

State Profiles FISCAL YEAR 2017

The complete FY 2017 State Profiles comprise individual state-specific documents along with four other accompanying documents. The Executive Summary details the current state of sexuality education across the country, highlighting trends observed over the past few decades. Additionally, it is critical to examine the information from each state within the larger context of the laws and federal funding streams across the country. Please reference the following documents to inform and contextualize broader sexuality education trends:

- [Executive Summary](#)
- [Federal Funding Overview](#) – compared to [Arkansas' federal funding](#)
- [Sex/Sexuality and HIV and other STIs Education Laws by State](#) – compared to [Arkansas' education laws](#)
- [Descriptions of Curricula and Programs across the United States](#)

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In Fiscal Year 2017,¹ the state of Arkansas received:

- **Division of Adolescent and School Health funds totaling \$393,184**
- **Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling \$451,596**
- **Title V State Abstinence Education Program funds totaling \$791,939**

SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY

STATE LAW

Arkansas law does not require schools to teach sexuality education or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) instruction. If a school offers a sex education or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention program, [Arkansas Code § 6-18-703](#) states that abstinence must be stressed, as “it is the policy of the State of Arkansas to discourage ... sexual activity by students.”² Furthermore, every public school sex education and AIDS prevention education program must “emphasize premarital abstinence as the only sure means of avoiding pregnancy and the sexual contraction of [AIDS] and other [STDs].”³

In order to be [accredited by the Arkansas Board of Education](#), education standards require public schools to offer health and safety education, and students are required to complete 0.5 units of health and safety in order to graduate high school. In 2015, [Arkansas Code § 6-16-1004](#) was amended to include dating violence awareness as a mandatory component of health and safety education for students in grades 7-12. Materials must be age-appropriate and based on scientific research.

Local school boards are empowered to establish school-based health clinics, which may provide sexuality education. Such education must include instruction on abstinence.⁴ School-based health clinics may also prescribe and distribute contraceptives with written parental consent; however, no state funds may be used to purchase condoms or contraceptives.⁵ Whether or not a school-based health clinic teaches sexuality

education or distributes contraceptives is left to the discretion of the school board. Clinics cannot provide abortion referrals.⁶

Arkansas statutes do not require parental permission for students to participate in sexuality or HIV/AIDS education, nor do they indicate whether parents or guardians may remove their children from such classes.

STATE STANDARDS

Arkansas maintains [curriculum standards](#) for physical and health education addressing STDs and HIV beginning in grade five. The [curriculum standards](#) stress the importance of abstinence, as well as the possible physical, emotional, and social consequences of sexual activity. Specific course content is left to the discretion of the local school districts.

STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

SIECUS tracks all state legislative session activity in our state legislative reports. For more information on bills related to school-based sexuality education that were introduced or passed in 2016, please see the most recent analysis of state legislative activity, [SIECUS' 2016 Sex Ed State Legislative Year-End Report: Top Topics and Takeaways](#).

YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH DATA

Young people are more than their health behaviors and outcomes. For those wishing to support the sexual health and wellbeing of young people, it is important to utilize available data in a manner that tracks our progress and pushes policies forward while respecting and supporting the dignity of all young lives.

While data can be a powerful tool to demonstrate the sexuality education and sexual health care needs of young people, it is important to be mindful that these behaviors and outcomes are impacted by systemic inequities present in our society that affect an individual's sexual health and wellbeing. That is, the context in which a young person's health behavior and decision-making happens is not reflected in individual data points. Notably, one example demonstrating such inequities are the limitations as to how and what data are currently collected; please be mindful of populations who may not be included in surveys or who may be misrepresented by the data. The data categories and any associated language are taken directly from the respective surveys and are not a representation of SIECUS' positions or values. For more information regarding SIECUS' use of data, please read the FY 2017 Executive Summary, [A Portrait of Sexuality Education in the States](#).

ARKANSAS YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS) DATA⁷

The following sexual health behavior and outcome data represent some of the most recent information available on the health of young people who attend high schools in Arkansas. Though not perfect—for instance, using broad race and ethnicity categories can often distort and aggregate the experiences of a diverse group of respondents—the YRBS is a critical resource for understanding the health behaviors of young people when used carefully and with an awareness of its limitations. Any missing data points indicate either a lack of enough respondents for a subcategory or the state's decision not to administer a question on the survey. SIECUS commends the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for conducting decades' worth of field studies to improve the accuracy and relevancy of the YRBS. Like the

CDC, SIECUS underlines that “school and community interventions should focus not only on behaviors but also on the determinants of those behaviors.”⁸

Reported ever having had sexual intercourse

- In 2015, 44.7% of female high school students and 47.3% of male high school students in Arkansas reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 39.2% of female high school students and 43.2% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 64.4% of lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) high school students, 36.1% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 44.6% of heterosexual high school students in Arkansas reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 50.8% of LGB high school students, 31.6% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 40.9% of heterosexual high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 57.0% of black high school students, 37.7% of Hispanic high school students, 44.1% of white high school students, and 46.1% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Arkansas reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 48.5% of black high school students, 42.5% of Hispanic high school students, 39.9% of white high school students, and 49.2% of high school students who identified as multiple races nationwide.

Reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13

- In 2015, 2.7% of female high school students and 9.3% of male high school students in Arkansas reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13, compared to 2.2% of female high school students and 5.6% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 13.8% of LGB high school students, 12.2% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 4.7% of heterosexual high school students in Arkansas reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13, compared to 7.3% of LGB high school students, 8.8% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 3.4% of heterosexual high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 6.9% of black high school students, 12.2% of Hispanic high school students, 4.4% of white high school students, and 7.7% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Arkansas reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13, compared to 8.3% of black high school students, 5.0% of Hispanic high school students, 2.5% of white high school students, and 5.8% of high school students who identified as multiple races nationwide.

Reported being currently sexually active

- In 2015, 34.1% of female high school students and 34.1% of male high school students in Arkansas reported being currently sexually active, compared to 29.8% of female high school students and 30.3% of male high school students nationwide.

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- In 2015, 42.5% of LGB high school students, 28.7% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 32.9% of heterosexual high school students in Arkansas reported being currently sexually active, compared to 35.1% of LGB high school students, 22.9% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 30.1% of heterosexual high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 43.6% of black high school students, 25.2% of Hispanic high school students, 32.9% of white high school students, and 30.5% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Arkansas reported being currently sexually active, compared to 33.1% of black high school students, 30.3% of Hispanic high school students, 30.3% of white high school students, and 35.7% of high school students who identified as multiple races nationwide.

Reported not using a condom during last sexual intercourse

- In 2015, 53.2% of female high school students and 40% of male high school students in Arkansas reported not using a condom during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 48% of female high school students and 38.5% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 60.9% of LGB high school students and 44.9% of heterosexual high school students in Arkansas reported not using a condom during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 52.5% of LGB high school students and 42.2% of heterosexual high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 33.6% of black high school students and 51.2% of white high school students in Arkansas reported not using a condom during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 36.3% of black high school students and 43.2% of white high school students nationwide.

Reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during last sexual intercourse

- In 2015, 22.8% of female high school students and 16.6% of male high school students in Arkansas reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 15.2% of female high school students and 12.2% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 36.4% of LGB high school students and 17.1% of heterosexual high school students in Arkansas reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 26.4% of LGB high school students and 12.4% of heterosexual high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 20.3% of black high school students and 18.7% of white high school students in Arkansas reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 15.9% of black high school students and 10.4% of white high school students nationwide.

Reported having had drunk alcohol or used drugs during last sexual intercourse²

- In 2015, 11.9% of female high school students and 26.9% of male high school students in Arkansas reported having had drunk alcohol or used drugs during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 16.4% of female high school students and 24.6% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 17.9% of LGB high school students and 19% of heterosexual high school students in Arkansas reported having had drunk alcohol or used drugs during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 22.4% of LGB high school students and 20% of heterosexual high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 18.1% of black high school students and 16.4% of white high school students in Arkansas reported having had drunk alcohol or used drugs during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 21.8% of black high school students and 19.3% of white high school students nationwide.

Reported never having been tested for HIV

- In 2015, 82.3% of female high school students and 82.2% of male high school students in Arkansas reported never having been tested for HIV, compared to 88.9% of female high school students and 90.7% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 72.6% of LGB high school students, 77.5% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 83.4% of heterosexual high school students in Arkansas reported never having been tested for HIV, compared to 81.8% of LGB high school students, 87.2% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 90.7% of heterosexual high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 80.2% of black high school students, 84.7% of Hispanic high school students, 82.9% of white high school students, and 79.9% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Arkansas reported never having been tested for HIV, compared to 83.4% of black high school students, 88.9% of Hispanic high school students, 92.0% of white high school students, and 86.6% of high school students who identified as multiple races nationwide.

Reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse

- In 2015, 16.4% of female high school students and 7.1% of male high school students in Arkansas reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse, compared to 10.3% of female high school students and 3.1% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 34% of LGB high school students, 23% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 8.6% of heterosexual high school students in Arkansas reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse, compared to 17.8% of

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LGB high school students, 12.6% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 5.4% of heterosexual high school students nationwide.

