



SIECUS

State Profile

ALASKA

Alaska Sexuality Education Law and Policy

Alaska does not have a law that governs sexuality education; therefore, schools are not required to teach sexuality or sexually transmitted disease (STD) education. However, the Department of Education supports “Programs that Work,” a list of evidence-based curricula compiled by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).¹ The department explains that it, “does not endorse specific curricula, but seeks to provide districts with the most up-to-date materials and research-based programs so schools can evaluate what best meets the needs of their student population.”²

In addition, the “Skills for a Healthy Life” section of the *Content and Performance Standards for Alaska Students*, state that students should, among other things:

- understand the physical and behavioral characteristics of human sexual development and maturity;
- develop an awareness of how personal life roles are affected by and contribute to the well-being of families, communities, and cultures;
- understand how respect for the rights of self and others contributes to relationships; and
- take responsible actions to create safe and healthy environments.³

Alaska neither requires parental permission for students to participate in sexuality or HIV/AIDS education nor does it say whether parents or guardians may remove their children from such classes.

See *Content and Performance Standards for Alaska Students*.

Recent Legislation

SIECUS is not aware of any proposed legislation regarding sexuality education in Alaska.

Alaska’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁴

- In 2009, 43% of female high school students and 44% of male high school students in Alaska reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 46% of male high school students nationwide.

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- In 2009, 3% of female high school students and 7% of male high school students in Alaska reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 3% of female high school students and 8% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2009, 11% of female high school students and 12% of male high school students in Alaska reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 11% of female high school students and 16% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2009, 31% of female high school students and 30% of male high school students in Alaska reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 36% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2009, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 56% of females and 69% of males in Alaska reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 54% of females and 69% of males nationwide.
- In 2009, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 29% of females and 23% of males in Alaska reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 23% of females and 16% of males nationwide.
- In 2009, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 15% of females and 19% of males in Alaska reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 17% of females and 26% of males nationwide.
- In 2009, 84% of high school students in Alaska reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 87% of high school students nationwide.

Alaska Youth Sexual Health Statistics

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- Alaska's teen pregnancy rate ranks 31st in the U.S., with a rate of 61 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the national rate of 70 pregnancies per 1,000.⁵ There were a total of 1,690 pregnancies among young women ages 15–19 reported in 2005, the most recent year for which data are available, in Alaska.⁶
- Alaska's teen birth rate ranked 29th in the U.S. in 2005, with a rate of 37.3 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the national rate of 40.5 births per 1,000.⁷ In 2005, there were a total of 1,038 live births reported to young women ages 15–19 in Alaska.⁸
- In 2006, the U.S. teen birth rate increased for the first time in 15 years by 3% from 40.5 to 41.9 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, after having steadily declined between 1991 and 2005.⁹ In contrast, Alaska's teen birth rate increased 19% between 2005 and 2006, from 37.3 to 44.3 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19.¹⁰
- Alaska's teen abortion rate ranks 23rd in the U.S., with a rate of 13 abortions per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the national rate of 19 abortions per 1,000. In 2005, there were a total of 362 abortions reported among young women ages 15–19 in Alaska.¹¹

HIV and AIDS

- Alaska ranks 43rd in cases of HIV infection diagnosed in the U.S. among all age groups. In 2007, there were a total of 21 new cases of HIV infection diagnosed in Alaska.¹²
- Alaska ranks 28th in cases of HIV/AIDS diagnosed among young people ages 13–19 out of the 34 states with confidential, name-based HIV infection reporting. In 2007, there were a total of 2 young people ages 13–19 diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Alaska.¹³
- Alaska's AIDS rate ranks 45th in the U.S., with a rate of 4.7 cases per 100,000 population compared to the national rate of 12.5 cases per 100,000.¹⁴
- Alaska ranks 45th in number of reported AIDS cases in the U.S. among all age groups. In 2007, there were a total of 32 new AIDS cases reported in Alaska.¹⁵
- In 2007, there were no AIDS cases reported among young people ages 13–19 in Alaska.¹⁶

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- Alaska ranks 6th in reported cases of Chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 in the U.S., with an infection rate of 25.82 cases per 1,000 compared to the national rate of 19.51 cases per 1,000. In 2008, there were a total of 1,368 cases of Chlamydia reported among young people ages 15–19 in Alaska.¹⁷
- Alaska ranks 34th in reported cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 in the U.S., with an infection rate of 2.08 cases per 1,000 compared to the national rate of 4.52 cases per 1,000. In 2008, there were a total of 110 cases of gonorrhea reported among young people ages 15–19 in Alaska.¹⁸
- There are no available statewide data on the rate of syphilis among young people.

Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Education

SIECUS is not aware of any examples of model programs, policies, or best practices being implemented in Alaska public schools that provide a more comprehensive approach to sex education for young people.

We encourage you to submit any updated or additional information on comprehensive approaches to sex education being implemented in Alaska public schools for inclusion in future publications of the SIECUS State Profiles. Please visit SIECUS' "Contact Us" webpage at www.siecus.org to share information. Select "state policy" as the subject heading.

Federal Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs

Community-based organizations in Alaska received \$894,370 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2009.¹⁹

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until Marriage Funding

- Alaska chose not to participate in the Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program in Fiscal Year 2009. The state was eligible for approximately \$88,501 in funding. Due to the expiration of the grant program on June 30, 2009, three months prior to the end of the federal fiscal year, the state would have received three quarters of the total funding allocated for the full fiscal year.

Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) Funding

- Organizations in Alaska received \$894,370 in CBAE funding for Fiscal Year 2009.
- There are two CBAE grantees in Alaska, both of which are crisis pregnancy centers.

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Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Funding

- There are no AFLA grantees in Alaska.

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Curricula Used by Grantees

SIECUS is not aware of any commercially available curricula used by abstinence-only-until-marriage grantees in Alaska.

To read reviews of abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula commonly used by federal grantees please visit the “Curricula and Speaker Reviews” webpage of SIECUS’ Community Action Kit at www.communityactionkit.org.

Federal Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2009²⁰

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Title V	CBAE (Length of Grant)	AFLA (Length of Grant)
“Let’s Talk” Abstinence Program/ Crisis Pregnancy Center of Anchorage and Eagle River www.cpcanchorage.com www.letstalkalaska.com		\$352,926 (2008–2013)	
Care Net Pregnancy Center of the Tanana Valley www.carenetfairbanks.com		\$541,444 (2008–2013)	

Adolescent Health Contact²¹

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 Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
 Division of Public Health, Section of Women’s, Children’s and Family Health
 1301 C. Street
 Suite 310
 Anchorage, AK 99503
 Phone: (907) 269-3466

Alaska Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Alaska
 P.O. Box 201844
 Anchorage, AK 99520
 Phone: (907) 276-2258
www.akclu.org

Alaska Alliance for Reproductive Justice
 P.O. Box 232676
 Anchorage, AK 99523
 Phone (907) 334-3055
www.alaskaprochoice.org

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The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education
Network of Fairbanks
P.O. 85315
Fairbanks, AK 99708
www.angelfire.com/biz3/glsen

The Interior AIDS Association
710 3rd Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 452-IAAA
www.interioraids.org

Juneau Pro-Choice Coalition
P.O. Box 22860
Juneau, AK 99802
Planned Parenthood Juneau Telephone:
800.230.7526
www.juneauchoice.com

Planned Parenthood of Alaska
4001 Lake Otis Parkway #101
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: (907) 563-2229
www.plannedparenthoodalaska.org

Alaska Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Alaska Interior Right to Life
P.O. Box 81566
Fairbanks, AK 99708
Phone: (907) 479-LIFE
www.interiorrighttolife.org

Alaska Right to Life
3400 Spenard Road, Suite 4
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 276-1912
www.alaskarighttolife.org

Newspapers in Alaska²²

Anchorage Daily News
Newsroom
P.O. Box 149001
Anchorage, AK 99514
Phone: (907) 257-4300
www.adn.com

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
Newsroom
200 N. Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 459-7572
www.newsminer.com

Juneau Empire
Newsroom
3100 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 586-3740
www.juneauempire.com

Ketchikan Daily News
Newsroom
501 Dock Street
P.O. Box 7900
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone: (907) 225-3157
www.ketchikandailynews.com

