



## 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) 2012 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 one-half unit 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 through 12.

### REPORTED SEXUAL ACTIVITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ARKANSAS

 Among Arkansas high school students in 2011, 49% of females and 52% of males reported **ever having had sexual intercourse, higher than the reported national average** of 46% of females and 49% of males.

 Among Arkansas high school students in 2011, 40% of females and 36% of males reported being currently sexually active (having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior), **higher than the reported national average** of 34% of females and 33% of males.

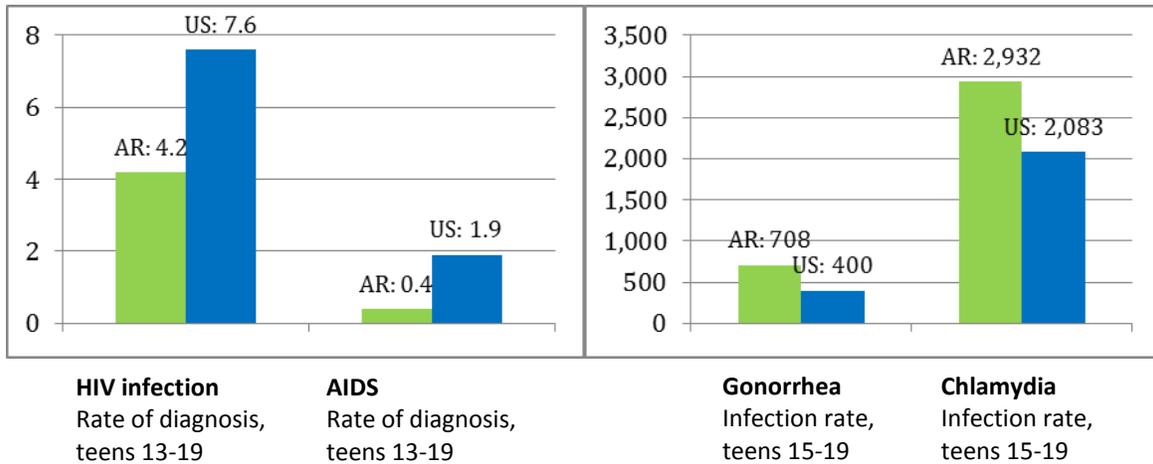
### ARKANSAS TEEN PREGNANCY, BIRTH & ABORTION RATES

 Arkansas's teen **pregnancy rate is higher than the national average**, with 82 pregnant teens per 1,000 compared to 68 pregnant teens per 1,000 nationwide in 2008.

 Arkansas's teen **birth rate is higher than the national average**, with 51 teens per 1,000 giving birth compared to 31 teens per 1,000 nationwide in 2011.

 Arkansas's teen **abortion rate is lower than the national average**, with 10 teens per 1,000 having an abortion compared to 18 teens per 1,000 nationwide in 2008.

**ARKANSAS'S YOUNG PEOPLE: HIV/AIDS & OTHER STD RATES IN 2011 (PER 100,000)**

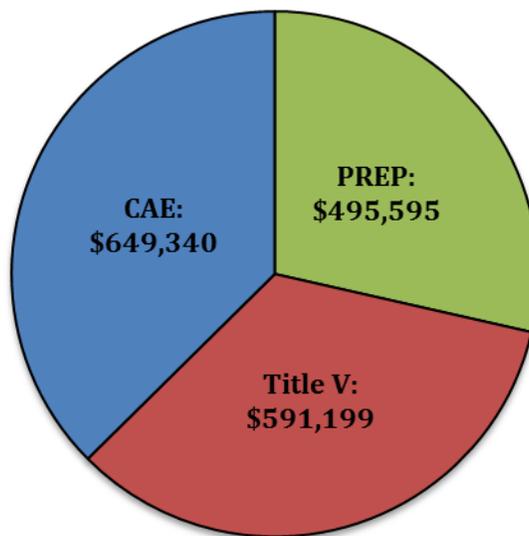


**FY 2012 FEDERAL FUNDING IN ARKANSAS: TOTAL \$1,736,134**

**Title V AOUM Program (Title V)  
\$591,199**

Arkansas has chosen to implement abstinence-only-until-marriage (AOUM) 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 AOUM 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.



**Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)  
\$495,595**

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 Pulaski, Garland, Saline, Lonoke and Jefferson counties.

**Competitive Abstinence Education (CAE) Grants \$649,340**

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

People Nurturing People/Choosing to Excel in Conway is the CAE grantee in Arkansas.

For further background on the federal programs, information on the grantees and the programs they are implementing, as well as citations, please see the FY 2012 Arkansas State Profile available at

[www.siecus.org/Arkansas2012](http://www.siecus.org/Arkansas2012)