



A partnership of the RI Departments of Education and Health
with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

thrive report

Vol. 1, Number 10, December 2007

December Issue: HIV/AIDS

Core Issue: HIV/AIDS
Prevention and
Adolescents

Fresh from the Field

thrive by the numbers

33.2 Million Number of people now living with HIV infections worldwide.

40,000 Number of new HIV infections per year in the U.S.

25 Percentage of new HIV infections in people under the age of 21 in the U.S.

47 Percentage of R.I. high school students who reported having had sex in their lifetime.

40 Percentage of teens polled who said that their parents don't know they're having sex.

100 Percentage of RI

December's Focus: HIV/AIDS Welcome to the December edition of the *thrive report* that focuses on HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS among adolescents is a serious problem in the U.S. and throughout the world. It is frequently "swept under the rug" and assumed to occur only in adults. However, research shows that young adults are at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS if sexual activity is not delayed or if precautions are not taken during sexual activity.

According to *Health People 2010*, about half of all new HIV infections nationally are among people under age 25 years with the majority infected through sexual behavior. Rhode Island HIV/AIDS data show that individuals 13 to 24 years of age accounted for 13% of all HIV cases diagnosed between 2000 and 2005. Of the 110 individuals infected, 66 were male and 44 were female. African Americans and Hispanic youth accounted for 63% of the cases.

Because HIV/AIDS and its risks are less frequently visible or acknowledged among young people, we believe it is particularly appropriate to bring our "Fresh from the Field" component "live" on our *thrive* website.

The Core Issue: HIV/AIDS Prevention and Adolescents

Data on HIV in Rhode Island (2000-2004), reveal that 3% of all HIV cases are in persons under 19 years of age. Further, there are 11 cases of AIDS in the school age population - less than one percent of the total AIDS cases in Rhode Island. While these numbers seem low, sexual risk-taking behaviors of adolescents put them at greater risk and contribute to the increase in HIV/AIDS cases of young adults.

Young people are particularly vulnerable for several

schools districts that are required by law to teach about HIV/AIDS prevention.

HIV/AIDS Links

[thrive - HIV/Sexuality](#)

[CDC Youth Data & Statistics](#)

[CDC - HIV/AIDS](#)

[RI Dept. of Health - Office of HIV/AIDS](#)

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The **thrive report** can be found at
www.thriveri.org/report.html

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reasons: misinformation, myths, fear, stigma, lack of communication skills and an overall feeling of invulnerability. Without accurate information and skills, adolescents cannot take appropriate action to protect themselves against contracting HIV/AIDS.

Currently, HIV education is the only "vaccine" against HIV/AIDS. Without accurate information and skills, adolescents cannot take appropriate action to protect themselves against contracting HIV/AIDS.

Now, more than ever, education to prevent HIV/AIDS is critical. The [Rhode Island Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs](#) describes the scope of family life and sexuality education to include: the responsibilities of family membership and adulthood, including issues related to reproduction, abstinence, dating, marriage, and parenthood as well as information about sexually transmitted diseases, sexuality and lifestyles. Rhode Island law also promotes abstinence from sexual activity and refraining from sexual intercourse as the preferred method for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. This and other information to inform the development of local HIV/AIDS curriculum can be found on the **thrive** website at www.thriveri.org.

Fresh from the Field



Martin Middle School, East Providence RI


We are very excited to have the Martin Middle School, East Providence; Kristen Koutoulakis, Health Educator; Principal Frank DeVall, Jr.; Beth Milham, AIDS Quilt RI and students participate in the first *Fresh from the Field* "live" on the **thrive** website!

Watch Martin Middle School - [thrive live!](#) - work closely with AIDS Quilt RI Anna's Workshop to put a face on this devastating disease. In that process students learn how HIV/AIDS is transmitted, meet with someone who has AIDS, and discuss among themselves the myths and information relating to HIV/AIDS.

Martin Middle School thrives - so can your school!

To share your first-person success stories in "Fresh from the Field," please email Annemarie.Silvia@ride.ri.gov.

As always, we welcome and encourage your feedback about



thrive, Rhode Island's Coordinated School Health model. Please email us at rosemary.reilly-chammat@health.ri.gov or midge.sabatini@ride.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

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