



IDAHO

Idaho Sexuality Education Law and Policy

Idaho Statute §33-1608 states that the “primary responsibility of family life and sex education” rests with a student’s home and church “and the schools can only complement and supplement those standards which are established in the family.”¹ Local school boards are charged with the decision of whether to offer sexuality education, and if a school board decides to institute sexuality education, the program must place “major emphasis” on the home—including “appreciation of the important place the family home holds in the social system of our culture”—family, and church as areas of importance for learning such knowledge.² School boards must include parents and community groups in all aspects of instituting and evaluating sexuality education programs.

In addition, the program should give youth “the scientific, psychological information for understanding sex and its relation to the miracle of life.” It must also include “knowledge of the power of the sex drive and the necessity of controlling that drive by self-discipline.”³

According to the *Idaho Content Standards of Health*, by the end of the 12th grade, students should be able to “assess the consequences of sexual activity (unplanned pregnancy, STDs, emotional distress).”⁴

Parents or guardians wishing to excuse their children from sexuality education must file a written request to the school board. The school board will then supply the parent with necessary forms to remove the child from the class. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Idaho Code Annotated §§ 33-1608–1611, and *Idaho Content Standards of Health*.

Recent Legislation

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

Idaho’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁵

- In 2009, 39% of female high school students and 39% of male high school students in Idaho reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 46% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2009, 3% of female high school students and 5% of male high school students in Idaho reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 3% of female high school students and 8% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2009, 86% of high school students in Idaho reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 87% of high school students nationwide.

Idaho Youth Sexual Health Statistics

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- Idaho's teen pregnancy rate ranks 39th in the U.S., with a rate of 55 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the national rate of 70 pregnancies per 1,000.⁶ There were a total of 2,940 pregnancies among young women ages 15–19 reported in 2005, the most recent year for which data are available, in Idaho.⁷
- Idaho's teen birth rate ranked 27th in the U.S. in 2005, with a rate of 37.7 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the national rate of 40.5 births per 1,000.⁸ In 2005, there were a total of 2,015 live births reported to young women ages 15–19 in Idaho.⁹
- In 2006, the U.S. teen birth rate increased for the first time in 15 years by 3% from 40.5 to 41.9 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, after having steadily declined between 1991 and 2005.¹⁰ Idaho's teen birth rate also increased between 2005 and 2006, from 37.7 to 39.2 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19.¹¹
- Idaho's teen abortion rate ranks 47th in the U.S., with a rate of 4 abortions per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the national rate of 19 abortions per 1,000. In 2005, there were a total of 257 abortions reported among young women ages 15–19 in Idaho.¹²

HIV and AIDS

- Idaho ranks 44th in cases of HIV infection diagnosed in the U.S. among all age groups. In 2007, there were a total of 17 new cases of HIV infection diagnosed in Idaho.¹³
- In 2007, there were no young people ages 13–19 diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Idaho.¹⁴
- Idaho's AIDS rate ranks 49th in the U.S., with a rate of 1.5 cases per 100,000 population compared to the national rate of 12.5 cases per 100,000.¹⁵
- Idaho ranks 47th in number of reported AIDS cases in the U.S. among all age groups. In 2007, there were a total of 23 new AIDS cases reported in Idaho.¹⁶
- In 2007, there were no AIDS cases reported among young people ages 13–19 in Idaho.¹⁷

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- Idaho ranks 43rd in reported cases of Chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 in the U.S., with an infection rate of 12.71 cases per 1,000 compared to the national rate of 19.51 cases per 1,000. In 2008, there were a total of 1,410 cases of Chlamydia reported among young people ages 15–19 in Idaho.¹⁸
- Idaho ranks 48th in reported cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 in the U.S., with an infection rate of 0.31 cases per 1,000 compared to the national rate of 4.52 cases per 1,000. In 2008, there were a total of 34 cases of gonorrhea reported among young people ages 15–19 in Idaho.¹⁹
- Idaho ranks 31st in reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis among young people ages 15–19 in the U.S., with an infection rate of 0.01 cases per 1,000 compared to the national rate of 0.04 cases per 1,000.²⁰

Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Education

SIECUS is not aware of any examples of model programs, policies, or best practices being implemented in Idaho public schools that provide a more comprehensive approach to sex education for young people.

We encourage you to submit any updated or additional information on comprehensive approaches to sex education being implemented in Idaho public schools for inclusion in future publications of the SIECUS State Profiles. Please visit SIECUS' "Contact Us" webpage at www.siecus.org to share information. Select "state policy" as the subject heading.

Federal Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs

Idaho did not receive abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2009.²¹

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until Marriage Funding

- Idaho chose not to participate in the Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program in Fiscal Year 2009. The state was eligible for approximately \$208,264 in funding. Due to the expiration of the grant program on June 30, 2009, three months prior to the end of the federal fiscal year, the state would have received three quarters of the total funding allocated for the full fiscal year.

Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) Funding

- There are no CBAE grantees in Idaho.

Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Funding

- There are no AFLA grantees in Idaho.

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Curricula

SIECUS is not aware of any commercially available abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula used in Idaho.

To read reviews of abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula commonly used by federal grantees please visit the "Curricula and Speaker Reviews" webpage of SIECUS' Community Action Kit at www.communityactionkit.org.

