



ADOLESCENT SEXUAL HEALTH PROMOTION AT A GLANCE

The following is an overview of the state of adolescent sexual health promotion efforts in Maryland 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

Sex education is not specifically addressed within state law, however, Maryland’s [Code of Administrative Regulations](#) mandates that each local school board work with its county health department in establishing a school health education program with a number of specified goals. Sexuality education is included under the goal of helping students “recognize the family as a basic unit of society that perpetuates life and promotes healthy growth and development.” Health education classes must be taught in grades K–12. The Code of Administrative Regulations also mandates that “local school systems shall provide annual instruction in AIDS to all students at least once in grades three to six, six to nine, and nine to twelve.” Additionally, Family Life and Human Sexuality instruction is required to “begin in or prior to the fifth grade,” though “as shortly in advance of puberty as is practical.” Parents or guardians may remove their children from school-based sexuality education and/or HIV/STD education classes (“opt-out”).

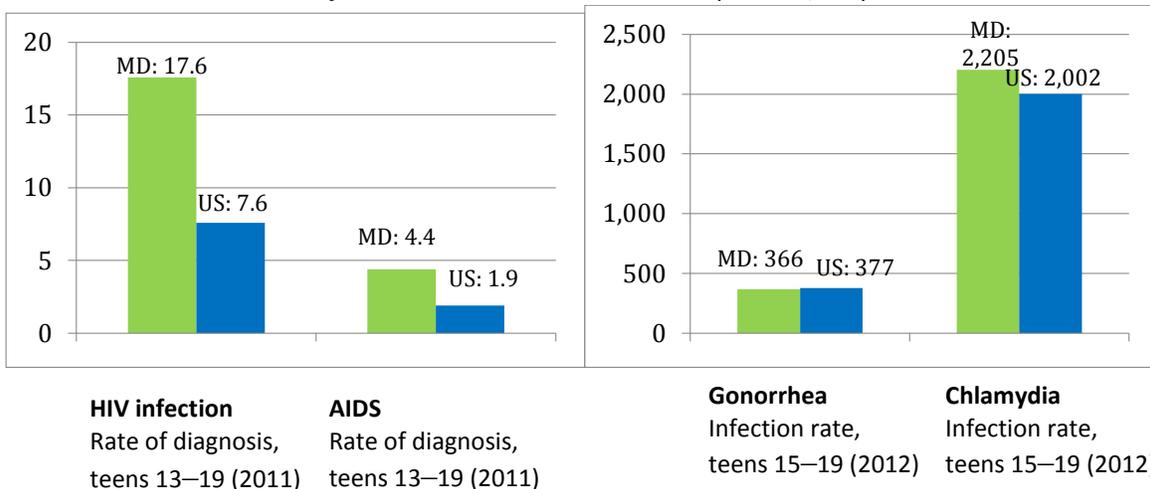
REPORTED BEHAVIORS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN MARYLAND

-  Among Maryland high school students in 2013, 36% of females and 42% of males **reported ever having had sexual intercourse**, lower than the national average of 46% of females and 48% of males.
-  Among Maryland high school students in 2013, 27% of females and 28% of males **reported being currently sexually active** (having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior), lower than the national average of 35% of females and 33% of males.
-  Among Maryland high school students in 2013, 12% of females and 10% of males **reported experiencing physical dating violence one or more times** during the 12 months before the survey, higher for males than the reported national average of 13% of females and 7% of males.

MARYLAND TEEN PREGNANCY, BIRTH, AND ABORTION RATES

-  In 2010, Maryland’s **teen pregnancy rate was similar to the national average**, with 57 pregnancies per 1,000 teens ages 15–19, compared to 57 per 1,000 nationwide.
-  In 2012, Maryland’s **teen birth rate was lower than the national average**, with 22 births per 1,000 teens ages 15–19, compared to 29 per 1,000 nationwide.
-  In 2010, Maryland’s **teen abortion rate was higher than the national average**, with 22 abortions per 1,000 teens ages 15–19, compared to 15 per 1,000 nationwide.

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



FY 2013 FEDERAL FUNDING IN MARYLAND: TOTAL \$2,853,281

Title V AOUM Program (Title V)

\$499,764

Maryland 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.

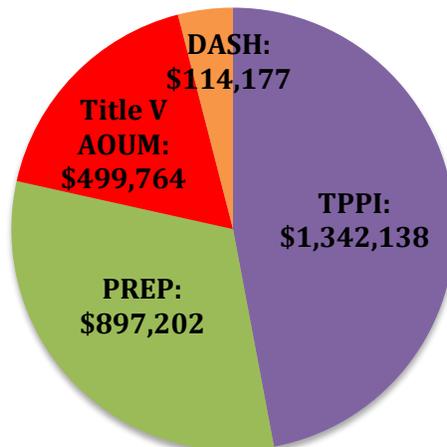
The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene awards Title V AOUM sub-grants to seven local public and private entities, which are required to provide the match through in-kind services. The funds are used for school- and community-based programming, primarily supporting programs serving elementary-, middle-, and some high-school students who are living in communities with higher rates of adolescent pregnancy, as well as parents and caregivers.

Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)

\$114,177

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 Maryland Department of Education and Baltimore City Public receives DASH funds to collect and report the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance and the School Health Profiles.



Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI) \$1,342,138

Funds for local entities to implement evidence-based programs (Tier 1) or innovative strategies (Tier 2) to prevent teen pregnancy.

There are two Tier 1 grantees in Maryland: Women Accepting Responsibility, Inc., which provides after-school and summer programming to African-American young people ages 13–18, and YMCA of Cumberland, MD, Inc., which provides programming to youth at five area middle schools and two group homes.

Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) \$897,202

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 Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene awards PREP sub-grants to 11 local health departments and their partners to provide programming in both school- and community-based settings. PREP funds serve young people ages 10–19 living in communities with higher rates of adolescent pregnancy, and youth ages 20–21 in foster care, and also support activities targeted toward parents and caregivers. Programming takes place in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Cecil, Dorchester, Garrett, Prince George's, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

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 Maryland State Profile at

siecus.org/Maryland2013.