



U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

U.S. Virgin Islands Sexuality Education Law and Policy

The U.S. Virgin Islands requires sex education, including AIDS-prevention education, to be a component of the health curriculum taught to students in grades kindergarten through 12.¹

See U.S. Virgin Islands Code tit. XVII § 41.

Recent Legislation

SIECUS is not aware of any proposed legislation regarding sexuality education in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

U.S. Virgin Islands' Youth: Statistical Information of Note²

- In 2003, 37% of female high school students and 64% of male high school students in the U.S. Virgin Islands reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 5% of female high school students and 32% of male high school students in the U.S. Virgin Islands 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, 7% of female high school students and 35% of male high school students in the U.S. Virgin Islands 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, 24% of female high school students and 42% of male high school students in the U.S. Virgin Islands 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 34% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 72% of females and 87% of males in the U.S. Virgin Islands 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, 4% of females and 1% of males in the U.S. Virgin Islands reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 13% of males nationwide.

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- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 8% of females and 15% of males in the U.S. Virgin Islands 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, 89% of high school students in the U.S. Virgin Islands reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

U.S. Virgin Islands Youth Sexual Health Statistics

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- In 2005, the U.S. Virgin Islands' teen birth rate was 49.6 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the national rate of 40.5 births per 1,000.³
- In 2006, the U.S. teen birth rate increased for the first time in 15 years by 3% from 40.5 to 41.9 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, after having steadily declined between 1991 and 2005.⁴ The U.S. Virgin Islands' teen birth rate also increased between 2005 and 2006, from 49.6 to 50 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19.⁵

HIV and AIDS

- In 2007, there were a total of 54 new cases of HIV infection diagnosed among all age groups in the U.S. Virgin Islands.⁶
- The U.S. Virgin Islands' AIDS rate is 31.4 cases per 100,000 population compared to the national rate of 12.5 cases per 100,000.⁷
- In 2007, there were a total of 31 new AIDS cases reported among all age groups in the U.S. Virgin Islands.⁸
- In 2007, there were no AIDS cases reported among young people ages 13–19 in the U.S. Virgin Islands.⁹

Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Education

SIECUS is not aware of any examples of model programs, policies, or best practices being implemented in U.S. Virgin Islands public schools that provide a more comprehensive approach to sex education for young people.

We encourage you to submit any updated or additional information on more comprehensive approaches to sex education being implemented in U.S. Virgin Islands public schools for inclusion in future publications of the SIECUS State Profiles. Please visit SIECUS' "Contact Us" webpage at www.siecus.org to share information. Select "state policy" as the subject heading.

Federal Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services received approximately \$42,792 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2009.¹⁰

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Title V Abstinence-Only-Until Marriage Funding

- The U.S. Virgin Islands received approximately \$42,792 in federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2009.¹¹ Due to the expiration of the grant program on June 30, 2009, three months prior to the end of the federal fiscal year, the state received three quarters of the total funding allocated for the full fiscal year.
- The Department of Human Services uses the funds for a variety of activities at after-school facilities.
- The Title V abstinence-only-until marriage grant required states or territories to provide three state-raised dollars or the equivalent in services for every four federal dollars received.

Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) Funding

- There are no CBAE grantees in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Funding

- There are no AFLA grantees in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Curricula Used by Grantees

SIECUS is not aware of any commercially available curricula used by abstinence-only-until-marriage grantees in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

To read reviews of abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula commonly used by federal grantees please visit the “Curricula and Speaker Reviews” webpage of SIECUS’ Community Action Kit at www.communityactionkit.org.

Federal Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2009

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Title V	CBAE (Length of Grant)	AFLA (Length of Grant)
U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services www.dhs.gov.vi	\$42,792 (federal grant)		

Adolescent Health Contact¹²

Sharon Williams
 Director of Chronic Disease Prevention Program
 Department of Health
 Charles Howard Complex
 3500 Estate Richmond
 St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00820
 Phone: (340) 773-1311 ext. 3100

U.S. Virgin Islands Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands
P.O. Box 11790
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas
U.S. Virgin Islands 00801
Phone: (340) 774-6031
www.cfvi.net

Virgin Islands Community AIDS
Resource and Education, Inc.
(VICARE)
P.O. Box 223235
Christiansted, Virgin Islands 00822
Phone: (340) 692-9111
www.vicareinc.org

U.S. Virgin Islands Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

SIECUS is not aware of any organizations opposed to comprehensive sexuality education in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Newspapers in U.S. Virgin Islands¹³

The Virgin Islands Daily News
Newsroom
9155 Estate Thomas
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802
Phone: (340) 774-8772
www.virginislandsdailynews.com

¹ U.S. Virgin Islands Title XVII; Amended 2 August 2002.

² 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*, vol. 53, no. SS-2 (21 May 2004): 1-108, accessed 13 December 2008, <<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5302a1.htm>>. Note: the YRBS was conducted again in 2005, 2007 and 2009 but the U.S. Virgin Islands did not participate in those surveys.

³ Joyce A. Martin, et. al, “Births: Final Data for 2006,” *National Vital Statistics Reports*, vol. 57, number 7 (Hyattsville, MD: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 7 January 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_07.pdf>, Table B.

⁴ Martin, et. al, “Births: Final Data for 2006.”

⁵ Ibid., Table B.

⁶ “Cases of HIV Infection and AIDS in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2007,” *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, vol. 19, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2007report/pdf/2007SurveillanceReport.pdf>>, Table 18.

⁷ Ibid.; “AIDS Case Rate per 100,000 Population, All Ages, 2007,” (Menlo Park, CA: Kaiser Family Foundation), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?ind=513&cat=11&sub=120&yr=62&typ=1&sort=a>>.

⁸ Ibid., Table 16.

⁹ Slide 15: “Reported AIDS Cases among Adolescents 13 to 19 Years of Age, 2007—United States and Dependent Areas,” *HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults (through 2007)*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, May 2009), accessed 25 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>>.

¹⁰ This refers to the federal government’s fiscal year, which begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, Fiscal Year 2009 began on October 1, 2008 and ended on September 30, 2009.

¹¹ SIECUS estimated this amount based on the amount of total funding the U.S. Virgin Islands was allocated for the full fiscal year. Despite repeated attempts to contact the Department of Human Services, representatives in the department refused to provide SIECUS with the exact amount of funding received by the state.

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¹² SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

¹³ This section is a list of major newspapers in your state with contact information for their newsrooms. This list is by no means exhaustive and does not contain the local level newspapers which are integral to getting your message out to your community. SIECUS strongly urges you to follow stories about the issues that concern you on the national, state, and local level by using an internet news alert service such as [Google alerts](#), becoming an avid reader of your local papers, and establishing relationships with reporters who cover your issues. For more information on how to achieve your media goals visit the SIECUS [Community Action Kit](#).