



## SOUTH DAKOTA

*South Dakota received \$973,572 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2005.<sup>1</sup>*

### 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 twelve. 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

#### *Bill Would Require Balanced Instruction in Human Sexuality*

Introduced in January 2006 and assigned to the Senate Committee on Education, Senate Bill 196 would require that public school students in grades six through eight receive instruction on human sexuality. This information must be age-appropriate and medically accurate, emphasize abstinence, and include information about the advantages and disadvantages of contraception. The bill died at the end of the 2006 session.

#### *Legislation Would Place Strict Restrictions on School Instruction*

House Bill 1217 would place numerous restrictions on what is taught in schools. First, instruction would have to follow an abstinence-only-until-marriage model and could not follow models of instruction based on risk reduction, including “encouraging, promoting, and providing instruction in the use of contraceptive drugs, devices, or methods.” Instruction would also have to “inform students that engaging in unlawful sexual activity may be a crime punishable by law.” Finally, school districts would have to create an advisory board and the majority of members would have to be parents who have children currently in the school district. HB 1217 passed the House but died at the end of the 2006 session.

#### *Bill Would Require Health Education to be Medically Accurate and Objective*

Introduced in January 2005 and referred to the Senate Committee on Education, Senate Bill 166 would require that all school districts that provide health education ensure that the information is

“factual and medically accurate and objective.” Medically accurate and objective is defined as “verified or supported by research conducted in compliance with scientific methods and published in peer-reviewed journals, if appropriate, and recognized as accurate and objective by leading professional medical organizations and agencies with expertise in the relevant fields.” The bill died at the end of the 2005 session.

### **Events of Note**

*Sex Education Plays Interesting Role in School Board Election in South Dakota  
April 2005; Sioux Falls, SD*

In a forum held among the six candidates for Sioux Falls School Board, only two candidates wholeheartedly said sexuality education should be part of public education, while one candidate said it should not be taught at all.

One candidate, John Stratman, argued that if sexuality education is taught, abstinence should be an integral part of the lesson. Interestingly, Stratman is on the board of directors of both the Abstinence Clearinghouse and the Alpha Center, a crisis pregnancy center, both of which are run by abstinence-only leader Leslee Unruh.<sup>2</sup> Unruh and her husband donated money to Stratman’s campaign. In addition, the anti-choice Alpha Center wrote about Stratman in its online newsletter stating that, “Mr. Stratman is a strong proponent of parents’ rights and traditional values, including abstinence education...His election to the school board would ensure a strong voice for the safety and well-being of our children.”

One local newspaper suggested that such a mention seemed to blur the lines of election laws as the relevant statute states that, “no association or corporation can contribute or attempt to contribute any valuable consideration to any candidate.”<sup>3</sup> Stratman lost to incumbent Debbie Hoffman.

### **South Dakota’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note<sup>4</sup>**

- In 2005, 47% of female high school students and 41% of male high school students in South Dakota reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 4% of female high school students and 8% 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 9% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 17% of female high school students and 12% 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 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 34% of female high school students and 29% 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 35% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.

- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 54% of females and 61% of males in South Dakota reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 21% of females and 19% of males in South Dakota reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 26% of females and 36% of males in South Dakota reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, 86% of high school students in South Dakota reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, teens ages 15–19 accounted for 39% of the 2,606 total cases of Chlamydia reported in South Dakota.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2003, teens ages 15–19 accounted for 28% of the 226 total cases of gonorrhea reported in South Dakota.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2000, South Dakota's abortion rate was 7 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2002, South Dakota's birth rate was 38 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>8</sup>

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

South Dakota received \$136,379 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2005. 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 organizations. South Dakota provides approximately \$25,000 in state funds, and the remainder of the match is provided by sub-grantees. The South Dakota Department of Health oversees the funding. There are five sub-grantees in South Dakota: the Abstinence Clearinghouse, the Northern Hills Crisis Pregnancy Center, the Girl Scouts of Minnla-Kota, Growing up Together, and Bethany Christian Services.

The Abstinence Clearinghouse uses its funding to provide its *Truth for Youth* program which promotes a message of abstinence-until-marriage for teens, primarily across eastern South Dakota, although recently the program expanded to serve more rural areas as well as Native American reservations. The *Truth for Youth* team works with approximately 30 schools and also provides support and education for parents and community groups.<sup>9</sup>

The Abstinence Clearinghouse takes positions on numerous topics related to sexuality and sexuality education. For example, the organization states its position on sexual orientation as, “Research shows the homosexual lifestyle is not a healthy alternative for males or females. The male and female bodies are not anatomically suited to accommodate sexual relations with members of the same sex. Sexual practices in the homosexual lifestyle are considered very dangerous for disease, infection, ect.[sic] This lifestyle should not be encouraged as healthy or as an equal alternative to marriage.”<sup>10</sup>

In addition, the organization states that sexuality education should not include images of external genitalia: “Diagrams of internal organs are acceptable, but images or pictures of external genitalia in any form, whether diseased or healthy, can be determined[sic] to the health of young men and women’s minds.”<sup>11</sup>

The Northern Hills Pregnancy Center is a crisis pregnancy center. Crisis pregnancy centers typically advertise as providing medical services and then use anti-choice propaganda, misinformation, and fear and shame tactics to dissuade women facing unintended pregnancy from exercising their right to choose. Its website includes biased information about abortion procedures, such as, “each procedure is painful for both the mother and her unborn baby.” When discussing the most common abortion procedure, known as a “D & C,” the website reads, “after the cervix is dilated, a suction machine nearly thirty times more powerful than a vacuum cleaner dismembers and removes the baby.”<sup>12</sup> This is not a medically accurate account of the procedure, and is clearly meant to invoke guilt and fear.

