



SIECUS

RHODE ISLAND

State Profile

In Fiscal Year 2013,¹ the state of Rhode Island received:

- **Division of Adolescent and School Health funds totaling \$289,998**
- **Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling \$250,000**

SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY

Rhode Island schools are required to provide “accurate information and instruction” on sexuality, HIV, and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).² Schools must also teach “the responsibilities of family membership and adulthood, including issues related to reproduction, abstinence, dating and dating violence, marriage, and parenthood as well as information about sexually transmitted diseases, sexuality and sexual orientation.”³ These classes must stress abstinence.

In addition, the state’s department of elementary and secondary education must “establish comprehensive AIDS...instruction, which shall provide students with accurate information and instruction on AIDS transmission and prevention, and which course shall also address abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred means of prevention, as a basic education program requirement.”⁴

The commissioner of elementary and secondary education must establish a state health education curriculum for grades K–12. Schools are required to use this curriculum, *Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs*, which is based on the *Comprehensive Health Instructional Outcomes* and the *Health Education Framework*.

Parents must be notified of sexuality education classes and may view the curriculum by submitting a written request. Students may be removed from instruction by written notification from the parent to the principal.⁵ This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Rhode Island General Laws §§ 16-1-5, 16-22-17, and 16-22-18; as well as the *Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs*, *Comprehensive Health Instructional Outcomes*, and the *Health Education Framework*.

2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION ACTIVITY

SIECUS is not aware of any proposed legislation regarding sexuality education in Rhode Island.

YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH DATA

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

Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Data⁶

- In 2013, 37.1% of female high school students and 37.7% of male high school students in Rhode Island reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 46% of female high school students and 47.5% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2013, 2.2% of female high school students and 6.2% of male high school students in Rhode Island 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 nationwide.
- In 2013, 29.1% of female high school students and 24.6% of male high school students in Rhode Island 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 nationwide.
- In 2013, 9.4% of female high school students and 7.3% of male high school students in Rhode Island 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.

Rhode Island Teen Pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and Other STD Data

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- In 2010, Rhode Island's teen pregnancy rate ranked 40th in the United States, with a rate of 44 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 57 per 1,000.⁷ There were a total of 1,750 pregnancies among young women ages 15–19 in Rhode Island.⁸
- In 2012, Rhode Island's teen birth rate ranked 43rd in the United States, with a rate of 19.9 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 29.4 per 1,000.⁹ In 2012, there were a total of 760 live births to young women ages 15–19 reported in Rhode Island.¹⁰
- In 2010, Rhode Island's teen abortion rate ranked 11th in the United States, with a rate of 16 abortions per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 15 per 1,000.¹¹ There were a total of 620 abortions among young women ages 15–19 reported in Rhode Island in 2010.¹²

HIV and AIDS

- In 2011, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among adolescents ages 13–19 in Rhode Island was zero per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 7.6 per 100,000.¹³
- In 2011, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among adolescents 13–19 years in Rhode Island was zero per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 1.9 per 100,000.¹⁴
- In 2011, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among young adults ages 20–24 in Rhode Island was 17.6 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 36.3 per 100,000.¹⁵

- In 2011, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among young adults ages 20–24 in Rhode Island was 3.9 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 10.9 per 100,000.¹⁶

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- In 2012, Rhode Island ranked 30th in the United States for reported cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19, with an infection rate of 1,805.2 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 2,001.7 per 100,000. In 2012, there were a total of 1,409 cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 reported in Rhode Island.¹⁷
- In 2012, Rhode Island ranked 40th in the United States for reported cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19, with an infection rate of 147.3 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 376.8 per 100,000. In 2012, there were a total of 115 cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 reported in Rhode Island.¹⁸
- In 2012, Rhode Island ranked 25th in the United States for reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis among young people ages 15–19, with an infection rate of 2.6 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 4.1 per 100,000. In 2012, there were two cases of syphilis among young people ages 15–19 reported in Rhode Island.¹⁹

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 Rhode Island.

