



NEW JERSEY

New Jersey received at least \$3,823,726 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2004.^{1,2}

New Jersey Sexuality Education Law

New Jersey law does not mandate sexuality education but does mandate at least 150 minutes of health education during each school week in grades one through twelve. In addition, high school students must acquire 3 ¾ credits of health education each year. School districts must align their health education curricula with the New Jersey Department of Education's *Core Curriculum Content Standards*.

One of the four required health education standards, *Standard 2.4: Human Relationships and Sexuality*, addresses three subject areas: relationships, sexuality, and pregnancy and parenting. Learning expectations within Standard 2.4 focus on abstinence and helping students to identify and address internal and external pressures to become sexually active. Standard 2.4 also mandates that instruction in middle and high school classes address the use of contraceptive methods and risk reduction strategies as well as the implications of their use.

In addition, Standard 2.1 includes sexually transmitted disease (STD)- and HIV/AIDS-prevention education, and Standard 2.3 addresses the impact of alcohol and drug use on the incidence of sexual assault, STDs, and unintended pregnancy.

New Jersey law requires that all sexuality education, HIV/AIDS-, and sexually transmitted disease (STD)-prevention education “stress that abstinence from sexual activity is the only completely reliable means of eliminating the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and of avoiding pregnancy.”

The law also requires that, “any instruction concerning the use of contraceptives or prophylactics such as condoms shall also include information on their failure rates for preventing pregnancy, HIV, and other sexually transmitted diseases in actual use among adolescent populations and shall clearly explain the difference between risk reduction through the use of such devices and risk elimination through abstinence.”

New Jersey allows parents or guardians to remove their children from any or all parts of sexuality, STD-prevention, and HIV/AIDS-prevention education. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See New Jersey Statutes Amended 18A:35-4.7, 18A:35-4.20, and 18A:35-4.21, and New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:8-3.1.

Recent Legislation

Bill to Exempt Students from Family Life Education Requirements in Public Institutions of Higher Education

Assembly Bill 3806, introduced in January 2005 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Education, would excuse any student with “conflicts of conscience” from certain class requirements in public institutions of higher education. The enumerated classes are “health, family life education, or sexual education.” Such a law already exists for students in public elementary or secondary schools.

Comprehensive Family Life Education Bill Introduced

Assembly Bill 787, introduced in January 2004 and assigned to the Assembly Committee on Education, would require each board of education in the state to offer comprehensive family life education. A.B. 787 defines family life education as “education regarding human development and sexuality, including education on family planning and sexually transmitted diseases, that is medically accurate and age-appropriate; respects community values and encourages parental communication; promotes responsible sexual behavior and addresses both abstinence and the use of contraception; promotes individual responsibility and involvement regarding sexuality; and teaches skills for responsible decision-making regarding sexuality.”

A.B. 787 would also repeal the New Jersey law requiring that all such courses stress that abstinence is the only completely reliable means for eliminating STDs and avoiding pregnancy.

Parenting Education Instruction Legislation Introduced

Assembly Bill 1525, introduced in January 2004 and referred to the Assembly Committee on Education, would require that instruction on parenting, including responsibilities and obligations, be included in any family life education course.

Events of Note

Newark, New Jersey Implements Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Curriculum November 2003; Newark, NJ

In November 2003, public high schools in Newark, New Jersey began teaching an abstinence-only-until-marriage program called *The Choice Game*, created by the Several Sources Foundation, a faith-based organization that opposes abortion rights.

The creation of *The Choice Game*, as well as its implementation in Newark public schools, was funded by a Special Projects of Regional and National Significance–Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS–CBAE) grant from the federal government. The grant provides \$775,951 per year from 2002 through 2005.

The program, which was previously used in Catholic schools throughout New Jersey, is now taught in 28 schools in Newark and is set to reach 10,000 students between July 2001 and July 2005.³

Classes are 90 minutes long and are held once a week for nine weeks. The program includes six CD-ROMS with interactive “soap operas.” Students direct the players in the soap operas in order to see the consequences of their decisions. At the end of the nine week program, participants are asked to sign a pledge promising to remain abstinent until they marry. If they sign this pledge, they receive a sterling silver ring to wear on their wedding finger.

The classes in Newark's public schools will not mention contraception or condoms, although condom usage is discussed briefly in another class taught by a different teacher. The founder of Several Sources Foundation said that she does not want students to be taught about condoms at all, "even if condoms were 100 percent effective at preventing pregnancy or disease—and they're not—you can't put a condom on a broken heart. We'd be a lot better off if we taught young people the value of waiting, instead of thinking they need immediate gratification."

