



TENNESSEE

Tennessee received \$6,613,689 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2006.¹

Tennessee Sexuality Education Law and Policy

Tennessee Code forbids the teaching of any sexuality education class unless it has been approved by the state board of education and the local school board, and is taught by instructors deemed to be qualified by the local school board. Any course in sexuality education must “include presentations encouraging abstinence from sexual intercourse during the teen and pre-teen years.” Violation of this rule is considered a Class C misdemeanor.

The Code also protects sexuality education teachers:

With respect to sex education courses otherwise offered in accordance with the requirements of this subsection, no instructor shall be construed to be in violation of this section for answering in good faith any question, or series of questions, germane and material to the course, asked of the instructor and initiated by a student or students enrolled in the course.

Sexuality education is not required; however, the state code explains that if any county in Tennessee has pregnancy rates higher than 19.5 pregnancies per 1,000 females ages 15–17, then every school district in that county must implement family life education in accordance with curriculum guidelines provided by the state board of education. This education must emphasize abstinence until marriage and must include instruction in the prevention of HIV/AIDS- and sexually transmitted disease (STD).

Family life education must be taught for four years after the release of the initial teen pregnancy rates. If the school district fails to implement family life education, then the county must do so. If the school board does not implement family life education, the commissioner of education for the state is instructed to withhold state funding.

According to Tennessee Code, if a sexuality education program is developed in any school district, “in developing the plan, the state board shall consider such programs and materials as *Sex Respect*, *Teen-Aid*, and the *3-R Project* of the South Carolina departments of education and health.” The state also recommends a plan for curriculum development, which includes building community and parental support for family life education. Schools must hold at least one public hearing. If, upon implementation of family life education in a school district, more than 50 parents or guardians with children enrolled in the school district complain about the program, the state department of education must audit the school district “for the purpose of evaluating the quality and effectiveness of the plan of family life instruction.” The state department of education must then recommend how to make the instruction more effective and how to build parental and community support for the program.

School districts may use health care professionals and social workers to assist in family life education. Such instructors must be individuals “upright of character and of good public standing.”

According to Tennessee law, HIV/AIDS-prevention courses may not be required for graduation. In addition, all instruction and materials related to HIV/AIDS prevention must place “primary emphasis on abstinence from premarital intimacy and on the avoidance of drug abuse in controlling the spread of AIDS.”

Tennessee Code allows students to be removed from sexuality education classes upon written request of their parent or guardian. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Tennessee Code Sections 49-6-1005, 49-6-1008, 49-6-1301, 49-6-1302, and 49-6-1303.

Recent Legislation

Legislation Requires Review of Family Life Curricula

In February 2006, House Bill 3819 and Senate Bill 3472 were introduced in the Tennessee state legislature, where they were sent to their respective Committees on Education. These bills require the Comptroller’s Office of Education to review the effectiveness of family life curricula and submit a written report to Senate and House committees with oversight of education. HB 3819 replaced SB 3472 on the Senate floor since it passed favorably in the House of Representatives, and on May 15, 2006, HB 3819 was signed into law by Governor Phil Bredesen.

Bill Rewards Five Model Programs

House Bill 3261 and Senate Bill 2845, both introduced in February 2006, would designate up to five total model programs in numerous topic areas including family life education, prevention of teenage pregnancy, and counseling services for teenagers who are, or think they might be, pregnant to receive funding in recognition of their work. The House Bill passed out of the House Committee on Children and Family Affairs and was referred to the House Committee on Finance, Ways, and Means.

Events of Note

Oak Ridge Board of Education Approves GSA January 2006; Oak Ridge, TN

In January 2006, the Oak Ridge Board of Education approved the formation of a Gay-Straight Alliance at Oak Ridge High School. Despite overwhelming support among the student body, the proposal to start a GSA was met with some initial opposition from school administrators and community members.

The Gay-Straight Alliance first brought its proposal to the school’s student council for approval. Before the council could vote, the staff advisor intervened explaining that further discussion of human sexuality was needed first. Despite the staff members’ suggestion, the student council took a vote and unanimously approved the club.

