Annual Report 2017

health connected™
SEX ED STARTS HERE

Photos by Harrison Truong and Gina Harrison

STORIES OF IMPACT

What Students Are Saying

"I will not be embarrassed if I go through puberty this year, since now I know what to do."
– 5th grade student in Mountain View, CA

"The activities balanced fun and learning well."
– 5th grade student in Palo Alto, CA

"My favorite part about the program was the hands-on activities that we did because it made it interesting and fun."
– 8th grade student in San Carlos, CA

"We could ask questions with confidence. And everyone was respected."
– 8th grade student in Redwood City, CA

"Now I know how to prevent STIs and pregnancy."
– 9th grade student in San Jose, CA

"We got to have in-depth discussions with our groups and our homework really opened the conversation with my mom."
– 9th grade student in Campbell, CA

What Teachers Are Saying

"Everything was great! [The educator] was great with the students. She answered questions thoroughly and professionally. She provided a safe environment for students to ask all of their questions."
– 5th grade teacher in Redwood City, CA

"I like the approach that normalizes both the vocabulary and the genders learning side by side. Student engagement and co-ed presentation. That the information was accurate and matter-of-fact. Thought it was straight forward easy lessons with spot on information."
– 5th grade teacher in Los Angeles, CA

"There was greater openness in a large group setting to very personal topics. Created a sense of privacy."
– 8th grade teacher in Menlo Park, CA

OUR IMPACT

EMPOWERING YOUTH

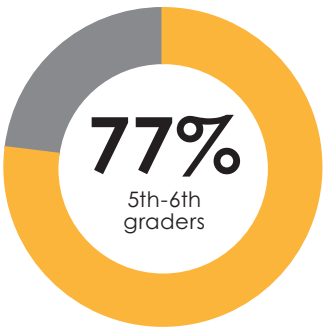
Our health educators provided our courses to a total of **12,808 students**.

EQUIPPING FAMILIES

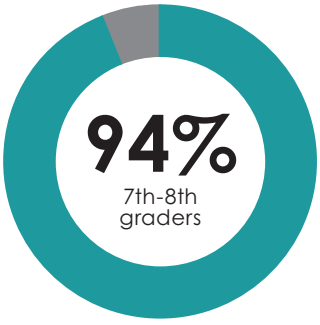
We served a total of **1,222 parents** with our Parent Talk workshops and information sessions.

DRIVING COMMUNITY CHANGE

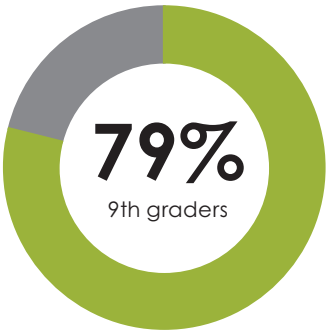
We served a total of **60 school districts** in California. In addition to in-class instruction from our trained health educators, we trained **298 teachers** to implement our courses in their own classrooms, impacting roughly **30,000 additional students**.



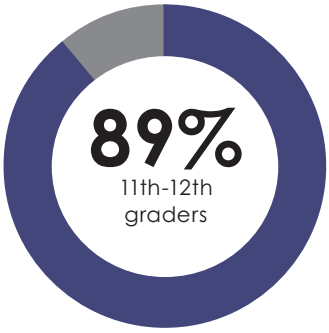
77% of 5th and 6th graders now feel more comfortable with their body and puberty changes.



94% of 7th and 8th graders would intervene if their friend made homophobic or transphobic comments.

