



## FLORIDA

*Florida received \$11,651,307 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2005.<sup>1</sup>*

### Florida Sexuality Education Law and Policy

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. The course must include instruction in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), family life, the benefits of sexual abstinence, and the consequences of teen pregnancy. It also states that these “descriptions for comprehensive health education shall not interfere with the local determination of appropriate curriculum which reflects local values and concerns.”

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:

- 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;
- 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;
- 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; and
- Provide instruction and material that is appropriate for the grade and age of the student.

Florida standards, titled *Sunshine State Standards for Health and Physical Fitness*, do not mention instruction in HIV/AIDS, STDs, or sexuality education.

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

See Florida Statute, Title XLVIII, Chapter 1003, Section 42, 46.

### Recent Legislation

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

## Events of Note

### *Debated Abstinence-only Program Wins Grant in Palm Beach County*

*April 2006; Palm Beach County, FL*

A debated abstinence-only program titled *Be the One* has won a three-year federal grant of \$800,000 per year to spread its message throughout middle and high schools in Palm Beach County, Florida.<sup>2</sup> The agency of the same name, founded in 1992 as a sister organization to the First Care anti-abortion pregnancy counseling center, taught in more than 40 public and private schools in 2004 and ran dozens of lunch and after-school clubs.<sup>3</sup> According to project manager Beau Heyman, this grant does not have any restrictions and allows *Be the One* to teach in all schools countywide.<sup>4</sup>

*Be the One* educators stress the failure rates of condoms and emphasize that abstinence until marriage is the only foolproof way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. They do not teach teens how to use condoms if they are sexually active, but rather revert to the abstinence-only message.<sup>5</sup>

Rising teen birth rates in Palm Beach County have caused some experts to question whether *Be the One* is doing enough to teach students how to prevent an unintended pregnancy. Between 2003 and 2004, the county experienced a 91% increase in the birth rates of girls ages 10–14, and almost 300 county high school girls each year give birth to their second or third child.<sup>6</sup> Tanna Ebbole, executive director of the county's Children's Services Council, says these unintended pregnancies could be prevented if sexual health information and services are more available.<sup>7</sup>

Planned Parenthood of South Palm Beach and Broward Counties argues that by supporting programs like *Be the One* public schools are keeping students away from materials that would lower birth rates. A representative of Planned Parenthood's *Adult Role Model Program* explained, "Babies are having babies. Our school system needs to have a better program to prevent our teens from getting pregnant and contracting sexually transmitted diseases."<sup>8</sup>

Some school board members disagreed, however. One member defended the program, saying, "having sex is like playing Russian roulette. The way you protect yourself is like having one chamber or all bullets full."<sup>9</sup>

The Youth Education Manager for *Be the One* also defended the abstinence program stating that, "condoms are not 100 percent effective against pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and they are zero percent effective toward the emotional consequences teens suffer after their first time." He went on to say, "our program does not try to use scare tactics. People assume it's a 'just say no' message program, but we want to educate adolescents."<sup>10</sup>

Palm Beach County Health Director, Dr. Jean Malecki, is pushing for sexuality education measures that are comprehensive, including providing information about contraception. As a first step, she supports providing teen parents with a program offered by Planned Parenthood of South Palm Beach called *Teen Time*, which teaches anatomy, physiology, and contraception. Currently, *Teen Time* is forbidden on school grounds and a proposal to introduce it in Palm Beach County alternative schools for teen parents remains on hold.<sup>11</sup>

### *Community Debates Planned Parenthood's Role in Schools*

*December 2004; Sarasota County, FL*

A controversy over sexuality education in Sarasota County, FL forced the school district to reconsider its sexuality education program and whether Planned Parenthood should be allowed to speak in area high schools.

Planned Parenthood has given presentations to area middle and high school students as part of the school's life skills management course for over 30 years. When invited by the teacher, educators give a presentation on reproduction, sexually transmitted diseases, and birth control. Parents are given the option of removing their children from these lessons.