The Tennessee ACLU sent a letter to Oak Ridge High School’s principal, reminding the school that under the Equal Access Act the club has a right to form. The issue was brought to the attention of the school board by a parent who suggested that the club did not abide by school policy. The parent argued that since permission is required before students can participate in sexuality education classes, similar permission would be required for this club.² The school board and administrators disagreed, explaining that the GSA has a legal right to form and operate like any other club at the high school.³ One of the club’s founders responded to the victory: “We now have permission to have our club and will be looking forward to creating a more tolerant community at ORHS.”⁴

Tennessee Moves to Investigate “Ex-Gay” Camp
July 2005; TN

In June 2005, 16-year-old Zach Stark, a member of the “MySpace” online community, gained the support of thousands and commanded the attention of both the media and the state of Tennessee after he used his blog to detail his struggle of coming out to his parents and his subsequent enrollment in an “ex-gay” camp.

On May 29th, Stark reported on the blog that his parents made him apply to Refuge, a fundamentalist Christian program, which “exists to be a Christ-centered ministry for the prevention or remediation of unhealthy and destructive behaviors facing families, adults, and adolescents.”⁵ In Stark’s case, the goal of the program was to change his sexual orientation from homosexual to heterosexual. Stark expressed a resistance and hopelessness over the prospect of attending Refuge. “Even if I do come out straight, I’ll be so mentally unstable and depressed it won’t matter,” he wrote in his blog on May 30th.

Refuge offers programs lasting two or six weeks. They are held in a “park-like” setting from 9am–5pm, after which participants retreat to a hotel with a legal guardian. Refuge is a subsidiary of Love in Action International, which offers a range of similar programs. A confidential email sent from Refuge to Stark’s parents that Stark copied and posted on his blog outlines the strict rules of Refuge, including lengthy sessions of solitary confinement, isolation, and extreme restrictions of attire, correspondence, and privacy, sanctioned by Biblical quotations.

Love in Action International is an affiliate of Exodus International, the most prominent informational and referral organization in the “ex-gay” movement. Founded in 1976, the Exodus network includes over 150 secular and religious programs, counselors, and therapists in 17 member nations, predominantly the U.S. and Canada.⁶

Attempting to eliminate same-sex desires is referred to as “transformational ministries” by many religious groups while most secular groups refer to it as “reparative therapy.”⁷ The practice of reparative therapy holds little weight among mental health professionals. Most professional mental health organizations believe that reparative therapies carry a significant risk of perpetuating symptoms of anxiety, depression, and self-hatred rather than relieving them. The American Psychological Association (APA), in collaboration with ten major health professions, has stated that “the most important fact about ‘reparative therapy’ is that it is based on an understanding of homosexuality that has been rejected by all the major health and mental health professions.”⁸ The APA declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder in 1973.

After receiving complaints from supporters of Stark and the Queer Action Coalition, a grassroots organization formed in response to Stark’s struggle, Tennessee’s Department of Children’s Services (DCS) launched an investigation into allegations of child abuse at the Love in Action campus. “Emotional abuse is difficult to prove in the state of Tennessee,” explained a representative of Childhelp USA in Knoxville. “You have to document that the child is undergoing depression or suicidal ideation, that he can’t sleep or can’t eat.”⁹ On June 27th, the DCS determined that the child abuse allegations were unfounded.¹⁰

The Tennessee Department of Health and the Department of Mental Health and Human Developmental Disabilities also scrutinized the case to determine if Love in Action offers therapeutic services for which it is not licensed.¹¹ A spokesperson for Love in Action, however, insists that the program is a spiritual, not counseling, center and he said he will remove references to therapy from its website.¹²

Tennessee's Youth: Statistical Information of Note¹³

- In 2005, 56% of female high school students and 54% of male high school students in Tennessee reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 6% of female high school students and 11% of male high school students in Tennessee 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, 15% of female high school students and 19% of male high school students in Tennessee 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, 41% of female high school students and 35% of male high school students in Tennessee 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, 48% of females and 69% of males in Tennessee 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, 24% of females and 12% of males in Tennessee 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, 18% of females and 29% of males in Tennessee 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, 90% of high school students in Tennessee reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Tennessee's abortion rate was 16 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.¹⁴
- In 2004, Tennessee's birth rate was 52 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 compared to a teen birth rate of 41 per 1,000 nationwide.¹⁵

Memphis, Tennessee

- In 2005, 61% of female high school students and 75% of male high school students in Memphis, Tennessee reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.

