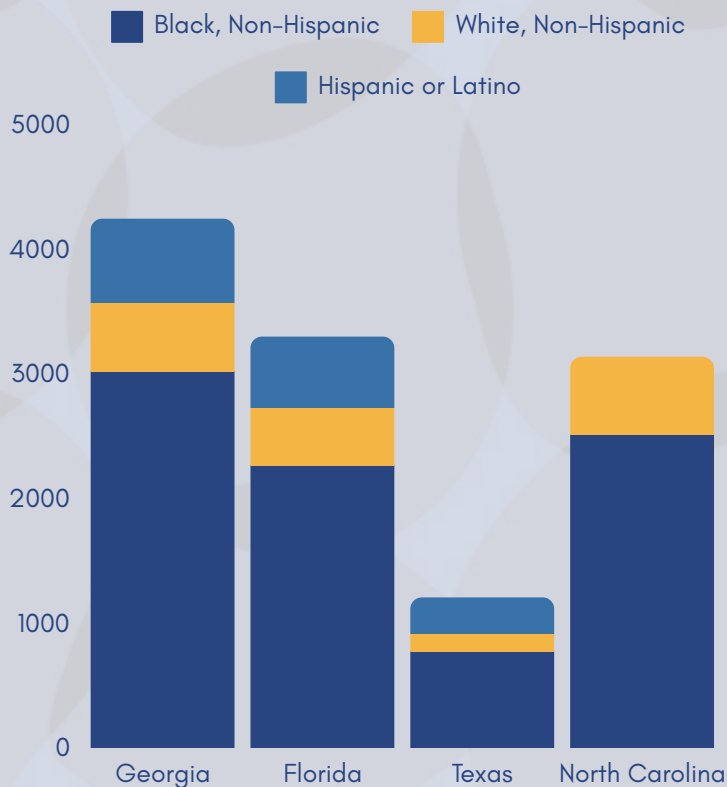


Addressing Disparities in Adolescent STI Rates: A Research Review for Southern States

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Chlamydia Prevalence (rate per 100,000)



Reasons for Disparities

Socioeconomic

- income inequality
- limited access to healthcare
- financial barriers to preventative services
- delaying care due to out-of-pocket costs

Structural Barriers

- limited access to healthcare facilities
- cultural stigma
- systemic inequalities
- neighborhood safety
- access to transportation

To learn more, [click here to visit our webpage](#)

Sex Ed Policies

All four states

- push abstinence,
- neglect conversations of consent,
- and don't require culturally competent sex education or curriculum inclusive of diverse identities

Florida mandates sex & HIV education, but...

- not required to be medically accurate
- not required to be unbiased
- allows religious messaging

Georgia mandates sex ed, but...

- emphasizes abstinence and sex only within marriage
- allows religious messaging

Recommendations

- utilize frameworks such as the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership to ensure the implementation of sexual and reproductive health programs in a culturally competent way
- prioritize technical assistance tools that facilitate capacity-building among local and state agencies
- advocate for policy reforms that prioritize comprehensive sex education in schools
- advocate for the expansion of telehealth services and mobile clinics
- invest in training programs for healthcare providers and develop culturally competent outreach strategies



National Coalition
of STD Directors

Successful Programs:

- California Healthy Youth Act
- Oregon's Healthy Teen Relationship Act