VERMONT

In Fiscal Year 2016, the state of Vermont received:

- Division of Adolescent and School Health funds totaling $400,000
- Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling $250,000

SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY

STATE LAW

Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 16 §§ 131, 133, 134, and 135, include instruction on topics related to sexual health as part of its comprehensive health program. Comprehensive health instruction must be taught in elementary and secondary schools. The comprehensive health program has 10 components that students must learn, four of which are related to sexuality:

1. Body structure and function, including the physical, psychosocial, and psychological basis of human development, sexuality, and reproduction; …

4. Disease, such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and other communicable diseases, and the prevention of disease; …

5. Family health and mental health, including instruction that promotes the development of responsible personal behavior involving decision making about sexual activity, including abstinence; skills that strengthen existing family ties involving communication, cooperation, and interaction between parents and students; and instruction to aid in the establishment of strong family life in the future, thereby contributing to the enrichment of the community; …

8. Human growth and development, including understanding the physical, emotional, and social elements of individual development and interpersonal relationships and including instruction in parenting methods and styles. This shall include information regarding the possible outcomes of premature sexual activity, contraceptives, adolescent pregnancy, childbirth, adoption, and abortion.

Parents or guardians may remove their children from a sexuality education class if the content is in conflict with their religious beliefs. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.
STATE STANDARDS
The Vermont Health Education Grade Expectations: Family, Social, and Sexual Health and Sample Comprehensive HIV Policy for Schools: Pre-K–12 outline benchmarks for students to achieve throughout their education. Beginning in grade five, students are expected to learn how outside influences affect aspects of individual perception, including sexual identity. Following grades seven and eight, students must be able to “[i]dentify effective methods to prevent HIV, sexually transmitted infections [STIs], and pregnancy.” In grades 9–12, students should “[d]emonstrate strategies to promote acceptance and respect for all individuals,” including those of different sexual orientation.

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 Vermont. 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.

VERMONT YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS) DATA
Reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13
• In 2015, 2% of female high school students and 4.4% of male high school students in Vermont 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, 8.9% of lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) high school students, 6.6% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 2.6% of heterosexual high school students in Vermont 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, 8.1% of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) high school students, 2% of Asian high school students, 11.3% of black high school students, 15.7% of Hispanic high school students, 2.3% of white high school students, and 4% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Vermont reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13, compared to 1.8% of AI/AN high school students, 0.7% of Asian high school students, 8.3% of black high school students, 5% 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, 32.7% of female high school students and 29.6% of male high school students in Vermont 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, 41.8% of LGB high school students, 22% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 30.8% of heterosexual high school students in Vermont 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, 37.3% of AI/AN high school students, 13.4% of Asian high school students, 30.5% of black high school students, 40.3% of Hispanic high school students, 31.5% of white high school students, and 29.9% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Vermont reported being currently sexually active, compared to 31.5% of AI/AN high school students, 12.2% of Asian high school students, 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, 45.2% of female high school students and 39% of male high school students in Vermont 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, 56.9% of LGB high school students, 53.7% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 39.5% of heterosexual high school students in Vermont reported not using a condom during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 52.5% of LGB high school students, 47.8% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 42.2% of heterosexual high school students nationwide.
- In 2015, 48.4% of AI/AN high school students, 44.8% of black high school students, 52.3% of Hispanic high school students, 41% of white high school students, and 45.2% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Vermont reported not using a condom during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 36.3% of black high school students, 44.4% of Hispanic high school students, 43.2% of white high school students, and 48.8% of high school students who identified as multiple races nationwide.

Reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during last sexual intercourse
- In 2015, 7.3% of female high school students and 7% of male high school students in Vermont 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, 22.3% of LGB high school students, 12.6% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 5% of heterosexual high school students in Vermont reported...
not using any method to prevent pregnancy during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 26.4% of LGB high school students, 19.4% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 12.4% of heterosexual high school students nationwide.

- In 2015, 12.7% of AI/AN high school students, 15.2% of black high school students, 22.6% of Hispanic high school students, 5.9% of white high school students, and 6.7% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Vermont reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 15.9% of black high school students, 20% of Hispanic high school students, 10.4% of white high school students, and 16.7% of high school students who identified as multiple races nationwide.

