



KENTUCKY

Kentucky received \$3,433,812 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2005.¹

Kentucky Sexuality Education Law and Policy

All Kentucky schools follow the Department of Education's *Program of Studies*, required instruction for students in grades six through twelve. Instruction about human sexuality must focus on abstinence as the only sure means of avoiding unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. No specific curriculum is required. However, state funds are available for local health departments to use to help young people postpone sexual involvement.

Kentucky 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 Kentucky Department of Education's *Program of Studies*.

Recent Legislation

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

Events of Note

*Group Files Lawsuit over Pro-Gay Diversity Training in Schools
February 2005; Boyd County, KY*

Ever since a gay-straight alliance (GSA) tried to form in the fall of 2002, Boyd County, KY, has been embroiled in a controversy over its existence. In February 2005, the controversy continued when the Alliance Defense Fund, an Arizona-based law group affiliated with several conservative Christian organizations, filed a lawsuit against the Boyd County School district in an attempt to stop students from attending required diversity training sessions.

After more than two years of negotiation and a successful lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) allowing the GSA, the Boyd County GSA ultimately disbanded for other reasons. However, as part of the settlement that ended the lawsuit in February 2004, the school agreed to hold an anti-harassment training with an emphasis on sexual orientation for all district staff as well as middle school and high school students.

In August 2004, teachers and staff in the district participated in the anti-harassment training. A new debate began, however, when parents complained that a video scheduled to be shown in the student training program had a "pro-gay position." Many parents threatened to take their

children out of school on the day of the training, and as many as one-third of the students skipped the anti-harassment training.

The Alliance Defense Fund was enlisted by a group of parents and pledged to sue the school district if it did not adopt an opt-out policy for the training. A lawyer for the group said that, “mandatory training on tolerance for homosexuals violates the right of conscience of parents and students who believe such behavior immoral.”²²

On February 15, 2005, the Alliance Defense Fund followed through with its threat and filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Ashland, KY, on behalf of a student and two sets of parents, arguing that the mandatory training is unconstitutional and forces students to accept homosexuality. An attorney for the group explained, “the Supreme Court is clear on this matter: Americans have an absolute right to their beliefs. This training obviously crosses that constitutional line.”²³ The lawsuit has yet to be decided.

Kentucky’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁴

- In 2005, 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students in Kentucky reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 4% of female high school students and 12% of male high school students in Kentucky 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 2005, 11% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students in Kentucky reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 12% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 35% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students in Kentucky 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 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 61% of females and 69% of males in Kentucky reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 22% of females and 15% of males in Kentucky reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 14% of females and 25% of males in Kentucky reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 28% of males nationwide.

- In 2005, 87% of high school students in Kentucky reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Kentucky's abortion rate was 8 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁵
- In 2002, Kentucky's birth rate was 51 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.⁶

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Kentucky received \$817,297 in federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2005. The Title V 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. Kentucky provides \$250,000 in state funds, the remainder of the match is provided by sub-grantees through both funding and in-kind services. The Kentucky Department of Health Services oversees all Title V funding.

Organizations are encouraged to apply for this money through local health departments or districts. Sub-grantees can receive up to \$50,000. SIECUS was unable to obtain the names of sub-grantees.

Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE)⁷ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are three CBAE grantees in Kentucky: Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center, New Hope Center Inc, and Women for Life. There are no AFLA grantees in Kentucky. In addition, Heritage Community Services receives a discretionary grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

All three CBAE grantees are crisis pregnancy centers. Crisis pregnancy centers typically advertise as providing medical services and then use anti-choice propaganda, misinformation, and fear and shame tactics to dissuade women facing unintended pregnancy from exercising their right to choose. According to Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center's website, "Door of Hope realizes its goals through a *commitment to prayer*, and through being sensitive, obedient and responsive to the leading of the Holy Spirit."⁸

New Hope Center uses the *Choosing the Best* program with fifth and sixth graders.⁹ SIECUS reviewed *Choosing the Best PATH* and found that it provides endless information on the negative consequences of premarital sexual activity and utilizes a variety of tactics to suggest that teens should feel guilty, embarrassed, and ashamed of sexual behavior. For example, *Choosing the Best PATH* asks students: "How does being sexually active as a teen affect how a person feels about himself or herself?" The suggested answer is: "Can feel sad about losing virginity, loss of self-respect, blames self for getting pregnant or contracting an STD." It goes on to say, "sexual activity also can lead to the trashing of a person's reputation, resulting in the loss of friends."¹⁰

Heritage Community Services uses *Heritage Keepers*, a character-based curriculum that it designed. SIECUS' review of this program found that it relied on fear and shame and contained biased messages about gender and non-traditional family structures.

