



ILLINOIS

Illinois received \$6,093,036 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2004.¹

Illinois Sexuality Education Law

Schools in Illinois are required to teach sexuality education and sexually transmitted disease (STD)/HIV education. These courses must be taught in elementary and secondary schools and the curricula must be based on “scientific knowledge.” In sixth through twelfth grades, the curriculum must include information about the prevention, transmission, and spread of HIV/AIDS. It must also include the “social responsibilities of family including sexual abstinence until marriage,” present abstinence “as the expected norm,” and emphasize that “abstinence from sexual intercourse is the only protection that is 100% effective against unwanted teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) when transmitted sexually.” State law does not specify whether or not contraception should be discussed.

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

See 105 ILCS (Illinois Compiled Statute) Sections 5/27-9.1, 5/27-9.2, 5/27-11, and 110.

Recent Legislation

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

Events of Note

*Former Student Promotes Comprehensive Sexuality Education at School
April 2004; Washington, IL*

A former student at Washington High School in Washington, Illinois was frustrated with the focus the school places on abstinence in its sexuality education courses and decided to take action. The recent graduate created packets with condoms and information. Fourteen like-minded recent graduates and parents joined her in passing out what they called “prom packets” around the school in late April.

In a news release, the recent graduate explained: “subjects like contraceptives are not approached unless brought up by a student raising his hand and asking himself.”² She went on to say that the teachers are trained to respond in a way that always leads back to abstinence.

The school superintendent responded to the criticism saying, “that’s pretty far out that we would try to influence ... a teacher to say don’t talk to anybody about anything but abstinenceWhere would that come from?”³

*High School Students Advocate for Better Sex Ed
June 2004; Chicago, IL*

A group of students at Chicago's Curie High School, all of whom were involved with *The Forefront Program*, a leadership and political action training course, took it upon themselves to improve their school's sex education curriculum after studying teen pregnancy prevention.

They began challenging their school's policies in September 2003, after conducting a survey with the help of their social studies teacher. The survey was given to 3,000 students to determine what they knew about sexuality. After reviewing the 1,500 surveys that were returned to them, the Curie student group discovered that the teens in their community were not nearly as knowledgeable as they should be about issues of pregnancy, disease prevention, and sexual health. The survey also revealed a large number of teen mothers among the student body, especially those living in minority and low income communities.

The Curie student group presented their results to their school's principal and pushed for a more comprehensive sexuality education curriculum. The students also proposed a project to distribute free condoms to students during lunch hours. When the principal rejected their proposal, the students took their concerns to the school board.

During their presentation to the Chicago Board of Education, the student group emphasized the need for more thorough and comprehensive sexuality education. The presentation impressed the board president and the school CEO, who vowed to work with the group to make improvements.

*Group Identifies Medically Inaccurate Programs
February 2002*

In February 2002, the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health documented seven areas of the state that used medically inaccurate programs. The Caucus is conducting a grassroots campaign to inform schools and parents about these programs.

Illinois' Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁴

- In 2001, 31% of female high school students and 36% of male high school students in Illinois reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 43% of female high school students and 49% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 2% of female high school students and 6% of male high school students in Illinois reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 4% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 5% of female high school students and 13% of male high school students in Illinois reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 11% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 23% of female high school students and 23% of male high school students in Illinois reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 33% of females and 33% of males nationwide.

ILLINOIS

- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 28% in Illinois reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 26% nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 68% in Illinois reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 58% nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 18% in Illinois reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 18% nationwide.
- In 2001, 2% of female high school students and 3% of male high school students in Illinois 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 2001, 91% of high school students in Illinois reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 89% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Illinois' abortion rate was 27 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁵
- In 2003, women ages 15-19 accounted for 16% of the 42,228 total abortions performed in Illinois.⁶
- In 2002, Illinois' birth rate was 42 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.⁷

*Chicago, Illinois*⁸

- In 2003, 50% of female high school students and 61% of male high school students in Chicago reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 5% of female high school students and 22% of male high school students in Chicago 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, 12% of female high school students and 27% of male high school students in Chicago 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, 41% of female high school students and 44% of male high school students in Chicago 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, 15% of females and 25% of males in Chicago 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, 60% of females and 73% of males in Chicago 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, 10% of females and 7% of males in Chicago 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, 10% of female high school students and 7% of male high school students in Chicago 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, 81% of high school students in Chicago reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Illinois received \$1,873,815 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 Fiscal Year 2004, Illinois' match comes from sub-grantees.

