



WYOMING

Wyoming received no federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2008.¹

Wyoming Sexuality Education Law and Policy

Wyoming does not require sexuality, HIV/AIDS, or sexually transmitted disease (STD)-prevention education, nor does it limit what can be taught if such education is offered. However, the *Wyoming Health Content and Performance Standards* does include sexuality education and the *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools* sets some standards for HIV/AIDS-prevention education. The Wyoming Department of Education created both of these documents. According to these standards, “the goals of HIV prevention education are to promote healthful living and discourage the behaviors that put people at risk of acquiring HIV.” The department of education also stipulates that this educational program will:

- be taught at every level, kindergarten through grade twelve;
- use methods demonstrated by sound research to be effective;
- be consistent with community standards;
- follow content guidelines prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
- be appropriate to students’ developmental levels, behaviors, and cultural backgrounds;
- build knowledge and skills from year to year;
- stress the benefits of abstinence from sexual activity, alcohol, and other drug use;
- include accurate information on reducing risk of HIV infection;
- address students’ own concerns;
- include means for evaluation;
- be an integral part of a coordinated school health program;
- be taught by well-prepared instructors with adequate support; and
- involve parents, families, and communities as partners in education.

The state does not recommend a specific curriculum. The *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools* states that parents or guardians can ask that their children not receive HIV/AIDS-prevention education. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See the *Wyoming Content and Performance Standards* and *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools*.

Recent Legislation

SIECUS is not aware of any proposed legislation regarding sexuality education in Wyoming.

Wyoming's Youth: Statistical Information of Note²

- In 2007, 48% of female high school students and 47% of male high school students in Wyoming reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 50% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 4% of female high school students and 8% of male high school students in Wyoming 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 2007, 14% of female high school students and 15% of male high school students in Wyoming reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 12% of female high school students and 18% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 37% of female high school students and 31% of male high school students in Wyoming reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 36% of female high school students and 34% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 59% of females and 68% of males in Wyoming reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 55% of females and 69% of males nationwide.
- In 2007, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 24% of females and 19% of males in Wyoming reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 13% of males nationwide.
- In 2007, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 20% of females and 30% of males in Wyoming reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 18% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2007, 86% of high school students in Wyoming reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 90% of high school students nationwide.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

- Wyoming was eligible for \$73,188 in federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2008.
- 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.
- Wyoming, however, did not apply for these funds due to the administrative requirements associated with the funding. Therefore, the state did not match funds nor did it have organizations supported by this type of federal money during this fiscal year.

W Y O M I N G

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

There are no CBAE or AFLA grantees in Wyoming.

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2008

Wyoming did not receive abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2008.

Adolescent Health Contact³

Zaffer Sharif
Children and Families Initiative
Wyoming Department of Family Services
Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-7071

Wyoming Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

NARAL Pro-Choice Wyoming
P.O. Box 271
Laramie, WY 82073
Phone: (307) 742-9189

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains
950 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: (303) 321-PLAN
www.pprm.org

Wyoming Health Council
2120 O'Neil Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone: (307) 632-3640
www.wyhc.org

Wyoming ACLU
P.O. Box 20706
Cheyenne, WY 82003
Phone: (307) 637-4565
www.aclu-wy.org

Wyoming Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Catholic Social Services
623 South Wolcott
Casper, WY 82601
Phone: (307) 237-2723

Roman Catholic Diocese of Cheyenne
2121 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone: (307) 638-1530
www.dioceseofcheyenne.org

Right to Life of Wyoming
P.O. Box 1208
Casper, WY 82602
Phone: (307) 266-1234
www.prolifewyoming.com

Newspapers in Wyoming⁴

Casper Star-Tribune
Newsroom
170 Star Lane
Casper, WY 82604
Phone: (307) 266-0500
www.trib.com

Laramie Daily Boomerang
Newsroom
320 E. Grand Avenue
Laramie, WY 82070
Phone: (307) 742-2176
www.laramieboomerang.com

Wyoming Tribune-Eagle
Newsroom
702 W. Lincolnway
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone: (307) 634-3361
www.wyomingnews.com

¹ This refers to the federal government's fiscal year, 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 2008 began on October 1, 2007 and ended on September 30, 2008.

² Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Danice K. Eaton, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2007," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 57.SS-4 (6 June 2008), accessed 4 June 2008, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>.

³ SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

⁴ 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](#).