



UTAH

Utah received \$288,156 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2005.¹

Utah Sexuality Education Law and Policy

Utah State Code mandates that the State Board of Education establish curriculum requirements in grades eight through twelve for the prevention of communicable diseases. This instruction must stress “the importance of abstinence from all sexual activity before marriage and fidelity after marriage as methods for preventing certain communicable diseases; and personal skills that encourage individual choice of abstinence and fidelity.”

Among other limitations on what can be taught, the Code states that:

At no time may instruction be provided, including responses to spontaneous questions raised by students, regarding any means or methods that facilitate or encourage the violation of any state or federal criminal law by a minor or adult. In addition, the materials adopted by a local school board must prohibit instruction in: the intricacies of intercourse, sexual stimulation, or erotic behavior; the advocacy of homosexuality; the advocacy or encouragement of the use of contraceptive methods or devices; or the advocacy of sexual activity outside of marriage.

Utah State Code requires that each newly hired or newly assigned educator who teaches or who will be teaching any part of a sexuality education class must attend, on an annual basis, a state-sponsored course that outlines the state designed curriculum and Utah Code regarding the teaching of human sexuality.

The Utah *Health Education Core*, a suggested curriculum framework produced by the Utah State Office of Education, provides greater detail regarding grade level and topics to be included.

Schools are not required to follow this framework. However, the Utah State Code requires that local school districts have a Curriculum Materials Review Committee. This Committee must make sure that all instructional material complies:

[W]ith state law and state board rules emphasizing abstinence before marriage and fidelity after marriage, and prohibiting instruction in:

- The intricacies of intercourse, sexual stimulation, or erotic behavior;
- The advocacy of homosexuality;
- The advocacy or encouragement of the use of contraceptive methods or devices; or
- The advocacy of sexual activity outside of marriage.

Curricula must be adopted after “an open and regular” school board meeting in which parents and guardians have an opportunity to testify about the curricula.

Parents or guardians must given written permission in order for a student to participate in any form of sexuality education. This is referred to as an “opt-in” policy.

See Utah State Code 53A-13-101, Utah Administrative Rule R277-474, and the *Health Education Core*.

Recent Legislation

Legislation Would Have Included Education on Prevention of HIV/AIDS

House Bill 72 would have modified the state Board of Education’s health education curricula requirements to include information on the prevention of HIV/AIDS. HB 72 was introduced in January 2005 and assigned to the House Committee on Rules where it subsequently died.

Events of Note

SIECUS is not aware of any recent events regarding sexuality education in Utah.

Utah’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note

- In 2005, 84% of high school students in Utah reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.²
- In 2003, Utah’s Chlamydia infection rate was 1,016 per 100,000 women ages 15–19³ and was 189 per 100,000 men ages 15–19.⁴
- In 2000, Utah’s abortion rate was 6 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁵
- In 2003, women ages 15–19 accounted for 16% of the 3,338 total abortions performed in Utah.⁶
- In 2002, Utah’s birth rate was 37 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.⁷

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Utah received \$288,156 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2005. 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. Utah matches the federal funding with \$237,713 in state funds. The Utah Department of Health oversees this funding and provides grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$82,016 to eight organizations: Bear River Health Department, Boys and Girls Club of South Valley, Four Corners Community Behavioral Health, Planned Parenthood Association of Utah, Pregnancy Resource Center of Salt Lake, Tooele County Health Department, Wasatch City-County Health Department,

and Worldwide Organization of Women. An advisory council consisting of staff from the Utah Department of Health and sub-grantee organizations provides guidance on the programs.

Utah’s Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program targets males and females ages 9–14, and parents with a message of abstinence from a variety of risky behaviors. Several of the sub-grantees work with youth who are in the juvenile justice system. Sub-grantees use three main curricula: *Sex Can Wait*, *SMART Moves*, and *FACTS*. One sub-grantee, a school district focusing on more rural areas, uses *Baby Think It Over*, a program that simulates teen parenting using computerized dolls.

SIECUS reviewed the *FACTS: Family Accountability Communicating Teen Sexuality* curricula and found that they provide incomplete and inaccurate medical information; present opinions and beliefs as universal truths; and portray a biased view of gender, marriage, family structure, sexual orientation, and pregnancy options. For example, *FACTS* includes the following list of negative consequences of premarital sex:

Pregnancy, financial aspect of fatherhood, abortion, HIV/AIDS, STDs, guilt, rejection, loss of reputation, inability to bond in the future, challenge to not compare future sexual partners, alienation from friends and family, poverty, and the inability to complete school.

FACTS also tells young people in no uncertain terms that life begins when sperm and egg meet: “At conception, the baby came into being. Even though he or she was only the size and appearance of a pencil dot, the baby was a separate, genetically unique individual.”⁸

One Title V sub-grantee, the Pregnancy Resource Center of Salt Lake, is primarily a crisis pregnancy center that provides adoption referrals, pregnancy counseling services, and post-abortion counseling services. Crisis pregnancy centers typically advertise as providing medical services and then use anti-choice propaganda, misinformation, and fear and shame tactics to dissuade women facing unintended pregnancy from exercising their right to choose. The Center provides an abstinence-only-until-marriage program entitled *Sexual Education for Abstinent Lifestyles (SEAL)* as well as a multimedia presentation and website, www.noplacefordoubt.org. The *No Place for Doubt* presentation covers sexual health and includes a slide show on STDs produced by the Medical Institute (formerly the Medical Institute for Sexual Health) that includes “graphic photos and discussion of the major STDs.”⁹

Utah is conducting an evaluation of its Title V program, which will measure teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease (STD) rates, attitudes about abstinence, and out-of-wedlock births.

Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE)¹⁰ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are no CBAE or AFLA grantees in Utah.

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2005

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)
Utah Department of Health www.health.utah.gov	\$288,156 federal \$237,713 state	Title V

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)
Length of Grant Bear River Health Department www.brhd.org	\$47,871	Title V sub-grantee
Boys and Girls Club of South Valley	\$82,016	Title V sub-grantee
Four Corners Community Behavioral Health, Inc. www.fourcorners.ws	\$6,121	Title V sub-grantee
Planned Parenthood Association of Utah www.plannedparenthood.org/pp2/uth	\$28,666	Title V sub-grantee
Pregnancy Resource Center of Salt Lake www.pregnancyresource.net	\$45,871	Title V sub-grantee
Tooele County Health Department www.tooelehealth.org/Community_Health/Teen_Pregnancy/Abstinence_Page.html	\$58,871	Title V sub-grantee
Wasatch City-County Health Department www.health.state.ut.us/lhd/html/wasatch_city-county_health_dep.html	\$12,871	Title V sub-grantee
Worldwide Organization of Women www.wowinfo.org	\$5,871	Title V sub-grantee

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Utah Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Utah
355 N. 300 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84103
Phone: (801) 521-9862
www.acluutah.org

Planned Parenthood Action Council
21 North G St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84103
Phone: (801) 328-8939
www.ppacutah.org

Planned Parenthood Association of Utah
654 S. 900 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
Phone: (801) 533-2759
www.ppau.org

Utah NOW
PO Box 16236
Salt Lake City, 84116

Utah Progressive Network
PO Box 521391
Salt Lake City, UT 84152
Phone: (801) 466-0955
www.upnet.org

Utah Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Right to Life of Utah
2390 W. 450 South, #8
Springville, UT 84663
Phone: (801) 491-9742

Sutherland Institute
Gateway Tower West, Suite 1600
15 West South Temple St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Phone: (801) 355- 1272
www.sutherlandinstitute.org

Utah Eagle Forum
2486 West Winding Way
South Jordan, UT 84095
www.utaheagleforum.org

Newspapers in Utah

The Daily Herald
Elyssa Andrus
Community News Editor
1555 N. Freedom Blvd.
Provo, UT 84604
Phone: (801) 344-2553

The Daily Herald
Jill Fellow
Education Reporter
1555 N. Freedom Blvd.
Provo, UT 84604
Phone: (801) 344-2549

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The Daily Spectrum
Jane Zhang
Medical/Health Reporter
275 E. Saint George Blvd.
Saint George, UT 84770
Phone: (435) 674-6254

Davis County Clipper
Education Editor
1370 S. 500 W
Bountiful, UT 84010
Phone: (801) 295-2251

Deseret Morning News
Jennifer Toomer-Cook
Education Staff Writer
30 E. 100 S
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
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El Estandar
Education Editor
332 Standard Way
Ogden, UT 84404
Phone: (801) 625-4200

El Ogdentino
Education Editor
533 26th St.
Ogden, UT 84401
Phone: (801) 388-2566

The Herald Journal
Cindy Yurth
Medical/Health Editor
75 W. 300 N
Logan, UT 84321
Phone: (435) 752-2121

Mundo Hispano - Utah
Education Editor
9131 Monroe St.
Sandy, UT 84070
Phone: (801) 569-3338

Salt Lake City Weekly
Education Editor
248 S. Main St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Phone: (801) 575-7003

The Salt Lake Tribune
Celia Baker
Education Reporter
90 S. 400 W
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Phone: (801) 257-8693

The Salt Lake Tribune
Ronnie Lynn
Health & Medicine Reporter
90 S. 400 W
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Phone: (801) 257-8722

The Salt Lake Tribune
Sheila McCann
Social Issues Editor
90 S. 400 W
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Phone: (801) 257-8742

Standard-Examiner
David Troester
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332 Standard Way
Ogden, UT 84404
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Standard-Examiner
Vanessa Zimmer
Health & Medicine Editor
332 Standard Way
Ogden, UT 84404
Phone: (801) 625-4270

The Valley Journals
Education Editor
1277 W. 12600 S
Riverton, UT 84065
Phone: (801) 254-5974

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 2005 begins on October 1, 2004 and ends on September 30, 2005.

² Danice K. Eaton, et. al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2005,” *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 55, no. SS-5 (9 June 2006): 1-108, accessed 8 June 2006, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>.

³ *Data and Confidence Limits for Chlamydia Cases per 100,000 Persons by Age and Sex, Utah 2003*, (Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Health, 24 November 2004), accessed 7 February 2005, <http://ibis.health.utah.gov/view?xslt=indicator/view_numbers.xslt&xml=indicator/ChlamCas.AgeSex.xml>.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, February 2004), accessed 28 January 2005, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state_pregnancy_trends.pdf>.

⁶ Jeffrey Duncan, et. al., *Utah's Vital Statistics, Abortions 2002 and 2003* (Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Health, Center for Health Data, December 2004), R-21, accessed 7 February 2005, <<http://health.utah.gov/vitalrecords/>>.

⁷ *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>>.

⁸ Rose Fuller et al., *FACTS and Reason* (Portland, OR: Northwest Family Services, 2000); Rose Fuller, et al., *I'm in Charge of the FACTS* (Portland, OR: Northwest Family Services, 2000). For more information, see SIECUS' review of *FACTS* at <http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html>.

⁹ *Teacher Talk*, No Place For Doubt, accessed 9 January 2005, <<http://www.noplacefordoubt.org/teachers/>>.

¹⁰ In Fiscal Year 2004 SPRANS–CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In Fiscal Year 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).