Adolescent Health Contact²²

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Bureau of Community & Environmental Health
Department of Health and Welfare
450 West State Street, 6th Floor
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: (208) 332-7319

Idaho Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Idaho
P.O. Box 1897
Boise, ID 83701
Phone: (208) 344-9750
www.acluidaho.org

Allies Linked for the Prevention of HIV and
AIDS
419 South 13th Street
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: (208) 424-7799
www.alphaidaho.org

I D A H O

Inland Oasis, Inc.
P.O. BOX 8205
Moscow, ID 83843
www.inlandoasis.org

PFLAG Easter Idaho Chapter
P.O. Box 52242
Idaho Falls, ID 83405
Phone: (208) 522-1057
www.ifpflag.com

Planned Parenthood of Idaho
1109 Main Street, Suite 500
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: (208) 376-2277
www.plannedparenthood.org/idaho

Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest
123 E. Indiana Avenue, Suite 100
Spokane, WA 99207
Phone: (800) 788-9128
www.ppinw.org

Idaho Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Idaho Chooses Life
P.O. Box 8172
Boise, ID 83707
Phone: (208) 344-8709
www.idahochooseslife.org

Life Choices Clinic
2020 12th Avenue
Lewiston, ID 83501
Phone: (208) 746-9704
www.lifechoicesclinic.info

Newspapers in Idaho²³

Coeur d'Alene Press
Newsroom
201 N. 2nd Street
Coeur D Alene, ID 8381
Phone: (208) 664-8176
www.cdapress.com

Idaho Press-Tribune
Newsroom
1618 N. Midland Boulevard
Nampa, ID 83651
Phone: (208) 465-8124
www.idahopress.com

Idaho State Journal
Newsroom
305 S. Arthur Avenue
Pocatello, ID 83204
Phone: (208) 232-4161
www.journalnet.com

The Idaho Statesman
Newsroom
1200 N. Curtis Road
Boise, ID 83706
Phone: (208) 377-6400
www.idahostatesmen.com

Political Blogs in Idaho

43rd State Blues
www.43rdstateblues.com

Ida Blue
www.idablue.blogspot.com

The Mountain Goat Report
www.mountangoatreport.typepad.com

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- ¹ Idaho Code Ann. § 33-1608, <<http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title33/T33CH16SECT33-1608.htm>>.
- ² Idaho Code Ann. § 33-1608(a), <<http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title33/T33CH16SECT33-1608.htm>>.
- ³ Idaho Code Ann. § 33-1608(b), <<http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title33/T33CH16SECT33-1608.htm>>.
- ⁴ Idaho Content Standards for Health, <<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/contentstandards/docs/Health%20Standards/Healthall.pdf>>.
- ⁵ Danice K. Eaton, et. al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2009,” *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 59, no. SS-5 (4 June 2010): 98–109, accessed 4 June 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss5905.pdf>>. Note: Idaho did not participate in the full 2009 YRBS.
- ⁶ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity*, (Washington, DC: Guttmacher Institute, January 2010), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends.pdf>>, Table 3.1.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*, Table 3.2.
- ⁸ Joyce A. Martin, et. al., “Births: Final Data for 2006,” *National Vital Statistics Reports*, vol. 57, number 7 (Hyattsville, MD: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 7 January 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_07.pdf>, Table B.
- ⁹ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity*, Table 3.2.
- ¹⁰ Martin, et. al., “Births: Final Data for 2006,” 4.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, Table B.
- ¹² *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity*, Table 3.5.
- ¹³ “Cases of HIV Infection and AIDS in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2007,” *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, vol. 19, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2007report/pdf/2007SurveillanceReport.pdf>>, Table 18.
- ¹⁴ Slide 6: “Estimated Numbers of HIV/AIDS Cases among Adolescents 13 to 19 Years of Age, 2007—34 States,” *HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults (through 2007)*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, May 2009), accessed 25 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>>.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*; “AIDS Case Rate per 100,000 Population, All Ages, 2007,” (Menlo Park, CA: Kaiser Family Foundation), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparabletable.jsp?ind=513&cat=11&sub=120&yr=62&typ=1&sort=a>>.
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Table 16.
- ¹⁷ Slide 15: “Reported AIDS Cases among Adolescents 13 to 19 Years of Age, 2007—United States and Dependent Areas,” *HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults (through 2007)*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, May 2009), accessed 25 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>>.
- ¹⁸ “Wonder Database: Selected STDs by Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender, 1996-2008 Results,” (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), 30 June 2009, accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://wonder.cdc.gov>>; see also Table 10: “Chlamydia: Reported Cases and Rates Per 100,000 Population by Age Group and Sex: United States, 2004–2008,” *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2008*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of STD Prevention, November 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats08/surv2008-Complete.pdf>>, 95.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*; see also Table 20: “Gonorrhea—Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population by Age Group and Sex: United States, 2004–2008,” *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2008*, 106.
- ²⁰ *Ibid.*; see also Table 33: “Primary and Secondary Syphilis—Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population by Age Group and Sex: United States, 2004–2008,” *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2008*, 121.
- ²¹ This refers to the federal government’s fiscal year, which begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, Fiscal Year 2009 began on October 1, 2008 and ended on September 30, 2009.
- ²² SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.
- ²³ 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](#).