

# State Profiles FISCAL YEAR 2015



## A Portrait of Sexuality Education in the States

SIECUS is pleased to publish the *State Profiles: A Portrait of Sexuality Education in the States*. The fiscal year (FY) 2015 edition of the *SIECUS State Profiles* includes individual profiles for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the outer United States territories. This 13th edition contains information from FY 2015, October 1, 2014–September 30, 2015.

As in recent years' editions, the overall status of states' policies, health data, and federal programs in the FY 2015 *SIECUS State Profiles* illustrates the progress advocates and educators have made in improving sexuality education law, policy, and implementation. Yet, discouragingly the profiles still show an all too prominent role that abstinence-only-until-marriage (AOUM) programs still play in schools and communities across the country. While we continue to see progress in moving away from the failed experiment of AOUM programs toward evidence-informed and medically accurate sexual health programs, our work is far from over.

By the end of FY 2015:

- Years the Federal Government has dedicated funding for comprehensive sexuality education: 0
- Years the Federal Government has dedicated funding for abstinence-only programs: 33
- \$1.87 billion in federal funds had been spent since 1982 on abstinence-only programs that intentionally withhold life-affirming and lifesaving information.
- \$55 million in federal funding for abstinence-only programs was awarded in 41 states and territories:
  - Title V state AOUM program – 36 states and six territories
  - Competitive “abstinence education” (CAE) grant program – 10 states
- The average Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage state-grant award was \$1.19 million. When the state match requirement is taken into consideration, the average award plus match funds resulted in \$2.07 million in spending on these shaming and stigmatizing programs.
- Federal funding for evidence-informed, medically accurate, and age-appropriate programs was awarded in all but one of the 59 states and territories:
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) – 24 states and the District of Columbia
  - Office of Adolescent Health’s (OAH) Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP) – 32 states and one territory
  - Family and Youth Services Bureau’s (FYSB) Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) – 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six territories

This annual publication presents a clear record of how federal funds for adolescent sexual health promotion and AOUM programs are being utilized and implemented across the country, and provides the information educators and advocates need to continue to learn and strategize with each other. At the same time, SIECUS recognizes that many schools and communities are advancing sexuality education without the assistance of federal funds. It is our hope that we can collectively build from all of these best practices and varying models of success to advance sexuality education and support the lifelong health of our nation's youth.

Each FY 2015 SIECUS State Profile includes:

- Current laws and policies related to sexuality education;
- Adolescent sexual health data;
- Information on the recipients and their use of federal DASH, TPPP, PREP, Title V state AOUM program, and the CAE grant program funding; and
- Contact information for the state or territory's DASH, TPPP, PREP and Title V AOUM state grant program coordinators.

In addition, the *SIECUS State Profiles* also includes a federal funding overview highlighting the year's trends at the federal and state levels, including a historical summary of federal funding for adolescent programs related to sexual health and AOUM programs; a table of the states' laws related to sexuality education; and description summaries of the curricula or programs being used across the country.

For the first time, the *SIECUS State Profiles* also includes data, where available, on the self-reported sexual orientation of high school students, thanks to the two additional questions included in the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Eleven percent of high school students identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, (LGB) or not sure. Unfortunately, at least 11 states perpetuate discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning (LGBTQ) students by restricting or prohibiting discussion of LGBTQ topics in school sex education instruction.

Since the publication of the first *SIECUS State Profiles* in 2003, this resource has remained the premier tool for knowledgeable and empowered advocacy efforts to advance comprehensive sexuality education. The profiles are a resource for educators, advocates, and policymakers. We encourage supporters of comprehensive sexuality education to use the *SIECUS State Profiles* in their efforts to inform, shape, and improve sexuality education policies and practices.

The diligent research for this edition of the *SIECUS State Profiles* would not have been possible without SIECUS staff, Jesseca Boyer and Kristina Romines, and the assistance of Namrata Garg, Madeline Schneider, and Kelsey Van Nice, whom we would like to thank for their valuable contributions. We are also appreciative of our many state partners with whom we work each year to make certain that the *SIECUS State Profiles* provide the most accurate picture possible. The result is a publication that represents real collaboration, intended to benefit all of our efforts. As always, it is our great pleasure to work with these dedicated organizations, professionals, colleagues, and friends.

Thanks are also due to the Guttmacher Institute for their research on sexuality education laws and policies and to Advocates for Youth and ETR Associates for their research on evidence-based curricula, as well as The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy for their state factsheets, all of which were consulted during the drafting of this publication.

Finally, to our many donors, who support our work and believe in the rights of all people to access quality sexuality education, we extend our thanks. We are also particularly grateful to The Ford Foundation, The F.M. Kirby Foundation, and the WestWind Foundation for their support in this undertaking.

SIECUS is committed to helping advocates in states and communities secure sexuality education policies and programs that are based on sound science, public health expertise, and ensure the rights of all people. We hope that the *State Profiles* will be of great value in our collective efforts.

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to offer suggestions on how the *SIECUS State Profiles* can better help you advocate for comprehensive sexuality education and lifelong sexual health for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Chitra', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chitra Panjabi  
President & CEO