



Visit: www.healthyteensct.org

Facebook: Healthy Teens Connecticut

The Healthy Teens Coalition supports legislation requiring a graduation requirement of 1 credit in health education, including developmentally appropriate comprehensive sexuality education.

- Connecticut is one of 14 states that do not require a health education credit before graduation.¹
- The full credit health education requirement, up to half of which may be fulfilled in middle school, can be met in middle school and high school health education courses.
- The Connecticut State Board of Education believes that a coordinated approach to school health effectively aligns health and education efforts and leads to improved physical, mental and developmental outcomes for students.
- A coordinated approach to school health provides the framework for families, community-based partners and schools to work together to improve student achievement. It incorporates eight components: physical education; nutrition; school-family-community partnerships; health services; mental health services; healthy physical and emotional school environment; staff wellness; and comprehensive health education.
- It is imperative that comprehensive health supported by a school-family community partnership be offered in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12.
- A coordinated approach to school health can be built upon these core principles which are embedded in the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) *Healthy and Balanced Living Curriculum Framework for Comprehensive School Health Education and Comprehensive Physical Education* (2006).
- In 2008 polling showed 83% of CT voters think that with pressures mounting on our teens, sex education that includes information about abstinence and birth control can't be put off. (Lake Research March 2008)
- 72% (8,285) of reported Chlamydia cases in CT in 2007 were among young people aged 10-24. Left untreated, Chlamydia is a major contributor to infertility later in life. 57% (1,329) of reported Gonorrhea cases in CT in 2007 were among young people aged 10-24.²
- Teens and young adults under the age of 25 continue to be at risk for HIV and most young people are infected through unprotected sex³. African Americans are disproportionately affected by HIV infection; accounting for 55% of all HIV infections reported among persons aged 13–24⁴. The lifetime per person HIV care cost is now \$618,900.⁵ In 2009 18% of newly reported HIV infections in Connecticut occurred in people between the ages of 13 -29.⁶
- An estimated 80,000 CT high school students report they have had sexual intercourse and nearly 80% first had sexual intercourse between the ages of 13 and 16.⁷

The Healthy Teens Coalition is comprised of advocates seeking to offer medically accurate, developmentally appropriate sex education in Connecticut schools. Currently our efforts are focused on requiring a health education credit for graduation to meet this goal. See www.healthyteensct.org for a list of coalition members.

Healthy Teens Coalition Members:

- AIDS LIFE Campaign
- AIDS Project Greater Danbury
- AIDS Project Hartford
- American Academy of Pediatrics, CT Chapter
- AAUW, CT
- Central Area Health Education Center
- City of New Haven
- CT AIDS Resource Coalition (CARC)
- CT Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)
- CT Association of School Based Health Centers
- Connecticut Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CTAHPERD)
- CT Association of Administrators of Health and Physical Education (CAAHPE)
- CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV)
- CT Conference of the United Church of Christ
- Connecticut Education Association (CEA)
- CT Public Health Association
- CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS)
- CT Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)
- CT Women's Health Campaign
- GLSEN Connecticut (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network)
- Greater Bridgeport Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, Inc. (GBAPP)
- Greater New Haven PFLAG
- Hartford Action Plan, Breaking the Cycle Campaign
- Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective
- Health Education Department, University of Connecticut
- Latino Community Services, Inc.
- Nancy A. Humphries Institute for Political Social Work
- National Association of Social Workers, CT chapter
- National Council of Jewish Women, CT
- NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut
- New Haven Home Recovery
- OB-GYN Section, Department of Surgical Services, Bristol Hospital
- P-FLAG, Hartford
- Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
- Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice of CT
- Religious Institute
- Restoration Temple Deliverance Mission Churches, Inc.
- True Colors
- Windham Regional Community Council
- YWCA Hartford Region
- YWCA New Britain

For the most up to date list of Healthy Teens Coalition Members visit: <http://www.healthyteensct.org/>

The following medical and public health professional organizations solidly endorse providing comprehensive sex education that offers information about a range of sexual health and contraceptive options, including, but not limited to, abstinence for teenagers in their schools.^{8,9,10,11}

- The American Medical Association
- The American Academy of Pediatrics
- The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists
- The American Public Health Association
- The American Psychological Association
- United States Surgeon General

¹ Other states include: Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Missouri, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Vermont, Wyoming

² State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 2007

³ Slide Set: HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults (through 2005).

⁴ CDC. [HIV Prevention in the Third Decade](#). Atlanta: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2005.

⁵ Schackman, B. Medical Care, November 2006; vol 44: pp 990-997. News release, Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Bruce R. Schackman, PhD, chief, division of health policy, Weill Cornell Medical College.

⁶ State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health 2009 Surveillance

⁷ State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health, Connecticut School Health Survey (2005)

⁸ Silva M. The effectiveness of school-based sex education programs in the promotion of abstinent behavior: a meta analysis. Health Education Research. 2002;17(4):471-481.

⁹ Siecus Public Policy Office. In Good Company: Who Supports Comprehensive Sexuality Education? Available at: http://www.siecus.org/policy/in_good_company.pdf. Accessed February 3, 2005.

¹⁰ Abstinence, monogamy, and sex [Editorial]. The Lancet. 2002;360(9327):97.

¹¹ Wetzstein C. AMA revises sex-ed policy. Washington Times, 2004.