The debate began in Spring 2004 when a group of parents approached the school board upset about the alleged distribution and demonstration of condoms, the use of "abortion videos," and presentations by Planned Parenthood in the schools.<sup>12</sup> One parent has complained at every school board meeting since May 2004. At one such meeting, stating her opposition to Planned Parenthood she said, "their whole philosophy is against what we try to instill into our children. They are a business. They increase promiscuity."<sup>13</sup> Since that Spring, board members have been inundated with e-mails and phone calls from parents opposed to Planned Parenthood representatives speaking in area schools.

In response to the complaints, the board asked the school district to revise its policy so that only school district and county health personnel would be permitted to teach sexuality education in the classroom. In addition, the school district's curriculum department created new sexuality education guidelines that instruct teachers to "avoid any discussion regarding how to use or apply the various forms of birth control," and "not [to] use or supply samples of birth control devices or medicines in classroom instruction."<sup>14</sup> The guidelines have an increased abstinence-focus and tell teachers to "instruct that abstinence outside of marriage is the expected standard for all school-age children" and to show a video to promote abstinence titled *Time to Wait for Sex*, that was created by a national abstinence-only speaker, Pam Stenzel.<sup>15</sup>

Not everyone agrees with the changes or the decision to ban Planned Parenthood, however. At a school board meeting in late November 2004, a number of Planned Parenthood supporters told the school board that they wanted the group to keep teaching in local classrooms. A grandmother of two students explained, "I think you are on a very slippery slope. If people can get rid of Planned Parenthood and the teaching of human sexuality, will HIV and AIDS be next if people don't like the subject or who's teaching it?"<sup>16</sup> Many teachers also disagreed with the move to ban Planned Parenthood from teaching health classes. A group of 70 teachers at Riverview High School signed a letter of protest, accusing the board of moving to appease a vocal group of abortion foes who oppose Planned Parenthood on principle, not on the content of the course they teach. People criticized the new guidelines as well, including the use of the Pam Stenzel video which, according to the education director at the Sarasota office of Planned Parenthood, "uses fear, guilt, and shame to teach sexuality." She explained, "I don't think fear is ever a good tool to get anyone to change their behavior."<sup>17</sup>

The school board meeting in early December 2004 was packed with over 300 people, including more than 90 people who signed up to speak. At the meeting, the school board members voted to approve a compromise that would allow Planned Parenthood to continue teaching in local schools, but only allow those students whose parents had signed a permission slip to attend.

#### *Gay Day at Disneyworld Causes Controversy for School Trip May 2004; Coconut Creek, FL*

Some Broward County parents were upset with the timing of a school field trip to Orlando theme parks because the dates were scheduled during "Gay Days." "Gay Days" are advertised as "creating a gay and lesbian atmosphere," and planners describe the days as a time for gays and lesbians and their families to be themselves on vacation. The days were expected to bring about 140,000 to the area.

School district officials explained that several Broward schools would be visiting Orlando during the week, but would not say which schools. A spokesperson said that, "to cancel the trip solely because

of other scheduled events happening would unfairly deprive the students of this experience without a rational reason in the absence of any apparent threat to the safety and well-being of the students.”<sup>18</sup>

The principal at Lyons Creek Middle School in Coconut Creek, FL offered refunds for the trip, as she had been unaware of the timing when it was scheduled. However, she said that parents shouldn’t be concerned, as “we plan this trip every year, and it’s pretty much at the same time, and we’ve never had any problems.”<sup>19</sup>

One parent who has a child at Lyons Creek Middle School said that she was in Orlando during a previous “Gay Days” event and was offended by what went on. In a televised interview on the *O’Reilly Factor*, the parent said, “I just don’t feel it’s an atmosphere that our kids should be subject to.”<sup>20</sup> The same parent also said that, “because our society is so lenient with the gay lifestyle, they just feel like it’s not that big a deal to put our kids into that situation.”<sup>21</sup>

