



NEBRASKA

Nebraska received \$1,555,301 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2005.¹

Nebraska Sexuality Education Law and Policy

Nebraska law does not require sexuality education; indeed, it explicitly states that this is a matter of local control. Nebraska does not limit or prescribe what can be taught in such classes nor does it recommend a specific curriculum. However, in its *Nebraska Health Education Frameworks*, the Nebraska Department of Education does recommend that schools emphasize an abstinence approach, including telling students that “sexual activity outside of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects.”

Nebraska does not require parental permission for students to participate in sexuality or HIV/AIDS education nor does it say whether parents or guardians can remove their children from such classes.

See the *Nebraska Health Education Frameworks*.

Recent Legislation

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

Events of Note

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

Nebraska’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note²

- In 2005, 41% of female high school students and 41% of male high school students in Nebraska 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 6% of male high school students in Nebraska 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 12% of male high school students in Nebraska 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, 30% of female high school students and 30% of male high school students in Nebraska 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, 56% of females and 67% of males in Nebraska 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, 25% of females and 19% of males in Nebraska 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, 23% of females and 26% of males in Nebraska 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, 85% of high school students in Nebraska reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Nebraska's abortion rate was 12 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.³
- In 2002, Nebraska's birth rate was 37 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.⁴

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Nebraska received \$218,740 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 Nebraska, the state provides \$164,055 in funding. The Nebraska Department of Health oversees the funding.

Nebraska's Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding is divided between sub-grantees and a media campaign. There are eight sub-grantees: Alliance Area Family YMCA; Antelope Memorial Hospital; Family First, Lincoln; Lutheran Family Services; North Central District Public Health Department; Pierce Public Schools; St. Elizabeth Health Resources/dba Lancaster County Abstinence Coalition; and Youth for Christ, Columbus. Sub-grantees use a variety of programs and curricula including *Friends First*, *FACTS*, and *All Stars*. The media campaign is aimed at all youth and stresses the message of being friends first and staying abstinent. Both the media campaign and the sub-grantees target high-risk youth, parents, and other young people.

SIECUS reviewed the *FACTS: Family Accountability Communicating Teen Sexuality* curricula and found that they provide incomplete and inaccurate medical information; present opinions and beliefs as universal truths; and portray a biased view of gender, marriage, family structure, sexual orientation, and pregnancy options. For example, *FACTS* includes the following list of negative consequences of premarital sex:

Pregnancy, financial aspect of fatherhood, abortion, HIV/AIDS, STDs, guilt, rejection, loss of reputation, inability to bond in the future, challenge to not compare future sexual partners, alienation from friends and family, poverty, and the inability to complete school.

FACTS also tells young people in no uncertain terms that life begins when sperm and egg meet: “At conception, the baby came into being. Even though he or she was only the size and appearance of a pencil dot, the baby was a separate, genetically unique individual.”⁵

Title V Evaluation

Nebraska completed an evaluation of its Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in 2002. This review involved pre- and post-test surveys administered to two groups, one of which participated in the abstinence-only programs and the other received only the regular health and sexuality curricula. The results revealed that, “abstinence-only education did not significantly change young adolescents’ values and attitudes about premarital sexual activity, nor did it significantly change their intentions whether or not to engage in premarital sexual activity.”⁶ In addition, the authors of the evaluation found that favorable attitudes toward abstinence expressed by youth could not be attributed to the programs.⁷

Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE)⁸ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are two CBAE grantees in Nebraska: City of Norfolk/Community Character Development Coalition (receives 2 grants) and Omaha/Council Bluffs Metropolitan YMCA. There are no AFLA grantees in Nebraska.

According to Omaha/Council Bluffs Metropolitan YMCA’s website, its abstinence-only-until-marriage program teaches junior high and high school students “how to have the best sex” by waiting until marriage. The program also teaches teens how to reject sexual advances and that alcohol and drugs may increase vulnerability to sexual advances.

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

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)
Nebraska Department of Health www.hhs.state.ne.us/ash/ashindex.htm	\$218,740 federal \$164,055 state	Title V

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)
Length of Grant		
Alliance Area Family YMCA	\$25,000	Title V sub-grantee
Antelope Memorial Hospital www.amhne.org	\$25,000	Title V sub-grantee
Family First, Lincoln www.familyfirst.org	\$25,000	Title V sub-grantee
Lutheran Family Services www.lfsneb.org	\$22,000	Title V sub-grantee
North Central District Public Health Department	\$20,000	Title V sub-grantee
Pierce Public Schools www.piercepublic.org	\$13,000	Title V sub-grantee
St. Elizabeth Health Resources/dba Lancaster County Abstinence Coalition	\$25,000	Title V sub-grantee
Youth for Christ, Columbus	\$25,000	Title V sub-grantee
City of Norfolk/Community Character Development Coalition	\$298,620	CBAE
2002–2005		
DUAL GRANTEE	\$438,198	CBAE
2005–2008		
www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/ccdc		

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)
Length of Grant		
Omaha/Council Bluffs Metropolitan YMCA Successful Futures Adolescent Project 2003–2006 www.metroymca.org	\$599,743	CBAE

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Nebraska Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Nebraska
941 O St., Suite 706
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: (402) 476-8091
www.aclunebraska.org

Nebraska Planned Parenthood Voters for
Choice
2246 O St.
Lincoln, NE 68510
Phone: (402) 441-3328

Religious Coalition for Reproductive
Choice
PO Box 31395
Omaha, NE 68131
Phone: (402) 320-0070

Nebraska Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Family First
645 M St., Suite 21
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: (402) 435-3210
www.familyfirst.org

Nebraska Right to Life Committee
PO Box 80410
Lincoln, NE 68501
Phone: (402) 438-4802
www.Nebraskartl.org

Newspapers in Nebraska

Columbus Telegram
Assignment Editor
1254 27th Ave.
Columbus, NE 68601
Phone: (402) 564-2741

Fremont Tribune
Beverly Lydick
Education Reporter
135 N. Main St.
Fremont, NE 68025
Phone: (402) 721-5000

The Grand Island Independent
Mike Bockoven
Medical/Health Reporter
422 W. 1st St.
Grand Island, NE 68801
Phone: (308) 381-9439

The Hastings Tribune
Linda Garcia
Education Reporter
908 W. 2nd St.
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Phone: (402) 462-2131

Kearney Hub
Carol Fettin
Medical/Health Reporter
13 E. 22nd St.
Kearney, NE 68847
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Lincoln Journal Star
Mark Andersen
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Norfolk Daily News
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The North Platte Telegraph
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Omaha World-Herald
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Omaha World-Herald
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¹ 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.

² 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>>.

³ *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>.

⁴ *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>>.

⁵ Rose Fuller et al., *FACTS and Reason* (Portland, OR: Northwest Family Services, 2000); Rose Fuller, et al., *I'm in Charge of the FACTS* (Portland, OR: Northwest Family Services, 2000). For more information, see SIECUS' review of *FACTS* at <http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html>.

⁶ L. Sather and K. Zinn, “Effects of abstinence-only education on adolescent attitudes and values concerning premarital sexual intercourse,” *Family & Community Health* 25 (2002): 12.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ 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).