

Why the Affordable Care Act Matters for Women: Comprehensive Sex Education for Teens

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For the last few decades, most federal funding for sex education has been dedicated to abstinence-only until marriage education. Abstinence-only education has not been shown to reduce teen sexual activity, pregnancy or Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). It does not provide young people who choose to become sexually active with the tools they need to avoid pregnancy and stay safe. Moreover, abstinence-only education tends to encourage stereotypes about girls and boys and ignore the sexual health needs of LGBT teens. All young people are entitled to comprehensive sexuality education that meets their needs when and if they choose to become sexually active.

Why the ACA Matters for Women Fact Sheets

- ▶ [Summary of Key Provisions \(pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [Expanding Access to Health Insurance \(pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [Affordability and Choice in the Insurance Marketplace \(pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [Improving Health Care for Older Women \(pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [Improving Health Coverage for Lower-Income Women \(pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [Better Care for Pregnant Women and Mothers \(pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [Expanding Medicaid Family Planning Services \(pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [Preserving Access to Women's Health Clinics \(pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [Coverage of Women's Preventive Services, Including Contraception \(pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [Comprehensive Sex Education for Teens \(pdf\)](#)
- ▶ [Restrictions on Abortion Coverage \(pdf\)](#)

Also available at www.nationalpartnership.org/ACA

New Funds for Comprehensive Sexuality Education

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) supports evidence-based, medically accurate, comprehensive sexuality education. Unfortunately, it also includes funding for abstinence-only programs.

- ▶ The ACA provides \$75 million per year for five years to the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP), a state grant program to fund comprehensive approaches to sex education.
- ▶ The money available through PREP will be available for states to implement sex education programs. If states do not apply for the money, community-based, faith-based, and local entities in the state can apply for the funds beginning in 2012.
- ▶ PREP will fund evidence-based, medically accurate, age-appropriate programs to educate adolescents about both abstinence and contraception in order to prevent unintended teen pregnancy and STIs, including HIV/AIDS.
- ▶ Unfortunately, the law also reinstates the failed Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program, which directs \$50 million a year to states to spend on abstinence-

only-until-marriage programs. Funding for the Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program had lapsed on June 30, 2009, and had not been renewed. The National Partnership and the reproductive health community strongly oppose continued funding for abstinence-only education because this kind of education denies young people the information they need to avoid pregnancy and stay safe.

The National Partnership for Women & Families is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy group dedicated to promoting fairness in the workplace, access to quality health care and policies that help women and men meet the dual demands of work and family. More information is available at www.NationalPartnership.org.

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