



### WYOMING

In Fiscal Year 2011<sup>1</sup>, the state of Wyoming received:

- **Personal Responsibility Education Program funds totaling \$250,000<sup>2</sup>**

#### SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAW AND POLICY

Wyoming does not require sexuality, HIV/AIDS, or sexually transmitted disease (STD)-prevention education, nor does it limit what can be taught if such education is offered. Schools are required to provide health education programs, and developmentally appropriate sexuality education concepts and benchmarks are included in the *Wyoming Health Content and Performance Standards*.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the Wyoming Department of Education created the *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools*, which recommends standards for HIV/AIDS-prevention education. According to these standards, “the goals of HIV prevention education are to promote healthful living and discourage the behaviors that put people at risk of acquiring HIV.”<sup>4</sup>

This educational program should:

- be taught at every level, kindergarten through grade 12;
- use methods demonstrated by sound research to be effective;
- be consistent with community standards;
- follow content guidelines prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
- be appropriate to students’ developmental levels, behaviors, and cultural backgrounds;
- build knowledge and skills from year to year;
- stress the benefits of abstinence from sexual activity, alcohol, and other drug use;
- include accurate information on reducing risk of HIV infection;
- address students’ own concerns;
- include means for evaluation;
- be an integral part of a coordinated school health program;
- be taught by well-prepared instructors with adequate support; and
- involve parents, families, and communities as partners in education.<sup>5</sup>

The state does not recommend a specific curriculum. School districts are encouraged to “organize a health advisory council” comprised of educators, administrators, parents, students, medical professionals, representatives from minority groups, and other community members to “develop policies and approve curriculum and other materials for school health education including K-12 HIV prevention education.”<sup>6</sup> In addition, materials for HIV-AIDS and health education approved by the Department of Education are available at no cost to schools.<sup>7</sup> Educators are encouraged to have their students participate in extracurricular HIV/AIDS awareness activities, and are cautioned that “[a] single film, lecture, or school

assembly is *not sufficient* to assure that students develop the complex understanding and skills needed to avoid HIV infection (emphasis in original).”<sup>8</sup> In addition, schools should provide counseling and information about HIV-related community services.

The *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools* states that parents or guardians can ask that their children not receive HIV/AIDS-prevention education.<sup>9</sup> This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Wyoming Statutes § 21-9-101, Wyoming Health Education Content and Performance Standards, HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools, and <http://www.k12.wy.us/HS/cshp.asp>.

## RECENT LEGISLATION

SIECUS is not aware of any proposed legislation regarding sexuality education in Wyoming.

## YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH DATA

SIECUS has compiled the following data to provide an overview of adolescent sexual health in Wyoming. The data collected represents the most current information available.

### Wyoming Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Data<sup>10</sup>

- In 2011, 47% of female high school students and 49% of male high school students in Wyoming reported ever having had sexual intercourse, compared to 46% of female high school students and 49% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2011, 4% of female high school students and 8% of male high school students in Wyoming reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13, compared to 3% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2011, 16% of female high school students and 18% of male high school students in Wyoming reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners, compared to 13% of female high school students and 18% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2011, 38% of female high school students and 32% of male high school students in Wyoming reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey), compared to 34% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2011, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 49% of females and 69% of males in Wyoming reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse, compared to 54% of females and 67% of males nationwide.
- In 2011, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 25% of females and 18% of males in Wyoming reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse, compared to 23% of females and 13% of males nationwide.
- In 2011, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 20% of females and 35% of males in Wyoming reported having used alcohol or drugs the

last time they had sexual intercourse, compared to 18% of females and 26% of males nationwide.

- In 2011, 83% of high school students in Wyoming reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school, compared to 84% of high school students nationwide.

