



MAINE

Maine received \$836,468 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2004.¹

Maine Sexuality Education Law

Maine's sexuality education law is one of the most comprehensive in the country. It mandates that the state "undertake initiatives to implement effective, comprehensive family life education services." The state must provide: training for teachers, parents, and community members; forums among youth and community members in communities with a high need for sexuality education; staff to provide trainings, develop curricula, and evaluate the program; funding for issue management and policy development training for school boards, superintendents, principals, and administrators; and funding for programs that have shown outstanding work around sexuality education. "Comprehensive family life education" must be taught in kindergarten through twelfth grades. Information provided must be medically accurate and age-appropriate, and must respect community values and encourage parent-child communication. Programs must teach about abstinence, healthy relationships, contraception, and conflict resolution.

Parents may choose to exempt their children from the program. This is referred to as an "opt-out" policy.

See Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, Chapter 406, Sections 1902, 1910 and 1911.

Recent Legislation

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

Events of Note

*Act To Expand Family Life Education Services Becomes Law
2002*

On April 10, 2002, *An Act to Expand Family Life Education Services* (LD 1603) was signed into law by Maine's then-Governor Angus King (I). The bill, passed by the legislature with widespread bi-partisan support, inserted a definition of "family life education" into state education statutes and expanded Family Life Education Services.

The law's definition of family life education recognizes that sexuality education should be medically accurate, inclusive of information on both abstinence and contraception, age-appropriate, and taught in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Maine's Family Life Education Services has been working with communities for twenty years to develop family life education

programs in schools throughout the state. Between 1980 and 1996, the pregnancy rate for young women between 15 and 19 years of age in Maine decreased by 33%.²

Maine’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note³

- In 2003, 42% of female high school students and 44% of male high school students in Maine reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 3% of female high school students and 6% of male high school students in Maine 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, 10% of female high school students and 11% of male high school students in Maine 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, 33% of female high school students and 30% of male high school students in Maine 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, 17% of females and 35% of males in Maine 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, 54% of females and 62% of males in Maine 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, 46% of females and 27% of males in Maine 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, 88% of high school students in Maine reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Maine’s abortion rate was 15 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁴
- In 2002, Maine’s birth rate was 25 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.⁵

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Maine received \$172,468 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 Maine, the federal dollars are not matched with state dollars. Instead, the required match is provided by the advertising agency that develops Maine’s abstinence-only-until-marriage media campaign.

Maine’s initial media campaign was entitled *Not Me, Not Now* and focused on youth ages 9 to 14 and their parents in an effort to promote parent-child communication about sexuality. After an evaluation of the *Not Me, Not Now* media campaign found that it had high recognition among 9 to 14-year olds and their parents, but not a high level of impact, Maine revised its media campaign to focus on parents.

The new campaign, entitled *Parents Matter*, focuses on reaching parents through statistics, talking points, and multimedia resources. The core of the campaign involves the website (www.parentsmatter.org) which is intended to be a resource for parents to learn how to better communicate with their children about sex. The website stresses the “reality gap” between what parents think they know about their teen’s sexual activity and what teens are actually doing.⁶

The other half of the media campaign uses TV commercials to reiterate the importance of ongoing, open, and honest conversations between teens and parents about sex. Unlike many Title V funded programs, *Parents Matter* hardly mentions marriage. Instead of clearly defining abstinence-until-heterosexual-marriage as the socially accepted behavioral norm, the campaign focuses more on simply asking teens to wait.⁷

Special Projects of Regional and National Significance–Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS–CBAE)⁸ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There is one SPRANS–CBAE in Maine: Character Counts. There is one AFLA grantee in Maine: People’s Regional Opportunity Program.

The Character Counts program focuses on “6 pillars of character”—trust, worthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, and caring and citizenship, as well as ethical decision-making. According to its website, the program aims to “deter or eliminate behaviors associated with stealing, lying, cheating, alcohol and drug use, use of fake IDs, vandalism, assault against someone who has insulted them, truancy, harassment based on race or ethnicity, paying debts, getting detention or suspension, and disrupting class.”⁹

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2004

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Maine Department of Human Services www.state.me.us/dhs/boh	\$172,468 federal	Title V

M A I N E

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Character Counts in Maine 2004-2007	\$499,000	SPRANS–CBAE (Implementation Grant)
People’s Regional Opportunity Program 2004-2005	\$165,000	AFLA

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Maine Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Family Planning Association of Maine
 PO Box 587
 Augusta, ME 04332
 Phone: (207) 662-7524
www.maine-familyplanning.org

Maine Civil Liberties Union
 401 Cumberland Ave.
 Portland, ME 04101
 Phone: (207) 774-5444
www.mclu.org

Planned Parenthood of Northern New
 England Action Fund
 183 Talcott Rd., Suite 101
 Williston, VT 05495
 Phone: (802) 878-7232
www.ppnneactionfund.org

Maine Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Christian Civic League of Maine
 70 Sewall St.
 Augusta, ME 04332
 Phone: (207) 622-7634
www.cclmaine.org

Newspapers in Maine

Bangor Daily News
Rick Levasseur
Health & Medicine Editor
PO Box 1329
Bangor, ME 04402
Phone: (207) 990-8123

Morning Sentinel
Patricia Ammons
Medical/Health Editor
31 Front St.
Waterville, ME 04901
Phone: (207) 621-5645

Portland Press Herald
Meredith Goad
Health & Medicine Writer
PO Box 1460
Portland, ME 04104
Phone: (207) 791-6332

Portland Press Herald
John Porter
Editorial Page Editor
PO Box 1460
Portland, ME 04104
Phone: (207) 791-6480

Sun Journal
Christopher Williams
Medical/Health Reporter
104 Park St.
Lewiston, ME 04240
Phone: (207) 784-5411

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 “Addressing Adolescent Pregnancy—Maine, 1980-1996,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 47.22 (5 June 1998): 433-438.

³ Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: 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/>>.

⁴ *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>.

⁵ *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>>.

⁶ *Home*, Parents Matter, accessed 9 January 2005, <<http://www.parentsmatter.org/mainefacts.html>>.

⁷ *Commercials*, Parents Matter, accessed 9 January 2005, <<http://www.parentsmatter.org/commercials.html>>.

⁸ 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).

⁹ *The Six Pillars of Character*, Character Counts, accessed 9 February 2005, <<http://www.charactercounts.org/defsix.htm>>.