

Oklahoma Healthy YOUth

FACTS ABOUT OKLAHOMA YOUTH

Oklahoma is ranked **4th** highest for teen birth rates among youth 15-19 years old.

CHLAMYDIA is the **MOST** commonly reported Sexually Transmitted Infection for youth in Oklahoma.

Syphilis cases among youth and young adults ages 13-24 increased by **360.9%** between 2015-2021.

32.8% of high-school age youth have engaged in sexual activity at least once, and **22.2%** are currently sexually active.

Without a sex education mandate in Oklahoma, many youth are left learning on their own or not at all.

GONORRHEA is the **2nd** most commonly reported Sexually Transmitted Infection for youth in Oklahoma.

Education at home and in schools is a vital component of ensuring adolescents have access to information to help make informed choices and reduce risky behaviors.

[Sources provided upon request]

EDUCATION

The following evidence-based sexual health and relationship curricula are provided to youth ages 11-21 in school and/or community settings by Adolescent Health Specialists:

- Making Proud Choices
- Love Notes
- Making A Difference
- Positive Prevention PLUS

Additional topics can be provided via presentations:

- Adolescent development
- Healthy life skills
- Suicide prevention
- Parent-child communication
- Healthy relationships
- Sexually Transmitted Infections

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Opportunities are provided for youth to have an active voice in spreading awareness, making decisions, providing feedback, and giving advice on health issues that affect young people.

Youth will be able to:

- Advise how to improve health programs and services.
- Educate local communities about public health issues.
- Learn about careers in public health.
- Evaluate activities to show a difference is being made.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE

The Adolescent Health Specialist serves as a local expert and resource for communities on adolescent health issues. Presentations, trainings, and materials can be provided to the following community members:

- School staff and boards
- Local coalitions
- Parents/caregivers
- Youth-serving organizations

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- Provide education that is medically accurate, age-appropriate, comprehensive and inclusive
- Provide youth-friendly services
- Protect youths' privacy and provide a safe space
- Provide and encourage youth leadership opportunities
- Partner with community members

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