



## OHIO

***Ohio received \$8,086,793 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2004.<sup>1</sup>***

### **Ohio Sexuality Education Law**

Ohio does not require schools to teach sexuality education. However, the board of education of each school district must establish a health curriculum for “all schools under their control,” that includes information regarding STDs (Sexually Transmitted diseases) and HIV/AIDS. This information must emphasize that “abstinence from sexual activity is the only protection that is one hundred per cent effective against unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, and the sexual transmission of a virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.” Further, all materials and instruction regarding STDs must:

1. Stress that students should abstain from sexual activity until after marriage;
2. Teach the potential physical, psychological, emotional, and social side effects of participating in sexual activity outside of marriage;
3. Teach that conceiving children out of wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child’s parents, and society;
4. Stress that sexually transmitted diseases are serious possible hazards of sexual activity;
5. Advise students of the laws pertaining to financial responsibility of parents to children born in and out of wedlock; and
6. Advise students of the circumstances under which it is criminal to have sexual contact with a person under the age of sixteen pursuant to section 2907.04 of the Revised Code.

These points closely mirror the federal definition of “abstinence education.”

Upon written request of a parent or guardian, a student can be excused from taking any or all of this instruction. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Ohio Revised Code Sections 3313.60, 3313.60.11, and 3301-80-01.

### **Recent Legislation**

SIECUS is not aware of any recent legislation related to sexuality education in Ohio.

### **Events of Note**

*Former School Board Candidate Advocates for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage December 2004; Toledo, OH*

A former candidate for the Toledo board of education, who focused heavily on abstinence-only-until-marriage in her campaign, has now decided to repeat her calls for an abstinence-only program. The

woman lost her campaign for the board of education in 2001 but has continued to advocate for abstinence.

At a school board meeting in the fall of 2004, she advocated for a switch to an abstinence-only-until-marriage program in the schools. “We should not be teaching safe sex. We should be teaching abstinence-only-until-marriage,” she said.<sup>2</sup> She also claimed that the local junior high was handing out condoms to students. School officials denied that claim.

The coordinator of health services for the school system defended the school’s program and said that the school does encourage students to abstain from sex but also teaches about contraception. She explained, “we talk about abstinence as the most appropriate course to take, and certainly the safest.... It is my opinion that abstinence-only education is flawed. We have to recognize that children are going to be sexually active, and to deny them information on protection is unrealistic.”<sup>3</sup>

The woman had originally decided to run for the school board after learning that the existing sexuality education curriculum included discussions about homosexuality. She declared, “they’re coming out of the closet and I’m coming out saying I’m opposed to it.”<sup>4</sup>

*School Rescinds Punishment of Student for Wearing Anti-Abortion Shirt*<sup>5</sup>  
February 2003; Chardon, OH

A high school junior in Chardon, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, was given detention after refusing to remove an anti-abortion sweatshirt or turn it inside-out. The request came after two other students complained to school officials.

The student’s shirt read, “Abortion is homicide,” on the front and “You will not silence my message. You will not mock my God. You will stop the killing of my generation. Rock for Life” on the back. School policy forbids clothing items that might interfere with the educational environment. The next day the school revoked the detention and instead agreed to let the student and the two students who were offended work out a solution with the school’s peer mediation group. This discussion allowed the students to share their feelings on the subject. After the discussion, the student said that out of respect for those troubled by his shirt he would only wear it on days when there was some sort of national pro-life event.

The school said it made its decision partly to avoid taking sides on the issue of abortion. Lawyers representing Rock for Life, the company from which the shirt had been purchased, said that they had been contemplating intervening in the case if the school had decided differently.

*Ohio Returns \$1,000,000 in Prevention Funding Over HIV Prevention Controversy*  
2000

A two-year debate that focused on an HIV-prevention program ultimately resulted in the Ohio Department of Education returning a grant of nearly \$1 million to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

In the fall of 1998, Ohio lawmakers became concerned about allegedly explicit information in a training for HIV-prevention educators. This information included data regarding condoms and a handout explaining common forms of sexual activity and anatomy. In response, legislators passed an amendment that “froze” the CDC funds. This prohibited the Ohio Department of Education from using or dispensing the funding until legislators were convinced that it would not go toward instruction “in how to teach the use of condoms to Ohio school students.”

