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Mississippi received \$5,971,147 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2006.¹

Mississippi Sexuality Education Law and Policy

Mississippi schools are not required to teach sexuality education or sexually transmitted disease (STD)/HIV education. If schools choose to teach either or both forms of education, they must stress abstinence-until-marriage, including “the likely negative psychological and physical effects of not abstaining” and “that abstinence from sexual activity before marriage, and fidelity within marriage, is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases and related health problems.” In addition, monogamous heterosexual relationships must be presented as the only appropriate place for sexual intercourse. Mississippi’s *Comprehensive Health Framework* includes education on health promotion and disease prevention of for ninth through twelfth grades.

If the school board authorizes the teaching of contraception, state law dictates that the failure rates and risks of each contraceptive method must be included and “in no case shall the instruction or program include any demonstration of how condoms or other contraceptives are applied.”

Local school boards may also authorize through a majority vote “the teaching of sex education without instructions on abstinence.” The Department of Health must implement a “Teen Pregnancy Pilot Program” in districts with the highest number of teen pregnancies. Such programs are coordinated through the school nurse and include education on abstinence, reproductive health, teen pregnancy, and STDs. Mississippi public school nurses may not provide abortion counseling to students nor may they refer students to abortion services.

Parents or guardians must be notified of any sexuality education instruction and have the ability to remove their children from any or all sexuality education classes. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Mississippi Education Code 37-13-171, 37-31-173, 41-79-5, and *Comprehensive Health Framework*.

Recent Legislation

Legislation Provides funds for HIV/AIDS Services Including Outreach and Education

House Bill 590, introduced in January 2007 and assigned to the House Committee on Appropriations, would direct seven million dollars to HIV/AIDS-related services, including three million dollars for HIV/AIDS education and outreach in three targeted public health districts in the state.

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Legislation Establishes a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Pilot Program, Abstinence Education Pilot Program, and School Nurse Intervention Program

House Bill 867, introduced in January 2007 and assigned to the House Committees on Education and Public Health and Human Services, would establish three programs. The State Department of Education would be required to create a “Teen Pregnancy Prevention Pilot Program” for schools with the highest rates of teen pregnancy. The State Department of Health would be required to establish two programs. First, a “School Nurse Intervention Program” for all public school districts in the state. Under this program, all school districts would be required to employ school nurses to offer, among other things, “reproductive health education and referral to prevent teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, which education shall include abstinence.” As is currently the law in Mississippi, the program would specifically prohibit nurses from providing or referring any student to abortion counseling or abortion clinics. Any violation of the above would disqualify the school district employing the school nurse from receiving any state funds under the program. Second, to the extent state funds are available, the bill would require the State Department of Health to establish and implement an “Abstinence Education Pilot Program” that would follow the federal 8-point definition of “abstinence education.” The bill would allow parents to remove their children from reproductive health education in any of these programs.

Legislation Establishes HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education Services in Underserved Areas

House Bill 1625 and Senate Bill 2933, introduced in January 2007 and referred to their respective Committees on Appropriations, would have required the State Department of Health to develop and operate two “STD/HIV” specialty clinics in underserved areas of the state (north central and southwest Mississippi). In addition, the department would have been required to incorporate “science-based, age-, culturally- and linguistically-appropriate STD/HIV prevention and education messages and interventions through clinic and outreach encounters in the counties immediately surrounding the clinics.” HB 1625 appropriates 6 million dollars to these efforts, including 1 million dollars for the HIV prevention and education messages and outreach. Both bills died in committee.

Legislation Establishes a Pilot Program for Preventing Teen Pregnancy

House Bill 1491 and Senate Bill 2869 were introduced in January 2007. HB 1491 was referred to the House Committee on Education and SB 2869 was referred to the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Appropriations. These bills would have required the State Department of Education, acting jointly with the Mississippi Community Education Center, to establish a pilot program aimed at preventing teen pregnancy in the East Tallahatchie Consolidated School District for two years. (See CBAE and AFLA section for more information on the Mississippi Community Education Center.) The program would have been designed for students age 10 and older, their parents, and the community at large. The bills would have required pregnancy prevention curriculum to be integrated into currently existing curriculum and present meaningful information on “abstinence and healthy choices” on the part of teenagers. Both bills died in committee.

