

# Sexuality Education in the WHO European Region

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## KYRGYZSTAN

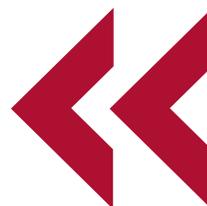


# KYRGYZSTAN



## Status of sexuality education

In close collaboration with international donors, the Kyrgyz Government has taken a number of steps to integrate sexuality education into the school curriculum. Currently, sexuality education in Kyrgyzstan is not a stand-alone subject, and its implementation and delivery varies across the country.





## Laws and policies

A number of laws in the country regulate reproductive rights and access to information and education on sexual and reproductive health. In 2015, numerous changes were made to the Law on Reproductive Rights of the Citizens and Guarantees of their Fulfilment<sup>1</sup>, which emphasises access to information about SRH.

## Implementation of sexuality education

Since 2015, sexuality education has been integrated into the subject 'Healthy Lifestyle' for learners<sup>2</sup> in grades 6–11 (12 years and older). This subject is not mandatory and is taught differently depending on the region, the location of the school, the preparedness of teachers and other administrative factors. **The subject covers a variety of topics, e.g. hygiene, family planning, teenage pregnancy, early marriage and bride-kidnapping, violence, reproductive rights, sexual development and gender, spread over different grades.** The Ministry of Education and the Kyrgyz Academy of Education, with the involvement of parents' committees in the schools, are largely responsible for curriculum development.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) also carry out various educational sessions and workshops on SRH for different age groups using an interactive format. They also provide classes on World AIDS Day, World Health Day, etc.

## Training of teachers on sexuality education

In 2014, the Ministry of Education, the Kyrgyz Academy of Education and the Ministry of Health approved methodological guidelines for teachers on this subject, which were developed together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the 'Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit' (GIZ). Yet, to date no special nationwide training is provided for teachers.

## Sexuality education outside the formal school setting

Outside the school setting, sexuality education is provided by NGOs, e.g. the Reproductive Health Alliance Kyrgyzstan (RHAK, IPPF member association) through different programmes such as the Y-PEER network. Information on sexuality education is also provided via local TV/radio channels and internet resources, where topics such as sexuality, pregnancy, abortion and contraception are discussed.

## Data

### → Abortion

According to the Ministry of Health, 1 408 young girls aged under 20 years old had abortions in the year 2015.

### → STI

In 2015, there were 297 registered cases of sexually transmitted infections among young people aged 15 – 19 years.