Reported never having been tested for HIV
- In 2015, 88.7% of female high school students and 90.7% of male high school students in Vermont 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, 81.2% of LGB high school students, 91.3% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 90.4% of heterosexual high school students in Vermont 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, 88% of AI/AN high school students, 91.9% of Asian high school students, 86.4% of black high school students, 81.2% of Hispanic high school students, 90.3% of white high school students, and 86.7% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Vermont reported never having been tested for HIV, compared to 88.6% of AI/AN high school students, 90.4% of Asian high school students, 83.4% of black high school students, 88.9% of Hispanic high school students, 92% 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, 10.2% of female high school students and 7.2% of male high school students in Vermont 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, 23.6% of LGB high school students, 11.2% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 4.7% of heterosexual high school students in Vermont 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 2015, 10.7% of AI/AN high school students, 2.7% of Asian high school students, 12.2% of black high school students, 16.4% of Hispanic high school students, 5.8% of white high school students, and 8.7% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Vermont reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse, compared to 6.6% of AI/AN high
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school students, 4.2% of Asian high school students, 7.3% of black high school students, 7% of Hispanic high school students, 6% 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, 10.7% of female high school students and 7.2% of male high school students in Vermont 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, 24.4% of LGB high school students, 21.1% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 7.1% of heterosexual high school students in Vermont 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, 12.7% of AI/AN high school students, 6% of Asian high school students, 13.5% of black high school students, 25.1% of Hispanic high school students, 7.8% of white high school students, and 12.6% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Vermont reported experiencing physical dating violence in the prior year, compared to 9.6% of AI/AN high school students, 4.6% of Asian high school students, 10.5% of black high school students, 9.7% of Hispanic high school students, 9% of white high school students, and 16% of high school students who identified as multiple races nationwide.

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

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

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- In 2011, Vermont had the 48th highest teen pregnancy rate in the United States, with a rate of 32 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 52 per 1,000. There were a total of 710 pregnancies among young women ages 15–19 reported in Vermont in 2011.

- In 2015, Vermont had the 47th highest teen birth rate in the United States, with a rate of 11.6 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 307 live births to young women ages 15–19 reported in Vermont in 2014, the most recent year of available data.

- In 2011, Vermont 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 240 abortions among young women ages 15–19 reported in Vermont in 2011.
HIV and AIDS

- In 2015, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among adolescents ages 13–19 in Vermont was 0.0 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.8 per 100,000.\(^\text{15}\)

- In 2015, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among adolescents ages 13–19 in Vermont was 0.0 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 0.7 per 100,000.\(^\text{16}\)

- In 2015, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among young adults ages 20–24 in Vermont was 0.0 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 31.1 per 100,000.\(^\text{17}\)

- In 2015, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among young adults ages 20–24 in Vermont was 0.0 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.6 per 100,000.\(^\text{18}\)

STDs

- In 2015, Vermont had the 50th highest rate of reported cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 in the United States, with an infection rate of 948.3 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 1,857.8 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 418 cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 reported in Vermont.\(^\text{19}\)

- In 2015, Vermont had the 50th highest rate of reported cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 in the United States, with an infection rate of 34.0 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 341.8 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 15 cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 reported in Vermont.\(^\text{20}\)

- In 2015, Vermont had the 49th 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 0.0 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.4 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 0 cases of syphilis reported among young people ages 15–19 in Vermont.\(^\text{21}\)

Visit the Office of Adolescent Health’s (OAH) Vermont 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 VERMONT

<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>Vermont Department of Education</td>
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<td>Vermont Department of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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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 was one DASH grantee in Vermont funded to strengthen student health through ESHE, SHS, and SSE (1308 Strategy 2): The Vermont Department of Education ($320,000).

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, $320,000 (FY 2016)
With its 1308 Strategy 2 funds, the Vermont Department of Education uses CDC’s Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool and the National Sexuality Education Standards to assist districts in assessing curricula. The goal is to allow districts to identify curricula consistent with community norms and district expansion of ESHE programs. To reduce stigma and discomfort and provide students with additional health care resources, the department works with districts to develop or revise their condom availability policy. Additionally, to expand efforts to provide an environment where all students and staff feel safe, the department provides training and technical assistance to develop and support gay-straight alliances for school staff.

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 Vermont 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 Vermont funded to collect and report YRBS and School Health Profiles data (1308 Strategy 1): The Vermont Department of Health ($80,000).
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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 Vermont.

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 State of Vermont Department of Health received $250,000 in federal PREP funds.23
- The agency provides sub-grants to six local public and private entities.24

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sub-grantee</th>
<th>Serving</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Association of Africans Living in VT</td>
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| Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs | Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Franklin, Rutland, Washington, and Windsor Counties | $93,750 |
| Boys and Girls Club of Rutland County | Not Reported | $17,500 |
| Bristol Hub Teen Center and Skate Park | Not Reported | $12,600 |
| Lund | Not Reported | $14,000 |
| Sunrise Family Resource Center | Not Reported | $5,250 |

The Vermont Department of Health administers the PREP state-grant program in close collaboration with the Vermont Department of Education and six local sub-grantees. Funds are largely used to provide community-based programming for primarily high school-age young people. Vermont PREP programming is specifically targeted at runaway and homeless young people, young people involved in the juvenile justice system, and young people in foster care. Programming addresses healthy relationships and healthy life skills to meet the adulthood preparation subject requirement, and uses the curriculum, Reducing the Risk.25

**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 Vermont.

**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 Vermont.

**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, Vermont received PREP state-grant funding; therefore, entities in Vermont 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, Vermont chose not to apply for Title V AOUM funds.

**“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 Vermont.

**POINTS OF CONTACT**

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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.


Ibid., 51.

Ibid., 53.


Ibid., Table 1.2.


Ibid., Table 1.2.


Ibid.

Ibid.


Information provided by Kimberly Schwartz, PREP state-grant administrator, Vermont Department of Health, April 14, 2017.

Ibid.