- In 2015, 8.2% of black high school students, 13.9% of Hispanic high school students, 12.1% of white high school students, and 22.4% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Arkansas reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse, compared to 7.3% of black high school students, 7.0% of Hispanic high school students, 6.0% of white high school students, and 12.1% of high school students who identified as multiple races nationwide.

Reported experiencing physical dating violence

- In 2015, 18.2% of female high school students and 10.5% of male high school students in Arkansas reported experiencing physical dating violence in the prior year, compared to 11.7% of female high school students and 7.4% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 31.8% of LGB high school students, 29.5% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 12.4% of heterosexual high school students in Arkansas reported experiencing physical dating violence in the prior year, compared to 17.5% of LGB high school students, 24.5% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 8.3% of heterosexual high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 15% of black high school students, 13.4% of Hispanic high school students, and 13.5% of white high school students in Arkansas reported experiencing physical dating violence in the prior year, compared to 10.5% of black high school students, 9.7% of Hispanic high school students, and 9.0% of white high school students nationwide.

Reported experiencing sexual dating violence

- In 2015, 16% of female high school students and 7.1% of male high school students in Arkansas reported experiencing sexual dating violence in the prior year, compared to 15.6% of female high school students and 5.4% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 22.6% of LGB high school students, 23.5% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 10.2% of heterosexual high school students in Arkansas reported experiencing sexual dating violence in the prior year, compared to 22.7% of LGB high school students, 23.8% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 9.1% of heterosexual high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 10.1% of black high school students, 17.2% of Hispanic high school students, and 10.4% of white high school students in Arkansas reported experiencing sexual dating violence in the prior year, compared to 10.0% of black high school students, 10.6% of Hispanic high school students, and 10.1% of white high school students nationwide.

Visit the CDC [Youth Online](#) database and the [Health Risks Among Sexual Minority Youth](#) report for additional information on sexual behaviors.

ARKANSAS SCHOOL HEALTH PROFILES DATA¹⁰

In 2015, the CDC released the School Health Profiles, which measures school health policies and practices and highlights which health topics were taught in schools across the country. Since the data was collected from self-administered questionnaires completed by schools’ principals and lead health education teachers, the CDC notes that one limitation of the School Health Profiles is bias toward the reporting of more positive policies and practices.¹¹ In the School Health Profiles, the CDC identifies 16 sexual education topics that it believes are critical to a young person’s sexual health. Below are key instruction highlights for secondary schools in Arkansas as reported for the 2013–2014 school year.

16 CRITICAL SEXUAL EDUCATION TOPICS IDENTIFIED BY THE CDC

- 1) How to create and sustain healthy and respectful relationships
- 2) Influences of family, peers, media, technology, and other factors on sexual risk behavior
- 3) Benefits of being sexually abstinent
- 4) Efficacy of condoms
- 5) Importance of using condoms consistently and correctly
- 6) Importance of using a condom at the same time as another form of contraception to prevent both STDs and pregnancy
- 7) How to obtain condoms
- 8) How to correctly use a condom
- 9) Communication and negotiation skills
- 10) Goal-setting and decision-making skills
- 11) How HIV and other STDs are transmitted
- 12) Health consequences of HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy
- 13) Influencing and supporting others to avoid or reduce sexual risk behaviors
- 14) Importance of limiting the number of sexual partners
- 15) How to access valid and reliable information, products, and services related to HIV, STDs, and pregnancy
- 16) Preventive care that is necessary to maintain reproductive and sexual health.

Source: School Health Profiles, 2014

Reported teaching all 16 critical sexual health education topics

- 20.4% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students all 16 critical sexual health education topics in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.¹²
- 45.5% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students all 16 critical sexual health education topics in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.¹³

Reported teaching about the benefits of being sexually abstinent

- 70.1% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students about the benefits of being sexually abstinent in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.¹⁴

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- 95% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students about the benefits of being sexually abstinent in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.¹⁵

Reported teaching how to access valid and reliable information, products, and services related to HIV, other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and pregnancy

- 61.2% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students how to access valid and reliable information, products, and services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.¹⁶
- 92% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students how to access valid and reliable information, products, and services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.¹⁷

Reported teaching how to create and sustain healthy and respectful relationships

- 68.3% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students how to create and sustain healthy and respectful relationships in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.¹⁸
- 91.4% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students how to create and sustain healthy and respectful relationships in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.¹⁹

Reported teaching about preventive care that is necessary to maintain reproductive and sexual health

- 54.6% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students about preventive care that is necessary to maintain reproductive and sexual health in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.²⁰
- 82.2% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students about preventive care that is necessary to maintain reproductive and sexual health in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.²¹