## **Wyoming Teen Pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and Sexually Transmitted Disease Data**

### *Teen Pregnancy, Birth, and Abortion*

- Wyoming's teen birth rate currently ranks 16th in the United States, with a rate of 39 births per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 34.3 births per 1,000.<sup>11</sup> In 2010, there were a total of 723 live births to young women ages 15–19 reported in Wyoming.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2005, Wyoming's teen pregnancy rate ranked 24th in the United States, with a rate of 65 pregnancies per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 70 pregnancies per 1,000.<sup>13</sup> There were a total of 1,190 pregnancies among young women ages 15–19 in Wyoming in 2005.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2005, Wyoming's teen abortion rate ranked 32nd in the United States, with a rate of 12 abortions per 1,000 young women ages 15–19, compared to the national rate of 19 abortions per 1,000.<sup>15</sup>

### *HIV and AIDS*

- In 2010, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among adolescents aged 13-19 years in Wyoming was 0.0 per 100,000 compared to the national rate of 7.9 per 100,000.<sup>16</sup>
- In 2010, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among adolescents 13-19 years in Wyoming was 0.0 per 100,000 compared to the national rate of 1.9 per 100,000.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2010, the rate of diagnoses of HIV infection among young adults aged 20-24 years in Wyoming was 2.6 per 100,000 compared to the national rate of 36.9 per 100,000.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2010, the rate of AIDS diagnoses among young adults aged 20-24 years in Wyoming was 0.0 per 100,000 compared to the national rate of 10.4 per 100,000.<sup>19</sup>

### *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*

- Wyoming ranks 31st in the United States for reported cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19, with an infection rate of 15.79 cases per 1,000, compared to the national rate of 20.03 cases per 1,000. In 2009, there were a total of 604 cases of chlamydia among young people ages 15–19 reported in Wyoming.<sup>20</sup>
- Wyoming ranks 46th in the United States for reported cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19, with an infection rate of .34 cases per 1,000, compared to the national rate of 4.04 cases per 1,000. In 2009, there were a total of 13 cases of gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 reported in Wyoming.<sup>21</sup>

## FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SEX EDUCATION, TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION, AND ABSTINANCE-ONLY PROGRAMS

### President's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative

The President's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI) totaled \$105 million in discretionary funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) administers the grant program. TPPI consists of two funding tiers. Tier 1 totals \$75 million and provides funding for the replication of evidence-based programs proven to prevent unintended teen pregnancy and address underlying behavioral risk factors. Tier 2 totals \$25 million and provides funding to develop and test additional models and innovative strategies. A portion of the Tier 2 funds, \$15.2 million, was allocated for research and demonstration grants to test innovative approaches, while the remaining funding, \$9.8 million, was allocated for grants to support communitywide initiatives. TPPI also dedicates \$4.5 million in funding to conduct evaluations of individual programs.

#### *TPPI Tier 1: Evidence-Based Programs*

The TPPI Tier 1 grant program supports the replication of evidence-based programs proven effective through rigorous evaluation to prevent unintended teen pregnancy, underlying behavioral risk factors, or other associated risk factors.

- There are no TPPI Tier 1 grantees in Wyoming.

#### *TPPI Tier 2: Innovative Approaches*

The TPPI Tier 2 grant program supports research and demonstration programs in order to develop, replicate, refine, and test additional models and innovative strategies for preventing teenage pregnancy.

- There are no TPPI Tier 2 Innovative Approaches grantees in Wyoming.

#### *TPPI Tier 2: Communitywide Initiatives*

The TPPI Tier 2 grant program also supports communitywide initiatives to reduce rates of teenage pregnancy and births in communities with the highest rates. The program awards grants to national organizations as well as state- and community-based organizations. Funded national partners provide training and technical assistance to local grantees. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) administer the grant program in partnership with OAH.

- There are no TPPI Tier 2 Communitywide Initiatives grantees in Wyoming.

### Personal Responsibility Education Program

The Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) totals \$75 million per year for FYs 2010–2014 and is the first-ever dedicated funding stream for more comprehensive approaches to sexuality education. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) administers the grant. PREP includes a \$55 million state-grant program, \$10 million to fund local entities through the Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies (PREIS) Program, \$3.5 million for the Tribal PREP Program for tribes and tribal organizations, and \$6.5 million for evaluation, training, and technical assistance. Details on the state-grant program, PREIS, and Tribal PREP are included below.

