

# 2024ward: Building Brighter Futures for Today's Youth

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(ACYF) Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)  
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program Grantee  
Conference.



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Mission  
**WEST VIRGINIA**

# Powered by Community

Providing Sexual & Reproductive  
Health Education to Teens in Rural  
Communities in West Virginia

# OUR Objectives

- Implement innovation strategies to support positive youth development in their communities.
- Integrate a holistic approach to engaging youth leaders and ensuring the program is responsive to the needs of the communities.
- Locate the nearest Title X Family Planning Clinic for adolescents in their communities.
- Develop an initial strategy for collaboration between APP Programs, Title X, and other youth serving organizations.



# WORLD'S BIGGEST FAN

## Step 1

Find a partner  
–Introduce yourself to your neighbor

## Step 2

Play Rock, Paper, Scissors.  
Best of 3 wins!

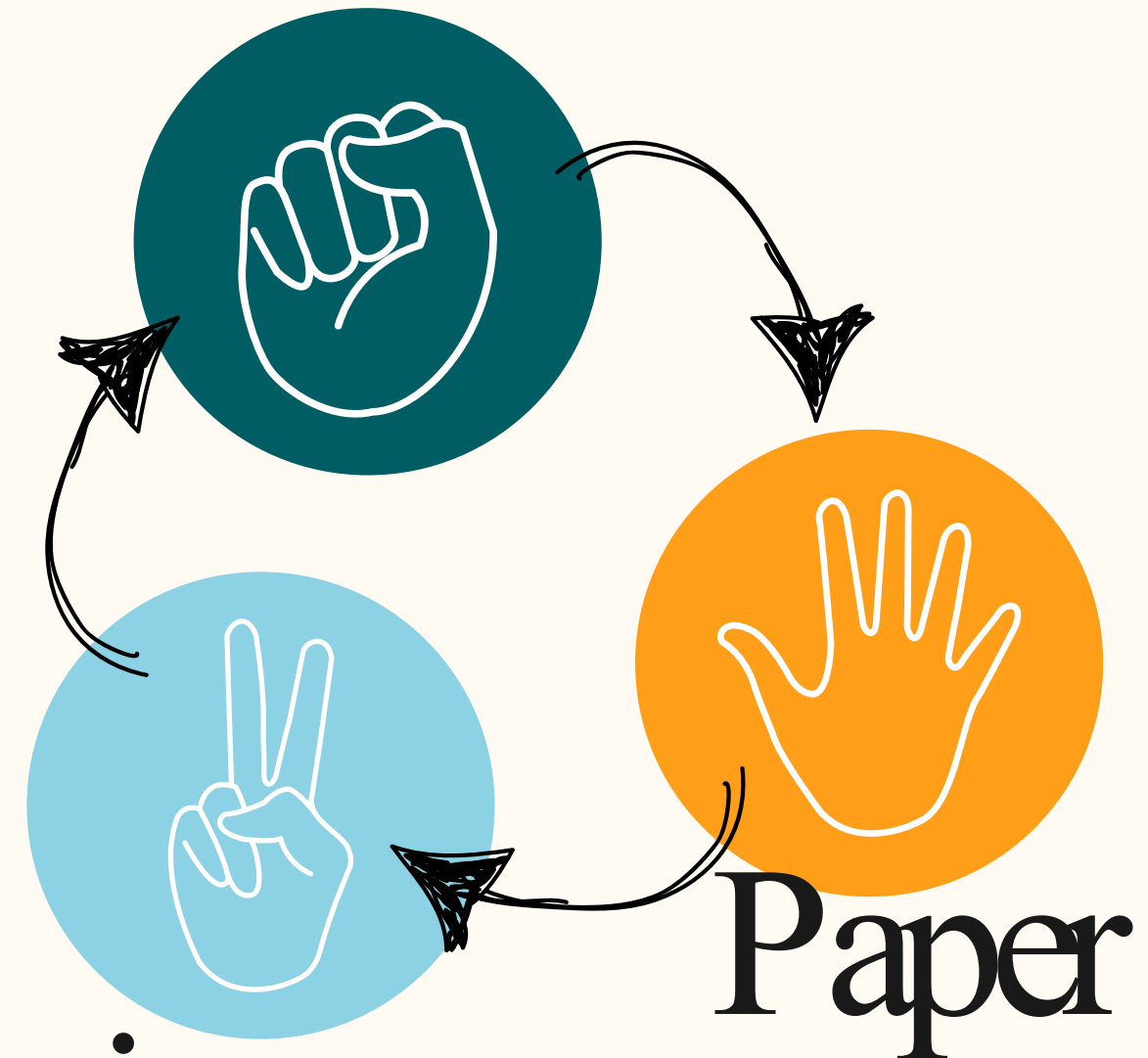
## Step 3

Winner goes on to play the winner of another pair; the person who loses now becomes the world's biggest fan of winner – you cheer them on with everything you've got!

