



SIECUS

State Profile

OREGON

The Department of Human Services and community-based organizations in Oregon received \$2,339,135 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2008.¹

Oregon Sexuality Education Law and Policy

Oregon mandates sexuality education and instruction in infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention throughout elementary and secondary schools. Students in grades six through eight must receive instruction at least annually while students in grades nine through 12 must receive instruction twice annually. Oregon does not suggest or recommend a curriculum; however, Oregon statutes state that the plan of instruction must be developed locally by community members who are “knowledgeable of the latest scientific information and effective education strategies.” The plan must be approved by local school boards and reviewed biennially in accordance with new scientific information.

The plan will include information that:

- promotes abstinence for school-age youth and mutually monogamous relationships as the safest way to prevent STDs and unintended pregnancy;
- is balanced and medically accurate;
- be age-appropriate;
- include information about how responsible sexual behavior reduces the risk for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV, and pregnancy;
- provide the latest medical information regarding the success and failure rates of all forms of contraception;
- validate through course material and instruction the importance of honesty with oneself and others, respect for each person’s dignity and well-being, and responsibility for one’s actions; and
- teaches effective communication skills and the development of self-esteem.

Parents or guardians may remove their children from sexuality education and/or STD/HIV education classes. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Oregon Statutes 336.35, 336.455, and 336.465 Oregon State Board of Education. Oregon Administrative Rules 581-022-1210 and 581-022-1440, Revised 2007: *Infectious Diseases Including Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and Hepatitis B and C.*

Recent Legislation

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

Oregon's Youth: Statistical Information of Note

Oregon did not participate in the 2007 Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance Survey.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

- The Oregon Department of Human Services received \$487,695 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.
- In Oregon, the match is provided through in-kind donations, classroom space, teacher time, and other donated space.
- There is one sub-grantee in Oregon: STARS (Students Today Aren't Ready for Sex) Foundation.

STARS (Students Today Aren't Ready for Sex), \$487,695 (2008)

The STARS Foundation received the entire Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage award, and contracted with local partners to implement its curriculum in schools statewide.² The program is available for middle and high school students. In Oregon, 65 percent of middle school students have participated in the program. In addition to the traditional curriculum, the STARS Foundation created *Estrellas* to specifically target Latino youth.

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

- There is one CBAE grantee in Oregon: Northwest Family Services (also an AFLA grantee).
- There are two AFLA grantees in Oregon: Multnomah County Health Department and Northwest Family Services (also a CBAE grantee).

SIECUS has compiled some examples of the use of CBAE and AFLA funding in Oregon:

Northwest Family Services, \$600,000 (CBAE 2006–2011) and \$700,000 (AFLA 2008–2013)

Northwest Family Services' mission statement reads, "Equipping people with vital skills for a lifetime."³ In 2006, the organization was 50 percent funded by CBAE dollars.⁴

Northwest Family Services created the abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula series *FACTS: Family Accountability Communicating Teen Sexuality*. SIECUS reviewed the *FACTS* curricula and found that it provides incomplete and inaccurate medical information; presents opinions and beliefs as universal truths; and portrays a biased view of gender, marriage, family structure, sexual orientation, and pregnancy options. For example, *FACTS* includes the following list of negative consequences of premarital sex: "Pregnancy, financial aspect of fatherhood, abortion, HIV/AIDS, STDs, guilt, rejection, loss of reputation, inability to bond in the future, challenge to not compare future sexual partners, alienation from friends and family, poverty, and the inability to complete school." *FACTS* also tells young people in no uncertain terms that life begins when sperm and egg meet: "At conception, the baby came into being.

Even though he or she was only the size and appearance of a pencil dot, the baby was a separate, genetically unique individual.”⁵

Northwest Family Services’ hired Stan Weed to evaluate its abstinence-only-until-marriage programming.⁶ Weed was the only witness at the U.S. House of Representative’s April 2008 Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing to investigate the effectiveness of federally funded abstinence-only-until-marriage programs who defended the government’s investment in those programs. By his own account, Weed has spent more than 20 years working on these issues, interviewed more than 500,000 teens, and studied more than 100 abstinence-only programs. Yet, Weed has only one published study in a peer-reviewed journal showing that abstinence-only-until-marriage programs can have any impact on sexual behavior.⁷ (The program studied showed a modest impact in helping seventh graders delay sex.) Despite Weed’s insistence that abstinence-only-until-marriage funding continue, he admitted that they have not, up to this point, “done abstinence well” and repeatedly backed away from the legislatively mandated abstinence-only-until-marriage approach. Instead, he preferred the term “abstinence-centered.”

The organization has contracted with Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) of Greater Portland, a crisis pregnancy center, to expand its abstinence-only-until-marriage programming.⁸ 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.

