



Alabama

Alabama received \$3,493,285 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2003.¹

Alabama Sexuality Education Law

Alabama Code sets minimum requirements for what must be taught in sexuality education classes. Among other things, classes must teach that:

- Abstinence from sexual intercourse is the only completely effective protection against unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) when transmitted sexually.
- Abstinence from sexual intercourse outside of lawful marriage is the expected social standard for unmarried school-age persons.

Further provisions state that:

- Course materials and instruction that relate to sexual education or sexually transmitted diseases should be age-appropriate.
- Statistics used must be based on the latest medical information that indicate the degree of reliability and unreliability of various forms of contraception, while also emphasizing the increase in protection against pregnancy and protection against sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS infection, which is afforded by the use of various contraceptive measures; and
- Classes must emphasize, in a factual manner and from a public health perspective, that homosexuality is not a lifestyle acceptable to the general public and that homosexual conduct is a criminal offense under the laws of the state.²

Parents may exempt their children from sexuality education and/or STD/HIV education classes. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Alabama State Code Section 16-40A-2 and the *Resolution to Provide Information to Students to Prevent the Spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Disease in the Public Schools of Alabama*.

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 2003 begins on October 1, 2002 and ends on September 30, 2003.

² In 2003, the United States Supreme Court handed down a decision in *Lawrence v. Texas* which declared all state laws criminalizing homosexual behavior to be unconstitutional.

Recent Legislation

SIECUS is not aware of any recent legislation in Alabama regarding sexuality education.

Events of Note

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

Alabama's Youth: Statistical Information of Note³

- In 2003, 58% of female high school students and 56% of male high school students in Alabama reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 4% of female high school students and 14% of male high school students in Alabama 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, 19% of female high school students and 23% of male high school students in Alabama 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, 46% of female high school students and 38% of male high school students in Alabama 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, 16% of females and 24% of males in Alabama 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, 63% of females and 61% of males in Alabama 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, 20% of females and 13% of males in Alabama reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 13% of males nationwide.

³ Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: J. Grunbaum, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2003," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 53, no.SS-2, May 21, 2004, pp. 1-95. Available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>

- In 2003, 6% of female high school students and 3% of male high school students in Alabama 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, 86% of high school students in Alabama reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Alabama's abortion rate was 16 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to an abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁴
- In 2001, Alabama's birth rate was 57 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 45 per 1,000 nationwide.⁵

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Alabama received \$1,078,612 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2003. 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. The state match in Alabama is a combination of state allocation (\$300,000) and local grantees' contributions (\$607,794). The abstinence program is called the Alabama Abstinence-Only Education Program (AAEP). The Alabama Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health Services oversees this program and partners with the governor's office to distribute the funding.

The enumerated goals of AAEP are to:

1. reduce the live birth rate among teens 15 to 17 years of age,
2. reduce the pregnancy rate among teens 15 to 17 years of age,
3. reduce the occurrence of STDs among teens 15 to 19 years of age,
4. reduce the abortion rate among teens 15 to 17 years of age,
5. reduce the live birth rate among unmarried teens 15 to 17 years of age, and
6. reduce the occurrence of sexual activity among teens 15 to 17 years of age.

Alabama distributes \$910,000 in federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage grants to ten local sub-grantees, including boards of education, youth development centers, and family resource centers. Through these programs, AAEP claims to have reached approximately 34,000 youth ages 17 and younger in 26 of Alabama's 67 counties.

Ten percent of funding has been set aside for two separate evaluations to be conducted by Auburn University. One of these will focus on community-based projects and one will focus on the program's media campaign. The evaluation of the community based organizations occurs yearly and focuses on both process and outcome evaluation. On an outcome level, it measures participants' exposure to abstinence messages, attitudes about abstinence, rates of sexual intercourse, rates of teen pregnancy, STD rates, and rates of teen births. The evaluation of the

⁴ U.S. *Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information*, (New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, February, 2004). Available online at www.guttmacher.org.

⁵ A. Papillo, et.al., *Facts at a Glance*, (Washington, DC: Child Trends, February, 2004).

media campaign is designed to determine if the campaign is reaching the target audience and to what extent the audience has heard the message.

The planning and implementation of the original Title V grant in Alabama was overseen by the State Advisory Committee (SAC). SAC was comprised of ten groups, five of which had conservative and/or anti-choice views. These groups included the Alabama Eagle Forum, the Alabama Family Alliance, Alabama Sav-A-Life, and the Alabama Baptist Convention.

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

There are four SPRANS–CBAE grantees in Alabama: the Alabama Department of Public Health, Madison County Schools, *Abstinence in Motion Project* (Edge Regional Medical Center), and University of South Alabama. There are no AFLA grantees in Alabama.

The Alabama Department of Public Health distributes its SPRANS–CBAE to six sub-grantees.

