



SIECUS

State Profile

KANSAS

The Department of Health and Environment and community-based organizations in Kansas received \$1,760,378 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2007.¹

Kansas Sexuality Education Law and Policy

The Kansas Administrative Regulations require elementary and secondary students to be taught “physical education, which shall include instruction in health and human sexuality.” Kansas does not require schools to follow a specific curriculum; however, the Kansas State Board of Education can suggest guidelines and limitations.

The *Kansas Health Education Standards* require that each local board of education provide “a complete program of abstinence until marriage in human sexuality that is developmentally appropriate, including information about sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV/AIDS.” The *Standards* also state that this program must be medically accurate and research-based, and must “include factual information regarding contraception and disease prevention.”

Kansas law 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 Kansas Administrative Regulation 91-31-32, and *Kansas Health Education Standards*.

Recent Legislation

Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation Unlawful Under Bill

Senate Bill 163, introduced in January 2007 to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs, would have amended the *Kansas Act against Discrimination* to include the unlawful discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The bill died in committee.

Abstinence Plus Education Act Introduced

Senate Bill 508 would have required each school district to provide a “comprehensive education program in human sexuality.” This bill would have required that teachers have “appropriate academic preparation or in-service training to develop a basic knowledge of and sensitivity to the area of human sexuality” and that curricula and related materials be factually and medically accurate as well as age-appropriate. Additionally, it would have created a statewide “opt-out” policy regarding sexuality education classes. The bill was introduced in February 2006 and passed the Senate. It was placed in the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs, where it later died.

Events of Note

Kansas Board of Education Grapples with Sexuality Education

May 2007; Kansas

In May 2007, the Kansas Board of Education rewrote guidelines that had been passed in 2006 recommending that schools focus on abstinence until marriage and adopt an opt-in policy for sexuality education classes. The guidelines were not a mandate and districts could still choose a more comprehensive program or an opt-out policy.

Opt-out policies allow children to be removed from sexuality education upon the request of a parent. Such policies typically provide notification to parents about what will be taught in their child's sexuality education program, including what curriculum is used and who will be teaching the class. Students are automatically enrolled in class unless parents request otherwise. Opt-out policies ensure that parents are informed about their child's sexuality education classes and that a system is in place to allow them to remove their child from the class without penalty to the young person. The overwhelming majority of states have opt-out policies.

Under an opt-in policy, schools need permission from parents before students can attend the class. Educators fear, however, that some young people may be unable to gain active consent from their parents and that others will simply forget to do so. Only three states, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah, require active parental permission for sexuality education.

Health professionals and parents in Kansas expressed concerns about the possible impact of the 2006 guidelines which they felt would limit the likelihood that students would receive sexuality education.²

In part because of decisions like this, the make up of the board changed radically during the 2006 elections with moderates taking the majority. The new board altered many of the policies put in place by the previous conservative board. In May 2007, the Kansas Board of Education voted to adopt new guidelines that no longer ask teachers to stress abstinence until marriage and leave the question of permission slips to district officials.³ Like the previous draft, these guidelines are not a mandate.

Task Force Recommends New Sexuality Education Curriculum

November 2006; Kansas City, KS

The Independence School Board Task Force in Kansas City recommended that the district implement a sexuality education curriculum that discusses abstinence and contraception in all grades.

The task force was formed in response to community members who were concerned by district programs that emphasized abstinence until marriage. The recommendations were presented after the Kansas Board of Education approved a new policy enforcing a statewide abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum.⁴ (The Kansas Board of Education has since reversed this policy and now recommends comprehensive sexuality education.)⁵

Kansas's Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁶

- In 2007, 45% of female high school students and 45% of male high school students in Kansas 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 9% of male high school students in Kansas 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, 14% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students in Kansas 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, 36% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students in Kansas 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 70% of males in Kansas 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 15% of males in Kansas 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, 21% of females and 31% of males in Kansas 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, 85% of high school students in Kansas reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 90% of high school students nationwide.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment received \$337,110 in federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2007. 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 Kansas, sub-grantees are required to make up the match. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment oversees this funding.

The Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funds are distributed to nine sub-grantees: Abstinence Education, Inc. (formerly known as Abstinence Education Consultants, Inc.), Catholic Community Services, Community Health Organization Committee, Flint Hills Community Health Center, GPT-Local Area Network, Johnson County Health Department, Olathe School District, S.A.F.E.–Sexuality and Family Education, and Ulysses School District (USD-214).

