

## MICHIGAN

***Michigan received \$4,667,510 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2005.<sup>1</sup>***

### **Michigan Sexuality Education Law and Policy**

Michigan does not require schools to teach sexuality education; however, 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.”

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. All teachers of STD/HIV education who are not licensed healthcare professionals must be trained in HIV/AIDS education by the Department of 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. Each school district must also appoint a sexuality education program supervisor; this person must be approved by the state.

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.

The Michigan Board of Education has also produced a non-binding *Policy on Comprehensive School Health Education*. This policy calls for a “focus on behaviors that have the greatest effect on health, especially those related to...sexual behaviors that lead to HIV, sexually transmitted disease, or unintended pregnancy, emphasizing their short-term and long-term consequences.” In addition, the Michigan Board of Education has adopted the *Policy to Promote Health and Prevent Disease and Pregnancy*. This policy states that sexuality education programs be age, developmentally, and culturally appropriate as well as medically accurate and based on effective programming.

Parents must receive notification of any sexuality education classes and be allowed to review the content of the sexuality education class. Parents or guardians may remove 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 proposed legislation regarding sexuality education in Michigan.

### **Events of Note**

#### *Condom Demonstrations Approved for Michigan Town’s Sex Education June 2005; Goodrich, MI*

In late June 2005, the Board of Education in Goodrich, MI, approved new sexuality education curriculum recommendations in a 6-1 decision. Included in the new program for eighth and ninth graders will be an in-class demonstration of proper condom use by the teacher. Parents will be able to remove their children from the class entirely, or just for the few days that will include the condom demonstration.

Several parents at the board meeting protested the revisions. The senior pastor of Victory World Outreach Center, a local church, expressed his opposition saying, “we are here to oppose condom demonstration, not information...Demonstrations of how to put on a condom to 12- and 13-year-olds contradicts the message of abstinence. The curriculum contradicts itself, saying you should not have sex, but...let us show you how.”

However, many community members supported the revisions. The minister at Goodrich United Methodist Church said, “the introduction of condom demonstrations...is something that students who are making decisions need to have presented to them.” Many students supported the decision as well; one 17-year-old junior who served as a student representative to the board explained, “I know parents think they know [what’s going on]...Kids are going to do what they want to do. The demonstration would be better than having them ruin their life.”<sup>2</sup>

#### *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.

The school board decided to create the new nine-week health class and to 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.”<sup>3</sup>

The changes were first initiated because of concerns that many community residents had about the city’s high teen birth rate, which is double the state average.<sup>4</sup> 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 change the rules regarding the existing seventh-grade program and adopt “opt-out” rather than an “opt-in” policy, so that all students will be automatically enrolled unless their parents choose to take them out of the class.

The board agreed to this change as well. Opt-out policies allow children to be removed from sexuality education upon the request of a parent. Such policies typically provide notification to parents about what will be taught in their child’s sexuality education program, including what curricula is taught and who will be teaching the class. Students are automatically enrolled in class unless parents request otherwise. Opt-out systems ensure that parents are informed about their child’s sexuality education classes and a system is in place to allow them to remove their child from the class without penalty to the young person. The overwhelming majority of states have opt-out policies. Under an opt-in policy, schools need permission from a parent before their child can attend the class.

The president of the school board remarked on the curricula changes 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.”<sup>5</sup>

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.”<sup>6</sup>

### **Michigan’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note<sup>7</sup>**

- In 2005, 41% of female high school students and 43% of male high school students in Michigan 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 9% of male high school students in Michigan 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 14% of male high school students in Michigan 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, 31% of female high school students and 28% 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 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, 60% of females and 64% of males in Michigan reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.

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- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 23% 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 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 19% of females and 26% of males in Michigan 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 Michigan reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV 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.<sup>8</sup>
- 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.<sup>9</sup>

### *Detroit, Michigan*

- In 2005, 44% of female high school students and 68% of male high school students in Detroit, Michigan 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 29% of male high school students in Detroit, Michigan 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 34% of male high school students in Detroit, Michigan 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 47% of male high school students in Detroit, Michigan 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 79% of males in Detroit, Michigan 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, 7% of females and 5% of males in Detroit, Michigan 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, 15% of females and 14% of males in Detroit, Michigan 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 Detroit, Michigan reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

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

Michigan received \$1,417,131 in federal Title V funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs 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. 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.

The Michigan Department of Community Health is funding the following 11 sub-grantees through 2007: Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona Educational Service District, Catholic Social Services of Muskegon, District Health Department #10 of Cadillac, Eaton Intermediate School District, Human Aid of Gladwin County, Jackson County, Lakeshore Pregnancy Center, Macomb Family YMCA, St. John Community Health, Tuscola Intermediate School District, and Wedgewood Christian Youth and Family Services.

These sub-grantees use a variety of curricula including *SMART Moves*, *A.C. Green's Game Plan*, *Wise Guys*, *Sex Can Wait*, and *Removing the Risk*.

SIECUS reviewed *Game Plan* and found that in order to convince high school students to remain abstinent until marriage, the curriculum relies on messages of fear and shame, inaccurate and misleading information, and biased views of marriage, sexual orientation, and family structure. In addition, *Game Plan* fails to provide important information on sexual health including how students can seek testing and treatment if they suspect they may have an STD. Finally, the format and underlying biases of the curriculum do not allow for cultural, community, and individual values, and discourage critical thinking and discussions of alternate points of view in the classroom. For example, *Game Plan* states 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>10</sup>

### **Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE)<sup>11</sup> and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees**

There are five CBAE grantees: Michigan Department of Community Health, New Genesis, Providence-St. John Health, St. Joseph Health System, and Wedgewood Christian Services.