Legislation Implements “Abstinence Education and Fetal Awareness Education Program”

House Bill 1465 and Senate Bill 2716 would have required all public school districts to include “abstinence education and the human development of the unborn fetus as a required component of every high school health education class.” Among other purposes, the inclusion of this information would “create a culture of life by providing a window to the womb.” The State Department of Health would be responsible for developing the program and may contract with a nonprofit organization to implement it. SB 2716 was passed by the Mississippi Senate in February 2006 and was sent to the House of Representatives for debate, where it was referred to the House Committees on Education and Public Health and Human

Services. HB 1465 was also referred to the House Committee on Education. Both bills died in this committee.

Legislation Requires Parent Opt-In for Sexuality Education, Limits Information Collected from Students

Senate Bill 2544, *The Student and Family Privacy Protection Act*, would have required parent permission in order to allow a student to participate in any survey or evaluation that asks about the student's sexual attitudes, beliefs, or behavior. Students would also need a parent or guardian's permission to participate in health or sexuality education; this is commonly referred to as an "opt-in" policy. The bill was introduced in January 2006 and assigned to the Committee on Education; it died in committee.

Events of Note

Strict Laws Limit Abortions in Mississippi

January 2005; Jackson, MS

Jackson Women's Health Organization is the last remaining abortion clinic in the state of Mississippi, and if anti-choice protesters have their way, it too will shut its doors. At one point, the state had seven clinics, but slowly each has been closed. Although *Roe v. Wade* secures women's rights to choose to terminate a pregnancy, the lack of access to services precludes many women in Mississippi from exercising this right.

The Jackson clinic is located squarely in the Bible Belt in a state where an overwhelming majority of elected officials are anti-choice. For example, the state's Governor, Haley Barbour, issued an official proclamation designating the seven days leading up to the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* as "a week of prayer regarding the sanctity of human life."² Barbour also ordered the placement of small white crosses on the lawn of the State Capitol "in memory of the unborn children who die each day in America."³

According to Susan Hill, the owner of the Jackson clinic, "Mississippi is the picture of the future."⁴ Mississippi has some of the harshest abortion restrictions in the country. For example, it has one of the most sweeping conscience clauses in the country, allowing any health care provider to refuse to provide any abortion-related service. The state's laws also require women to wait at least 24 hours after an initial consultation with a doctor before having an abortion. Mississippi is also one of only two states that require the written consent of both parents before a minor can obtain an abortion, though a judicial bypass option is available.

For the 98% of Mississippi women who live in a county without an abortion provider, it is almost as if *Roe v. Wade* were not still in existence. Hill, who was a social worker before *Roe*, explained, "Mississippi is like the rest of the country was before 1973." She said that the women who arrive at her clinic "have that same look in the eye now. They have to go through the same kind of struggles."⁵

She is determined to keep the clinic open no matter what: "The state and the protesters are determined to close us and we're determined to stay open. It's the classic fight to the finish."⁶

Mississippi's Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁷

- In 2003, 58% of female high school students and 64% of male high school students in Mississippi 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 18% of male high school students in Mississippi 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 2003, 15% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students in Mississippi 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, 47% of female high school students and 46% of male high school students in Mississippi 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 34% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 12% of females and 26% of males in Mississippi reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of female high school students and 30% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 60% of females and 72% of males in Mississippi 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, 20% of females and 9% of males in Mississippi 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, 8% of female high school students and 7% of male high school students in Mississippi 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, 87% of high school students in Mississippi reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Mississippi's abortion rate was 16 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁸
- In 2004, Mississippi's birth rate was 62 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen birth rate of 41 per 1,000 nationwide.⁹

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Mississippi received \$828,953 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2006. 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 Mississippi, the state provides \$621,715 in state funds for the match. The funding is controlled by the Mississippi Department of Health, Office of Personal Health Services, and Bureau of Child Health.

The Department of Health funds 15 sub-grantees. Funded programs must target young people at high-risk for pregnancy and follow all eight points of the federal definition of “abstinence education.” Sub-grantees must also demonstrate that parents and communities are involved with their abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. Sub-grantees use a variety of curricula, including: *Choosing the Best*, *Responsible Social Values Program (RSVP)*, *R.I.S.E. To Your Dreams (R.I.S.E.)*, *Sex Can Wait*, *Sex Respect*, and *Smart Moves*.

