



SIECUS

State Profile

SOUTH DAKOTA

The Department of Health and community-based organizations in South Dakota received \$1,566,110 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2008.¹

South Dakota Sexuality Education Law and Policy

South Dakota law does not require schools to teach sexuality education. Instead, the decision is left up to local school boards. However, schools are required to teach “character development instruction,” which includes sexual abstinence.

The *South Dakota Health Education Standards* includes HIV/STD prevention in grades seven through 12. The state does not require a specific curriculum.

South Dakota does not require parental permission for students to participate in sexuality or HIV/AIDS education nor does it say whether parents or guardians can remove their children from such classes.

See South Dakota Statute 13-33-6.1 and the *South Dakota Health Education Standards*.

Recent Legislation

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

South Dakota’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note²

- In 2007, 47% of female high school students and 46% of male high school students in South Dakota reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 50% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 2% of female high school students and 7% of male high school students in South Dakota 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 2007, 14% of female high school students and 14% of male high school students in South Dakota reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 12% of female high school students and 18% of male high school students nationwide.

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- In 2007, 38% of female high school students and 31% of male high school students in South 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 34% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 54% of females and 65% of males in South Dakota reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 55% of females and 69% of males nationwide.
- In 2007, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 21% of females and 11% of males in South Dakota reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 13% of males nationwide.
- In 2007, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 26% of females and 30% of males in South Dakota reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 18% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2007, 85% of high school students in South Dakota reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 90% of high school students nationwide.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

- The South Dakota Department of Health received \$136,379 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 South Dakota, the match is made through both direct state funds and in-kind services from the sub-grantees.
- There are four sub-grantees in South Dakota: Abstinence Clearinghouse, Growing Up Together, Northern Hills Pregnancy Center, and Youth and Family Services.

SIECUS has compiled some examples of the use of federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in South Dakota:

Abstinence Clearinghouse, \$35,000 (2008)

The Abstinence Clearinghouse serves as a hub for abstinence-only-until-marriage providers across the country. The mission of the Abstinence Clearinghouse is, “To promote the appreciation for and practice of sexual abstinence (purity) until marriage through the distribution of age appropriate, factual, and medically-referenced materials.”³ The Abstinence Clearinghouse’s medical advisory board is comprised of over 60 health professionals who do not promote or prescribe contraception for unmarried teens.⁴ The organization has close ties to the Alpha Center, a crisis pregnancy center founded in 1984. The two organizations share office space, and both were founded and continue to be run by Leslee Unruh.

Over the years, the Abstinence Clearinghouse and Ms. Unruh have been accused of misconduct in several cases. In 1987, Unruh was investigated by authorities after being accused of persuading young women to carry their pregnancies to term and give their babies up for adoption in exchange for money. The Alpha Center pleaded “no contest” to a handful of charges, and paid a \$500 fine as part of a plea bargain in which 19 charges, including four felonies, were dropped.⁵

In 2005, Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate the Abstinence Clearinghouse's \$2.7 million contract with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to review abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula. Waxman noted that the Abstinence Clearinghouse has "a strong ideological bias and a history of ignoring scientific evidence that challenges its positions" and suggested that the organization "appears to have a significant conflict of interest because it earns fees from abstinence-only resource providers whose curricula it is being asked to evaluate."⁶

Most recently, in July 2006, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) filed an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) complaint against the Alpha Center and the Abstinence Clearinghouse. The complaint suggests that the organizations have violated federal tax law by endorsing candidates and failing to report lobbying efforts. The IRS complaint outlines several examples of violations, including Ms. Unruh's efforts to lobby lawmakers on behalf of a South Dakota law, authored by Unruh herself, which would have banned all abortions in the state.⁷

Northern Hills Pregnancy Center, \$25,000 (2008) and \$317,231 (CBAE 2005–2008)

The Northern Hills Pregnancy Center is a crisis pregnancy center. 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. In Fiscal Year 2007, 76 percent of the organization's funding came from federal abstinence-only-until-marriage funding.

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

- There are three CBAE grantees in South Dakota: Alpha Center, Northern Hills Pregnancy Center (also a Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage grantee), and Rural America Initiatives.
- There are no AFLA grantees in South Dakota.

