



## Florida

*Florida received \$6,930,070 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2003.<sup>1</sup>*

### Florida Sexuality Education Law

Florida law states that in order for high school students to graduate, they must receive one-half credit in “life management skills” in either ninth or tenth grade. This course must include instruction in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), the benefits of sexual abstinence, and the consequences of teen pregnancy.

School boards may decide to allow additional instruction regarding HIV/AIDS. Such instruction may include information about “means used to control the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.”

All instruction and course material must:

- a) Teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age students while teaching the benefits of monogamous heterosexual marriage.
- b) Emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity is a certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and other associated health problems.
- c) Teach that each student has the power to control personal behavior and encourage students to base actions on reasoning, self-esteem, and respect for others.
- d) Provide instruction and material that is appropriate for the grade and age of the student.”

Parents or guardians may choose to remove their children from any or all this instruction. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Florida Statute, Title XLVIII, Chapter 1003, Section 46.

### Recent Legislation

The Florida legislature does not carry bills over from one session to the next. Related 2003 and 2004 bills are listed. Florida’s legislative session ended on April 30, 2004.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 2003 begins on October 1, 2002 and ends on September 30, 2003.

*Bills Extending Requirement of Community Health Education Die, 2004 Session*

Florida law currently requires that schools teach comprehensive health education which includes, among other things, concepts of family life, and sexual abstinence. House Bill 1047 and Senate Bill 2534, both introduced in March 2004, would have required that such education be taught at every grade level, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade for at least one semester.

Both bills died at the end of the legislative session.

*AIDS Education Bill Died, 2004 Session*

Senate Bill 1424, introduced in March 2004, would have required the Department of Education to award grants to public school districts to implement school-based AIDS educational activities. Criteria for selection for the competitive grants would have been based, in part, on program objectives, target population, outcome measurement, teen sexual health statistics in the area, and qualifications of personnel.

The bill died with the end of the legislative session in May 2004.

**Events of Note**

*Florida Pulls AIDS Education Pamphlets with Bible Messages*

*April 2003*

In early April 2003, the ACLU asked Florida health officials to end their distribution of pamphlets entitled *A Christian Response to AIDS* because the pamphlet included Biblical passages. The pamphlets were designed to encourage Christians to help and accept people with HIV/AIDS. They do not discuss HIV/AIDS prevention.

In a letter to the Florida Department of Health, the Director of the ACLU of Florida wrote “while the state must respond to this public health crisis and find ways to stop the spread of the AIDS virus, the state must base its message on...medical and scientific information, rather than advocate a particular Christian set of beliefs. Sectarian messages are inappropriate for agencies of the state.”<sup>2</sup>

In response to the ACLU’s complaints, the Florida Department of Health decided to pull the pamphlets from distribution. At his Senate confirmation hearing in mid-April, the health secretary said the brochure was inappropriate for an agency funded by taxpayers. “This kind of pamphlet is not consistent with our current mission,” he said.

The pamphlet has come under criticism in other states where it is also used. In March 2003, Pennsylvania officials removed the brochure from their state Health Department web site after the ACLU complained.

*School Votes to Add “Sexual Orientation” to School Policy*

*March 2003, Palm Beach, FL*

In late March 2003, the Palm Beach County School District voted five to two to add “sexual orientation” to the school board’s anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies that cover students.

This is the third time the proposal has come before the school board during a 12 year period. In the past, the school chose to maintain a general policy that didn’t specify gays and lesbians as a protected group.

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<sup>2</sup> D. Royse, “Civil Liberties Group Urges Florida to Recall AIDS Pamphlets with Biblical Passages,” *Associated Press* (Tallahassee, FL), April 4, 2003.

In the weeks leading up to the meeting, a vocal group of opponents started a letter-writing campaign that warned that adding “sexual orientation” to the school policy would “promote the idea that homosexual and other bizarre sexual behaviors are acceptable, respectable, and healthy.”<sup>3</sup>

Supporters of the policy argued at the meeting that gay and lesbian students suffer bullying and intimidation in school every day and that adding “sexual orientation” to the anti-harassment policy will give it more teeth.

