



### PUERTO RICO

**In Fiscal Year 2011<sup>1</sup>, the territory of Puerto Rico received:**

- **Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling \$736,858**
- **Title V State Abstinence Education Program funds totaling \$1,776,702**

#### **SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY**

Puerto Rico's health education policy asserts that such education should lead students to develop "fundamental habits" for maintaining good health, including "respect for the human body," in order to develop positive sexual behavior.<sup>2</sup> To this end, the commonwealth provides students with information "to know, understand, and become acquainted with the development of their bodies so that they can assume their sexuality responsibly."<sup>3</sup> Puerto Rico schools are required to implement sexuality education programs that address the "physiological and emotional aspects of sexual relations," "family responsibilities," and the health risks related to sexual relationships.<sup>4</sup>

Puerto Rico 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.

See Laws of Puerto Rico Title 3 Chapter 9A subchapter III, § 144d.

#### **RECENT LEGISLATION**

SIECUS is not aware of any proposed legislation regarding sexuality education in Puerto Rico.

#### **YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH DATA**

SIECUS has compiled the following data to provide an overview of adolescent sexual health in Puerto Rico. The data collected represents the most current information available.

##### **Puerto Rico Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Data<sup>5</sup>**

- In 2011, 34% of female high school students and 37% of male high school students in Puerto Rico reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 46% of female high school students and 49% of male high school students in the United States.
- In 2011, 4% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students in Puerto Rico reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13, compared to 3% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students in the United States.

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- In 2011, 5% of female high school students and 8% of male high school students in Puerto Rico reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners, compared to 13% of female high school students and 18% of male high school students in the United States.
- In 2011, 23% of female high school students and 22% of male high school students in Puerto Rico reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey), compared to 34% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students in the United States.
- In 2011, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 41% of females and 60% of males in Puerto Rico reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse, compared to 54% of females and 67% of males in the United States.
- In 2011, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 3% of females and 4% of males in Puerto Rico reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse, compared to 23% of females and 13% of males in the United States.
- In 2011, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 17% of females and 14% of males in Puerto Rico reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse, compared to 18% of females and 26% of males in the United States.
- In 2011, 83% of high school students in Puerto Rico reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school, compared to 84% of high school students in the United States.

### **Puerto Rico Teen Pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and Sexually Transmitted Disease Data**

#### *Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion*

- In 2010, Puerto Rico had a teen birth rate of 51.4 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the U.S. national rate of 34.2 births per 1,000.<sup>6</sup>

#### *HIV and AIDS*

- In 2010, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among adolescents aged 13-19 years in Puerto Rico was 7.3 per 100,000 compared to the U.S. national rate of 7.9 per 100,000.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2010, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among adolescents 13-19 years in Puerto Rico was 0.3 per 100,000 compared to the U.S. national rate of 1.9 per 100,000.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2010, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among young adults aged 20-24 years in Puerto Rico was 38.4 per 100,000 compared to the U.S. national rate of 36.9 per 100,000.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2010, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among young adults aged 20-24 years in Puerto Rico was 6.7 per 100,000 compared to the U.S. national rate of 10.4 per 100,000.<sup>10</sup>

#### *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*<sup>11</sup>

- In 2009, there were a total of 2,175 cases of chlamydia reported among young people ages 15–19 in Puerto Rico.

- In 2009, there were a total of 44 cases of gonorrhea reported among young people ages 15–19 in Puerto Rico.
- In 2009, there were a total of 15 cases of syphilis reported among young people ages 15–19 in Puerto Rico.

## **FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SEX EDUCATION, TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION, AND ABSTINENCE-ONLY PROGRAMS**

### **President’s Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative**

The President’s Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI) funds medically accurate and age-appropriate programs to reduce teen pregnancy. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) administers the grant program, which totaled \$105 million in discretionary funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. TPPI consists of two funding tiers that provide grants to local public and private entities. Tier 1 totals \$75 million and provides funding for the replication of evidence-based programs proven to prevent unintended teen pregnancy and address underlying behavioral risk factors. Tier 2 totals \$25 million and provides funding to develop and test additional models and innovative strategies. A portion of the Tier 2 funds, \$15.2 million, was allocated for research and demonstration grants to test innovative approaches, while the remaining funding, \$9.8 million, was allocated for grants to support communitywide initiatives. TPPI also dedicates \$4.5 million in funding to conduct evaluations of individual programs.

#### *TPPI Tier 1: Evidence-Based Programs*

The TPPI Tier 1 grant program supports the replication of evidence-based programs proven effective through rigorous evaluation to prevent unintended teen pregnancy, underlying behavioral risk factors, or other associated risk factors.

- There are no TPPI Tier 1 grantees in Puerto Rico.

