



PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania received \$6,550,375 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2003.¹

Pennsylvania Sexuality Education Law

Schools in Pennsylvania are not required to teach sexuality education. Primary, intermediate, middle, and high schools are, however, required to teach sexually transmitted disease (STD)/HIV education. Schools must use materials that are age-appropriate, discuss prevention, and stress abstinence as “the only completely reliable means of preventing sexual transmission.”

Parents and guardians whose principles or religious beliefs conflict with instruction may excuse their children from the programs. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Pennsylvania Code Title 22, Chapter 4, Section 29.

Recent Legislation

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

Events of Note

Omnibus Appropriations Bill Earmarks Fiscal Year 2003

Setting a new precedent for the federal funding of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) secured earmarks of approximately \$3.15 million within the federal Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill for individual abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Pennsylvania. This was the first time a Member of Congress earmarked money for specific abstinence-only-until-marriage programs outside of traditional federal funding streams. These earmarks have continued for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005.

Pam Stenzel Presentation Cancelled Due to Board Apprehension May 2003; Allentown, PA

Board members in Allentown, PA, cancelled a presentation by national abstinence-only-until-marriage speaker Pam Stenzel after viewing her promotional video. Stenzel was scheduled to address students at Liberty and Freedom High School but board members and administrators said they found her messages offensive and felt she came across too harsh. They were particularly upset with her suggestion that students “will pay” if they have sex before marriage. The school director said, “I found that offensive. That doesn’t sound very loving to me.”²

A group of parents approached the school board to protest this decision. One parent, who had sparked Stenzel’s invitation by sending the promotional tape to the high school principal, was

particularly upset by the change of heart. He said, “doesn’t the board feel any onus to honor the bonds committed to by their principals?”³ His 17-year-old daughter, along with several other community members, spoke and begged the school board to reconsider and let Stenzel speak to the district’s high school students.

The superintendent clarified their position and said that the school board did not disagree with the premise of Stenzel’s program but rather with certain parts of the presentation. He went on to say that, “public schools are not in the business of morality.”⁴ The district’s sexuality education program follows state guidelines and conveys to students that abstinence is the only 100 % effective way to avoid STDs and pregnancy, but also teaches about contraception.

Students React to Abstinence Pledge Card

May 2002; Lehigh Valley, PA

The Lehigh Valley Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy provides the CHOICES abstinence-only-until-marriage program to 9-14 year olds in the Lehigh Valley School District. The program offers students the opportunity to sign abstinence pledge cards. In FY 2003 and 2004, this program received \$100,000 in federal earmarks from Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA).

While approximately 40 % of Lehigh students chose to make the pledge, many others declined. One eighth grader ripped up his pledge card and refused to hand it in, stating, “I won’t sign it because I’m going to run my life the way I want to, but I’m not going to run out tomorrow and have sex either.” Several female students felt that if they didn’t sign the cards, their reputations would suffer, and one stated that “we have to sign these even if we don’t believe in them.”²

Pennsylvania’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note

- In 2000, Pennsylvania’s abortion rate was 17 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.³
- In 2001, Pennsylvania’s birth rate was 33 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 45 per 1,000 nationwide.⁴

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania⁵

- In 2003, 57% of female high school students and 71% of male high school students in Philadelphia reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 6% of female high school students and 27% of male high school students in Philadelphia 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, 16% of female high school students and 42% of male high school students in Philadelphia 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, 43% of female high school students and 53% of male high school students in Philadelphia 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, 10% of females and 17% of males in Philadelphia 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, 64% of females and 76% of males in Philadelphia 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, 13% of females and 5% of males in Philadelphia 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, 9% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students in Philadelphia 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, 85% of high school students in Philadelphia reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Pennsylvania was eligible for \$1,729,635 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2004, but due to the extraordinary restrictions upon how the money must be spent, the state does not apply for these funds. However, Pennsylvania receives \$3,022,000 in federal earmarks in FY 2004. (*For more information, please see Events of Note.*)

Pennsylvania uses those state funds that previously supported abstinence-only-until-marriage programs to instead fund programs focused on general youth development.

