



Quick Stats

Agency	Program/Policy Start Date	Number Served Annually	Annual Budget
Department of Education	Spring 2012	All middle and high schools	N/A

Problem Statement	New York City is experiencing persistently high rates of risky sexual activity among middle and high school students, and has recently observed an increase in STDs among middle and high school students.
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Research and Evidence	NYC DOHMH STD surveillance data and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) capture information about sexual activity among high school students. The most recent YRBS (2009) showed that 21% of sexually active students began having sex before age 13; 57% of DOE high school seniors have had intercourse with at least one person; 15% of sexually active students have had intercourse with four (4) or more partners; and 29% of sexually active students did not use a condom the last time they had sex. Research has shown that students who participate in risk-reduction sex education may be less likely to engage in risk behaviors that can cause pregnancy or transmit HIV/STD.
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Program Description	<p>BACKGROUND: In 2007, the NYC DOE selected recommended health education curricula for middle and high school that included age-appropriate sexual health education. Since 2007, the Office of School Wellness Programs (OSWP) has provided free health education training on the recommended curricula and additional support for teachers and administrators citywide. Over 800 teachers have been trained to date (2008-2011).</p> <p>In addition to health education, reproductive health initiatives in schools seek to provide students with timely and free services with the goal of helping to reduce pregnancy and prevent HIV/STD. The Condom Availability Program in high schools provides free condoms and information to students. School Based Health Centers, now in 42 of 200 high school campuses, provide comprehensive reproductive health services to students. The Office of School Health piloted an onsite reproductive health program called CATCH (Connecting Adolescents to Comprehensive Healthcare) in 2011. CATCH services include emergency contraceptive, oral contraceptive, pregnancy testing, and referrals for healthcare and mental health counseling.</p> <p>SEX ED MANDATE: As part of the YMI initiative, sexual health education is now required in middle and high school as part of the NYSED-required comprehensive health education course. OSWP is ramping up comprehensive health education teacher trainings and using its @ Your Network and @ Your School assistance programs to enhance the capacity of schools to meet the sexual health education mandate. OSWP and OSH staff are collaborating to help schools make the connections between health education and health services in order to help students receive the education, support, and access to care to that can help them make healthy choices and stay safe.</p>
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Implementation Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2011 – June 2012 – Trainings on health curriculum offered • January 2012 – Mandate begins • May 2012 – School Health Survey (SHS) sent to public schools • Fall 2012 – Review data from SHS and plan for 2nd year
Target Population	All middle and high school students in NYC public school system
Expected Outcomes	Support schools in providing sexual health education as part of comprehensive health education for middle and high school students. Increase the number of teachers trained to deliver effective comprehensive health education including sexual health education.