Reported teaching how to correctly use a condom

- 22.1% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students how to correctly use a condom in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.²²
- 52.6% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students how to correctly use a condom in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.²³

Reported teaching about all seven contraceptives

- 19% of Arkansas secondary schools taught students about all seven contraceptives—birth control pill, patch, ring, and shot; implants; intrauterine device; and emergency contraception—in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.²⁴

Reported providing curricula or supplementary materials relevant to LGB, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth

- 22.5% of Arkansas secondary schools provided students with curricula or supplementary materials that included HIV, STD, or pregnancy prevention information relevant to LGBTQ youth.²⁵

Visit the CDC's [School Health Profiles](#) report for additional information on school health policies and practices.

ARKANSAS TEEN PREGNANCY, HIV/AIDS, AND STD DATA

The following data from the CDC and the Guttmacher Institute represent the most recent state-specific statistics documenting teen pregnancy, birth, abortion, HIV/AIDS, and other STDs. For those wishing to support the sexual health and wellbeing of young people, it is important to use the data to advance their access to comprehensive education, resources, and services. However, the data is not intended to be used in a manner that is stigmatizing or shaming: Young people have the right to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing, but this right must be accompanied by the ability to access and understand all available choices. Therefore, the following data should be used to advance a young person's right to make informed decisions about their body and health.

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- In 2013, Arkansas had the 2nd highest reported teen pregnancy rate in the United States, with a rate of 59 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 43 per 1,000.²⁶ There were a total of 5,610 pregnancies among young women ages 15–19 reported in Arkansas in 2013.²⁷
- In 2015, Arkansas had the highest reported teen birth rate in the United States, with a rate of 38 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 22.3 per 1,000.²⁸ There were a total of 3,677 live births to young women ages 15–19 reported in Arkansas in 2015.²⁹
- In 2013, Arkansas had the 36th highest reported teen abortion rate³⁰ in the United States, with a rate of 6 abortions per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 11 per 1,000.³¹ There were a total of 560 abortions among young women ages 15–19 reported in Arkansas in 2013.³²

HIV and AIDS

- In 2015, the reported rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among adolescents ages 13–19 in Arkansas was 5.1 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.8 per 100,000.³³
- In 2015, the reported rate of AIDS diagnoses among adolescents ages 13–19 in Arkansas was 0.7 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 0.7 per 100,000.³⁴

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- In 2015, the reported rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among young adults ages 20–24 in Arkansas was 28.1 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 31.1 per 100,000.³⁵
- In 2015, the reported rate of AIDS diagnoses among young adults ages 20–24 in Arkansas was 7.8 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.6 per 100,000.³⁶

STDs

- In 2015, Arkansas had the 5th highest rate of reported cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 in the United States, with an infection rate of 2,548.3 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 1,857.8 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 4,990 cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 reported in Arkansas.³⁷
- In 2015, Arkansas had the 5th highest rate of reported cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 in the United States, with an infection rate of 560.7 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 341.8 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 1,098 cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 reported in Arkansas.³⁸
- In 2015, Arkansas had the 11th highest rate of reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis among young people ages 15–19 in the United States, with an infection rate of 6.6 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.4 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 13 cases of syphilis reported among young people ages 15–19 in Arkansas.³⁹

Visit the Office of Adolescent Health’s (OAH) [Arkansas Adolescent Health Facts](#) for additional information.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SEXUALITY EDUCATION, UNINTENDED TEEN PREGNANCY, HIV AND OTHER STD PREVENTION, AND ABSTINENCE-ONLY-UNTIL-MARRIAGE (AOUM) PROGRAMS

FISCAL YEAR 2017 FEDERAL FUNDING IN ARKANSAS

Grantee	Award
Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)	
Arkansas Department of Education	\$393,184
TOTAL	\$393,184
Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)	
PREP State-Grant Program	
Arkansas Department of Health (federal grant)	\$451,596
TOTAL	\$451,596
Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program (Title V AOUM)	

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Arkansas Department of Health (federal grant)	\$791,939
TOTAL	\$791,939
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,636,719

DIVISION OF ADOLESCENT AND SCHOOL HEALTH

The CDC’s school-based HIV prevention efforts include funding and technical assistance to state and local education agencies through several funding streams to better student health, implement HIV/STD prevention programs, collect and report data on young people’s risk behaviors, and expand capacity-building partnerships. In FY 2017, through the CDC’s Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), 18 state education agencies and 17 school districts received funding to help the districts and schools strengthen student health through exemplary sexual health education (ESHE) that emphasizes HIV and other STD prevention, increases access to key sexual health services (SHS), and establishes safe and supportive environments (SSE) for students and staff. DASH funded six national, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help state and local education agencies achieve these goals.

