Sexual Health Education in Peoria Public Schools

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Peoria County ranks among highest in Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) & Teen Births
Peoria was ranked as the #2 county with highest rates of Chlamydia infection in Illinois, and #1 county with highest rates of Gonorrhea infection in Illinois. Rates were 851 per 100,000 for Chlamydia and 323.3 per 100,000 for Gonorrhea.
CHLAMYDIA CASES, AGES 10-24, 2016

OF THE 19,000,000 NEW STDs IN THE U.S. EACH YEAR, HALF ARE AMONG PEOPLE UNDER 25.

GONORRHEA CASES, AGES 10-24, 2016
### TEEN BIRTH RATES

**Peoria Region vs. State of Illinois**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tazewell</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodford</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stark</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Illinois</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For every 1,000 teens girls in Peoria, **84 become teen moms.**

Only **50%** of teen moms earn a high school diploma.
CDC DASH Project

Exemplary Sexual Health Education (ESHE)

Access to Key Sexual Health Services (SHS)

Safe and Supportive Environments for Students and Staff (SSE)
Illinois State Law

- **January 2014 - state law HB 2675**
  - Requires materials and instruction be age-appropriate, medically accurate, and complete.
  - Course material and instruction shall place substantial emphasis on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
FLASH (Family Life and Sexual Health)
Curriculum Topics

- Abstinence and Refusal Skills
- Birth Control Methods
- Communication and Decision Making
- Gender Stereotypes, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- Healthy Relationships
- Human Reproduction and Pregnancy
- Puberty and Hygiene
- Preventing and Testing for HIV and Other Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Sexual Violence Prevention
Why this curriculum? Is it science based?

FLASH:
Family Life & Sexual Health

FLASH is a comprehensive sexual health education curriculum developed by Public Health – Seattle & King County and designed to prevent teen pregnancy, STDs, and sexual violence.

FLASH is based on the Theory of Planned Behavior.
FLASH includes a strong family-involvement.
FLASH supports and respects diverse community values.
What standards do you use?

**IL Law and National Standards**

Age appropriate and should consider students’ growth and development.

There is no reason to believe sexual health education encourages sex.

The National Sexual Health Education standards are used to determine which topics are appropriate for each age range.

The standards can be downloaded for free.
Who is teaching the lessons?

Collaborative Community Effort

The Hult Center provides 60% of the education within the district.

The Center for Prevention of Abuse teaches Erin’s Law and sexual violence prevention.

Central IL Friends is a new community partner.

PPS Staff have been trained to teach a lesson in 6th grade.
Why do you talk about Gender and LGBT?

Inclusivity means healthy

- LGBT-Inclusive sex education means healthier youth and safer schools
- LGBT youth are disproportionately affected by negative sexual health-outcomes
- Leaving out LGBT youth in sex education also implies that they are abnormal or not worthy of inclusion- exclusion contributes to the feelings of isolation and rejection

Above all else:

Peoria Public School’s values include ****
LGBT Disparities: Healthy People 2020

More likely to **attempt suicide**
More likely to be **homeless**
Higher risk of **HIV and STDs**, especially communities of color
**Smoke tobacco** at higher rates
High rates of **victimization** and **suicide attempts**
Face additional barriers to health care because of isolation, fewer family supports, and a lack of social and support services
What if parents are concerned/have questions?

- Parent letters and brochure distributed
- Guardians have the right to opt their child out
- The curriculum is available online
- Materials can be requested to be reviewed
- The district handles any specific concerns, while utilizing agency staff for professional insight

Always remind families of the WHY.
How You Can Help...

By being a community-advocate for this type of education!

Being informed about why complete, comprehensive sexual health is so important.
Questions?