



Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Programs: Serving Youth in Out-of-Home Settings

Sexual risk avoidance education (SRAE) programming is intended to serve youth with high risks of teen births and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Research has revealed that youth living outside of their family home, such as youth who have been adjudicated, are in foster care, and have emotional and behavioral health needs, are often at higher risk for these two outcomes than other youth.^{1,2,3}

This snapshot is based on an online survey of SRAE grantees conducted in summer 2020 by Mathematica. It describes the grantees serving these youth in detention centers, foster care group homes, and institutions for youth with emotional and behavioral health needs.⁴

Forty grantees, supported by 56 sub-recipient providers, are operating SRAE programs in three specific settings where they can reach youth.⁵



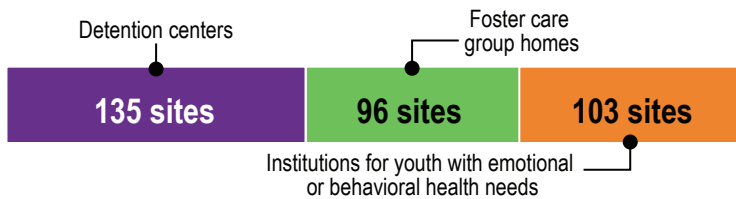
Detention centers



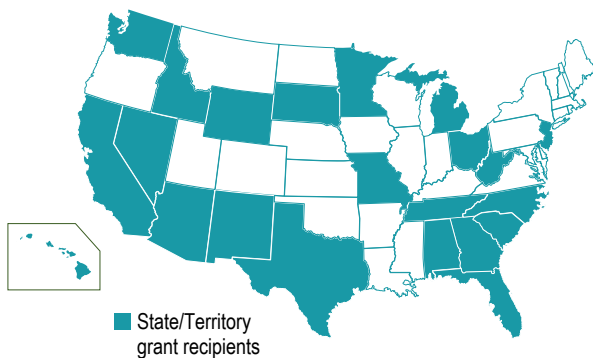
Foster care group homes



Institutions for youth with emotional and behavioral health needs



The grantees and their subrecipient providers are serving youth in **334 sites** in **22 states** across the country.



More than one-third of the grantees serving youth in out-of-home settings intend to expand to more sites in future grant years.



38%
of grantees intend to expand operations in detention centers

40%
of grantees intend to expand operations in foster care group homes



33%
of grantees intend to expand operations in institutions for youth with emotional and behavioral health needs

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Adolescent Health. "Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow." Washington, DC: HHS, 2014.

² Courtney, Mark, and Amy Dworsky. The Risk of Teenage Pregnancy Among Transitioning Foster Care Youth: Outcomes at Age 19." Chicago: Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago, May 2005.

³ Kappeler, Evelyn M. "Adolescent Health and Teen Pregnancy in the United States: A Progress Report." Public Health Report, vol. 130, no. 3, May-June 2015; pp. 196-198.

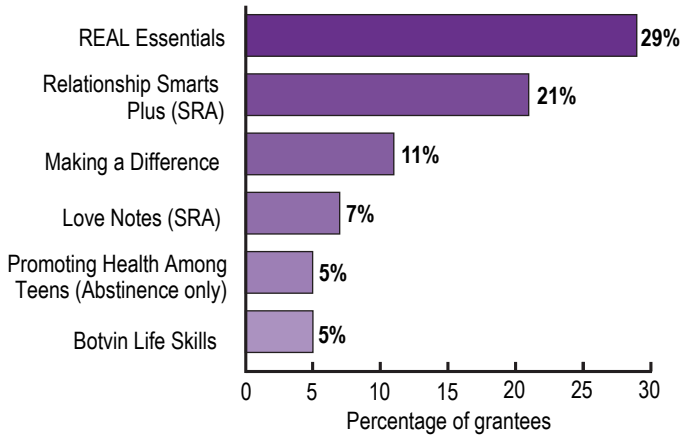
⁴ Since the 2020 data collection effort, FYSB has awarded SRAE grants to additional organizations. The results presented in this brief may not reflect SRAE programming offered by these additional grantees.

⁵ Some SRAE grantees reported serving these vulnerable populations along with other youth in settings such as schools and community-based organizations; however, this snapshot focuses on the grantees serving these three vulnerable populations in the three designated settings where vulnerable youth are most likely to be the primary program recipients.

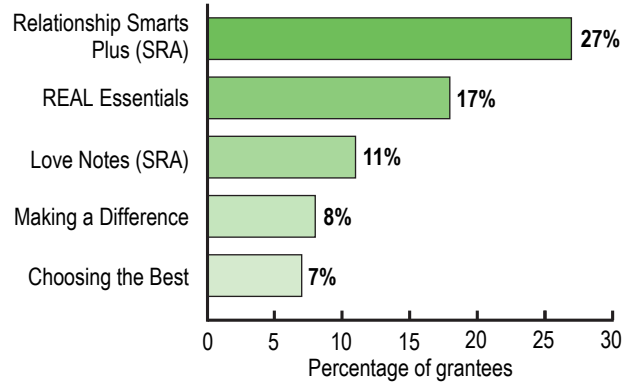
Providers most often used REAL Essentials or Relationship Smarts Plus (SRA) as the primary curriculum to educate youth on SRAE.

Most Common Curricula in Use by SRAE Grantees, by Setting

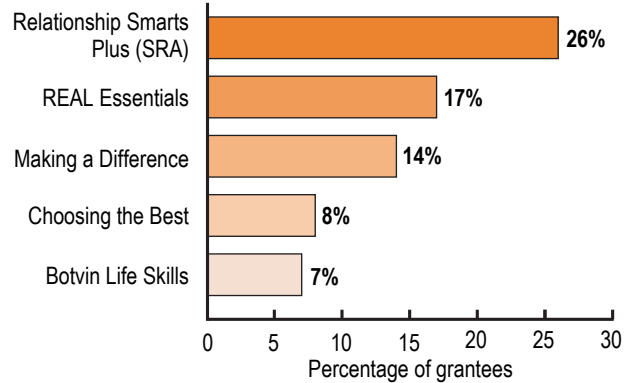
Detention Centers



Foster Care Group Homes



Institutions for Youth with Emotional and Behavioral Health Needs



One-quarter to one-half of providers

serving youth in these settings are supplementing their primary curricula with their own new materials or content from other existing curricula, the more prevalent being Pure and Simple, Making a Difference, and Project AIM (Adult Identity Mentoring).

36% of providers serving youth in detention centers are adding supplemental content

50% of providers serving youth in foster care group homes are adding supplemental content

25% of providers serving youth in institutions for youth with emotional and behavioral health needs are adding supplemental content.



This snapshot is a product of the SRAE National Evaluation (SRAENE). SRAENE has three distinct activities. One is the **National Descriptive Study**, which describes the implementation of programs funded by SRAE grants. This brief draws upon data collected in summer 2020 as part of this effort. The second activity is the **Program Components Impact Study**. We will use a systematic and rigorous approach to test and improve the components of programs. The third is **Data and Evaluation Support**. We help grantees build their capacity to use data and research to improve their programs and support grantees conducting their own evaluations.

Suggested citation: T., DeLisle D., & Zief, S. (2022). *Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Programs: Serving Youth in Out-of-Home Settings* (OPRE Report No. #2022-93). Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.