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- In 2005, 6% of female high school students and 28% of male high school students in Memphis, Tennessee 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 38% of male high school students in Memphis, Tennessee 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, 44% of female high school students and 49% of male high school students in Memphis, Tennessee 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, 61% of females and 80% of males in Memphis, Tennessee 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, 10% of females and 7% of males in Memphis, Tennessee 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, 8% of females and 22% of males in Memphis, Tennessee 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, 84% of high school students in Memphis, Tennessee reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Tennessee received \$993,367 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2006. 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 Tennessee, the full state match is provided by sub-grantees. The Tennessee Department of Health oversees this funding and awards the majority of the funding to 16 sub-grantees. The remaining portion of the funds is used for an annual conference and regional seminars.

Sub-grantees include the Boys and Girls Club, a Girl Scout troop, crisis pregnancy centers, school-based programs, and faith-based organizations. The sub-grantees target young people ages 10–17 and their parents by running local media campaigns and other activities, including in-school programs. The sub-grantees use a variety of abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula, including *Choices*; *Choosing the Best LIFE*; *Me, My World, My Future*; *Signs of Life*; *Road Rules for Real Life*; *Postponing Sexual Involvement*; *Sex Can Wait*; *Sex Respect*; *SMART Moves*; *Why kNOW*; and *Worth Waiting For*.¹⁶

SIECUS reviewed *Choosing the Best LIFE* and found that it names numerous physical and psychological consequences of premarital sexual activity, suggests that sexually active teens will never have

happy futures, and implies that only teens with low self-esteem and poor judgment become sexually active. For example, *Choosing the Best LIFE* states that “relationships often lower the self-respect of both partners—one feeling used, the other feeling like the user. Emotional pain can cause a downward spiral leading to intense feelings of lack of worthlessness (sic).”¹⁷

SIECUS reviewed *Sex Respect* and found that the curriculum relies on messages of fear and shame, inaccurate and misleading information, and biased views of marriage, sexual orientation, and family structure. According to *Sex Respect*, “There is no way to have premarital sex without hurting someone.” *Sex Respect* implies that young people who become sexually active lack values, self-esteem, and principles: “Many young teens who have been brought up with principles and values may have already decided they want to save sex for marriage.” The curriculum is also not appropriate for public schools as it remains patently religious. For example, *Sex Respect* uses Biblical language in giving young people dating advice: “Set ending time for your date before you go out. Be home on time. Don’t invite your date in. Lead yourselves not into temptation.”¹⁸

SIECUS reviewed *Why kNOW* and found that it offers limited information about important topics in human sexuality such as puberty, anatomy, and human reproduction, and no information about sexual orientation and gender identity. The information that is included is outdated, inaccurate, and misleading. In addition, *Why kNOW* relies on negative messages, distorts information, and presents biased views of gender, marriage, family structure, sexual orientation, and pregnancy options. For example, the curriculum tells students that the tradition of lifting the bride’s veil during a wedding shows that “the groom [is] the only man allowed to uncover the bride,” and demonstrates “her respect for him by illustrating that she [has] not allowed any other man to lay claim to her.”¹⁹

Title V sub-grantees in Tennessee include three crisis pregnancy centers: Hope Clinic for Women, Hope Resource Center, and the Women’s Care 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.