#### *TPPI Tier 2: Innovative Approaches*

The TPPI Tier 2 grant program supports research and demonstration programs in order to develop, replicate, refine, and test additional models and innovative strategies for preventing teenage pregnancy.

- There are no TPPI Tier 2 Innovative Approaches grantees in Puerto Rico.

#### *TPPI Tier 2: Communitywide Initiatives*

The TPPI Tier 2 grant program also supports communitywide initiatives to reduce rates of teenage pregnancy and births in communities with the highest rates. The program awards grants to national organizations as well as state- and community-based organizations. Funded national partners provide training and technical assistance to local grantees. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) administer the grant program in partnership with OAH.

- There are no TPPI Tier 2 Communitywide Initiatives grantees in Puerto Rico.

### **Personal Responsibility Education Program**

The Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) totals \$75 million per year for FYs 2010–2014 and is the first-ever dedicated funding stream for more comprehensive approaches to sexuality education. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

administers the grant. PREP includes a \$55 million state-grant program, \$10 million to fund local entities through the Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies (PREIS) Program, \$3.5 million for the Tribal PREP Program for tribes and tribal organizations, and \$6.5 million for evaluation, training, and technical assistance. Details on the state-grant program, PREIS, and Tribal PREP are included below.

#### *PREP State-Grant Program*

The PREP state-grant program supports evidence-based programs that provide young people with medically accurate and age-appropriate information for the prevention of unintended pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The grant program totals \$55 million per year and allocates funding to individual states. The grant does not require states to provide matching funds. Funded programs must discuss abstinence and contraception, and place substantial emphasis on both. Programs must also address at least three of the following adulthood preparation subjects: healthy relationships, positive adolescent development, financial literacy, parent-child communication skills, education and employment skills, and healthy life skills.

- The Puerto Rico Department of Health received \$736,858 in federal PREP funds for FY 2011.
- At the time of publication, sub-grantees had not yet been determined.<sup>12</sup>

The Puerto Rico Department of Health implements the state's PREP grant program. The program targets adolescents ages 12–14 in five municipalities in the south east coast of Puerto Rico, including Vieques, Naguabo, Humacao, Yabucoa, and Maunabo. The programs use *¡Cuidate!* for their youth component and address healthy relationships, adulthood development, health life skills, parent-child communication, and educational and career success.<sup>13</sup>

*¡Cuidate!* is an evidence-based HIV-prevention curriculum adapted from the evidence-based curriculum *Be Proud! Be Responsible!*, and tailored for use with Latino youth ages 13–18. The curriculum provides information about HIV and its transmission, addresses values and beliefs related to HIV and safer sex, and includes activities aimed to increase skills and self-efficacy for condom use, negotiating abstinence, and safer sex. The intervention consists of six one-hour lessons and is designed for use with small, mixed-gender groups. It draws upon cultural beliefs, such as the importance of family and the responsibility of a man to care for his family, in order to provide messages that resonate with participants. The curriculum consists of educational games, small group discussions, videos, learning exercises, and skill-building activities. An evaluation of the curriculum published in the *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* found that it reduced the frequency of sexual intercourse, number of sexual partners, and incidence of unprotected sex while increasing condom use among participants.<sup>14</sup>

#### *Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies (PREIS)*

PREIS supports research and demonstration programs to develop, replicate, refine, and test innovative models for preventing unintended teen pregnancy. The Administration for Children and Families administers the grant program in collaboration with OAH and provides a total of \$10 million in funding directly to local public and private entities.

- There are no PREIS grantees in Puerto Rico.

#### *Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program (Tribal PREP)*

Tribal PREP supports the development and implementation of comprehensive teen pregnancy prevention programs within tribes and tribal communities. Tribal PREP programs target youth ages 10–19 who are in or aging out of foster care, homeless youth, youth with HIV/AIDS, pregnant and/or parenting youth who are under 21 years of age, and youth who live in areas with high adolescent birth rates. Programs must address at least three of the following adulthood preparation subjects: healthy

relationships, positive adolescent development, financial literacy, parent-child communication skills, education and employment skills, and healthy life skills.

- In FY 2011, 16 tribes and tribal organizations from nine states received a total of \$6.5 million.
- There are no Tribal PREP grantees in Puerto Rico.

### **Title V State Abstinence Education Grant Program**

The Title V State Abstinence Education Grant Program (Title V Abstinence-Only Program) allocates \$50 million per year to states for FYs 2010–2014. ACF administers the grant program. The Title V Abstinence-Only Program requires states to provide three state-raised dollars or the equivalent in services for every four federal dollars received. The state match may be provided in part or in full by local groups. All programs funded by the Title V Abstinence-Only Program must promote abstinence from sexual activity as their exclusive purpose and may provide mentoring, counseling, and adult supervision toward this end. Programs must be medically accurate and age-appropriate and must ensure abstinence is an expected outcome.

