



South Carolina

South Carolina received \$2,754,922 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2003.¹

South Carolina Sexuality Education Law

Schools in South Carolina are required to teach sex education as well as education about sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Schools are not required to teach about HIV or AIDS. According to the law:

Reproductive health education means instruction in human physiology, conception, prenatal care and development, childbirth, and postnatal care, but does not include instruction concerning sexual practices outside marriage or practices unrelated to reproduction except within the context of the risk of disease. Abstinence and the risks associated with sexual activity outside of marriage must be strongly emphasized.

The law goes on to state, “contraceptive information must be given in the context of future family planning,” meaning that any information about contraception must be in the context of use during marriage.

Abstinence-until-marriage must also be stressed. Pregnancy prevention is covered and must be taught in gender-divided classes. Adoption can be discussed, but abortion cannot.

The law also states, “the program of instruction provided for in this section may not include a discussion of alternate sexual lifestyles from heterosexual relationships including, but not limited to, homosexual relationships except in the context of instruction concerning sexually transmitted diseases.”

Parents are informed in advance of any sexuality specific instruction and allowed to remove their children from any part of the health education classes. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Code of Laws of South Carolina Title 59, Chapter 32.

Recent Legislation

The South Carolina legislature carried bills over from the 2003 to the 2004 session. South Carolina’s legislative session ended on June 3, 2004.

¹ 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.

Bill to Revise Sexuality Education Program Guidelines Died

Senate Bill 739, introduced in June 2003, would have amended the state's comprehensive health education code to revise the program guidelines. No further details were outlined in the bill which died at the end of the legislative session.

Amendment to Change Bidding Process for Awarding of Title V Funds

In South Carolina, the state's entire allotment of Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage money has gone to one recipient, Heritage Community Services, for the last five years. The governor's office has failed to use a competitive bidding process for these funds despite multiple interested organizations and criticism from some lawmakers and pregnancy prevention groups.

The awarding process has been widely criticized due to the well-known friendship between the governor and the founder of Heritage Community Services, a woman connected to religious-based crisis pregnancy centers. Heritage Community Services serves approximately 25% of the state's young people.

An amendment adopted in the Senate Finance Committee would require that the contract be offered in an open, competitive bidding process rather than as a sole source contract. Another amendment that would add specific guidelines to the bidding process was then adopted on the Senate floor. This amendment was included in the budget conference committee and is on Governor Mark Sanford's (R) desk for approval at press time.

Recent Events

SIECUS is not aware of any recent events of note regarding sexuality education in South Carolina.

South Carolina's Youth: Statistical Information of Note²

- In 2001, 50% of female high school students and 60% of male high school students in South Carolina reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 43% of female high school students and 49% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 7% of female high school students and 21% of male high school students in South Carolina 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 2001, 16% of female high school students and 28% of male high school students in South Carolina reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 11% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 38% of female high school students and 42% of male high school students in South Carolina reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 33% of females and 33% of males nationwide.

² Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: J. Grunbaum, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2001," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 51, no.SS-4, June 28, 2002, pp. 1-64. Available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>. South Carolina did not participate in the 2003 YRBS.

- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 19% of females and 30% of males in South Carolina reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 31% of males nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 59% of females and 71% of males in South Carolina reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 51% of females and 65% of males nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 17% of females and 9% of males in South Carolina reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2001, 6% of female high school students and 5% of male high school students in South Carolina 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 2001, 88% of high school students in South Carolina reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 89% of high school students nationwide.
- According to *South Carolina Kids Count 2003*, 35 of every 1,000 young women ages 15-17 in South Carolina give birth every year. South Carolina ranks 41st in the nation for the rate of teen births in this age group.³
- In 2000, South Carolina's abortion rate was 17 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁴
- In 2001, South Carolina's birth rate was 57 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 45 per 1,000 nationwide.⁵

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

South Carolina received \$811,000 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2003. The governor's office has jurisdiction over this stream of federal funding. 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. South Carolina does not match these funds. Instead, \$130,000 is used to staff the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Maternal and Child Health and for other administrative costs. The other \$681,000 is contracted to Heritage Community Services, a community based organization that provides the state match with \$608,000 (more than the federal requirement).

³ *KIDS COUNT 2003 Data Book Online: Teen Birth Rates*. (Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation) Accessed online on May 19, 2004 at <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/kc.cgi?action=ranking&variable=tbr&year=2000>

⁴ *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.