Most board members agreed with this proposal. One board member commented, “I received numerous calls and e-mails about this, and those who called expressing opposition to it are the ones who made the case for me that it is necessary. It was frightening to me to hear their cold words.”<sup>4</sup>

*Teacher Fired for Demonstrating Condom Use to Class  
January 2003, Collier, FL*

A high school health teacher in Collier County, FL, was recently fired after students in his class demonstrated how to put on a condom by using a banana. Classroom lights were low and Christmas music played in the background as his students conducted the demonstration. In addition, he had certain students assume the role of “sex therapists” and answer other students’ questions about sexuality-related issues.

At least one student complained about the teacher’s class practices, prompting school officials to suspend the teacher. The teacher appealed to the Collier County School Board, and it reviewed his case at a public meeting.

“The information is so clear: he doesn’t belong in the classroom,” one board member said.<sup>5</sup> “It’s those kinds of demonstrations that we don’t want in our schools,” the school superintendent said.<sup>6</sup> The teacher did not attend the meeting because his wife was in labor.

The teacher argued that he was never trained in the district’s sexuality education curriculum and that he was unaware that condoms were not allowed in the classroom. He said that he based his lesson plans on the class health textbook which discussed condoms on four pages. He said that “it wasn’t merely a demonstration of how to place a condom over a banana. But it was a role play simulating a situation students could find themselves in and help them act responsibly in such a situation.”<sup>7</sup>

School administrators, however, fired the teacher saying that they did not need his teaching services anymore but that the decision was not necessarily due to his teaching practices. According to school district policy, the district can fire any teacher during his or her first 97 days of employment for any or no reason. The teacher had only started teaching in the district in late October 2003.

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<sup>3</sup> K. Miller, “School Board OKs Protection for Gay Students,” *Palm Beach Post (FL)*, March 25, 2003.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Associated Press, “Florida School Board Fires High School Teacher Who Gave Condom Demonstration,” January, 31, 2003.

<sup>6</sup> “Sex Education Teacher Fired Over Banana Lesson,” *Ananova*, January 31, 2003.

<sup>7</sup> “Florida Teacher in Trouble Over Condom on Banana,” *Ananova*, January 15, 2003.

**Florida's Youth: Statistical Information of Note<sup>8</sup>**

- In 2003, 47% of female high school students and 56% of male high school students in Florida reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 4% of female high school students and 13% of male high school students in Florida 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, 11% of female high school students and 21% of male high school students in Florida 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, 35% of female high school students and 37% of male high school students in Florida 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, 17% of females and 26% of males in Florida 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, 59% of females and 72% of males in Florida 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, 16% of females and 12% of males in Florida reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 30% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, 6% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students in Florida 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, 88% of high school students in Florida reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

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<sup>8</sup> Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: J. Grunbaum, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2003," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 53, no.SS-2, May 21, 2004, pp. 1-95. Available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>.

F L O R I D A

- In 2000, Florida's abortion rate was 33 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2001, Florida's birth rate was 48 per 1,000 females ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 45 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>10</sup>

*Ft. Lauderdale, Florida's Youth: Statistical Information of Note*<sup>11</sup>

- In 2001, 41% of female high school students and 54% of male high school students in Ft. Lauderdale reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 43% of female high school students and 49% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 3% of female high school students and 15% of male high school students in Ft. Lauderdale reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 4% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 9% of female high school students and 22% of male high school students in Ft. Lauderdale reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 11% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 31% of female high school students and 36% of male high school students in Ft. Lauderdale reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 33% of females and 33% of males nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 16% of females and 30% of males in Ft. Lauderdale reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 31% of males nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 70% of females and 77% of males in Ft. Lauderdale reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 51% of females and 65% of males nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 16% of females and 10% of males in Ft. Lauderdale reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.