A gay teacher at Plantation Middle School who had been to previous “Gay Days” said that “very little goes on that a parent would have to be concerned about.” He called the parents’ concerns “homophobia.”<sup>22</sup>

*Middle School Student’s Request to Distribute Anti-Abortion Materials Denied  
April 2004; Fort Myers, FL*

A Cypress Lake Middle School student’s request to distribute anti-choice pamphlets at school was turned down by a federal judge in a preliminary injunction hearing. The eighth-grade student wanted to hand out anti-abortion pamphlets during non-class time on the “Day of Remembrance” for aborted fetuses. Her request had been denied the previous year because of the school’s blanket policy prohibiting student distribution of pamphlets. As a result, the student and her mother filed a lawsuit against the Lee County School Board in late March 2004, asking for a court order to prevent the school from enforcing this policy.

The Liberty Counsel, a national law firm based in Florida that works on religious rights issues, represented the student in court. This group gained national attention earlier that year when they organized Purity Day, on which students handed out materials on abstinence-until-marriage to their classmates.

A U.S. District judge turned down the student’s request, explaining that although students have the right to free speech, school officials are also entitled to “prescribe and control conduct in the schools.”<sup>23</sup>

The school board attorney was pleased with the decision, explaining, “we felt our position with respect to distribution of materials was appropriate and legally defensible. We think this order establishes that.”<sup>24</sup> The mother and student, however, were disappointed with the ruling and considered continuing with the litigation.

*Parents Upset about Religious Group Teaching in Schools  
February 2004; Eau Gallie, FL*

In Eau Gallie, FL, a number of parents were upset about a five-day abstinence-only-until-marriage program conducted in the high school by First Defense, an anti-choice organization. First Defense is part of Pregnancy Resources, Inc., an anti-choice organization that offers pregnancy testing and counseling, and operates programs in six public high schools and a number of public middle schools in the area.

The group’s director, a former youth minister, said, “it gives us the opportunity to share truths we’ve come to believe based on our faith, but not have it be offensive to those who might not be of Christian faith.”<sup>25</sup> The program is taught at the request of the life management teachers in the schools. One teacher explained, “the kids hear it, they get it. If they hear it from me, they’re not listening.”<sup>26</sup>

Many parents were upset about the role of such a religious organization in the schools. One parent explained, “a religious-based group has no business in the public schools, period. . . . That information should be disseminated by medical professionals or teachers who have been trained.”<sup>227</sup> In addition, many feel that the program relies on scare tactics.

Although teachers say they monitor the presentations to make sure they are appropriate for schools, many parents remain upset because the contact information for these organizations is given out to students as a resource.

**Florida’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note<sup>28</sup>**

- In 2005, 47% of female high school students and 54% of male high school students in Florida reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 4% of female high school students and 14% of male high school students in Florida 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 2005, 12% 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 12% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 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 female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 63% of females and 71% of males in Florida reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 15% of females and 11% of males in Florida reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 17% of females and 23% of males in Florida reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, 88% of high school students in Florida reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

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>29</sup>
- In 2002, Florida's birth rate was 46 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>30</sup>

*Broward County, Florida*

- In 2005, 46% of female high school students and 61% of male high school students in Broward County, Florida reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 4% of female high school students and 13% of male high school students in Broward County, Florida 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 2005, 10% of female high school students and 25% of male high school students in Broward County, Florida reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 12% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 34% of female high school students and 41% of male high school students in Broward County, Florida reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 35% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 68% of females and 82% of males in Broward County, Florida reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 14% of females and 8% of males in Broward County, Florida reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 13% of females and 23% of males in Broward County, Florida reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, 88% of high school students in Broward County, Florida reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

*Ft. Lauderdale, Florida*<sup>31</sup>

- In 2001, 41% of female high school students and 54% of male high school students in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 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, Florida 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, Florida 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, Florida reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 33% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 16% of females and 30% of males in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 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, Florida 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, Florida reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2001, 4% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students in Ft. Lauderdale, 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 2001, 88% of high school students in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 89% of high school students nationwide.

