



NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire received \$96,930 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2004.¹

New Hampshire Sexuality Education Law

In New Hampshire, local school boards must ensure that a health education program is developed in elementary, middle/junior, and high schools. In elementary schools, this program must include “the effects of drugs, alcohol, venereal diseases, and AIDS on the human body.” In middle/junior high and high schools, this instruction must include the above as well as “systematic classroom instruction and activities designed to enable students to respect and support the decisions of others relative to abstinence from sexual activity.” Students must complete one-quarter credit in health education including instruction in venereal diseases and AIDS. In addition, students in all grades must be taught to “respect and support the decisions of others relative to abstinence from sexual activity.”

New Hampshire does not have a policy by which parents or guardians are notified or can remove their children from sexuality education classes.

See New Hampshire Rule 306.32.

Recent Legislation

Bill Would Strengthen Abstinence Requirements

Introduced in January 2005 and referred to the House Committee on Education, House Bill 39 would require all sex education classes to follow abstinence-only-until-marriage guidelines. Among other things, “course material and instruction shall teach honor and respect for monogamous heterosexual marriage” and “course material and instruction shall stress that pupils should abstain from sexual intercourse until they are ready for marriage.”

The bill would also allow parents or guardians to remove their child with written objection. This is commonly referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

Events of Note

Anti-Choice Group Protests Schools Sex Education Program

October 2003; Goffstown, NH

Community debates over the sexuality education program in schools in Goffstown, New Hampshire, sparked protests by a local anti-abortion group in front of area schools. The anti-abortion protesters, affiliated with Hillsborough County Right to Life, picketed outside Goffstown Area High School, Mountain View Middle School, and Bartlett Elementary School in

the Fall of 2003 to show their disapproval for what they consider to be an inappropriate sexuality education curriculum in the district.

Many parents have criticized the group for protesting outside the schools, particularly the elementary school. One parent of a 9-year-old and an 11-year-old enrolled in the schools said that when she brought her son to school the picketers were holding pictures of aborted fetuses, “it really bothered my son. I had to explain what an abortion was. It was not something I wanted to do. Everyone’s entitled to their opinion, but I didn’t want to see it shoved down our kids’ throats.”²

The president of Hillsborough County Right to Life explained, “we’re trying to alert parents in the community. A lot of parents are angry at us because it’s a shoot-the-messenger attitude. The problem is the curriculum itself is inappropriate.”³ She said that the district is teaching sex education to students at all levels and that the schools continue to have a relationship with Planned Parenthood. She also criticized the schools for teaching about oral sex, condoms, abortion, and homosexuality.

These aren’t the first protests that have occurred. In June 2003, a parent brought a used condom she had supposedly found on school grounds to a school board meeting and placed it in front of the school superintendent to demonstrate her disapproval of Planned Parenthood and sexuality education. She said, “this is one of the reasons I don’t want Planned Parenthood here. I don’t want to see this.”⁴

The Superintendent of the schools, however, said that while outreach representatives from Planned Parenthood were utilized as a resource for a lesson on contraceptives in the past, the district had not worked with Planned Parenthood in recent years. In addition, he explained, the books that the protesters have alleged the school uses to teach about homosexuality are, in fact, not part of the school curriculum. “Why they’ve chosen Goffstown, I’m not sure,” he said. “Since we don’t allow that in our school, I don’t know why it continues.”⁵ He also noted that the district has always informed parents of what is taught in the health classes, and they will continue to do so. Parents can opt their children out of the class if they would prefer.

New Hampshire’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁶

- In 2003, 41% of female high school students and 42% of male high school students in New Hampshire reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 2% of female high school students and 5% of male high school students in New Hampshire 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, 9% of female high school students and 11% of male high school students in New Hampshire 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, 33% of female high school students and 30% of male high school students in New Hampshire 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, 20% of females and 23% of males in New Hampshire 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, 50% of females and 64% of males in New Hampshire 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, 40% of females and 26% of males in New Hampshire 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, 2% of female high school students and 3% of male high school students in New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, New Hampshire's abortion rate was 17 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁷
- In 2002, New Hampshire's birth rate was 20 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.⁸

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

New Hampshire received \$96,930 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 can be provided in part or in full by local groups. New Hampshire's match is made up of both state funding (\$16,118) and in-kind services from the media outlets that run its campaign. The New Hampshire Department of Health has control over this funding.

