COLORADO

In Fiscal Year 2016, the state of Colorado received:

- Division of Adolescent and School Health funds totaling $80,000
- Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling $862,007
- Title V State Abstinence Education Program funds totaling $925,137

In Fiscal Year 2016, local entities in Colorado received:

- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program funds totaling $749,900
- Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program funds totaling $440,229

SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY

STATE LAW

Colorado state law does not require schools to provide sexuality or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or other sexually transmitted disease (STD) instruction; however, it refers to “medically and scientifically accurate information” as a “right” of youth in Colorado statute §22-1-128, stating the need for expanded access to sexuality education. Furthermore, in 2013, the state legislature established a grant program for comprehensive human sexuality education, via Colorado statute §25-44-102, which requires schools that accept this funding to use curricula that are based in science, that are age-appropriate, culturally relevant, medically accurate, and that discuss contraception.

Additional requirements state that instruction must:

a. Encourage parental involvement and family communication; …

c. Include instruction to help students develop skills for making responsible and healthy decisions about human sexuality, personal power, boundary setting, and resisting peer pressure; …

e. Include discussion of how alcohol and drug use impairs responsible and healthy decision making; …

g. Provide instruction on the health benefits and potential side effects of using contraceptives and barrier methods to prevent pregnancy.²
Parents or guardians must be notified if a sexuality education course is taught and given an opportunity to review the curriculum. They may remove their children from sexuality education or STD/HIV education classes by sending written notice to the school. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

Per Colorado statute §22-25-104, the Colorado Department of Education is responsible for providing guidelines as to the length of courses, the subjects included, and the manner in which these subjects are addressed.

**STATE STANDARDS**

The Department of Education provides guidelines on curriculum development through the *Colorado Academic Standards: Comprehensive Health & Physical Education Standards*. Sexual health topics, including HIV and other STD transmission and prevention, unintended pregnancy, abstinence, and sexual assault are components of these standards.

**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 Colorado. 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.

**COLORADO YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS) DATA**

**Reported ever having had sexual intercourse**

- In 2011, 36.1% of female high school students and 44.5% of male high school students in Colorado reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 45.6% of female high school students and 49.2% of male high school students nationwide.

- In 2011, 49.4% of Hispanic high school students and 36.3% of white high school students in Colorado reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 48.6% of Hispanic high school students and 44.3% of white high school students nationwide.
Reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13
- In 2011, 2% of female high school students and 5.4% of male high school students in Colorado reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13, compared to 3.4% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students nationwide.

- In 2011, 4.9% of Hispanic high school students and 2.6% of white high school students in Colorado reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13, compared to 7.1% of Hispanic high school students and 3.9% of white high school students nationwide.

Reported being currently sexually active
- In 2011, 29.2% of female high school students and 33.5% of male high school students in Colorado reported being currently sexually active, compared to 34.2% of female high school students and 33.1% of male high school students nationwide.

- In 2011, 38.2% of Hispanic high school students and 29.6% of white high school students in Colorado reported being currently sexually active, compared to 33.5% of Hispanic high school students and 32.4% of white high school students nationwide.

Reported not using a condom during last sexual intercourse
- In 2011, 35.6% of female high school students and 24.6% of male high school students in Colorado reported not using a condom during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 46.4% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.

- In 2011, 36.4% of Hispanic high school students and 27.5% of white high school students in Colorado reported not using a condom during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 41.6% of Hispanic high school students and 40.5% of white high school students nationwide.

Reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during last sexual intercourse
- In 2011, 8.4% of female high school students and 6.1% of male high school students in Colorado reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 15.1% of female high school students and 10.6% of male high school students nationwide.

- In 2011, 14.3% of Hispanic high school students and 4.5% of white high school students in Colorado reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 18.5% of Hispanic high school students and 10% of white high school students nationwide.
Reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse

- In 2011, 9.9% of female high school students and 4.2% of male high school students in Colorado reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse, compared to 11.8% of female high school students and 4.5% of male high school students nationwide.

- In 2011, 8.4% of Hispanic high school students and 6.9% of white high school students in Colorado reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse, compared to 8.2% of Hispanic high school students and 7.4% of white high school students nationwide.

Visit Colorado’s Adolescent Health Data database for additional information on youth risk behaviors.