## Step 4

Repeat. Each winner's fan base will continue to grow. Play until we have one champ!

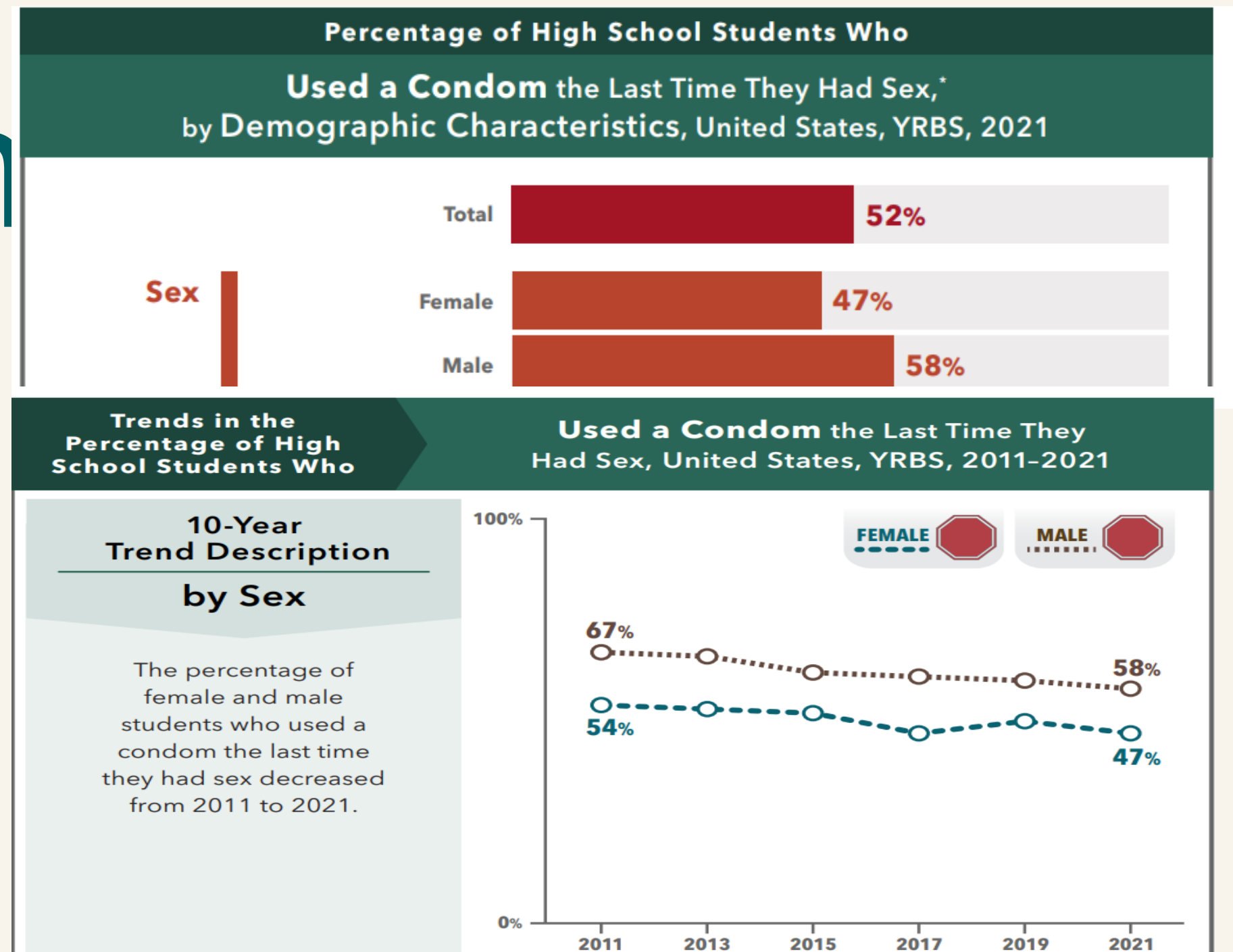
# Rock



# Scissors

# WHY IS THIS important

- Many of the negative consequences of sexual initiation are preventable
  - Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and diseases (STDs)
  - Unintended pregnancies
  - Nonconsensual sexual activity