In January of 2000, the legislators held two days of hearings. During these hearings, a compromise was almost reached, under which educators would promise to emphasize abstinence. Unfortunately, some legislators were unhappy with this compromise and prohibited a vote from being

taken at that time. A motion in April 2000 to hold a vote on the issue failed. As a result, the CDC funding expired without Ohio using it.

The HIV-prevention education piece accounted for only 10% of the nearly \$1,000,000 grant. The majority of this funding was intended for use on other health prevention strategies, including the prevention of heart disease, cancer, and tobacco use; the promotion of physical exercise; and dental services.<sup>6</sup>

### **Ohio's Youth: Statistical Information of Note<sup>7</sup>**

- In 2003, 43% of female high school students and 40% of male high school students in Ohio reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 4% of female high school students and 8% of male high school students in Ohio 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 2003, 13% of female high school students and 13% of male high school students in Ohio reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 11% of female high school students and 18% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 32% of female high school students and 28% of male high school students in Ohio reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 35% of females and 34% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 19% of females and 29% of males in Ohio reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 30% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 53% of females and 68% of males in Ohio reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 57% of females and 69% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 30% of females and 22% of males in Ohio reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 13% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, 5% of female high school students and 3% of male high school students in Ohio reported ever having been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant compared to 5% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 89% of high school students in Ohio reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Ohio's abortion rate was 17 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>8</sup>

- In 2002, Ohio's birth rate was 40 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2001, there were 279 live births to young women ages 10-14, 5,251 live births to young women ages 15-17, and 11,764 live births to young women ages 18-19 in Ohio.<sup>10</sup>

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

Ohio received \$1,676,074 in federal Title V funds in Fiscal Year 2004. 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 can be provided in part or in full by local groups. Ohio matches the federal funds with \$500,000 of state funds, the remainder of the match is provided through in-kind services and funds from sub-grantees.

The Office of Women's Health Initiatives distributes the funding among 28 sub-grantees. In addition, \$45,000 of combined state and federal funds support administrative costs. One of the sub-grantees is Abstinence the Better Choice, Inc. The organization runs two programs, *CATS (Concerned About Teen Sexuality)*, and *RSVP (Responsible Social Values Program)*. During the 2004/2005 school year over 125 primary, middle, and high schools have heard or are scheduled to hear programs by Abstinence the Better Choice, Inc.<sup>11</sup>

### **Special Projects of Regional and National Significance—Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS—CBAE)<sup>12</sup> and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees**

There are 10 SPRANS—CBAE grantees in Ohio: Abstinence Educators' Network, ATM Education, Inc., Elizabeth's New Life Center, Heartbeats of Licking County, Operation Keepsake, Pregnancy Decision Health Center, RIDGE Project, Inc., Ross County Health District, St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, and Tri County Right to Life Educational Foundation. There are three AFLA grantees in Ohio: Catholic Social Services of Miami Valley, St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, and Tri County Right to Life Educational Foundation. Seven of the grantees are either county departments of health or school boards. Ten are crisis pregnancy centers.

The Abstinence Educators' Network (AEN) receives both SPRANS (\$800,000) and Title V funding (\$140,000). They have been funded by Title V since 1998 and by SPRANS since 2001. The Title V funding is used to conduct "train the trainers," student/adult mentoring, and parenting workshops designed to help parents realize "the failures and limitations of birth control."<sup>13</sup>

AEN's SPRANS money is used to fund the "Ohio Abstinence Campaign," which furthers the work of the Title V grant. AEN's website (<http://members.tripod.com/abednet/>) contains information about STDs, HIV/AIDS, and condoms, which it describes as "virtually useless."<sup>14</sup> The section on HIV states that "condoms fail to prevent its spread one out of 6 times" and compares it to playing Russian roulette.<sup>15</sup> The site also includes gender-specific sections, each of which has a top ten list of consequences of sexual activity outside of marriage.