The Choice Game was pilot tested with Newark youth in a summer program. One student who participated in the program said, "the game was great—it taught me a lot of things, like how you can catch STDs from oral sex. Some kids will heed the abstinence message, some won't. Some kids will say, 'I don't need no game to run my life; I run my own life.' I like the game's message, but I think kids need to learn more about condoms, too." Newark has one of the highest rates for teen births and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in New Jersey.

According to a promotional brochure, "*The Choice Game* has been selected to educate young people in schools, youth detention centers, hospitals, and community-based organizations in New York, Ohio, Georgia and Kansas."⁴

*New Jersey Education Association Cancels Abstinence-Only Speakers
October 2002; Trenton, NJ*

In October 2002, the New Jersey Education Association (NJ-NEA) cancelled three sexuality education speakers after discovering they had an abstinence-only-until-marriage focus. The three speakers were scheduled to make presentations at the organization's annual conference. The NJ-NEA replaced the scheduled workshops with alternate presentations by staff members from the Network for Family Life Education at Rutgers University, a comprehensive sexuality education group that trains teachers. The former speakers and other conservative leaders criticized this decision.

New Jersey's Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁵

- In 2001, 42% of female high school students and 53% of male high school students in New Jersey reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 43% of female high school students and 49% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 3% of female high school students and 12% of male high school students in New Jersey 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 2001, 11% of female high school students and 23% of male high school students in New Jersey reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 11% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 34% of female high school students and 38% of male high school students in New Jersey reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 33% of females and 33% of males nationwide.

- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 16% of females and 37% of males in New Jersey reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 31% of males nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 57% of females and 70% of males in New Jersey reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 51% of females and 65% of males nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 16% of females and 9% of males in New Jersey reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2001, 6% of female high school students and 7% of male high school students in New Jersey 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 2001, 91% of high school students in New Jersey reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 89% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, New Jersey's abortion rate was 47 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁶
- In 2003, women ages 15-19 accounted for 18% of the 32,762 total abortions performed in New Jersey.⁷
- In 2002, New Jersey's birth rate was 27 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 Jersey received \$931,051 in Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in FY 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 Jersey contributes \$30,968 towards the matching fund; the remainder of the match is provided by sub-grantees. Sub-grantees use a variety of curricula including: *Sex Can Wait*, *Best Friends*, *Removing the Risk*, *Adolescent Fertility Awareness*, and *Abstinence Pick and Choose*.

One of the sub-grantees, Peer Challenge, brought its "Wheel of Misfortune" to a middle school health fair to promote abstinence-until-marriage using messages of shame and fear.⁹

Another sub-grantee, Free Teens, designs an abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum that is used in 38 states and more than 70 countries. The organization works with other abstinence-only-until-marriage groups, including the Institute for American Values, the National Fatherhood Initiative, and the Abstinence Clearinghouse. On its website, one eighth grade Free Teen participant notes, "the Free Teens club is very interesting. . . . We listened to a couple of stories. The stories were sad enough

to let me know that I'm not having sex until I'm married and achieved my goals.”¹⁰ Free Teens USA, Inc. also has connections with the Reverend Sun Myung Moon’s Unification Church. Although the organization claims not to have ties to Moon or his church, documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act reveal that the director, chief financial officer, and some board members are former or present high-ranking Unification Church officials.¹¹ Moon and his Unification Church have publicly made anti-gay, misogynistic, and anti-Semitic statements.

Special Projects of Regional and National Significance—Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS–CBAE)¹² and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are six SPRANS–CBAE grantees in New Jersey: Columbus Hospital, Impact Community Development Corp, the Freedom Foundation of New Jersey, Free Teens USA, New Jersey Family Policy Council, and Several Sources Foundation. There is one AFLA grantees in New Jersey: Freedom Foundation of NJ.

Several Sources Foundation runs a number of different organizations that endorse anti-choice and abstinence-only-until-marriage messages. On its website, Several Sources founder Kathy DiFiore states “all of our labors for the Lord try to keep His Word and His Love alive for those who come to us seeking our help.”¹³ Several Sources Foundation also runs a website called Silent Scream, which includes a video claiming to be footage of an abortion of an 11-week-old fetus.