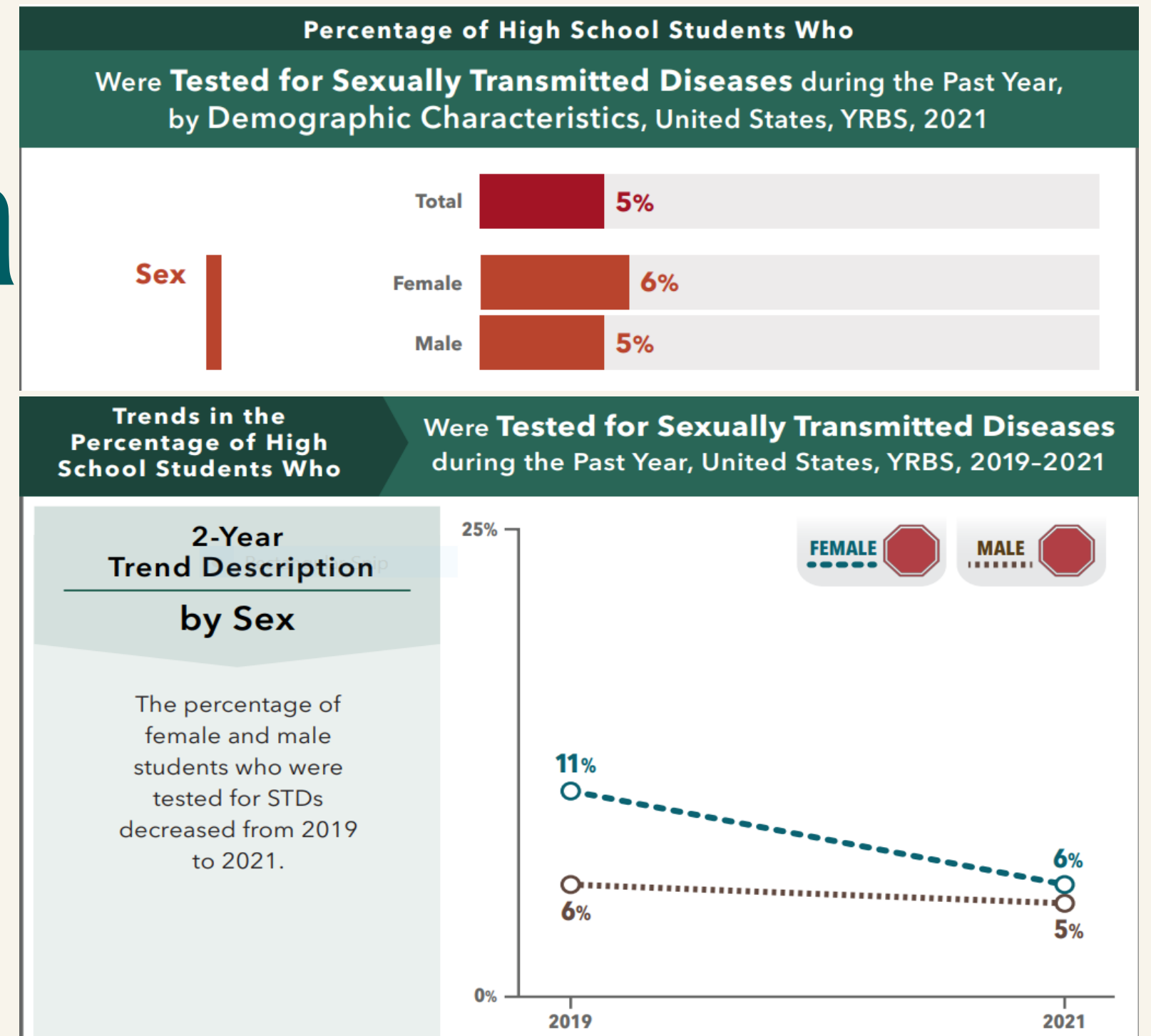


YRBSS 2021 data

# ADOLESCENT Sexual Beha

The percentage of sexually active students who used condoms decreased from 2011 to 2021

The percentage of students who had ever been tested for HIV decreased from 2011 to 2021 and the percentage of students who were tested for STDs decreased from 2019 to 2021