The Women’s Care Center provides a lengthy list of common sexually transmitted diseases on its website and issues a reminder that abstaining from sex until marriage is the “only way to be 100% confident of avoiding an STD.”²⁰ The Hope Clinic for Women and the Women’s Care Center advertise on their websites that they offer school-based abstinence-only-until-marriage services. The Hope Clinic for Women hosts a *Mothers, Teens and Values (MTV)* conference as part of its abstinence-only-until-marriage program.²¹ (See the CBAE and AFLA section for more information on Hope Resource Center.)

The Blount Nurses for Health Education’s (BNHE) abstinence-only-until-marriage program is called “You’re Worth Waiting For (YWWF)”. YWWF clubs exist at Carpenters Middle School, Eagleton Middle School, Heritage Middle School, Heritage High School, William Blount High School, and William Blount Middle School. BNHE’s YWWF Club Coordinator addresses club members on the website in an end-of-the-school-year note:

Make this summer sex-free! You have way too much going on to complicate it with sex.
Be free from worry, disease and life-changing complications; be smart about your choices.
You are in control of your destiny. Enjoy choosing the right path. Your future spouse will thank you.²²

BNHE’s relies heavily on messages of fear and shame and medical misinformation on its website. Its website lists some of the permanent life changes that have “ruined young people’s lives” as a result of their decisions to be sexually active in their teen years:

- INFECTIONS, which cause death (examples: AIDS and hepatitis);

- PREGNANCIES, which leave young women agonizing over whether to become unmarried single moms, typically living in poverty and giving up any plans to go to college, or kill their unborn children through abortions; and
- GUILT, by having cheapened the sexual union between husband and wife through misuse of the greatest gift a person can give his or her spouse on the wedding night—purity and totally committed love, with no remorse or emotional baggage.²³

BNHE also misinforms its audience about critical topics such as HIV transmission and condom effectiveness. For example, its website suggests that HIV can be spread by “blood or secretions from an infected person coming into contact with another person’s skin.” In truth, HIV cannot be spread if blood and secretions come into contact with unbroken skin. In addition, BNHE warns that “small viruses may pass through tiny defects in the latex” of condoms.²⁴ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “...latex or polyurethane condoms provide a highly effective mechanical barrier to HIV.”²⁵

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

There are ten CBAE grantees in Tennessee: Boys and Girls Club of Tennessee Valley; Boys to Men, Inc./Right for Me Program; Break the Cycle; Centerstone Community Health Centers, Inc.; Christ Community Health Services; Hope Resource Center (receives two grants); Knoxville Leadership Foundation; Life Choices Inc./Right Choices of West Tennessee; Life Choices Pregnancy Support Center, Inc.; and Why kNOw Abstinence Education. There is one AFLA grantee: Break the Cycle.

Centerstone Community Health Centers, Inc. developed the abstinence-only-until-marriage program “MyChoice2Wait,” which is geared toward students ages 12–18 and adults living in Middle Tennessee.²⁶ Its website states, “A condom cannot cover your heart.”²⁷

MyChoice2Wait uses the *Choosing the Best* curricula: *Choosing the Best PATH* for grades seven and eight, *Choosing the Best LIFE* for grades nine through twelve, and *Choosing the Best SOUL MATE* as a follow-up for grades ten through twelve.²⁸ SIECUS reviewed *Choosing the Best PATH* and found that it provides endless information on the negative consequences of premarital sexual activity and utilizes a variety of tactics to suggest that teens should feel guilty, embarrassed, and ashamed of sexual behavior. For example, *Choosing the Best PATH* asks students: “How does being sexually active as a teen affect how a person feels about himself or herself?” The suggested answer is: “Can feel sad about losing virginity, loss of self-respect, blames self for getting pregnant or contracting an STD.” It goes on to say, “Sexual activity also can lead to the trashing of a person’s reputation, resulting in the loss of friends.”²⁹ (See the Title V section for more information on *Choosing the Best LIFE*.)

