






## ADOLESCENT SEXUAL HEALTH PROMOTION AT A GLANCE

The following is an overview of the state of adolescent sexual health promotion efforts in Arkansas in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, including sexuality education state laws and policy, sexual health data, and federal funding.




### STATE LEVEL SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY OVERVIEW

Arkansas law does not require schools to teach sexuality education or sexually transmitted disease (STD)/HIV education. If a school offers sexuality or STD/HIV education, it must stress abstinence. In order to be accredited by the [Arkansas Board of Education](#), public schools must offer health and safety education, and students are required to complete 0.5 units of health and safety in order to graduate high school. Arkansas maintains curriculum standards for physical and health education addressing STDs and HIV beginning in grade five. The standards stress the importance of abstinence as well as the possible physical, emotional, and social consequences of sexual activity. Specific course content is left to the discretion of the local school districts. Arkansas state statute 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. For additional information, see [Arkansas Code § 6-18-703](#), the [Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts](#), the [K–8 Physical Education and Health Curriculum Framework](#), and the [Health and Wellness Curriculum Framework](#) for grades 9–12.

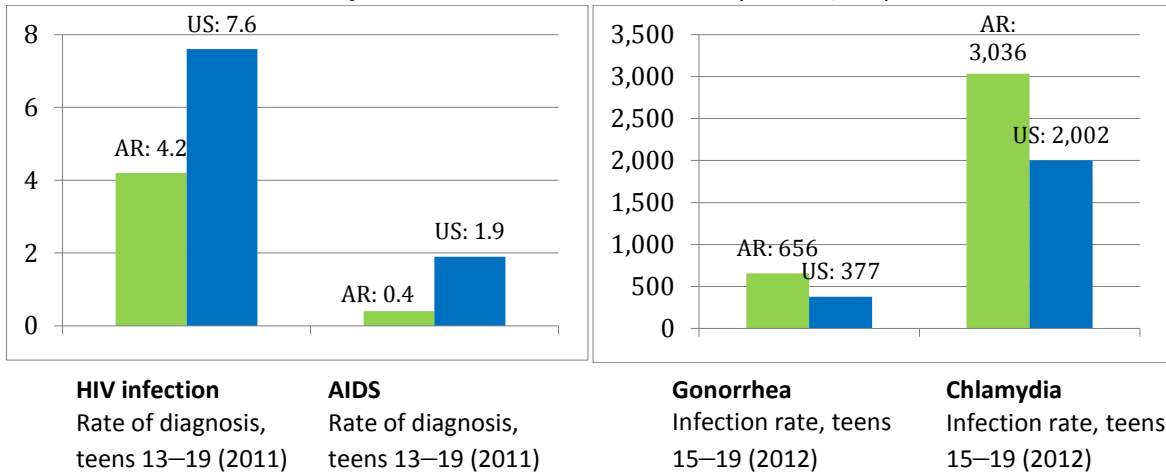
### REPORTED BEHAVIORS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ARKANSAS

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 Among Arkansas high school students in 2013, 49% of females and 49% of males **reported ever having had sexual intercourse**, higher than the reported national average of 46% of females and 48% of males.
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 Among Arkansas high school students in 2013, 40% of females and 34% of males **reported being currently sexually active** (having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior), higher than the reported national average of 35% of females and 33% of males.
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 Among Arkansas high school students in 2013, 15% of females and 12% of males **reported experiencing physical dating violence one or more times** during the 12 months before the survey, higher than the reported national average of 13% of females and 7% of males.

### ARKANSAS TEEN PREGNANCY, BIRTH AND ABORTION RATES

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 In 2010, Arkansas' **teen pregnancy rate was higher than the national average**, with 73 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to 57 per 1,000 nationwide.
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 In 2012, Arkansas' **teen birth rate was higher than the national average**, with 46 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to 29 per 1,000 nationwide in 2012.
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 In 2010, Arkansas' **teen abortion rate is lower than the national average**, with 9 abortions per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to 15 per 1,000 nationwide in 2010.

**ARKANSAS' YOUNG PEOPLE: HIV/AIDS AND OTHER STD RATES (PER 100,000)**

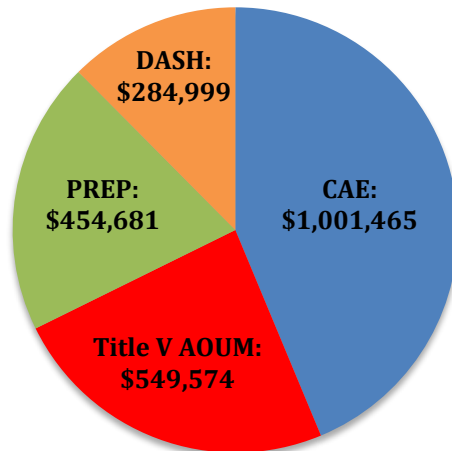


**FY 2013 FEDERAL FUNDING IN ARKANSAS: TOTAL \$2,290,719**

**Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) \$454,681**

Funds for states (PREP), local entities (PREIS), community/faith-based organizations (CPREP), and tribes (TPREP) to implement evidence-informed or innovative teen pregnancy- and HIV/STD-prevention, and adulthood preparation programs for young people.

The Arkansas Department of Health provides the PREP sub-grant to the Centers for Youth and Families to serve young people ages 11-18 in the foster care and the juvenile justice system in, Garland, Jefferson, Lonoke, Pulaski and Saline counties.



**Title V AOOM Program (Title V) \$549,574**

Arkansas has chosen to implement abstinence-only-until-marriage (AOOM) programs through Title V, matching every \$4 federal dollars with \$3 state dollars or in-kind contributions.

The Arkansas Department of Health sub-grants Title V AOOM funds to Healthy Connections, Inc., in Mena, which provides the state match. Healthy Connections, Inc., subcontracts throughout 11 counties to provide both school- and community-based programming for young people ages 12-19.

**Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) \$284,999**

Funds state and local education agencies to help districts implement exemplary sexual health education (ESHE), increase access to key sexual health services (SHS), and establish safe and supportive environments (SSE) for students and staff; funds HIV/STD prevention efforts for young men who have sex with men (YMSM); supports state education and health agencies' surveillance efforts.

The Arkansas Department of Education receives ESHE, SHS, and SSE DASH funding as well as funds to collect and report the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance and the School Health Profiles.

**Competitive Abstinence Education (CAE) Grants \$1,001,465**

Funds for community- and faith-based organizations to implement abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

People Nurturing People/Choosing to Excel and Cabot Crisis Pregnancy Center in Conway are the two CAE grantees in Arkansas.

For further background on the federal programs, information on the grantees and the programs they are implementing, as well as citations, see the FY 2013 Arkansas State Profile at [siecus.org/Arkansas2013](http://siecus.org/Arkansas2013).