



WISCONSIN

Community-based organizations in Wisconsin received \$2,743,419 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2008.¹

Wisconsin Sexuality Education Law and Policy

Wisconsin state law encourages, but does not require, school boards to provide classes in sexuality education. However, the law does identify educational goals and expectations; one of these goals is personal development. The law also states that school boards shall provide a program to discuss the human body and how to maintain lifelong health. It adds that this program should include instruction in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and should be offered in high schools. According to Wisconsin law, this instruction may include:

- self-esteem, responsible decision-making, and personal responsibility;
- interpersonal relationships;
- discouragement of adolescent sexual activity;
- family life and skills required of a parent;
- human sexuality; reproduction; family planning, as defined in [state law] s.243.07, including natural family planning; human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; prenatal development; childbirth; adoption; available prenatal and postnatal support; and male and female responsibility; and
- sex stereotypes and protective behavior.

If a school board provides instruction in any of these areas, it must “also provide instruction in marriage and parental responsibility.” These classes may occur in kindergarten through 12th grade and must be age-appropriate. Classes must also stress that “abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.”

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is authorized to develop a health education program that includes instruction about STDs and AIDS. The DPI also has the authority to develop health curriculum guidelines, but is prohibited from requiring local school boards to use a specific curriculum.

The DPI created the *Wisconsin School HIV/AIDS Policy Tool Kit* in 2003 to increase the number of schools implementing policies and procedures, including curricula, related to HIV/AIDS. The *Wisconsin Human Growth and Development Resource Packet* was also created by the DPI to assist schools in sexuality education by providing information such as research on teen sexual behavior, locally developed materials on curricula, and evaluation tools.

Parents and guardians must be given the opportunity to review all materials related to sexuality education classes. If such classes are offered, school boards must also form advisory councils consisting of

“parents, teachers, school administrators, pupils, health care professionals, members of the clergy, and other residents of the school district” to review the curricula at least every three years.

Parents or guardians may remove their children from sexuality education classes with a written note to the teacher or principal. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Wisconsin Statutes 115.35, 118.01, 118.019, *School HIV/AIDS Policy Tool Kit*, and *Human Growth and Development Resource Packet*.

Recent Legislation

An Act to Amend State Statute Relating to Human Growth and Development Instruction

Senate Bill 405, introduced in January 2008, would have amended Wisconsin health education policy to include in its purpose the objective to “teach students the skills necessary to make responsible decisions about sexual behavior.” Section 118.019 of the statute, which states that human growth and development education should “present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior...for unmarried pupils,” would have been amended to read “present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior...for minors.” The bill would have also amended the phrase, “emphasizes that abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases...” by removing the words “before marriage.” The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Education but failed to pass and died.

Legislation to Notify Parents of Abstinence-Only Instruction

Introduced in January 2008, Senate Bill 400 would have required school boards to notify the parent or guardian of each student receiving abstinence-only instruction. Information included in the notice would have stated that abstinence-only education does not teach students how to prevent pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases other than by remaining abstinent, and that a student may be excused from instruction without penalty at the request of the parent or guardian. The bill was referred to the Committee on Education but failed to pass in committee and died.

Wisconsin’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note²

- In 2007, 46% of female high school students and 43% of male high school students in Wisconsin reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 50% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 3% of female high school students and 6% of male high school students in Wisconsin 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, 13% of female high school students and 13% of male high school students in Wisconsin 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.
- In 2007, 36% of female high school students and 30% of male high school students in Wisconsin 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.

W I S C O N S I N

- In 2007, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 56% of females and 68% of males in Wisconsin 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, 28% of females and 23% of males in Wisconsin 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, 22% of females and 33% of males in Wisconsin reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 18% of females and 28% of males nationwide.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- In 2007, 53% of female high school students and 66% of male high school students in Milwaukee, Wisconsin reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 50% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 5% of female high school students and 20% of male high school students in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 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, 16% of female high school students and 36% of male high school students in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 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.
- In 2007, 40% of female high school students and 45% of male high school students in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 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, 50% of females and 72% of males in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 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, 14% of females and 12% of males in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 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, 13% of females and 24% of males in Milwaukee, Wisconsin reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 18% of females and 28% of males nationwide.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

- Wisconsin was eligible for \$161,398 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.
- Wisconsin, however, does not apply for these funds due to the extraordinary restrictions placed upon how the money must be spent. Therefore, the state does not match funds nor does it have organizations supported by this type of federal money.

In March, 2007 the department of health announced that it would be rejecting Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funds because of the increasing restrictions on how these funds must be spent. Governor Jim Doyle (D) explained, “There’s a debate now about whether kids should be taught abstinence only. Of course abstinence is the best choice for kids, and that’s an important message they need to hear. But ideology isn’t more important than our kids’ health.” The decision went into effect for Fiscal Year 2007.³

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

- There are five CBAE grantees in Wisconsin: one AIDS service organization, one school, and three community-based organizations.
- There is one AFLA grantee in Wisconsin: Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

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

The Center for Self-Sufficiency, \$599,500 (CBAE 2005–2008)

The mission of The Center for Self-Sufficiency is, “To make a positive difference by providing the services needed to promote healthier youth, families and communities.”⁴ The organization is leading an effort to provide abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in several states. In 2006, 85 percent of the organization’s funding came from CBAE dollars.⁵ The organization also began receiving “Healthy Marriage” federal funding in 2007 in the amount of \$1,096,999.