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<sup>9</sup> U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information, (New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, February, 2004). Available online at [www.guttmacher.org](http://www.guttmacher.org).

<sup>10</sup> A. Papillo, et.al., *Facts at a Glance*, (Washington, DC: Child Trends, February, 2004).

<sup>11</sup> J. Grunbaum, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2001," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 51, no.SS-4, June 28, 2002, pp. 1-64. Available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>. Ft. Lauderdale did not participate in the 2003 YRBS.

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- In 2001, 4% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students in Ft. Lauderdale 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 2001, 88% of high school students in Ft. Lauderdale reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 89% of high school students nationwide.

### *Miami, Florida's Youth: Statistical Information of Note*

- In 2003, 45% of female high school students and 62% of male high school students in Miami reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 2% of female high school students and 18% of male high school students in Miami 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, 8% of female high school students and 26% of male high school students in Miami 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, 36% of female high school students and 39% of male high school students in Miami 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, 12% of females and 18% of males in Miami 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, 58% of females and 79% of males in Miami 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, 9% of females and 5% of males in Miami 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, 10% of female high school students and 5% of male high school students in Miami 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, 84% of high school students in Miami reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

*Palm Beach, Florida's Youth: Statistical Information of Note*

- In 2003, 45% of female high school students and 58% of male high school students in Palm Beach 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 16% of male high school students in Palm Beach 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 24% of male high school students in Palm Beach 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, 36% of female high school students and 42% of male high school students in Palm Beach 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, 17% of females and 31% of males in Palm Beach 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, 61% of females and 74% of males in Palm Beach 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, 19% of females and 12% of males in Palm Beach 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, 6% of female high school students and 5% of male high school students in Palm Beach 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, 88% of high school students in Palm Beach reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

**Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding**

Florida received \$2.2 million in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2003. 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 Florida, the state does not match this grant. Instead, sub-

grantees match the federal funding. The state has allocated a separate \$3.5 million from state funds for 2003, which is also contracted out to sub-grantees. Some sub-grantees receive money from both the federal and state funds.

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

There are nine SPRANS–CBAE grantees in Florida: Baker County Health Department, Bay County Health Department, Catholic Charities, Economic Opportunity Family Health Center, Empowering the Vision, Florida Christian College, Gold Coast Community Services, Pinellas Pregnancy Center, and Project S.O.S. There are four AFLA grantees in Florida: BETA Center Inc., Boys and Girls Clubs of Sarasota County, Switchboard of Miami, and Urban League of Broward County.

The Pinellas Pregnancy Center is a crisis pregnancy center with the motto “we’re in it for life.” A link on its website called “abortion info.” leads to information about secondary virginity and STDs but does not lead to any information about abortion. For actual decision making guidance, women are encouraged to call the center. The abstinence section of the website lists some reasons why teens have sex, including “pressure, curiosity need for love, drug/ alcohol influence, and rebellion.” It also states reasons for abstinence, including “YOU are worth waiting for, it’s an act of love, AIDS doesn’t discriminate, some scars never heal, and self-control beats birth control.”

Florida Christian College’s website encourages college students not to have sex. The website starts with “You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19.” The site then lists statistics on STD and HIV infection.

**Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2003**

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee  Length of Grant	Amount of Grant Money	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Florida Department of Health  <a href="http://www.doh.state.fl.us/family/abstinence/index.html">www.doh.state.fl.us/family/abstinence/index.html</a>	\$2.2 million federal/ \$3.5 million state	Title V
ABST (Abstinence Between Strong Teens)	\$89,350	Title V sub-grantee
Baker County Health Department  DUAL GRANTEE	\$84,000  \$343,698	Title V sub-grantee  SPRANS–CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Palm Beach	\$50,000	Title V sub-grantee