Several of the sub-grantees use the *Choosing the Best* abstinence-only-until-marriage series including Community Health Organization Committee, GPT Local Area Network, Inc., S.A.F.E. – Sexuality and Family Education, Ulysses School District (USD-214). SIECUS reviewed two of the curricula produced by Choosing the Best, Inc.—*Choosing the Best LIFE* (for high school students) and *Choosing the Best PATH* (for middle school students). These reviews found that the curricula name numerous negative consequences of premarital sexuality activity and suggest that teens should

feel guilty, embarrassed, and ashamed of sexual behavior. For example, *Choosing the Best LIFE* states that, “Relationships often lower the self-respect of both partners—one feeling used, the other feeling like the user. Emotional pain can cause a downward spiral leading to intense feelings of lack of worthlessness.” *Choosing the Best PATH* says, “Sexual activity also can lead to the trashing of a person’s reputation, resulting in the loss of friends.”⁷

Abstinence Education, Inc. uses *A.C. Green’s Game Plan*. SIECUS reviewed this curriculum as well 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 that, “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.”⁸

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Evaluation

Kansas evaluated its Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program in 2004. Five of the six abstinence-only-until-marriage sub-grantees at the time participated in the survey. Students responded to pre- and post-test questions about their attitudes relating to abstinence such as “I will be healthier, happier, and more accepted if I wait until I’m married to have sex” and “I feel comfortable saying ‘no’ to sex.”⁹

Results revealed that there were “no changes noted for participants’ actual or intended behavior; such as whether they planned to wait until marriage to have sex.”¹⁰ The evaluation did reveal negative changes in attitudes; following participation in an abstinence-only-until-marriage program, students surveyed were less likely to respond that the teachers and staff cared about them and significantly fewer students responded that they felt they “have the right to refuse to have sex with someone.”¹¹

The researchers concluded that, “rather than focusing on abstinence-only-until-marriage, data suggests that including information on contraceptive use may be more effective at decreasing teen pregnancies.”¹²

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

There are two CBAE grantees in Kansas: Abstinence Education, Inc. (formerly known as Abstinence Education Consultants, Inc.) and Haven Center, Inc. There are no AFLA grantees in Kansas.

Abstinence Education, Inc., which is also a Title V sub-grantee, states on its website that it “offers programs for teens, young adults, and parents which teach the importance of abstinence as a key ingredient in any healthy lifestyle.”¹³ The organization created and uses its own abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum, *Pure & Simple Lifestyle (PSL)*, which is taught by “Teen Instructors” in schools, after-school programs, youth-serving organizations, church youth groups, and summer programs.¹⁴

One section on the organization’s website is dedicated to pregnancy, and encourages young women who may be pregnant to contact the organization for a referral to a crisis pregnancy center.¹⁵ 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.

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Haven Center, Inc. conducts several abstinence-only-until-marriage programs including IGNITE L.A.P.S. (Leadership and Abstinence for Positive Lifestyles), Y.A.P. (Youth Alternatives Program), and Enhancement Support. IGNITE L.A.P.S. consists of five different phases: education, enhancement, equipment, empowerment, and marathon club (youth mentorship).¹⁶

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2007

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds)
Kansas Department of Health and Environment www.kdheks.gov	\$337,110 federal \$255,541 state	Title V
Abstinence Education, Inc. (formerly known as Abstinence Education Consultants, Inc.) DUAL GRANTEE 2005–2008 www.abstainpureandsimple.org	\$20,000 \$770,800	Title V sub-grantee CBAE
Catholic Community Services www.catholiccharitiesks.org	\$24,000	Title V sub-grantee
Community Health Organization Committee	\$18,960	Title V sub-grantee
GPT-Local Area Network www.gptchurch.org	\$23,714	Title V sub-grantee
Johnson County Health Department www.health.jocogove.org	\$30,000	Title V sub-grantee
Lyon County Health Department	\$29,624	Title V sub-grantee
Olathe School District	\$18,400	Title V sub-grantee

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds)
S.A.F.E.–Sexuality and Family Education	\$25,000	Title V sub-grantee
Ulysses School District (USD-214) http://kep1.pld.com	\$15,550	Title V sub-grantee
Haven Center, Inc. 2005–2008 www.havencenter.com	\$652,468	CBAE

