**Finding Facts About Sexual and Reproductive Health**

Planned Parenthood frequently uses statistics and data in our work. This tip sheet has some best practices for finding data and evaluating research you may come across. Below are reliable resources for finding a variety of data. They are categorized by type of source, with the most current and reliable source categories at the top. The final chart is organized by topic.

**National and State Surveillance Data** (Key data sets and statistics in sexual and reproductive health)

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| CDC National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) Atlas:  <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/>  *\*Create personalized data tables\** | *Topics covered:* HIV/AIDS, chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and hepatitis. These are the **only** STIs tracked with surveillance data.  *Format:* Generate data tables by state, gender, race/ethnicity, year, age, etc. |
| National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG):  All ages: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/abc_list.htm>  Teens: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/abc_list_t.htm#teenagers> | *Topics covered:* Sexual activity, marriage and divorce, pregnancy, contraception, and sex education, ages 15-44.  *Format:* Fact sheets, reports and lists key statistics by topic. |
| Youth Risk Behavior Survey: <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>  *\*Create personalized data tables\** | *Topics covered:* Teen sexual activity, including contraceptive use, sexual behavior, sex education, and drug and alcohol use.  *Format:* Fact sheets and reports, as well as Youth Online Interactive Data Tables where you can create your own tables and graphs by topic, state, gender, race/ethnicity, and grade in school. |

**Medical Accuracy and Sources for Evidence-Based Information**

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| PPFA Medical Standards and Guidelines:  <https://extranetv2.ppfa.org/affiliate_resources/medical_services/ppfa_medical_standards_guidelines/Pages/default.aspx> | *\*For Planned Parenthood health care recommendations and standards, ALWAYS check this first.\** |
| The Cochrane Library/Cochrane Review:  <http://www.cochrane.org/> | *Topics covered:* Evidence-based health care and health policy summaries.  *Format:* Meta-analyses of current health research and recommendations. Meta-analyses are reviews of multiple studies and provide much stronger evidence than any single study. |
| American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG):  <http://www.acog.org/>  *\*Some content restricted to ACOG members\** | *Topics covered:* Women’s health care recommendations and information for both providers and the general public.  *Format:* Recommendations and guidelines on women’s health medical practice. |
| American Public Health Association (APHA) Policy Statements: <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/> | *Topics covered:* Evidence-based positions on policy and public health practice.  *Format:* Searchable archive of policy statements by topic. |
| Child Trends:  [www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org) | *Topics covered:* Adolescent sexual behavior, pregnancy STIs, partner age difference and communication, parental influence, program/sex ed effectiveness.  *Format:* Fact sheets and data charts/graphs. |

**PPFA Fact Sheets** (With PPFA-vetted language and up-to-date statistics)

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| Abortion:   * + [Medical and Social Health Benefits Since Abortion Was Made Legal in the U.S.](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/Medical_Social_Benefits_Abortion.pdf)   + [The Difference Between the Morning-After Pill and the Abortion Pill](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/Difference_Between_Morning_After_Pill.pdf) |
| Contraception:   * + [A History of Birth Control Methods](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/History_of_BC_Methods.pdf)   + [Griswold v Connecticut — The Impact of Legal Birth Control and the Challenges that Remain](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/Griswold_v_Connecticut.pdf) |
| Relationship and Sexual Violence:   * [Intimate Partner Violence and Reproductive Coercion](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/images/IPV_and_Reproductive_Coercion_Fact_Sheet_2012_FINAL.pdf) |
| Sex Education:   * + [Sex Education in the United States](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/Sex_Ed_in_the_US.pdf) |
| Teen Pregnancy and Childbirth:   * [Pregnancy and Childbearing Among U.S. Teens](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/pregnancy_and_childbearing.pdf) * [Reducing Teen Pregnancy](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/reducing_teenage_pregnancy.pdf) |

**Resources from Colleague Organizations**

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| Advocates For Youth:  [http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/for-professionals/sex-education-resource-center?task=view) | *Topics covered:* Sexuality education, LGBTQ youth, cultural competency, parent-child communication.  *Format:* Fact sheets and toolkits for both educators and advocates. |
| Futures Without Violence: <http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/content/action_center/detail/754> | *Topics covered:* Domestic, dating, and sexual violence in the U.S.  *Format:* Fact sheets, newsroom, and highlights of new policies and programs. |
| Gay Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN): [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org) | *Topics covered:* LGBTQ youth and health, bullying.  *Format:* Fact sheets, reports, policy briefs. |
| The Guttmacher Institute:  [www.guttmacher.org](http://www.guttmacher.org) | *Topics covered:* Abortion, contraception, adolescent sexual health, STIs and HIV/AIDS, pregnancy, and relationships.  *Format:* State, national, and international policy briefs, fact sheets, media kits, and educational videos, as well as their own peer-reviewed journal with current sexual and reproductive health research. |
| The Kaiser Family Foundation state health facts: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/> | *Topics covered:* Policy and health insurance data including Medicaid coverage of sexual and reproductive health services, as well as health related laws.  *Format:* Tables and maps broken down by category and state. |
| The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy: [www.thenationalcampaign.org](http://www.thenationalcampaign.org) | *Topics covered:* Teen/unplanned pregnancy, birth, and sexual activity, both state and national data.  *Format:* Charts and fact sheets, including stats on the national impact of unplanned/teen pregnancy, including some economic and insurance data. |

