

State Profiles **FISCAL YEAR 2017**

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

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

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In Fiscal Year 2017,¹ the state of Rhode Island received:

- **Division of Adolescent and School Health funds totaling \$415,000**
- **Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling \$250,000**

SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY

STATE LAW

Rhode Island schools are required by [Rhode Island General Laws §§ 16-1-5, 16-22-17, and 16-22-18](#) to provide “accurate information and instruction on [acquired immunodeficiency syndrome] AIDS transmission and prevention”.² Schools must also teach “the responsibilities of family membership and adulthood, including issues related to reproduction, abstinence, dating and dating violence, marriage, and parenthood, as well as information about sexually transmitted diseases [STDs], sexuality, and sexual orientation.”³ These classes must stress “abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred means of prevention as a basic education program requirement.”⁴

Parents must be notified of sexuality education classes and may view the curriculum by submitting a written request. Students may be removed from instruction by written notification from the parent to the principal.⁵ [This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.](#)

STATE STANDARDS

Rhode Island provides three resources, [Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs](#), [Comprehensive Health Instructional Outcomes](#), and the [Health Education Framework](#), all of which provide curricula development guidance. “Sexuality and Family Life” represents its own instructional outcome, with components such as “us[ing] strategies that improve or maintain sexual health,” and requires discussion of “public health

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policies, government regulations, health promotion and disease prevention, [including] issues such as abortion/contraception.”⁶

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 the most recent analysis of state legislative activity, [SIECUS' 2016 Sex Ed State Legislative Year-End Report: Top Topics and Takeaways](#).

YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH DATA

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

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

RHODE ISLAND YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS) DATA⁷

The following sexual health behavior and outcome data represent some of the most recent information available on the health of young people who attend high schools in Rhode Island. Though not perfect—for instance, using broad race and ethnicity categories can often distort and aggregate the experiences of a diverse group of respondents—the YRBS is a critical resource for understanding the health behaviors of young people when used carefully and with an awareness of its limitations. Any missing data points indicate either a lack of enough respondents for a subcategory or the state's decision not to administer a question on the survey. SIECUS commends the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for conducting decades' worth of field studies to improve the accuracy and relevancy of the YRBS. Like the CDC, SIECUS underlines that “school and community interventions should focus not only on behaviors but also on the determinants of those behaviors.”⁸

Reported ever having had sexual intercourse

- In 2015, 36.6% of female high school students and 37% of male high school students in Rhode Island reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 39.2% of female high school students and 43.2% of male high school students nationwide.

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- In 2015, 43.5% of lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) high school students, 22% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 36.8% of heterosexual high school students in Rhode Island 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, 21.7% of Asian high school students, 42.3% of black high school students, 41.9% of Hispanic high school students, 34.9% of white high school students, and 38.4% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Rhode Island reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 19.3% of Asian high school students, 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, 1.3% of female high school students and 4.4% of male high school students in Rhode Island 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, 6.6% of LGB high school students, 9.8% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 2.2% of heterosexual high school students in Rhode Island 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, 1.2% of Asian high school students, 6.1% of black high school students, 4.3% of Hispanic high school students, 1.7% of white high school students, and 4.7% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Rhode Island reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13, compared to 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, 28.3% of female high school students and 23% of male high school students in Rhode Island 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, 31.1% of LGB high school students, 13.7% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 25.7% of heterosexual high school students in Rhode Island 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.

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- In 2015, 16.5% of Asian high school students, 22.2% of black high school students, 30.2% of Hispanic high school students, 25% of white high school students, and 24.3% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Rhode Island reported being currently sexually active, compared to 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, 42.3% of female high school students and 33.7% of male high school students in Rhode Island 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, 48.8% of LGB high school students and 36.6% of heterosexual high school students in Rhode Island 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, 43% of Hispanic high school students and 36.1% of white high school students in Rhode Island reported not using a condom during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 44.4% of Hispanic high school students and 43.2% of white high school students nationwide.