- In FY 2017, there was one DASH grantee in Arkansas funded to strengthen student health through ESHE, SHS, and SSE (1308 Strategy 2): The Arkansas Department of Education (\$320,000).

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, \$320,000 (FY 2017)

With its 1308 Strategy 2 funds, the Arkansas Department of Education provides professional development on standards- and skill-based instructional materials that are aligned with the [Arkansas Health Education Framework](#) and the [National Sexuality Education Standards](#). The Department also provides monitoring of school-level sexual health education policies. To assist young people in accessing needed health services and reduce stigma about receiving health care, the Department works to identify local, youth-friendly sexual health service providers and develop a referral system and protocol for school districts and community partners. To help create safe and supportive environments for all students and staff, the Department is increasing student-led efforts to promote respect and prevent bullying. Students develop and deliver anti-bullying messages directly to other students with presentations and materials.⁴⁰

In addition, DASH funds local education agencies and NGOs to implement multiple program activities to meet the HIV- and other 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.

- In FY 2017, there were no DASH grantees in Arkansas funded to deliver YMSM programming (1308 Strategy 4).

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 YRBS and School Health Profiles data for policy and program improvements.

- In FY 2017, there was one DASH grantee in Arkansas funded to collect and report YRBS and School Health Profiles data (1308 Strategy 1): The Arkansas Department of Education (\$73,184).

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM (TPPP)

The OAH, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), administers TPPP, which funds evidence-based or innovative evidence-informed, medically accurate, and age-appropriate programs to reduce teen pregnancy. In FY 2017, total funding for TPPP was \$101 million, supporting 84 states, cities, non-profit organizations, school districts, universities, community-based organizations, and tribal organizations. These grantees were in year three of five TPPP funding tiers' five-year cooperative agreements in 33 states, the District of Columbia, and the Marshall Islands. In June 2017, however, 81 of the 84 grantees were notified, without cause or explanation, that their project periods were shortened to just three years, to end on June 30, 2018. Since the other three grantees are on a different grant cycle, they had not yet received notice on the status of their funding at the time of publication. OAH provides program support, implementation evaluation, and technical assistance to grantees and receives an additional \$6.8 million in funding for evaluation purposes. Below is information on the five TPPP funding tiers:

Tier 1A: Capacity building to support replication of evidence-based TPP programs.

Tier 1B: Replicating evidence-based TPP programs to scale in communities with the greatest need.

Tier 2A: Supporting and enabling early innovation to advance adolescent health and prevent teen pregnancy.

Tier 2B: Rigorous evaluation of new or innovative approaches to prevent teen pregnancy.

Tier 2C: Effectiveness of TPP programs designed specifically for young males.

- In FY 2017, there were no TPPP grantees in Arkansas.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) division of HHS, administers PREP, which was authorized for a total of \$75 million in FY 2017 for the state-grant program; local entities through the competitively awarded Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies (PREIS) program; and the Tribal PREP, which funds tribes and tribal organizations. In addition, provisions within the PREP statute enable a competitive application process for community- and faith-based organizations within states and territories that do not directly seek PREP state grants to apply for funding through the Competitive Personal Responsibility Education Program (CPREP).

Similar to other programs highlighted in the State Profiles, the grants for the various PREP programs are awarded throughout the year, with several awarded in the final month of the fiscal year for use and implementation throughout the following year. SIECUS reports on funding amounts appropriated in FY 2017 and any programmatic activities that occurred during FY 2017, or October 1, 2016–September 30, 2017. It is important to remember, however, that reported programmatic activities for this period may have utilized FY 2016 funds. Details on the state grants, PREIS, Tribal PREP, and CPREP are included below. More information and clarification surrounding funding announcements are also included below, as well as in the FY 2017 Executive Summary, [*A Portrait of Sexuality Education in the States*](#).

PREP State-Grant Program

State-grant PREP supports evidence-based programs that provide young people with medically accurate and age-appropriate information for the prevention of unintended pregnancy, HIV, and other STDs. In FY 2017, 44 states, the District of Columbia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the

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Republic of Palau, and the Virgin Islands received PREP state-grant 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.