In the "For Guys Only" section, the list includes:<sup>16</sup>

- *You could destroy a girl just for your own sexual desires.*
- *You could cheat yourself out of friendships with the opposite sex.*

In the “For Girls Only” section, the list includes:<sup>17</sup>

- *Messing your future marriage relationship with painful memories or illness or infertility.*
- *Broken heart that does not mend quickly or easily.*
- *Destroying your reputation.*

The “For Girls Only” section also states:

*Even if you really love your boyfriend, it doesn’t make sex okay. Most often, girls end up feeling used and unsatisfied, while the guy will feel at least physically fulfilled, but probably not emotionally fulfilled.*

**Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2004**

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee</b>  <b>Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant</b> <b>(Includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)</b>
Ohio Department of Health  <a href="http://www.odh.state.oh.us/odhprograms/aeduc/aed1.htm">www.odh.state.oh.us/odhprograms/aeduc/aed1.htm</a>	\$1,676,074 federal \$500,000 state	Title V
Abstinence Educator’s Network  DUAL GRANTEE  <a href="http://members.tripod.com/abednet/">http://members.tripod.com/abednet/</a>	\$140,000  \$800,000	Title V sub-grantee  SPRANS–CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Abstinence the Better Choice, Inc.  <a href="http://www.abstinencebetterchoice.com">www.abstinencebetterchoice.com</a>	\$249,278	Title V sub-grantee
Clark County Combined Health District	\$102,400	Title V sub-grantee
Directions for Youth	\$67,977	Title V sub-grantee
Healthy Visions  <a href="http://healthyvisions.org">http://healthyvisions.org</a>	\$140,010	Title V sub-grantee

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<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee</b>  <b>Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (Includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)</b>
Huron County General Health District  <a href="http://www.huroncohealth.com">www.huroncohealth.com</a>	\$120,000	Title V sub-grantee
Miami County General Health District  <a href="http://www.miamicountyhealth.net">www.miamicountyhealth.net</a>	\$120,012	Title V sub-grantee
Pregnancy Decision Health Center  DUAL GRANTEE  2001-2004 <a href="http://www.pdhc.org/services.html">www.pdhc.org/services.html</a>	\$104,000   \$50,000	Title V sub-grantee   SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Pregnancy Resource Center	\$39,151	Title V sub-grantee
REACH	\$190,000	Title V sub-grantee
RIDGE Project, Inc  DUAL GRANTEE	\$190,000  \$800,000	Title V sub-grantee  SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center  TRIPLE GRANTEE  2002-2005  TRIPLE GRANTEE  2004-2005  <a href="http://www.ehealthconnection.com/regions/toledo/content/show_facility.asp?facility_id=10">http://www.ehealthconnection.com/regions/toledo/content/show_facility.asp?facility_id=10</a>	\$85,256  \$498,933  \$300,000	Title V sub-grantee  SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)   AFLA

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<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee</b>  <b>Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant</b> <b>(Includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)</b>
Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department  <a href="http://www.zmchd.org">www.zmchd.org</a>	\$128,000	Title V sub-grantee
ATM Education, Inc.  2003-2006	\$686,278	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Elizabeth's New Life Center  2002-2005	\$684,364	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Heartbeats of Licking County  2002-2005  <a href="http://www.heartbeats-olc.org">www.heartbeats-olc.org</a>	\$378,009	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Operation Keepsake  2002-2005	\$577,040	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Ross County Health District  2004-2007	\$800,000	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
Tri County Right to Life Educational Foundation  2001-2004  DUAL GRANTEE  2004-2005	\$386,095   \$225,000	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)   AFLA
Catholic Social Services of Miami Valley  2004-2005  <a href="http://www.cssmv.org">www.cssmv.org</a>	\$225,000	AFLA

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**Ohio Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Family Planning Association of Northeast  
Ohio  
54 S. State St.  
Painseville, OH 44077  
Phone: (440) 352-0608  
[www.fpaneo.org](http://www.fpaneo.org)

NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio  
12000 Shaker Blvd.  
Cleveland, OH 44120  
Phone: (216) 283-2180  
[www.naralohio.org](http://www.naralohio.org)

Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive  
Choice  
PO Box 82204  
Columbus, OH 43085  
Phone: (614) 436-7213  
[www.ohiorcrc.org](http://www.ohiorcrc.org)

Planned Parenthood of Summit, Portage, and  
Medina Counties  
444 W. Exchange St.  
Akron, OH 44302  
Phone: (330) 535-2674  
[www.ppinfo.org](http://www.ppinfo.org)

**Ohio Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Abstinence Educators' Network (AEN) Inc.  
PO Box 531  
Mason, OH 45040  
Phone: (866) 967-8448  
[www.abednet.org](http://www.abednet.org)

Abstinence Resource Centre  
211 S. Main St., Suite 800  
Dayton, OH 45402  
Phone: (937) 223-5250  
[www.getthetruth.net](http://www.getthetruth.net)

Christian Coalition of Ohio  
PO Box 852  
Westfield Center, OH 44251  
Phone: (330) 887-1922  
[www.ccoho.org](http://www.ccoho.org)

Citizens For Community Values  
11175 Reading Rd., Suite 103  
Cincinnati, OH 45241  
Phone: (513) 733-5775  
[www.ccv.org](http://www.ccv.org)

Ohio Right to Life Society  
2238 S. Hamilton Rd., Suite 200  
Columbus, OH 43232  
Phone: (614) 864-5200  
[www.ohiolife.org](http://www.ohiolife.org)

Ohio Roundtable  
11288 Alameda Dr.  
Strongsville, OH 44149  
Phone: (440) 572-2128  
[www.ohioroundtable.org](http://www.ohioroundtable.org)



**Newspapers in Ohio**

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<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 2004 begins on October 1, 2003 and ends on September 30, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Ignazio Messina, "TPS Urged to Remove Birth Control from Sex Ed," *Toledo Blade*, 3 December 2004, B1.  
<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> S. Svoboda, "Board Hopeful Berry Criticizes Sex Education," *The Blade* (Toledo, OH), 22 October 2001.

<sup>5</sup> "Student Gets Detention for Anti-Abortion Sweatshirt," *Associated Press*, 4 February 2003.

<sup>6</sup> Martha Kempner, "Fewer Debates About Sexuality Education as Abstinence-Only Programs Take Foothold," *SIECUS Report* 29.6 (August/September 2001): 4-16.

<sup>7</sup> Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Jo Anne Grunbaum, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2003," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 53.SS-2 (21 May 2004): 1-95, accessed 28 January 2005, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>>.

<sup>8</sup> *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, February, 2004), accessed 28 January 2005, <[www.guttmacher.org](http://www.guttmacher.org)>.

<sup>9</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>10</sup> *Ohio Department of Health Information Warehouse*, Ohio Department of Health (2005), accessed on 8 February 2005, <<http://dwarehouse.odh.ohio.gov>>.

<sup>11</sup> *News & Events*, Abstinence the Better Choice, Inc., accessed 8 February 2005, <<http://www.abstinencebetterchoice.com/events.pcgi>>.

<sup>12</sup> In FY 2004 SPRANS—CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In FY 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).

<sup>13</sup> *Overview of the Title V Grant Project*, Abstinence Educators Network, Inc., accessed 8 February 2005, <[http://members.tripod.com/abednet/title\\_V\\_grant.htm](http://members.tripod.com/abednet/title_V_grant.htm)>.

<sup>14</sup> *STD's – The Silent Killers*, Abstinence Educators Network, Inc., accessed 8 February 2005, <<http://members.tripod.com/abednet/std.htm>>.

<sup>15</sup> *For Guys Only*, Abstinence Educators Network, Inc., accessed 8 February 2005, <[http://members.tripod.com/abednet/for\\_guys\\_only.htm](http://members.tripod.com/abednet/for_guys_only.htm)>.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> *For Girls Only*, Abstinence Educators Network, Inc., accessed 8 February 2005, <[http://members.tripod.com/abednet/for\\_girls\\_only.htm](http://members.tripod.com/abednet/for_girls_only.htm)>.