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New Hampshire Sexuality Education Law and Policy

In New Hampshire, local school boards must “ensure that all studies prescribed by the state board of education are thoroughly taught, especially physiology, hygiene, and health and physical education as they relate to the effects of . . . human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and sexually transmitted diseases on the human system.”¹ The Department of Education is required to develop curriculum frameworks that address those subjects and provide information on HIV/AIDS to all public and private schools to assist them in developing courses and programs.²

New Hampshire produced the *Health Education Curriculum Guidelines* in 2003. The guidelines specify that in elementary school, instruction on family life and sexuality should cover: families and relationships, growth and development, and HIV/AIDS (including explaining that HIV is not transmitted through casual contact and discussing the importance of having compassion for people with HIV/AIDS).³ In middle school, this instruction should cover: families and relationships, growth and development, sexual behavior, HIV and other sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention, and pregnancy prevention.⁴ In high school, this instruction should cover: families and relationships (including violence and date rape), sexual behavior, HIV and other STD prevention, and pregnancy prevention.⁵ The guidelines state that abstinence is the most effective means of preventing pregnancy, HIV, and other STDs.⁶

State law requires “school districts to adopt a policy allowing an exception to a particular unit of health or sex education instruction based on religious objections.”⁷ This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated §§ 186:11 and 189:10; and *Health Education Curriculum Guidelines*.

Recent Legislation

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

New Hampshire’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁸

- In 2009, 46% of female high school students and 46% of male high school students in New Hampshire reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 46% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2009, 2% of female high school students and 6% of male high school students in New Hampshire reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 3% of female high school students and 8% of male high school students nationwide.

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- In 2009, 11% of female high school students and 12% of male high school students in New Hampshire reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 11% of female high school students and 16% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2009, 40% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students in New Hampshire 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 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2009, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 54% of females and 61% of males in New Hampshire reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 54% of females and 69% of males nationwide.
- In 2009, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 41% of females and 24% of males in New Hampshire reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 23% of females and 16% of males nationwide.
- In 2009, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 20% of females and 24% of males in New Hampshire reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 17% of females and 26% of males nationwide.
- In 2009, 90% of high school students in New Hampshire reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 87% of high school students nationwide.

New Hampshire Youth Sexual Health Statistics

Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion

- New Hampshire's teen pregnancy rate ranks 51st in the U.S., with a rate of 33 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the national rate of 70 pregnancies per 1,000.⁹ There were a total of 1,570 pregnancies among young women ages 15–19 reported in 2005, the most recent year for which data are available, in New Hampshire.¹⁰
- New Hampshire's teen birth rate ranked 51st in the U.S. in 2005, with a rate of 17.9 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the national rate of 40.5 births per 1,000.¹¹ In 2006, there were a total of 850 live births reported to young women ages 15–19 in New Hampshire.¹²
- In 2006, the U.S. teen birth rate increased for the first time in 15 years by 3% from 40.5 to 41.9 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, after having steadily declined between 1991 and 2005.¹³ New Hampshire's teen birth rate also increased between 2005 and 2006, from 17.9 to 18.7 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19.¹⁴

HIV and AIDS

- New Hampshire ranks 42nd in cases of HIV infection diagnosed in the U.S. among all age groups. In 2007, there were a total of 32 new cases of HIV infection diagnosed in New Hampshire.¹⁵

- New Hampshire's AIDS rate ranks 40th in the U.S., with a rate of 3.9 cases per 100,000 population compared to the national rate of 12.5 cases per 100,000.¹⁶
- New Hampshire ranks 43rd in number of reported AIDS cases in the U.S. among all age groups. In 2007, there were a total of 51 new AIDS cases reported in New Hampshire.¹⁷
- New Hampshire ranks 35th in number of reported AIDS cases in the U.S. among young people ages 13–19. In 2007, there was a total of 1 AIDS case reported among young people ages 13–19 in New Hampshire.¹⁸

