



# SIECUS

State Profile

## IDAHO

*The Department of Health and Welfare in Idaho received \$208,264 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2007.<sup>1</sup>*

### **Idaho Sexuality Education Law and Policy**

In Idaho, local school boards are charged with the decision of whether or not to offer sexuality education. Idaho law states that the “primary responsibility of family life and sex education” rests with a student’s home and church. If a school board decides to institute sexuality education, the program must place “major emphasis” on the home, family, and church as areas of importance for learning such knowledge. Family is not defined under this statute. School boards must include parents and community groups in all aspects of instituting and evaluating sexuality education programs.

In addition, the program should give youth “the scientific, psychological information for understanding sex and its relation to the miracle of life.” It must also include “knowledge of the power of the sex drive and the necessity of controlling that drive by self-discipline.”

According to the *Idaho Content Standards of Health*, by the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students should be able to “assess the consequences of sexual activity (unplanned pregnancy, STDs, emotional distress).”

Parents or guardians wishing to excuse their children from sexuality education must file a written request to the school board. The school board will then supply the parent with necessary forms to remove the child from the class. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Idaho Statutes 33-1608, 33-1609, 33-1610, 33-1611, and *Idaho Content Standards of Health*.

### **Recent Legislation**

#### *Executive Order Re-Establishes Teen Pregnancy Council*

Executive Order 11 re-established the Governor’s Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, which had been disbanded in 2004. The Council must consist of no more than 19 members who are appointed by the Governor. Among other duties, it provides administrative support to the Title V “abstinence education” program. The Order was introduced in April 2006 and is effective for four years.

#### *Legislation to Require Parental Notification of Club Participation*

House Bill 863, introduced in March 2006, would have required parents of public school students to sign a permission slip before their child could join any school club or organization. This bill was intended to facilitate parental involvement in school activities. The bill passed in the House but died when the Senate did not take action before the end of the legislative session.

**Events of Note**

SIECUS is not aware of any recent events regarding sexuality education in Idaho.

**Idaho’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note<sup>2</sup>**

- In 2007, 42% of female high school students and 42% of male high school students in Idaho reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 50% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 4% of female high school students and 7% of male high school students in Idaho 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 2007, 82% of high school students in Idaho reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 90% of high school students nationwide.

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

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare received \$208,264 in federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2007. 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 Idaho, the match is provided by direct state revenue.

The Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage grant is maintained by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare which disburses the funds to six regional Public Health Districts. Each of these districts uses the “PEAK (Peers Encouraging Abstinent Kids)” program. PEAK is “an abstinence-only mentoring program targeting sixth, seventh and/or eighth graders. Trained high school mentors, under the supervision of adult facilitators, deliver the curriculum to the middle school students.”<sup>3</sup> PEAK has three goals:

- Identify the risks associated with early sexual involvement.
- Identify examples of pressures in our society that influence young people’s sexual behavior.
- Employ responses that say no to pressure to become sexually involved.<sup>4</sup>

**Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees**

There are no CBAE or AFLA grantees in Idaho.

I D A H O

**Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2007**

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee</b>  <b>Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds)</b>
The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare  <a href="http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov">www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov</a>	\$208,264 federal \$156,198 state	Title V
Region 1 Field Office: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties	\$62,000	Title V sub-grantee
Region 3 Field Office: Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, and Washington Counties	\$35,000	Title V sub-grantee
Region 4 Field Office: Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties	\$35,000	Title V sub-grantee
Region 5 Field Office: Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls Counties	\$35,000	Title V sub-grantee
Region 6 Field Office: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power Counties	\$35,000	Title V sub-grantee
Region 7 Field Office: Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties	\$35,000	Title V sub-grantee

**Adolescent Health Contact<sup>5</sup>**

Kara Stevens, Manager  
Environmental Health and Injury Prevention Section  
Bureau of Community & Environmental Health  
Department of Health and Welfare  
450 West State Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boise, ID 83702  
Phone: (208) 332-7319

**Idaho Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

ACLU of Idaho  
P.O. Box 1897  
Boise, ID 83701  
Phone: (208) 344-9750  
[www.acluidaho.org](http://www.acluidaho.org)

Idaho Women's Network  
P.O. Box 1385  
Boise, ID 83701  
Phone: (208) 344-5738  
[www.idahowomensnetwork.org](http://www.idahowomensnetwork.org)

Planned Parenthood of Idaho  
1109 Main St., Suite 500  
Boise, ID 83702  
Phone: (208) 376-2277  
[www.plannedparenthood.org/idaho](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/idaho)

**Idaho Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Grapevine Publications  
P.O. Box 884  
Boise, ID 83711  
[www.grapevinepublications.com](http://www.grapevinepublications.com)

Pregnancy Care Center  
2020 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Lewiston, ID 83501  
Phone: (208) 746-9704  
[www.lctoday.net/nonprofit/pcc.htm](http://www.lctoday.net/nonprofit/pcc.htm)

**Newspapers in Idaho<sup>6</sup>**

*Coeur d'Alene Press*  
Newsroom  
201 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Coeur D Alene, ID 8381  
Phone: (208) 664-8176  
[www.cdapress.com](http://www.cdapress.com)

*Idaho Press-Tribune*  
Newsroom  
1618 N. Midland Blvd.  
Nampa, ID 83651  
Phone: (208) 465-8124  
[www.idahopress.com](http://www.idahopress.com)

*Idaho State Journal*  
Newsroom  
305 S. Arthur Ave.  
Pocatello, ID 83204  
Phone: (208) 232-4161  
[www.journalnet.com](http://www.journalnet.com)

*The Idaho Statesman*  
Newsroom  
1200 N. Curtis Rd.  
Boise, ID 83706  
Phone: (208) 377-6400  
[www.idahostatesmen.com](http://www.idahostatesmen.com)

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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 2007 begins on October 1, 2006 and ends on September 30, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Danice K. Eaton, et. al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2007,” Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 57.SS-4 (6 June 2008), accessed 4 June 2008, <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> “Peak Program,” Peers Encouraging Abstinent Kids, accessed 10 March 2008  
<[http://www2.state.id.us/phd1/hp\\_peak.html#What](http://www2.state.id.us/phd1/hp_peak.html#What)>.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

<sup>6</sup> This section is a list of major newspapers in your state with contact information for their newsrooms. This list is by no means inclusive and does not contain the local level newspapers which are integral to getting your message out to your community. SIECUS strongly urges you to follow stories about the issues that concern you on the national, state, and local level by using an internet news alert service such as [Google alerts](#), becoming an avid reader of your local papers, and establishing relationships with reporters who cover your issues. For more information on how to achieve your media goals visit the SIECUS [Community Action Kit](#).