*Hillsborough County, Florida*

- In 2005, 45% of female high school students and 52% of male high school students in Hillsborough County, Florida reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 4% of female high school students and 11% of male high school students in Hillsborough County, Florida 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 2005, 12% of female high school students and 19% of male high school students in Hillsborough County, Florida reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 12% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 34% of female high school students and 37% of male high school students in Hillsborough County, Florida reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 35% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 61% of females and 74% of males in Hillsborough County, Florida reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 20% of females and 15% of males in Hillsborough County, Florida reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 18% of females and 35% of males in Hillsborough County, Florida reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, 90% of high school students in Hillsborough County, Florida reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.



*Miami-Dade County, Florida*

- In 2005, 45% of female high school students and 59% of male high school students in Miami-Dade County, Florida reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 4% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students in Miami-Dade County, Florida 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 2005, 8% of female high school students and 25% of male high school students in Miami-Dade County, Florida reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 12% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 33% of female high school students and 39% of male high school students in Miami-Dade County, Florida reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 35% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 65% of females and 79% of males in Miami-Dade County, Florida reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 6% of females and 5% of males in Miami-Dade County, Florida reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 14% of females and 16% of males in Miami-Dade County, Florida reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, 86% of high school students in Miami-Dade County, Florida reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

*Orange County, Florida*

- In 2005, 47% of female high school students and 55% of male high school students in Orange County, Florida reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 5% of female high school students and 13% of male high school students in Orange County, Florida 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 2005, 13% of female high school students and 21% of male high school students in Orange County, Florida reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 12% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 38% of female high school students and 36% of male high school students in Orange County, Florida reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 35% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 59% of females and 71% of males in Orange County, Florida reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 8% of females and 9% of males in Orange County, Florida reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 17% of females and 21% of males in Orange County, Florida reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, 88% of high school students in Orange County, Florida reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

*Palm Beach County, Florida*

- In 2005, 45% of female high school students and 54% of male high school students in Palm Beach County, Florida reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 3% of female high school students and 10% of male high school students in Palm Beach County, Florida 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 2005, 9% of female high school students and 18% of male high school students in Palm Beach County, Florida reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 12% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 35% of female high school students and 34% of male high school students in Palm Beach County, Florida reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 35% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 68% of females and 75% of males in Palm Beach County, Florida reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 13% of females and 13% of males in Palm Beach County, Florida reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 16% of females and 19% of males in Palm Beach County, Florida reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, 88% of high school students in Palm Beach County, Florida 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 \$2,521,581 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2005. 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 may be provided in part or in full by local groups. In Florida, sub-grantees are responsible for matching the federal funding. The state allocated a separate \$3,500,000 from state funds for Fiscal Year 2005 which is also contracted out to sub-grantees. Some sub-grantees receive money from both federal and state funds. There are 10 sub-grantees: ABST (Abstinence Between Strong Teens), Baker County Health Department, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Palm Beach, Investing In Our Youth, Inc, Marion County Health Department, Pinellas Crisis Pregnancy Center (United Students for Abstinence), Project S.O.S., Putnam County Health Department (Teen Hope), Recapturing the Vision International, and Tampa Metropolitan YMCA.

#### *Title V Evaluation*

In 2003, Florida evaluated its Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program. The evaluation found that programs served youth and young adults ages 7–25 and used a variety of curricula including *Choosing the Best LIFE*, *A.C. Green’s Game Plan*, and *WAIT (Why Am I Tempted) Training*.