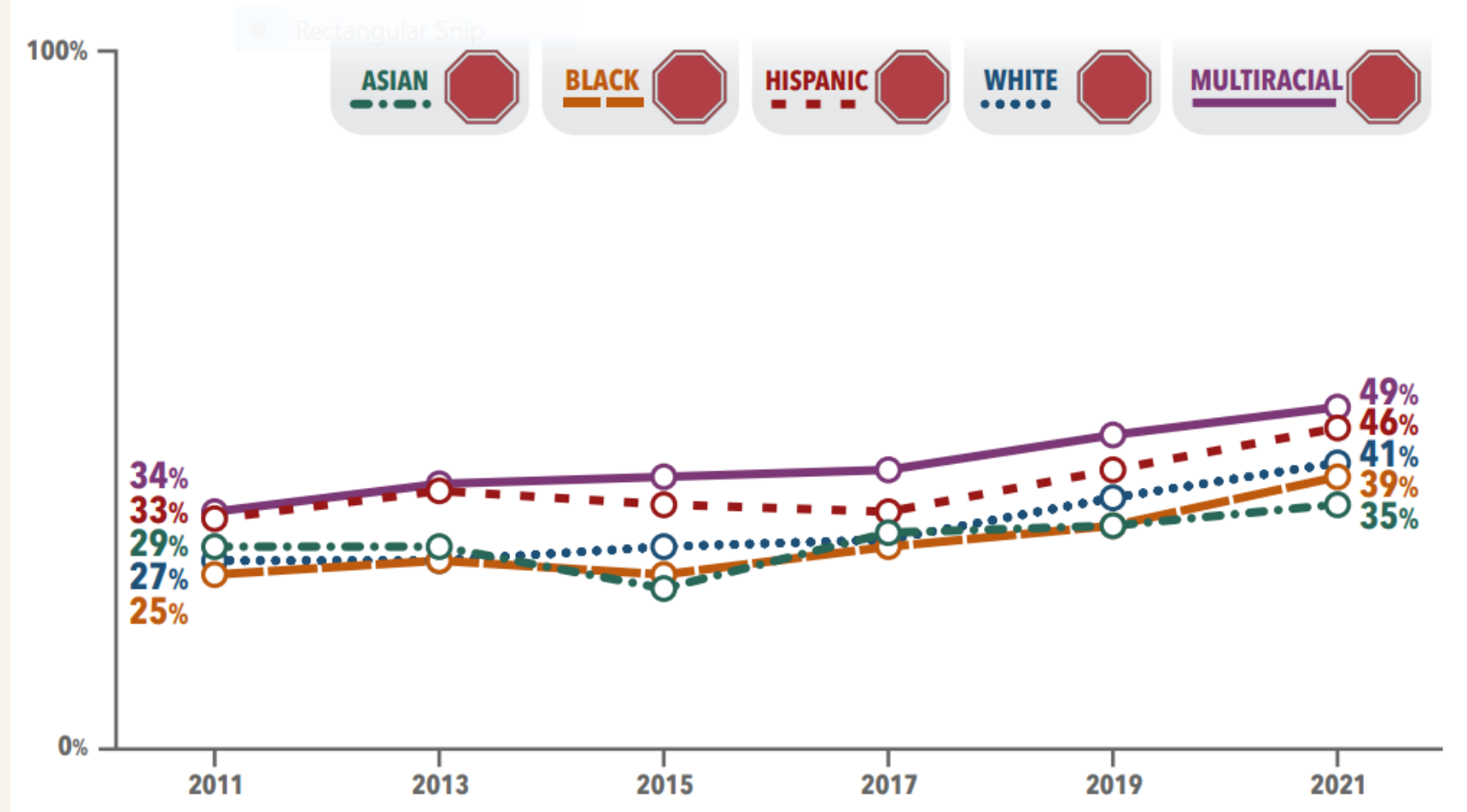
# Youth Mental Health

Hispanic and multiracial students were more likely than Asian, Black, and white students to have persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness.

