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The Department of Health and Senior Services and community-based organizations in Missouri received \$4,718,451 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2007.¹

Missouri Sexuality Education Law and Policy

Missouri law mandates that all instruction in human sexuality must be medically and factually accurate, but may also be presented in a manner consistent with federal abstinence law. It must also:

[P]resent abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relation to all sexual activity for unmarried pupils because it is the only method that is one hundred percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases [STDs] and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity, and advise students that teenage sexual activity places them at a higher risk of dropping out of school because of the consequences of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancy.

Students must be instructed not to make unwanted physical and verbal sexual advances or otherwise exploit another person. Missouri students must also be presented “both the possible side effects and health benefits of all forms of contraception, including the success and failure rates for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.”

School districts and charter schools are prohibited from providing abortion services and from allowing a person and/or entity that provides abortion services to offer, sponsor, or furnish course materials related to human sexuality and STDs.

Although school districts are not required to follow it, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education produced the *Missouri Framework for Curriculum Development in Health Education and Physical Education*. The *Framework* includes instructional guidelines for HIV/AIDS- and STD-prevention education starting at the high school level. School boards must determine the specific content of sexuality education classes and make sure that it is age-appropriate.

The school district must also notify parents and guardians about:

- the basic content of the district’s human sexuality instruction to be provided to the student; and
- the parent’s right to remove the student from any part of the district’s human sexuality instruction.

This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

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See Missouri Revised Statute 170.015, *Missouri School Improvement Program*, Missouri's *HIV Prevention Education Program*, Missouri House Bill 1055, *Sexual Education and Abortions*, and *Missouri Framework for Curriculum Development in Health Education and Physical Education*.²

Recent Legislation

Legislation to Require Sexuality Education to Follow Federal Abstinence Education Law

House Bill 63, introduced in January 2007 and referred to the Special Committee on Family Services, would change Missouri's law from explicitly requiring schools to teach "the latest medically factual information" about contraception to requiring that students are presented with "information on contraceptives, pregnancy and abortion, in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Federal Abstinence Education Law." It would also ban from schools outside sexuality educators and any materials produced by a facility or organization that provides or refers for abortion. In addition, the law would create an opt-in policy under which schools would have to receive written permission from parents before their children could attend a course related to human sexuality. Finally, HB 63 would require schools to "present the benefits to individuals, families, and society of a lifelong monogamous marriage between a man and a woman" and present information on fetal development including telling students that "at fertilization an unborn child's life begin" and that the "unborn child has growth and development of various body organs and limbs, fingerprints, and sensory awareness long before birth."

Omnibus Bill Would Compromise Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Senate Bills 370, 375, and 342, along with House Bills 1055 and 716, all introduced in 2007, would also change the current law requiring schools to teach "the latest medically factual information" about contraception. These bills would allow school districts to either teach comprehensive sexuality education *or* teach information in a manner consistent with the federal "abstinence education" law and guidelines which prohibit information on contraceptives and condoms, except in terms of their failure rates. These bills would also ban from schools outside sexuality educators and any materials produced by a facility or organization that provides or refers for abortion. The Senate bills were placed on an informal calendar in April 2007. HB 716 was voted "Do Pass" in the Rules Committee. HB 1055 passed in the House and is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate.

Events of Note

SIECUS is not aware of any recent events regarding sexuality education in Missouri.

Missouri's Youth: Statistical Information of Note³

- In 2007, 53% of female high school students and 51% of male high school students in Missouri reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 50% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 3% of female high school students and 10% of male high school students in Missouri reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 4% of female high school students and 10% of male high school students nationwide.

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- In 2007, 12% of female high school students and 19% of male high school students in Missouri 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, 44% of female high school students and 37% of male high school students in Missouri 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, 54% of females and 66% of males in Missouri 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, 23% of females and 14% of males in Missouri 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, 17% of females and 28% of males in Missouri 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, 88% of high school students in Missouri 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 Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services received \$885,593 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 Missouri, sub-grantees make up the state's required match through funding and in-kind services. The Missouri Department of Health oversees this funding through the Missouri Abstinence Education Program (AEP).

AEP runs a media campaign, and funds 12 sub-grantees and an evaluation. The statewide media campaign has as "its main purpose encouraging parents to talk with their kids about relationships, values, sex, and abstinence."⁴ The campaign consists of a series of "Let's Talk" messages developed with assistance from Lincoln University students.

Three of the Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage sub-grantees are crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs): Laclede County Pregnancy Support Center, LifeChoices of Joplin, and the Women's Clinic of Kansas City. 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.

LifeChoices of Joplin provides information on pregnancy options on its website. Some of the information about abortion is inaccurate. For example, the website states "abortion is the most preventable risk factor for breast cancer."⁵ Although many crisis pregnancy centers perpetuate a false link between abortion and breast cancer, this connection has been proven untrue. In February 2003, the National Cancer Institute convened a group of 100 experts on pregnancy and breast

cancer risk who reviewed “existing population-based, clinical, and animal studies on the relationship between pregnancy and breast cancer risk, including studies of induced and spontaneous abortion” and concluded that induced abortion is not linked to an increase in the risk of breast cancer.