Florida’s review of its programs involved pre- and post-test surveys and one behavioral survey, but did not include comparison groups. The results showed small changes in participants’ agreement with statements like, “I believe having sex as a young person could mess up my future.”<sup>32</sup> In contrast, the behavioral survey found that participants reported increases in seven sexual behaviors, including an increase in the number reporting that they had engaged in sexual intercourse.<sup>33</sup>

SIECUS has reviewed *Choosing the Best LIFE*, *A.C. Green’s Game Plan*, and *WAIT Training*. SIECUS found that *Choosing the Best LIFE* names numerous physical and psychological consequences of premarital sexual activity, suggests that sexually active teens will never have happy futures, and implies that only teens with low self-esteem and poor judgment become sexually active. For example, *Choosing the Best LIFE* states that, “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.”<sup>34</sup>

SIECUS found that in order to convince high school students to remain abstinent until marriage, *Game Plan* 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 that, “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.”<sup>35</sup>

SIECUS found that *WAIT Training* 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.”<sup>36</sup>

**Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE)<sup>37</sup> and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees**

There are 12 CBAE grantees in Florida: Abstinence Between Strong Teens (ABST), Baker County Health Department (receives two grants), Beta Center Inc., Catholic Diocese of Orlando/ ThinkSmart Abstinence Education Program, Florida Christian College, Gold Coast Community Services/ Be the One, Hendry County Health Department, James B. Sanderlin Family Center, Osceola County Health Department, Project S.O.S, TLC Clinic, and A Women’s Place Ministries, Inc. There are four AFLA grantees in Florida: BETA Center Inc., Boys and Girls Clubs of Sarasota County, Switchboard of Miami (receives two grants), and Urban League of Broward County.

Florida Christian College’s website encourages college students not to have sex. The website explains, “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.<sup>38</sup>

The Catholic Diocese of Orlando runs its *Think Smart Abstinence Education Program* through its Respect Life Office in conjunction with the Orange County Health Department. The program stresses that, “marriage is the guideline and boundary for the protection sex.”<sup>39</sup>

“Truth,” a section of Project S.O.S.’s website, states that “sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are infections that are transferred from one person to another through sexual contact. Sexual contact includes kissing, all forms of sexual intercourse (vaginal, anal & oral), and the use of sexual toys.”<sup>40</sup> In reality the majority of STDs are not transmitted through kissing.

**Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2005<sup>41</sup>**

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)</b>
<b>Length of Grant</b>		
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>	\$2,521,581 federal \$3,500,000 state	Title V
ABST (Abstinence Between Strong Teens)		Title V sub-grantee
DUAL GRANTEE	\$642,250	CBAE
2005–2008		

FLORIDA

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee</b>  <b>Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)</b>
Baker County Health Department  TRIPLE GRANTEE  2002–2005  TRIPLE GRANTEE  2005–2008  <a href="http://www.outspokn.com">www.outspokn.com</a>	  \$343,698    \$460,755	Title V sub-grantee     CBAE     CBAE
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Palm Beach  <a href="http://www.diocesepb.org/charities">www.diocesepb.org/charities</a>		Title V sub-grantee
Investing In Our Youth, Inc		Title V sub-grantee
Marion County Health Department		Title V sub-grantee
Pinellas Crisis Pregnancy Center (United Students for Abstinence)  <a href="http://www.pregctr.net">www.pregctr.net</a>		Title V sub-grantee
Project S.O.S.  DUAL GRANTEE  2002–2005	  \$631,830	Title V sub-grantee   CBAE
Putnam County Health Department (Teen Hope)		Title V sub-grantee
Recapturing the Vision International		Title V sub-grantee

FLORIDA

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee</b>  <b>Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)</b>
Tampa Metropolitan YMCA  <a href="http://www.tampaymca.org">www.tampaymca.org</a>		Title V sub-grantee
BETA Center Inc.  2005–2008  <a href="http://www.betacenter.org">www.betacenter.org</a>	\$430,938	CBAE
Catholic Diocese of Orlando/ ThinkSmart Abstinence Education Program  2004–2007  <a href="http://www.oralandodiocese.org">www.oralandodiocese.org</a>	\$800,000	CBAE
Florida Christian College  2002–2005  <a href="http://www.fcc.edu">www.fcc.edu</a>	\$798,417	CBAE
Gold Coast Community Services/ Be the One  2002–2005	\$800,000	CBAE
Hendry County Health Department  2005–2008	\$393,067	CBAE
James B. Sanderlin Family Center  2004–2007	\$371,761	CBAE