The organization’s abstinence websites are www.chastitycall.org and www.thechoicegame.com. *The Choice Game* is supported by its SPRANS–CBAE grant. *For more information, please see “Events of Note.”*

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2004¹⁴

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services www.state.nj.us/health	\$931,051 federal \$30,968 state	Title V
Camden County Chapter, American Red Cross www.camdenredcross.org	\$77,132 federal \$57,883 match	Title V sub-grantee
Catholic Community Services www.ccsnewark.org	\$104,699 federal \$78,525 match	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)
Community Health Care www.sjhs.com/communityservices	\$52,668 federal \$39,543 match	Title V sub-grantee
Freedom Foundation of NJ TRIPLE GRANTEE 2001 -2004 TRIPLE GRANTEE 2004-2005	\$117,558 federal \$131,879 match \$515,481 \$293,156	Title V sub-grantee SPRANS–CBAE (Implementation Grant) AFLA
Free Teens USA, Inc DUAL GRANTEE 2002-2005 www.freeteensusa.org	\$103,329 federal \$415,518 match \$475,280	Title V sub-grantee SPRANS–CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Heureka Center for Disease Prevention & Health Promotion (A Better Choice) www.heurekacenter.org	\$50,000 federal \$37,500 match	Title V sub-grantee
Montclair State University, Project HOPE	\$84,402 federal \$189,540 match	Title V sub-grantee
Peer Challenge	\$97,570 federal \$129,760 match	Title V sub-grantee
St. Peter’s Medical Center	\$67,250 federal \$168,650 match	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)
Columbus Hospital 2004-2007	\$393,500	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Impact Community Development Corp 2004-2007 www.impactcdc.org	\$439,307	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
New Jersey Family Policy Council		SPRANS-CBAE (Unknown Type)
Several Sources Foundation 2002 – 2005 www.severalsourcesfd.org	\$775,951	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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New Jersey Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Family Planning Association
of New Jersey
210 West State St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
Phone: (609) 393-8423

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
317 George St., Suite 203
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Phone: (732) 246-0204
www.hyacinth.org

Network for Family Life Education
Rutgers University
41 Gordon Rd., Suite A
Piscataway, NJ 08854
Phone: (732) 445-7929

New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition
PO Box 11335
New Brunswick, NJ 08906
Phone: (732) 828-6772
www.njlgc.org

New Jersey NOW
110 W. State St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
Phone: (609) 393-0156
www.nownj.org

New Jersey Religious Coalition for
Reproductive Choice
PO Box 13
Mt. Freedom, NJ 07970
Phone: (973) 656-9494
www.njrcrc.org

New Jersey Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

New Jersey Christian Coalition
560 Hoover Ave.
Washington Township, NJ 07675
Phone: (201) 358-1382
www.njchristiancoalition.org

New Jersey Committee for Life
490 Somerset St.
North Plainfield, NJ 07060
Phone: (908) 753-5311
www.njcfl.org

New Jersey Family Policy Council
PO Box 6011
Parsippany, NJ 07054
Phone: (973) 263-5258
www.njfpc.org

New Jersey Right to Life
113 North Ave. West
Cranford, NJ 07016
Phone: (908) 276-6620
www.njrto.org

Newspapers in New Jersey

Asbury Park Press
Pat McDaniel
Health & Medicine Editor
PO Box 1550
Neptune, NJ 07754
Phone: (732) 643-4298

Courier-Post
Shawn Rhea
Health & Medicine Reporter
PO Box 5300
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The Press of Atlantic City
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¹ SIECUS was not able to obtain exact funding amounts for one SPRANS–CBAE grantee in New Jersey

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 *The Choice Game Curriculum, The Choice Game* (January 2005), accessed 10 January 2005, <<http://www.thechoicegame.com/>>.

⁴ *The Choice Game Curriculum Brochure, The Choice Game* (2003), accessed 8 February 2005, <<http://www.thechoicegame.com/broch-teacher.html>>

⁵ Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Jo Anne Grunbaum, et. al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2001,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 51.SS-4, (28 June 2002): 1-64, accessed 28 January 2005, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>>. New Jersey did not participate in the 2003 YRBS.

⁶ *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>.

⁷ *Reported Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Selected Characteristics New Jersey Occurrences, 2003* (Trenton, NJ: Department of Health and Senior Services, 2004), accessed 4 February 2005, <<http://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/itop/itop2003.htm>>.

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 “Dennis Twp. Middle School Health Fair 2003 February 21st,” *The Talon: Dennis Township Middle School Newsletter*, February 2003, accessed 3 January 2005, <<http://dennis.capemayschools.com/MrDiCarlo/Talon.htm>>.

¹⁰ *Let Me Tell You About Free Teens*, Free Teens USA, Inc. (2004), accessed 3 January 2004 <<http://www.freeteens.org/stories/letmetellyou.htm>>.

¹¹ John Gorenfeld, “Bad Moon On the Rise,” *Salon.com*, 24 September 2003, accessed 3 January 2005, <<http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2003/09/24/moon/print.html>>.

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 *Several Sources Foundation*, Several Sources Foundation (October 2004), accessed 22 February 2005, <<http://www.severalsourcesfd.org/>>.

¹⁴ SIECUS was not able to obtain exact funding amounts for all grantees.