The Women’s Clinic of Kansas City, another crisis pregnancy center, also includes inaccurate and medically unsound information on its website. For example, its website lists numerous “general postabortive stress/syndrome symptoms” including “shame/secrecy,” “intimacy issues,” “repeat abortions,” and “alcohol/drug abuse.”⁶ However, there is no sound scientific evidence linking abortion to subsequent mental health problems, termed “post-abortion stress syndrome” by anti-abortion groups. Neither the American Psychological Association nor the American Psychiatric Association recognize “post-abortion stress syndrome” as a legitimate medical condition. (See the CBAE and AFLA section for more information on The Women’s Clinic of Kansas City).

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

There are seven CBAE grantees in Missouri: About Our Kids, Inc., Better Family Life, Inc., Catholic Charities of Kansas City/St. Joseph’s Children and Family Services, Future Leaders Outreach Network, St. Louis County Department of Health, Sparrow Community Development Group, and the Women’s Clinic of Kansas City/LifeGuard Youth Development. There are no AFLA grantees in Missouri.

For its CBAE program, “Abstinence Education Program,” Better Family Life, Inc. partners with the Fatherhood Initiative and A New Cornerstone, Inc. (Trinity Full Gospel, Greater Faith Outreach, New Spirit Community Church, and Fresh Start Bible Church).⁷ Abstinence Education Program operates in six St. Louis area schools, and “will reach 1,500 youth through rallies, presentations, classes and a citywide social marketing campaign.”⁸

The St. Louis County Department of Health uses its CBAE grant as partial funding for the “ABC” abstinence-only-until-marriage program.⁹ The ABC program is for students in upper elementary through high school. In high school, the ABC program is part of the health education curriculum.¹⁰ In both middle school and high school, students in the ABC program submit entries for a slogan contest about abstinence; winning slogans are displayed on posters throughout schools.¹¹

The Women’s Clinic of Kansas City runs an abstinence-only-until-marriage program called “LifeGuard Youth Development.” LifeGuard uses the *Choosing the Best* abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula.¹² 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.”¹³

On its website, LifeGuard Youth Development has a section called “How Do I Teach My Teen How to Date” based on guideline’s from Keith Deltano’s “Fighting Back” presentation.¹⁴ Keith Deltano is an abstinence-only-until-marriage speaker and Christian comedian who has given talks around the country in middle schools and high schools. SIECUS attended one of Mr. Deltano’s most popular presentation, “The New Sexual Revolution or Abstinence is Cool,” and found that he uses a loud, aggressive style, reminiscent of a football coach to badger students into accepting his abstinence-only-until-marriage ideology. Deltano relies on messages of fear and shame, inaccurate and misleading information, and biased views of marriage and gender. The highlight of Deltano’s performance includes an activity designed to illustrate the ineffectiveness of condoms against HIV in which he suggests that condoms fail 10% of

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the time and then he dangles a cinderblock over the genitals of an unsuspecting male student yelling, “Is 10 percent good enough for you?!?! Is it good enough?!?!”¹⁵

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)
The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services www.dhss.mo.gov	\$885,593 federal \$954,576 state	Title V
Carr Square Tenant Management Corporation	\$43,033	Title V sub-grantee
Cass County Community Health Assessment Resource Team (CHART)	\$50,767	Title V sub-grantee
Clay County Public Health Center www.clayhealth.com	\$34,992	Title V sub-grantee
Dent County Health Center	\$1,700	Title V sub-grantee
Jennings School District	\$22,370	Title V sub-grantee
Kansas City, MO School District	\$38,539	Title V sub-grantee
Laclede Pregnancy Support Center www.psclebanon.org	\$28,110	Title V sub-grantee
Life Choices of Joplin	\$53,611	Title V sub-grantee
Lutheran Family and Children’s Services	\$22,530	Title V sub-grantee
Northside Community Center	\$14,887	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)
The Women’s Clinic of Kansas City/LifeGuard Youth Development DUAL GRANTEE 2005–2008 www.thewomensclinic.net www.guardyourself.org	\$53,501 \$746,823	Title V sub-grantee CBAE
Youth Life—Taney County	\$65,716	Title V sub-grantee
About Our Kids, Inc. 2007–2011	\$600,000	CBAE
Better Family Life, Inc. 2005–2008	\$799,500	CBAE
Catholic Charities of Kansas City/St. Joseph Children and Family Services 2005–2008 www.catholiccharities-kcsj.org	\$315,482	CBAE
Future Leaders Outreach Network 2004–2007	\$711,604	CBAE
Sparrow Community Development Group 2004–2007	\$235,170	CBAE
St. Louis County Department of Health 2005–2008	\$424,279	CBAE

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Adolescent Health Contact¹⁶

Patti Van Tuinen
Adolescent Health Coordinator
Bureau of Genetics and Healthy Childhood, Section of Healthy Families and Youth
Division of Community and Public Health
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 751-6188

