



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) 2012 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 SEXUAL ACTIVITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN MASSACHUSETTS

 Among Massachusetts high school students in 2011, 39% of females and 45% of males reported **ever having had sexual intercourse, lower than the reported national average** of 46% of females and 49% of males.

 Among Massachusetts high school students in 2011, 30% of females and 31% of males reported being currently sexually active (having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior), **lower than the reported national average** of 34% of females and 33% of males.

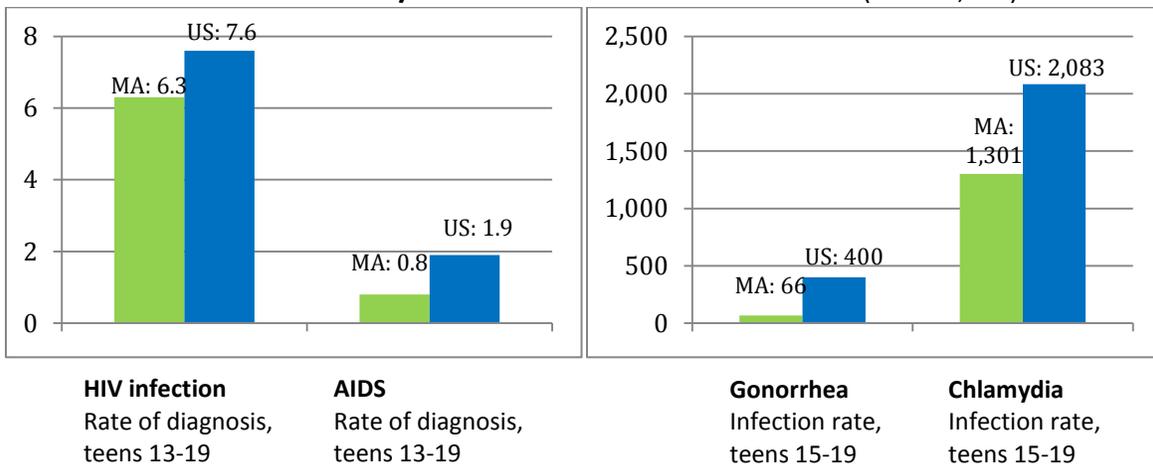
MASSACHUSETTS TEEN PREGNANCY, BIRTH & ABORTION RATES

 Massachusetts’ teen **pregnancy rate is lower than the national average**, with 42 pregnant teens per 1,000 compared to 68 pregnant teens per 1,000 nationwide in 2008.

 Massachusetts’ teen **birth rate is lower than the national average**, with 15 teens per 1,000 giving birth compared to 31 teens per 1,000 nationwide in 2011.

 Massachusetts’ teen **abortion rate is lower than the national average**, with 17 teens per 1,000 having an abortion compared to 18 teens per 1,000 nationwide in 2008.

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



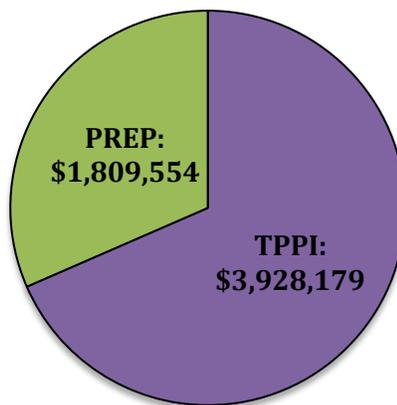
FY 2012 FEDERAL FUNDING IN MASSACHUSETTS: TOTAL \$5,737,733

Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) \$1,809,554

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 Massachusetts 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 youth 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.



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 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 is an alliance of more than 80 Boston-area community- and faith-based organizations in Lowell, Lynn, and Lawrence implementing an abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum designed for middle school and high school students; and Boston Medical Center implements an adaptation of an evidence-based HIV/AIDS-prevention education curriculum to reach Haitian-American youth in grades nine and 10.

There is one TPPI Tier 2 Communitywide Initiatives grantee, Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy, which focuses on serving African-American and Latino youth, youth in the foster care system, youth involved in the juvenile justice system, teen parents, and older youth in Springfield and Holyoke, Massachusetts.

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 Massachusetts State Profile available at

www.siecus.org/Massachusetts2012