COLORADO TEEN PREGNANCY, HIV/ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS), AND OTHER STD DATA

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- In 2011, Colorado had the 28th highest teen pregnancy rate in the United States, with a rate of 47 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 52 per 1,000. There were a total of 7,670 pregnancies among young women ages 15–19 reported in Colorado in 2011.

- In 2015, Colorado had the 31st highest teen birth rate in the United States, with a rate of 19.3 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 22.3 per 1,000. There were a total of 3,377 live births to young women ages 15–19 reported in Colorado in 2014, the most recent year of available data.

- In 2011, Colorado had the 20th highest teen abortion rate in the United States, with a rate of 11 abortions per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 14 per 1,000. There were a total of 1,810 abortions among young women ages 15–19 reported in Colorado in 2011.

HIV and AIDS

- In 2015, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among adolescents ages 13–19 in Colorado was 2 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.8 per 100,000.

- In 2015, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among adolescents ages 13–19 in Colorado was 0.0 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 0.7 per 100,000.

- In 2015, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among young adults ages 20–24 in Colorado was 18.7 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 31.1 per 100,000.

- In 2015, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among young adults ages 20–24 in Colorado was 1.8 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.6 per 100,000.
COLORADO

STDs

- In 2015, Colorado had the 31st highest rate of reported cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 in the United States, with an infection rate of 1,659.2 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 1,857.8 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 5,696 cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 reported in Colorado.\(^3\)

- In 2015, Colorado had the 36th highest rate of reported cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 in the United States, with an infection rate of 199.2 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 341.8 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 684 cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 reported in Colorado.\(^4\)

- In 2015, Colorado had the 39th 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 2.0 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.4 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 7 cases of syphilis reported among young people ages 15–19 in Colorado.\(^5\)

Visit the Office of Adolescent Health’s (OAH) [Colorado Adolescent Health Facts](http://www.coloradoadolescenthealthfacts.org) 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 Colorado**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantee</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado Board of Education</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP)</td>
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<td>TPPP Tier 1A</td>
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<td>Colorado Youth Matter</td>
<td>$749,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$749,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PREP State-Grant Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado Department of Human Services (federal grant)</td>
<td>$862,007</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$862,007</td>
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Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program (Title V AOUM)
**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 Colorado 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 Colorado 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 Colorado funded to collect and report YRBS and School Health Profiles data (1308 Strategy 1): The Colorado Board of Education ($80,000).

**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.
- In FY 2016, there was one TPPP Tier 1 grantee in Colorado: Colorado Youth Matter ($749,900).

**COLORADO YOUTH MATTER, $749,900 (FY 2016)**
Colorado Youth Matter (CYM) is a statewide organization that serves all young people in Colorado. Their mission is to actively engage communities “to promote the healthy sexual development of all young people” through “training, research, advocacy, comprehensive sexuality education, and youth/family partnerships.” With its TPPP Tier 1A funding, CYM proposes to improve referrals and collaboration between clinics and schools through the Maximizing Success Project. The project will support two local clinical organizations, two large school districts, and one school for pregnant and parenting teens in Adams, Arapahoe, and Denver counties to implement and evaluate evidence-based interventions for young Latinos. The project aims to expand to additional schools and clinics and to reach at least 6,500 young people per year or 32,500 young people by the end of the project.

**Tier 1B:** Replicating evidence-based TPP programs to scale in communities with the greatest need.
- In FY 2016, there were no TPPP Tier 1B grantees in Colorado.

**Tier 2A:** Supporting and enabling early innovation to advance adolescent health and prevent teen pregnancy.
- In FY 2016, there were no TPPP Tier 2A grantees in Colorado.

**Tier 2B:** Rigorous evaluation of new or innovative approaches to prevent teen pregnancy.
- In FY 2016, there were no TPPP Tier 2B grantees in Colorado.

**Tier 2C:** Effectiveness of TPP programs designed specifically for young males.
- In FY 2016, there were no TPPP Tier 2C grantees in Colorado.

