



U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

In Fiscal Year 2011¹, the U.S. Virgin Islands received:

- **Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling \$250,000**

SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY

The U.S. Virgin Islands requires sex education, including AIDS-prevention education, to be a component of the health curriculum taught to students in grades kindergarten through 12.²

See U.S. Virgin Islands Code tit. XVII § 41.

RECENT LEGISLATION

SIECUS is not aware of any proposed legislation regarding sexuality education in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH DATA

SIECUS has compiled the following data to provide an overview of adolescent sexual health in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The data collected represents the most current information available.

U.S. Virgin Islands Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Data³

The U.S. Virgin Islands did not participate in the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

U.S. Virgin Islands Teen Pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and Sexually Transmitted Disease Data

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- In 2010, the U.S. Virgin Island's teen birth rate was 50.5 per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the U.S. national rate of 34.2 births per 1,000.⁴

HIV and AIDS

- In 2010, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among adolescents aged 13-19 years in the U.S. Virgin Islands was 15.8 per 100,000 compared to the U.S. national rate of 7.9 per 100,000.⁵
- In 2010, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among adolescents 13-19 years in U.S. Virgin Islands was 0.0 per 100,000 compared to the U.S. national rate of 1.9 per 100,000.⁶

- In 2010, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among young adults aged 20-24 years in U.S. Virgin Islands was 44.3 per 100,000 compared to the U.S. national rate of 36.9 per 100,000.⁷
- In 2010, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among young adults aged 20-24 years in U.S. Virgin Islands was 0.0 per 100,000 compared to the U.S. national rate of 10.4 per 100,000.⁸

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 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 the U.S. Virgin Islands.

TPPI Tier 2: Innovative Approaches

The TPPI Tier 2 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 2 Innovative Approaches grantees in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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 the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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 U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services received \$250,000 in federal PREP funds for FY 2011.⁹

The Department of Human Services administers the PREP state-grant program for the Virgin Islands in collaboration with the Department of Education. Funding is not sub-granted to local entities, but is used to provide both school and community-based programming. The school-based portion targets students in grades seven through 12 while the community-based portion targets parents in the community.

Programming is administered in the St. Thomas/St. John and the St. Croix school districts. The Virgin Island PREP program addresses the following adulthood preparation subjects: healthy relationships, adolescent development, and parent-child communication. The curriculum approved for use under the grant program is *Reducing the Risk*.¹⁰

Reducing the Risk: Building Skills to Prevent Pregnancy, STD and HIV is an evidence-based, pregnancy-, STD-, and HIV-prevention curriculum designed for classroom use with students in the ninth and 10th grades. It is appropriate for use with multiethnic populations.¹¹ *Reducing the Risk* aims to reduce high-risk behaviors among participants and emphasizes strategies for abstaining from sex or practicing safer sex. The 16-lesson curriculum addresses both abstinence and contraception use and includes experiential activities that teach students to develop refusal, negotiation, and communication skills. An evaluation of the program published in *Family Planning Perspectives* found that it increased parent-child communication, especially among Latino youth; delayed the initiation of sexual intercourse; and reduced incidence of unprotected sex among lower-risk youth who participated in the program.¹²

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 the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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 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

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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 the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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 U.S. Virgin Islands chose not to apply for Title V abstinence-only funds for FY 2011.

U.S. Virgin Islands TPPI, PREP, and Title V Abstinence-Only funding in FY 2011

Grantee	Award	Fiscal Years
Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)		
<i>PREP State-Grant Program</i>		
Virgin Islands Department of Human Services	\$250,000	2011
TOTAL	\$250,000	
GRAND TOTAL		
	\$250,000	2011

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES TO SEXUALITY EDUCATION

SIECUS is not aware of any examples of model programs, policies, or best practices being implemented in the U.S. Virgin Islands 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 the U.S. Virgin Islands public schools for inclusion in future publications of the SIECUS State Profiles. Please visit SIECUS’ “Contact Us” webpage at www.siecus.org to share information. Select “state policy” as the subject heading.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Adolescent Health Contact¹³

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U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services
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St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802
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ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Community Foundation of
the Virgin Islands
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas
U.S. Virgin Islands
Phone: (340) 774-6031
www.cfvi.net

Virgin Islands Community AIDS
Resource and Education, Inc.
(VICARE)
Christiansted, Virgin Islands
Phone: (340) 692-9111
www.vicareinc.org

ORGANIZATIONS THAT OPPOSE COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

SIECUS is not aware of any organizations opposed to comprehensive sexuality education in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

MEDIA OUTLETS

Newspapers in the U.S. Virgin Islands¹⁴

The Virgin Islands Daily News
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
Phone: (340) 774-8772
www.virginislandsdailynews.com

¹ 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.

² U.S. Virgin Islands Title XVII; Amended August 2, 2002.

³ 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>. Note: The 2003 YRBS was the most recent that the U.S. Virgin Islands participated in.

⁴ 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, Table B.

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⁵ 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>.

⁶ 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>.

⁷ 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>.

⁸ 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>.

⁹ Information provided by Natalie Bailey, Assistant Administrator, Division of Family Assistance, Virgin Islands Department of Human Services, December 13, 2012.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ *Science and Success: Sex Education and Other Programs That Work to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, HIV & Sexually Transmitted Infections* (Washington, DC: Advocates for Youth, 2008), accessed March 30, 2010, <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/storage/advfy/documents/sciencesuccess.pdf>, 22.

¹² Ibid., 23–24.

¹³ The person listed represents the designated personnel in the state responsible for adolescent reproductive health.

¹⁴ This section is a list of major newspapers in the state and is by no means exhaustive of local print outlets.