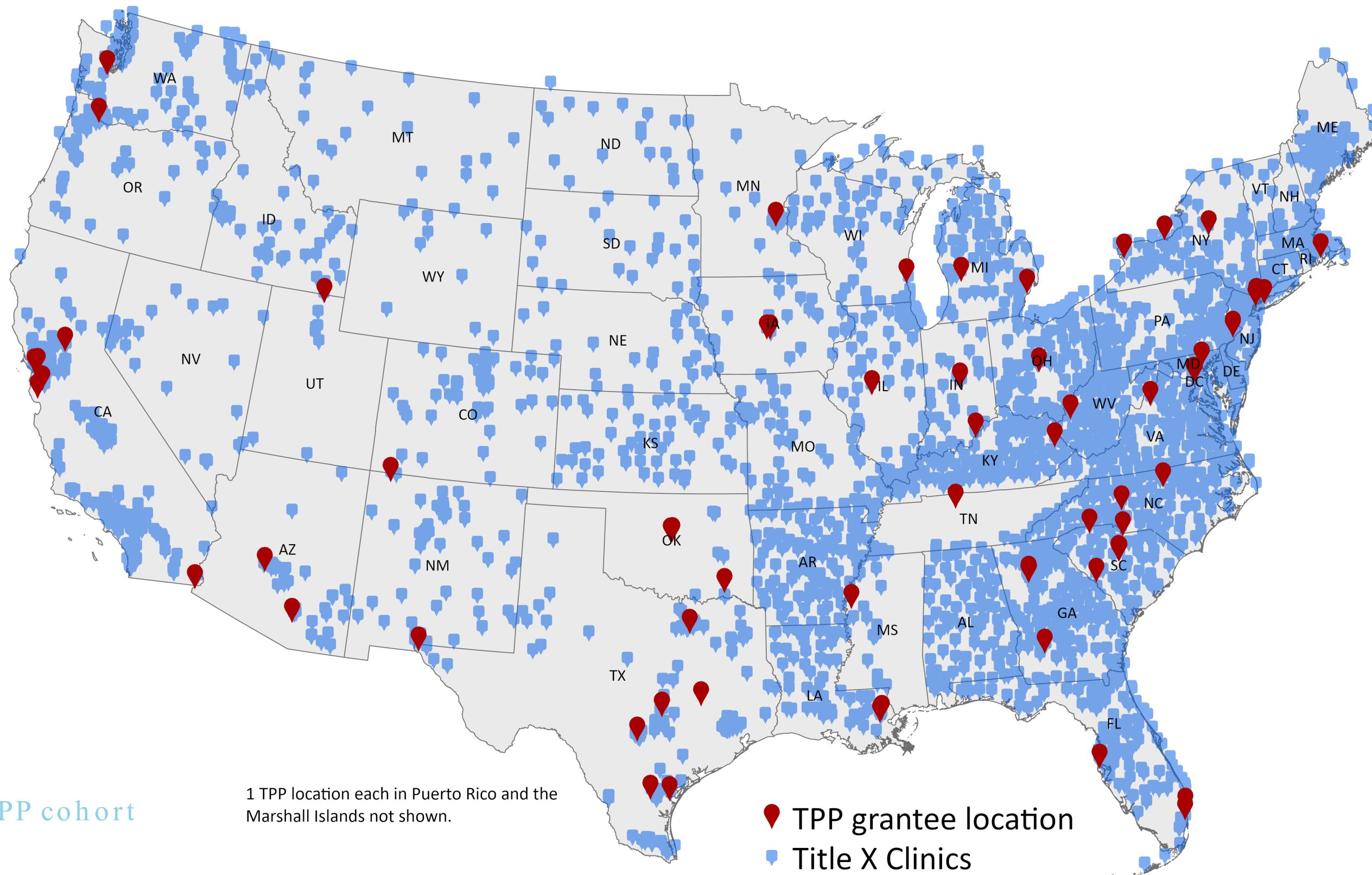
Black students were more likely than Asian, Hispanic, and White students to attempt suicide.

## 10-Year Trend Description by Race & Ethnicity

The percentage of students in each racial and ethnic group who experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness increased from 2011 to 2021.







Source: RHNTC  
Reflects 2020 TPP cohort

1 TPP location each in Puerto Rico and the Marshall Islands not shown.

- TPP grantee location
- Title X Clinics



Office of  
Population Affairs



# Mission **WEST VIRGINIA**

## **VISION**

One people, one state, working together to provide every child with a loving family and the knowledge to make positive choices for a healthier future.

## **MISSION**

Mission WV changes the lives of youth and families. We promote positive futures by recruiting foster families, providing life skills education and creating community connections.

**OUR**  
**Driven Values**



Open your life.  
**frameworks**

FrameWorks is a program of Mission West Virginia that finds families for children waiting in the foster care system.

Our efforts include recruiting families to foster/adopt, helping families to navigate the certification process and providing support to kinship caregivers. Additionally, we organize events throughout the year to promote awareness of foster care, adoption and kinship care.



# THE BRIDGE Program

The Bridge is a mentoring program with the primary goal of providing academic support services to remove barriers to success for students in foster or kinship care or experiencing homelessness.

The target population for The Bridge Program is youth in foster care, kinship care, or those experiencing homelessness in 9th-12th grade.





Teaching Health Instead  
of Nagging Kids

## OVERVIEW

Mission WV's THINK program has been providing effective, evidence-based reproductive health education since 2007. THINK has provided over 130,000 students and adults across 29 counties in West Virginia with pregnancy prevention education services since the start of the program.



# OUR CORE Areas of Focus



## PREVENTING TEEN PREGNANCY

We work to prevent unintended pregnancies in middle and high school youth by providing evidence-based reproductive health education.

## HIV AND STI PREVENTION & EDUCATION

Through the THINK program, we help to educate middle and high school youth about HIV and STIs to reduce the spread of potentially life-threatening diseases.

## HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

We help youth learn what unhealthy relationships look like, the different forms of abuse, and how to build more positive relationships with their partner, friends, family and more.

