



## NEVADA

*Nevada received \$851,532 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2005.<sup>1</sup>*

### **Nevada Sexuality Education Law and Policy**

Nevada mandates that each school district's board of trustees must "establish a course or unit of a course of: (a) Factual instruction concerning Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome [AIDS]; and (b) Instruction on the human reproductive system, related communicable diseases and sexual responsibility." Such classes cannot be a requirement for graduation. Furthermore, each board of trustees must appoint an advisory committee consisting of five parents with children in the school district and four representatives from medicine, counseling, religion, students, or teaching.

Nevada law also mandates that:

The parent or guardian of each pupil to whom a course is offered must first be furnished written notice that the course will be offered. The notice must be given in the usual manner used by the local district to transmit written material to parents, and must contain a form for the signature of the parent or guardian of the pupil consenting to his attendance. Upon receipt of the written consent of the parent or guardian, the pupil may attend the course. If the written consent of the parent or guardian is not received, he must be excused from such attendance without any penalty as to credits or academic standing.

This is referred to as an "opt-in" policy.

See Nevada Revised Statutes 389.065.

### **Recent Legislation**

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

### **Events of Note**

*Debate over Abstinence-Only Video Shown in Schools  
January 2005; Sparks, NV*

In mid-January 2005, the School District's Board of Trustees in Washoe County, NV, voted to reject a new abstinence-only video proposed for use in the seventh grade. Board members felt that the video was "fear-based" and could be "harmful" to students.<sup>2</sup> The video, titled *The Rules Have Changed: The Teen STD Epidemic*, was produced by abstinence-only proponent Meg

Meeker. Last year the district's sexuality education advisory committee rejected the video in an 8-2 vote; however nearby Carson City schools adopted the video.

In a letter to the Board of Trustees, one of the advisory committee members explained her opposition, saying, "the over-hyped, fear-based tone was felt to be a turnoff for many teens who most needed to head the abstinence message. Examples of the alarmist format including blood dripping into a sink when a link was drawn between teen suicide rates and teen sexuality." Another member explained, "in several instances throughout the film...kids could be led to believe that if you're sexually active, depression can follow and also suicide."<sup>3</sup>

The one trustee who voted in favor of the video said that she felt it would be an improvement over the video that was being used in the seventh grade, which was created in the late 1980s. She defended the drama of the film and said, "I think the issue should be as real as possible. I don't think you can overly frighten someone if you tell them the truth."<sup>4</sup>

### **Nevada's Youth: Statistical Information of Note<sup>5</sup>**

- In 2005, 40% of female high school students and 49% of male high school students in Nevada reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 4% of female high school students and 12% of male high school students in Nevada reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 4% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 12% of female high school students and 19% of male high school students in Nevada reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 12% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 31% of female high school students and 31% of male high school students in Nevada reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 35% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 58% of females and 67% of males in Nevada reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 21% of females and 12% of males in Nevada reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 19% of females and 26% of males in Nevada reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 28% of males nationwide.

- In 2005, 85% of high school students in Nevada reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Nevada’s abortion rate was 36 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2002, Nevada’s birth rate was 54 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>7</sup>

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

Nevada received \$280,174 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2005. 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. Nevada matches the federal funds with \$210,131 of state funding.

This funding is given to four community-based organizations as well as the Governor’s Youth Advisory Council. The four organizations are: Crisis Pregnancy Center; Goshen Community Development Coalition; Southern Nevada Area Health Education Center (AHEC); and Sunrise Children’s Hospital Foundation. Funded programs focus on young people ages 9–14 and their parents and use two popular abstinence-only-until-marriage programs: *Best Friends* and *Friends First*.

The Governor’s Youth Advisory Council consists of nine young people who travel across the state and facilitate “Abstinence Works” workshops. The workshops were developed by the council and have already been attended by over 4,000 students ages 9-14.<sup>8</sup> The workshop script includes a section intended to prepare the youth facilitators for “difficult questions” from their audience. In response to the question: “What about birth control (condoms)? Wouldn’t it be okay to have sex if you’re protected?,” facilitators are told to say:

Abstinence is the best birth control. It is our [the GYAC] stand that not having sex at all not only protects against pregnancy, but against STDs [Sexually Transmitted Diseases] and other damaging emotional problems that happen afterward. Condoms don’t cover the heart. Abstinence is the ONLY 100% way to prevent these things.<sup>9</sup>

In answering questions about what actually constitutes sexual activity, the suggested responses offer little information to the audience. If asked about oral sex, Youth Advisory Council members are not encouraged to start a discussion, but instead reply “I can’t give you my opinion on that.”<sup>10</sup>

**Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE)<sup>11</sup> and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees**

There is one CBAE grantee in Nevada: Crisis Pregnancy Center. There is one AFLA grantee: Southern Nevada Area Health Education Center.