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 Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) office, the executive director of New Genesis states that its curriculum focuses on young people ages 12–18 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 uses *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* asks students: “How does being sexually active as a teen affect how a person feels about himself or herself?” The suggested answer is: “Can feel sad about losing virginity, loss of self-respect, blames self for getting pregnant or contracting an STD.” It goes on to say, “sexual activity also can lead to the trashing of a person’s reputation, resulting in the loss of friends.”<sup>12</sup>

According to its website, Wedgewood Christian Services is “a distinctively Christian, professionally excellent community of caring, dedicated to helping young people live productive and fulfilling lives. For more than 45 years, we’ve been extending God’s love to children, adults, and families through professional services that promote healing and wholeness.”<sup>13</sup>

**Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2005**

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)</b>
<b>Length of Grant</b> Michigan Department of Community Health DUAL GRANTEE 2002–2005 <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/">www.michigan.gov/mdch/</a>	\$1,417,131 federal \$695,000 state \$800,000	Title V CBAE
Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona Educational Service District <a href="http://www.amaesd.k12.mi.us">www.amaesd.k12.mi.us</a>	\$158,886	Title V sub-grantee

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<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, and AFLA)</b>
Catholic Social Services of Muskegon  <u><a href="http://www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org">www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org</a></u>	\$121,890	Title V sub-grantee
District Health Department #10 of Cadillac  <u><a href="http://www.michigan.gov/documents/district10_96612_7.htm">www.michigan.gov/documents/district10_96612_7.htm</a></u>	\$170,000	Title V sub-grantee
Eaton Intermediate School District  <u><a href="http://www.eaton.k12.mi.us">www.eaton.k12.mi.us</a></u>	\$170,000	Title V sub-grantee
Human Aid of Gladwin County	\$170,000	Title V sub-grantee
Jackson County  <u><a href="http://www.co.jackson.mi.us">www.co.jackson.mi.us</a></u>	\$157,385	Title V sub-grantee
Lakeshore Pregnancy Center	\$123,250	Title V sub-grantee
Macomb Family YMCA  <u><a href="http://www.ymcametrodetroit.org/branches/macomb.asp">www.ymcametrodetroit.org/branches/macomb.asp</a></u>	\$170,000	Title V sub-grantee
St. John Community Health Investment Corp  <u><a href="http://www.stjohn.org">www.stjohn.org</a></u>	\$85,000	Title V sub-grantee
Tuscola Intermediate School District  <u><a href="http://www.tisd.k12.mi.us">www.tisd.k12.mi.us</a></u>	\$127,500	Title V sub-grantee

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<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, and AFLA)</b>
Wedgwood Christian Services  DUAL GRANTEE  2005–2008  <a href="http://www.wedgwood.org">www.wedgwood.org</a>	\$170,000  \$403,061	Title V sub-grantee  CBAE
New Genesis, Inc.  2004–2007  <a href="http://www.newgenesisinc.org">www.newgenesisinc.org</a>	\$737,925	CBAE
Providence-St. John Health  2004–2007	\$262,516	CBAE
St. Joseph Health System  2005–2008  <a href="http://www.sjhsys.org">www.sjhsys.org</a>	\$642,825	CBAE
Ingham County Health Department  2005–2006  <a href="http://www.ingham.org/hd/health.htm">www.ingham.org/hd/health.htm</a>	\$276,826	AFLA
Planned Parenthood of Northern Michigan  2005–2006  <a href="http://www.plannedparenthood.org/ppnm">www.plannedparenthood.org/ppnm</a>	\$127,226	AFLA



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**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](http://www.aidspartnership.org)

Michigan NOW  
PO Box 860  
East Lansing, MI 48826  
Phone: (517) 485-9687  
[www.michnow.org](http://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](http://www.ppscm.org)

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

**Michigan Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Michigan Family Forum (MFF)  
PO Box 15216  
Lansing, MI 48901  
Phone: (517) 374-1171  
[www.michiganfamily.org](http://www.michiganfamily.org)

Right to Life of MI  
2340 Porter St., S.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49519  
Phone: (616) 532-2300  
[www.rtl.org](http://www.rtl.org)

**Newspapers in Michigan**

*The Ann Arbor News*  
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*The Ann Arbor News*  
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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 2005 begins on October 1, 2004 and ends on September 30, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Marlon Vaughn, "Condom Demo Ok'd for Goodrich Sex Ed," *The Flint Journal* (MI), 21 June 2005, accessed 21 June 2005, <<http://www.mlive.com/news/fljournal/index.ssf?base/news-29/1119367426106670.xml>>.

<sup>3</sup> Nicole Jacques, "BCC Health Class Gets Nod," *Battle Creek Enquirer* (MI), 16 March 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis, 10 January 2005.

<sup>4</sup> J. J. Vander Meer, "Survey Finds B.C. Residents Open to Sex-Ed Changes," *Battle Creek Enquirer.com*, 24 January 2004.

<sup>5</sup> Nicole Jacques, "BCPS Adopts Sex-Ed Program," *Battle Creek Enquirer* (MI), 17 February 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis, 10 January 2005.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</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>8</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>9</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>10</sup> Scott Phelps and Libby Gray, *A.C. Green's Game Plan* (Golf, IL: Project Reality, 2001). For more information, see SIECUS' review of *Game Plan* at <[http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula\\_reviews.html](http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html)>.

<sup>11</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>12</sup> Bruce Cook, *Choosing the Best PATH* (Marietta, GA: Choosing the Best Inc., 2000). For more information, see SIECUS' review of *Choosing the Best PATH* at <[http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula\\_reviews.html](http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html)>.

<sup>13</sup> *Wedgwood Christian Services – Home Page*, Wedgwood Christian Services (2005), accessed 12 January 2006, <<http://www.wedgwood.org/>>.