



### NORTH DAKOTA

#### 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. In 2008, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction published the *North Dakota Health Content and Achievement Standards*, which establish benchmarks for health instruction at all grade levels. For example, in grade five, students are expected to be able to “[d]escribe changes that occur during puberty.” The standards address “sexual behavior” beginning in grades seven and eight.<sup>1</sup>

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.

See *North Dakota Health Content and Achievement Standards*.

#### Recent Legislation

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

#### North Dakota’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note<sup>2</sup>

- In 2009, 47% of female high school students and 42% of male high school students in North Dakota 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 5% of male high school students in North Dakota reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 3% of female high school students and 8% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2009, 12% of female high school students and 12% of male high school students in North Dakota 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, 37% 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 33% of male high school students nationwide.

- In 2009, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 25% of females and 15% of males in North Dakota 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, 24% of females and 26% of males in North Dakota 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, 88% of high school students in North Dakota reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 87% of high school students nationwide.

### North Dakota Youth Sexual Health Statistics

#### *Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion*

- North Dakota's teen pregnancy rate ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., with a rate of 45 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the national rate of 70 pregnancies per 1,000.<sup>3</sup> There were a total of 990 pregnancies among young women ages 15–19 reported in 2005, the most recent year for which data are available, in North Dakota.<sup>4</sup>
- North Dakota's teen birth rate ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in the U.S. in 2005, with a rate of 29.7 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the national rate of 40.5 births per 1,000.<sup>5</sup> In 2006, there were a total of 661 live births reported to young women ages 15–19 in North Dakota.<sup>6</sup>
- 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.<sup>7</sup> In contrast, North Dakota's teen birth rate decreased 11% between 2005 and 2006, from 29.7 to 26.5 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19.<sup>8</sup>
- North Dakota's teen abortion rate ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the U.S., with a rate of 10 abortions per 1,000 young women ages 15–19 compared to the national rate of 19 abortions per 1,000. In 2005, there were a total of 224 abortions reported among young women ages 15–19 in North Dakota.<sup>9</sup>

#### *HIV and AIDS*

- North Dakota ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in cases of HIV infection diagnosed in the U.S. among all age groups. In 2007, there were a total of 3 new cases of HIV infection diagnosed in North Dakota.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2007, there were no young people ages 13–19 diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in North Dakota.<sup>11</sup>
- North Dakota's AIDS rate ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., with a rate of 1.3 cases per 100,000 population compared to the national rate of 12.5 cases per 100,000.<sup>12</sup>
- North Dakota ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in number of reported AIDS cases in the U.S. among all age groups. In 2007 there were a total of 8 new AIDS cases reported in North Dakota.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2007, there were no AIDS cases reported among young people ages 13–19 in North Dakota.<sup>14</sup>

#### *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*

- North Dakota ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in reported cases of Chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 in the U.S., with an infection rate of 10.67 cases per 1,000 compared to the national rate of 19.51 cases per 1,000. In 2008, there were a total of 527 cases of Chlamydia reported among young people ages 15–19 in North Dakota.<sup>15</sup>

- North Dakota ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in reported cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 in the U.S., with an infection rate of 0.71 cases per 1,000 compared to the national rate of 4.52 cases per 1,000. In 2008, there were a total of 35 cases of gonorrhea reported among young people ages 15–19 in North Dakota.<sup>16</sup>
- There are no available statewide data on the rate of syphilis among young people.

### **Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Education**

*SIECUS is not aware of any examples of model programs, policies, or best practices being implemented in North Dakota 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 North Dakota public schools for inclusion in future publications of the SIECUS State Profiles. Please visit SIECUS' "Contact Us" webpage at [www.siecus.org](http://www.siecus.org) to share information. Select "state policy" as the subject heading.*

### **Federal Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs**

The North Dakota Department of Health received \$66,675 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2009.<sup>17</sup>

#### *Title V Abstinence-Only-Until Marriage Funding*

- North Dakota received \$66,675 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 North Dakota Department of Health distributes federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funds to two sub-grantees, including one community-based organization and one crisis pregnancy center.
- 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 North Dakota, sub-grantees contributed to the match through a combination of direct revenue and in-kind services.

#### *Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) Funding*

- There are no CBAE grantees in North Dakota.

#### *Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Funding*

- There are no AFLA grantees in North Dakota.

