



ARIZONA

Arizona received \$4,146,517 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2004.¹

Arizona Sexuality Education Law

Arizona schools are not required to teach sexuality education or sexually transmitted disease (STD)/HIV education. If a school chooses to teach any of these, abstinence must be stressed. Further, if a school chooses to teach HIV education, such instruction must be medically accurate, but cannot promote a “homosexual lifestyle,” portray “homosexuality as a positive alternative lifestyle,” or “suggest that some methods of sex are safe methods of homosexual sex.”

Parents may exempt their children from sexuality education and/or STD/HIV education classes. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Arizona Revised Statutes Sections 15-711 and 15-716.

Recent Legislation

Bill Would Require Parental Permission for Sex Education, Create Different Standard for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs

House Bill 2430, introduced in January 2005 and referred to the House Committee on Education K-twelve and the House Committee on Rules, would require any school that teaches sex education to receive written parental permission before a student may participate in any of this instruction. This is commonly referred to as an “opt-in” policy. It would also prohibit sexuality from being discussed in any class other than sex education without prior school board approval.

Under H.B. 2430, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs would not have to follow these policies.

Bill Would Create Committee to Study Excellence in Education, Must Include Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Proponent

Introduced in January 2005, House Bill 2546 would create a joint legislative committee to study success in education. The committee must include “a teacher who provides instruction in the area of abstinence education and who is appointed by the president of the senate.” The committee would automatically disband in September of 2006. Among other topics, the committee would research and report to the legislature on curricula, curricula implementation, and the teaching of “marriage skills.”

Medical Accuracy Legislation Introduced

Introduced in January 2005 and referred to the Senate Committee on Education K-twelve and the Senate Committee on Rules, Senate Bill 1077 would require all sex education curricula to be medically accurate. S.B. 1077 defines medically accurate as “supported by the weight of the research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods, recognized as accurate and objective by leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant expertise in the field, and published in peer-reviewed journals, if appropriate.”

Bill Would Cut Millions From Teenage Pregnancy Programs

Senate Bill 1125; introduced in January 2005 and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Rules; would reappropriate state lottery funds. As part of this change, no state lottery monies would be given to teenage pregnancy prevention resulting in a three million dollar loss for these programs.

Events of Note

Governor Vetoes State Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funds

June 2003; Arizona

In June 2003, Governor Janet Napolitano (D) line-item vetoed the \$470,000 designated for the state’s match of the federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program “because, as the Goldwater Institute recently concluded, government has proven to be an ineffective communicator of the abstinence message, and because the state lottery fund is better spent elsewhere.”

She subsequently agreed that the state would allow privately raised funds to be used as matching funds for federal abstinence-only-until-marriage dollars.

Arizona’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note²

- In 2003, 41% of female high school students and 45% of male high school students in Arizona reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 3% of female high school students and 6% of male high school students in Arizona reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 4% of female high school students and 10% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 10% of female high school students and 12% of male high school students in Arizona reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 11% of female high school students and 18% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 30% of female high school students and 31% of male high school students in Arizona reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 35% of females and 34% of males nationwide.

- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 29% of females and 30% of males in Arizona reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 30% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 49% of females and 66% of males in Arizona reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 57% of females and 69% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 23% of females and 13% of males in Arizona reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 13% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, 5% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students in Arizona reported ever having been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant compared to 5% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 81% of high school students in Arizona reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Arizona's abortion rate was 21 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.³
- In 2002, Arizona's birth rate was 61 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.⁴

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Arizona received \$1,056,905 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2004. The Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage grant requires states to provide three state-raised dollars or the equivalent in services for every four federal dollars received. The state match can be provided in part or in full by local groups. In FY 2003, Governor Napolitano (D) line-item vetoed the state matching funds but allowed local groups to make up the match.

Arizona uses Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding to contract with 11 local abstinence-only-until-marriage groups. Two of the 11 organizations promote a clear religious and anti-choice message. The Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Tucson includes "protecting the unborn" as one of its mission statements.⁵ Similarly, the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Greater Phoenix partnered with Passion & Principles to promote abstinence-only-until-marriage programs and anti-choice beliefs in schools, youth groups, and teen groups all over the state. Passion & Principles has also been commended by Arizona Right to Life, which explains that the group's abstinence-only-until-marriage program "speaks about the four As, abstinence, adoption, abortion, and all your life."⁶

Sub-grantees use a variety of curricula including *Choosing the Best LIFE*, *Choosing the Best PATH*, *Choosing the Best WAY*, *Game Plan*, *WAIT Training*, *Worth the Wait*, and *Navigator*.