MyChoice2Wait also encourages youth to download and print a pledge card from its website.³⁰ Research has found that under certain conditions such pledges, most commonly called virginity pledges, may help some adolescents delay sexual intercourse. When they work, pledges help this select group of adolescents delay the onset of sexual intercourse for an average of 18 months—far short of marriage. Researchers found that pledges only worked when taken by a small group of students. Pledges taken by a whole class were ineffective. More importantly, the studies also found that those young people who took a pledge were one-third less likely to use contraception when they did become sexually active than their peers who had not pledged. These teens are therefore more vulnerable to the risks of unprotected sexual activity, such as unintended pregnancy and STDs, including HIV/AIDS. Further research has confirmed that although some students who take pledges delay intercourse, ultimately they are just as likely to contract an STD as their non-pledging

peers. The study also found that the STD rates were higher in communities where a significant proportion (over 20%) of the young people had taken virginity pledges.³¹

Christ Community Health Services describes its mission as providing “high-quality health care to the underserved in the context of distinctively Christian service. We recognize that Jesus Christ is the true healer of individuals and their communities and the source of our ability to serve. We seek to know Jesus and to make Him known.”³²

Christ Community Health Services runs the “Choices” program, geared toward youth ages 12–15 in Memphis and Shelby County.³³ “Choices” is an outreach program “devoted to helping teens reach the decision to save sexual activity until after marriage.”³⁴

Hope Resource Center is a crisis pregnancy center that describes itself as “a multifaceted Christian ministry addressing the issues of sexual health, unplanned pregnancy, and post-abortion recovery.”³⁵ Hope Resource Center has several professional affiliations, including Care Net, and the National Abstinence Clearinghouse.³⁶ Care Net “promotes more than 1,000 evangelical pregnancy centers across North America.”³⁷

Hope Resource Center states on its website that it uses ultrasounds on women who are determining their options: “Women in unplanned pregnancy can receive a free ultrasound, which often is the determining factor in their decision to carry.”³⁸ The American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), Society for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS), American College of Radiology (ACR) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) all discourage the use of ultrasound machines for the non-medical, non-diagnostic purpose of manipulating a patient’s decision.³⁹

Hope Resource Center runs an abstinence-only-until-marriage program called “Just Wait.” Just Wait’s website contains online games and quizzes geared toward youth. “The Relationship Quiz” reinforces negative gender stereotypes. For example, the “correct” response to the question, “Does what girls wear affect the way they may be treated on a date?” is “Yes, especially if they are dressed with provocative clothes (like when their skirts look more like belts than skirts).”⁴⁰ The “correct” answer to the question “How are guys and girls turned on sexually in a relationship?” is “Guys are turned on visually (by what they see) and girls are turned on auditory (by what they hear).”⁴¹

Just Wait also includes a media campaign with billboards and television commercials. The closing message on the television commercials “Dreams” and “Wedding Night” is “Don’t give in. Just wait.”⁴²

Another CBAE grantee, the Knoxville Leadership Foundation “serves the city while reconciling people to Jesus Christ and to each other.”⁴³ Knoxville Leadership Foundation conducts a “Sexual Abstinence Initiative,” which consists of three programs: *School Assembly Program*, *Silver Ring Thing*, and *The Crew*.

School Assembly Program is an abstinence-only-until-marriage program “presented in schools through a dynamic multi-media presentation and materials.”⁴⁴ The presentation includes music, videos, skits, and speakers. According to the Knoxville Leadership Foundation’s website, “No religious activities are conducted in this program.”⁴⁵

Silver Ring Thing (SRT) is described on the Knoxville Leadership Foundation’s website as “a faith-based program” that “contains a faith message.”⁴⁶ Knoxville Leadership Foundation states that the *Silver Ring Thing* portion of its initiative has reached more than 7,000 students and that “over 4400 teens pledged themselves to sexual purity, symbolized by wearing the silver ring.”⁴⁷

Silver Ring Thing is a multi-media chastity event created by a Pennsylvania-based organization of the same name. In August of 2005, officials at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) ordered SRT to submit a “corrective action plan” if it wanted to receive an expected \$75,000 grant for that fiscal year. This was in response to a lawsuit the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed against HHS, accusing the administration of using tax dollars to promote