# OUR CORE Areas of Focus

## POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

We provide youth with basic life skills to have the tools and education for a brighter future.

## PARENT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

We offer tips for parents, educators, and youth organizations to better communicate with young adults about love, sex, and relationships.



# PROGRAM Overview



- 3 grants
- 20 counties
- Over 100 sites
  - Middle School
  - High School
  - Alt. school
  - Juvenile Justice
  - Foster Care
  - Community Organizations
  - Psychiatric treatment Facilities
  - Virtual schools
- 2 implementation partners (RMC and CASE)
- Outside evaluation team (AMTC)
- Needs assessments/referral process
- Community Advisory Groups
- Youth Support Program
- MWV THINK App
- Youth Leadership Councils
- EBP curricula
  - Love Notes 4.0 (TPP, SRAE, Title V)
  - Positive Potential (TPP)
  - Relationship Smarts PLUS (Title V)



# NEEDS OF THE POPULATION



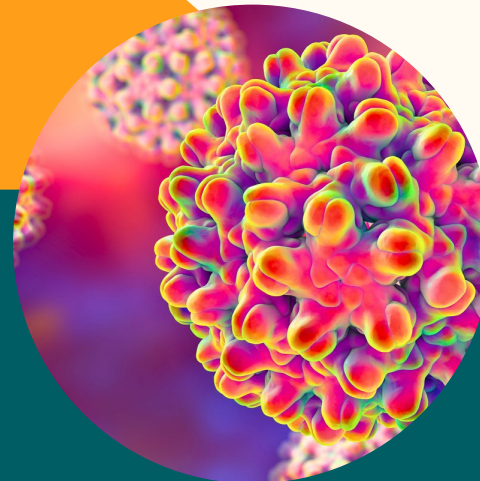
POVERTY



FOSTER CARE/KINSHIP  
CARE RATES



HIGH TEEN  
BIRTH RATE



INCREASING STI RATES



LACK OF ACCESS TO  
SERVICES



HIGH JUVENILE  
JUSTICE RATES

# SAY What?

- Collaboration, Title X, Positive Youth Development, Innovation, Youth Leaders, Holistic Approach, Sexual and Reproductive Health, APP Programs



HOW DO THESE ALL TIE  
TOGETHER TO CREATE  
STRONGER  
CONNECTIONS FOR THE  
YOUTH WE SERVE?

# FIRST...

## What is Connection?



### Definition

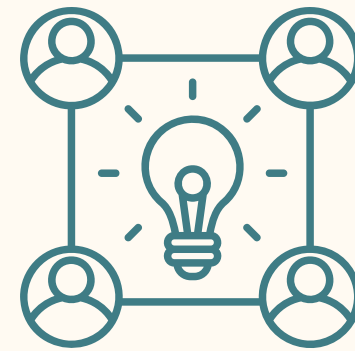
- 01 the act or state of connecting; union.
- 02 something that connects, joins, or relates; link or bond.

### Synonym

associate, combine, join, link, relate, and unite.



# CONNECTIONS



In our world of reproductive and sexual health, connections can be a variety of things:

- We need our students/youth to connect with the educator/facilitator
- We need our students/youth to connect with the curriculum/program
- We need to connect with other organizations to provide a holistic approach to adolescent health better
- We need to connect with other youth-serving organizations to collaborate on how to help provide education on health-related topics that we do not cover
- We need to connect to Title X clinics to help provide confidential, free, or low-cost reproductive and sexual health services to youth and families
- We could spend all day talking about different types of connections, but we are going to focus on just a few for the rest of the presentation, breaking them down by our objectives

# OBJECTIVE #1

## BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

Build partnerships with other youth-serving organizations that can assist in providing PYD education to youth and families.

## HOW THINK DOES THIS

- Curricula choice
- Teen expos
- Specialized topics for youth outside the curriculum
- Community/youth events
- Meeting state laws
- Youth Support
- THINK App



# RESOURCES at your finger



Already Registered? Log in here.