FLORIDA

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee</b>  <b>Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)</b>
Osceola County Health Department  2004–2007  <a href="http://www.osceolahealth.org">www.osceolahealth.org</a>	\$799,791	CBAE
TLC Clinic, Inc  2005–2008	\$800,000	CBAE
A Women’s Place Ministries, Inc  2005–2008  <a href="http://www.awpm.net">www.awpm.net</a>	\$782,992	CBAE
Beta Center Inc  2005–2006  <a href="http://www.betacenter.org">www.betacenter.org</a>	\$225,000	AFLA
Boys and Girls Clubs of Sarasota County  2005–2006	\$225,000	AFLA
Switchboard of Miami  DUAL GRANTEE  2005–2006  <a href="http://www.switchboardmiami.org">www.switchboardmiami.org</a>	\$225,000  \$300,000	AFLA  AFLA
Urban League of Broward County  2005–2006  <a href="http://www.campaignforchange.org">www.campaignforchange.org</a>	\$99,227	AFLA



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

Christina Canty  
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.acluf.org](http://www.acluf.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: (800) 535-2669  
[www.flnow.org](http://www.flnow.org)

Florida Women's Consortium  
4335 Elm Ave.  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
[www.floridawomensconsortium.com](http://www.floridawomensconsortium.com)

National Women's Political  
Caucus of Florida  
161 S.E. 13<sup>th</sup> St.  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060  
Phone: (954) 946-3265  
[www.withoutboundaries.com](http://www.withoutboundaries.com)

Republican Pro-Choice Coalition,  
Florida State Chapter  
PO Box 30503  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420  
Phone: (561) 493-8880

**Florida Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Family First  
609 West DeLeon St.  
Tampa, FL 33606  
Phone: (813) 222-8300  
[www.familyfirst.net](http://www.familyfirst.net)

Florida Right To Life  
(Florida Affiliate of National  
Right to Life Committee)  
378 Center Pointe Cir., Suite 1250  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701  
Phone: (407) 834-5433  
[www.frtl.org](http://www.frtl.org)

**Newspapers in Florida**

*Bradenton Herald*  
Donna Wright  
Health & Medicine Writer  
PO Box 921  
Bradenton, FL 34206

*Diario Las Americas*  
Miriam Perez  
Health & Medicine Editor  
PO Box 593177  
Miami, FL 33159

F L O R I D A

Phone: (941) 745-7049

*El Nuevo Herald*

Gloria Leal  
Health & Medicine Editor  
1 Herald Plz.  
Miami, FL 33132  
Phone: (305) 376-2183

*Florida Today*

Chuck McClung  
Health & Medicine Editor  
PO Box 419000  
Melbourne, FL 32941  
Phone: (321) 242-3776

*The Ledger*

Diane Allen  
Local Governments Reporter  
PO Box 408  
Lakeland, FL 33802  
Phone: (863) 802-7514

*Miami Herald*

Frank Davies  
Federal Legislation Correspondent  
700 12<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: (202) 383-6054

*Miami Herald*

Bob Radziewicz  
Education Editor  
1 Herald Plz.  
Miami, FL 33132  
Phone: (305) 376-3506

*The News-Journal*

Anne Geggis  
Health & Medicine Reporter  
901 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32117  
Phone: (386) 681-2746

Phone: (305) 633-3341

*The Florida Times-Union*

Tom Szaroleta  
Health & Medicine Editor  
PO Box 1949  
Jacksonville, FL 32231  
Phone: (904) 359-4548

