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Michigan received at least \$3,992,305 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2004.^{1,2}

Michigan Sexuality Education Law

Michigan does not require schools to teach sexuality education, but the state does require schools to provide sexually transmitted disease (STD) and HIV/AIDS education. STD/HIV education must include “the teaching of abstinence from sex as a responsible method for restriction and prevention of these diseases and as a positive lifestyle for unmarried young people.”

All teachers of STD/HIV education who are not licensed healthcare professionals must be trained in HIV/AIDS education by the Department of Education.

Schools may also offer sexuality education classes which cover family planning, human sexuality, and family life education. As with STD/HIV education, abstinence must be included as “a responsible method of preventing unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease and as a positive lifestyle for unmarried young people.” Sexuality education classes must be offered as an elective and may not be required for graduation. All sexuality education and HIV/AIDS classes must be taught by teachers qualified to teach health education.

School boards must establish an advisory board to review all materials and curricula. This advisory board must include parents, students, educators, clergy, and health professionals.

The law further states that all instruction in reproductive health “shall be supervised by a registered physician, a registered nurse, or other person certified by the state board as qualified.” Reproductive health is defined as “the state of an individual’s well-being which involves the reproductive system and its physiological, psychological, and endocrinological functions.” Abortion “shall not be considered a method of family planning, nor shall abortion be taught as a method of reproductive health.” All curricula must be approved by the local school board and if any changes are made, the local school board must hold at least two public hearings on the revisions.

Parents must receive notification of any sexuality education classes and be allowed to review the content of the sexuality education class. Parents or guardians can exempt their children from any part of the STD/HIV instruction if it conflicts with their religious beliefs. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Michigan School Code Sections 380.1169, 380.1170, 380.1506, and 380.1507 and Michigan Public Law 165 and 166.

Recent Legislation

SIECUS is not aware of any recent legislation related to sexuality education in Michigan.

Events of Note

Battle Creek Adopts a More Comprehensive Program

March 2004; Battle Creek, MI

Almost all Battle Creek High School freshmen will now take a new health class that will discuss preventing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The Battle Creek Board of Education first approved a revised sexuality education curriculum in February 2004 that was to be included in a freshman fitness class and two high school electives, but decided in March to make the health lessons into a new class for freshman. In addition, the seventh-grade program also became an “opt-out” program, rather than an “opt-in” program.

The changes were first initiated because of concerns many community residents had about the city’s high teen birth rate, which is double the state average.³ An advisory committee suggested that the new lessons would teach students about avoiding risks associated with sex, including lessons on the use of contraception. The advisory committee also suggested that the school make the seventh-grade program an “opt-out” rather than an “opt-in” program, so that all students will be automatically enrolled unless their parents choose to take them out of the class.

The president remarked on the initial curricula changes in February saying, “it’s pretty groundbreaking. This is the first time the curriculum has been modified to the extent that pregnancy prevention is included. What we’re attempting to do is join in the community-wide effort to reduce teenage pregnancy as well as sexually transmitted diseases.”⁴

The school board decided in March to create a new nine-week health class that will include a human sexuality curriculum package that discusses contraception and abstinence. A local middle school health teacher explained the change saying that, “the personal fitness class can only accommodate so many lessons on HIV, STDs, and human sexuality. Because the school district has felt so strongly that we offer more information to students, it really required us to look at a different avenue.”⁵

Some school officials hope to make the new class a graduation requirement in the future. One school board member said, “I think this is one of those that’s too important to let kids get out of.”⁶

Michigan’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁷

- In 2003, 42% of female high school students and 45% of male high school students in Michigan 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 10% of male high school students in Michigan 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 16% of male high school students in Michigan 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.