PRC’s mission reads, “We exist to empower individuals to make life-affirming decisions through education, counseling and compassionate care based on the ministry of Jesus Christ.”⁹ Among the services offered are ultrasounds: “Free ultrasound exams are available to all abortion-vulnerable clients in all six locations. After seeing their unborn child on the ultrasound monitor, 90% of these clients choose life for their babies.”¹⁰

PRC also offers post-abortion counseling: “HEART stands for Healing Encouragement for Abortion-Related Trauma. These groups provide an opportunity for healing and restoration to those who have been hurt by abortion. HEART equips local churches to facilitate this Biblically-based study for women and men.”¹¹ There is no sound scientific evidence linking abortion to subsequent mental health problems, termed “post-abortion stress syndrome” by anti-abortion groups. Neither the American Psychological Association nor the American Psychiatric Association recognize “post-abortion stress syndrome” as a legitimate medical condition.¹² Nevertheless, abortion opponents often refer to studies that have been found to have severe methodological flaws or cite anecdotal evidence of this condition in an effort to scare women out of exercising their right to choose.

Northwest Family Services is also an affiliate of the Abstinence Clearinghouse.¹³ As an affiliate of the Abstinence Clearinghouse, Northwest Family Services 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.”¹⁴ 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.

O R E G O N

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)
Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Child and Family Health, Adolescent Health Section www.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/ah/index.cfm	\$487,695 federal	Title V
Students Today Aren't Ready for Sex (STARS) www.stars-foundation.org	\$487,695	Title V sub-grantee
Northwest Family Services 2006–2011 DUAL GRANTEE 2008–2013 www.nwfs.org	\$600,000 \$700,000	CBAE AFLA
Multnomah County Health Department 2006–2011 www.mchealth.org	\$551,440	AFLA

Adolescent Health Contact¹⁵

Belit Stockfleth
 Food Stamps and Prevention Program Manager
 Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs
 500 Summer Street NE, E48
 Salem OR 97301
 Phone: (503) 947-5389

O R E G O N

Oregon Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Basic Rights Oregon
P.O. Box 40625
Portland, OR 97240
Phone: (503) 222-6151
www.basicrights.org

Cascade AIDS Project
620 South West 5th Avenue, Suite 300
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 223-5907
www.cascadeaids.org

Planned Parenthood of the Columbia
Willamette
3231 South East 50th Avenue
Portland, OR 97206
Phone: (503) 775-4931
www.plannedparenthood.org/ppcw

Planned Parenthood Health Services of
Southwestern Oregon
360 East 10th, #104
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: (541) 344-9411
www.pphsso.org

ACLU of Oregon, Portland Office
P.O. Box 40585
Portland, OR 97240-0585
Phone: (503) 227-3186
www.aclu-or.org

Oregon Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Oregon Right to Life
4335 River Road N
Salem, OR 97303
Phone: (503) 463-8563
www.ortl.org

Stronger Families for Oregon
P.O. Box 948
Salem, OR 97308
Phone: (503) 585-9383
www.oregonfamily.org

Newspapers in Oregon¹⁶

The Oregonian
Newsroom
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, OR 97201
Phone: (503) 221-8100
www.oregonlive.com/oregonian

Statesman Journal
Newsroom
P.O. Box 13009
Salem, OR 97309
Phone: (503) 399-6611
www.statesmanjournal.com

The Register-Guard
Newsroom
PO Box 10188
Eugene, OR 97440
Phone: (541) 485-1234
www.registerguard.com

The Portland Observer
Newsroom
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr.
Boulevard
Portland, Oregon 97211
Phone: (503) 288-0033
www.portlandobserver.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 "Program," STARS Foundation, accessed 11 October 2008, <<http://www.stars-foundation.org/program.htm>>.

³ "About Northwest Family Services," Northwest Family Services, accessed 11 October 2008, <<http://www.nwfs.org/about.htm>>.

⁴ Northwest Family Services, 990 Form, 2006, p. 1.

⁵ Rose Fuller et al., *FACTS and Reason* (Portland, OR: Northwest Family Services, 2000); Rose Fuller, et al., *I'm in Charge of the FACTS* (Portland, OR: Northwest Family Services, 2000). For more information, see SIECUS' review of *FACTS* at <http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html>.

⁶ Northwest Family Services, Application to the ACF, 2006, p. 14.

⁷ For more information on the hearing, see SIECUS' Policy Update, "Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Holds First-Ever Hearings on Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs," at <<http://www.siecus.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Feature.showFeature&featureid=1144&pageid=483&parentid=478>>.

⁸ Northwest Family Services, Application to ACF, 2006, p. 28.

⁹ "Mission," Pregnancy Resource Center, accessed 15 October 2008, <<http://www.portlandprc.org/mission.asp>>.

¹⁰ "Our Services," Pregnancy Resource Center, accessed 15 October 2008, <<http://www.portlandprc.org/services.asp>>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Brenda Major et al, "Report of the APA Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion," *American Psychological Association*, (13 August 2008) accessed 8 October 2008, <<http://www.apa.org/releases/abortion-report.pdf>>.

¹³ "Affiliate Center," Abstinence Clearinghouse, accessed 11 October 2008, <<http://www.abstinence.net/affiliates/nonfaith.php>>.

¹⁴ "Affiliate Center," Abstinence Clearinghouse, accessed 23 November 2008, <<http://www.abstinence.net/affiliates/benefits.php>>.

¹⁵ SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

¹⁶ 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](#).