



## Pennsylvania

***Pennsylvania received at least \$5,801,292\* in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2003.<sup>1</sup>***

### **Pennsylvania Sexuality Education Law**

Schools in Pennsylvania are not required to teach sexuality education. Primary, intermediate, middle, and high schools are, however, required to teach sexually transmitted disease (STD)/HIV education. Schools must use materials that are age-appropriate, discuss prevention, and stress abstinence as “the only completely reliable means of preventing sexual transmission.”

Parents and guardians whose principles or religious beliefs conflict with instruction may excuse their children from the programs. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Pennsylvania Code Title 22, Chapter 4, Section 29.

### **Recent Legislation**

SIECUS is not aware of any recent legislation in Pennsylvania regarding sexuality education.

### **Recent Events**

#### *FY03 Omnibus Appropriations Bill Earmarks*

Setting a new precedent for the federal funding of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) secured earmarks of approximately \$3.15 million within the federal Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill for individual Pennsylvania abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. This was the first time a Member of Congress earmarked money for specific abstinence-only-until-marriage programs outside of traditional federal funding streams.

#### *Pam Stenzel Presentation Cancelled Due to Board Apprehension*

##### *May 2003; Allentown, PA*

Board members in Allentown, PA, cancelled a presentation by national abstinence-only-until-marriage speaker Pam Stenzel after viewing her promotional video. Stenzel was scheduled to address students at Liberty and Freedom High School but board members and administrators said they found her messages offensive and felt she came across too harshly. They were particularly

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\* Exact funding information for one SPRANS-CBAE grantee in Pennsylvania was not available to SIECUS.

<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 2003 begins on October 1, 2002 and ends on September 30, 2003.

SIECUS was not able to obtain exact funding information for all grantees.

upset with her suggestion that students “will pay” if they have sex before marriage. The school director said, “I found that offensive. That doesn’t sound very loving to me.”<sup>2</sup>

A group of parents approached the school board to protest this decision. One parent, who had sparked Stenzel’s invitation by sending the promotional tape to the high school principal, was particularly upset by the change of heart. He said, “Doesn’t the board feel any onus to honor the bonds committed to by their principals?”<sup>3</sup> His 17-year-old daughter, along with several other community members, spoke and begged the school board to reconsider and let Stenzel speak to the district’s high school students.

The superintendent clarified their position and said that the school board did not disagree with the premise of Stenzel’s program but rather with certain parts of the presentation. He went on to say that, “public schools are not in the business of morality.”<sup>4</sup> The district’s sexuality education program follows state guidelines and conveys to students that abstinence is the only 100 percent effective way to avoid STDs and pregnancy, but also teaches about contraception.

### *Students React to Abstinence Pledge Cards*

*May 2002, Lehigh Valley, PA*

The Lehigh Valley Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy provides the CHOICES abstinence-only-until-marriage program to nine–14 year olds in the Lehigh Valley School District. The program, which is funded by the state of Pennsylvania, offers students the opportunity to sign abstinence pledge cards.

While approximately 40 percent of Lehigh students chose to make the pledge, many others declined. One eighth grader ripped up his pledge card and refused to hand it in, stating, “I won’t sign it because I’m going to run my life the way I want to, but I’m not going to run out tomorrow and have sex either.” Several female students felt that if they didn’t sign the cards, their reputations would suffer, and one stated that “we have to sign these even if we don’t believe in them.”<sup>5</sup>

### **Pennsylvania Youth: Statistical Information of Note**

- In 2000, Pennsylvania’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>6</sup>
- In 2001, Pennsylvania’s birth rate was 33 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 45 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>2</sup> G. Marshall, “BASD Approves Tentative 1-Mill Hike; Parents Protest Board Decision to Cancel Pro-Abstinence Speaker,” *Morning Call* (Allentown, PA), May 20, 2003.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> G. Marshall, “Teens Get No-Sex Talk,” *The Morning Call Online*, accessed online at [www.mcall.com/news/local/all\\_b1\\_4teens2may09.story](http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all_b1_4teens2may09.story) on May 26, 2004.

<sup>6</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). Available online at [www.guttmacher.org](http://www.guttmacher.org).

<sup>7</sup> A. Papillo, et al., *Facts at a Glance*, (Washington, DC: Child Trends, February, 2004).