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 Rhode Island.

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 Rhode Island.

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 was one DASH grantee in Rhode Island funded to strengthen student health through ESHE, SHS, and SSE in FY 2013, the Rhode Island Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (\$224,999).

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 to 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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island funded to collect and report YRBS and School Health Profiles data in FY 2013, the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (\$64,999).

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 Rhode Island.

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 Rhode Island Department of Health received \$250,000 in federal PREP funds for FY 2013.
- The agency provides sub-grants to five²⁰ local public and private entities.²¹

The Rhode Island Department of Health administers the state's PREP grant program in collaboration with five local entities. PREP programming takes place in both school- and community-based settings for middle school- and high school-aged youth in cities and towns with the highest teen pregnancy rates in the state. Currently, programming is administered in Providence and Washington counties. All PREP-funded programs are required to implement *Teen Outreach Program (TOP)*.²²

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. ACF 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 Rhode Island.

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 Rhode Island.

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.

R H O D E I S L A N D

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 Rhode Island.

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.

- Rhode Island chose not to apply for Title V AOUM funds for FY 2013.

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 Rhode Island.

Rhode Island TPPI, DASH, PAF, PREP, Title V AOUM, and CAE Funding in FY 2013

Grantee	Award	Fiscal Years
Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)		
<i>PREP State-Grant Program</i>		
Rhode Island Department of Health (federal grant)	\$250,000	2013
TOTAL	\$250,000	
Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)		
Rhode Island Department of Elementary & Secondary Education	\$289,998	2013–2017
TOTAL	\$289,998	
GRAND TOTAL		
	\$539,998	2013

POINTS OF CONTACT

Adolescent Health Contact²³ and PREP State-Grant Coordinator

Kim Harris, MSW, LCSW
 Adolescent Health Manager
 Division of Community, Family Health, and Equity
 Preventative Services and Community Practices
 Rhode Island Department of Health
 3 Capitol Hill, Room 302
 Providence, RI 02908
 Phone: (401) 222-4354
 Email: kimberly.harris@health.ri.gov

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 R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-22-17(a), <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-22/16-22-17.HTM>.

³ *Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs* (Rhode Island: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Rhode Island Department of Health, proposed 2008), accessed April 14, 2010, <http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/released/pdf/DOH/5471.pdf>, 5.1.7.

⁴ R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-22-17(a), <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-22/16-22-17.HTM>.

⁵ R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 16-22-18(b) and (c), <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-22/16-22-18.HTM>.

⁶ 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>.

⁷ Kost, K., and S. Henshaw, *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions, 2010: State Trends by Age, Race, and Ethnicity* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2014), accessed July 8, 2014, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends10.pdf>, Table 3.1.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Table 3.2.

⁹ Martin, J.A., et al., *Births: Final Data for 2012*. National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 62, No. 9 (December 30, 2013), accessed July 30, 2014, http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_09.pdf, Table 12.

¹⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, VitalStats Interactive Data Tables, Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm>.

¹¹ Kost, K., and S. Henshaw, *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions, 2010: State Trends by Age, Race, and Ethnicity* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2014), accessed July 8, 2014, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends10.pdf>, Table 3.1.

¹² *Ibid.*, Table 3.2.

¹³ 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>.

¹⁴ 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>.

¹⁵ 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>.

¹⁶ 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>.

¹⁷ 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>.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Sub-grantees include: Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center (\$25,000); Pawtucket City of Pawtucket School Department (\$25,000); Sojourner House (\$25,000); South County Community Action Program (\$25,000); Youth In Action (\$25,000).

²¹ Information provided by Kim Harris, adolescent health manager, Division of Community, Family Health, and Equity, Rhode Island Department of Health, June 18, 2014.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ The person listed represents the designated personnel in the state responsible for adolescent reproductive health.