



WYOMING

Wyoming received \$74,702 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2004.¹

Wyoming Sexuality Education Law

Wyoming does not require sexuality, HIV/AIDS, or STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) prevention education, nor does it limit what can be taught if such education is offered. However, the *Wyoming Health Content and Performance Standards* include sexuality education. In addition, the *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools* sets some standards for HIV/AIDS-prevention education. The standards state that, “the goals of HIV prevention education are to promote healthful living and discourage the behaviors that put people at risk of acquiring HIV. The educational program will:

- Be taught at every level, kindergarten through grade twelve
- 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
- Involve parents, families, and communities as partners in education”

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. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See the *Wyoming Content and Performance Standards²* and *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools³*.

Recent Events

SIECUS is not aware of any recent legislation related to sexuality education in Wyoming.

Events of Note*Activists Defeat Proposal for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program
September 2003; Washakie County, WY*

Proponents of comprehensive sexuality education successfully defeated the Washakie County School District No. 1 Board's recommendation to replace the current abstinence-based curriculum with an abstinence-only-until-marriage program. Specifically, the board recommended, "it shall be the policy of Washakie County School District No. 1, while teaching sex education, the curriculum shall be based on abstinence only."

A large crowd, including students and members of the religious community, spoke against the change.

Wyoming's Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁴

- In 2003, 47% of female high school students and 45% of male high school students in Wyoming reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 6% of female high school students and 6% of male high school students in Wyoming 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, 16% of female high school students and 16% of male high school students in Wyoming 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, 34% of female high school students and 30% 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 35% of females and 34% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 22% of females and 33% of males in Wyoming 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, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 61% of females and 67% of males in Wyoming reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 57% of females and 69% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 25% of females and 21% of males in Wyoming 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, 5% of female high school students and 3% of male high school students in Wyoming reported ever having been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant compared to 5% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 88% of high school students in Wyoming reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Wyoming's abortion rate was 25 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁵
- In 2002, Wyoming's birth rate was 40 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.⁶

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Wyoming received \$74,702 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2004. 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 can be provided in part or in full by local groups. Wyoming matched the federal funding with \$25,000 in state funding. The rest of the match comes from in-kind services provided by the funded abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. The Wyoming Department of Health oversees this funding and collaborates with the Wyoming Department of Education and the Wyoming Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Task Force.

The funding is used to run *Sex Can Wait*, a statewide media campaign, aimed at youths ages 9-14, their parents, and their older siblings. The main goal is to increase the number of abstinence messages heard by this audience. The campaign uses television advertising to emphasize three points of the federal government's eight point definition of "abstinence education":

- Has as its exclusive purpose teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;
- Teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances; and
- Teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funds are also used to provide materials and technical assistance to teachers, as well as materials for parents about how to speak to their children about sex.

In addition, 4% of the federal funding will go towards evaluating the campaign based on the rates of sexual intercourse among teens, level of exposure to the media campaign's messages, teen birth rates, teen STD rates, and attitudes about abstinence among Wyoming youth.

Special Projects of Regional and National Significance–Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS–CBAE)⁷ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are no SPRANS–CBAE or AFLA grantees in Wyoming.

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2004

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Length of Grant Wyoming Department of Health http://wdh.state.wy.us/sexcanwait/index.asp	\$74,702 federal \$25,000 state	Title V

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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 Maternal and Child Health
 Wyoming Department of Health
 Hathaway Building
 4020 House Ave., Room 465
 Cheyenne, WY 82002
 Phone: (307) 777-3722

Wyoming Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

NARAL Pro-Choice Wyoming
 PO Box 271
 Laramie, WY 82073
 Phone: (307) 742-9189
www.prochoiceamerica.org/yourstate/wy.cfm

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains
 950 Broadway
 Denver, CO 80203
 Phone: (303) 321-7526
www.pprm.org

Wyoming Health Council
 2120 O'Neil Ave.
 Cheyenne, WY 82001
 Phone (307) 632-3640
www.wyhc.org

Wyoming Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Catholic Social Services
 623 S. Wolcott
 Casper, WY 82601
 Phone: (307) 237-2723

Catholic Social Services
 PO Box 1468
 2121 Capitol Ave.
 Cheyenne, WY 82003
 Phone: (307) 638-1530
www.dioceseofcheyenne.org

W Y O M I N G

Right to Life of Wyoming
PO Box 304
Reliance, WY 82943
Phone: (307) 682-3435

Newspapers in Wyoming

Casper Star-Tribune
Clay Anthony
Medical/Health Editor
170 Star Ln.
Jasper, WY 82604
Phone: (307) 266-0535

Daily Rocket-Miner
Assignment Editor
215 D St.
Rock Springs, WY 82901
Phone: (307) 362-3736

Gillette News-Record
Sam Herley
Medical/Health Editor
1201 W. 2nd St.
Gillette, WY 82716
Phone: (307) 682-9306

Laramie Daily Boomerang
Assignment Editor
320 E. Grand Ave.
Laramie, WY 82070
Phone: (307) 742-2176

Northern Wyoming Daily News
Assignment Editor
201 N. 8th St.
Worland, WY 82401
Phone: (307) 347-3241

Rawlins Daily Times
Merv Mecklenburg
Community News Reporter
522 W. Buffalo St.
Rawlins, WY 82301
Phone: (307) 324-3411

Riverton Ranger
Assignment Editor
421 E. Main St.
Riverton, WY 82501
Phone: (307) 856-2244

Sheridan Press
Daniel Carson
Community News Reporter
144 E. Grinnell St.
Sheridan, WY 82801
Phone: (307) 672-2431

Wyoming Tribune-Eagle
Ilene Olson
Community News Reporter
702 W. Lincolnway
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone: (307) 633-3131

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 2004 begins on October 1, 2003 and ends on September 30, 2004.

² *Wyoming Content and Performance Standards* (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming Department of Education, undated document), accessed

4 February 2005, <<http://www.learning-for-life.org/lfl/resources/statereports/wyoming.pdf>>.

³ *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools* (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming Department of Education, 1998), accessed 4 January 2005, <<http://www.k12.wy.us/ao/hs/programs/hivpolicy.pdf>>.

⁴ 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* 53.SS-2 (21 May 2004): 1-95, accessed 28 January 2005, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>>.

⁵ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, February, 2004), accessed 28 January 2005, <www.guttmacher.org>.

⁶ *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>>.

⁷ In FY 2004 SPRANS—CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In FY 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).