Kodiak Daily Mirror
Newsroom
1419 Selig Street
Kodiak, AK 99615
Phone: (907) 486-3227 ext. 1037
www.kodiakdailymirror.com

Peninsula Clarion
Newsroom
Kenai, AK 99611
Phone: (907) 283-7551
www.peninsulaclarion.com

Political Blogs in Alaska*The Back Porch*www.thebackporchak.blogspot.com*Bent Alaska*www.bentalaska.com*Blue Oasis*www.divasblueoasis.com*The Immoral Minority*www.theimmoralminority.blogspot.com*OMFG Alaska*www.omfgalaska.blogspot.com*Progressive Alaska*www.progressivealaska.blogspot.com*We're Not That Stupid*www.werenotthatstupid.blogspot.com*What Do I Know?*www.whatdoino-steve.blogspot.com*Writing Raven*www.alaskareal.blogspot.com

¹ The CDC no longer sponsors “Programs That Work.” Although these programs were proven effective, information about them has been removed from the CDC website. For more information, contact the SIECUS Public Policy office.

² State of Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, “School Health: Other Health Education Programs and Related Information.”

³ “Content and Performance Standards for Alaska Students,” Alaska State Board of Education, p24-27, <<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/standards/pdf/standards.pdf>>

⁴ Danice K. Eaton, et. al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2009,” *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 59, no. SS-5 (4 June 2010): 98–109, accessed 4 June 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss5905.pdf>>.

⁵ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity*, (Washington, DC: Guttmacher Institute, January 2010), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends.pdf>>, Table 3.1.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Table 3.2.

⁷ Joyce A. Martin, et. al., “Births: Final Data for 2006,” *National Vital Statistics Reports*, vol. 57, number 7 (Hyattsville, MD: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 7 January 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_07.pdf>, Table B.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Table 12.

⁹ Martin, et. al., “Births: Final Data for 2006.”

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Table B.

¹¹ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity*.

¹² “Cases of HIV Infection and AIDS in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2007,” *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, vol. 19, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2007report/pdf/2007SurveillanceReport.pdf>>, Table 18.

¹³ Slide 6: “Estimated Numbers of HIV/AIDS Cases among Adolescents 13 to 19 Years of Age, 2007—34 States,” *HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults (through 2007)*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, May 2009), accessed 25 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>>.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*; “AIDS Case Rate per 100,000 Population, All Ages, 2007,” (Menlo Park, CA: Kaiser Family Foundation), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparable.jsp?ind=513&cat=11&sub=120&yr=62&typ=1&sort=a>>.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Table 16.

¹⁶ Slide 15: “Reported AIDS Cases among Adolescents 13 to 19 Years of Age, 2007—United States and Dependent Areas,” *HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults (through 2007)*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, May 2009), accessed 25 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>>.

¹⁷ “Wonder Database: Selected STDs by Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender, 1996-2008 Results,” (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), 30 June 2009, accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://wonder.cdc.gov>>; see also Table 10: “Chlamydia: Reported Cases and Rates Per 100,000 Population by Age Group and Sex: United States, 2004–2008,” *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2008*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of STD Prevention, November 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats08/surv2008-Complete.pdf>>, 95.

¹⁸ Ibid; see also Table 20: “Gonorrhea—Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population by Age Group and Sex: United States, 2004–2008,” *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2008*, 106.

¹⁹ This refers to the federal government’s fiscal year, which begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, Fiscal Year 2009 began on October 1, 2008 and ended on September 30, 2009.

²⁰ Through the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations process, Congress eliminated all discretionary funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, including the entire CBAE program and the abstinence-only-until-marriage portion of AFLA. The grant years listed in the chart reflect the years for which funding was originally approved; however, the grants effectively ended in Fiscal Year 2009.

²¹ SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

²² This section is a list of major newspapers in your state with contact information for their newsrooms. This list is by no means exhaustive and does not contain the local level newspapers which are integral to getting your message out to your community. SIECUS strongly urges you to follow stories about the issues that concern you on the national, state, and local level by using an internet news alert service such as [Google alerts](#), becoming an avid reader of your local papers, and establishing relationships with reporters who cover your issues. For more information on how to achieve your media goals visit the SIECUS [Community Action Kit](#).