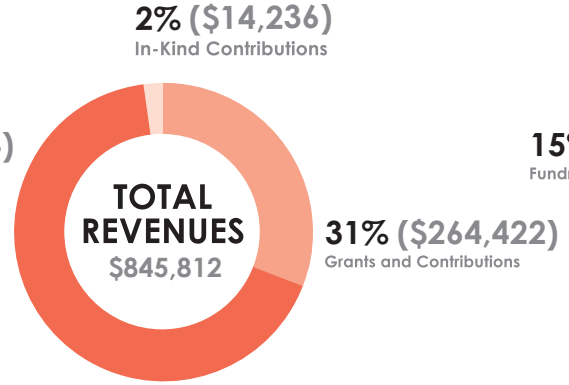


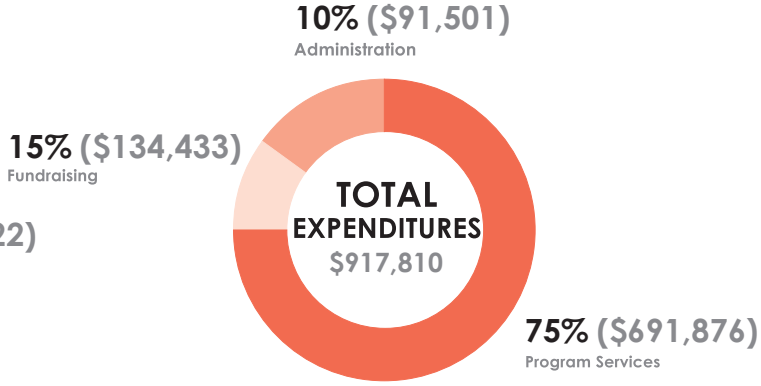
79% of 9th graders now feel more comfortable accessing clinic services.



89% of 11th and 12th graders agree that this program will make it easier for them to practice safer sex now or in the future.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2016-2017





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Health Connected is deeply grateful for the support of individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations whose generous contributions make our programs and services possible. The following list reflects gifts received for programs provided between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Please accept our apology for any errors or omissions. If you have any corrections, please contact us at 650.367.1937 x12.

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Abigail Karlin-Resnick and Andrew Cheng
Anjali and Vivek Rao
Molly and Jorge Tapias

HIGHLIGHTS 2016-2017

Creating a Vision and Strategic Direction

In 2017, we completed our 2017-2021 strategic plan. Over the next few years, we are taking on initiatives in three areas: 1) Innovation: Creating leading-edge adolescent sexual health curricula, 2) Expansion: Broadening our impact across California by replicating our community-wide approach to adolescent sexual health, and 3) Evaluation: Demonstrating the impact of Health Connected's programs and model of community engagement. To achieve these strategic initiatives we will focus on bolstering long-term financial resiliency, continuing to invest in exemplary talent, determining the most effective organizational structure, and increasing advocacy and awareness-building of the organization and our work. Our vision is that by 2030, Health Connected will empower 500,000 youth each year to make thoughtful choices about their sexual health and relationships throughout their lives.

No Longer the Best Kept Secret

Over the last year, Health Connected has opened our doors to members of the community. Many people are not aware that Health Connected, a local nonprofit, partners with communities across California to provide adolescent sexual health education in their schools. We want to be out in the community spreading the word about our important work and to continue to drive change in adolescent sexual health education. In order to do that, we needed to no longer be the best kept secret, but a more active participant in the community. In the fall of 2016, we launched our Tours of 21st Century Sex Ed—free, one-hour events for members of our community to simply get to know us and our work. These events have lead to fruitful, ongoing community dialogue and new partnerships.

To register for a tour, go to:
www.health-connected.org/tours-of-21st-century-sex-ed

Leading the Way

We dare to address areas all too often overlooked when it comes to sex ed. We are currently developing a curriculum called Teen Talk Youth Facing Adversity that will address the needs of those facing significant challenges in their lives, such as youth who are incarcerated or in foster care. Given the environmental instability for these students, sex ed often takes a back seat, creating widespread inequity in adolescent sexual health education. We want to ensure that these youth on the margins of our educational system are given the same opportunities to develop their ability to make choices that support their health and safety. Health Connected has partnered with San Mateo County Court and Community Schools for many years to provide students sexual health education through our Teen Talk High School curriculum. Over the years our health educators have found themselves adapting our curriculum in the field to better serve the needs of these students. Developing a curriculum to specifically address the needs for youth facing adversity was a natural next step in our continued innovation.

Working Together to Create Change

The need has always existed, but we are seeing first-hand communities across California waking up to the fact that the adolescents in their community need better sex ed. It is thrilling to work with communities that are taking action for the health and well-being of their youth. Last year was an exciting year for new community collaborations across the state—nearly doubling the number of schools we partner with. Health Connected is working hand-in-hand with schools throughout California to create change in adolescent sexual health education that takes into account all of the stakeholders in a community who support young people. The need to serve more communities continues to grow with no plateau in sight. The team at Health Connected is excited to see where this year will take us.

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