The Illinois Abstinence Education Program is run through the Bureau of Child and Adolescent Health of the Illinois Department of Human Services. The program is implemented by 29 providers across the state in nearly 300 schools. Providers include local health departments, schools, youth organizations, and faith-based organizations. Their work consists of curriculum and after-school programs which include seminars, workshops, town-hall assemblies, and youth/church group activities. They also contract with Project Reality to provide abstinence education in an additional 311 schools.

Project Reality created and uses *A.C. Green's Game Plan*. SIECUS reviewed *Game Plan* and found that in order to convince high school students to remain abstinent until marriage, the curriculum relies on messages of fear and shame, inaccurate and misleading information, and biased views of marriage, sexual orientation, and family structure. In addition, *Game Plan* fails to provide important information on sexual health including how students can seek testing and treatment if they suspect they may have an STD. Finally, the format and underlying biases of the curriculum do not allow for cultural, community, and individual values, and discourage critical thinking and discussions of alternate points of view in the classroom. For example, *Game Plan* states "even if you've been sexually active, it's never too late to say no. You can't go back, but you can go forward. You might feel guilty or untrustworthy, but you can start over again."⁹

Special Projects of Regional and National Significance—Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS–CBAE)¹⁰ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are seven SPRANS–CBAE grantees in Illinois: Carefirst Prevention Services, Carenet Pregnancy Services of DuPage, the Confederation of Spanish American Workers, the Family Centered Educational Agency (two grants), Lawndale Christian Health Center, Rend Lake College, and Roseland Christian Ministries. There is one AFLA grantee in Illinois: Lake County Health Department Community Health Center.

The Roseland Christian Ministries website describes their ministry as “holistic, evangelical, reformed urban ministries, from Sunday worship to overnight shelter to children’s programs. It is biblically driven, Christ-centered, comprehensive; a place to serve as well as worship.”¹¹

According to its website, “CareNet Pregnancy Services of DuPage is an evangelistic organization that exists to help women experiencing unplanned or unwanted pregnancies choose life for their unborn babies.”¹² This crisis pregnancy center was founded in 1981 by the Christian Action Council.

The Lake County Health Department Community Health Center runs a program called “Family Life Education/Adolescent Health,” which includes curricula, *Girl 2 Girl* (peer counseling for girls in seventh to twelfth grade) and *Smart Moves* (male responsibility program for teenage boys), groups with teen mothers, outreach to the Latina community, and support groups. This program appears to be fairly comprehensive; the curriculum includes a section entitled “Birth Control Choices Throughout the Reproductive Years.”

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2004¹³

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Illinois Department of Human Services www.dhs.state.il.us/chp/ofh/CAH/Abstinence.asp	\$1,873,815 federal	Title V
ABJ Community Services, Inc.		Title V sub-grantee
African-American Life Skills Institute		Title V sub-grantee
Alton Community Unit School District #11		Title V sub-grantee
Anna-Jonesboro Community High School		Title V sub-grantee
Boone County Health Department		Title V sub-grantee

ILLINOIS

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
CareFirst Pregnancy Center DUAL GRANTEE 2004-2007	\$754,879	Title V sub-grantee SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Carole Roberston Center for Learning		Title V sub-grantee
Catholic Social Service – Peoria		Title V sub-grantee
Confederation of Spanish-American Workers DUAL GRANTEE 2003 – 2006	\$703,895	Title V sub-grantee SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
East Side Health District		Title V sub-grantee
Family-Centered Education Agency, Inc. TRIPLE GRANTEE 2001 – 2004 TRIPLE GRANTEE 2004-2007	\$279,807 \$400,840	Title V sub-grantee SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant) SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Forward P.C.		Title V sub-grantee
F.O.R.U.M.		Title V sub-grantee
Hult Health Education Center		Title V sub-grantee
Jane Addams Hull House Association		Title V sub-grantee