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

- In 2015, 13.4% of female high school students and 8.6% of male high school students in Rhode Island 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, 30.9% of LGB high school students and 8.7% of heterosexual high school students in Rhode Island 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, 18.4% of Hispanic high school students and 7.4% of white high school students in Rhode Island reported not using any method to prevent pregnancy during their last sexual intercourse, compared to 20% of Hispanic high school students and 10.4% of white high school students nationwide.

Reported never having been tested for HIV

- In 2015, 87.8% of female high school students and 85.2% of male high school students in Rhode Island 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.

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- In 2015, 80.9% of LGB high school students, 87.6% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 86.9% of heterosexual high school students in Rhode Island 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, 86.9% of Asian high school students, 83.2% of black high school students, 80.5% of Hispanic high school students, 89.2% of white high school students, and 82.2% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Rhode Island reported never having been tested for HIV, compared to 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, 9.8% of female high school students and 6.4% of male high school students in Rhode Island 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, 19.7% of LGB high school students, 13.8% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 6.4% of heterosexual high school students in Rhode Island 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, 6.9% of Asian high school students, 8.3% of black high school students, 11.1% of Hispanic high school students, 6.8% of white high school students, and 9.6% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Rhode Island reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse, compared to 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, 9.5% of female high school students and 7.9% of male high school students in Rhode Island 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, 23% of LGB high school students, 27.2% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 6.4% of heterosexual high school students in Rhode Island 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.

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- In 2015, 6.1% of black high school students, 11.1% of Hispanic high school students, 6.5% of white high school students, and 15.8% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Rhode Island 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, 9% of white high school students, and 16% of high school students who identified as multiple races nationwide.

Reported experiencing sexual dating violence

- In 2015, 12.8% of female high school students and 5.9% of male high school students in Rhode Island 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, 22.3% of LGB high school students, 25.7% of high school students who were unsure of their sexual orientation, and 7.5% of heterosexual high school students in Rhode Island 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, 6.4% of black high school students, 11.7% of Hispanic high school students, 8% of white high school students, and 10% of high school students who identified as multiple races in Rhode Island reported experiencing sexual dating violence in the prior year, compared to 10% of black high school students, 10.6% of Hispanic high school students, 10.1% of white high school students, and 14.2% of high school students who identified as multiple races nationwide.

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

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL HEALTH PROFILES DATA⁹

In 2015, the CDC released the School Health Profiles, which measures school health policies and practices and highlights which health topics were taught in schools across the country. Since the data was collected from self-administered questionnaires completed by schools' principals and lead health education teachers, the CDC notes that one limitation of the School Health Profiles is bias toward the reporting of more positive policies and practices.¹⁰ In the School Health Profiles, the CDC identifies 16 sexual education topics that it believes are critical to a young person's sexual health. Below are key instruction highlights for secondary schools in Rhode Island as reported for the 2013–2014 school year.

16 CRITICAL SEXUAL EDUCATION TOPICS IDENTIFIED BY THE CDC

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

Source: School Health Profiles, 2014

Reported teaching all 16 critical sexual health education topics

- 20.5% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students all 16 critical sexual health education topics in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.¹¹
- 54.8% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students all 16 critical sexual health education topics in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.¹²

Reported teaching about the benefits of being sexually abstinent

- 86.4% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students about the benefits of being sexually abstinent in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.¹³
- 90% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students about the benefits of being sexually abstinent in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.¹⁴

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

- 82.7% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students how to access valid and reliable information, products, and services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.¹⁵
- 89.9% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students how to access valid and reliable information, products, and services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.¹⁶

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Reported teaching how to create and sustain healthy and respectful relationships

- 90.2% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students how to create and sustain healthy and respectful relationships in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.¹⁷
- 92% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students how to create and sustain healthy and respectful relationships in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.¹⁸

