A healthier student is more successful. Health programs in schools help our youth succeed.

Did You Know...

Students who are provided sexual health education are NOT more likely to become sexually active, NOT more likely to increase sexual activity, and NOT more likely to experience STIs and teen pregnancy. Sexual health education programs actually reduce these risks.

Students who are involved in teen pregnancy or experience STIs face bigger challenges when it comes to school success. Sexual health education helps to protect and support students’ sexual health and build their academic achievement.

Let’s Start Talking About It.

Data and research provided in this brochure comes from the following organizations:
Advocates for Youth
American Sexual Health Association
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Heart of Illinois United Way Community Needs Assessment
Illinois Department of Public Health

For more information about sexual health in our community, contact the Hult Center for Healthy Living at info@hulthealthy.org
STI Rates in Peoria

STI stands for Sexually Transmitted Infection. Some people call them STDs, or Sexually Transmitted Diseases. These are infections that can pass from person to person during sexual activity.

So What’s Peoria’s STI Status?

Peoria is the 12th largest county in the State of Illinois by population. However, Peoria is ranked

**#1 in the state** for the highest Gonorrhea rates

**#2 in the state** for the highest Chlamydia rates

What Does This Mean?

Peoria has extremely high rates of these bacterial STIs in our community— the highest in the state, in fact. Educating youth about sexual health, prevention, and STI testing is very important to reducing STI rates in our community.

Youth and Sexual Health

Most youth are not sexually active. In fact, less than half of all high school students have ever had sexual intercourse.

So Why is Sex Education Needed?

Without education about how to prevent STIs before becoming sexually active, teens are more likely to become infected when or if they eventually do make that choice.

**Teens 15-24 make up 50% of the STI cases each year.**

**1 in 2** sexually active young people will get an STI by the time they are 25.

What Does This Mean?

Sexually active youth are at a high risk for STIs. Prevention education helps students make healthier choices & reduce their risk.

Teen Pregnancy in Peoria

The good news is that teen pregnancy rates have been going down across the country and even in our Peoria community.

So What’s the Bad News?

Peoria County still has teen birth rates higher than the state of Illinois, and nearly 4x higher than the national teen birth rate.

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

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

What Does This Mean?

Teen parents and their children are at risk when it comes to teen pregnancy. Kids of teen moms often have a delay in their development because of the challenges that teen parents face. Sexual health education empowers youth to make healthier choices, plan their futures, and reduce their risk of unplanned pregnancy.