



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) 2012 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 kindergarten through 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”).

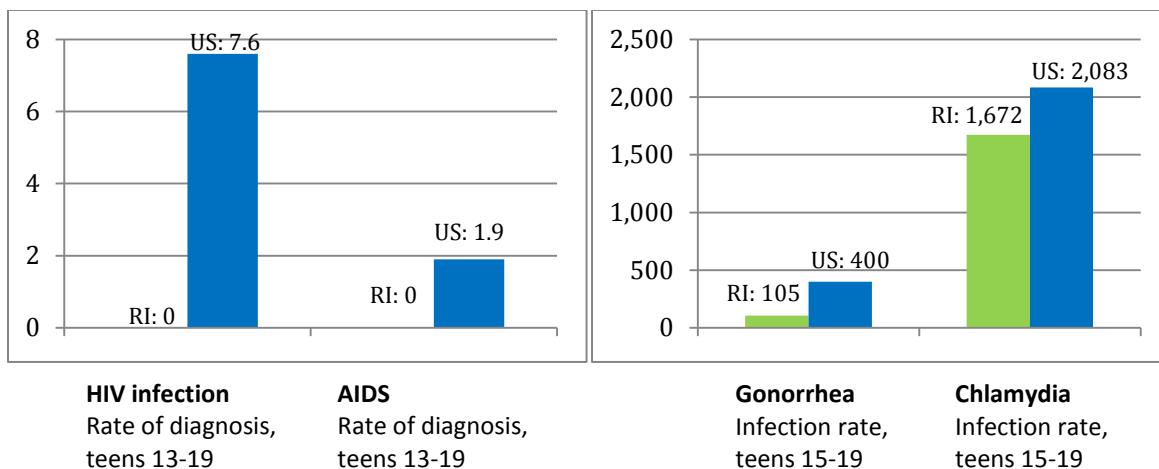
REPORTED SEXUAL ACTIVITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN RHODE ISLAND

- ⬇ Among Rhode Island high school students in 2011, 38% 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 Rhode Island high school students in 2011, 28% 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.

RHODE ISLAND TEEN PREGNANCY, BIRTH & ABORTION RATES

- ⬇ Rhode Island’s teen **pregnancy rate is lower than the national average**, with 53 pregnant teens per 1,000 compared to 68 pregnant teens per 1,000 nationwide in 2008.
- ⬇ Rhode Island’s teen **birth rate is lower than the national average**, with 21 teens per 1,000 giving birth compared to 31 teens per 1,000 nationwide in 2011.
- ⬇ Rhode Island’s teen **abortion rate is equal to the national average**, with 18 teens per 1,000 having an abortion compared to 18 teens per 1,000 nationwide in 2008.

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



FY 2012 FEDERAL FUNDING IN RHODE ISLAND: TOTAL \$250,000

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, please see the FY 2012 Rhode Island State Profile available at www.siecus.org/RhodeIsland2012