



ADOLESCENT SEXUAL HEALTH PROMOTION AT A GLANCE

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

Rhode Island schools are required to provide “accurate information and instruction” on sexuality, HIV, and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Comprehensive AIDS instruction that stresses abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred means of prevention is also required. The commissioner of elementary and secondary education must establish a state health education curriculum for grades K–12. [Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs](#), which is based on the [Comprehensive Health Instructional Outcomes](#) and the [Health Education Framework](#), is the curriculum that schools must use. 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 RHODE ISLAND

↓ Among Rhode Island high school students in 2013, 37% of females and 38% of males **reported ever having had sexual intercourse**, lower than the reported national average of 46% of females and 48% of males.

↓ Among Rhode Island high school students in 2013, 29% of females and 25% 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.

↓ Among Rhode Island high school students in 2013, 9% of females and 7% of males **reported experiencing physical dating violence one or more times** during the 12 months before the survey, lower for females and similar for males to the reported national average of 13% of females and 7% of males.

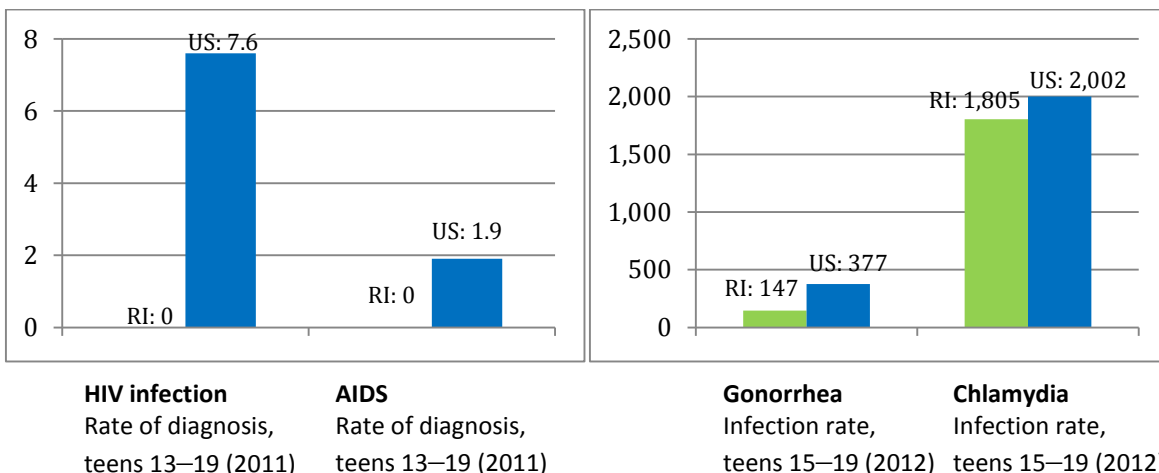
RHODE ISLAND TEEN PREGNANCY, BIRTH, AND ABORTION RATES

↓ In 2010, Rhode Island’s **teen pregnancy rate was lower than the national average**, with 44 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to 57 per 1,000 nationwide.

↓ In 2012, Rhode Island’s **teen birth rate was lower than the national average**, with 20 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to 29 per 1,000 nationwide.

↑ In 2010, Rhode Island’s **teen abortion rate was higher than the national average**, with 16 abortions per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to 15 per 1,000 nationwide.

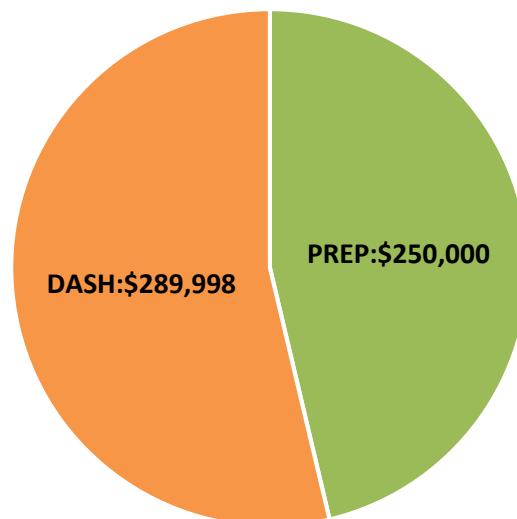
RHODE ISLAND’S YOUNG PEOPLE: HIV/AIDS AND OTHER STD RATES (PER 100,000)



FY 2013 FEDERAL FUNDING IN RHODE ISLAND: TOTAL \$539,998

Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) \$289,998
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 Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education receives ESHE, SHS, and SSE DASH funding as well as funds to collect and report the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance and the School Health Profiles.



Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) \$250,000
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 Rhode Island Department of Health administers the state’s PREP grant program in collaboration with five local entities: Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center; Pawtucket City of Pawtucket School Department; Sojourner House; South County Community Action Program; and Youth In Action. PREP programming takes place in both school-based and community-based settings for middle school and high school aged youth in Rhode Island’s cities and towns with the highest teen pregnancy rates. Programming is administered in Providence and Washington 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 Rhode Island State Profile at siecus.org/RhodeIsland2013.