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania's Youth: Statistical Information of Note*<sup>8</sup>

- In 2003, 57% of female high school students and 71% of male high school students in Philadelphia reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 6% of female high school students and 27% of male high school students in Philadelphia 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, 16% of female high school students and 42% of male high school students in Philadelphia 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, 43% of female high school students and 53% of male high school students in Philadelphia 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, 10% of females and 17% of males in Philadelphia 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, 64% of females and 76% of males in Philadelphia 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, 13% of females and 5% of males in Philadelphia 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, 9% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students in Philadelphia 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, 85% of high school students in Philadelphia reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

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

Pennsylvania received \$1,820,070 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2003. 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

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<sup>8</sup> There is no statewide data for Pennsylvania. Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: J. Grunbaum, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2003," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 53, no.SS-2, May 21, 2004, pp. 1-95. Available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>.

or in full by local groups. Pennsylvania contributes \$1,365,053 to this program. The money is divided between a media campaign and community based organizations.

**Special Projects of Regional and National Significance–Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS–CBAE) and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees**

There are three SPRANS–CBAE grantees in Pennsylvania: Keystone Central District, South Hills Crisis Pregnancy Center, and Women’s Care Center of Erie County Inc. There are three AFLA grantees in Pennsylvania: Crozer-Chester Medical Center, Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, and To Our Children with Health.

The Keystone Central School District states that it has two main goals for its program: encouraging children to choose abstinence until marriage and focusing on parents as the “most important teacher” in the child’s life. The Women’s Care Center of Erie County, Inc. uses several programs geared towards specific age groups including *WAIT (Why Am I Tempted) Training*, *R.S.V.P. (Responsible Social Values Program)*, and *Character First!* Each of these programs is intended to demonstrate that “the advantages of abstinence are well worth the effort.”

SIECUS’ review of *WAIT Training* found that it relies on shame- and fear-based messages, contains very little information on STDs, and is intended for an exclusively heterosexual audience.

**Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2003<sup>9</sup>**

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee</b>  <b>Length of grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant Money</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, AFLA, and FY03 Earmark)</b>
Pennsylvania Department of Health  <a href="http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/site/default.asp">www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/site/default.asp</a>	\$1,820,070 federal/ \$1,365,053 state	Title V
Catholic Social Services, The Bridge  DUAL GRANTEE	\$46,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 Earmark
Chester County Health Department  DUAL GRANTEE  <a href="http://www.chesco.org">www.chesco.org</a>	\$41,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 Earmark

<sup>9</sup> SIECUS was not able to obtain exact funding information for all grantees.

PENNSYLVANIA

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee</b> <b>Length of grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant Money</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, AFLA, and FY03 Earmark)</b>
Guidance Center, <i>Project RAPPORT</i>  DUAL GRANTEE	\$74,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 Earmark
Keystone Central School District, Central Mountain Middle School East  DUAL GRANTEE	\$79,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 Earmark
Lackawanna Trail School District  DUAL GRANTEE	\$74,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 Earmark
LaSalle University  DUAL GRANTEE  <a href="http://www.lasalle.edu">www.lasalle.edu</a>	\$112,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 Earmark
Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh  DUAL GRANTEE  <a href="http://www.mercy-meded.com">www.mercy-meded.com</a>	\$225,000  \$111,000	Title V sub-grantee  AFLA
Neighborhood United Against Drugs, Philadelphia  DUAL GRANTEE	\$136,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 earmark
New Brighton School District  DUAL GRANTEE	\$23,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 Earmark
Nueva Esperanza  DUAL GRANTEE  <a href="http://www.nueva.org">www.nueva.org</a>	\$72,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 Earmark

P E N N S Y L V A N I A

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee</b>  <b>Length of grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant Money</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, AFLA, and FY03 Earmark)</b>
Rape and Victim Assistance Center of Schuylkill County  DUAL GRANTEE	\$71,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 Earmark
School District of Lancaster, Project IMPACT  DUAL GRANTEE	\$101,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 Earmark
To Our Children’s Future with Health, Inc.  QUADRUPLE GRANTEE	\$109,000  \$225,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 Earmark  AFLA  SPRANS-CBAE
Venango County Area Vo-Tech  DUAL GRANTEE	\$41,000	Title V sub-grantee  FY03 Earmark
City of Chester, Bureau of Health, <i>Sexual Abstinence Education and Resource (SABER) Project</i>  <a href="http://www.chestercity.com">www.chestercity.com</a>	\$105,000	FY03 Earmark
DIAKON Lutheran Social Ministries of Allentown  <a href="http://www.diakon.org">www.diakon.org</a>	\$231,000	FY03 Earmark
Heart Beat  <a href="http://www.heartbeatinternational.org">www.heartbeatinternational.org</a>	\$51,000	FY03 Earmark