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 sexual 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 (sic).” *Choosing the Best PATH* says, “sexual activity also can lead to the trashing of a person’s reputation, resulting in the loss of friends.”¹⁰

SIECUS reviewed *Sex Respect* and found that the curriculum relies on messages of fear and shame, inaccurate and misleading information, and biased views of marriage, sexual orientation, and family structure. According to *Sex Respect*, “there is no way to have premarital sex without hurting someone.” *Sex Respect* implies that young people who become sexually active lack values, self-esteem, and principles: “Many young teens who have been brought up with principles and values may have already decided they want to save sex for marriage.” The curriculum is also not appropriate for public schools, as it remains patently religious. For example, *Sex Respect* uses Biblical language in giving young people dating advice: “Set ending time for your date before you go out. Be home on time. Don’t invite your date in. Lead yourselves not into temptation.”¹¹

Most sub-grantees hire an outside contractor to evaluate their programs and the Department of Human Services is exploring the possibility of also hiring an evaluator for Title V programs. The state’s initial Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding was used to create the “Just Wait” campaign. This campaign provides technical support for communities looking to implement abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

One sub-grantee, the Pearson Foundation, lists Reverend Joseph Pridgen as its contact on the Mississippi Department of Health website. Reverend Pridgen is the former pastor for Sweet Rest Church of Christ in Pearl, MS (www.sweetrest.com). The Pearson Foundation and the Sweet Rest Church of Christ have the same phone number.¹² The Pearson Foundation and Rev. Pridgen are also listed as community partners of Community Matters, Inc., a CBAE grantee.¹³ (See the CBAE and AFLA section for more information on Community Matters, Inc.)

Sav-A-Life of Monroe County, a Title V sub-grantee, has an abstinence-only-until-marriage program called *You Are Unique*. According to local evangelist Van Dale Hudson:

Many of you in the revivals have heard me tell about the movement of God in the establishment and ongoing outreach of Sav-A-Life. It has made a tremendous impact in this area with many little ones being saved from abortion and a number of young women being led to Christ. Along with the Crisis Pregnancy counseling our staff has also been

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able to go into most of the schools in the area and present abstinence through the You Are Unique program.¹⁴

Sav-A-Life of Monroe County also hosted the *Silver Ring Thing (SRT)* in August of 2006. In a report on SRT's website, it states:

Thanks to everyone at Sav-A-Life of Monroe County, especially Dana, Valerie, and all the Y.E.S. students for making this Silver Ring Thing (SRT) happen!! Thanks also to First Baptist Church for opening its doors to host the first-ever SRT held in Mississippi. Y'all are state-wide record holders for being the first to host and attend a SRT in sweet Mississippi! We can't wait to come back....¹⁵

A year before, in August of 2005, officials at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) ordered SRT to submit a "corrective action plan" if it wanted to receive an expected \$75,000 grant for that fiscal year. This was in response to a lawsuit the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed against HHS, accusing the administration of using tax dollars to promote Christianity.¹⁶ In documents filed in federal court in Boston, the ACLU alleged that SRT's activities, brochures, and website were "permeated with religion" and used "taxpayer dollars to promote religious content, instruction and indoctrination."¹⁷ The program is aimed at young people; graduates sign a covenant "before God Almighty" to remain virgins and earn a silver ring inscribed with a Bible passage reminding them to "keep clear of sexual sin." Many of the events are held in churches and, in filings with the Internal Revenue Service, the organization describes its mission as "evangelical ministry" with an emphasis on "evangelistic crusade planning."¹⁸

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

There are eight CBAE grantees in Mississippi: Booneville School District, the Boys and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast, Community Matters, Inc., Mississippi Community Development Corporation, the Mississippi Community Education Center, Redemption Outreach Ministries International, Inc., Shaw School District, and Starkville School District. There is one AFLA grantee in Mississippi: Youth Opportunities Unlimited.