⁵ A. Papillo, et.al., *Facts at a Glance*, (Washington, DC: Child Trends, February, 2004).

Heritage Community Services uses this funding to conduct in-school abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. The organization uses *Heritage Keepers*, a character-based curriculum that it designed. SIECUS' review of this program found that it relied on fear and shame and contained biased messages about gender and non-traditional family structures.

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

There is one SPRANS—CBAE grantee in South Carolina: Heritage Community Services. There are two AFLA grantees in South Carolina: Medical University of South Carolina and the Children's Council.

Heritage Community Services utilizes *The Heritage Method, A Systemic Approach to Changing Attitudes and Behavior Regarding Abstinence Outside of Marriage*. This program identifies several reasons for teens engaging in sex outside of marriage, including: “a general lack of community support that sends a decisive and unified message about abstinence” and “a lack of community programs that will enforce this message.” The organization states that both are necessary to combat the cultural emphasis on sex and sensuality.

Heritage Community Services' website contains information about STDs but there is no information regarding prevention methods other than abstinence. Additionally, many of the messages are fear-based. The website also includes a section on how marriage is a personal and societal benefit. For example, the website states that “marriage appears to reduce the risk that children and adults will either be perpetrators or victims of crime.”

Heritage Community Services produces two 450-minute abstinence education curricula, *Abstinence Education (ABED) I & II*, and three character-based life-skills curricula, *Heritage Keepers I, II & III*. *Abstinence Education I* includes the definition of abstinence; setting values and goals; information on reproduction, sex, and marriage; STD slides and information; and information on how to refuse sex. *ABED II* discusses the social and psychological benefits of abstinence, the benefits of marriage, and the negative effects of the media. *Heritage Keepers I, II, and III* focus on character building and include topics such as peer independence, how to apologize, having pride in yourself and your family, affirmation of abstinence, how to deal with stress and emotions, and marriage fulfillment.

Heritage Community Services also has several community outreach components. The “Parent Component” consists of home visits to promote character-based life skills education within families. The “Faith Component” is designed to bridge gaps in communication and knowledge with faith agencies to better equip faith leaders to address issues of abstinence. Heritage Community Service also runs a media campaign, which consists of several 30-minute “infomercials” with testimonials from young people who have chosen to abstain. The slogan of the media campaign is “If you knew better, you'd do better!”

SOUTH CAROLINA

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2003

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of grant	Amount of Grant Money	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control www.scdhec.net	\$811,000 federal	Title V
Heritage Community Services QUADRUPLE GRANTEE 2001-2004 QUADRUPLE GRANTEE QUADRUPLE GRANTEE www.heritageservices.org	\$681,000 \$637,985 \$800,000 \$600,000	Title V sub-grantee SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant) SPRANS-CBAE South Carolina Department of Social Services
Medical University of South Carolina www.musc.edu	\$225,000	AFLA
The Children's Council	\$280,937	AFLA

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

Owens Goff
 South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
 Bureau of Maternal and Child Health
 Mills/ Jarrett Complex
 1751 Calhoun St.
 Columbia, SC 29201
 Phone: (803) 896-0770

South Carolina Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of South Carolina
1338 Main St., Suite 800
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803)799-5151
www.aclusc.org

New Morning Foundation
P.O. Box 11531
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 929-0088
www.newmorningfoundation.org

South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen
Pregnancy
1511 Gregg St.
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 771-7700
www.teenpregnancysc.org

South Carolina Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Heritage Community Services
2810 Ashley Phosphate Rd.
Suite B-9
Charleston, SC 29418
Phone: (843) 863-0508
www.heritageservices.org

Palmetto Family Council
P.O. Box 11953
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 733-5600
www.palmettofamily.org

Newspapers in South Carolina

The Greenville News
Jan Phillips
Medical/Health Editor
305 S. Main St.
Greenville, SC 29601
Phone: (864) 298-4294

The Post and Courier
Steve Mullins
Medical/Health Editor
134 Columbus St.
Charleston, SC 29403
Phone: (843) 937-5700

The State
Betsy Guzior
Medical/Health Editor
1401 Shop Rd.
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 771-8441

The Sun News
Elaine Gaston
Medical/Health Reporter
914 Frontage Rd. E.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 626-0299