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

Alpha Center, \$600,000 (CBAE 2008–2013)

The mission of the Alpha Center reads, "Alpha Health Services is a non-profit agency that provides a full range of services to women and men involved in an unplanned pregnancy. Our goal is to provide positive alternatives with practical support."⁸

The crisis pregnancy center's website exaggerates the possible side-effects of abortion including the suggestion that abortion causes infertility and breast cancer.⁹ Abortion is a generally safe procedure, and medically sound research has shown that first trimester abortions rarely causes long-term fertility problems.¹⁰ In February 2003, the National Cancer Institute convened a group of 100 experts on pregnancy and breast cancer risk who reviewed "existing population-based, clinical, and animal studies on the relationship between pregnancy and breast cancer risk, including studies of induced and spontaneous abortion" and concluded that induced abortion is not linked to an increase in the risk of breast cancer.¹¹

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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)
South Dakota Department of Health www.state.sd.us/DOH	\$136,379 federal	Title V
Abstinence Clearinghouse www.abstinence.net	\$35,000	Title V sub-grantee
Growing Up Together	\$19,300	Title V sub-grantee
Northern Hills Pregnancy Center DUAL GRANTEE 2005–2008	\$25,000 \$317,231	Title V sub-grantee CBAE
Youth and Family Services	\$40,000	Title V sub-grantee
Alpha Center 2008–2013 www.alphacenter.org	\$600,000	CBAE
Rural America Initiatives 2008–2013	\$512,500	CBAE

Adolescent Health Contact¹²

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 Office of Community Health Services
 South Dakota Department of Health
 600 E. Capitol Avenue
 Pierre, SD 57501
 Phone: (605) 773-2980

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South Dakota Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of the Dakotas
112 North University Drive, Suite 301
Manchester Building
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: (701) 461-7290
www.acludakotas.org

NARAL Pro-Choice South Dakota
401 East 8th Street, Suite 330G
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
Phone: (605) 334-5065
www.prochoicesd.org

Planned Parenthood of Minnesota,
North Dakota, South Dakota
1965 Ford Parkway
St. Paul, MN 55116
Phone: (612) 825-2777
www.ppmns.org

South Dakota Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Abstinence Clearinghouse
801 East 41st Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Phone: (605) 335-3643
www.abstinence.net

Catholic Social Services
918 5th Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
Phone: (605) 348-6086
www.catholic-social-services.net

South Dakota Family Policy Council
3500 South Phillips Avenue, Suite 110
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Phone: (605) 335-8100
www.sdfamily.org

South Dakota Right to Life
P.O. Box 1032
314 S. Central
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: (605) 224-9181
www.sdrl.org

Newspapers in South Dakota¹³

Aberdeen American News
Newsroom
124 S. 2nd Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Phone: (605) 622-4100
www.aberdeennews.com

Argus Leader
Newsroom
200 S. Minnesota Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone: (605) 331-2300
www.argusleader.com

Brookings Register
Newsroom
312 5th Street
Brookings, SD 57006
Phone: (605) 692-6271
www.brookingsregister.com

Capital Journal
Newsroom
333 W. Dakota Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: (605) 224-7301
www.capjournal.com

Rapid City Journal
Newsroom
507 Main Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
Phone: (605) 394-8402
www.rapidcityjournal.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 Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Danice K. Eaton, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2007," Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 57.SS-4 (6 June 2008), accessed 4 June 2008, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>.

³ *Home Page*, Abstinence Clearinghouse, accessed 3 October 2008, <<http://www.abstinence.net/about>>.

⁴ Myra Batchelder, "Who Is Leslee Unruh?," 5 October 2006, accessed 3 October 2008, <<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/issues-action/sex-education/leslee-unruh-6248.htm>>.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Danielle Knight, "Bias Claimed in U.S. Abstinence-Only Review," *US News and World Report*, 8 October 2005, accessed 13 February 2007.

⁷ "CREW Files IRS Complaint Against Anti-Choice Abstinence-only Orgs—Alpha Center and National Abstinence Clearinghouse," Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, Press Release published 26 July 2006, accessed 13 February 2007, <<http://www.citizensforethics.org/press/newsrelease.php?view=141>>.

⁸ "About Us," The Alpha Center, accessed 15 October 2008, <<http://www.alphacenter.org/about/mission.php>>.

⁹ "Physical Risks," The Alpha Center, accessed 15 October 2008, <<http://www.alphacenter.org/about/mission.php>>.

¹⁰ Susan Cohen, "Abortion and Mental Health: Myths and Realities," *Guttmacher Policy Review* (Summer 2006 Volume 9, Number 3), accessed 30 January 2007, <<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/gpr/09/3/gpr090308.html>>.

¹¹ National Cancer Institute, "Abortion, Miscarriage, and Breast Cancer Risk," 30 May 2003, accessed 30 January 2007, <<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/abortion-miscarriage>>.

¹² SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

¹³ 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](#).