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

- 68.4% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students about preventive care that is necessary to maintain reproductive and sexual health in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.¹⁹
- 85.1% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students about preventive care that is necessary to maintain reproductive and sexual health in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.²⁰

Reported teaching how to correctly use a condom

- 24.5% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students how to correctly use a condom in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.²¹
- 74.3% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students how to correctly use a condom in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.²²

Reported teaching about all seven contraceptives

- 61% of Rhode Island secondary schools taught students about all seven contraceptives—birth control pill, patch, ring, and shot; implants; intrauterine device; and emergency contraception—in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.²³

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

- 34% of Rhode Island secondary schools provided students with curricula or supplementary materials that included HIV, STD, or pregnancy prevention information relevant to LGBTQ youth.²⁴

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

RHODE ISLAND TEEN PREGNANCY, HIV/AIDS, AND OTHER STD DATA

The following data from the CDC and the Guttmacher Institute represent the most recent state-specific statistics documenting teen pregnancy, birth, abortion, HIV/AIDS, and other STDs. For those wishing to support the sexual health and wellbeing of young people, it is important to use the data to advance their access to comprehensive education, resources, and services. However, the data is not intended to

be used in a manner that is stigmatizing or shaming: Young people have the right to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing, but this right must be accompanied by the ability to access and understand all available choices. Therefore, the following data should be used to advance a young person's right to make informed decisions about their body and health.

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- In 2013, Rhode Island had the 41st highest reported 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 43 per 1,000.²⁵ There were a total of 1,190 pregnancies among young women ages 15–19 reported in Rhode Island in 2013.²⁶
- In 2015, Rhode Island had the 44th highest reported teen birth rate in the United States, with a rate of 14.3 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 22.3 per 1,000.²⁷ There were a total of 530 live births to young women ages 15–19 reported in Rhode Island in 2015.²⁸
- In 2013, Rhode Island had the 13th highest reported teen abortion rate²⁹ in the United States, with a rate of 10 abortions per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 11 per 1,000.³⁰ There were a total of 370 abortions among young women ages 15–19 reported in Rhode Island in 2013.³¹

HIV and AIDS

- In 2015, the reported rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among adolescents ages 13–19 in Rhode Island was 3.1 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.8 per 100,000.³²
- In 2015, the reported rate of AIDS diagnoses among adolescents ages 13–19 in Rhode Island was 0.0 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 0.7 per 100,000.³³
- In 2015, the reported rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among young adults ages 20–24 in Rhode Island was 6.3 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 31.1 per 100,000.³⁴
- In 2015, the reported rate of AIDS diagnoses among young adults ages 20–24 in Rhode Island was 3.8 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.6 per 100,000.³⁵

STDs

- In 2015, Rhode Island had the 42nd highest rate of reported cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 in the United States, with an infection rate of 1,373.2 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 1,857.8 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 1,024 cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 reported in Rhode Island.³⁶
- In 2015, Rhode Island had the 45th highest rate of reported cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 in the United States, with an infection rate of 88.5 cases per 100,000,

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compared to the national rate of 341.8 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 66 cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 reported in Rhode Island.³⁷

- In 2015, Rhode Island had the 10th 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 6.7 cases per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 5.4 per 100,000. In 2015, there were a total of 5 cases of syphilis reported among young people ages 15–19 in Rhode Island.³⁸

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

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

FISCAL YEAR 2017 FEDERAL FUNDING IN RHODE ISLAND

Grantee	Award
Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH)	
Rhode Island Department of Elementary & Secondary Education	\$415,000
TOTAL	\$415,000
Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)	
PREP State-Grant Program	
Rhode Island Department of Health (federal grant)	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$250,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$665,000

Division of Adolescent and School Health

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

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

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (RIDE), \$320,000 (FY 2017)

