

# CDC'S ADOLESCENT AND SCHOOL HEALTH WORK IMPROVES HEALTH & SAVES MONEY

## IN 2019, U.S. HIGH SCHOOL-AGED STUDENTS:

**38 percent** report having ever had sex

One-quarter of all chlamydia cases – and **4 percent of new HIV infections** – occurred among youth aged 13-19 in 2017

**1 in 7** report misusing prescription opioids, which can **lead to overdose**, injection drug use, and increased risk for HIV and viral hepatitis

Nearly **1 in 5** report being bullied at school

>> Lesbian, gay, or bisexual students are **twice as likely** to be bullied and more likely to have experienced violence

IN THE U.S., SCHOOLS HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR POPULATION-LEVEL IMPACT THROUGH THEIR DIRECT CONTACT WITH MILLIONS OF STUDENTS

## HEALTH



Quality HIV and STD prevention education helps youth make healthier choices.

- From 2015 to 2019, schools within CDC-funded local education agencies saw **statistically significant declines** in the percentage of students who ever had sex (from 40.8% to 38.4%).



Youth are less likely to receive recommended preventive health services than adults and often face unique barriers to accessing sexual health services.

- From 2014-2018, CDC funded districts made more than **65,000 referrals** to youth-friendly providers for key health services.



Helping young people feel engaged and cared for at home and at school — also called connectedness — may have substantial health benefits that last well beyond their teenage years.

- In one CDC study, higher levels of teen connectedness were associated with as much as a 66% lower risk in areas of mental health, violence, sexual risks, and substance use.

## MONEY



CDC-funded programs prevent risk for HIV and other STDs for less than **\$10** per student



CDC funding connects nearly **8%** of the **26 million** middle and high school students nationwide to quality health education, health services, and safe and supportive school environments:

- From 2014-2018, funded local education agencies **increased the proportion of schools that implemented quality sexual health education** programs from 61 percent to 88 percent in middle schools and from 83 percent to 93 percent in high schools.



School-based HIV/STD prevention programs are cost-effective.

- One study found that \$1 invested in school-based HIV & STD prevention efforts **saved \$2.65 in medical and social costs**.