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- In 2003, 33% of female high school students and 30% of male high school students in Michigan 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, 21% of females and 28% of males in Michigan 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, 57% of females and 69% of males in Michigan 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, 20% of females and 14% of males in Michigan 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 3% of male high school students in Michigan 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, 89% of high school students in Michigan reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Michigan's abortion rate was 24 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁸
- In 2002, Michigan's birth rate was 35 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.⁹

Detroit, Michigan

- In 2003, 54% of female high school students and 73% of male high school students in Detroit reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 8% of female high school students and 30% of male high school students in Detroit 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, 15% of female high school students and 38% of male high school students in Detroit 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, 40% of female high school students and 46% of male high school students in Detroit 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, 14% of females and 18% of males in Detroit 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, 63% of females and 79% of males in Detroit 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 4% of males in Detroit 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, 9% of female high school students and 8% of male high school students in Detroit 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, 82% of high school students in Detroit reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Michigan received \$1,447,436 in federal Title V funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs 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. Michigan provides matching funds of \$695,000. The remainder of the match is provided by sub-grantees through in-kind services and funds. The Michigan Department of Community Health oversees all Title V funding and has formed a Michigan Abstinence Partnership to aid in oversight.

Title V money in Michigan is contracted out to sub-grantees. The sub-grantees must:

- Target nine to 14 year olds and their parents
- Work in coalition
- Focus on research-based activities
- Be age-, gender-, and culturally-relevant
- Promote personal respect and responsibility
- Teach youth how to deal with peer pressure

Human Aid of Gladwin County, one of the sub-grantees, uses the funding to support The Yes! Coalition, which provides abstinence-only-until-marriage programming in an after school setting. In The Yes! Coalition’s program, the final week is reserved for planning, explaining,

and promoting a promise ring ceremony.¹⁰ Recent research on virginity pledges has found that they may help a select group of young people delay sexual intercourse for approximately 18 months – far short of marriage. Young people who take the pledge, however, are one third less likely to use contraception when they do become sexually active than their peers who did not pledge. In addition, researchers found that pledges only worked when taken by a small group of students. Pledges taken by a whole class were ineffective.¹¹

Special Projects of Regional and National Significance—Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS–CBAE)¹² and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees: There are three SPRANS–CBAE grantees: Michigan Department of Community Health, New Genesis, and St. Joseph Health System. There are two AFLA grantees: Ingham County Health Department and Planned Parenthood of Northern Michigan.

St. Joseph Health System is a faith-based organization that describes itself as “rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer.”

In a press release from Representative Fred Upton (R-MI)’s office, the executive director of New Genesis states that its curriculum will be focusing on 12 to 18-year olds and that the organization has partnered with Christian Life Center Church, Gaililee Missionary Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, First United Baptist Church, the Kalamazoo County Department of Health and Human Services, Northside Ministerial Alliance, and the African American Health Initiative in order to teach abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

The program will use *Choosing the Best PATH*, *Teen-Aid*, *No Apologies*, *the Choice Game*, and *Can We Talk?* 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.”¹³

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)
Michigan Department of Community Health DUAL GRANTEE 2002-2005 www.michigan.gov/mdch/	\$1,447,436 federal \$695,000 state \$800,000	Title V SPRANS–CBAE (Implementation Grant)

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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)
Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona Educational Service District www.amaesd.k12.mi.us	\$158,886	Title V sub-grantee
Catholic Social Services of Muskegon www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org	\$121,890	Title V sub-grantee
Children's Center of Wayne County www.thechildrenscenter.com	\$170,000	Title V sub-grantee
District Health Department #10 of Cadillac www.michigan.gov/documents/district10_96612_7.htm	\$170,000	Title V sub-grantee
Eaton Intermediate School District www.eaton.k12.mi.us	\$170,000	Title V sub-grantee
Human Aid of Gladwin County	\$170,000	Title V sub-grantee
Jackson County www.co.jackson.mi.us	\$157,385	Title V sub-grantee
Lakeshore Pregnancy Center	\$123,250	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)
Macomb Family YMCA www.ycametrodetroit.org/branches/macomb.asp	\$170,000	Title V sub-grantee
St. John Community Health www.stjohn.org	\$85,000	Title V sub-grantee
Tuscola Intermediate School District www.tisd.k12.mi.us	\$127,500	Title V sub-grantee
Wedgwood Christian Youth and Family Services www.wedgwood.org	\$170,000	Title V sub-grantee
New Genesis, Inc. DUAL GRANTEE 2004-2007 www.newgenesisinc.org	\$99,277 \$737,925	SPRANS-CBAE (Unknown Type) SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
St. Joseph Health System www.sjhsys.org	\$503,615	SPRANS-CBAE (Unknown Type)
Providence-St. John Health 2004-2007		SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)