*The Ledger*

Robin Williams Adams  
Health & Medicine Reporter  
PO Box 408  
Lakeland, FL 33802  
Phone: (863) 802-7558

*The Ledger*

Lyle McBride  
Family & Parenting Editor  
300 W. Lime St.  
Lakeland, FL 33815  
Phone: (863) 802-7505

*Miami Herald*

Leonard Pitts  
Social Issues Columnist  
790 National Press Building  
Washington, DC 20045  
Phone: (888) 251-4407

*Naples Daily News*

Liz Freeman  
Health & Medicine Editor  
1075 Central Ave.  
Naples, FL 34102  
Phone: (239) 263-4778

*News-Press*

Maribel Wadsworth  
Health & Medicine Editor  
2442 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
Phone: (239) 335-0386

F L O R I D A

*Orlando Sentinel*  
Robyn Shelton  
Health & Medicine Reporter  
PO Box 2833  
Orlando, FL 32802  
Phone: (407) 420-5487

*Orlando Sentinel*  
Robyn Suriano  
Medical/Health Reporter  
633 N. Orange Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32801  
Phone: (407) 420-5487

*The Palm Beach Post*  
Carolyn Susman  
Health & Medicine Editor  
2751 S. Dixie Hwy.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33405  
Phone: (561) 820-4433

*Pensacola News Journal*  
Susie Forrester  
Health & Medicine Editor  
101 E. Romana St.  
Pensacola, FL 32502  
Phone: (850) 435-8550

*St. Petersburg Times*  
Melanie Ave  
Education Staff Writer  
1000 N. Ashley Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33602  
Phone: (813) 226-3400

*St. Petersburg Times*  
Lisa Greene  
Health & Medicine Writer  
PO Box 1121  
Saint Petersburg, FL 33731  
Phone: (727) 893-8846

*Sarasota Herald-Tribune*  
Cindy Kane  
Health & Medicine Editor  
PO Box 1719  
Sarasota, FL 34230

*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*  
Bob LaMendola  
Health & Medicine Reporter  
200 E. Las Olas Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
Phone: (954) 356-4526

*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*  
Nancy McVicar  
Health & Medicine Reporter  
200 E. Las Olas Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
Phone: (954) 356-4593

*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*  
Nick Tate  
Health & Medicine Editor  
200 E. Las Olas Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
Phone: (954) 356-4512

*Tampa Bay Family*  
Kathy Boyd  
Editor  
1840 Glengary St.  
Sarasota, FL 34231  
Phone: (941) 922-5437

*The Tampa Tribune*  
Susan Johnson  
Health & Medicine Reporter  
200 S. Parker St.  
Tampa, FL 33606  
Phone: (813) 259-7951

<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 2005 begins on October 1, 2004 and ends on September 30, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Kathleen Chapman, "Abstinence Education Program Wins Grant," *The Palm Beach Post*, 7 October 2005, 3B.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Marc Freeman, "Teen Pregnancy Rising Sharply in Palm Beach County," (29 September 2005), *Sun Sentinel*, accessed <[http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-pteenparents29sep29\\_0\\_174090\\_story?coll=sfla-home-headlines](http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-pteenparents29sep29_0_174090_story?coll=sfla-home-headlines)>.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> "Promoting Abstinence or Courting Disaster," *Boca Raton News* (FL) (24 October 2004), accessed 25 October 2004, <http://www.bocaratonnews.com/index.php?src=news&prid=9942&category=Local%20News>>.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Freeman.

<sup>12</sup> "Venice Parents Sound Off—Again," *Venice Gondolier Sun* (FL), 2 June 2004.

<sup>13</sup> Christina DeNardo, "Parents Oppose Talks by Agency; Schools Reconsider Speakers from Planned Parenthood," *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* (FL), 6 November 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis, 7 January 2005.

<sup>14</sup> Christina DeNardo, "District Putting Limits on Sex Ed," *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* (FL), 29 November 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis, 7 January 2005.

