



# WREN

Women's  
Rights &  
Empowerment  
Network

scWREN.org

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Visit [www.scwren.org](http://www.scwren.org) and join the movement for better reproductive health policies in South Carolina.
- Contact your legislator regarding the importance of evidence-based health education programs.
- Share this information with your friends and get your community to make their voices heard.
- Keep up-to-date with other legislative issues that impact the health and well-being of South Carolina's women, girls and families by following WREN on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

## THE POLICY

# Healthy Youth Act

## OVERVIEW

In 1988, the South Carolina General Assembly passed the Comprehensive Health Education Act (CHEA), which outlines what reproductive health education should be taught in South Carolina public schools. The Healthy Youth Act would update the 28 year old act by holding school districts accountable for teaching all mandated health education and ensuring the use of evidence-based interventions that have been rigorously evaluated, are supported by credible scientific studies and are proven effective at reducing risky behaviors.

- Reproductive and sexual health education is critical to helping young people lead healthy lives and make informed decisions that will significantly impact their futures.
- Evidence-based sex education supports the development of students' ability to cultivate responsible personal values and behaviors, and the skills to resist peer pressures.
- Over the past 28 years, science surrounding healthy lifestyles and decision-making has been refined. Our health education programs should reflect these advancements.
- Studies show that teens getting information about both abstinence and contraception are more likely to delay sexual activity.<sup>1</sup>
- Instructors should be encouraged to prioritize age-appropriate, evidence-based programs in the classroom.
- Local school districts should be held accountable for providing students with consistent reproductive health, and pregnancy and disease prevention education. Local school districts should follow all state adopted health education mandates.
- South Carolina has extremely high incidence rates of sexually transmitted infection (STI), ranking 7th in the nation for chlamydia, 4th for gonorrhea, and 18th for syphilis.<sup>2,3,4</sup>
- South Carolina needs to invest in an educated and healthy workforce to continue our economic growth.

<sup>1</sup> Lindberg, Laura Duberstein, and Isaac Maddow-Zimet. "Consequences of Sex Education on Teen and Young Adult Sexual Behaviors and Outcomes." *Journal of Adolescent Health* 51.4 (2012): 332-38. Print.

<sup>2</sup> "Table 13. Gonorrhea - Reported Cases and Rates of Reported Cases by State, Ranked by Rates, United States, 2015." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Web. 07 Feb. 2017.

<sup>3</sup> "Table 2. Chlamydia - Reported Cases and Rates of Reported Cases by State, Ranked by Rates, United States, 2015." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Web. 07 Feb. 2017.

<sup>4</sup> "Table 26. Primary and Secondary Syphilis - Reported Cases and Rates of Reported Cases by State, Ranked by Rates, United States, 2015." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Web. 07 Feb. 2017.

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- <sup>1</sup> Lindberg, Laura Duberstein, and Isaac Maddow-Zimet. "Consequences of Sex Education on Teen and Young Adult Sexual Behaviors and Outcomes." *Journal of Adolescent Health* 51.4 (2012): 332-38. Print.
- <sup>2</sup> "Table 13. Gonorrhea - Reported Cases and Rates of Reported Cases by State, Ranked by Rates, United States, 2013." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 16 Dec. 2014. Web. 05 Nov. 2015.
- <sup>3</sup> "Table 2. Chlamydia - Reported Cases and Rates of Reported Cases by State, Ranked by Rates, United States, 2013." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 16 Dec. 2014. Web. 05 Nov. 2015.
- <sup>4</sup> "South Carolina's STD/HIV/AIDS Data: Surveillance Report." (2013): n. pag. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 31 Dec. 2013. Web. 5 Nov. 2015.
- <sup>5</sup> "More than 1,600 Women Murdered by Men in One Year, New Study Finds." Violence Policy Center. N.p., 15 Sept. 2015. Web. 05 Nov. 2015.