#### *PREP State-Grant Program*

The PREP state-grant program supports evidence-based programs that provide young people with medically accurate and age-appropriate information for the prevention of unintended pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The grant program totals \$55 million per year and allocates funding to individual states. The grant does not require states to provide matching

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funds. Funded programs must discuss abstinence and contraception, and place substantial emphasis on both. Programs must also address at least three of the following adulthood preparation topics: healthy relationships, positive adolescent development, financial literacy, parent-child communication skills, education and employment skills, and healthy life skills.

- The Wyoming Department of Health received \$250,000 in federal PREP funds for FY 2011, but returned the funds as directed by the State Health Director.<sup>22</sup>

*Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies (PREIS)*

PREIS supports research and demonstration programs to develop, replicate, refine, and test innovative models for preventing unintended teen pregnancy. ACF administers the grant program in collaboration with OAH and provides a total of \$10 million in funding directly to local public and private entities.

- There are no PREIS grantees in Wyoming.

*Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program (Tribal PREP)*

Tribal PREP supports the development and implementation of comprehensive teen pregnancy prevention programs within tribes and tribal communities. Tribal PREP programs target youth ages 10–19 who are in or are aging out of foster care, homeless youth, youth with HIV/AIDS, pregnant and/or parenting youth who are under 21 years of age, and youth who live in areas with high adolescent birth rates. Programs must address at least three of the following adulthood preparation subjects: healthy relationships, positive adolescent development, financial literacy, parent-child communication skills, education and employment skills, and healthy life skills.

- In FY 2011, 16 tribes and tribal organizations from nine states received a total of \$6.5 million.
- There are no Tribal PREP grantees in Wyoming.

**Title V State Abstinence Education Grant Program**

The Title V State Abstinence Education Grant Program (Title V Abstinence-Only Program) allocates \$50 million per year for FYs 2010–2014. ACF administers the grant. The Title V Abstinence-Only Program 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. All programs funded by the Title V Abstinence-Only Program must promote abstinence from sexual activity as their exclusive purpose and may provide mentoring, counseling, and adult supervision toward this end. Programs must be medically accurate and age-appropriate and must ensure abstinence is an expected outcome.

- Wyoming chose not to apply for Title V abstinence-only funds for FY 2011.

**Wyoming TPPI, PREP, and Title V Abstinence-Only Funding in FY 2011**

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Fiscal Years</b>
<b>Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)</b>		
<i>PREP State-Grant Program</i>		
Wyoming Department of Health (federal grant)	\$250,000*	2011
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$250,000*</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$250,000*</b>	<b>2011</b>

\* Wyoming was awarded \$250,000 in PREP funds, but returned the funds as directed by the State Health Director.

## **COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES TO SEXUALITY EDUCATION**

SIECUS is not aware of any examples of model programs, policies, or best practices being implemented in Wyoming public schools that provide a more comprehensive approach to sex education for young people.

We encourage you to submit any updated or additional information on comprehensive approaches to sex education being implemented in Wyoming public schools for inclusion in future publications of the State Profiles. Please visit SIECUS' "Contact Us" webpage at [www.siecus.org](http://www.siecus.org) to share information. Select "state policy" as the subject heading.

## **POINTS OF CONTACT**

### **Adolescent Health Contact<sup>23</sup>**

Charla Riccardi  
Child and Adolescent Health Coordinator  
Wyoming Department of Family Services  
Hathaway Building  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Phone: (307) 777-3733

## **ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION**

NARAL Pro-Choice Wyoming  
Laramie, WY  
Phone: (307) 742-9189  
<http://www.prochoicewyoming.com>

Wyoming Health Council  
Cheyenne, WY  
Phone: (307) 632-3640  
[www.wyhc.org](http://www.wyhc.org)

Planned Parenthood  
of the Rocky Mountains  
Denver, CO  
Phone: (303) 321-PLAN  
[www.pprm.org](http://www.pprm.org)