<sup>15</sup> Christina DeNardo, "Board OKs Alternative Sex-Ed Plan," *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* (FL), 8 December 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis, 7 January 2005.

<sup>16</sup> Christina DeNardo, "Board Hears Sex-Ed Debate," *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* (FL), 18 November 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis, 7 January 2005.

<sup>17</sup> Christina DeNardo, "Sex-ed Debate Raises Questions About Video," *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* (FL), 9 December 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis, 7 January 2005.

<sup>18</sup> Jamie Malernee, "Field Trip Schedule Concerns Parents; Visit to Orlando Theme Parks Will Coincide With Gay Days," *Sun-Sentinel*, 6 May 2004.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> "The O'Reilly Factor," Fox News Channel Transcript, 4 May 2004,.

<sup>21</sup> J. Brown et. al., "Mom Protests Middle School's Orlando Outing During 'Gay' Pride Week," *Agape Press*, 30 April 2004, accessed 3 March 2006 <<http://headlines.agapepress.org/archive/4/302004c.asp>>.

<sup>22</sup> Malernee.

<sup>23</sup> Mike Hoyem, "Teen Loses Lee School Board Suit," *News-Press*, 15 April 2004.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> J. Dean, "Faith-based groups tout abstinence to students," *Florida Today*, 7 February 2004.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Danice K. Eaton, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2005," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 55, no. SS-5 (9 June 2006): 1-108, accessed 8 June 2006, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>.

<sup>29</sup> *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, February, 2004), accessed 28 January 2005, <[http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state\\_pregnancy\\_trends.pdf](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state_pregnancy_trends.pdf)>.

<sup>30</sup> *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>>.

<sup>31</sup> Ft. Lauderdale, Florida did not participate in the 2005 or 2003 YRBS. Jo Anne Grunbaum, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2001," *Surveillance Summaries, 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>>.

<sup>32</sup> Florida State University School of Social Work, *Florida DOH Abstinence Education Providers Pretest/Posttest Analysis*, (Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University and Florida Department of Health, 2002–2003).

<sup>33</sup> Florida State University School of Social Work, *Total Sample Pretest/Posttest Analysis Behavior Survey* (Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University and Florida Department of Health, 2002–2003).

<sup>34</sup> Bruce Cook, *Choosing the Best LIFE* (Marietta, GA: Choosing the Best Inc., 2000). For more information, see SIECUS' review of *Choosing the Best LIFE* at <[http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula\\_reviews.html](http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html)>.

<sup>35</sup> Scott Phelps and Libby Gray, *A.C. Green's Game Plan* (Golf, IL: Project Reality, 2001). For more information, see SIECUS' review of *A.C. Green's Game Plan* at <[http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula\\_reviews.html](http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html)>.

<sup>36</sup> *WAIT Training-Workshop Manual* (Longmont, CO: Friends First, 1996). For more information see, *Toward a Sexually Healthy America, Abstinence-only-until-marriage programs that Try to Keep Our Youth Scared Chaste* at [http://www.siecus.org/pubs/tsha\\_scaredchaste.pdf](http://www.siecus.org/pubs/tsha_scaredchaste.pdf).

<sup>37</sup> In Fiscal Year 2004 SPRANS–CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In Fiscal Year 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).

<sup>38</sup> *Florida Christian College*, Florida Christian College, accessed 21 February 2005, <http://www.fcc.edu>.

<sup>39</sup> *Abstinence Education Projects FY 2004/2005*, Office of Population Affairs–Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs (2004), accessed 21 February 2005, <http://opa.osophs.dhhs.gov/titlexx/afl-grantees-ae.html>.

<sup>40</sup> Project SOS, “Students” accessed 03 March 2006 <http://www.projectsos.com/truth.htm>.

<sup>41</sup> SIECUS was unable to obtain exact funding amounts for all grantees.