### **Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Curricula Used by Grantees**

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

- *A.C. Green's Game Plan*

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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](http://www.communityactionkit.org).

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

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee</b>	<b>Title V</b>	<b>CBAE (Length of Grant)</b>	<b>AFLA (Length of Grant)</b>
North Dakota Department of Health <a href="http://www.ndhealth.gov">www.ndhealth.gov</a>	\$66,675 (federal grant)		
Make a Sound Choice <a href="http://www.makeasoundchoice.com">www.makeasoundchoice.com</a> <a href="http://www.firstchoiceclinic.com">www.firstchoiceclinic.com</a>	\$25,448 (sub-grant)		
Northern Lights Youth Services of Hillsboro <a href="http://www.nlsadd.com">www.nlsadd.com</a>	\$36,734 (sub-grant)		

**Adolescent Health Contact<sup>18</sup>**

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

**North Dakota Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

ACLU of the Dakotas  
Phone: (651) 917-3880  
[www.aclund.org](http://www.aclund.org)

Equality North Dakota  
P.O. Box 5222  
Fargo, ND 58105  
Phone: (701) 388-9227  
[www.equalitynd.org](http://www.equalitynd.org)

The League of Women Voters  
of North Dakota  
508 4<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Fargo, ND 58102  
Phone: (701) 297-6815  
[www.lwvnd.org](http://www.lwvnd.org)

Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North  
Dakota, South Dakota  
1965 Ford Parkway  
St. Paul, MN 55116  
Phone: (651) 698-2406  
[www.ppmns.org](http://www.ppmns.org)

**North Dakota Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Diocese of Fargo  
5201 Bishops Boulevard, Suite A  
Fargo, ND 58102  
Phone: (701) 356-7900  
[www.fargodiocese.org](http://www.fargodiocese.org)

North Dakota Family Alliance  
3220 18<sup>th</sup> Street South, Suite 8  
Fargo, North Dakota 58104  
Phone: (701) 364-0676  
[www.ndfa.org](http://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](http://www.ndrl.org)

**Newspapers in North Dakota<sup>19</sup>**

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

*Devils Lake Journal*  
Newsroom  
516 4<sup>th</sup> Street NE  
Devils Lake, ND 58301  
Phone: (701) 662-2127  
[www.devilslakejournal.com](http://www.devilslakejournal.com)

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

*The Forum*  
Newsroom  
P.O. Box 2020  
Fargo, ND 58107  
Phone: (701) 235-7311  
[www.in-forum.com](http://www.in-forum.com)

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

*The Jamestown Sun*  
Newsroom  
121 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW  
Jamestown, ND 58401  
Phone: (701) 252-3120  
[www.jamestownsun.com](http://www.jamestownsun.com)

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

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

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

### Political Blogs in North Dakota

*Common Sense Has A Voice*  
[www.areavoices.com/commonsense/](http://www.areavoices.com/commonsense/)

*Dakota Democrat*  
[www.anangrydakotademocrat.blogspot.com](http://www.anangrydakotademocrat.blogspot.com)

*NorthDecoder*  
[www.northdecoder.com](http://www.northdecoder.com)

*Prairie Sun Rising*  
[www.prairiesunrising.blogspot.com](http://www.prairiesunrising.blogspot.com)

<sup>1</sup> *North Dakota Health Content and Achievement Standards* (Bismarck, ND: North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, 2008), accessed 14 April 2010, <<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/standard/content/health/health2008.pdf>>, 16; *Ibid.*, 26

<sup>2</sup> 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>>. Note: North Dakota did not participate in the full 2009 YRBS.

<sup>3</sup> *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.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Table 3.2.

<sup>5</sup> 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](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_07.pdf)>, Table B.

<sup>6</sup> *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity*, Table 3.2.

<sup>7</sup> Martin, et. al., “Births: Final Data for 2006,” 4.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Table B.

<sup>9</sup> *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity*, Table 3.5.

<sup>10</sup> “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.

<sup>11</sup> Slide 6: “Estimated Numbers of HIV/AIDS Cases among Adolescents 13 to 19 Years of Age, 2007—34 States,” *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>>.

<sup>12</sup> *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>>.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, Table 16.

<sup>14</sup> 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>>.

<sup>15</sup> “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.

<sup>16</sup> *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.

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<sup>17</sup> This refers to the federal government's fiscal year, which begins on October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>. 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.

<sup>18</sup> SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

<sup>19</sup> 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](#).