

State Profiles FISCAL YEAR 2016

PUERTO RICO

In Fiscal Year 2016,¹ the territory of Puerto Rico received:

- Division of Adolescent and School Health funds totaling \$12,000
- Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling \$592,244
- Title V State Abstinence Education Program funds totaling \$2,027,157

SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY

STATE LAW

Puerto Rico's [Title 3 Chapter 9A subchapter III § 144c-d](#) requires schools to implement sexual education programs for its students. These programs shall “emphasize the physiological and emotional aspects of sexual relations, as well as the family responsibilities related thereto, and the risks entailed as a result of these relationships.”² Additionally, the law states that schools shall “provide information and orientation to the students on the sexual development of human beings; family relations; problems of adolescence; personal finances; and on any other topics that the school or the Secretary deem are pertinent.”³ Puerto Rico does not require parental permission for students to participate in sexuality or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) education, nor does it say whether parents or guardians may remove their children from such classes.

STATE STANDARDS

Puerto Rico's [Programma de Salud Escolar](#) (health education standards) include discussion on abstinence, safer-sex practices, and avoiding sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV.⁴

STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION 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 [SIECUS' 2016 Sex Ed State Legislative Year-End Report: Top Topics and Takeaways](#).

YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH DATA

The following sexual health behavior and outcome data represent the most recent information available on adolescent sexual health in Puerto Rico. 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 can and often do affect an individual's sexual health and wellbeing. Additionally, there are significant limitations as to how and what data are currently collected. Young people are more than outcomes; for advocates, it is important to utilize

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the data in a manner that tracks our progress and pushes policies forward in a way that respects and supports the dignity of all young lives.

PUERTO RICO YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS) DATA⁵

Reported ever having had sexual intercourse

- In 2015, 20.2% of female high school students and 28.4% of male high school students in Puerto Rico 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 the U.S.
- In 2015, 51.8% of lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) high school students, 23.4% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 22.3% of heterosexual high school students in Puerto Rico 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 the U.S.
- In 2015, 23.8% of Hispanic high school students in Puerto Rico reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 42.5% of Hispanic high school students nationwide in the U.S.

Reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13

- In 2015, 1.6% of female high school students and 4.1% of male high school students in Puerto Rico 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 the U.S.
- In 2015, 9.4% of LGB high school students, 4.3% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 2.2% of heterosexual high school students in Puerto Rico 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 the U.S.
- In 2015, 2.5% of Hispanic high school students in Puerto Rico reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13, compared to 5% of Hispanic high school students nationwide in the U.S.

Reported being currently sexually active

- In 2015, 15.0% of female high school students and 16.3% of male high school students in Puerto Rico reported being currently sexually active, compared to 29.8% of female high school students and 30.3% of male high school students nationwide in the U.S.
- In 2015, 37.8% of LGB high school students, 11.7% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 14.4% of heterosexual high school students in Puerto Rico 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 the U.S.

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- In 2015, 15.6% of Hispanic high school students in Puerto Rico reported being currently sexually active, compared to 30.3% of Hispanic high school students nationwide in the U.S.

Reported not using a condom during last sexual intercourse

- In 2015, 53.7% of female high school students in Puerto Rico reported not using a condom during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 48% of female high school students nationwide in the U.S.
- In 2015, 48.6% of heterosexual high school students in Puerto Rico reported not using a condom during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 42.2% of heterosexual high school students nationwide in the U.S.
- In 2015, 50.6% of Hispanic high school students in Puerto Rico reported not using a condom during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 44.4% of Hispanic high school students nationwide in the U.S.

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

- In 2015, 40.0% of female high school students in Puerto Rico reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 15.2% of female high school students nationwide in the U.S.
- In 2015, 37.6% of heterosexual high school students in Puerto Rico reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 12.4% of heterosexual high school students nationwide in the U.S.
- In 2015, 37.1% of Hispanic high school students in Puerto Rico reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 20.0% of Hispanic high school students nationwide in the U.S.

Reported never having been tested for HIV

- In 2015, 88.8% of female high school students and 81.9% of male high school students in Puerto Rico 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 the U.S.
- In 2015, 71.8% of LGB high school students, 87.2% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 86.5% of heterosexual high school students in Puerto Rico 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 the U.S.
- In 2015, 85.6% of Hispanic high school students in Puerto Rico reported never having been tested for HIV, compared to 88.9% of Hispanic high school students nationwide in the U.S.

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Reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse

- In 2015, 8.0% of female high school students and 9.1% of male high school students in Puerto Rico 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 the U.S.
- In 2015, 12.3% of LGB high school students, 20.9% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 7.5% of heterosexual high school students in Puerto Rico reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse, compared to 17.8% of 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 the U.S.
- In 2015, 8.6% of Hispanic high school students, 8.6% of white high school students in Puerto Rico reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse, compared to 7% of Hispanic high school students nationwide in the U.S.