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- New Hampshire ranks 51st in reported cases of Chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 in the U.S., with an infection rate of 6.87 cases per 1,000 compared to the national rate of 19.51 cases per 1,000. In 2008, there were a total of 645 cases of Chlamydia reported among young people ages 15–19 in New Hampshire.¹⁹
- New Hampshire ranks 49th in reported cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 in the U.S., with an infection rate of 0.21 cases per 1,000 compared to the national rate of 4.52 cases per 1,000. In 2008, there were a total of 20 cases of gonorrhea reported among young people ages 15–19 in New Hampshire.²⁰
- New Hampshire ranks 31st in reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis among young people ages 15–19 in the U.S., with an infection rate of 0.01 cases per 1,000 compared to the national rate of 0.04 cases per 1,000.²¹

Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Education

SIECUS is not aware of any examples of model programs, policies, or best practices being implemented in New Hampshire public schools that provide a more comprehensive approach to sex education for young people.

We encourage you to submit any updated or additional information on comprehensive approaches to sex education being implemented in New Hampshire public schools for inclusion in future publications of the SIECUS State Profiles. Please visit SIECUS' "Contact Us" webpage at www.siecus.org to share information. Select "state policy" as the subject heading.

Federal Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs

The Department of Health and Human Services in New Hampshire received \$71,175 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2009.²²

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until Marriage Funding

- New Hampshire received \$71,175 in federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2009. Due to the expiration of the grant program on June 30, 2009, three months prior to the end of the federal fiscal year, the state received three quarters of the total funding allocated for the full fiscal year.
- The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services distributes federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funds to one sub-grantee, Catholic Medical Center.
- The Department of Health and Human Services also uses a portion of the federal funds to support community outreach events and a statewide media campaign, "It's Great to Wait," that includes bilingual television and radio broadcasts, and a website targeting teens, specifically Latino teens, and parents.

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- The Title V abstinence-only-until marriage grant required states to provide three state-raised dollars or the equivalent in services for every four federal dollars received. The state match could have been provided in part or in full by local groups.
- In New Hampshire, the single sub-grantee contributed to the match through direct revenue.

Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) Funding

- There are no CBAE grantees in New Hampshire.

Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Funding

- There are no AFLA grantees in New Hampshire.

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Curricula Used by Grantees

Some abstinence-only-until-marriage grantees in New Hampshire use commercially available curricula. These include, but are not limited to:

- *WAIT Training*

To read reviews of abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula commonly used by federal grantees please visit the “Curricula and Speaker Reviews” webpage of SIECUS’ Community Action Kit at www.communityactionkit.org.

Federal Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2009

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Title V	CBAE (Length of Grant)	AFLA (Length of Grant)
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services www.dhhs.state.nh.us	\$71,175 (federal grant)		
Catholic Medical Center www.catholicmedicalcenter.org	\$67,500 (sub-grant)		

Adolescent Health Contact²³

Rhonda Siegel, MEd
 Injury Prevention, Adolescent Health, and Prenatal Program Manager
 Maternal and Child Health
 New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
 29 Hazen Drive
 Concord, NH 03301
 Phone: (603) 271-4700

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New Hampshire Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

A Community Resource Network
2 Blacksmith Street.
Lebanon, NH 03766
Phone: (603) 448-8887
www.acornvtnh.org

ACLU of New Hampshire
18 Low Avenue
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: (603) 225-3080
www.nhclu.org

NARAL Pro-Choice New Hampshire
18 Low Avenue
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: (603) 228-1224
www.prochoiceneewhampshire.org

New Hampshire Citizens Alliance
4 Park Street, Suite 304
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: (603) 225-2097
www.nhcitizensalliance.org

Planned Parenthood of Northern New
England
18 Low Avenue
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: (603) 225-2925
www.ppnne.org

Southern New Hampshire HIV/AIDS Task
Force
12 Amherst Street
Nashua, NH 03064
Phone: (603) 595-8464
www.aidstaskforcenh.org

New Hampshire Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

The Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy
7 South State Street
P.O. Box 897
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: (603) 224-4450
www.jbartlett.org