- In FY 2017, the Arkansas Department of Health received \$451,596 in federal PREP funds.⁴¹
- The Department provides a sub-grant to one entity.⁴²

The Arkansas Department of Health, Women's Health Section, administers the state PREP grant in collaboration with one sub-grantee for program implementation and personnel for coordination. The sub-grantee targets young people ages 11–19 in the foster care or in the juvenile justice system across Garland, Lonoke, Jefferson, Pulaski, and Saline counties. The funded program uses the [*Be Proud! Be Responsible!*](#) and [*Making Proud Choices!*](#) curricula to address the following adulthood preparation subjects: healthy life skills, financial literacy, and career success. The funds expired on June 30, 2017, but a request for approval (RFA) was in process for continued service at the time publication.⁴³ Additional information as to the identity of the sub-grantee and the amount of funds received by the sub-grantee was not provided.

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, HIV, and other STDs.

- In FY 2017, there were no PREIS grantees in Arkansas.

Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program (Tribal PREP)

Tribal PREP supports the development and implementation of pregnancy-, HIV-, and other STD-prevention programs among young people within tribes and tribal communities. Tribal PREP programs target young people ages 10–19 who are in or are aging out of foster care, young people experiencing homelessness, young people living with HIV, young people who live in areas with high rates of adolescent births, and young people under age 21 who are pregnant and/or parenting. In FY 2017, eight tribes and tribal organizations from seven states received a total of \$3,271,693.

- In FY 2017, there were no Tribal PREP grantees in Arkansas.

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, and other STDs. Only organizations and institutions in states and territories that did not apply for PREP state grants are eligible to submit competitive applications for CPREP grants. In FY 2017, 21 CPREP grants, totaling \$10.2 million, were awarded to 21 organizations in Florida, Indiana, North Dakota, Texas, and Virginia, as well as in American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

- In FY 2017, Arkansas received PREP state-grant funding; therefore, entities in Arkansas were not eligible for CPREP.

TITLE V “ABSTINENCE EDUCATION” STATE GRANT PROGRAM

The Title V “abstinence education” state grant program for AOUM programming, or the Title V AOUM program, is administered by FYSB, within ACF of HHS, and was authorized at \$75 million for FY 2017. 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 exclusively promote abstinence from sexual activity and may provide mentoring, counseling, and adult supervision toward this end.⁴⁴

- In FY 2017, the Arkansas Department of Health received \$791,939 in federal Title V AOUM funding.⁴⁵
- At the time of publication, information as to Arkansas’ use of FY 2017 Title V AOUM funding was unknown. The following information reflects implementation of FY 2015 funds during FY 2016.
- The Department chose to disburse a sub-grant of \$575,625 to Healthy Connections, Inc.⁴⁶
- In Arkansas, the sub-grantee provides the match.

The Arkansas Department of Health administers the state’s Title V AOUM grant with direct activities administered by their sub-grantee, Healthy Connections, Inc., located in Mena. Healthy Connections, Inc., manages three sub-grantees throughout 16 counties and 35 school districts in the state to provide both school- and community-based programming. Young people ages 12–19 receive programming using [Choosing the Best](#).⁴⁷

The Arkansas Department of Health and Healthy Connections, Inc., retain \$33,031 and \$135,625, respectively, for administrative expenses. Healthy Connections, Inc., uses \$97,914 for its own programming and distributes the rest of the grant money amount among its sub-grantees: Reality Check, Inc. (\$130,697), Choosing to Excel (\$115,000), and Prevention Education Programs, Inc. (\$96,389).⁴⁸

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS, INC., \$97,914 (FY 2015)⁴⁹

Healthy Connections, Inc., provides affordable medical, dental, and social services to residents of all ages in Western Arkansas.⁵⁰ Among their many services, the organization coordinates the Arkansas Abstinence Education program, which served 10,454 young people in FY 2015.⁵¹ While the organization specifically serves young people in Polk County at Mena Middle School, Healthy Connections, Inc., along with its three sub-grantees, serve the following schools and school districts: Bentonville School District (Bentonville High School); Cass Job Corps Center (Franklin/Johnson County Teen Summit); Clarendon School District; Conway Public Schools; County Line High Schools (Franklin/Johnson County Teen Summit); Des Arc School District; DeWitt School District; Fayetteville School District (Fayetteville High School); Gravette School District (Alternative Learning Environment and Gravette High School); Green Forest School District (Green Forest High School and Green Forest Middle School); Greenbrier Public Schools; Hazen School District; Hot Springs Schools; Jasper School District (Jasper High School, Kingston High School, and Oak High School); Lamar School District (Lamar High School and Franklin/Johnson County Teen Summit); Little Rock School District (J.A. Fair High School); Morrilton Public Schools; Ozark School District (Ozark High School and Franklin/Johnson County Teen Summit); Pea Ridge School District (Pea Ridge High School); Pulaski County Special School District (Maumelle Middle School); Rogers Public School District (Crossroads Alternative Learning Environment High School, Crossroads Alternative Learning Environment Middle School, Extended Day Program Alternative Learning Environment, Lingle

