



ALASKA

Alaska received \$359,674 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in FY 2004.¹

Alaska Sexuality Education Law

Alaska does not require schools to teach sexuality or STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) education; however, “the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development’s health education team is committed to providing teachers and school staff within the state of Alaska with current and scientifically sound research in health education and violence and disease prevention.” The Department endorses “programs that work,”² a list compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and encourages schools to incorporate one or more of the recommended curricula into a “planned, sequential, comprehensive school health education program.”³

In addition, the Alaska Content Standards, *Skills for a Healthy Life*, states that students should, among other things:

- Understand the physical and behavioral characteristics of human sexual development and maturity;
- Develop an awareness of how personal life roles are affected by and contribute to the well-being of families, communities, and cultures;
- Understand how respect for the rights of self and others contributes to relationships; and
- Take responsible actions to create safe and healthy environments.

Alaska does not have a policy by which parents or guardians are notified or can remove their children from sexuality education classes.

See *School Health: Health Education Program*, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Recent Legislation

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

Events of Note

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

Alaska's Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁴

- In 2003, 40% of female high school students and 40% of male high school students in Alaska reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 3% of female high school students and 6% of male high school students in Alaska 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, 11% of female high school students and 13% of male high school students in Alaska 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, 28% of female high school students and 27% of male high school students in Alaska 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, 23% of females and 28% of males in Alaska 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, 58% of females and 66% of males in Alaska 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, 28% of females and 22% of males in Alaska 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, 4% of female high school students and 2% of male high school students in Alaska 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 Alaska reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Alaska's abortion rate was 14 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁵
- In 2002, Alaska's birth rate was 40 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.⁶

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Alaska received \$78,525 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2004. 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. In Alaska, the federal funds are matched with in-kind services and funds from Alaska's only Title V sub-grantee: Kids Are People (KAP). The Alaska Department of Health and Human Services oversees this funding.

The Adolescent Health Advisory Committee, initially formed to make recommendations to the Alaska Department of Health and Human Services on adolescent health issues, serves as the advisory council for the abstinence-only-until-marriage program. It is comprised of teachers, youth workers, healthcare professionals, non-profit organizations, police, and other community members. The overall goal of Alaska's abstinence-only-until-marriage program is to help youth build 40 "developmental assets" or environmental factors and personal qualities. This is based on the premise that the more "assets" a youth has, the more likely he/she is to remain abstinent. The Alaska program focuses on three points of the eight point federal definition of abstinence-only-until-marriage program:

- Teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems;
- Teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increase vulnerability to sexual advances; and
- Teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

KAP uses the *Postponing Sexual Involvement* (PSI) curriculum with seventh and eighth grade students in at least six school districts. KAP's main focus is developing "capable youth." It works with at-risk youth and their families; often these youth are currently in or have been in juvenile justice facilities.

Special Projects of Regional and National Significance—Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS—CBAE)⁷ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There is one SPRANS—CBAE grantee in Alaska: the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Anchorage and Eagle River. There are no AFLA grantees in Alaska.

The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Anchorage and Eagle River's mission statement describes the center as a "Christian ministry whose mission is to demonstrate the love of Christ by providing practical services, including emotional and spiritual support to men and women in unplanned pregnancy and family crisis situations." Its objective is "to defend life." According to its website, "We desire to bring wholeness to lives traumatized by abortion; sharing the love of Jesus Christ and educate our community to adopt a Godly view of sexuality and the sanctity of human life."⁸

Through its "Let's Talk" presentations, the organization claims to have reached almost 5,000 youth with 86 presentations. The organization describes "Let's Talk" as "a positive alternative to the 'safe sex' message."⁹

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

| Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant | Amount of Grant | Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA) |
|--|------------------------|--|
| Alaska Department of Health and Human Services www.letstalkalaska.com | \$78,525 federal | Title V |
| Kids Are People (KAP) | | Title V sub-grantee |
| “Let’s Talk” Abstinence Program/Crisis Pregnancy Center 2002-2005 | \$281,149 | SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant) |

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Alaska Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Alaska Pro-Choice Alliance
 PO Box 232676
 Anchorage, AK 99523
 Phone: (907) 334-3055
www.alaskaprochoice.org

Juneau Pro Choice Coalition
 PO Box 22860
 Juneau, AK 99802
 Phone: (907) 463-1548
<http://juneauchoice.com>

Planned Parenthood of Alaska
 4001 Lake Otis Pkwy.
 Anchorage, AK 99508
 Phone: (907) 563-2229
www.plannedparenthoodalaska.org

Alaska Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Alaska Interior Right To Life
PO Box 18566
Fairbanks, AK 99708
Phone: (907) 479-LIFE

Alaska Right To Life
3400 Spenard Rd., Suite 4
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 276-1912
www.akrtl.org

Newspapers in Alaska

Anchorage Daily News
Kathleen McCoy
Health & Medicine Editor
PO Box 149001
Anchorage, AK 99514
Phone: (907)257-4330

Anchorage Daily News
Lisa Demer
Education Reporter
1001 Northway Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: (907) 257-4390

Alaska Magazine
Andy Hall
Editor
301 Arctic Slope Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99518
Phone: (907) 275-2101

Daily Sitka Sentinel
Sandy Poulson
Editor
112 Barracks St.
Sitka, AK 99835
Phone: (907) 747-3219

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
Marmiam Grimes
Education Writer
200 N. Cushman St.
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 459-7504

Juneau Empire
Julia O'Malley
Education Editor
3100 Channel Dr.
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 586-3740

Ketchikan Daily News
Education Editor
501 Dock St.
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone: (907) 225-3157

Kodiak Daily Mirror
Adam Lesh
Editor
1419 Selig St.
Kodiak, AK 99615
Phone: (907) 486-3227

Peninsula Clarion
Education Editor
150 Trading Bay Dr.
Kenai, AK 99611
Phone: (907) 283-7551

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 The CDC no longer sponsors “Programs That Work.” Although these programs were proven effective, information about them has been removed from the CDC website. For more information, contact the SIECUS Public Policy office.

³ *School Health: Health Education Program*, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, accessed 12 May 2004 <<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/schoolhealth/healthed.html>>.

⁴ 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/>>.

⁵ *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, <<http://www.guttmacher.org>>.

⁶ *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>>.

⁷ 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).

⁸ *Crisis Pregnancy Center of Anchorage and Eagle River*, accessed 9 February 2004, <<http://www.cpc.org/anchorage/HOME>>.

⁹ Ibid.