ILLINOIS

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Lee County Health Department		Title V sub-grantee
Lydia Home Association		Title V sub-grantee
New Life Family Services		Title V sub-grantee
Pregnancy Aid South Suburbs		Title V sub-grantee
Rend Lake College		Title V sub-grantee
Rock Island County Health Department		Title V sub-grantee
Shawnee Crisis Pregnancy Center		Title V sub-grantee
Shelby County Health Department		Title V sub-grantee
St. Clair County Health Department		Title V sub-grantee
Tazewell County Health Department		Title V sub-grantee
Will County Health Department		Title V sub-grantee
Y.M.C.A. of Metropolitan Chicago		Title V sub-grantee
Carenet Pregnancy Services of DuPage 2004-2007 www.geocities.com/~pregnant/help/	\$295,442	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Lawndale Christian Health Center 2003-2006	\$461,278	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)

ILLINOIS

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Rend Lake College 2003-2006	\$298,080	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Roseland Christian Ministries 2002-2005	\$800,000	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Lake County Health Department Community Health Center 2002-2004	\$225,000	AFLA

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Illinois Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Equality Illinois
 3712 N. Broadway St., #125
 Chicago, IL 60613
 Phone: (773) 477-7173
www.equalityillinois.org

Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
 28 East Jackson, Suite 710
 Chicago, IL 60604
 Phone: (312) 427-4460
www.icaah.org

Illinois Gender Advocates
 47 W. Division St., #391
 Chicago, IL 60610
 Phone: (312) 409-5489
www.genderadvocates.org

Illinois NOW
 522 E. Monroe, Suite 501
 Springfield, IL 62701
 Phone: (217) 528-2077
www.illinoisnow.org

Illinois Planned Parenthood Council
 107 W. Cook St., Suite F
 Springfield, IL 62704
 Phone: (217) 522-6776
www.plannedparenthoodcouncil.org

Illinois Religious Coalition for
 Reproductive Choice
 PO Box 2198
 LaGrange, IL 60525
 Phone: (773) 509-6374

Illinois Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Eagle Forum of Illinois
PO Box 618
Alton, IL 62002
Phone: (618) 462-5415
www.eagleforum.org

Illinois Family Institute
799 Roosevelt Rd.
Building 3, Suite 208
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Phone: (603) 790-8370
www.illinoisfamily.org

IL Federation for Right to Life
1104 Milton Rd.
Alton, IL 62002
Phone: (618) 465-7655
www.ifrl.org

Newspapers in Illinois

Belleville News-Democrat
Roger Schlueter
Medical/Health Editor
120 S. Illinois St.
Belleville, IL 62220
Phone: (618) 239-2465

Chicago Sun-Times
Jim Ritter
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ILLINOIS

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The State Journal-Register
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Phone: (217) 788-1519

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 L. Michels, "Student Criticizes School's Sex Ed Program," *HOI19*, accessed online on 28 April 2004.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Jo Anne Grunbaum, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2001," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 51.SS-4, (28 June 2002): 1-64, accessed 28 January 2005, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>>. Information on Illinois does not include Chicago. Illinois did not participate in the 2003 YRBS; however, Chicago did participate and information is listed separately.

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, <www.guttmacher.org>.

⁶ *2003 Illinois Abortion Statistics* (Illinois: Illinois Department of Public Health, 2003), accessed 3 February 2005, <<http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/abortion/abort03.htm>>.

⁷ *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>>.

⁸ 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/>>.

⁹ Scott Phelps and Libby Gray, *A.C. Green's Game Plan* (Golf, IL: Project Reality, 2001), 45.

ILLINOIS

¹⁰ 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).

¹¹ *Our Ministry*, Roseland Christian Ministries, accessed 22 February 2005, <<http://www.jheco.com/crc-chicago/rcm/>>.

¹² *CareNet Pregnancy Services of DuPage*, CareNet Pregnancy Services of DuPage, accessed 22 February 2005, <<http://www.college-church.org/carenet.asp>>.

¹³ SIECUS was not able to obtain exact funding information for all grantees.