



# SIECUS

State Profile

## U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

*The Department of Human Services in the U.S. Virgin Islands received \$57,057 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2008.<sup>1</sup>*

### U.S. Virgin Islands Sexuality Education Law and Policy

The U.S. Virgin Islands requires sex education, including AIDS prevention education, to be a component of the health curriculum taught to students in grades kindergarten through 12.<sup>2</sup>

### Recent Legislation

SIECUS is not aware of any proposed legislation regarding sexuality education in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### U.S. Virgin Islands' Youth: Statistical Information of Note<sup>3</sup>

- In 2003, 37% of female high school students and 64% of male high school students in the U.S. Virgin Islands reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 5% of female high school students and 32% of male high school students in the U.S. Virgin Islands 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, 7% of female high school students and 35% of male high school students in the U.S. Virgin Islands 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, 24% of female high school students and 42% of male high school students in the U.S. Virgin Islands 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 34% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 72% of females and 87% of males in the U.S. Virgin Islands reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 57% of females and 69% of males nationwide.

U . S . V I R G I N I S L A N D S

- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 4% of females and 1% of males in the U.S. Virgin Islands 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, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 8% of females and 15% of males in the U.S. Virgin Islands 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, 89% of high school students in the U.S. Virgin Islands reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

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

- The U.S. Virgin Islands received \$57,057 in federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2008.
- The Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage grant requires territories to provide three territory-raised dollars or the equivalent in services for every four federal dollars received. The territory match may be provided in part or in full by local groups. The Department of Human Services did not provide SIECUS with information about how the match is made.
- In the U.S. Virgin Islands, the funds are used for a variety of activities at after-school facilities. No specific curriculum is used.

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

- There are no CBAE or AFLA grantees in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2008**

| Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee<br><br>Length of Grant | Amount of Grant | Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services              | \$57,057        | Title V                                                       |

### Adolescent Health Contact<sup>4</sup>

Lennox Zamore  
Abstinence Education Project (AEP)  
U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services  
Financial Program Division  
Knud Hansen Complex, Building A / 1303 Hospital Ground  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00803  
Phone: (340) 774-7125

### U.S. Virgin Islands Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

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| Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands<br>P.O. Box 11790<br>Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas<br>U.S. Virgin Islands 00801<br>Phone: (340) 774-6031<br><a href="http://www.cfvi.net">www.cfvi.net</a> | Virgin Islands Community AIDS<br>Resource and Education, Inc.<br>(VICARE)<br>P.O. Box 223235<br>Christiansted, Virgin Islands 00822<br>Phone: (340) 692-9111<br><a href="http://www.vicareinc.org">www.vicareinc.org</a> |
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### U.S. Virgin Islands Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

SIECUS is not aware of any organizations opposed to comprehensive sexuality education in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### Newspapers in U.S. Virgin Islands<sup>5</sup>

*The Virgin Islands Daily News*  
Newsroom  
9155 Estate Thomas  
St. Thomas, V.I. 00802  
Phone: (340) 774-8772  
[www.virginislandsdailynews.com](http://www.virginislandsdailynews.com)

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Virgin Islands Title XVII; Amended 2 August 2002.

<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Jo Anne Grunbaum, et al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2003," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 53, no. SS-2 (21 May 2004): 1-108, accessed 13 December 2008, <<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5302a1.htm>>. Note: the YRBS was conducted again in 2005 and 2007 but the U.S. Virgin Islands did not participate in those surveys.

<sup>4</sup> SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

<sup>5</sup> 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](#).