



# SIECUS

State Profile

## DELAWARE

*Delaware received no federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2008.<sup>1</sup>*

### **Delaware Sexuality Education Law and Policy**

Delaware requires sexuality education as part of health education in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This education must be coordinated by an employee in each school district and must be overseen by a District Consolidated Application Planning Committee. The committee must consist of teachers, parents, school nurses, community leaders, law enforcement, and other community members. Sexuality education courses must also follow the *Delaware Health Education Curriculum*.

Sexuality education must include an “HIV-prevention program that stresses the benefits of abstinence from high-risk behaviors.” Delaware law also sets a minimum number of hours for “comprehensive health education and family life education.” In kindergarten through grade four, this minimum is set at 30 hours in each grade, ten of which must be dedicated to drug/alcohol education. In grades five and six, the minimum is set at of 35 hours per grade, 15 of which must be dedicated to drug/alcohol education. In grades seven and eight, the minimum is set at 60 hours per grade, 15 of which must be dedicated to drug/alcohol education. In order to graduate, high school students must receive one-half of a credit in comprehensive health education.

Delaware does not require parental permission for students to participate in sexuality or HIV/AIDS education nor does it say whether parents or guardians may remove their children from such classes.

See Delaware Administrative Code 14-851, and *Delaware Health Education Curriculum*.

### **Recent Legislation**

#### *Bill to Prohibit Discrimination on Basis of Sexual Orientation*

Senate Bill 141, introduced in June 2007, would have rendered discrimination against an individual on the basis of his/her sexual orientation as unlawful in housing, employment, public works contracting, public accommodations, and insurances. The bill provided the Superior Court with exclusive criminal jurisdiction over any and all violations of equal accommodations, fair housing, and employment discrimination. The bill was sent to the Committee on Insurance and Elections in June 2007, but failed to move out of the committee and died.

**Delaware's Youth: Statistical Information of Note<sup>2</sup>**

- In 2007, 57% of female high school students and 62% of male high school students in Delaware reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 50% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 5% of female high school students and 15% of male high school students in Delaware 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, 17% of female high school students and 27% of male high school students in Delaware 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, 47% of female high school students and 44% of male high school students in Delaware 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, 63% of females and 76% of males in Delaware 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, 19% of females and 11% of males in Delaware 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, 16% of females and 26% of males in Delaware 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, 90% of high school students in Delaware reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 90% of high school students nationwide.

**Title V Abstinence-Only-Until Marriage Funding**

- Delaware was eligible for \$93,978 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.
- Delaware, however, chose not to apply for these funds due to the extraordinary restrictions placed upon how the money must be spent. Therefore, the state does not match funds nor does it have organizations supported by this type of federal money.

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

- There are no CBAE or AFLA grantees in Delaware.

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

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

**Adolescent Health Contact<sup>3</sup>**

Fred MacCormack  
Delaware Department of Health and Social Services  
Division of Public Health  
Jesse Cooper Building  
P.O. Box 637  
Dover, DE 19903  
Phone: (302) 744-5409

**Delaware Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

ACLU of Delaware  
100 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 309  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Phone: (302) 654-3966  
[www.aclu-de.org](http://www.aclu-de.org)

Delaware Women's Conference  
P.O. Box 7855  
Newark, DE 19714  
Phone: (302) 761-8005  
[www.delawarewomen.org](http://www.delawarewomen.org)

Delaware Women's Health Organization  
312 Mitch Road  
Wilmington, DE 19804  
Phone: (302) 992-7996  
[www.gynpages.com/dwho/](http://www.gynpages.com/dwho/)

Planned Parenthood of Delaware  
625 Shipley Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Phone: (302) 655-7293  
[www.ppdela.org](http://www.ppdela.org)

**Delaware Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Delaware Pro-Life Coalition  
400 New London Road  
Newark, DE 19711  
Phone: (302) 368-0329  
[www.delawareprolife.org](http://www.delawareprolife.org)

Delaware Right To Life  
P.O. Box 1222  
Wilmington, DE 19899  
Phone: (302) 832-9600  
[www.derighttolife.org](http://www.derighttolife.org)

Intercollegiate Studies Institute  
3901 Centerville Road  
P.O. Box 4431  
Wilmington, DE 19807  
Phone: (302) 652-4600  
[www.isi.org](http://www.isi.org)

## Newspapers in Delaware<sup>4</sup>

*DoverPost*

Newsroom

P.O. Box 664

Dover, DE 19903

Phone: (302) 678-8291

[www.doverpost.com](http://www.doverpost.com)

*The News Journal*

Newsroom

P.O. Box 15505

Wilmington, DE 19850

Phone: (302) 324-2851

[www.delawareonline.com](http://www.delawareonline.com)

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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>>.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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](#).