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<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee</b>  <b>Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant Money</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)</b>
Central Florida Health Care	\$116,125	Title V sub-grantee
Christian Care Center	\$98,833	Title V sub-grantee
Empowering the Vision  DUAL GRANTEE	\$116,125  \$156,297	Title V sub-grantee  SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Florida State University	\$450,000	Title V sub-grantee (Evaluation)
Gold Coast Community Services  DUAL GRANTEE	\$100,000  \$800,000	Title V sub-grantee  SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Hendry County Health Department	\$65,000	Title V sub-grantee
Kiss & Driscoll Advertising	\$300,000	Title V sub-grantee (Media Campaign)
Mary's Shelter	\$81,845	Title V sub-grantee
Orange County Health Department	\$116,125	Title V sub-grantee
Pierre Tousaint, Human Services Division	\$100,000	Title V sub-grantee

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<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee</b>  <b>Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant Money</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)</b>
Pinellas Pregnancy Center  DUAL GRANTEE (United Students for Abstinence/ Pinellas Pregnancy Center) <a href="http://www.pregctr.net">www.pregctr.net</a>	\$100,500  \$223,642	Title V sub-grantee  SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Project S.O.S.  DUAL GRANTEE	\$116,125  \$631,830	Title V sub-grantee  SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Putnam County Health Department	\$90,000	Title V sub-grantee
River Region Human Services	\$110,000	Title V sub-grantee
Tampa Metropolitan YMCA	\$81,000	Title V sub-grantee
Washington County Health Department	\$116,125	Title V sub-grantee
Bay County Health Department	\$131,000	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Catholic Charities	\$99,963	SPRANS-CBAE (Planning Grant)
Economic Opportunity Family Health Center  2001-2004	\$698,169	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)

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<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee</b> <b>Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant Money</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)</b>
Florida Christian College <a href="http://www.fcc.edu">www.fcc.edu</a>	\$798,417	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Beta Center Inc	\$225,000	AFLA
Boys and Girls Clubs of Sarasota County	\$225,000	AFLA
Switchboard of Miami	\$225,000	AFLA
Urban League of Broward County	\$172,054	AFLA

**Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator**

Terrye S. Bradley  
 Florida Department of Health  
 Family Health Services  
 4025 Esplande Way 105A  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399  
 Phone: (850) 245-4466

**Florida Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

ACLU of Florida  
 4500 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 340  
 Miami, FL 33137  
 Phone: (305) 576-2336  
[www.aclufi.org](http://www.aclufi.org)

Florida Association of Planned  
 Parenthood Affiliates  
 317 East Park Ave.  
 Tallahassee, FL 32301  
 Phone: (850) 201-0516  
[www.floridachoice.org](http://www.floridachoice.org)

Florida NOW  
 Phone: (850) 656-0012  
[www.flnow.org](http://www.flnow.org)

Florida Women's Consortium  
 3150 Holiday Springs Blvd., Bldg. 8  
 Margate, FL 33063  
[www.floridawomensconsortium.com](http://www.floridawomensconsortium.com)

F L O R I D A

National Women's Political  
Caucus of Florida  
P.O. Box 531198  
Miami, Florida 33153  
[www.nwpc-centralflorida.com](http://www.nwpc-centralflorida.com)

Republican Pro-Choice Coalition,  
Florida State Chapter  
P.O. Box 30503  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420  
Phone: (561) 493-8880  
[www.rpcc.org/FL](http://www.rpcc.org/FL)

**Florida Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Family First  
P.O. Box 2882  
Tampa, FL 33601  
[www.familyfirst.net](http://www.familyfirst.net)

Florida Right To Life  
(Florida Affiliate of National  
Right to Life Committee)  
3336 Edgewater Dr.  
Orlando, FL 32804-3742  
Phone: (407) 422-7111  
[www.frtl.org](http://www.frtl.org)

**Newspapers in Florida**

*Bradenton Herald*  
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Medical/Health Writer  
102 Manatee Ave. W.  
Bradenton, FL 34205  
Phone: (941) 745-7049

*Miami Herald*  
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*Orlando Sentinel*  
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