Christianity.⁴⁸ In documents filed in federal court in Boston, the ACLU alleged that SRT's activities, brochures, and website were "permeated with religion" and use "taxpayer dollars to promote religious content, instruction and indoctrination."⁴⁹ The program is aimed at young people and graduates sign a covenant "before God Almighty" to remain virgins and earn a silver ring inscribed with a Bible passage reminding them to "keep clear of sexual sin." Many of the events are held in churches and, in filings with the Internal Revenue Service, the organization described its mission as "evangelical ministry" with an emphasis on "evangelistic crusade planning."⁵⁰

Crew, another abstinence-only-until-marriage program of the Knoxville Leadership Foundation, consists of "a group of students dedicated to influencing their peers to make good choices, particularly about SEX."⁵¹ Presentations given by *Crew* are conducted for their peers and are "high-tech, high-energy shows."⁵² In order to join *Crew*, a young person must make "a commitment to remain abstinent until marriage."⁵³ *Crew* members are in junior high and high school, and attend summer camp together every year.⁵⁴

Life Choices Pregnancy Support Center, Inc., is a crisis pregnancy center that lists among its services "information on RU-486 and the morning-after pill" and "pre-abortion education."⁵⁵ However, the information given about these topics is incorrect. For example, Life Choices Pregnancy Support Services discusses the morning-after pill, or emergency contraception (EC), in its "Abortion Procedures" section and then describes it as "an early abortion."⁵⁶ In fact, emergency contraception, also referred to as "the morning-after pill," is a high dose of regular birth control pills that can reduce a woman's chance of becoming pregnant by 75 to 89 percent if taken within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse. Many people confuse EC with the RU-486 or mifepristone, often called the "abortion pill." EC is not the same thing and cannot end a pregnancy. EC works by delaying or inhibiting ovulation or inhibiting implantation. If an egg has already implanted in a woman's uterus, EC will not terminate the pregnancy nor will it harm the developing fetus. In fact, research suggests that the availability of EC has led to a decrease in abortions. According to the Guttmacher Institute, emergency contraceptives accounted for up to 43% of the decrease in total abortions between 1994 and 2000, and an estimated 51,000 abortions were averted by women's use of emergency contraceptives in 2000 alone.⁵⁷

Life Choices Pregnancy Support Center, Inc. also states that an abortion causes risk in future pregnancies and lead to breast cancer.⁵⁸ Abortion is a generally safe procedure, and medically sound research has shown that first trimester abortions cause almost no long-term fertility problems.⁵⁹ Moreover, 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.⁶⁰

Life Choices Pregnancy Support Center also states, "Some women experience strong negative emotions after abortion. Sometimes this occurs within days and sometimes it happens after many years. This psychological response is known as Post-Abortion Stress (PAS)."⁶¹ It then lists symptoms, including: sexual dysfunction; relationship problems; alcohol and drug abuse; and psychological reactions.⁶² There is no sound scientific evidence linking abortion to subsequent mental health problems, termed "post-abortion stress syndrome" by anti-abortion groups. Neither the American Psychological Association nor the American Psychiatric Association recognize "post-abortion stress syndrome" as a legitimate medical condition.⁶³ Nevertheless, abortion opponents often refer to studies that have been found to have severe methodological flaws or cite anecdotal evidence of this condition in an effort to scare women out of exercising their right to choose.

Right Choices of West Tennessee spreads the abstinence-only-until-marriage message through drama troupes and peer and adult mentoring. According to its website, it "maximizes penetration throughout our four-county area using community-based, high-visibility special events."⁶⁴ Right

Choices of West Tennessee has hosted speakers such as Pam Stenzel. Ms. Stenzel speaks to thousands of youth “about the consequences—both physical and emotional—of sex outside of marriage.”⁶⁵ She also produces books, curricula, CDs, jewelry, and videos with the abstinence-only-until-marriage message. Ms. Stenzel relies on a message of fear and shame regarding sexuality instead of giving young people accurate information. For example, during her video *Sex-Ed—No Screwin’ Around*, Ms. Stenzel states, “If you have sex outside of one permanent monogamous—that means one partner who has only been with you—if you have sex outside of that context, then you will pay.”⁶⁶

Right Choices provides abstinence-only-until-marriage programming for students in grades six through twelve. For students in grades six through nine, Right Choices uses the *Why kNOW* curriculum.⁶⁷ (See the Title V section for more information on *Why kNOW*.)