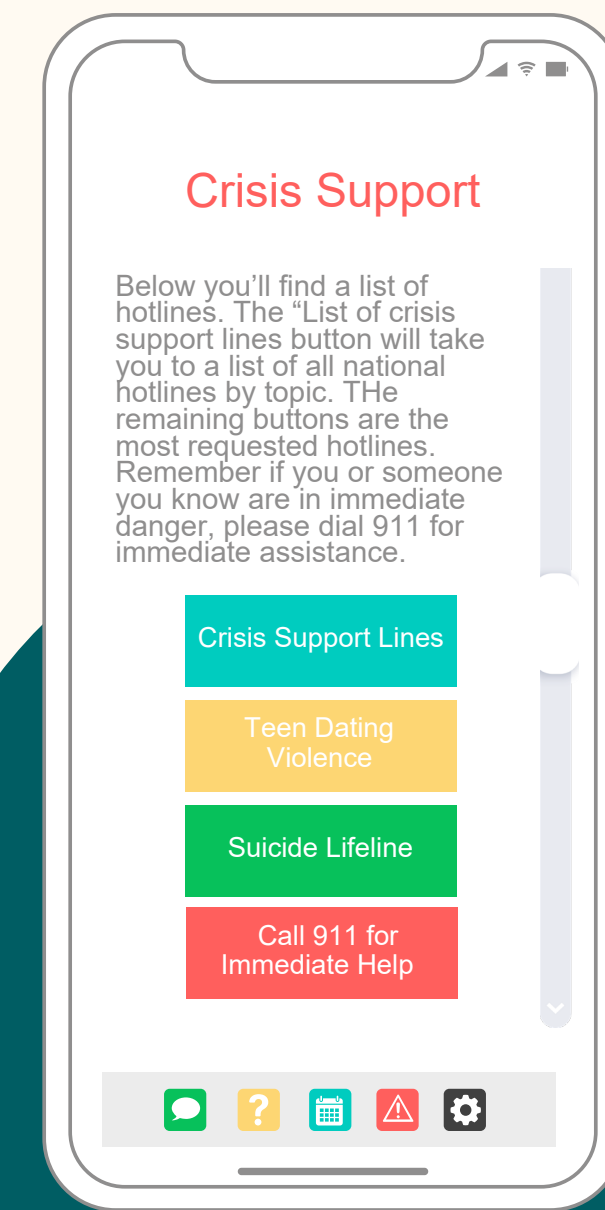
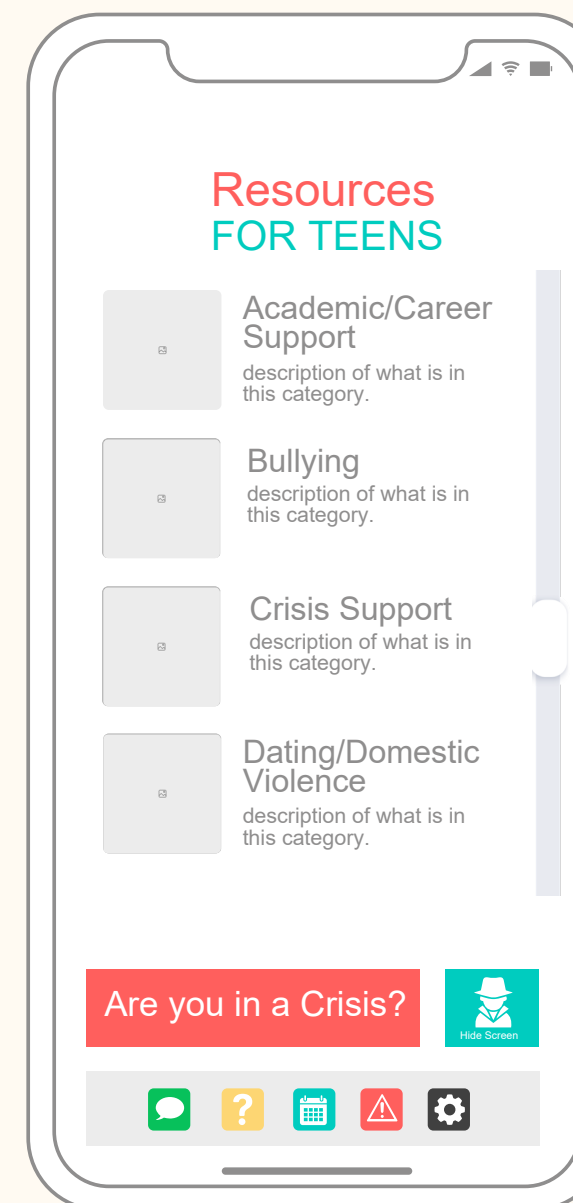
Sign up

This app is brought to you by:



Embark on an adventure with the Mission WV THINK app - your trusty digital companion in the thrilling saga of teen life!

This app isn't just an app; it's a portal to a universe where students, parents, and guardians unite to conquer the challenges of being a teenager in today's world. Imagine having a magic key that unlocks instant access to a treasure trove of resources, tailored to navigate the twists and turns of adolescence.



# OBJECTIVE #2

Integrate a holistic approach to engaging youth leaders and ensuring that the program is responsive to the needs of the communities.



## YOUTH VOICE

Youth MUST have a significant voice in all aspects of your program – from program design to implementation to evaluation.