New Hampshire uses the *Not Me, Not Now* media campaign to target youth ages 10 to 14.

Special Projects of Regional and National Significance—Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS—CBAE)⁹ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are no SPRANS—CBAE or AFLA grantees in New Hampshire.

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)
New Hampshire Department of Health www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DHHS_SITE/Special+Initiatives/abstinence-task-force.htm	\$96,930 federal \$16,118 state	Title V

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

Anita Coll
 New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services
 Prenatal/Adolescent Health
 Bureau of Maternal and Child Health
 6 Hazen Dr.
 Concord, NH 03301
 Phone: (603) 271-5145

New Hampshire Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

AIDS Community Resource Center (ACRON)
 River Mill Commercial Center, Suite 240
 85 Mechanic St.
 Lebanon, NH 03766
 Phone: (800) 816-2220

American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire
 18 Low Ave.
 Concord, NH 03301
 Phone: (603) 225-3080
www.nhclu.org

Citizen's Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights
 PO Box 730
 Concord, NH 03302
 Phone: (603) 224-1686

NARAL Pro-Choice New Hampshire
 18 Low Ave.
 Concord, NH 03301
 Phone: (603) 228-1224
www.prochoicenewhampshire.org

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England Action Fund
 183 Talcott Rd., Suite 101
 Williston, VT 05495
 Phone: (800) 287-8118
www.ppnne.org

New Hampshire Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Citizens for Life, Inc.
The New Hampshire Affiliate of the
National Right to Life Committee
PO Box 756
North Hampton, NH 03862
Phone: (603) 964-9546

The Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy
7 South State St., Suite 2
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: (603) 224-4450
www.jbartlett.org

New Hampshire Right to Life
PO Box 421
Merrimack, NH 03054
Phone: (603) 626-7950
www.nhrtl.org

Newspapers in New Hampshire

The Citizen
Sally Kilfoyle
Medical/Health Editor
171 Fair St.
Laconia, NH 03246
Phone: (603) 524-3800

Concord Monitor
Heather Rowe
Community News Editor
1 Monitor Dr.
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: (603) 224-5301

The Conway Daily Sun
Adam Hirshan
Medical/Health Editor
64 Seavey St.
North Conway, NH 03860
Phone: (603) 356-2999

Foster's Daily Democrat
Buzz Bittereli
Community News Reporter
333 Central Ave.
Dover, NH 03820
Phone: (603) 742-4455

The Keene Sentinel
Mary Allen
Community News Editor
60 West St.
Keene, NH 03431
Phone: (603) 352-1249

New Hampshire Public Television
Health & Medicine Editor
268 Mast Rd.
Durham, NH 03824
Phone: (603) 868-1100

Portsmouth Herald
Assignment Editor
111 Maplewood Ave.
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Phone: (603) 436-1800

The Telegraph
David Brooks
Community News Reporter
17 Executive Dr.
Hudson, NH 03051
Phone: (603) 594-5831

The Union Leader
Jim Ferriter
Health & Medicine Editor
PO Box 9555
Manchester, NH 03108
(603)668-4321

Valley News
Anne Adams
Medical/Health Editor
24 Interchange Dr.
West Lebanon, NH 03784
Phone: (603) 298-8711

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

² Tim Ryan, "Abortion group's protests target Goffstown schools," *The Union Leader* (NH), 16 September 2004.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Tim Ryan, "Alleged Used Condom Displayed By Woman At Goffstown Meeting," *The Union Leader* (Manchester, NH), 4 June 2003.

⁵ Tim Ryan, "Abortion group's protests target Goffstown schools."

⁶ 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/yrbbs/>>.

⁷ *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>.

⁸ *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>>.

⁹ 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).