*, Table 20.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Slide 18: “Rates of Diagnoses of AIDS Infection among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years, 2009—40 States and 5 U.S. Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, July 2011), accessed 27 September 2011, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>>.

<sup>14</sup> “Wonder Database: Selected STDs by Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender, 1996–2008 Results,” (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), 30 June 2009, accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://wonder.cdc.gov/>>; see also Table 10: “Chlamydia: Reported Cases and Rates Per 100,000 Population by Age Group and Sex: United States, 2004–2008,” *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2008*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of STD Prevention, November 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats08/surv2008-Complete.pdf>>, 95.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid; see also Table 20: “Gonorrhea—Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population by Age Group and Sex: United States, 2004–2008,” *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2008*, 106.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid; see also Table 33: “Primary and Secondary Syphilis—Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population by Age Group and Sex: United States, 2004–2008,” *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2008*, 121.

<sup>17</sup> The person listed represents the designated personnel in the state responsible for adolescent reproductive health.

<sup>18</sup> This section is a list of major newspapers in the state and is by no means exhaustive of local print outlets.