Bethany Christian Services uses a program called *Teen Legacy*, which targets 53 school districts in 23 counties across the state. *Teen Legacy* seeks to “nurture a generation of youth who make healthy and responsible choices by revealing the truth about premarital sexual activity and its consequences, teaching teens how to resist pressures, and focusing on how abstinence until marriage will protect and enhance their relationships and futures.” The program targets students in grades seven through twelve and uses *A.C. Green’s Game Plan* (Grades 7–10), *Navigator* (Grades 9–12), and *No Apologies The Truth About Life, Love and Sex* (Grades 7–12).

SIECUS reviewed *Game Plan* and found that in order to convince high school students to remain abstinent until marriage, the curriculum relies on messages of fear and shame, inaccurate and misleading information, and biased views of marriage, sexual orientation, and family structure. In addition, *Game Plan* fails to provide important information on sexual health, including how students can seek testing and treatment if they suspect they may have an STD. Finally, the format and underlying biases of the curriculum do not allow for cultural, community, and individual values, and discourage critical thinking and discussions of alternate points of view in the classroom. For example, *Game Plan* states that, “even if you’ve been sexually active, it’s never too late to say no. You can’t go back, but you can go forward. You might feel guilty or untrustworthy, but you can start over again.”<sup>13</sup>

SIECUS reviewed *Navigator* and found that it relies on messages of fear and shame, inaccurate and misleading information, and biased views of marriage, sexual orientation, and pregnancy options. *Navigator* fails to provide important information on sexual health, and the format and underlying biases of the curriculum dictate specific values and discourage critical thinking. For example, the authors explain “*Navigator* does not promote the use of contraceptives for teens. No contraceptive device is guaranteed to prevent pregnancy. Besides, students who do not exercise self-control to remain abstinent are not likely to exercise self-control in the use of a contraceptive device.”<sup>14</sup>

**Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE)<sup>15</sup> and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees**

There are two CBAE grantees in South Dakota: the Alpha Center and the Northern Hills Pregnancy Center. There is one AFLA grantee in South Dakota: Rural American Initiative.

The Alpha Center is a crisis pregnancy center that was founded and is run by Leslee Unruh, founder of the Abstinence Clearinghouse. Crisis pregnancy centers typically advertise as providing medical services and then use anti-choice propaganda, misinformation, and fear and shame tactics to dissuade women facing unintended pregnancy from exercising their right to choose. The Alpha Center’s website includes misleading information about emergency contraception and abortion. It states that if a woman has a medical abortion, “the resulting emotional distress may have even more impact. Rather than being ‘over with’ in a few minutes (as in a surgical abortion) this abortion could last for over a week. Then, when the woman finally does abort, she will expel a tiny dead baby.”<sup>16</sup> According to the National Abortion Federation, at the gestitational age at which medical abortions are performed, an embryo is the size of a grain of rice. The Alpha Center’s website also states that emergency contraception can cause infertility. There is no medical evidence to support this statement.

For more information on Northern Hills Pregnancy Center, see the Title V section.

**Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2005**

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee</b>  <b>Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)</b>
South Dakota Department of Health  <a href="http://www.state.sd.us/doh/Abstinence/index.htm">www.state.sd.us/doh/Abstinence/index.htm</a>	\$136,379 federal \$25,000 state	Title V
Abstinence Clearinghouse  <a href="http://www.abstinence.net">www.abstinence.net</a>	\$27,000	Title V sub-grantee
Bethany Christian Services  <a href="http://www.bethany.org">www.bethany.org</a>	\$40,048	Title V sub-grantee
Growing Up Together	\$15,000	Title V sub-grantee
Girl Scouts of Minn-la-Kota  <a href="http://www.gsmik.org/html/outreach.html">www.gsmik.org/html/outreach.html</a>	\$6,500	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 Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)</b>
Northern Hills Pregnancy Center	\$26,500	Title V sub-grantee
DUAL GRANTEE  2005–2008  <u><a href="http://www.pregnancy-center.org">www.pregnancy-center.org</a></u>	\$317,231	CBAE
Alpha Center  2004–2007	\$294,962	CBAE
Rural American Initiatives  2005–2006	\$225,000	AFLA

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

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 615 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
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**South Dakota Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

ACLU of the Dakotas  
 Manchester Building  
 112 N. University Dr., Suite 301  
 Fargo, ND 58102  
 Phone: (701) 461-7290

NARAL Pro-Choice South Dakota  
 401 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 330G  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57103  
 Phone: (605) 334-5065  
[www.prochoicesd.org](http://www.prochoicesd.org)

Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North  
 Dakota, and South Dakota  
 1965 Ford Pkwy.  
 St Paul, MN 55116  
 Phone: (651) 698-2401  
[www.ppmsd.org](http://www.ppmsd.org)

**South Dakota Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Abstinence Clearinghouse  
801 E. 41<sup>st</sup> St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
Phone: (605) 335-3643  
[www.abstinence.net](http://www.abstinence.net)

Catholic Social Services  
(Crisis Pregnancy Services)  
918 Fifth St.  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
Phone: (605) 348-6086

South Dakota Family Policy Council  
3130 West 57<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 108  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
Phone: (605) 335-8100  
[www.sdfamily.org](http://www.sdfamily.org)

South Dakota Right to Life  
PO Box 1032  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Phone: (605) 224-9181  
[www.sdril.org](http://www.sdril.org)

**Newspapers in South Dakota**

*Aberdeen American News*  
Jeff Bahr  
Medical/Health Editor  
124 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Phone: (605) 622-2320

*Argus Leader*  
Kevin Dobbs  
Medical/Health Reporter  
200 S. Minnesota Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
Phone: (605) 331-3924

*Black Hills Pioneer*  
Wendy Pitlick  
Community News Reporter  
315 Seaton Cir.  
Spearfish, SD 57783  
Phone: (605) 642-2761

*Brookings Register*  
Assignment Editor  
312 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Brookings, SD 57006  
Phone: (605) 692-6271

*Capital Journal*  
Assignment Editor  
333 W. Dakota Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Phone: (605) 224-7301

*The Daily Republic*  
Assignment Editor  
120 S. Lawler St.  
Mitchell, SD 57301  
Phone: (605) 996-5514

*Huron Plainsman*  
Roger Kasa  
Community News Reporter  
49 3<sup>rd</sup> St. SE  
Huron, SD 57350  
Phone: (605) 352-4942

*Rapid City Journal*  
Barbara Tomovick  
Community News Editor  
507 Main St.  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
Phone: (605) 394-8403

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*Watertown Public Opinion*  
Assignment Editor  
120 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NW  
Watertown, SD 57200  
Phone: (605) 886-6901

*Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan*  
Assignment Editor  
319 Walnut St.  
Yankton, SD 57078  
Phone: (605) 665-7811

<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 2005 begins on October 1, 2004 and ends on September 30, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Brenda Wade Schmidt, "Sex Education Splits Board Hopefuls," *Argus Leader*, 29 April 2005, 1B.

<sup>3</sup> Brenda Wade Schmidt, "Alpha Center Assists Candidate," *Argus Leader*, 3 May 2005, 1A.

<sup>4</sup> Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Danice K. Eaton, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2005," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 55, no. SS-5 (9 June 2006): 1-108, accessed 8 June 2006, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>.

<sup>5</sup> *Sexually Transmitted Disease Statistics: Chlamydia by Age and Gender, 2003*, South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Disease Prevention (3 February 2005), accessed 7 February 2005, <<http://www.state.sd.us/doh/Disease/stdstats.htm>>.

<sup>6</sup> *Sexually Transmitted Disease Statistics: Gonorrhea by Age and Gender, 2003*, South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Disease Prevention (3 February 2005), accessed 7 February 2005, <<http://www.state.sd.us/doh/Disease/stdstats.htm>>.

<sup>7</sup> *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, February 2004), accessed 28 January 2005, <[http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state\\_pregnancy\\_trends.pdf](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state_pregnancy_trends.pdf)>.

<sup>8</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>9</sup> *Programs Funded for Fiscal Year 2005*, South Dakota Department of Health, accessed 8 November 2005, <<http://www.state.sd.us/doh/Abstinence/programs.htm>>

<sup>10</sup> Megan, *Position Statements: Homosexuality*, Abstinence Clearinghouse (January 25, 2006), accessed 13 April 2006 <<http://abstinence.net/blog/index.php?postid=191>>.

<sup>11</sup> Megan, *Position Statements: Images in Educational Material*, Abstinence Clearinghouse (January 16, 2005), accessed 13 April 2006 <<http://abstinence.net/blog/index.php?postid=176>>.

<sup>12</sup> *About the Abortion*, The Pregnancy Center (2005), accessed 8 November 2005, <<http://www.pregnancy-center.org/help.htm>>.

<sup>13</sup> Scott Phelps and Libby Gray, *A.C. Green's Game Plan* (Golf, IL: Project Reality, 2001), For more information, see SIECUS' review of *A.C. Green's Game Plan* at <[http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula\\_reviews.html](http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html)>

<sup>14</sup> Scott Phelps and Libby Gray, *Navigator: Finding Your Way to A Healthy and Successful Future* (Golf, IL: Project Reality, 2003). For more information, see SIECUS' review of *Navigator* at <[http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula\\_reviews.html](http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html)>.

<sup>15</sup> In Fiscal Year 2004 SPRANS—CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In Fiscal Year 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>16</sup> *Abortion Procedure*, The Alpha Center, accessed 9 February 2005, <<http://www.alphacenter.org/answers/abortions.php>>.