RIDE assists school districts with selecting or creating curricula that align with the RIDE Comprehensive Instructional Outcomes and the [National Standards for Sexuality Education](#). Additionally, the department provides training to garner support for the implementation of sexual health education. In order to increase access to key sexual health services, the department assists school districts in the development of referral system and developing written guidance to refer youth to sexual health services. To establish safe and supportive environments, the department collaborates with the RIDE Office of Multiple Pathways to increase support for youth service learning and mentoring opportunities as well as providing online tools and resources to increase school connectedness and parent engagement.³⁹

In addition, DASH funds local education agencies and NGOs to implement multiple program activities to meet the HIV- and other STD-prevention needs of young men who have sex with men (YMSM) and to develop strategic partnerships and collaborations between schools and community-based, mental health, and social services organizations to accomplish this work.

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

DASH also provides funding for state, territorial, and local education agencies and state health agencies to establish and strengthen systematic procedures to collect and report YRBS and School Health Profiles data for policy and program improvements.

- In FY 2017, there was one DASH grantee in Rhode Island funded to collect and report YRBS and School Health Profiles data (1308 Strategy 1): The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (\$95,000).

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM (TPPP)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

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

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

PREP State-Grant Program

State-grant PREP supports evidence-based programs that provide young people with medically accurate and age-appropriate information for the prevention of unintended pregnancy, HIV, and other STDs. In FY 2017, 44 states, the District of Columbia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau, and the Virgin Islands received PREP state-grant funds. Funded programs must discuss abstinence and contraception and place substantial emphasis on both. Programs must also address at least three of the following adulthood preparation subjects: healthy relationships, positive adolescent development, financial literacy, parent-child communication skills, education and employment skills, and healthy life skills.

- In FY 2017, the Rhode Island Department of Health received \$250,000 in federal PREP funds.⁴⁰
- At the time of publication, information as to Virginia's use of FY 2017 PREP state-grant funds was unknown. The following information reflects implementation of FY 2015 funds during FY 2016.
- The Department provided sub-grants to five local public and private entities. The sub-grantee information is listed below.⁴¹

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Sub-grantee	Serving	Amount
The Met School	See narrative below	\$25,000
Pawtucket School Department	See narrative below	\$25,000
Sojourner House	See narrative below	\$25,000
South County Community Action	See narrative below	\$25,000
Youth in Action	See narrative below	\$25,000

The Rhode Island Department of Health administered the state’s PREP grant program in collaboration with five local entities. PREP programming takes place in both school- and community-based settings for young people ages 15–19 and in grades 7–12 in cities and towns with the highest teen pregnancy rates in the state. Currently, programming is administered in the following cities: Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket. All PREP-funded programs are required to implement [*Teen Outreach Program \(TOP\)*](#) and address healthy relationships, adolescent development, financial literacy, parent-child communication, educational and career success, and healthy life skills.⁴²

Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies (PREIS)

PREIS supports research and demonstration programs to develop, replicate, refine, and test innovative models for preventing unintended teen pregnancy, HIV, and other STDs.

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

Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program (Tribal PREP)

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

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

Competitive Personal Responsibility Education Program (CPREP)

CPREP grants support evidence-based programs that provide young people with medically accurate and age-appropriate information for the prevention of unintended pregnancy, HIV, and other STDs. Only organizations and institutions in states and territories that did not apply for PREP state grants are eligible to submit competitive applications for CPREP grants. In FY 2017, 21 CPREP grants, totaling \$10.2 million, were awarded to 21 organizations in Florida, Indiana, North Dakota, Texas, and Virginia, as well as in American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

TITLE V “ABSTINENCE EDUCATION” STATE GRANT PROGRAM

The Title V “abstinence education” state grant program for AOUM programming, or the Title V AOUM program, is administered by FYSB, within ACF of HHS, and was authorized at \$75 million for FY 2017. The Title V AOUM program requires states to provide three state-raised dollars, or the equivalent in

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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.⁴³

- In FY 2017, Rhode Island chose not to apply for Title V AOUM funds.

“SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION” (SRAE) GRANT PROGRAM

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

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

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¹ This refers to the federal government’s fiscal year, which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, FY 2017 began on October 1, 2016, and ended on September 30, 2017.

² R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-22-17(a), www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-22/16-22-17.HTM.

³ *Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs* (Rhode Island: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Rhode Island Department of Health, proposed 2008), <http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/released/pdf/DOH/5471.pdf>, 5.1.7.

- ⁴ R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-22-17(a), www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-22/16-22-17.HTM.
- ⁵ R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 16-22-18(b) and (c), www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-22/16-22-18.HTM.
- ⁶ *Comprehensive Health Instructional Outcomes* (Rhode Island: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2015), http://www.thriveri.org/documents/RI_CHI_Outcomes.pdf
- ⁷ “Youth Online,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx>.
- ⁸ “Methodology of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System – 2013,” pg. 17, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6201.pdf.
- ⁹ “School Health Profiles 2014,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx>.
- ¹⁰ Ibid., pg. 51.
- ¹¹ Ibid., Table 9c.
- ¹² Ibid., Table 11c.
- ¹³ Ibid., Table 9a.
- ¹⁴ Ibid., Table 11a.
- ¹⁵ Ibid., Table 9a.
- ¹⁶ Ibid., Table 11a.
- ¹⁷ Ibid., Table 9b.
- ¹⁸ Ibid., Table 11b.
- ¹⁹ Ibid., Table 9b.
- ²⁰ Ibid., Table 11b.
- ²¹ Ibid., Table 9c.
- ²² Ibid., Table 11c.
- ²³ Ibid., Table 13.
- ²⁴ Ibid., Table 39.
- ²⁵ Arpaia, A., Kost, K., and Maddow-Zimet, I., *Pregnancies, Births and Abortions Among Adolescents and Young Women in the United States, 2013: State Trends by Age, Race, and Ethnicity* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2017), https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_downloads/us-adolescent-pregnancy-trends-2013_tables.pdf, Table 2.5.
- ²⁶ Ibid., Table 2.6.
- ²⁷ “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>.
- ²⁸ United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2007-2015, on CDC WONDER Online Database, February 2017. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/nativity-current.html>.
- ²⁹ “Abortion” used in this context refers to legally induced abortions. This rate does not include abortions that occur outside of health care facilities or are unreported. Unfortunately, there is no reliable source of information for actual rates of abortion.
- ³⁰ Arpaia, A., Kost, K., and Maddow-Zimet, I., *Pregnancies, Births and Abortions Among Adolescents and Young Women in the United States, 2013: State Trends by Age, Race, and Ethnicity* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2017), https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_downloads/us-adolescent-pregnancy-trends-2013_tables.pdf, Table 2.5.
- ³¹ Ibid., Table 2.6.
- ³² 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.
- ³³ 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.
- ³⁴ 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.
- ³⁵ 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.

³⁶ NCHHSTP Atlas, “STD Surveillance Data” (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), <http://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/NCHHSTPAtlas/main.html>.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Adolescent and School Health, Funded State Agencies, Atlanta, GA, www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/partners/funded_states.htm#ri.

⁴⁰ “2017 State Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) Awards,” Family and Youth Services Bureau, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource/2017-state-prep-awards.

⁴¹ Information provided by Leah McPhail, MPA, Family Planning/Teen Outreach Program Coordinator, Division of Community, Health, and Equity, Rhode Island Department of Health, May 31, 2015.

⁴² Ibid; “2017 State Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) Grantee Profiles,” Family and Youth Services Bureau, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource/prep-grantee-profiles>.

⁴³ 42 U.S.C. 710, Title V, Section 510 of the Social Security Act, the authorization for the Title V AOUM grant program, defines “abstinence education” as “an educational or motivational program which:

(A) has as its exclusive purpose, teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;

(B) teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children;

(C) teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems;

(D) teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity;

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

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

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

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

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