



PUERTO RICO

In Fiscal Year 2013,¹ the territory of Puerto Rico received:

- **Division of Adolescent and School Health funds totaling \$7,000**
- **Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling \$629,568**
- **Title V State Abstinence Education Program funds totaling \$1,395,116**

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.² 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."³ 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.⁴

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.

2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ACTIVITY

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) Data⁵

- In 2013, 25.2% of female high school students and 33.5% of male high school students in Puerto Rico reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 46% of female high school students and 47.5% of male high school students in the United States.
- In 2013, 3% of female high school students and 6.4% of male high school students in Puerto Rico reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13, compared to 3.1% of female high school students and 8.3% of male high school students in the United States.

- In 2013, 17.9% of female high school students and 16.5% 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 35.2% of female high school students and 32.7% of male high school students in the United States.
- In 2013, 6.2% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students in Utah who dated or went out with someone during the 12 months before the survey reported experiencing physical dating violence one or more times during that time period (defined as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with), compared to 13% of female high school students and 7.4% of male high school students nationwide.

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Youth Online database](#) for additional information on sexual behaviors.

Puerto Rico Teen Pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and Other STD 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 per 1,000.⁶

HIV and AIDS

- In 2011, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among adolescents ages 13–19 in Puerto Rico was 5.6 per 100,000, compared to the U.S. national rate of 7.6 per 100,000.⁷
- In 2011, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among adolescents ages 13–19 in Puerto Rico was 2 per 100,000, compared to the U.S. national rate of 1.9 per 100,000.⁸
- In 2011, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among young adults ages 20–24 in Puerto Rico was 30.8 per 100,000, compared to the U.S. national rate of 36.3 per 100,000.⁹
- In 2011, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among young adults ages 20–24 in Puerto Rico was 4.8 per 100,000, compared to the U.S. national rate of 10.9 per 100,000.¹⁰

*Sexually Transmitted Diseases*¹¹

- In 2012, Puerto Rico had an infection rate of 588 cases per 100,000 of chlamydia reported among young people ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 2,001.7 per 100,000. In 2012, there were a total of 1,632 cases of chlamydia reported among young people ages 15–19 in Puerto Rico.
- In 2012, Puerto Rico had an infection rate of 25.2 cases per 100,000 of gonorrhea reported among young people ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 376.8 per 100,000. In 2012, there were a total of 70 cases of gonorrhea reported among young people ages 15–19 in Puerto Rico.
- In 2012, Puerto Rico had an infection rate of 3.6 cases per 100,000 of primary and secondary syphilis reported among young people ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 4.1 per 100,000. In 2012, there were a total of 10 cases of syphilis reported among young people ages 15–19 in Puerto Rico.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SEX EDUCATION, TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION, AND ABSTINENCE-ONLY-UNTIL-MARRIAGE 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 FY 2013. 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. OAH utilizes the remaining appropriated funds to provide program support, implementation evaluation, and technical assistance to grantees. TPPI also dedicates \$8.5 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 and minimize 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.

Division of Adolescent and School Health

The Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provides funding to 17 state and 19 local education agencies to help districts and schools strengthen student health through exemplary sexual health education (ESHE) that emphasizes HIV and other STD prevention, increased access to key sexual health services (SHS), and the establishment of safe and supportive environments (SSE) for students and staff. In addition, DASH funds nine national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help state and local education agencies achieve these goals.

- There were no DASH grantees in Puerto Rico funded to strengthen student health through ESHE, SHS, and SSE in FY 2013.

DASH also funds three local education agencies and one NGO to implement multiple program activities to meet the HIV/STD-prevention needs of young men who have sex with men (YMSM) and develop strategic partnerships and collaborations between schools and community-based, mental health, and social services organizations to accomplish this work.

- There were no DASH grantees in Puerto Rico funded to deliver YMSM programming in FY 2013.

DASH also provides funding for state, territorial, and local education agencies and state health agencies to establish and strengthen systematic procedures to collect and report Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and School Health Profiles data for policy and program improvements.

- There was one DASH grantee in Puerto Rico funded to collect and report YRBS and School Health Profiles data in FY 2013, the Puerto Rico Department of Education (\$7,000).

Pregnancy Assistance Fund

The Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF), administered by OAH, provides expecting and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families with a network of support services. Established in FY 2010 through a 10-year authorization (FY 2010–FY 2019) in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), PAF is a \$25 million competitive grant program for state and tribal entities. PAF grants support programs that include at least one of the following four components: 1) support for expectant and parenting student services at institutions of higher education; 2) support for expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families at high schools and community centers; 3) improved services for pregnant women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and 4) increased public awareness and education services for expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families. Now in the second round of awards, PAF supports 17 entities in 14 states and three tribal entities, most of which focus their efforts on serving teen parents.

- There are no PAF 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, \$3.1 million for Tribal PREP, for tribes and tribal organizations, and with remaining funds for evaluation, training, and technical assistance. In addition, provisions within the statute for PREP enable a competitive application process for community- and faith-based organizations within states and territories that do not directly seek PREP funding by the third year of the program; these competitive PREP (CPREP) grants were awarded to organizations in five states and three territories in FY 2013. Details on the state grant program, PREIS, Tribal PREP, and CPREP 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 STDs. 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 \$629,568 in federal PREP funds for FY 2013.
- The Puerto Rico Department of Health has arranged collaborative agreements with public housing authorities and public middle schools.¹²

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 Humacao, Maunabo, Naguabo, Vieques, and Yabucoa. The school-based programming uses *¡Cuidate!* for their youth component and addresses healthy relationships, adulthood development, healthy life skills, parent-child communication, and educational and career success.¹³

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 young people ages 10–19 who are in or are 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 2013, 16 tribes and tribal organizations from nine states received a total of \$3.1 million.
- There are no Tribal PREP grantees in Puerto Rico.