Title V Evaluation

Pennsylvania evaluated its Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in 2003. The evaluators found that nine of the 13 abstinence-only-until-marriage programs had little to no effect on reducing “early sexual onset,” and that the effects of all programs had faded by the time students reached ninth grade.⁶ The programs served youth 12 and older and used a number of curricula including *Me, My World, My Future* and *WAIT Training*.

Pennsylvania’s evaluation involved pre- and post-test surveys, comparison groups, and focus groups. In both urban and rural test sites, results yielded either mixed or negative effects on youth behaviors. Even at the two most effective urban sites, 11.5% and 25% of participating youth reported having engaged in sex by post-test. One rural site reported attitudes towards abstinence declined while the proportion of students “who experienced sexual intercourse for the

first time” increased and “only about half of these sexually active youth used any form of contraception.”⁷

The focus groups revealed youth frustration with a lack of information surrounding contraception and the lack of respect for their ability to make decisions.⁸ The authors of the study conclude “this initiative was largely ineffective in reducing sexual onset and promoting attitudes and skills consistent with sexual abstinence.”⁹

SIECUS reviewed *WAIT Training* and found that it contained little medical or biological information and almost no information about STDs, including HIV/AIDS. Instead, it contains information and statistics about marriage, many of which are outdated and not supported by scientific research. It also contains messages of fear and shame and biased views of gender, sexual orientation, and family type. For example *WAIT Training* explains: “men sexually are like microwaves and women sexually are like crockpots...a woman is stimulated more by touch and romantic words. She is far more attracted by a man’s personality while a man is stimulated by sight. A man is usually less discriminating about those to whom he is physically attracted.”¹⁰

The curricula used in Pennsylvania were also reviewed by U.S. Representative Henry Waxman in his report *The Content of Federally Funded Abstinence-Only Education Programs* and were found to have “major errors and distortions of public health information.”¹¹

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

There are four SPRANS–CBAE grantees in Pennsylvania: HOPE Worldwide, Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Pennsylvania Association of Latino Organizations, and Women’s Care Center of Erie County Inc. There are three AFLA grantees in Pennsylvania: Crozer-Chester Medical Center (which receives two grants), Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, and To Our Children with Health.

The Women’s Care Center of Erie County uses *R.S.V.P* curricula and *WAIT Training*.

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

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Amount of Grant Money	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, AFLA, and FY04 Earmark)
Length of grant		
Catholic Social Services, The Bridge	\$46,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Chester County Health Department	\$41,000	FY 2004 Earmark
City of Chester, Bureau of Health, SABER Project	\$105,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries (Mechanicsburg, PA)	\$136,000	FY 2004 Earmark

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of grant	Amount of Grant Money	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, AFLA, and FY04 Earmark)
Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries (Topton, PA)	\$95,000	FY 2004 Earmark
George Washington Carver Community Center, Project A.C.E.	\$86,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Guidance Center, Project RAPPORT	\$74,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Heart Beat	\$51,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Keystone Economic Development Corporation	\$88,000	FY 2004 Earmark
L.V.C.P.T.P., St. Luke's Health Network, CHOICE program	\$92,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Lackawanna Trail School District	\$74,000	FY 2004 Earmark
LaSalle University	\$112,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh DUAL GRANTEE 2004-2005	\$111,000 \$225,000	FY 2004 Earmark AFLA
Neighborhood United Against Drugs	\$136,000	FY 2004 Earmark
New Brighton School District	\$23,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Nueva Esperanza	\$72,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Partners for Healthier Tomorrows	\$50,000	FY 2004 Earmark

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of grant	Amount of Grant Money	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, AFLA, and FY04 Earmark)
Partners in Family and Community Development	\$72,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Perseus House, Inc.	\$50,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Potter County Human Services	\$50,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Rape and Victim Assistance Center of Schuylkill County	\$71,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Real Commitment	\$82,000	FY 2004 Earmark
School District of Lancaster, Project IMPACT	\$101,000	FY 2004 Earmark
School District of Philadelphia	\$102,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Shepherd's Maternity House Inc.	\$50,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Silver Ring Thing	\$400,000	FY 2004 Earmark
To Our Children's Future with Health, Inc.	\$109,000	FY 2004 Earmark
DUAL GRANTEE 2004-2005	\$225,000	AFLA
Tuscarora Intermediate Unit	\$84,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Urban Family Council	\$126,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Victim Resource Center Inc.	\$41,000	FY 2004 Earmark
Washington Hospital Teen Outreach, Academy for Adolescent Health	\$136,000	FY 2004 Earmark

