



## NEVADA

*Nevada received \$486,165 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2004.<sup>1</sup>*

### **Nevada Sexuality Education Law**

Nevada mandates that each school district's board of trustees "establish a course or unit of a course of: (a) Factual instruction concerning Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome [AIDS]; and (b) Instruction on the human reproductive system, related communicable diseases and sexual responsibility."

Furthermore, each board of trustees must appoint an advisory committee consisting of five parents with children in the school district and four representatives from medicine, counseling, religion, students, or teaching.

In order for students to participate in the course, parents or guardians must give written consent. This is referred to as an "opt-in" policy.

See Nevada Revised Statutes 389.065.

### **Recent Legislation**

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

### **Events of Note**

*Title V-Funded Radio Announcement Pulled  
September 2003*

In September 2003, the Nevada State Health Division pulled an abstinence-only-until-marriage public service announcement from the radio. As a result of numerous complaints, the Health Division deemed that the ad was inappropriate for the intended audience, girls ages 9-14.

In the announcement, developed with federal funds, a young woman speaks about her relationship with her boyfriend, including his wish to have sex with her. The young woman goes on to state that she does not feel ready to have sex, that condoms will not protect her from all diseases, and that sexually active women are three times as likely as virgins to attempt suicide. At the end of the ad, the woman asks, "what about broken hearts? So many of my friends had sex, then lost their boyfriends, and they are left feeling dirty and cheap."

Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada and the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of Nevada complained about the ad when it was first broadcast. Gary Peck, Executive Director of the ACLU of Nevada stated, "there's nothing wrong with encouraging teens to be abstinent, but the harshness of using 'dirty and cheap' is unhelpful, especially for adolescents who may already be feeling stigmatized. It suggests that people should feel that way."

State officials stress that the radio ad does not reflect the opinions of the health division and the ad states that its content does not necessarily represent the “official views of the Nevada State Health Division.” However, the ad was written by the abstinence-only-until-marriage coordinator for the Nevada State Health Division. The ad also stated that it was “supported by the Division of Health” and that its contents are “solely the responsibility” of the health division.

*Nevadans Support a Comprehensive Approach  
2000*

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)’s Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System in 2000:<sup>2</sup>

- 98.9% of Nevadans think that students should receive education about HIV and AIDS in school;
- 76.5% believe this education should begin in elementary school; and
- 88.9% of Nevadans would encourage a sexually active teenager to use a condom.

**Nevada’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note<sup>3</sup>**

- In 2003, 45% of female high school students and 47% of male high school students in Nevada 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 11% of male high school students in Nevada 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, 17% of female high school students and 21% of male high school students in Nevada 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, 34% of female high school students and 31% of male high school students in Nevada 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, 23% of females and 25% of males in Nevada 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, 53% of females and 72% of males in Nevada 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, 25% of females and 15% of males in Nevada 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 4% of male high school students in Nevada 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, 88% of high school students in Nevada reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Nevada's abortion rate was 36 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2002, Nevada's birth rate was 54 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>5</sup>

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

Nevada received \$286,165 in federal Title V funding 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 may be provided in part or in full by local groups. Nevada matches its federal funds with \$214,624 of state funding.

This funding is given to four community-based organizations as well as the Governor's Youth Advisory Council. The funded programs focus on youth ages 9 to 14 and their parents. These programs use two popular abstinence-only-until-marriage programs: *Best Friends* and *Friends First*.

