

State Profiles FISCAL YEAR 2016

ARKANSAS

In Fiscal Year 2016,¹ the state of Arkansas received:

- Division of Adolescent and School Health funds totaling \$415,000
- Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling \$486,466
- Title V State Abstinence Education Program funds totaling \$890,198

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 must not 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 [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 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 Arkansas. 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 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.

ARKANSAS YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS) DATA⁷

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

ARKANSAS

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.
- 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

ARKANSAS

- 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 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 LGB high

ARKANSAS

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.

ARKANSAS

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

ARKANSAS TEEN PREGNANCY, HIV/AIDS, AND STD DATA

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- In 2011, Arkansas had the 3rd highest teen pregnancy rate in the United States, with a rate of 69 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 52 per 1,000.⁸ There were a total of 6,640 pregnancies among young women ages 15–19 reported in Arkansas in 2011.⁹
- In 2015, Arkansas had the highest 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 1,000.¹⁰ There were a total of 3,782 live births to young women ages 15–19 reported in Arkansas in 2014, the most recent year of available data.¹¹
- In 2011, Arkansas had the 33rd highest teen abortion rate in the United States, with a rate of 8 abortions per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 14 per 1,000.¹² There were a total of 750 abortions among young women ages 15–19 reported in Arkansas in 2011.¹³

HIV and AIDS

- In 2015, the 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 100,000.¹⁴
- In 2015, the 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 100,000.¹⁵
- In 2015, the 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 100,000.¹⁶
- In 2015, the 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 100,000.¹⁷

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.¹⁸
- 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

ARKANSAS

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.¹⁹

- 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.²⁰

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 PROGRAMS

FISCAL YEAR 2016 FEDERAL FUNDING IN ARKANSAS

Grantee	Award
Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)	
Arkansas Department of Education	\$415,000
TOTAL	\$415,000
Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)	
PREP State-Grant Program	
Arkansas Department of Health (federal grant)	\$486,466
TOTAL	\$486,466
Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program (Title V AOUM)	
Arkansas Department of Health (federal grant)	\$890,198
TOTAL	\$890,198
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,791,664

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.

ARKANSAS

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 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 2016)

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.²¹

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 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 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS) and School Health Profiles data for policy and program improvements.

- In FY 2016, 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 (\$95,000).

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

ARKANSAS

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 Arkansas.

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 Arkansas Department of Health received \$486,466 in federal PREP funds.²²
- The department provides a sub-grant to the Centers for Youth and Families (\$303,545).²³

The Arkansas Department of Health, Women's Health Section, administers the state PREP grant in collaboration with the Centers for Youth and Families through community-based programming. The sub-grantee targets young people ages 13–19 in the foster care or adjudicated youth in Garland, Lonoke, Jefferson, Pulaski, and Saline counties. The funded program uses the [Be Proud! Be Responsible!](#) and [Making Proud Choices!](#) curricula and addresses the following adulthood preparation subjects: healthy life skills, financial literacy, and career success.²⁴

Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies (PREIS)

ARKANSAS

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 Arkansas.

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 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/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, Arkansas received PREP state-grant funding; therefore, entities in Arkansas 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 Arkansas Department of Health received \$890,198 in federal Title V AOUM funding.²⁵
- The department chose to disburse a sub-grant of \$575,625 to Healthy Connections, Inc.²⁶
- 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 15 counties and 35 school districts in the state to provide both

ARKANSAS

school- and community-based programming. Young people ages 10–19 receive programming using the following approved curricula: *Choosing the Best*, *Worth the Wait*, and *Project AIM*.²⁷

The Arkansas Department of Health and Healthy Connections, Inc., keep \$33,031 and \$135,625, respectively, in administrative expenses. Healthy Connections, Inc., uses \$97,914 for only its own programming and divides 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).²⁸

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS, INC., \$575,625 (FY 2016)

Healthy Connections, Inc., provides affordable medical, dental, and social services to residents of all ages in Western Arkansas.²⁹ Among their many services, the organization coordinates the Arkansas Abstinence Education program, which served 10,454 young people in FY 2015.³⁰ 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 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).³¹

REALITY CHECK, INC., \$130,697 (FY 2016)

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.³² Reality Check, Inc., serves Benton, Carroll, Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Madison, Newton, and Washington Counties.³³

CHOOSING TO EXCEL, \$115,000 (FY 2016)

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

ARKANSAS

frameworks and administers programs in both school- and community-based settings, including juvenile systems and alternative learning programs.³⁴ Choosing to Excel administers programming under the Title V AOUM grant in the Conway, Faulkner, Garland, and Pulaski Counties.³⁵

PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAMS, INC.\$96,389 (FY 2016)

Prevention Education Programs, Inc., is located in Stuttgart, Arkansas, and administers programming in Arkansas, Monroe, and Prairie Counties.³⁶

“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 Arkansas.

POINTS OF 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 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 “High School YRBS,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx>.

⁸ Kost, K., and Maddow-Zimet, I., *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions, 2011: State Trends by Age, Race, and Ethnicity* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2014), www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/us-teen-pregnancy-state-trends-2011_4.pdf, Table 1.1.

⁹ Ibid., Table 1.2.

¹⁰ “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>.

¹¹ “Teen Births in Arkansas, Girls 15-19,” The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, <https://thenationalcampaign.org/data/state/arkansas>.

¹² Kost, K., and Maddow-Zimet, I., *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions, 2011: State Trends by Age, Race, and Ethnicity* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2014), www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/us-teen-pregnancy-state-trends-2011_4.pdf, Table 1.1.

¹³ Ibid., Table 1.2.

¹⁴ 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.

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