- The Puerto Rico Department of Health received \$1,776,702 in federal Title V abstinence-only funding for FY 2011.
- The Puerto Rico Department of Health sub-grants to local community-based organizations.<sup>15</sup>
- In Puerto Rico, the match is made with in-kind funds.

The Puerto Rico Department of Health administers the Title V Abstinence-Only Program in collaboration with local community-based organizations. The funded programs target 10–12 year olds, or sixth to seventh grade levels, and their parents in municipalities from the southeast region of Puerto Rico. Programming is provided in Arroyo, Guayama, Patillas, Vieques, Naguabo, Humacao, Yabucoa, and Maunabo. Sub-grantees use the following approved curricula: *Parenting Education Program (PEP)* and *Project AIM (Adult Identity Mentoring)*.<sup>16</sup>

*PEP*, from Community Counseling Centers of Chicago (C4), offers comprehensive services that include classes, home visits, and peer support groups. *PEP* is offered in English and Spanish. It has been used with Latino parents and is known in Spanish as *Fundamentos de la Crianza*. The core classes are offered in eight-week sessions where parents learn communication skills, stages of development, effective discipline strategies, and how to build better relationships with their children, among other topics. Lessons are reinforced during home visits by parent educators and if necessary, referrals are made to social service agencies.<sup>17</sup>

*Project AIM* is an evidence-based youth development program designed to help adolescents identify their future goals and consider how engaging in risky behavior may negatively impact their ability to achieve those goals. The program is based on the “Theory of Possible Selves,” which proposes that an individual’s motivation is determined by the ability to imagine his future self. Those that are capable of imagining both possible positive and negative futures are therefore more inclined to work toward their life goals.<sup>18</sup> The school-based intervention consists of 10 sessions, which are divided into four units: 1) Legacy, Role Models, and Peers; 2) Self-Projection: Expanding Visions of Possible Selves; 3) Self-Expression through Work: Development of Possible Self; and 4) Skills of Fulfilling Positive Future Possible Selves.<sup>19</sup> The lessons consist of group discussions, interactive activities, and role-playing exercises to encourage youth to explore their personal interests, social surroundings, and their goals for their future adult life.<sup>20</sup> *Project AIM* is designed for use with African-American youth ages 11–14 and is also appropriate for use with Latino youth. Although it is a school-based program, it can also be implemented in community-based settings. An evaluation of the program published in the *Journal of Adolescent Medicine* found that, at a 19-week follow-up, adolescents who participated in the program were significantly less

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likely to report having had sexual intercourse than participants in the control group and, at a one-year follow-up, male participants were significantly less likely to report having had sexual intercourse than participants in the control group.<sup>21</sup>

**Puerto Rico TPPI, PREP, and Title V Abstinence-Only funding in FY 2011**

Grantee	Award	Fiscal Years
<b>Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)</b>		
<i>PREP State-Grant Program</i>		
Puerto Rico Department of Health (federal grant)	\$736,858	2011
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$736,858</b>	2011
<b>Title V Abstinence Education Grant Program (Title V Abstinence-Only)</b>		
Puerto Rico Department of Health (federal grant)	\$1,776,702	2011
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,776,702</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,513,560</b>	<b>2011</b>

**COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES TO SEXUALITY EDUCATION**

SIECUS is not aware of any examples of model programs, policies, or best practices being implemented in Puerto Rico public schools that provide a more comprehensive approach to sex education for young people.

We encourage you to submit any updated or additional information on more comprehensive approaches to sex education being implemented in Puerto Rico public schools for inclusion in future publications of the State Profiles. Please visit SIECUS' "Contact Us" webpage at [www.siecus.org](http://www.siecus.org) to share information. Select "state policy" as the subject heading.

**POINTS OF CONTACT**

**Adolescent Health Contact<sup>22</sup>**

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### **PREP and Title V Abstinence-Only State-Grant Coordinator**

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### **ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION**

Asociación Puertorriqueña Pro-Bienestar  
de la Familia  
Hato Rey, PR  
Phone: (787) 765 7373  
[www.profamiliapr.org](http://www.profamiliapr.org)

ACLU of Puerto Rico National  
Chapter  
San Juan, PR  
Phone: (787) 753-8493  
[www.aclu-pr.org](http://www.aclu-pr.org)

### **ORGANIZATIONS THAT OPPOSE COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION**

Asociación Pro Derechos de la Familia  
(APRODEFA)  
Guaynabo, PR  
Phone: (787) 272-5404  
[aprodefa.org](http://aprodefa.org)

Centro Guadalupe Vida y Familia  
San Juan, PR  
Phone: (787) 504-6942

### **MEDIA OUTLETS**

#### **Newspapers in Puerto Rico<sup>23</sup>**

*Primera Hora*  
Cataño, PR  
Phone: (787) 641-5450  
[www.primerahora.com](http://www.primerahora.com)

*El Vocero de Puerto Rico*  
San Juan, PR  
Phone: (787) 725-4700  
[www.vocero.com](http://www.vocero.com)

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<sup>1</sup> This refers to the federal government's fiscal year, which begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, Fiscal Year 2011 began on October 1, 2010, and ended on September 30, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Puerto Rico Act 70; Senate Bill 475.