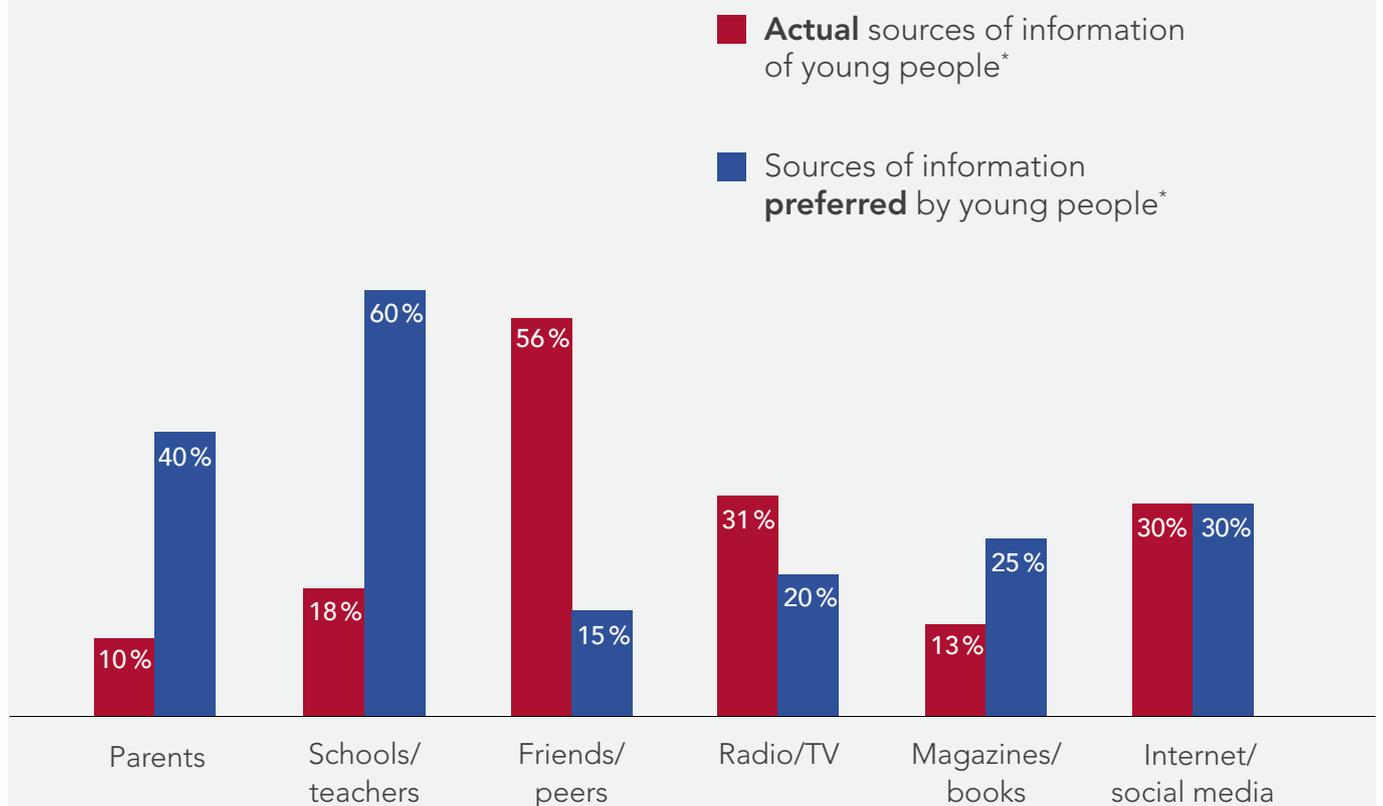
### Challenges

Opposition to sexuality education comes mostly from religious groups and some political parties. Nevertheless, public discussions surrounding this topic are taking place, with strong advocacy from NGOs and medical and educational specialists.

### Good-practice example

RHAK implemented the project ‘Promotion of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in the System of Vocational Education in Kyrgyzstan’ with the support of IPPF. In 2015, RHAK worked closely with the Agency for Vocational Education to introduce sexuality education programmes for students through three pilot regions. The aim of the project was to form stable connections between formal and non-formal education on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the vocational education system and to establish a referral system to youth-friendly consultations for students. In 2016, as a result of this project, a joint plan was developed which aimed to increase the capacity of school teachers and to train peer educators among students in Talas, Issyk-Kul and Chui oblasts (regions).

### Source of information on sexuality related topics<sup>3</sup>



\* more than one answer was possible

# Country facts



Kyrgyzstan

Total population <sup>4</sup>	5 957 000
Population aged 15–19 years (% of 15–19-year-olds in total population) <sup>4</sup>	520 000 (8.7 %)
Government expenditure on education (% of GDP) <sup>5</sup>	6.8
Youth unemployment rate (% of labour force aged 15–24 years) <sup>6</sup>	14.6
Gender Inequality Index rating <sup>7</sup>	0.394
Births per 1 000 women aged 15–19 years <sup>8</sup>	39
% of 15-year-olds who have had sexual intercourse <sup>9</sup>	N/A
Average age of mother at birth of first child <sup>10</sup>	23.3

N/A: not available

For references go to last page

## References / Definitions

- 1 Law on Reproductive Rights of the Citizens and Guarantees of their Fulfilment. Bishkek: Zhogorka Kenesh [parliament]; 2015 (<http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/111191>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 2 **Learner**: a child or young person who is enrolled or attends classes in school, including primary (basic/elementary), secondary (middle) and high school.
- 3 Отчет по мониторингу исполнения закона КР "О репродуктивных правах граждан и гарантиях их реализации". Жогорку Кенешю. UNFPA. Альянс по репродуктивному здоровью. 2011. [Report on monitoring of the implementation of the law of the Kyrgyz Republic 'On the reproductive rights of citizens and guarantees for their implementation.' Zhogorka Kenesh. UNFPA. Reproductive Health Alliance. 2011]
- 4 Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence, 2016 [online database]. New York: United Nations Statistics Division; 2017 (<http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=POP&f=tableCode%3A22>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 5 Human development report 2016: human development for everyone. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Government expenditure on education**: current, capital and transfer spending on education, expressed as a percentage of GDP. The range in the region is approx. 2.0–8.5%.
- 6 Human development data, 2015 [online database]. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2017 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/data#>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Youth unemployment rate**: percentage of the labour force population aged 15–24 years that is not in paid employment or self-employed, but is available for work and has taken steps to seek paid employment or self-employment.
- 7 Human development report 2016: human development for everyone. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Gender Inequality Index**: a composite measure reflecting inequality in the achievements of women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market. It varies between 0 (when women and men fare equally) and 1 (when men or women fare poorly compared to the other sex in all dimensions).
- 8 Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1 000 women ages 15–19). Washington (DC): World Bank; 2016 (<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 9 Growing up unequal: gender and socioeconomic differences in young people's health and well-being. HBSC 2016 study report (2013/2014 survey). Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2016 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/growing-up-unequal.-hbsc-2016-study-20132014-survey>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 10 Mother's mean age at first birth. Index Mundi [data from CIA world factbook, various years] (<https://www.indexmundi.com/factbook/fields/mother's-mean-age-at-first-birth>, accessed 25 March 2017).