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Keystone Economic Development Corporation	\$88,000	FY03 Earmark
Partners in Family and Community Development	\$72,000	FY03 Earmark
Potter County Human Services <a href="http://www.pottercountyhumansvcs.org">www.pottercountyhumansvcs.org</a>	\$50,000	FY03 Earmark
Real Commitment <a href="http://www.realcommitment.org">www.realcommitment.org</a>	\$82,000	FY03 Earmark
School District of Philadelphia <a href="http://www.philsch.k12.pa.us">www.philsch.k12.pa.us</a>	\$102,000	FY03 Earmark
Silver Ring Thing Program <a href="http://www.silverringthing.com">www.silverringthing.com</a>	\$700,000	FY03 Earmark
St. Luke's Health Network Choice Program	\$92,000	FY03 Earmark
Tuscarora Intermediate Unit	\$84,000	FY03 Earmark
Urban Family Council in Philadelphia <a href="http://www.urbanfamily.org">www.urbanfamily.org</a>	\$126,000	FY03 Earmark
Washington Hospital Teen Outreach, Academy for Adolescent Health <a href="http://www.healthyteens.com">www.healthyteens.com</a>	\$136,000	FY03 Earmark

P E N N S Y L V A N I A

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Women's Care Center of Erie County  DUAL GRANTEE  2001-2004  <a href="http://www.pregnancycenters.org/erie">www.pregnancycenters.org/erie</a>	\$136,000  \$262,357	FY03 Earmark  SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)
York County, Human Life Services, Inc.	\$50,000	FY03 Earmark
South Hills Crisis Pregnancy Center  2002-2003  <a href="http://www.cpc.org/southhills/">www.cpc.org/southhills/</a>	\$58,671	SPRANS-CBAE (Planning Grant)
Crozet-Chester Medical Center  <a href="http://www.crozer.org/Hospitals+and+Facilities/Hospitals/Crozer-Chester+Medical+Center/default.htm">www.crozer.org/Hospitals+and+Facilities/Hospitals/Crozer-Chester+Medical+Center/default.htm</a>	\$154,194	AFLA

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

Phyllis Welborn  
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 Bureau of Family Health  
 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Wing  
 Health & Welfare Building  
 Harrisburg, PA 17108  
 Phone: (717) 772-2762



**Pennsylvania Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Family Health Council, Inc.  
960 Penn Ave., Suite 600  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Phone: (412) 288-2130  
[www.fhcinc.org](http://www.fhcinc.org)

Family Health Council of Central PA  
3461 Market St., Suite 200  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
Phone: (717) 763-4779  
[www.fhccp.org](http://www.fhccp.org)

Family Planning Council  
260 S. Broad St., Suite 1000  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Phone: (215) 985-2600  
[www.familyplanning.org](http://www.familyplanning.org)

NARAL of Pennsylvania  
225 South 15<sup>th</sup> St. Ste 300  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Phone: (215) 545-4666  
[www.prochoicepa.org](http://www.prochoicepa.org)

Pennsylvania Coalition to Prevent Teen  
Pregnancy  
200 Strawberry Sq.  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
Phone: (717) 236-3366

Pennsylvania NOW  
P.O. Box 32341  
Philadelphia, PA 19146  
Phone: (215) 726-9726  
[www.panow.org](http://www.panow.org)

Statewide Pennsylvania Rights  
Coalition (SPARC)  
1300A North 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17102  
Phone: (717) 920-9537  
[www.sparc-pa.org](http://www.sparc-pa.org)

**Pennsylvania Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Pennsylvania Family Institute  
1240 N. Mountain Rd.  
Harrisburg, PA 17112  
Phone: (717)545-0600  
[www.pafamily.org](http://www.pafamily.org)

Pennsylvanians for Human Life  
104 Forrest Ave.  
The Holly Building Ste. 26  
Narberth, PA 19072  
Phone: (610) 667-1191  
[www.pennlife.org](http://www.pennlife.org)

Pennsylvania Pro Life Federation  
4800 Jonestown Rd. Ste.102  
Harrisburg, PA 17109  
Phone: (717) 541-0034  
[www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org)

People for Life  
1625 West 26<sup>th</sup> St.  
P.O. Box 1126  
Erie, PA 16512  
Phone: (814) 459-1333  
[www.peopleforlife.org](http://www.peopleforlife.org)

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The Physicians Consortium  
1240 North Mountain Rd.  
Harrisburg, PA 17112

**Newspapers in Pennsylvania**

*Philadelphia Inquirer*  
Paul Nussbaum  
Medical/Health Editor  
400 N. Broad St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19130  
Phone: (215) 854-4587

*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*  
Jane Elizabeth  
Education Editor  
34 Blvd Of The Allies  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
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*Prevention*  
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Emmaus, PA 18098  
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