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Middle School, and Kirksey Middle School); Springdale Public Schools (Southwest Jr. High School); St. Joseph School; Stuttgart School District; Van Buren School District (Butterfield Trail Middle School and Van Buren High School); and Vilonia School District (Vilonia Middle School).⁵²

REALITY CHECK, INC., \$130,697 (FY 2015)⁵³

Located in Rogers, Arkansas, Reality Check, Inc., is a community-based, non-profit organization that teaches necessary skills in order to help individuals make positive life choices. The organization provides programming to students in grades 6–12; parents; teachers in alternative and other public schools; local colleges; community youth organizations; juvenile facilities; local churches; and faith-based organizations.⁵⁴ Reality Check, Inc., serves Benton, Carroll, Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Madison, Newton, and Washington counties.⁵⁵

CHOOSING TO EXCEL, \$115,000 (FY 2015)⁵⁶

Located in Conway, Arkansas, Choosing to Excel is a community-based organization that aims to encourage healthy choices, impact lives, and create a positive difference. Among their various programs, the organization works with educators to implement the Arkansas Department of Education curriculum frameworks and administers programs in both school- and community-based settings, including juvenile systems and alternative learning programs.⁵⁷ Choosing to Excel administers programming under the Title V AOUM grant in the Conway, Faulkner, Garland, and Pulaski Counties.⁵⁸

PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAMS, INC., \$96,389 (FY 2015)⁵⁹

Prevention Education Programs, Inc., is located in Stuttgart, Arkansas, and administers programming in Arkansas, Monroe, and Prairie Counties.⁶⁰

“SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION” (SRAE) GRANT PROGRAM

Administered by FYSB within ACF of HHS, the SRAE program—a rebranding of the competitive AOUM grant program—provides funding for public and private entities for programs that “teach young people to voluntarily refrain from non-marital sexual activity and prevent other youth risk behaviors.” These programs are also required by statute to “teach the benefits associated with self-regulation; success sequencing for poverty prevention; healthy relationships; goal setting and resisting sexual coercion; dating violence; and other youth risk behaviors, such as underage drinking or illicit drug use, without normalizing teen sexual activity.” In FY 2017, \$15 million was appropriated for the SRAE grant program, and \$13.5 million was awarded to 27 grantees in 14 states through a competitive application process.

- In FY 2017, there were no SRAE grantees in Arkansas.

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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 2017 began on October 1, 2016, and ended on September 30, 2017.

² Ark. Code § 6-18-703(d), <http://law.justia.com/codes/arkansas/2010/title-6/subtitle-2/chapter-18/subchapter-7/6-18-703>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ark. Code § 6-18-703(a)(3).

⁵ Ark. Code § 6-18-703(c)(1).

⁶ Ark. Code § 6-18-703(a)(3).

⁷ "Youth Online," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx>.

⁸ "Methodology of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System – 2013," pg. 17, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6201.pdf.

⁹ It is critical to examine social determinants when analyzing potentially stigmatizing data. Accounting for differences in people's lived experiences based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, etc., is a vital part of understanding the context in which the data exist. We encourage readers to exercise caution when using the data and warn readers against using the data in a manner that conflates correlation with causation. Please visit the FY 2017 Executive Summary, [*A Portrait of Sexuality Education in the States*](#), for more context.

¹⁰ "School Health Profiles 2014," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx>.

¹¹ Ibid., pg. 51.

¹² Ibid., Table 9c.

¹³ Ibid., Table 11c.

¹⁴ Ibid., Table 9a.

¹⁵ Ibid., Table 11a.

¹⁶ Ibid., Table 9a.

¹⁷ Ibid., Table 11a.

¹⁸ Ibid., Table 9b.

¹⁹ Ibid., Table 11b.

²⁰ Ibid., Table 9b.