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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)
Ingham County Health Department 2004-2005 www.ingham.org/hd/health.htm	\$276,826	AFLA
Planned Parenthood of Northern Michigan 2004-2005 www.plannedparenthood.org/ppnm	\$127,226	AFLA

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator:

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 3423 N. MLK Jr. Blvd.
 Lansing, MI 48909
 Phone: (517) 335-8908

Michigan Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

AIDS Partnership Michigan
 2751 E. Jefferson, Suite 301
 Detroit, MI 48207
 Phone: (313) 446-9800
www.aidspartnership.org

Michigan NOW
 PO Box 18063
 Lansing, MI 48901
 Phone: (517) 485-9687
www.michnow.org

Michigan Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
 PO Box 739
 East Lansing, MI 48826

Planned Parenthood of South Central Michigan
 4201 W. Michigan Ave.
 Kalamazoo, MI 49006
 Phone: (269) 372-1200
www.ppscm.org

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Triangle Foundation
19641 West Seven Mile Rd.
Detroit, MI 48219
Phone: (313) 537-3323
www.tri.org

Michigan Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Michigan Family Forum (MFF)
PO Box 15216
1003 N. Washington Ave., First Floor
Lansing, MI 48901
Phone: (517) 374-1171
www.michiganfamily.org

Right to Life of MI
2340 Porter St., SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49519
Phone: (616) 532-2300
www.rtl.org

Newspapers in Michigan

The Ann Arbor News
Geoff Larcom
Community News Columnist
340 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Phone: (734) 994-6838

Detroit Free Press
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Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 222-5462

Kalamazoo Gazette
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Community News Reporter
401 S. Burdick St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Phone: (269) 388-8555

Lansing State Journal
Tim Makinen
Health & Medicine Editor
120 E. Lenawee St.
Lansing, MI 48919
Phone: (517) 377-1053

Lansing State Journal
Sally Trout
Community News Reporter
120 E. Lenawee St.
Lansing, MI 48919
Phone: (517) 377-1040

The Macomb Daily
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Community News Staff Writer
100 Macomb Daily Dr.
Mount Clemens, MI 48043
Phone: (586) 783-0383

The Oakland Press
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Community News Editor
48 W. Huron St.
Pontiac, MI 48342
Phone: (248) 745-4641

The Saginaw News
Mike Thompson
Community News Staff Writer
203 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607
Phone: (989) 776-9691

¹ SIECUS was not able to obtain the exact funding amount for all grantees.

² 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.

³ J. J. Vander Meer, "Survey Finds B.C. Residents Open to Sex-Ed Changes," *Battle Creek Enquirer.com*, 24 January 2004.

⁴ Nicole Jacques, "BCPS Adopts Sex-Ed Program," *Battle Creek Enquirer* (MI), 17 February 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis, 10 January 2005.

⁵ Nicole Jacques, "BCC Health Class Gets Nod," *Battle Creek Enquirer* (MI), 16 March 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis, 10 January 2005.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ 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/>>.

⁸ *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>.

⁹ *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>>.

¹⁰ *Programs*, The Yes! Coalition (8 May 2004), accessed 7 January 2005, <<http://yescoalition.org/programs/yesclub.php>>.

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¹¹ Peter Bearman and Hannah Brückner “Promising the Future: Virginity Pledges and the Transition to First Intercourse,” *American Journal of Sociology* 106.4 (2001): 859-912.

¹² 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).

¹³ Bruce Cook, *Choosing the Best PATH-Leader Guide* (Marietta, GA: Choosing the Best Inc., 2000), 18.