Competitive Personal Responsibility Education Program (CPREP)

CPREP grants support evidence-based programs that provide young people with medically accurate and age-appropriate information for the prevention of unintended pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other STDs. Organizations and institutions in states and territories that did not apply for PREP formula grants in either of the past two fiscal years were eligible to submit competitive applications for CPREP grants. Thirty-seven grants, totaling \$18.6 million, were awarded in FY 2013 to organizations in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Florida, Guam, Indiana, North Dakota, Texas, and Virginia.

- There are no CPREP grantees in Puerto Rico.

Title V State Abstinence Education Grant Program

The Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage (Title V AOUM) program, administered by ACF, allocates \$50 million per year to states for FYs 2010–2014. The Title V AOUM 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 Title V AOUM 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 \$1,395,116 in federal Title V AOUM funding for FY 2013.
- The Puerto Rico Department of Health sub-grants to the Center for Evaluation and Sociomedical Research (\$100,676) and the United Way of Puerto Rico (\$1,000,623).

The Puerto Rico Department of Health administers the Title V AOUM program in collaboration with local community-based organizations. The funded programs target 10- to 12-year-olds and their parents in municipalities identified in a needs assessment from the southeast region of Puerto Rico.

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Programming is provided in Arroyo, Guayama, Humacao, Maunabo, Naguabo, Patillas, Vieques, and Yabucoa. Sub-grantees use the following approved curricula: *Parental Fundamentals Program (PFP)* and *Project AIM (Adult Identity Mentoring)*.¹⁴

Competitive Abstinence Education Grant Program

Administered by the ACF, the Competitive Abstinence Education (CAE) grant program provides grants for “abstinence education” as defined by the A–H statute in Title V of the Social Security Act, as well as for mentoring, counseling, and adult supervision that promotes abstinence outside of marriage. As currently implemented by ACF, the programs must also be medically accurate. In FY 2013, \$4.3 million was granted through a competitive application process to 10 grantees across nine states, in addition to the nine grantees implementing the second year of their CAE awards in some overlapping and additional states, for a total of 19 CAE grantees in 14 states.

- There are no CAE grantees in Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico TPPI, DASH, PAF, PREP, Title V AOUM, and CAE Funding in FY 2013

Grantee	Award	Fiscal Years
Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)		
Puerto Rico Department of Education	\$7,000	2013–2017
TOTAL	\$7,000	
Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)		
<i>PREP State-Grant Program</i>		
Puerto Rico Department of Health (federal grant)	\$629,568	2013
TOTAL	\$629,568	2013
Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program (Title V AOUM)		
Puerto Rico Department of Health (federal grant)	\$1,395,116	2013
TOTAL	\$1,395,116	
GRAND TOTAL		
	\$2,031,684	2013

POINTS OF CONTACT

Adolescent Health Contact¹⁵

Dr. Gloria I. Montalvo
 Director of Comprehensive Adolescent Health Program
 Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Division
 Puerto Rico Department of Health
 P.O. Box 70184
 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936
 Phone: (787) 274-5634
 Email: gmontalvo@salud.gov.pr

PREP State-Grant Coordinator

Manuel I. Vargas Bernal, MD, MPH
 Director
 Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Division
 Puerto Rico Department of Health
 P.O. Box 70184
 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936
 Phone: (787)765-2929
 Email: mivargas@salud.gov.pr

Title V AOUM Coordinator

Lyzbeth A. Cordero, DrPH
 Abstinence Education Program Coordinator
 Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Division
 Puerto Rico Department of Health
 Calle Periferal
 Barrio Monacillos
 Río Piedras, Puerto Rico 00923
 Phone: (787) 765-2929

¹ This refers to the federal government’s fiscal year, which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, FY 2013 began on October 1, 2012, and ended on September 30, 2013.

² Puerto Rico Act 70; Senate Bill 475.

³ Puerto Rico Act 68; Senate Bill 674; House Bill 847.

⁴ Puerto Rico Act 146 (2000).

⁵ Kann, Laura, et al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2013,” *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 63, no. 4 (June 13, 2014): accessed July 17, 2014, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6304.pdf>.

⁶ Martin, J.A., 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, Table B.

⁷ Slide 9: “Rates of Diagnosis of HIV Infection Among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years, 2011—United States and 6 Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed May 30, 2013, <http://bit.ly/1mYVJHs>.

⁸ Slide 18: “Rates of Stage 3 (AIDS) Classifications among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years with HIV Infection, 2011—United States and 6 Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed May 30, 2013, <http://bit.ly/1mYVJHs>.

⁹ Slide 10: “Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Young Adults Aged 20–24 Years, 2011—United States and 6 Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed May 30, 2013, <http://bit.ly/1mYVJHs>.

¹⁰ Slide 19: “Rates of Stage 3 (AIDS) Classifications among Adolescents Aged 20–24 Years with HIV Infection, 2011—United States and 6 Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed May 30, 2013, <http://bit.ly/1mYVJHs>.

¹¹ NCHHSTP Atlas, “STD Surveillance Data.” (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed July 16, 2014, <http://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/NCHHSTPAtlas/main.html>.

¹² Information provided by Karen Pabón-Cruz, PREP coordinator, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Division, Puerto Rico Department of Health, June 10, 2014.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ The person listed represents the designated personnel in the state responsible for adolescent reproductive health.