- ²¹ Ibid., Table 11b.
- ²² Ibid., Table 9c.
- ²³ Ibid., Table 11c.
- ²⁴ Ibid., Table 13.
- ²⁵ Ibid., Table 39.
- ²⁶ Arpaia, A., Kost, K., and Maddow-Zimet, I., *Pregnancies, Births and Abortions Among Adolescents and Young Women in the United States, 2013: State Trends by Age, Race, and Ethnicity* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2017), https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_downloads/us-adolescent-pregnancy-trends-2013_tables.pdf, Table 2.5.
- ²⁷ Ibid., Table 2.6.
- ²⁸ “Teen Birth Rate Comparison, 2015 Among Girls Age 15-19,” The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, <https://thenationalcampaign.org/data/compare/1701>.
- ²⁹ United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2007-2015, on CDC WONDER Online Database, February 2017. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/nativity-current.html>.
- ³⁰ “Abortion” used in this context refers to legally induced abortions. This rate does not include abortions that occur outside of health care facilities or are unreported. Unfortunately, there is no reliable source of information for actual rates of abortion.
- ³¹ Arpaia, A., Kost, K., and Maddow-Zimet, I., *Pregnancies, Births and Abortions Among Adolescents and Young Women in the United States, 2013: State Trends by Age, Race, and Ethnicity* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2017), https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_downloads/us-adolescent-pregnancy-trends-2013_tables.pdf, Table 2.5.
- ³² Ibid., Table 2.6.
- ³³ Slide 17: “Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years 2015—United States and 6 Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/slidesets/cdc-hiv-surveillance-adolescents-young-adults-2015.pdf.
- ³⁴ Slide 20: “Rates of Diagnosed HIV Infection Classified as Stage 3 (AIDS) among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years, 2015—United States and 6 Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/slidesets/cdc-hiv-surveillance-adolescents-young-adults-2015.pdf.
- ³⁵ Slide 18: “Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Young Adults Aged 20–24 Years 2015—United States and 6 Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/slidesets/cdc-hiv-surveillance-adolescents-young-adults-2015.pdf.
- ³⁶ Slide 21: “Rates of Diagnosed HIV Infection Classified as Stage 3 (AIDS) among Young Adults Aged 20–24 Years, 2015—United States and 6 Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/slidesets/cdc-hiv-surveillance-adolescents-young-adults-2015.pdf.
- ³⁷ NCHHSTP Atlas, “STD Surveillance Data” (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), <http://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/NCHHSTPAtlas/main.html>.
- ³⁸ Ibid.
- ³⁹ Ibid.
- ⁴⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Adolescent and School Health, Funded State Agencies, Atlanta, GA, www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/partners/funded_states.htm#ar.
- ⁴¹ “2017 State Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) Awards,” Family and Youth Services Bureau, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource/2017-state-prep-awards.
- ⁴² Information provided by Rhonda Brown, Women’s Health Section Chief, Arkansas Department of Health, June 21, 2017.
- ⁴³ Ibid.
- ⁴⁴ 42 U.S.C. 710, Title V, Section 510 of the Social Security Act, the authorization for the Title V AOUM grant program, defines “abstinence education” as “an educational or motivational program which:
- (A) has as its exclusive purpose, teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;
 - (B) teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children;
 - (C) teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems;
 - (D) teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity;

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(E) teaches that sexual activity outside of the context of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects;

(F) teaches that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society;

(G) teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances; and

(H) teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.”

www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title05/0510.htm.

⁴⁵ “2017 Title V State Abstinence Education Program Grant Awards,” Family and Youth Services Bureau, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource/2017-aegp-awards.

⁴⁶ Information provided by Alissa Blake, Title V Grant Contact, May 20, 2016.

⁴⁷ Ibid; “Title V State Abstinence Education Program Grantee Profiles,” Family and Youth Services Bureau, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource/aegp-profiles>.

⁴⁸ Information provided by Alissa Blake, Title V Grant Contact, May 20, 2016.

⁴⁹ This funding amount was awarded in FY 2015 and programming occurred during FY 2016.

⁵⁰ “Home,” Healthy Connections, Inc., www.healthy-connections.org/Home/tabid/20406/Default.aspx.

⁵¹ “Arkansas Abstinence Education Program,” Healthy Connections Inc., <http://healthy-connections.org/programs/arkansas-abstinence-education/>.

⁵² Information provided by Alissa Blake, Title V Grant Contact, May 20, 2016.

⁵³ This funding amount was awarded in FY 2015 and programming occurred during FY 2016.

⁵⁴ “Who We Are,” Reality Check, Inc., www.realitycheckinc.org/#/who-we-are/c4nz.

⁵⁵ “Arkansas Abstinence Education Program,” Healthy Connections Inc., <http://healthy-connections.org/programs/arkansas-abstinence-education/>.

⁵⁶ This funding amount was awarded in FY 2015 and programming occurred during FY 2016.

⁵⁷ “Our History,” Choosing to Excel, choosingtoexcel.org/our-history/.

⁵⁸ “Arkansas Abstinence Education Program,” Healthy Connections Inc., <http://healthy-connections.org/programs/arkansas-abstinence-education/>.

⁵⁹ This funding amount was awarded in FY 2015 and programming occurred during FY 2016.

⁶⁰ Ibid.