Missouri Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Eastern Missouri 454 Whittier St. St. Louis, MO 63108 Phone: (314) 652-3111 www.aclu-em.org	ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri 3601 Main St. Kansas City, MO 64111 Phone: (816) 756-3113 www.aclukswmo.org
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The Lesbian and Gay Community Center 207 Westport Rd., Suite 218 Kansas City, MO 64111 Phone: (816) 931-4420	Missouri Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice 462 N. Taylor, Suite 102 St. Louis, MO 63108 Phone: (314) 531-5010 www.morcrc.org
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NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri 4144 Lindell Blvd., Suite 505 St. Louis, MO 63108 Phone: (314) 531-8616 www.prochoicemissouri.org	Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri 4401 West 109 th St., Suite 200 Overland Park, KS 66211 Phone: (913) 312-5100 www.ppkm.org
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Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region 4251 Forest Park Ave. St. Louis, MO 63108 Phone: (314) 531-7526 www.plannedparenthood.org/stlouis	Personal Rights of Missourians (PROMO) 438 North Skinker Blvd. Saint Louis, MO 63130 Phone: (314) 862-4900 www.promoonline.org
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Missouri Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Eagle Forum Council 7800 Bonhomme Ave. St. Louis, MO 63105 Phone: (314) 721-1213 www.eagleforum.org/events/Council	Life's Silver Linings 3298 Huckleberry Dr. Florissant, MO 63033 Phone: (314) 921-7762 www.lifessilverlinings.com
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Missouri Right to Life
P.O. Box 651
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 635-5110
www.missourilife.org

The Women's Clinic of Kansas City
815 North Noland Rd., Suites 4 & 5
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: (816) 836-9000
www.thewomensclinic.net

Newspapers in Missouri¹⁷

Branson Daily News
Newsroom
P.O. Box 1900
Branson, MO 65615
Phone: (417) 334-3161
www.bransondailynews.com

Columbia Daily Tribune
Newsroom
P.O. Box 798
Columbia, MO 65205
Phone: (573) 815-1700
www.columbiatribune.com

Daily American Republic
Newsroom
208 Poplar Street
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
Phone: (573) 785-1414
www.darnews.com

Jefferson City Post-Tribune
Newsroom
P.O. Box 420
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 636-3131
www.newstribune.com

The Joplin Globe
Newsroom
P.O. Box 7
Joplin, MO 64802
Phone: (417) 623-3480
www.joplinglobe.com

The Kansas City Star
Newsroom
1729 Grand Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64108
Phone: (816) 234-4741
www.kansascity.com

The News-Leader
Newsroom
651 Boonville Ave.
Springfield, MO 65806
Phone: (417) 836-1100
www.springfieldnews-leader.com

St. Joseph News-Press
Newsroom
825 Edmond St.
St. Joseph, MO 64501
Phone: (816) 271-8500
www.stjoenews.net

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Newsroom
900 N. Tucker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63101
Phone: (314) 340-8000
www.stltoday.com

Southeast Missourian
Newsroom
P.O. Box 699
Cape Girardeau, MO 63702
Phone: (573) 335-6611
www.semissourian.com

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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 *HIV Prevention Education Program* (Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 23 July 2002), accessed 28 January 2005, <<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/curriculum/hiveducation/msipeducation.html>>.

³ 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>>.

⁴ Personal communication between Patti Van Tuinen and Catherine Morrison, 17 March 2008.

⁵ “Abortion-Breast Cancer Link,” *LifeChoices* of Joplin, accessed 17 March 2008, <<http://www.lifechoices4states.org/breastcancerabortionlink.htm>>.

⁶ “Abortion: Post-Abortive Information,” *The Women’s Clinic of Kansas City*, (2005), accessed 20 March 2008, <http://www.thewomensclinic.net/post_abortive.htm>.

⁷ “Youth Abstinence Education,” *Better Family Life*, (2006), accessed 20 March 2008, <http://www.betterfamilylife.org/programs_youthabstinenceeducation.htm>.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ “ABC... It’s About Better Choices,” *Saint Louis County Health*, accessed 20 March 2008, <<http://www.stlouisco.com/doh/education/abc.html>>.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² “Services: Abstinence Education,” *The Women’s Clinic of Kansas City*, (2005), accessed 20 March 2008, <<http://www.thewomensclinic.net/abstinence.htm>>.

¹³ 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>.

¹⁴ “Parents & Schools: How Do I Teach My Teen to Date,” *LifeGuard Youth Development*, (2005-2008), accessed 20 March 2008, <<http://www.guardyourself.org/psResults.cfm?recordID=33>>.

¹⁵ SIECUS’ review is based an hour long version of “The New Sexual Revolution” which SIECUS staff attended at a public high school in Loudoun County, Virginia in February 2007 as well as information from Deltano’s website and newspaper articles about his other appearances. For more information, see SIECUS’ reviews of Keith Deltano’s presentation at <http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html>.

¹⁶ SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

¹⁷ 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](#).