Booneville School District works with the "Aiming for Abstinence" program, which provides "abstinence/character education to youth and adults throughout the nation."¹⁹ The program uses the *R.I.S.E. To Your Dreams* curriculum. Endorsed by the Abstinence Clearinghouse, *R.I.S.E. To Your Dreams* "is a character-based curriculum that focuses on: Responsibility, Integrity, Self-control, and Empowerment to promote abstinence from sex until marriage."²⁰ The curriculum relies on messages of fear and shame. An overview of the curriculum's slide show explains that on the second day the program covers the consequences of sexual behavior. "In this section we talk about that any time a person has sex outside of marriage there are consequences. Always, no exceptions and those consequences can be emotional and/or physical."²¹

Mississippi Community Education Center, another CBAE grantee, also works with "Aiming for Abstinence," to provide *R.I.S.E. To Your Dreams* to cadet and senior Girl Scout troops.²²

The Boys and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast has a program called "Smart Choices, Smart Communities" which "is designed to change behaviors in teens 12-18 along the Mississippi Gulf Coast."²³ Its website describes the program's goal as "to increase awareness of the problems of teen sexual activity" and "to change community norms and attitudes."²⁴ The Smart Choices, Smart Communities program

uses several curricula, including the Title V-compliant sections of the *SMART* programs, *Choosing the Best*, *Passport to Manhood*, and *Sex Can Wait* (See the Title V section for more information on *Choosing the Best*.)

Community Matters, Inc. runs the Rural Abstinence Partnership, “a community-based partnership to implement an abstinence-only education initiative for male and female youth.”²⁵ The Rural Abstinence Partnership also warns in its newsletter, *The Abstinence Times*, “Many teenagers think that once they enter marriage the problems of sleeping around, pornography and masturbation will stop. However, many find these problems to be more noticeable and controlling once they are in a marriage.”²⁶

Community Matters, Inc. is an affiliate partner of the Abstinence Clearinghouse. The mission of the Abstinence Clearinghouse is to “promote the appreciation for and practice of sexual abstinence (purity) through the distribution of age-appropriate, factual and medically-accurate materials.”²⁷ The Abstinence Clearinghouse was founded by Leslee Unruh, also the founder and president of Alpha Center Crisis Pregnancy Center. Unruh is an anti-choice lobbyist who worked to pass a law in South Dakota banning abortion with no exceptions for rape, incest, or the health of the mother.

Mississippi Community Development Corporation’s mission statement is “To provide quality seminars, recreation and athletic programs to youth as alternatives to gangs, tobacco, drugs, and juvenile delinquency.”²⁸ It created a media campaign specifically with an abstinence-only-until-marriage message. The campaign includes television commercials, billboards, and radio spots/ public service announcements. One of the radio spots is entitled “I Pledge” and states, “. . . I pledge to never jeopardize any woman’s physical or mental health or my own by engaging in any sexual activity outside of marriage. . . I pledge to never ask anyone else to prove their feelings for me by performing an act I know is improper. . . I know that keeping this vow may not always be easy, but I understand that keeping it will make me a better candidate for marriage. All across America, young people are taking pledges of abstinence like this one—shouldn’t you?”²⁹

Research has found that under certain conditions such pledges, most commonly called virginity pledges, may help some adolescents delay sexual intercourse. When they work, pledges help this select group of adolescents delay the onset of sexual intercourse for an average of 18 months—far short of marriage. Researchers found that pledges only worked when taken by a small group of students. Pledges taken by a whole class were ineffective. More importantly, the studies also found that those young people who took a pledge were one-third less likely to use contraception when they did become sexually active than their peers who had not pledged. These teens are therefore more vulnerable to the risks of unprotected sexual activity, such as unintended pregnancy and STDs, including HIV/AIDS. Further research has confirmed that although some students who take pledges delay intercourse, ultimately they are as likely to contract an STD as their non-pledging peers. The study also found that the STD rates were higher in communities where a significant proportion (over 20%) of the young people had taken virginity pledges.³⁰

Another Mississippi Community Development Corporation radio spot entitled “The Nurse” relies on messages of fear. It states, “I am an ob/gyn nurse, and nearly every day I have to tell some young woman she has a sexually transmitted disease. . . I wish I could speak to these young women before they got involved in sex. . . I would ask them, ‘Do you really wanna gamble with your life?’ Because once it’s taken away, you can’t get it back. . .”³¹

The radio spot “Heather” uses messages of shame in an attempt to control young people’s sexual behavior. It states, “I knew a girl named Heather, man she had her life together, until she made a decision, that will affect her life forever, thought havin’ sex was cool, didn’t bother with protection, now a STD got her mind second-guessin’. So you can learn a lesson, don’t have sex just cause everybody’s doin’ it, think about the life you want, you wanna ruin it?”³²