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of grant	Amount of Grant Money	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, AFLA, and FY04 Earmark)
Women's Care Center of Erie County, Inc., DUAL GRANTEE 2001-2004 www.wccerie.org	\$136,000 \$262,357	FY 2004 Earmark SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
York County Human Life Services, Inc.	\$50,000	FY 2004 Earmark
HOPE Worldwide 2004-2007	\$798,418	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America 2004-2007	\$799,500	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Pennsylvania Association of Latino Organizations 2004-2007	\$799,569	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Crozer-Chester Medical Center 2004-2005 DUAL GRANTEE 2004-2005	\$234,337 \$154,194	AFLA AFLA

State Contact Information¹³

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7th Floor, East Wing
Health & Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17108
Phone: (717) 772-2762

Pennsylvania Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Family Health Council, Inc.
960 Penn Ave., Suite 600
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: (412) 288-2130
www.fhcinc.org

Family Health Council of Central PA
3461 Market St., Suite 200
Camp Hill, PA 17011
Phone: (717) 761-7380
www.fhccp.org

Family Planning Council
260 S. Broad St., Suite 1000
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Phone: (215) 985-2600
www.familyplanning.org

NARAL Pro-Choice Pennsylvania
1616 Walnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 546-5686
www.prochoicepennsylvania.org

Pennsylvania Coalition to Prevent Teen
Pregnancy
200 Strawberry Sq.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone: (717) 236-3366

Pennsylvania NOW
PO Box 32341
Philadelphia, PA 19146
Phone: (215) 726-9726
www.panow.org

Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition
(SPARC)
PO Box 576
Howard, PA 16841
Phone: (717) 624-3339
www.sparc-pa.org

Pennsylvania Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Pennsylvania Family Institute
23 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone: (717) 545-0600
www.pafamily.org

Pennsylvanians for Human Life
700 Henderson Rd.
The Merion Building, Suite 300C
King of Prussia, PA 19072
Phone: (610) 337-3455
www.pennlife.org

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Pennsylvania Pro Life Federation
4800 Jonestown Rd., Suite 102
Harrisburg, PA 17109
Phone: (717) 541-0034
www.paprolife.org

People for Life
1625 W. 26th St.
PO Box 1126
Erie, PA 16512
Phone: (814) 459-1333
www.peopleforlife.org

The Physicians Consortium
23 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone: (612) 827-9552
www.physconsortium.com

Newspapers in Pennsylvania

Bucks County Courier Times
Tom Haines
Health & Medicine Editor
8400 Route 13
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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 2004 begins on October 1, 2003 and ends on September 30, 2004.

² G. Marshall, "Teens Get No-Sex Talk," *The Morning Call Online*, accessed 26 May 2004, <http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all_b1_4teens2may09.story>.

³ *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>.

⁴ Angela Papillo, et.al., *Facts at a Glance* (Washington, DC: Child Trends, February, 2004).

⁵ 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/>>. Pennsylvania did not participate in the 2003 YRBS but Philadelphia did.

⁶ Debra Hauser, *Five Years of Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Education: Assessing the Impact* (Washington, D.C: Advocates for Youth, 2004), 16.

⁷ E. Smith, J. Dariotis, S. Potter, *Evaluation of the Pennsylvania Abstinence Education and Related Services Initiative: 1998-2002* (Philadelphia, PA: Maternal and Child Health Bureau of Family Health, Pennsylvania Department of Health, January 2003).

⁸ *Ibid*, 9.

⁹ *Ibid*, 10.

¹⁰ *WAIT Training-Workshop Manual* (Longmont, CO: Friends First, 1996), 39.

¹¹ *The Content of Federally Funded Abstinence-Only Education Programs*, prepared for Representative Henry A. Waxman, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform—Minority Staff Special Investigations Division (December 2004), accessed 10 December 2004, <<http://www.democrats.reform.house.gov/Documents/20041201102153-50247.pdf>>.

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 There is no Title V Coordinator in Pennsylvania, the person included in this section is the former abstinence-only-until-marriage coordinator.