Inputs and Outcomes: PREP Programs Serving Highly Vulnerable Youth

PREP grantees and their program providers are encouraged to serve highly vulnerable populations, including youth in foster care, youth in adjudication systems, homeless or runaway youth, pregnant or parenting youth, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, youth in residential treatment for mental health issues, and youth who have trouble speaking or understanding English.

141 programs across 33 states and territories primarily served at least one highly vulnerable population.
These programs reached about 15,500 youth annually.a

Among programs serving highly vulnerable populations, most served youth in foster care or adjudicated youthb

51% served primarily youth in foster care
33% served primarily adjudicated youth

About one in ten programs primarily served youth in each of the following groups: in residential treatment for mental health, pregnant or parenting, homeless or runaway, identified as LGBTQ, and trouble speaking or understanding Englishb

a Program that “primarily served” a highly vulnerable population are those that reported that at least half of the youth they served were from one or more highly vulnerable population. Program data do not identify whether each individual participant is or is not from a highly vulnerable population.

b Programs can serve multiple populations.
Programs that serve highly vulnerable populations mostly take place in out-of-school settings

Foster care settings

Juvenile detention centers

Community-based organizations

Programs that serve highly vulnerable populations are serving older youth who already have engaged in risky sexual behaviors before PREP

Percentage of youth ages 15–18

Two-thirds (67 percent) of youth in these programs have been sexually active, compared to 41 percent of high school-age youth nationally

Among sexually active youth, almost one-third (29 percent) had ever been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant

More than one-third of sexually active youth did not reliably use any birth control (41 percent) or condoms (34 percent) before participating in PREP

Participants reported positive outcomes after participating in PREP programs

Following the program, about half (49 percent) of these youth reported they were less likely to have sex in the next six months

A large majority reported they were more likely to use birth control (67 percent) or condoms (73 percent) if they have sex

Source: 2014–2015 PREP participant entry and exit survey and attendance, reach, and dosage data reported by SPREP, TPREP, and CPREP grantees.

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