Reported experiencing physical dating violence

- In 2015, 3.9% of female high school students and 7.9% of male high school students in Puerto Rico 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 the U.S.
- In 2015, 15.0% of LGB high school students, 8.2% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 5.2% of heterosexual high school students in Puerto Rico 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 the U.S.
- In 2015, 6.0% of Hispanic high school students in Puerto Rico reported experiencing physical dating violence in the prior year, compared to 9.7% of Hispanic high school students nationwide in the U.S.

Reported experiencing sexual dating violence

- In 2015, 7.3% of female high school students and 6.7% of male high school students in Puerto Rico 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 the U.S.
- In 2015, 16.4% of LGB high school students, 13.0% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 5.6% of heterosexual high school students in Puerto Rico 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 the U.S.
- In 2015, 6.8% of Hispanic high school students in Puerto Rico reported experiencing sexual dating violence in the prior year, compared to 10.6% of Hispanic high school students nationwide in the U.S.

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Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Youth Online](#) database for additional information on sexual behaviors.

PUERTO RICO TEEN PREGNANCY, HIV/AIDS, AND OTHER STD DATA

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- In 2015, Puerto Rico had a teen birth rate of 33.9 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the U.S. national rate of 22.3 per 1,000.⁶

HIV and AIDS

- In 2015, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among adolescents ages 13–19 in Puerto Rico was 1.8 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.8 per 100,000.⁷
- In 2015, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among adolescents ages 13–19 in Puerto Rico was 0.0 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 0.7 per 100,000.⁸
- In 2015, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among young adults ages 20–24 in Puerto Rico was 26.5 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 31.1 per 100,000.⁹
- In 2015, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among young adults ages 20–24 in Puerto Rico was 4.4 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.6 per 100,000.¹⁰

STDs

- In 2015, Puerto Rico had infection rate of 386.4 cases per 100,000 of chlamydia reported among young people ages 15–19, compared to the U.S. national rate of 1,857.8 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 967 cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 reported in Puerto Rico.¹¹
- In 2015, Puerto Rico had an infection rate of 42.8 cases per 100,000 of gonorrhea reported among young people ages 15–19, compared to the U.S. national rate of 341.8 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 107 cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 reported in Puerto Rico.¹²
- In 2015, Puerto Rico had an infection rate of 12.8 cases per 100,000 of primary and secondary syphilis reported among young people ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 5.4 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 32 cases of syphilis reported among young people ages 15–19 in Puerto Rico.¹³

Visit the Office of Adolescent Health's (OAH) [Puerto Rico Adolescent Health Facts](#) for additional information.

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

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FISCAL YEAR 2016 FEDERAL FUNDING IN PUERTO RICO

Grantee	Award
Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)	
Puerto Rico Department of Education	\$12,000
TOTAL	\$12,000
Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)	
PREP State-Grant Program	
Puerto Rico Department of Health (federal grant)	\$592,244
TOTAL	\$592,244
Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program (Title V AOUM)	
Puerto Rico Department of Health (federal grant)	\$2,027,157
TOTAL	\$2,027,157
GRAND TOTAL	
	\$2,631,401

DIVISION OF ADOLESCENT AND SCHOOL HEALTH

The Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), within the CDC, provides funding 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 2016, DASH provided funding to 18 state and 17 local education agencies to help 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 seven national, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help state and local education agencies achieve these goals.

- In FY 2016, there were no DASH grantees in Puerto Rico funded to strengthen student health through ESHE, SHS, and SSE (1308 Strategy 2).

In addition, DASH funds local education agencies and NGOs 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.

- In FY 2016, there were no DASH grantees in Puerto Rico 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 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS) and School Health Profiles data for policy and program improvements.

- In FY 2016, there was one DASH grantee in Puerto Rico funded to collect and report YRBS and School Health Profiles data (1308 Strategy 1): The Puerto Rico Department of Education (\$12,000).

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Office of Adolescent Health (OAH), within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), administers the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP), which funds evidence-based (or innovative evidence-informed), medically accurate, and age-appropriate programs to reduce teen pregnancy. OAH provides program support, implementation evaluation, and technical assistance to grantees. In FY 2016, total funding for TPPP was \$101 million, with an additional \$6.8 million authorized for evaluation purposes, supporting a total of 84 states, cities, non-profit organizations, school districts, universities, community-based organizations, and tribal organizations that were in year two of five TPPP funding tiers' five-year cooperative agreements in 33 states and territories, including the District of Columbia and the Marshall Islands. OAH provides program support, implementation evaluation, and technical assistance to grantees and receives an additional \$6.8 million in funding for evaluation purposes. There are 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 2016, there were no TPPP grantees in Puerto Rico.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) division of HHS, administers the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP), which includes \$75 million 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. Details on the state grants, PREIS, Tribal PREP, and CPREP are included below.