**Assessing the Strength of Individual Studies**

If you come across an article that you’re not sure is reliable…

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| *Is the article referring to newly released* ***surveillance data*** *or a* ***research study****?*   * **Surveillance** data is collected regularly, analyzed, and reported on by government agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These reports do not explain behavior; they simply **describe and interpret current rates and trends** (i.e., teen pregnancy rates). These reports collect data using tested surveys, and have very large sample sizes so they represent the general population. * **Individual Research studies** can be reliable or not, so you need to look closer. |
| *Is the research study* ***peer reviewed****?*   * If the study is published in a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal (i.e., *Journal of Adolescent Health, American Journal of Public Health)*, it has gone through a vetting process by other researchers so it’s a stronger source than a newspaper or magazine. Peer-reviewed journals are often associated with professional societies or academic institutions. **Look for a reference to a peer-reviewed journal** (sometimes called a refereed journal) in the article. |
| *Can I* ***find the abstract*** *or even the full article?*   * While most journal articles require subscription or purchase, you can usually find the abstract – a summary of the purpose and findings of the study. This will be the **most accurate summary of what was discovered** – not a commentary about the study in a newspaper or blog. |

**Data Resources by Topic:**

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| **Abortion** | * Guttmacher Institute: <http://www.guttmacher.org/sections/abortion.php> * PPFA Fact Sheets:   + [Medical and Social Health Benefits Since Abortion Was Made Legal in the U.S.](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/Medical_Social_Benefits_Abortion.pdf)   + [The Difference Between the Morning-After Pill and the Abortion Pill](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/Difference_Between_Morning_After_Pill.pdf) |
| **Adolescent sexual health** | * Youth Risk Behavior Survey: <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm> * Advocates For Youth: <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/topics-and-issues> |
| **Contraception** | * National Survey of Family Growth: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/abc_list.htm> * Guttmacher Institute: <http://www.guttmacher.org/sections/contraception.php> * PPFA Fact Sheets:   + [A History of Birth Control Methods](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/History_of_BC_Methods.pdf)   + [Griswold v Connecticut — The Impact of Legal Birth Control and the Challenges that Remain](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/Griswold_v_Connecticut.pdf) |
| **Insurance and Health Laws/Policy** | * Kaiser Family Foundation: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/> * THOMAS: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>   + Bills, amendments, resolutions, etc. from current and past Congresses |
| **Medical standards, women’s health, and general health care** | * The Cochrane Library/Cochrane Review (abstracts): <http://www.cochrane.org/> * PPFA Medical Standards and Guidelines: <https://extranetv2.ppfa.org/affiliate_resources/medical_services/ppfa_medical_standards_guidelines/Pages/default.aspx> * American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: <http://www.acog.org/> * American Public Health Association (APHA) Policy Statements: <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/> |
| **Relationship abuse** | * Futures Without Violence: <http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/content/action_center/detail/754> * PPFA Fact Sheets:   + [Intimate Partner Violence and Reproductive Coercion](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/images/IPV_and_Reproductive_Coercion_Fact_Sheet_2012_FINAL.pdf) |
| **Sexual activity** | * National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)   + All ages: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/abc_list.htm>   + Teenagers: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/abc_list_t.htm#teenagers> * Child Trends: [www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org) |
| **Sexuality education** | * Advocates For Youth: <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/for-professionals/sex-education-resource-center?task=view> * SIECUS: <http://www.siecus.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=477> |
| **STIs/HIV** | * CDC National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) Atlas: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/>   + *NOTE: These are the only STIs reported on in the U.S.* |
| **Unplanned pregnancy and birth** | * National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy   + National data: <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/national-data/default.aspx>   + State data: <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/state-data/default.aspx> * Guttmacher Institute: <http://www.guttmacher.org/sections/pregnancy.php> * PPFA Fact Sheets:   + [Pregnancy and Childbearing Among U.S. Teens](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/pregnancy_and_childbearing.pdf)   + [Reducing Teen Pregnancy](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/PPFA/reducing_teenage_pregnancy.pdf) |