The *Abstinence in Motion (AIM) Project* targets seventh and ninth graders, reaching about 450 students per year. According to an article in the *Troy Messenger*, “AIM, however, doesn't stop with adults bringing the anti-premarital sex message to children. The program lets kids tell other kids about the consequences of premarital sex—teen pregnancy, low self-esteem and sexually transmitted diseases.”

AIM uses the *Reasonable Reasons to Wait* curriculum. According to SIECUS' review of this curriculum, *Reasonable Reasons to Wait* includes gender biases, fear- and shame-based messages, and medical inaccuracies. A few examples are listed below:

- “AIDS can be transmitted by skin-to-skin contact.” *Reasonable Reasons to Wait* (Unit 5, pg. 19 – Teacher's guide).
- “Teenagers who engage in irresponsible sexual activity may have to endure serious short- and long-term consequences. Premaritally sexually active teens may suffer from infection, physical and emotional pain, infertility, and miscarriages.” *Reasonable Reasons to Wait* (Unit 5, pg. 11 – Teacher's guide).
- Answer: “Emotional effects of premarital sex that condoms can NEVER protect.” Question: “What is guilt; rejection; or a broken heart?” *Reasonable Reasons to Wait* (Unit 5, pg. 32 – Teacher's guide).

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Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2003

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) DUAL GRANTEE 2001-2004 http://www.adph.org/ABSTINENCE	\$1,078,612 federal/ \$300,000 state \$661,902	Title V SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Alabama Cooperative Extension System DUAL GRANTEE		Title V sub-grantee SPRANS-CBAE (through ADPH)
Boligee 2000, Inc.		Title V sub-grantee
Circle of Care Center for Families DUAL GRANTEE		Title V sub-grantee SPRANS-CBAE (through ADPH)
Crittenton Youth Services DUAL GRANTEE		Title V sub-grantee SPRANS-CBAE (through ADPH)
Dale County Abstinence Advocacy Council		Title V sub-grantee
Huntsville City Schools DUAL GRANTEE		Title V sub-grantee SPRANS-CBAE (through ADPH)
Lee County Youth Development Center		Title V sub-grantee

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Length of Grant		
Sex & Family Education (SAFE) DUAL GRANTEE www.sexandfamilyeducation.org		Title V sub-grantee SPRANS-CBAE (through ADPH)
Troy Regional Medical Center & Charles Henderson Child Health Center DUAL GRANTEE		Title V sub-grantee SPRANS-CBAE (through ADPH)
Edge Regional Medical Center (<i>Abstinence in Motion Project</i>) 2002-2005	\$533,925	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Madison County Schools 2002-2005	\$421,606	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
University of South Alabama 2003-2006	\$797,240	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)

Past Federal Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Length of Grant		
University of South Alabama 2002-2003	\$100,000	SPRANS-CBAE (Planning Grant)
Boys and Girls Club of East Central Alabama 2001-2002		SPRANS-CBAE (Planning Grant)

A L A B A M A

University of Alabama 2002-2003	\$135,487	AFLA
Alabama State University 2002-2003	\$225,000	AFLA

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Alabama Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

AIDS Action Coalition of Huntsville,
 Alabama
 P.O. Box 871
 Huntsville, AL 35804
 Phone: (256) 536-4700

Alabama Civil Liberties Union
 207 Montgomery Street, Suite 825
 Montgomery, AL 36101
 Phone: (334) 262-0304

Planned Parenthood of Alabama
 1211 27th Place South
 Birmingham, AL 35205-1800
 Phone: (205) 322-0111
www.ppalabama.org

Alabama Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Alabama Citizens for Life
 P.O. Box 184
 Montgomery, AL 36101
 Phone: (334) 666-6805

Alabama Policy Institute
 402 Office Park Drive, Suite 300
 Birmingham, AL 35223
www.alabamapolicyinstitute.org

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The Alabama Pro-Life Coalition
Education Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 590008
Birmingham, Alabama 35259
Phone: (205) 795-1231
www.aplcef.org

National Physicians Center for Family
Resources
P.O. Box 59692
Birmingham, AL 35259
www.physicianscenter.org

Newspapers in Alabama

The Birmingham News
Jon Anderson
Community News Reporter
2200 4th Ave., N
Birmingham, AL 35203-3840
Phone: (205) 325-3258

Birmingham Post-Herald
William Singleton III
Medical/Health Reporter
2200 4th Ave., N
Birmingham, AL 35203-3802
Phone: (205) 325-3123

The Decatur Daily
Ken Retherford
Medical/Health Editor
201 1st Ave., SE
Decatur, AL 35601-2333
Phone: (256) 340-2444

The Dothan Eagle
Linnea McClellan
Medical/Health Editor
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Dothan, AL 36303-4538
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The Gadsden Times
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Valerie Green
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Rhoda Pickett
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401 N Water St.
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Montgomery Advertiser
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