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/AIDS, and other STDs. In FY 2016, 43 states, the District of Columbia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands received PREP state-grant funds. 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.

- In FY 2016, the Puerto Rico Department of Health received \$592,244 in federal PREP funds.¹⁴
- The Puerto Rico Department of Health has arranged collaborative agreements with public housing authorities, private schools, community-based organizations, and the Puerto Rico Department of Education.¹⁵

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The Puerto Rico Department of Health implements the state's PREP grant program to offer both community- and school-based programming. The program targets young people ages 12–14 in five municipalities in the southeast region of Puerto Rico, including Humacao, Maunabo, Naguabo, Vieques, and Yabucoa. The school-based programming uses *Cuidate!* for their youth component; *Cuidalos* for their family component; and Photo Voice, a photography-based reflection and research process, for their youth and community component. The programming addresses healthy relationships, adulthood development, healthy life skills, parent-child communication, and educational and career success. The Boys & Girls Club of Puerto Rico is the only sub-grantee.¹⁶

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.

- In FY 2016, there were no PREIS grantees in Puerto Rico.

Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program (Tribal PREP)

Tribal PREP supports the development and implementation of 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, young people experiencing homelessness, young people living with HIV/AIDS, 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 2016, eight tribes and tribal organizations from seven states received a total of \$3,436,621.

- In FY 2016, there were no Tribal PREP grantees in Puerto Rico.

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. Only organizations and institutions in states and territories that did not apply for PREP state grants in either of the first two fiscal years after the call for PREP state-grant applications were eligible to submit competitive applications for CPREP grants. In FY 2016, 21 CPREP grants, totaling \$10.3 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 2016, Puerto Rico received PREP state-grant funding; therefore, entities in Puerto Rico were not eligible for CPREP.

TITLE V STATE ABSTINENCE EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Title V state abstinence education grant program for abstinence-only-until-marriage (AOUM) programming, or the Title V AOUM program, is administered by FYSB, within ACF of HHS, and was funded at \$75 million in FY 2016. 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. Programs must be medically accurate and age-appropriate and must encourage abstinence as an expected outcome.

- In FY 2016, the Puerto Rico Department of Health received \$2,027,157 in federal Title V AOUM funding.

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- In Puerto Rico, the match is provided by both the Puerto Rico Department of Health and community-based organizations through in-kind services.¹⁷

The Puerto Rico Department of Health implements the Title V AOUM grant to provide community-based programming. The funded programs target young people ages 10–12 and their parents in municipalities identified in a needs assessment from the southeast region of Puerto Rico. Programming is provided in Arroyo, Coamo, Guayama, Humacao, Juncos, Las Piedras, Maunabo, Naguabo, Patillas, Salinas, Vieques, and Yabucoa municipalities. Sub-grantees use the following approved curricula: [Parental Fundamentals Program \(PEP\)](#) and [Project AIM \(Adult Identity Mentoring\)](#). Funded organizations can use media campaigns to let people know about the interventions.¹⁸

“SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION” GRANT PROGRAM

Administered by FYSB within ACF of HHS, the “sexual risk avoidance education” (SRAE), i.e., the AOUM grant program, provides competitive funding 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 2016, \$10 million was appropriated for the SRAE grant program and \$8.98 million was awarded to 21 grantees in 12 states through a competitive application process.

- In FY 2016, there were no SRAE grantees in Puerto Rico.

POINTS OF CONTACT

PREP State-Grant Program Contact

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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 2016 began on October 1, 2015, and ended on September 30, 2016.
- ² Title 3 Chapter 9A subchapter III § 144d, www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/lawsofpuertorico/.
- ³ Title 3 Chapter 9A subchapter III § 144c.
- ⁴ “Programma de Salud Escolar,” Puerto Rico Department of Education (2016) http://www.de.gobierno.pr/files/Marco_Curricular_Salud_Escolar.pdf.
- ⁵ “High School YRBS,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx>.
- ⁶ Hamilton, B.E., et al., *Births: Final Data for 2015*. National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 66, No. 1 (January 5, 2017), www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_01.pdf, Table 12.
- ⁷ 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.
- ⁸ 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.
- ⁹ 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.
- ¹⁰ 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.
- ¹¹ NCHHSTP Atlas, “STD Surveillance Data” (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), <http://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/NCHHSTPAtlas/main.html>.
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ Ibid.
- ¹⁴ “2016 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/2016-state-prep-awards.
- ¹⁵ Information provided by Karen Pabón-Cruz, MS, PR-PREP Grant Coordinator, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Division, Puerto Rico Department of Health, May 2, 2017.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Information provided by Lyzbeth A. Cordero Rivera, Abstinence Education Program Coordinator, Puerto Rico Department of Health, May 13, 2016.
- ¹⁸ Ibid.