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Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2006

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds)
Mississippi Department of Human Services www.mdhs.state.ms.us	\$828,953 federal \$621,715 state	Title V
Boys and Girls Club of Central Mississippi www.bgccm.net	\$60,000	Title V sub-grantee
Communities in Schools of Greenwood Leflore www.communities-in-schools.org	\$58,366	Title V sub-grantee
Downtown Jackson Community Development Corporation www.downtownjackson.com	\$60,000	Title V sub-grantee
Forrest County School District www.forrest.k12.ms.us	\$60,000	Title V sub-grantee
Lawrence County School District www.lawrence.k12.ms.us	\$60,000	Title V sub-grantee
Mayersville Youth Development Committee	\$57,495.22	Title V sub-grantee
National Council Against Alcohol and Drug Dependents of Central Mississippi	\$52,886.38	Title V sub-grantee
Pearson Foundation	\$60,000	Title V sub-grantee
Poplarville School District www.poplarvilleschools.org	\$60,000	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)
Positive Living Inc.	\$59,738	Title V sub-grantee
Robert Hill Youth Foundation	\$49,278	Title V sub-grantee
Save a Life of Amory/ Monroe County	\$48,405.10	Title V sub-grantee
South Mississippi Abstinence Education Program	\$59,963	Title V sub-grantee
Youth Alive/ Alive Jones County	\$60,000	Title V sub-grantee
Youth Opportunities Unlimited DUAL GRANTEE 2004–2009	\$42,000 \$260,633	Title V sub-grantee AFLA
Booneville School District 2004–2007 www.booneville.k12.ms.us	\$282,784	CBAE
Boys and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast 2005–2008 www.bgccgulfcoast.org	\$682,520	CBAE
Community Matters, Inc. 2004–2007	\$784,227	CBAE
Mississippi Community Development Corporation 2004–2007	\$800,000	CBAE
The Mississippi Community Education Center 2004–2007	\$750,600	CBAE

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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)
Redemption Outreach Ministries International, Inc. 2006–2011	\$600,000	CBAE
Shaw School District 2006–2011 www2.mde.k12.ms.us/0615/shdhot.htm	\$600,000	CBAE
Starkville School District 2005–2008	\$381,430	CBAE

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Mississippi Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Mississippi
 P.O. Box 2242
 Jackson, MS 39225
 Phone: (601) 355-6464
www.msacclu.org

Equality Mississippi
 P.O. Box 1114
 Jackson, MS 39060
www.equalityms.org

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Mississippi Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

American Family Association
P.O. Drawer 2440
Tupelo, MS
Phone: (662) 844-5036
www.afa.net

Mississippi Family Council
P.O. Box 13514
Jackson, MS 39236
Phone: (601) 969-1200
www.msfamily.org

Newspapers in Mississippi

The Clarion-Ledger
Pam Berry
Health and Medicine Editor
201 S. Congress St.
Jackson, MS 39201
Phone: (601) 961-7264

The Clarion-Ledger
Rebecca Helms
Education Editor
201 S. Congress St.
Jackson, MS 39201
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Commercial Dispatch
Garthia Elena Halbert
Education Reporter
516 Main St.
Columbus, MS 39701
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Delta Democrat Times
Education Editor
988 N. Broadway
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Enterprise-Journal
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Hattiesburg American
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Meridian Star
Education Editor
814 22nd Ave.
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Phone: (601) 693-1551

Mississippi Press
Medical/Health Editor
1225 Jackson Ave.
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The Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal
Michaela Gibson Morris
Medical/Health Reporter
1655 S. Green St.
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Mack Spencer
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Sun Herald
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Phone: (228) 896-0541

Vicksburg Post
Lockland Fields
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Vicksburg, MS 39180
Phone: (601) 636-4545 ext. 141

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 2006 begins on October 1, 2005 and ends on September 30, 2006.

² Sharon Lerner, "Post-Roe Postcard," *The Nation*, 7 February 2005, accessed 25 January 2005, <<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20050207&s=lerner>>; Governor Haley Barbour, "A Proclamation," January 2005, accessed 25 January 2005 <<http://www.governorbarbour.com/ProcProLife.htm>>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ David Crary, "Mississippi Tries Everything to Curb Abortions," *Houston Chronicle*, 27 December 2004, A10.