Crisis pregnancy centers, such as the one funded in Nevada, 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.

N E V A D A

Southern Nevada Area Health Education Center’s abstinence-only-until-marriage program focuses solely on the parents. It trains parents to educate their children about how to remain abstinent.

**Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2005**

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee</b>  <b>Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)</b>
Nevada State Health Division  <a href="http://health2k.state.nv.us/cah/challenge.htm">http://health2k.state.nv.us/cah/challenge.htm</a>	\$280,174 federal \$210,131 state	Title V
Crisis Pregnancy Center  DUAL GRANTEE  2005–2008  <a href="http://www.renocpc.org">www.renocpc.org</a>	\$43,000  \$371,358	Title V sub-grantee  CBAE
Goshen Community Development Coalition  <a href="http://www.goshencoalition.org">www.goshencoalition.org</a>	\$23,000	Title V sub-grantee
Southern Nevada Area Health Education Center (AHEC)  DUAL GRANTEE  2005–2006  <a href="http://www.snahec.org">www.snahec.org</a>	\$23,000  \$200,000	Title V sub-grantee  AFLA
Sunrise Children’s Hospital Foundation  <a href="http://www.sunrisechildren.org/">www.sunrisechildren.org/</a>	\$43,000	Title V sub-grantee

**Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator**

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Nevada State Health Division  
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**Nevada Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

AFAN: Aid for AIDS of Nevada  
2300 South Rancho Dr., Suite 211  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
Phone: (702) 382-AFAN

GLSEN of Southern Nevada  
PO Box 61351  
Las Vegas, NV 89160  
Phone: (702) 731-3811  
[www.glsennv.org](http://www.glsennv.org)

Nevada Public Health Foundation  
305 N. Carson St., Suite 200  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Phone: (775) 884-0392  
[www.nphf.org](http://www.nphf.org)

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky  
Mountains – Las Vegas  
3220 West Charleston Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
Phone: (702) 878-7776

**Nevada Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Nevada Policy Research Institute  
1700 E. Desert Inn Rd.,  
Suite 405A  
Las Vegas, NV 89109  
Phone: (702) 222-0642  
[www.npri.org](http://www.npri.org)

**Newspapers in Nevada**

*Las Vegas CityLife*  
Education Editor  
1385 Pama Ln.  
Las Vegas, NV 89119  
Phone: (702) 871-6780

*Las Vegas Review-Journal*  
Paul Harasim  
Health & Medicine Editor  
PO Box 70  
Las Vegas, NV 89125  
Phone: (702) 387-2905

*Las Vegas Sun*  
Mary Manning  
Medical/Health Reporter  
2275 Corporate Circle  
Henderson, NV 89074  
Phone: (702) 259-8829

*Las Vegas Sun*  
Emily Richmond  
Education Reporter  
2275 Corporate Circle  
Henderson, NV 89074  
Phone: (702) 259-8829

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*Las Vegas Tribune*  
Education Editor  
610 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Las Vegas, NV 89101  
Phone: (702) 868-8887

*Reno Gazette-Journal*  
Jason Hidalgo  
Health & Medicine Reporter  
PO Box 22000  
Reno, NV 89520  
Phone: (775) 788-6341

*Reno Gazette-Journal*  
Carla Roccapriore  
Education Reporter  
955 Kuenzli St.  
Reno, NV 89502  
Phone: (775) 788-6413

<sup>1</sup> 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 2005 begins on October 1, 2004 and ends on September 30, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> “Washoe County, Nev., School Board Rejects New Sex Education Video, Citing ‘Fear-based’ Abstinence Message,” *Kaiser Daily Reproductive Health Report*, 14 January 2005.

<sup>3</sup> Associated Press, “Washoe School Board Opposes Abstinence-only Sex Ed Video,” *Las Vegas Sun* (NV), 12 January 2005, accessed 14 January 2005, <<http://www.lasvegassun.com>>.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: 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 8 June 2006, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>.

<sup>6</sup> *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, February 2004), accessed 28 January 2005, <[http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state\\_pregnancy\\_trends.pdf](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state_pregnancy_trends.pdf)>.

<sup>7</sup> *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>>.

<sup>8</sup> *Programs and Activities*, Governor’s Youth Advisory Council, (5 January 2004), accessed 13 November 2005, <<http://health2k.state.nv.us/cah/programsactivities.htm>>.

<sup>9</sup> *Abstinence Works* (Nevada: Governor’s Youth Advisory Council, January 2004), 14.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> In Fiscal Year 2004 SPRANS–CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In Fiscal Year 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).