New Hampshire Right to Life
P.O. Box 421
Merrimack, NH 03054
Phone: (603) 626-7950
www.nhrtl.org

Newspapers in New Hampshire²⁴

Concord Monitor
Newsroom
P.O. Box 1177
Concord, NH 03302
Phone: (603) 224-5301
www.concordmonitor.com

Keene Sentinel
Newsroom
60 West Street
Keene, NH 03431
Phone: (603) 352-1234
www.sentinelsource.com

The Union Leader
Newsroom
P.O. Box 9555
Manchester, NH 03108
Phone: (603) 668-4321
www.unionleader.com

Portsmouth Herald
Newsroom
111 New Hampshire Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Phone: (800) 439-0303
www.seacoastonline.com

The Telegraph
 Newsroom
 P.O. Box 1008
 Nashua, NH 03061
 Phone: (603) 882-2741
www.nashuatelegraph.com

Political Blogs in New Hampshire

Blue Hampshire
www.bluehampshire.com

Democracy for New Hampshire
www.democracyfornewhampshire.com

New Hampshire Watchdog
www.newhampshire.watchdog.org

Now Hampshire
www.nowhampshire.com

¹ N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 189:10.

² N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 186:11(IX)(a)-(b).

³ *Health Education Curriculum Guidelines* (New Hampshire: New Hampshire Board of Education and CCSSO~SCASS Health Education Assessment Project, 2003), accessed 13 April 2010, <<http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/instruction/HealthHIVAIDS/NHHHealthCurriculumGuidelines.pdf>>, 71-72.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 107-10.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 141-44.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 71.

⁷ N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 186:11(IX-b).

⁸ Danice K. Eaton, et. al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2009,” *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 59, no. SS-5 (4 June 2010): 98–109, accessed 4 June 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss5905.pdf>>.

⁹ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity*, (Washington, DC: Guttmacher Institute, January 2010), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPTrends.pdf>>, Table 3.1.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Table 3.2.

¹¹ Joyce A. Martin, et. al., “Births: Final Data for 2006,” *National Vital Statistics Reports*, vol. 57, number 7 (Hyattsville, MD: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 7 January 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_07.pdf>, Table B.

¹² *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity*, Table 3.2.

¹³ Martin, et. al., “Births: Final Data for 2006,” 4.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, Table B.

¹⁵ “Cases of HIV Infection and AIDS in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2007,” *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, vol. 19, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2007report/pdf/2007SurveillanceReport.pdf>>, Table 18.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*; “AIDS Case Rate per 100,000 Population, All Ages, 2007,” (Menlo Park, CA: Kaiser Family Foundation), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?ind=513&cat=11&sub=120&yr=62&typ=1&sort=a>>.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Table 16.

¹⁸ Slide 15: “Reported AIDS Cases among Adolescents 13 to 19 Years of Age, 2007—United States and Dependent Areas,” *HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults (through 2007)*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, May 2009), accessed 25 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>>.

¹⁹ “Wonder Database: Selected STDs by Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender, 1996-2008 Results,” (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), 30 June 2009, accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://wonder.cdc.gov>>; see also Table 10:

“Chlamydia: Reported Cases and Rates Per 100,000 Population by Age Group and Sex: United States, 2004–2008,” *Sexually*

Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2008, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of STD Prevention, November 2009), accessed 5 March 2010, <<http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats08/surv2008-Complete.pdf>>, 95.

²⁰ Ibid; see also Table 20: “Gonorrhea—Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population by Age Group and Sex: United States, 2004–2008,” *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2008*, 106.

²¹ Ibid; see also Table 33: “Primary and Secondary Syphilis—Reported Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population by Age Group and Sex: United States, 2004–2008,” *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2008*, 121.

²² This refers to the federal government’s fiscal year, which begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, Fiscal Year 2009 began on October 1, 2008 and ended on September 30, 2009.

²³ SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

²⁴ This section is a list of major newspapers in your state with contact information for their newsrooms. This list is by no means exhaustive 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](#).