High Expectations, \$300,000 (CBAE 2007–2012)

High Expectation’s mission reads, “To empower youth to be active members of the community while strengthening the community’s support of healthy youth development.”⁶ In 2007, 46 percent of the organization’s funding came from CBAE dollars.⁷

Its abstinence-only-until-marriage program features Mike Long, a popular abstinence-only-until-marriage speaker.⁸ SIECUS reviewed the commercially available videotape of Mike Long’s presentation, *Everyone’s Not Doing IT*. In his presentation to students, Mike Long, a self-described pioneer in the abstinence movement lectures, preaches, and tells young people in no uncertain terms that premarital sex is morally wrong, that they are incapable of making decisions for themselves, and that everyone should aspire to marry and raise children in a “traditional” family setting. In a style that falls somewhere between that of an infomercial spokesperson and a televangelist, Long relays messages of fear and shame and provides medically inaccurate information. For example, he tells his audience “You’ll never know whom you want to marry... Maybe that man or woman will regard virginity as an important indicator of character, and maybe, if you’ve been sexually active, he or she will find out. (If you’ve been pregnant or had a sexually transmitted disease, your chances of marrying such a person may be even slimmer.)”⁹

W I S C O N S I N

Rosalie Manor Community and Family Services, \$599,800 (CBAE 2007–2012)

Rosalie Manor Community and Family Service provides daily after-school programs in several schools, an eight-week summer program that meets for up to seven hours each day, and the “Parents & Community” program.¹⁰ The organization is a member of the Milwaukee Alliance for Teen Abstinence (MAFTA), a coalition of several organizations that provide abstinence-only-until-marriage programs to young people in the Milwaukee area.

Rosalie Manor Community and Family Services and MAFTA also produce a media campaign, titled “A Crying Shame,” that includes radio ads and a website. The campaign relies on fear and shame. In one radio spot, a young man says, “Hey Devon. I heard you had sex with Keisha. She’s nasty. Man, didn’t you hear? She gave Kevin herpes. That’s something you’ll have for the rest of your life. Man, you better go see a doctor. You should have thought about this before you had sex.”¹¹

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)
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin 2008–2013 www.arcw.org	\$600,000	CBAE
The Center for Self-Sufficiency 2008–2013	\$599,800	CBAE
High Expectations, Inc. 2007–2012 www.high-expectations.org	\$300,000	CBAE
Rosalie Manor Community and Family Services 2007–2012 www.rosaliemanor.org www.acryingshame.info	\$599,800	CBAE

W I S C O N S I N

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds)
School District of Westfield 2008–2013	\$491,819	CBAE
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians 2004–2009 www.redcliff.org	\$152,000	AFLA

Adolescent Health Contact¹²

Terry Kruse
 Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
 One W. Wilson Street, Room 531
 P.O. Box 8916
 Madison, WI 53708
 Phone: (608) 267-9662

Wisconsin Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Wisconsin
 207 East Buffalo Street, Suite 325
 Milwaukee, WI 53202
 Phone: (414) 272-4032

Fair Wisconsin
 122 State Street, Suite 500
 Madison, WI 53703
 Phone: (608) 441-0143
www.fairwisconsin.org

NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin
 122 State Street, Suite 308
 Madison, WI 53703
 Phone: (608) 287-0016
www.prochoicewisconsin.org

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin
 P.O. Box 2566
 Madison, WI 53701
 Phone: (608) 256-7549
www.ppawi.org

Wisconsin Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Family Research Institute of Wisconsin
 P.O. Box 2075
 Madison, WI 53701
 Phone: (608) 256-3228
www.fri-wi.org

Pro-Life Wisconsin
 19270 North Hills Drive
 P.O. Box 221
 Brookfield, WI 53045
 Phone: (262) 796-1111
www.prolifewisconsin.org

Newspapers in Wisconsin¹³*The Capital Times*

Newsroom
P.O. Box 8060
Madison, WI 53708
Phone: (608) 252-6400
www.madison.com

Green Bay Press-Gazette

Newsroom
435 E. Walnut Street
Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: (920) 431-8400
www.greenbaypressgazette.com

The Journal Times

Newsroom
212 4th Street
Racine, WI 53403
Phone: (262) 634-3322
www.journaltimes.com

Kenosha News

Newsroom
5800 7th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53140
Phone: (262) 657-1000
www.kenoshanews.com

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Newsroom
333 W. State Street
Milwaukee, WI 53203
Phone: (414) 224-2919
www.jsonline.com

Oshkosh Northwestern

Newsroom
224 State Street
Oshkosh, WI 54901
Phone: (920) 235-7700
www.thenorthwestern.com

The Post-Crescent

Newsroom
306 W. Washington Street
Appleton, WI 54911
Phone: (920) 733-4411
www.postcrescent.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 "Media Room," Office of the Governor Jim Doyle, 29 March 2007, accessed 9 May 2007, <http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/journal_media_detail.asp?locid=19&prid=2580>.

⁴ "About CFSS, Inc.," The Center for Self-Sufficiency, accessed 13 October 2008, <<http://www.centerinc.org/about.html>>.

⁵ The Center for Self-Sufficiency, 990 Form, 2006, p. 1.

⁶ "High Expectations," High Expectations, accessed 12 October 2008, <<http://www.high-expectations.org/>>.

⁷ High Expectations, Inc., 990 Form, 2007, p. 1.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Mike Long, *Everyone Is NOT Doing IT! DVD and Book Series* (Raleigh, NC: M.L. Productions, 2004).

¹⁰ "Youth & Parent Programs: Abstinence Program & Curriculum," A Crying Shame, (2006), accessed 13 October 2008, <<http://www.acryingshame.info/parents/p5.html#pdf5>>.

¹¹ "The Campaign: Radio Ad," A Crying Shame, (2006), accessed 13 October 2008, <<http://www.acryingshame.info/campaign/cp4.html>>.

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

W I S C O N S I N

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](#).