Adolescent Health Contact¹⁷

Ilene Meyer
 Children and Families Section
 Bureau for Children, Youth and Families
 Kansas Department of Health and Environment
 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 220
 Topeka, KS 66612
 Phone: (785) 291-3053

Kansas Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri
 3601 Main St.
 Kansas City, MO 64111
 Phone: (816) 756-3113
www.aclukswmo.org

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas and
 Mid-Missouri
 4401 West 109th St., Suite 200
 Overland Park, KS 66211
 Phone: (913) 312-5100
www.ppkm.org

ProKanDo PAC
 P.O. Box 8249
 Wichita, KS 67208
 Phone: (316) 691-2002
www.prokando.org

Kansas Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Abstinence Education Consultants, Inc.
3301 West 13th St. N
Wichita, KS 67203
Phone: (316) 688-0840

Kansas For Life
2501 East Central
Wichita, KS 67214
Phone: (316) 687-LIFE
www.kfl.org

Operation Rescue West
P.O. Box 782888
Wichita, KS 67278
Phone: (316) 683-6790
www.operationrescue.org

Operation Save America-Wichita
P.O. Box 497
Kechi, KS 67067
Phone: (316) 612-3500

Newspapers in Kansas¹⁸

Lawrence Journal-World
Newsroom
609 New Hampshire St.
Lawrence, KS 66044
Phone: (785) 843-1000
www2.ljworld.com

Manhattan Mercury
Newsroom
318 N. 5th St.
Manhattan, KS 66502
Phone: (785) 776-2300
www.themercury.com

Salina Journal
Newsroom
333 S. 4th St.
Salina, KS 67401
Phone: (785) 823-6363
www.salina.com

Topeka Capital-Journal
Newsroom
616 S.E. Jefferson St.
Topeka, KS 66607
Phone: (785) 295-1188
www.cjonline.com

The Wichita Eagle
Newsroom
825 E. Douglas Ave.
Wichita, KS 67202
Phone: (316) 268-6000
www.kansas.com

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 2007 begins on October 1, 2006 and ends on September 30, 2007.

² "Petition Urges State Board to Let Alone Sex Ed Policy," *Lawrence-Journal World*, 3 August 2005, accessed 1 October 2005, <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2005/aug/03/petition_urgues_state_board_let_alone_sex_ed_policy/?print>.

³ David Klepper, "Kansas Revises Sex Education Standards; Guidelines No Longer Specify That Teachers Emphasize Abstinence Until Marriage," *Kansas City Star*, 9 May 2007, accessed 9 May 2007 <www.kansascity.com/115/story/99551.html>.

⁴ Mike Sherry, "Sex Education Task Force Reports Findings," *Kansas City Star*, 16 November 2006, accessed 22 November 2006, <www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/local/16023087.htm>.

⁵ Klepper, "Kansas Revises Sex Education Standards."

⁶ 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>.

⁷ Bruce Cook, *Choosing the Best LIFE* (Marietta, GA: Choosing the Best Inc., 2000); Bruce Cook, *Choosing the Best PATH* (Marietta, GA: Choosing the Best Inc., 2000). For more information, see SIECUS’ reviews of *Choosing the Best LIFE* and *Choosing the Best PATH* at http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html.

⁸ Scott Phelps and Libby Gray, *A.C. Green’s Game Plan* (Golf, IL: Project Reality, 2001). For more information, see SIECUS’ review of *A.C. Green’s Game Plan* at http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html.

⁹ Ted Carter, *Evaluation Report for The Kansas Abstinence Education Program* (Topeka, KS: Kansas Department of Health and Environment, November 2004), 10.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 19.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*, 22.

¹³ “Home,” Abstinence Education, Inc., accessed 14 March 2008, <http://www.abstainpureandsimple.org/main.htm>.

¹⁴ “Teens: Programs,” Abstinence Education, Inc., accessed 14 March 2008, <http://www.abstainpureandsimple.org/teens/programs.htm>.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ “Programs,” Haven Center, Inc., (2007), accessed 14 March 2008, <http://www.havencenter.com/programs.html>.

¹⁷ SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

¹⁸ This section is a list of major newspapers in your state with contact information for their newsrooms. This list is by no means inclusive 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](#).