⁵ Associated Press, "Mississippi: Window into Future of Abortion Debate," *CNN.com*, 28 December 2004, accessed 1 January 2005, <www.cnn.com>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: J. Grunbaum, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2003," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 53, no.SS-2, May 21, 2004, pp. 1-95, accessed 12 April 2007, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>>.

⁸ U.S. *Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: The Guttmacher Institute, February 2004), accessed 26 January 2007, <<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2006/09/12/USTPstats.pdf>>.

⁹ *National Vital Statistics Reports 55.01* (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2006), 10, accessed 26 January 2006, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr55/nvsr55_01.pdf>.

¹⁰ 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>.

¹¹ Coleen Kelly Mast, *Sex Respect: The Option for True Sexual Freedom* (Bradley, IL: Sex Respect, 2001). For more information, see SIECUS' review of *Sex Respect* at <http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html>.

¹² "Pastor's Profile," Sweet Rest Church of Christ, accessed 6 February 2007, <<http://www.sweetrest.com/pastor.htm>>.

¹³ *The Abstinence Times, Abstinence Roundup*, Fall 2006, accessed 6 February 2007, <http://www.communitymattersinc.net/newsletters/Fall_06_Edition.pdf>.

¹⁴ *Newsletter*, Evangelist Van Dale Hudson, (2005), accessed 7 February 2007, <http://vandalehudson.com/graphics/UploadFile/75/41/June_2005_Newsletter_.doc>.

¹⁵ "Silver Ring Thing Photo Gallery," Silver Ring Thing, accessed 6 February 2007, <<http://www.silverringthing.com/amoryML.html>>.

¹⁶ Ceci Connolly, "Federal Funds for Abstinence Group Withheld," *Washington Post*, 23 August 2005, A5.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ "What We Do," Aiming for Healthy Families, Inc., (2006), accessed 31 January 2007, <<http://www.aimingforabstinence.org/>>.

²⁰ "Home," R.I.S.E. To Your Dreams, (2006), accessed 31 January 2007, <<http://www.risetoyourdreams.com>>.

²¹ "Overview for Schools," R.I.S.E. To Your Dreams, (2006), accessed 31 January 2007, <<http://www.risetoyourdreams.com/RiseOverviewforSchools.htm>>.

²² Ibid.

²³ “Smart Choices Smart Communities,” Boys and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast, (2007), accessed 23 January 2007
<<http://www.bgcgulfcoast.org/main.asp?id=27>>.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ “2004-2005 Annual Report: The Rural Abstinence Partnership,” Community Matters, Inc., (2006), accessed 31 January 2007,
<http://www.communitymattersinc.net/pdf/2005_CMI_Ann_Report040706.pdf>.

²⁶ “Top 8 Reasons for Abstinence,” *The Abstinence Times* (Fall 2006), accessed 1 February 2007,
<http://www.communitymattersinc.net/newsletters/Fall_06_Edition.pdf>. The Abstinence Times cites “Collins, *Christian Counselor*” as the source for this assertion.

²⁷ “About Us: Mission/History,” Abstinence Clearinghouse, (2007), accessed 1 February 2007,
<<http://www.abstinence.net/about/history.php>>.

²⁸ “History: Mission Statement,” Mississippi Community Development Corporation, (2007), accessed 1 February 2007,
<<http://www.misscdc.org/history.htm>>.

²⁹ “Media Gallery,” Mississippi Community Development Corporation, (2007), accessed 1 February 2007,
<<http://www.misscdc.org/media.htm>>.

³⁰ Peter Bearman and Hannah Brückner, “Promising the Future: Virginity Pledges and the Transition to First Intercourse,” *American Journal of Sociology* 106.4 (2001): 859-912; Peter Bearman and Hannah Brückner, “After the Promise: The STD Consequences of Adolescent Virginity Pledges,” *Journal of Adolescent Health* 36.4 (2005): 271-278.

³¹ “Media Gallery,” Mississippi Community Development Corporation, (2007), accessed 1 February 2007,
<<http://www.misscdc.org/media.htm>>.

³² Ibid.