SIECUS reviewed *Game Plan* and found that in order to convince high school students to remain abstinent until marriage, the curriculum relies on messages of fear and shame, inaccurate and misleading information, and biased views of marriage, sexual orientation, and family structure. In addition, *Game*

Plan fails to provide important information on sexual health including how students can seek testing and treatment if they suspect they may have an STD. Finally, the format and underlying biases of the curriculum do not allow for cultural, community, and individual values, and discourage critical thinking and discussions of alternate points of view in the classroom. For example, *Game Plan* states “even if you’ve been sexually active, it’s never too late to say no. You can’t go back, but you can go forward. You might feel guilty or untrustworthy, but you can start over again.”⁷

SIECUS reviewed *WAIT Training* and found that it contained little medical or biological information and almost no information about STDs, including HIV/AIDS. Instead, it contains information and statistics about marriage, many of which are outdated and not supported by scientific research. It also contains messages of fear and shame and biased views of gender, sexual orientation, and family type. For example, *WAIT Training* explains, “men sexually are like microwaves and women sexually are like crockpots....A woman is stimulated more by touch and romantic words. She is far more attracted by a man’s personality while a man is stimulated by sight. A man is usually less discriminating about those to whom he is physically attracted.”⁸

SIECUS reviewed *Choosing the Best LIFE* and found that it names numerous physical and psychological consequences of premarital sexual activity, suggests that sexually active teens will never have a happy future, and implies that only teens with low self-esteem and poor judgment become sexually active. For example, *Choosing the Best LIFE* states: “relationships often lower the self-respect of both partners—one feeling used, the other feeling like the user. Emotional pain can cause a downward spiral leading to intense feelings of lack of worthlessness.”⁹

SIECUS reviewed *Choosing the Best PATH* and found that it provides endless information on the negative consequences of premarital sexual activity and utilizes a variety of tactics to suggest that teens should feel guilty, embarrassed, and ashamed of sexual behavior. For example, *Choosing the Best PATH* states “couples who use condoms for birth control experience a first-year failure rate of about 15 % in preventing pregnancies. This means that over a period of five years, there could be a 50% chance or higher of getting pregnant with condoms used as the birth control method.”¹⁰

Title V Evaluation

In 2003, Arizona released the evaluation of its Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program which served over 123,000 youth in schools, community centers, and detention centers between 1998 and 2003. Fourteen different curricula were used including *Choosing the Best PATH*, *Choosing the Best LIFE*, *AC Green’s Game Plan*, *Choosing the Best WAY*, *FACTS*, and *WAIT Training*. The programs were evaluated through surveys of the participants that were conducted before the programs (pre-test), immediately afterwards (post-test), and three-13 months after program participation (follow-up).

Post-test results showed an increase in teens’ intent to pursue abstinence; however, follow-up surveys conducted months later found statistically significant declines in teens’ intent to pursue abstinence.¹¹ Among teens that had remained abstinent, 47% reported that they would likely become sexually active in the next year and 80% reported that they would likely become sexually active by age 20.¹² According to the evaluation, post-test results also revealed that “the direction of change on attitudes toward birth control was toward a less favorable view at post-test. This might be explained by the program’s focus on the failure rates of contraceptives as opposed to their availability, use, and access.”¹³

The presentation of the abstinence-only-until-marriage message was also perceived as moralistic by many students and parents. The evaluators explain, “programs that present the message in a

fashion that cultivates skills and practice are more likely to be effective than programs that are perceived as saying ‘Do this because it is right.’”¹⁴

Many of the curricula used in Arizona’s abstinence-only-until-marriage program were reviewed by U.S. Representative Henry Waxman in his report *The Content of Federally Funded Abstinence-Only Education Programs* and all of them were found to have “major errors and distortions of public health information.”¹⁵

Special Projects of Regional and National Significance–Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS–CBAE)¹⁶ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are currently five SPRANS–CBAE grantees in Arizona: Arizona-Mexico Border Health Foundation, Catholic Social Services of Central and Northern Arizona, Pima Prevention Partnership, Pima Youth Partnership, and WestCare Inc. There is one AFLA grantee: Winslow Unified School District #1.

Catholic Social Services of Central and Northern Arizona received \$776,171 in FY 2004 through a SPRANS–CBAE grant. This faith-based organization focuses on promoting adoption and abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. The organization runs a variety of activities for youth ages 10 to 18 through their abstinence-only-until-marriage programs including sports and service learning programs. It also gives three area schools \$1,000 each to promote a “Positive Alternative Prom Party.”

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2004

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Arizona Department of Health www.hs.state.az.us/phs/owch/abstinence.htm	\$1,056,905 federal	Title V
Arizona Psychology Services	\$83,805	Title V sub-grantee
Catholic Social Services of Central and Northern Arizona DUAL GRANTEE 2004-2007 www.catholicsocialserviceaz.org/	\$106,011 \$776,171	Title V sub-grantee SPRANS–CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Catholic Social Services– Yavapai County	\$92,491	Title V sub-grantee
Child & Family Resources, Inc.	\$80,836	Title V sub-grantee

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Greater Phoenix/ Passion & Principles www.cpcphoenix.org	\$41,760	Title V sub-grantee
Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Tucson www.cpctucson.com	\$25,680	Title V sub-grantee
Northern Arizona University www.nau.edu	\$22,752	Title V sub-grantee
Pima Prevention Partnership DUAL GRANTEE 2002-2005 www.pimaprevention.org	\$196,878 \$513,953	Title V sub-grantee SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Pima Youth Partnership DUAL GRANTEE 2004-2007 www.pyp.com	\$160,000 \$729,365	Title V sub-grantee SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Pinal County Department of Public Health http://co.pinal.az.us/PublicHealth/	\$111,601	Title V sub-grantee

