



NORTH DAKOTA

The Department of Health in North Dakota received \$88,991 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2008.¹

North Dakota Sexuality Education Law and Policy

North Dakota does not mandate sexuality education nor does it address what can or cannot be taught in sexuality education classes. The state also does not have a suggested curriculum.

North Dakota does not require parental permission for students to participate in sexuality or HIV/AIDS education nor does it say whether parents or guardians may remove their children from such classes.

Recent Legislation

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

North Dakota's Youth: Statistical Information of Note²

- In 2007, 44% of female high school students and 41% of male high school students in North Dakota reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 50% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 2% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students in North Dakota 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 2007, 11% of female high school students and 11% of male high school students in North Dakota 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, 34% of female high school students and 29% of male high school students in North Dakota 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, 62% of females and 66% of males in North Dakota 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, 30% of females and 19% of males in North Dakota 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, 27% of females and 30% of males in North Dakota reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 18% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, 90% of high school students in North Dakota reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.³

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

- The North Dakota Department of Health received \$88,991 in federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2008.
- 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.
- SIECUS was unable to determine the exact amount of funding received by each Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage sub-grantee.
- In North Dakota, the state makes up ten percent of the match through state general revenues and the sub-grantees provide the remaining portion of the match through in-kind services.
- The North Dakota Department of Health oversees the funding and retains 10 percent for the salary, benefits, and travel of the program coordinator.
- There are two sub-grantees in North Dakota: Make a Sound Choice and Northern Lights Youth Services.

SIECUS has compiled some examples of the use of federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in North Dakota:

Make a Sound Choice (2008)

Make a Sound Choice is run by FirstChoice Clinic, a crisis pregnancy center. 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. On its website, Make a Sound Choice says, “People have different understandings of God. Whatever your present beliefs may be, there is a spiritual side to abortion that deserves to be considered. Having an abortion may affect more than just your body and your mind—it may have an impact on your relationship with God. What is God’s desire for you in this situation? How does God see your unborn child? These are important questions to consider.”⁴

The organization uses the popular, fear-based curriculum *A.C. Green’s Game Plan* in its abstinence-only-until-marriage program. SIECUS reviewed *Game Plan* and found that in order to convince high school students to remain abstinent until marriage, the curriculum relies on messages of fear and shame, inaccurate and misleading information, and biased views of marriage, sexual orientation, and family structure. In addition, *Game Plan* fails to provide important information on sexual health including how students can seek testing and treatment if they suspect they may have an STD. Finally, the format and underlying biases of the curriculum do not allow for cultural, community, and individual values, and discourage critical thinking and discussions of alternate points of view in the classroom. For example, *Game Plan* compares sex to fire and says: “In a fireplace, fire is beautiful and gives warmth to a home.

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Outside of the fireplace, it can cause serious harm.” “What about sex? In a marriage relationship, sex can be beautiful. Outside of marriage, it can cause serious harm.”⁵

Make a Sound Choice is an affiliate of the Abstinence Clearinghouse.⁶ As an affiliate of the Abstinence Clearinghouse, Make a Sound Choice has access to a network of nearly 70 abstinence-only-until-marriage organizations. Affiliates gain access to resources, including abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula and invitations to the Abstinence Clearinghouse conference self-titled as the “most prestigious abstinence-until-marriage event of the year.”⁷ The founder of the Abstinence Clearinghouse is Leslee Unruh, one of the industry’s leaders, who began her career working in a South Dakota crisis pregnancy center and has deep ties to the anti-choice movement.

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

There are no CBAE or AFLA grantees in North Dakota.

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2008

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds)
North Dakota Department of Health www.health.state.nd.us	\$88,991 federal	Title V
Make A Sound Choice www.makeasoundchoice.com www.firstchoiceclinic.com		Title V sub-grantee
Northern Lights Youth Service www.ndsadd.com		Title V sub-grantee

Adolescent Health Contact⁸

Sandy Fetzer
 Abstinence-Only Education Program
 North Dakota Department of Health
 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 301
 Bismarck, ND 58505
 Phone: (701) 328-4535

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North Dakota Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of the Dakotas
112 North University Drive, Suite 301
Manchester Building
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: (701) 461-7290
www.acludakotas.org

Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North
Dakota, South Dakota
1965 Ford Parkway
St. Paul, MN 55116
Phone: (612) 825-2777
www.ppmns.org

The League of Women Voters
of North Dakota
P.O. Box 2393
Bismarck, ND 58502
Phone: (701) 232-6696
www.lwvnd.org

North Dakota Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Diocese of Fargo
5201 Bishops Boulevard, Suite A
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: (701) 356-7910
www.fargodiocese.org

North Dakota Family Alliance
311 East Thayer Avenue, #127
Bismarck, ND 58201
Phone: (701) 233-3575
www.ndfa.org

North Dakota Right to Life
1102 South Washington Street, #110
P.O. Box 551
Bismarck, ND 58502
Phone: (701) 258-3811
www.ndrl.org

Newspapers in North Dakota⁹

Bismarck Tribune
Newsroom
P.O. Box 5516
Bismarck, ND 58506
Phone: (701) 223-2500
www.bismarcktribune.com

Devils Lake Journal
Newsroom
516 4th Street NE
Devils Lake, ND 58301
Phone: (701) 662-2127
www.devilslakejournal.com

Dickinson Press
Newsroom
P.O. Box 1367
Dickinson, ND 58602
Phone: (701) 225-8111
www.thedickinsonpress.com

The Forum
Newsroom
PO Box 2020
Fargo, ND 58107
Phone: (701) 235-7311
www.in-forum.com

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Grand Forks Herald
Newsroom
P.O. Box 6008
Grand Forks, ND 58206
Phone: (701) 780-1100
www.grandforksherald.com

The Jamestown Sun
Newsroom
121 3rd Street NW
Jamestown, ND 58401
Phone: (701) 252-3120
www.jamestownsun.com

Minot Daily News
Newsroom
P.O. Box 1150
Minot, ND 58702
Phone: (701) 857-1900
www.minotdailynews.com

Valley City Times-Record
Newsroom
P.O. Box 697
Valley City, ND 58072
Phone: (701) 845-0463
www.times-online.com

Williston Daily Herald
Newsroom
P.O. Box 1447
Williston, ND 58802
Phone: (701) 572-2165
www.willistonherald.com

¹ This refers to the federal government 's fiscal year, 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 2008 began on October 1, 2007 and ended on September 30, 2008.

² 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>>.

³ 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 26 January 2007, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>. Note: North Dakota did not measure this question during the 2007 YRBS.

⁴ "Make A Sound Choice," Make A Sound Choice, accessed 11 October 2008, <<http://www.makeasoundchoice.com/>>.

⁵ *A.C. Green's Game Plan* (Golf, IL: Project Reality, 2007). For more information, see SIECUS' review of *A.C. Green's Game Plan* at <http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html>.

⁶ "Affiliate Center," Abstinence Clearinghouse, accessed 11 October 2008, <<http://www.abstinence.net/affiliates/nonfaith.php>>.

⁷ "Affiliate Center," Abstinence Clearinghouse, accessed 23 November 2008, <<http://www.abstinence.net/affiliates/benefits.php>>.

⁸ SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

⁹ 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](#).