



ALASKA

Alaska received \$1,033,575 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2005.¹

Alaska Sexuality Education Law and Policy

Alaska does not have a law that governs sexuality education; therefore, schools are not required to teach sexuality or sexually transmitted disease (STD) 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 require parental permission for students to participate in sexuality or HIV/AIDS education nor does it say whether parents or guardians can remove their children from such classes.

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

Recent Legislation

SIECUS is not aware of any proposed legislation regarding 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 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, 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 AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Alaska received \$88,581 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. 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 Social Services oversees this funding.

The Adolescent Health Advisory Committee, initially formed to make recommendations to the Alaska Department of Health and Social 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 goal of Alaska's abstinence-only-until-marriage program is to increase the number of adolescents remaining abstinent from sexual activity, drugs, and alcohol. This is achieved by providing funding to Kids Are People (KAP) to implement abstinence-only-until-marriage programs for middle school students based on available research. The sub-grantee incorporates developmental asset promotion into their abstinence-only-until-marriage outreach efforts as appropriate. This model helps youth build 40 "developmental assets" or environmental factors and personal qualities into their lives, based on the premise that the more "assets" a young person has, the more likely he/she is to remain abstinent.

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." While the abstinence-only-until-marriage program is open to all young people in participating schools, KAP also works with at-risk youth and their families; often, these young people are currently in, or have been in, juvenile justice facilities.

Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE)⁵ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There is one CBAE grantee in Alaska: the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Anchorage and Eagle River, which receives two grants. There are no AFLA grantees in Alaska.

Crisis pregnancy centers typically advertise as providing medical services and then use anti-abortion propaganda, misinformation, and fear and shame tactics to dissuade women facing unintended pregnancy from exercising their right to choose. 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."⁶

Through its "Let's Talk" presentations, the organization claims to have reached almost 5,000 young people with 86 presentations. The organization describes "Let's Talk" as "a positive alternative to the 'safe sex' message."⁷

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)
Alaska Department of Health and Human Services www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/	\$88,581 federal	Title V
Kids Are People (KAP)	\$88,581	Title V sub-grantee
“Let’s Talk” Abstinence Program/Crisis Pregnancy Center 2002–2005 DUAL GRANTEE 2005–2008 www.letstalkalaska.com	\$281,149 \$663,845	CBAE CBAE

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Alaska Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Alaska Civil Liberties Union
 PO Box 201844
 Anchorage, AK 99520
 Phone: (907) 276-2258
www.akclu.org

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

ALASKA

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

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/>>. Alaska did not participate in the 2005 YRBS.

⁵ 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).

⁶ Crisis Pregnancy Center of Anchorage and Eagle River, accessed 9 February 2004, <<http://www.cpc.org/anchorage/HOME>>.

⁷ Ibid.