## HOW THINK DOES THIS

- Do NOT just focus on reproductive health is it related to STIs and contraception.
- Utilize a PYD approach focusing on all high-risk behaviors and different strategies to address (i.e., artwork, story telling, creating of events, tabling, educational resources, music, poetry, etc.). All of this will help get a variety of youth to participate in youth engagement.
- Create a Youth Leadership Council or tap into an existing youth leadership group at the site.
  - 3 regional YLCs and one new statewide YLC.
- Have youth tell you what their peers need and help create content.
  - Video (bridge obj. 2 with obj. 3)
  - Youth Panels





# OBJECTIVE #3

Locate the nearest Title X Family Planning Clinic for adolescents in their communities.



## PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships between TPP Programs and Title X Family Planning is an extremely important collaboration that is vital to adolescent health and wellbeing.

## HOW THINK DOES THIS

- Website
- Training between clinic staff and TPP program staff.
- Provide educational resources to clinics for them to hand out to youth and families.
- Have Title X clinic staff train TPP Program staff on Title X clinic services, education, confidentiality, insurance, youth friendliness, etc.

# OBJECTIVE #4

Develop an initial strategy for collaboration between TPP Programs, Title X, and other youth serving organizations.

## CONNECTIONS

You cannot save the world alone. You must build connections, partnerships, and collaborations to provide the best possible support and guidance for youth and families.

## HOW THINK DOES THIS

- Starting the partnership/talking points
  - Research organizations and schools/sites.
  - Determine your needs that they can assist with, but also how you can help them.
  - Be prepared to pivot from original ideas and brainstorm new ones together for collaboration.
  - Meeting other needs of schools/sites and partner organizations (ties back to PYD, teen expos, events, specialized presentations, and state laws).
  - Find someone in your circle that knows the school/site/organization that you want to partner with to help start that connection and/or know who to contact.



# OBJECTIVE #4 CONTINUED...

## HOW THINK DOES THIS

- Send an email first. Keep it informational but short. Do not overload someone with information.
  - If no response, re-send email.
  - If still not response, call.
- If still not response, reach out to your contact/connection to see if they can help set up a meeting or connect you. If you do not have a contact/connection, it might be time to move on for now and try again

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Roadshows
- Community Day
- Muti-organization events
- Form a CAG or community group



# COMMUNITY DAY

# Goals of the Day

## INTRODUCTIONS

3-5-minute presentation by each organization about their organization/program and services.

## ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Three rounds of discussions.

- Youth Engagement/Education
- Parent/Caregiver Engagement/Education
- Community Engagement/Education



# COMMUNITY DAY Roundtable

## THREE ROUNDS

- Three rounds of table discussions (each table will have a moderator)
  - All MWV, RMC, and CASE staff will choose a different table each round
  - Other organizations may also choose a different table each round (encouraged), however, organizations can also choose to stay at tables that are more applicable to them during the table changes.

## TABLES

- Youth (Yellow)
- Parents/Caregivers (Red)
- Community (Teal)

## DISCUSSION

- Discussion Ideas (40 minutes each round)
  - What each organization does currently to engage/educate each tables population
  - Success and challenges
  - Support needed and ways to help each other
  - Specific goals of program and any assistance to reach goals
  - Ways marginalized populations are served with youth, parents/caregivers, and community members
  - Inclusive of all populations
  - Innovative or unique approaches
  - Event ideas to partner on together
  - Training ideas

# COMMUNITY DAY Closing

## NEXT STEPS

- Notes will be compiled and emailed out to all attendees.
- Discussion through email to determine if anyone is interested in a follow-up meeting via zoom or in person with appropriate THINK staff and other organizations in attendance.
- Action plan created based on outcomes from follow-up meeting.

## QUESTIONS?

Any questions about how this works, topics, etc?



SMALL GROUP

*Activity*



## TIME

10-15 minutes based on time available.

## OBJECTIVES

All 4 of our objectives focus on connecting and collaborating with other organizations in our communities.

- As a group,
  - Discuss 1 partnership each of your organizations would like to have but currently do not.
  - Why is this partnership not in place? Challenges/issues?
  - Think about how to contract them. Is there someone you know that also knows the organization you want to partner with?
  - Create 3-5 talking points you can email them with or take to the initial meeting on reasons why you think a partnership would be beneficial to you both.

# REFERENCES

1. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) | CDC. Published May 9, 2024. Accessed May 9, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>



QUESTIONS?

# THANK YOU

## Keep in Touch with Us

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### Session Evaluation

Please complete a brief evaluation form for all workshop, forum and networking sessions by scanning the following QR code or visiting the following link:

<https://bit.ly/2024Evaluations>