**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 funding.
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 Colorado Department of Human Services received $862,007 in federal PREP funds.19
- There were three sub-grantees for the Colorado PREP state-grant program: Denver County Department of Human Services ($155,000); Garfield County Department of Human Services ($155,000); and Huerfano County Department of Social Services ($155,000).20

The Colorado PREP state-grant program aims to improve the sexual health of young people by reducing teen birth and STD/HIV rates among young people in targeted communities by at least 10 percent. Targeted populations are young people in public systems of care (including foster care, residential facilities, and juvenile justice), young people at risk of homelessness, and young people who identify as fitting within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) community. The program employs a positive youth development approach to implement evidence-based programs in target communities. Through the state-grant program, local entities will provide education and life-skills programs to young people, inclusive of lessons on condoms and contraception, to “enable them to make responsible decisions to lead safe and healthy lives.”21 In addition, the State Department of Human Services trains adult serving professionals, alternative caregivers, residential facility staff, teachers, and parents as “askable adults” in order to create a more collaborative approach to sexual health, particularly for young people involved in public systems of care.22

The Colorado Department of Human Services selected three counties, Denver, Garfield, and Huerfano, to develop communitywide initiatives with PREP funds. Based on a list of approved evidence-based programs, each county chose the Be Proud! Be Responsible!, Draw the Line/Respect the Line, and Street Smart curricula.23 Colorado PREP-funded communities must also choose three among the following four adulthood preparation subjects to incorporate into their programs: 1) healthy life skills; 2) healthy relationships; 3) adult-child relationships; or 4) educational and career services.24

Additionally, the Colorado Department of Human Services is working to create the Colorado Sexual Health Initiative (CoSHI), an initiative based upon delivering sexual health education and information to all customers served by the Department of Human Services and the customers of each county human service agency.25
COLORADO

**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 Colorado.

**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 Colorado.

**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, Colorado received PREP state-grant funding; therefore, entities in Colorado 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 Colorado Department of Education received $925,137 in federal Title V AOUM funding.

- The Colorado Department of Education provides sub-grants to five local public and private entities: Center for Relationship Education ($225,568); FRIENDS FIRST, Inc. ($210,190); the Pueblo City-County Health Department ($57,193); Boys and Girls Club in Center, Colorado ($70,193); and Ascend ($40,000).

- In Colorado, sub-grantees are required to contribute an 85% match rate of the federal funding they receive.
The Colorado Title V AOUM program is administered by the Colorado Department of Education. The program aims to deliver AOUM programming to community-based and non-profit organizations with the primary focus on young people ages 10-19 in high-risk communities. The counties served include Adams, Alamosa, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Delta, Denver, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Morgan, Prowers, Pueblo, Saguache, and Weld. Programs used by funded entities must be medically accurate and evidence-based and, when appropriate, use mentoring, counseling, and adult supervision to promote abstinence from sexual activity. With Title V AOUM funds, the Center for Relationship Education implements REAL Essentials and provides a medical cessation intervention for nurses and healthcare professionals who work with sexually active young people in a clinical setting; FRIENDS FIRST, Inc., implements Project AIM and STARS Teen Mentoring; Pueblo City County Health Department implements Draw the Line/Respect the Line; Boys and Girls Club implements Promoting Health Among Teens (PHAT); and Ascend implements a sexual risk avoidance specialist training.28

“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 was one SRAE grantee in Colorado: FRIENDS FIRST, Inc. ($440,229).29

FRIENDS FIRST, Inc., $440,229 (FY 2016)
FRIENDS FIRST, Inc., is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower teens with tools, knowledge, and positive role models to make healthy choices.30 The organization will use STARS Peer Mentoring and Be Aware curricula.31 At the time of publication, more information on how FRIENDS FIRST, Inc., uses its SRAE funds was unknown.

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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 Colorado statute §22-1-128 (6a-g).


5 Ibid., Table 1.2.


9 Ibid., Table 1.2.
15 Ibid.
16 Ibid.
20 Information provided by Zoa Schescke, MPA, PREP Administrator, Colorado Department of Human Services, May 16, 2016.
22 Information provided by Zoa Schescke, MPA, PREP Administrator, Colorado Department of Human Services, May 16, 2016.
23 Ibid.
24 Ibid.
25 Information provided by Zoa Schescke, MPA, PREP Administrator, Colorado Department of Human Services, May 16, 2016.
27 Information provided by Benjie Blase, Title V Program Manager, Colorado Department of Education, April 18, 2017.
28 Ibid.