Wyoming ACLU  
Cheyenne, WY  
Phone: (307) 637-4565  
[www.aclu-wy.org](http://www.aclu-wy.org)

## **ORGANIZATIONS THAT OPPOSE COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION**

Roman Catholic Diocese of Cheyenne  
Cheyenne, WY  
Phone: (307) 638-1530  
[www.dioceseofcheyenne.org](http://www.dioceseofcheyenne.org)

Right to Life of Wyoming  
Casper, WY  
Phone: (307) 266-1234  
[www.wyomingrighttolife.com](http://www.wyomingrighttolife.com)

**MEDIA OUTLETS****Newspapers in Wyoming**<sup>24</sup>*Casper Star-Tribune*

Casper, WY

Phone: (307) 266-0500

[www.trib.com](http://www.trib.com)*Laramie Daily Boomerang*

Laramie, WY

Phone: (307) 742-2176

[www.laramieboomerang.com](http://www.laramieboomerang.com)*Wyoming Tribune-Eagle*

Cheyenne, WY

Phone: (307) 634-3361

[www.wyomingnews.com](http://www.wyomingnews.com)**Political Blogs in Wyoming***hummingbirdminds*<http://hummingbirdminds.blogspot.com>*New West*<http://www.newwest.net/blog/>

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the federal government's fiscal year, which begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, Fiscal Year 2011 began on October 1, 2010, and ended on September 30, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Wyoming was awarded \$250,000 in PREP funds, but returned the funds as directed by the State Health Director.

<sup>3</sup> WY. Stat. § 21-9-101, <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/statutes.aspx?file=titles/Title21/T21CH9AR1.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools* (Cheyenne, WY; Wyoming Department of Education, 1998), accessed April 27, 2010, <http://www.k12.wy.us/HS/hivpolicy.pdf>, 8.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 14.

<sup>7</sup> "Welcome to Comprehensive School Health Education," Wyoming Department of Education, accessed April 27, 2010, <http://www.k12.wy.us/HS/cshp.asp>.

<sup>8</sup> *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools*, 15.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 8.

<sup>10</sup> Danice K. Eaton, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2011," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 61, no. SS-4 (June 8, 2012): accessed June 18, 2012, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> "Birth rate for U.S. teenagers reach historic lows for all age and ethnic groups," NCHS data brief, no. 89, (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2012), accessed June 27, 2012, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db89.pdf>, Data table for figure 6.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity*, (Washington, DC: Guttmacher Institute, January 2010), accessed May 7, 2012, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends.pdf>, Table 3.1.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, Table 3.2.

<sup>15</sup> *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births, and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity*, Table 3.1.

<sup>16</sup> Slide 9: "Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years, 2010—46 States and 5 U.S. Dependent Areas," *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed January 3, 2013, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>.

<sup>17</sup> Slide 18: "Rates of AIDS Diagnoses among Adolescents Aged 13–19 Years, 2010—United States and 6 U.S. Dependent Areas," *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed January 3, 2013, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>.

<sup>18</sup> Slide 10: "Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Young Adults Aged 20–24 Years, 2010—46 States and 5 U.S. Dependent Areas," *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed January 3, 2013, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>.

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<sup>19</sup> Slide 19: “Rates of AIDS Diagnoses among Young Adults Aged 20-24 Years, 2010—United States and 6 U.S. Dependent Areas,” *HIV Surveillance in Adolescents and Young Adults*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), accessed January 3, 2013, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/slides/adolescents/index.htm>.

<sup>20</sup> “Wonder Database: Sexually Transmitted Disease Morbidity for selected STDs by age, race/ethnicity and gender 1996–2009 Results,” (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 2011), accessed December 18, 2012, <http://wonder.cdc.gov>.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Information provided by Charla Ricciardi, Child and Adolescent Health, Community and Public Health Division of the Wyoming Department of Health, October 19, 2012.

<sup>23</sup> The person listed represents the designated personnel in the state responsible for adolescent reproductive health.

<sup>24</sup> This section is a list of major newspapers in the state and is by no means exhaustive of local print outlets.