The Right Choices website has an “FAQ” section that stigmatizes already sexually active young people. For example, the answer to “What if teens have already engaged in sexual activity?” is “There are students who have already been involved in sex outside a faithful marriage relationship.... They may have already had an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, an STD, or felt heartbreak and a loss of self-respect.”⁶⁸

Why kNOW Abstinence Education Program was formerly a division of AAA Women’s Services, a crisis pregnancy center that offers among its services free “educational ultrasound” and “accurate information on abortion procedures.”⁶⁹ AAA Women’s Services’s website puts forth gender stereotypes and relies on religious. For example, the website states, “Believe it or not, sex has been around a LONG TIME! As a matter of fact, God (Yes, God) created sex in the Garden of Eden. God made the woman’s body to fit perfectly with the man’s.”⁷⁰

Why kNOW is headquartered in Tennessee and reportedly reaches 15,000 youth every year.⁷¹ The *Why kNOW* curriculum is used by abstinence-only-until-marriage organizations in 37 states and nine countries.⁷² In addition to providing misleading and biased information, *Why kNOW* also presents Biblical references as facts, even though the program is used in public schools. For example, *Why kNOW* states, the “best guideline about love ever written” is from 56 AD, and then hands out a close paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13:4: “Real Love: is patient; is kind; does not envy; does not boast; is not proud; is not rude; is not self-seeking; is not easily angered; keeps no record of wrongs; does not delight in evil; rejoices with the truth; always protects; always trusts; always hopes; always lasts; [and] never fails.”⁷³ (See the Title V section for more information on *Why kNOW*.)

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2006

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds)
Tennessee Department of Health www2.state.tn.us/health/MCH/abstinenceeducation.htm	\$993,367 federal	Title V

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds)
Blount Nurses for Health Education www.ywwf.org	\$43,400	Title V sub-grantee
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Knoxville	\$43,400	Title V sub-grantee
Boys to Men, Inc. “Right for Me Program” DUAL GRANTEE 2005–2008 www.boys-to-men.org	\$65,200 \$454,046	Title V sub-grantee CBAE
Break the Cycle TRIPLE GRANTEE 2006–2011 TRIPLE GRANTEE 2003–2008 www.kormet.org/bkcycle	\$38,800 \$526,223 \$175,000	Title V sub-grantees CBAE AFLA
Catholic Charities of Tennessee www.cctenn.org	\$121,800	Title V sub-grantee
Children and Family Services www.diane.tnstate.edu/Dircov.htm	\$38,800	Title V sub-grantee
Concerned Neighbors United	\$15,800	Title V sub-grantee
Creative Life, Inc.	\$63,000	Title V sub-grantee

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds)
Girls Scouts of Moccasin Bend Council, Inc. www.mbgsc.org	\$37,600	Title V sub-grantee
Hope Clinic for Women www.hopeclinicforwomen.org	\$47,200	Title V sub-grantee
Hope Resource Center TRIPLE GRANTEE 2003–2006 TRIPLE GRANTEE 2006–2011 www.hoperc.org	\$67,800 \$317,282 \$521,000	Title V sub-grantee CBAE CBAE
REACHS www.tnpca.org/hcenters	\$89,800	Title V sub-grantee
Saint Andrews AME Church	\$41,600	Title V sub-grantee
Somali Community Center of Nashville www.somalinashville.org	\$49,000	Title V sub-grantee
Warren Co. Schools and Health Services www.warrenschoools.com	\$60,600	Title V sub-grantee
Women’s Care Center www.rheofofhope.org	\$42,200	Title V sub-grantee

