





ADOLESCENT SEXUAL HEALTH PROMOTION AT A GLANCE

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

[Massachusetts does not require](#) sexuality education but instead allows local school boards to make such decisions. If a community decides to implement sexuality education, it must develop standards with the guidance of community stakeholders, including parents and at least one physician. The [Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Framework](#) suggests that curricula include information about “abstaining from and postponing sexual intercourse,” and include discussion of HIV/AIDS, teen pregnancy, family violence, sound health practices, and “define sexual orientation using the correction terminology (such as heterosexual and gay and lesbian).” Parents or guardians may remove their children from school-based sexuality education and/or HIV/STD education classes (“opt-out”).

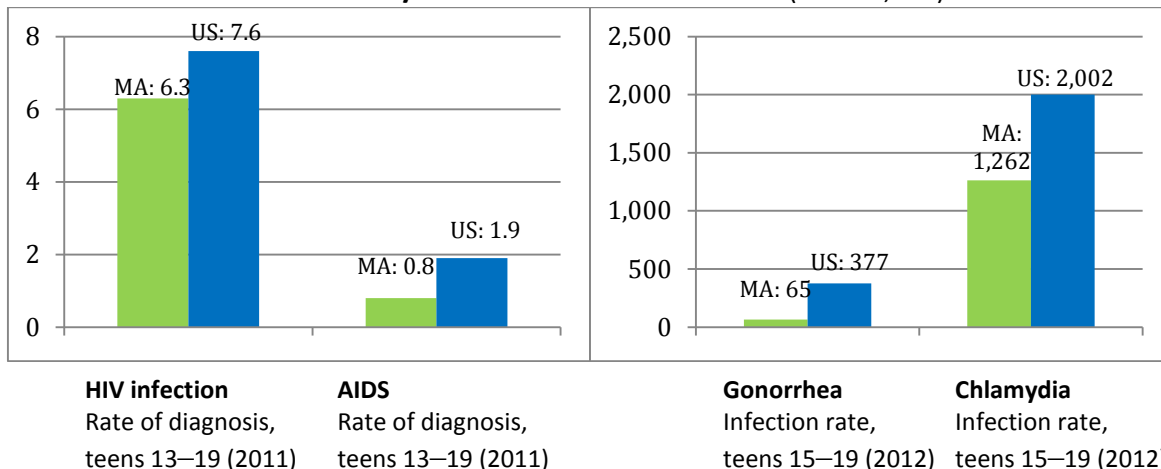
REPORTED BEHAVIORS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN MASSACHUSETTS

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 Among Massachusetts high school students in 2013, 37% of females and 39% of males **reported ever having had sexual intercourse**, lower than the reported national average of 46% of females and 48% of males.
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 Among Massachusetts high school students in 2013, 29% of females and 26% of males **reported being currently sexually active** (having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior), lower than the reported national average of 35% of females and 33% of males.

MASSACHUSETTS TEEN PREGNANCY, BIRTH, AND ABORTION RATES

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 In 2010, Massachusetts’ **teen pregnancy rate was lower than the national average**, with 37 pregnancies per 1,000 teens compared to 57 per 1,000 nationwide.
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 In 2012, Massachusetts’ **teen birth rate was lower than the national average**, with 14 births per 1,000 teens compared to 29 per 1,000 nationwide.
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 In 2010, Massachusetts’ **teen abortion rate was lower than the national average**, with 14 abortions per 1,000 teens ages 15–19 compared to 15 per 1,000 nationwide.

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



FY 2013 FEDERAL FUNDING IN MASSACHUSETTS: TOTAL \$7,758,785

Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) \$1,765,613

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.

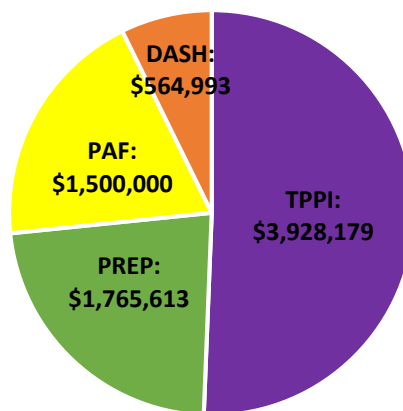
The Massachusetts Department of Public Health partners with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and sub-grants to eight local public and private entities to implement the state's PREP grant program for middle-school students and at-risk young people ages 10–19 in community-based organizations throughout Bristol, Essex, Hampden, Middlesex, Suffolk, and Worcester counties.

There is one PREIS grantee, the Education Development Center, Inc., located in Newton, which collaborates with WestEd and the League of United Latin American Citizens' National Educational Service Centers to evaluate two developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically relevant interventions aimed at preventing teen pregnancy among Latina youth.

Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) \$1,500,000

Funds for a competitive grant program for state and tribal entities to support at least one of four components serving expectant and parenting teens, adults, and families.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health receives PAF funding.



Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) \$564,993

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.

Both the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and Boston Public Schools receive ESHE, SHS, and SSE DASH funding as well as funds to collect and report the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance and the School Health Profiles.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI) \$3,928,179

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

There are two TPPI Tier 1 grantees in Massachusetts: Congregación León de Judá serves Latino youth ages 11–13 in Boston and Lawrenceville, as well as in Hartford, Connecticut, and Providence, Rhode Island, through 30 churches; and La Alianza Hispana partners with the city of Boston, the Boston Public School District, and community-based organizations to reach Latino youth ages 13–18 in areas of Boston including Chelsea, East Boston, South Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and Hyde Park.

There are also two TPPI Tier 2 Innovative Approaches grantees: The Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston in Lowell, Lynn, and Lawrence, implementing an abstinence-only-until-marriage program designed for middle- and high-school students; and Boston Medical Center, implementing an adaptation of an evidence-based HIV/AIDS-prevention education program to reach Haitian-American youth in grades 9 and 10.

There is one TPPI Tier 2 Communitywide Initiatives grantee, Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy, which focuses on serving marginalized African-American and Latino youth in Springfield and Holyoke.

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 Massachusetts State Profile at siecus.org/Massachusetts2013.



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