<sup>3</sup> Puerto Rico Act 68; Senate Bill 674; House Bill 847.

<sup>4</sup> Puerto Rico Act 146 (2000).

<sup>5</sup> Danice K. Eaton, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2011," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 61, no. SS-4 (June 8, 2012): accessed June 18, 2012, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Ventura SJ, et al. "Births: Final data for 2010." *National vital statistics reports*; vol 61 no 1. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2012, accessed December 19, 2012, [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61\\_01.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_01.pdf), Table B.

<sup>7</sup> Slide 9: "Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years, 2010—46 States and 5 U.S. Dependent Areas," *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed January 3, 2013, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>.

- <sup>8</sup> Slide 18: “Rates of AIDS Diagnoses among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years, 2010—United States and 6 U.S. Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed January 3, 2013, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>.
- <sup>9</sup> Slide 10: “Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Young Adults Aged 20-24 Years, 2010—46 States and 5 U.S. Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed January 3, 2013, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>.
- <sup>10</sup> Slide 19: “Rates of AIDS Diagnoses among Young Adults Aged 20-24 Years, 2010—United States and 6 U.S. Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed January 3, 2013, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>.
- <sup>11</sup> “Wonder Database: Sexually Transmitted Disease Morbidity for selected STDs by age, race/ethnicity and gender 1996–2009 Results,” (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 2011), accessed December 18, 2012, <http://wonder.cdc.gov>.
- <sup>12</sup> Information provided by Karen Pabón-Cruz, PREP Coordinator, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Division, Puerto Rico Department of Health, October 1, 2012.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>14</sup> *Cuidate!* Evidence-Based Programs, Resource Center for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (ReCAPP), ETR Associates, accessed May 5, 2010, <http://www.etr.org/recapp/index.cfm?fuseaction=pages.ebpDetail&PageID=577&PageTypeID=2>; see also *Science and Success: Sex Education and Other Programs That Work to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, HIV & Sexually Transmitted Infections, Second Edition* (Washington, DC: Advocates for Youth, 2008), accessed March 30, 2010, <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/storage/advfy/documents/sciencesuccess.pdf>, 76–79.
- <sup>15</sup> More information on sub-grantees was not available at the time of publication. Information provided by Lyzbeth Cordero, Abstinence Education Program Coordinator, Puerto Rico Department of Health, October 1, 2012.
- <sup>16</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>18</sup> *Adult Identity Mentoring (Project AIM) Evidence-Based Programs*, Resource Center for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (ReCAPP), ETR Associates, accessed July 1, 2011, <http://www.etr.org/recapp/index.cfm?fuseaction=pages.ebpDetail&PageID=573>; see also *Project AIM: Adult Identity Mentoring, A Youth Development Intervention for HIV Risk Reduction*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, accessed August 18, 2011, [http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/prev\\_prog/rep/packages/pdf/aim.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/prev_prog/rep/packages/pdf/aim.pdf).
- <sup>19</sup> *Adult Identity Mentoring (Project AIM) Evidence-Based Programs*, Resource Center for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (ReCAPP), ETR Associates, accessed July 1, 2011, <http://www.etr.org/recapp/index.cfm?fuseaction=pages.ebpDetail&PageID=573>.
- <sup>20</sup> *Adult Identity Mentoring (AIM)*, Promising Practices, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, accessed July 1, 2011, <http://www.healthysanbernardinocounty.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=PromisePractice&file=promisePractice&pid=3633>.
- <sup>21</sup> “Pregnancy Prevention Intervention Implementation Report: Adult Identity Mentoring (Project AIM),” Programs for Replication – Intervention Implementation Reports, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, accessed July 1, 2011, [http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/prevention/research/programs/adult\\_identity\\_mentoring\\_project\\_aim.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/prevention/research/programs/adult_identity_mentoring_project_aim.html).
- <sup>22</sup> The person listed represents the designated personnel in the state responsible for adolescent reproductive health.
- <sup>23</sup> This section is a list of major newspapers in the state and is by no means exhaustive of local print outlets.