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds)
Boys and Girls Club of Tennessee Valley 2006–2011 www.bgctnv.org	\$410,850	CBAE
Centerstone Community Health Centers 2004–2007 www.centerstone.org	\$781,000	CBAE
Christ Community Health Services 2006–2011 www.christcommunityhealth.org	\$599,400	CBAE
Knoxville Leadership Foundation 2005–2008 www.klf.org	\$354,236	CBAE
Life Choices, Inc./ Right Choices of West Tennessee 2003–2006 www.rightchoicestn.com	\$534,339	CBAE
Life Choices Pregnancy Support Center, Inc. 2006–2011 www.hope-at-lifechoices.com	\$556,402	CBAE

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds)
Why kNOw Abstinence Education 2004–2007 www.whyknow.org	\$390,544	CBAE

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

Yvette Mack
 Tennessee Department of Health
 Maternal and Child Health Section
 5th Floor, Cordell Hull Building
 425 5th Ave., North
 Nashville, TN 37243
 Phone: (615) 741-7353

Tennessee Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Tennessee
 P.O. Box 120160
 Nashville, TN 37212
 Phone: (615) 320-7142
www.aclu-tn.org

Knoxville Chapter of the National
 Organization for Women
 P.O. Box 5332
 Knoxville, TN 37928
 Phone: (865) 281-8075
www.knoxvillenow.org

Planned Parenthood of Middle and East
 Tennessee
 50 Vantage Way, Suite 102
 Nashville, TN 37228
 Phone: (615) 345-0952
www.plannedparenthood.org/mid-east-tennessee/

T E N N E S S E E

Tennessee Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Center for Bio-Ethical Reform
P.O. Box 20115
Knoxville, TN 37940
Phone: (865) 609-9033
www.abortionno.org/CBRSoutheast/

Tennessee Right to Life
State Central Office
4802 Charlotte Ave.
Nashville, TN 37209
Phone: 1-877-246-6735
www.tennesseerighttolife.org

Newspapers in Tennessee

Chattanooga Times & Free Press
Audrey Cross
Education Reporter
400 E. 11th St.
Chattanooga, TN 37403
Phone: (423) 757-6357

The City Paper
Vendane Atreye
Education Reporter
624 Grassmere Pk., Suite 28
Nashville, TN 37211
Phone: (615) 298-9833 ext. 245

The Commercial Appeal
Mary Powers
Health & Medicine Reporter
495 Union Ave.
Memphis, TN 38103
Phone: (901) 529-2383

The Daily Times
Bonny Millard
Education Reporter
307 E. Harper Ave.
Maryville, TN 37804
Phone: (865) 981-1147

The Jackson Sun
Donna Miller
Local Reporter
245 W. Lafayette St.
Jackson, TN 38301
Phone: (731) 425-9617

The Jackson Sun
Gwenda Anthony
Family Reporter
245 W. Lafayette St.
Jackson, TN 38301
Phone: (731) 425-9631

Johnson City Press
James Brooks
Community News Senior Reporter
204 W. Main St.
Johnson City, TN 37604
Phone: (423) 929-3111

Johnson City Press
Sam Watson
Education Writer
204 W. Main St.
Johnson City, TN 37604
Phone: (423) 929-3111

Kingsport Times-News
Teresa Hicks
Community News Reporter
701 Lynn Garden Dr.
Kingsport, TN 37660
Phone: (423) 392-1379

Knoxville News Sentinel
Kristi Nelson
Health & Medicine Editor
2332 News Sentinel Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37921
Phone: (865) 342-6397

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The Leaf-Chronicle
Melissa Tyndall
Education Reporter
200 Commerce St.
Clarksville, TN 37040
Phone: (931) 245-0719

Germantown News
Education Editor
7545 North St.
P.O. Box 381735
Germantown, TN 38138
Phone: (901) 754-0337

The Tennessean
Claudia Pinto
Health & Medicine Reporter
1100 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203
Phone: (615) 259-8277

The Tennessean
Jill Wiersma
Education Reporter
1100 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203
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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 2006 begins on October 1, 2005 and ends on September 30, 2006.

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