The Governor's Youth Advisory Council consists of nine young people who travel across the state and facilitate "Abstinence Works" workshops. The workshops are developed by the council and have already been attended by over 4,000 students ages 9 to 14.<sup>6</sup> The workshop script includes a section intended to prepare the youth facilitators for "difficult questions" from their audience. In response to the question "what about birth control (condoms)? Wouldn't it be okay to have sex if you're protected?," the provided response is:

Abstinence is the best birth control. It is our (the GYAC) stand that not having sex at all not only protects against pregnancy, but against STDs [Sexually Transmitted Diseases] and other damaging emotional problems that happen afterward. Condoms don't cover the heart. Abstinence is the ONLY 100% way to prevent these things.<sup>7</sup>

In answering questions about what actually constitutes sexual activity, the suggested responses offer little information to the audience. If asked about oral sex, Youth Advisory Council members are not encouraged to start a discussion, but instead reply "I can't give you my opinion on that."<sup>8</sup>

**Special Projects of Regional and National Significance–Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS–CBAE)<sup>9</sup> and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees**

There are no SPRANS–CBAE grantees in Nevada. There is one AFLA grantee: Southern Nevada Area Health Education Center.

Southern Nevada Area Health Education Center’s abstinence-only-until-marriage programs focuses solely on the parents. It trains parents to educate their children about how to remain abstinent.

**Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2004**

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)</b>
<b>Length of Grant</b>		
Nevada State Health Division <a href="http://health2k.state.nv.us/cah/challenge.htm">http://health2k.state.nv.us/cah/challenge.htm</a>	\$286,165 federal \$214,624 state	Title V
Crisis Pregnancy Center <a href="http://www.renocpc.org">www.renocpc.org</a>	\$46,000	Title V sub-grantee
Goshen Community Development Coalition <a href="http://www.goshencoalition.org">www.goshencoalition.org</a>	\$23,000	Title V sub-grantee
Southern Nevada Area Health Education Center  DUAL GRANTEE  2004-2005  <a href="http://www.snahec.org">www.snahec.org</a>	\$23,000  \$200,000	Title V sub-grantee  AFLA
Sunrise Children’s Hospital Foundation  <a href="http://www.sunrisechildren.org/">www.sunrisechildren.org/</a>	\$46,000	Title V sub-grantee

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

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Nevada State Health Division  
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**Nevada Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

AFAN: Aid for AIDS of Nevada  
2300 South Rancho Dr., Suite 211  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
Phone: (702) 382-AFAN

GLSEN Southern Nevada  
PO Box 61351  
Las Vegas, NV 89115  
Phone: (702) 731-3811  
[www.glsennv.org](http://www.glsennv.org)

Nevada Public Health Foundation  
305 N. Carson St., Suite 200  
Reno, NV 89701  
Phone: (775) 884-0392  
[www.nphf.org/nphf-newsite\\_2/index.asp](http://www.nphf.org/nphf-newsite_2/index.asp)

Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada  
3220 West Charleston Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
Phone: (702) 878-7776

**Nevada Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Nevada Policy Research Institute  
2077 E. Sahara Ave., Suite A  
Las Vegas, NV 89104  
Phone: (702) 222-0642  
[www.npri.org](http://www.npri.org)

**Newspapers in Nevada**

*Las Vegas Review-Journal*  
Paul Harasim  
Health & Medicine Editor  
PO Box 70  
Las Vegas, NV 89125  
Phone: (702) 387-2905

*Las Vegas Sun*  
Mary Manning  
Medical/Health Reporter  
2275 Corporate Circle  
Henderson, NV 89074  
Phone: (702) 259-8829

*Reno Gazette-Journal*  
Jason Hidalgo  
Health & Medicine Reporter  
PO Box 22000  
Reno, NV 89520  
Phone: (775) 788-6341

<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 2004 begins on October 1, 2003 and ends on September 30, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Prevalence Data, Nevada* (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2000), accessed 12 May 2004,

<<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/display.asp?cat=HV&yr=2000&qkey=497&state=NV>>.

<sup>3</sup> 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/>>.

<sup>4</sup> *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](http://www.guttmacher.org)>.

<sup>5</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>6</sup> *Programs and Activities*, Governor’s Youth Advisory Council, (5 January 2004), accessed 11 January 2005, <<http://health2k.state.nv.us/cah/programsactivities.htm>>.

<sup>7</sup> *Abstinence Works* (Nevada: Governor’s Youth Advisory Council, January 2004), 14.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> 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).