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
University of Arizona Maricopa Cooperative Extension http://ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/	\$55,274	Title V sub-grantee
Arizona-Mexico Border Health Foundation 2004-2007	\$631,792	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
WestCare Arizona, Inc. 2001-2004 www.westcare.com/sarizona.htm	\$239,951	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Winslow Unified School District #1 2004-2005 www.winslow.k12.az.us	\$198,380	AFLA

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Arizonan Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Arizona
 PO Box 17148
 Phoenix, AZ 85011
www.acluaz.org

The Arizona Coalition on Adolescent
 Pregnancy and Parenting
 4710 N. 16th St., Suite 106
 Phoenix, AZ 85016
 Phone: (602) 265-4337
www.azteenpregnancy.org

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Arizona Family Planning Council
2920 N. 24th Ave., Suite 26
Phoenix, AZ 85015
Phone: (602) 258-5777

Arizona Human Rights Fund
PO Box 25044
Phoenix, AZ 85002
Phone: (602) 650-0900
www.ahrf.org

NARAL Pro-Choice Arizona
PO Box 45452
Phoenix, AZ 85064
Phone: (480) 834-3274
www.prochoicearizona.org

Planned Parenthood Action Fund/Central &
Northern Arizona
5651 North 7th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85014
Phone: (602) 227-7526

Planned Parenthood of Southern Arizona
Action Fund
2255 N. Wyatt Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85712
Phone: (520) 624-1761
www.ppsaz.org

Arizona Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Alliance Defense Fund
15333 North Pima Rd., Suite 165
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Phone: (800) 835-5233
www.alliancedefensefund.org

Center for Arizona Policy
11000 N. Scottsdale Rd., Suite 120
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
Phone: (480) 922 3101
www.azpolicy.org

Goldwater Institute
500 E. Coronado Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone: (602) 462-5000
www.goldwaterinstitute.org

Newspapers in Arizona

Arizona Daily Star
Carla McClain
Health & Medicine Reporter
PO Box 26807
Tucson, AZ 85726
Phone: (520) 806-7754

Arizona Daily Sun
Sara Kincaid
Education Reporter
1751 S. Thompson St.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Phone: (928) 556-2250

The Arizona Republic
Kerry Fehr-Snyder
Health & Medicine Editor
PO Box 1950
Phoenix, AZ 85001
Phone: (602) 444-8975

Tribune Newspapers
Carrie White
Health & Medicine Editor
PO Box 1547
Mesa, AZ 85211
Phone: (480) 898-6575

Tucson Citizen
Anne Denogean
Health & Medicine Reporter
PO Box 26767
Tucson, AZ 85726
Phone: (520) 573-4582

¹ This refers to the fiscal year for the Federal Government which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, Fiscal Year 2004 begins on October 1, 2003 and ends on September 30, 2004.

² Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Jo Anne Grunbaum, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2003," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 53.SS-2, (21 May 2004): 1-95, accessed 28 January 2005, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>>.

³ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, February, 2004), accessed 28 January 2005, <www.guttmacher.org>.

⁴ *National Vital Statistics Reports 52.10* (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2003), 48, accessed 4 February 2005, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/births.htm#stat%20tables>>.

⁵ *The Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Tucson*, Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Tucson, accessed 5 January 2005, <http://www.cpctucson.com/about_cpc/cpc_mission.htm>.

⁶ *Abstinence*, Arizona Right to Life, accessed 5 January 2005, <<http://www.azrtl.org/abstinence/abstinence.html>>.

⁷ Scott Phelps and Libby Gray, *A.C. Green's Game Plan* (Golf, IL: Project Reality, 2001), 45.

⁸ *WAIT Training-Workshop Manual* (Longmont, CO: Friends First, 1996), 39.

⁹ Bruce Cook, *Choosing the Best LIFE-Student Workbook* (Marietta, GA: Choosing the Best Inc., 2000), 9.

¹⁰ Bruce Cook, *Choosing the Best PATH-Leader Guide* (Marietta, GA: Choosing the Best Inc., 2000), 18.

¹¹ LeCroy & Milligan Associates, *Final Report, Arizona Abstinence Education Program Evaluation, 1998-2003* (Phoenix, AZ: Arizona Dept. of Health Services, Office of Women's and Children's Health, June 2003): 4-12, accessed 8 February 2005, <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/pdf/abstinence_final_report2003.pdf>.

¹² *Ibid*, 4-8.

¹³ *Ibid*, 4-8.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, 11.

¹⁵ *The Content of Federally Funded Abstinence-Only Education Programs*, prepared for Representative Henry A. Waxman, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform—Minority Staff Special Investigations Division (December 2004), accessed 10 December 2004, <<http://www.democrats.reform.house.gov/Documents/20041201102153-50247.pdf>>.

¹⁶ In FY 2004 SPRANS-CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In FY 2005 this funding stream was moved to HHS' Administration for Children and Families and is now referred to simply as Community Based Abstinence Education (CBAE).