KENTUCKY

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, AFLA, and Discretionary)
Kentucky Department of Health Services www.chs.ky.gov	\$817,297 federal \$250,000 state	Title V
Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center 2004–2007 www.doorofhope.com	\$317,067	CBAE
New Hope Center, Inc. 2002–2005 DUAL GRANTEE 2005–2008 www.newhopecenter.com	\$363,497 \$799,500	CBAE CBAE
Women for Life, Inc./AA Pregnancy Help Center 2005–2008 www.aapregnancyhelp.net	\$799,935	CBAE
Heritage Community Services 2005–2008 www.heritageservices.org	\$336,516	Discretionary

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

Rae Williams
275 E. Main St.
Frankfurt, KY 40601
Phone: (502) 564-2154, Ext. 3754

Kentucky Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Advocates of Planned Parenthood of
Louisville and Western Kentucky
1025 S. 2nd St.
Louisville, KY 40203
Phone: (502) 584-2471

American Civil Liberties Union of
Kentucky
315 Guthrie St., Suite 300
Louisville, KY 40202
Phone: (502) 581-1181
www.aclu-ky.org

Kentucky Association of Planned
Parenthood Affiliates
258 Red Lick Rd.
Berea, KY 40403
Phone: (606) 986-1650

Religious Coalition for Reproductive
Choice
PO Box 4065
Louisville, KY 40204
Phone: (866) 606-0988
www.krcrc.org

Kentucky Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Democrats Pro-Life of Kentucky
200 Fenley Ave.
Louisville, KY 40206
<http://hometown.aol.com/demolife/>

The Family Foundation of Kentucky
PO Box 22100
Lexington, KY 40522
Phone: (859) 255-5400
www.tffky.org

Kentucky Right to Life Association
134 Breckinridge Ln.
Louisville, KY 40207
Phone: (502) 895-5959
www.krla.org

Newspapers in Kentucky

The Courier-Journal
Arlene Jacobson
Health & Medicine Editor
525 Broadway
Louisville, KY 40202
Phone: (502) 582-7147

Daily News
Alyssa Harvey
Medical/Health Editor
813 College St.
Bowling Green, KY 42101
Phone: (270) 783-3257

KENTUCKY

The Gleaner

Wendy Bredhold
Community News Editor
455 Klutey Park Plaza Dr.
Henderson, KY 42420
Phone: (270) 831-8336

Lexington Herald-Leader

Barbara Isaacs
Health & Medicine Reporter
100 Midland Ave.
Lexington, KY 40508
Phone: (859) 231-3576

The Kentucky Enquirer

Karen Gutierrez
Assignment Editor
226 Grandview Dr.
Fort Mitchell, KY 41017
Phone: (859) 578-5555

The News-Enterprise

Donna Walker
Community News Editor
408 W. Dixie Ave.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
Phone: (270) 769-1200

The Paducah Sun

Leigh Landini Wright
Medical/Health Editor
408 Kentucky Ave.
Paducah, KY 42003
Phone: (270) 575-8658

The Independent

Cathie Shaffer
Medical/Health Editor
224 17th St.
Ashland, KY 41101
Phone: (606) 326-2661

Lexington Herald-Leader

Deedra Lawhead
Medical/Health Editor
100 Midland Ave.
Lexington, KY 40508
Phone: (859) 231-1680

Kentucky New Era

Assignment Editor
1618 E. 9th St.
Hopkinsville, KY 42240
Phone: (270) 886-4444

Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer

Sharon Payne
Community News Reporter
1401 Frederica St.
Owensboro, KY 42301
Phone: (270) 691-7309

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 George Archibald, "Support of Gays Pushed in Schools," *Washington Times*, 1 December 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis, 7 January 2004.

³ "Group wants school district to end diversity training for students," *Associated Press*, 16 February 2005, accessed 29 March 2005, <<http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=2957803>>.

⁴ Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Danice K. Eaton, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2005," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 55, no. SS-5 (9 June 2006): 1-108, accessed 8 June 2006, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>.

⁵ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, February, 2004) accessed 28 January 2005, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state_pregnancy_trends.pdf>.

⁶ *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>>.

⁷ 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 was moved to HHS' Administration for Children and Families and is now referred to simply as Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE).

⁸ *Mission Statement*, Door of Hope, accessed 10 February 2005, <<http://www.doorofhope.com/mission.htm>>. Emphasis included in original document.

⁹ *Federal abstinence grants affirms efforts*, The Family Foundation of Kentucky, September/October 2005, Accessed 12 January 2006, <<http://www.tffky.org/articles/2005/200509e.html>>.

¹⁰ Bruce Cook, *Choosing the Best PATH* (Marietta, GA: Choosing the Best Inc., 2000). For more information, see SIECUS' review of *Choosing the Best PATH* at <http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.htm>.