



## WYOMING

***Wyoming received \$73,138 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2005.<sup>1</sup>***

### **Wyoming 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. However, the *Wyoming Health Content and Performance Standards* does include sexuality education and the *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools* sets some standards for HIV/AIDS-prevention education. The Wyoming Department of Education created both of these documents. These 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; and
- Involve parents, families, and communities as partners in education.”

The state does not recommend a specific curriculum. 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 Standards* and *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools*.

### **Recent Legislation**

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

### **Events of Note**

SIECUS is not aware of any recent events regarding sexuality education in Wyoming.

### **Wyoming's Youth: Statistical Information of Note<sup>2</sup>**

- In 2005, 47% of female high school students and 47% of male high school students in Wyoming reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 4% of female high school students and 7% of male high school students in Wyoming 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 16% of male high school students in Wyoming 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, 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 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 70% of males in Wyoming 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, 29% of females and 20% of males in Wyoming 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, 22% of females and 28% of males in Wyoming 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 Wyoming reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV 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.<sup>3</sup>
- 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.<sup>4</sup>

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

Wyoming received \$73,138 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2005. 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. Wyoming matched the federal funding with \$37,351 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 young people 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 of the eight points of the federal government’s definition of “abstinence education” which state that the program:

- 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.

The 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 sexuality. 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.

**Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE)<sup>5</sup> and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees**

There are no CBAE or AFLA grantees in Wyoming.

**Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2005**

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)</b>
<b>Length of Grant</b> Wyoming Department of Health  <a href="http://wdh.state.wy.us/sexcanwait/index.asp">http://wdh.state.wy.us/sexcanwait/index.asp</a>	\$73,138 federal \$37,351 state	Title V

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

Marilyn Patton  
 Children and Families Initiative  
 Wyoming Department of Family Services  
 Hathaway Building  
 Cheyenne, WY 82002  
 Phone: (307) 777-7071

**Wyoming Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

NARAL Pro-Choice Wyoming  
 PO Box 271  
 Laramie, WY 82073  
 Phone: (307) 742-9189

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

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

**Wyoming Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

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

Roman Catholic Diocese of Cheyenne  
 Catholic Pastoral Center  
 2121 Capitol Ave.  
 Cheyenne, WY 82001  
 Phone: (307) 638-1530  
[www.dioceseofcheyenne.org](http://www.dioceseofcheyenne.org)

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

**Newspapers in Wyoming**

*Casper Journal*  
Education Editor  
210 S. Wolcott St.  
Casper, WY 82601  
Phone: (307) 265-3870

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

*Casper Star-Tribune*  
Jenni Dillon  
Education Reporter  
170 Star Ln.  
Casper, WY 82604  
Phone: (307) 266-0619

*The Country Bounty*  
Education Editor  
644 Coffeen Ave.  
Sheridan, WY 82801  
Phone: (307) 674-4312

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

*Gillette News-Record*  
Sam Herley  
Health & Medicine Editor  
1201 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Gillette, WY 82716  
Phone: (307) 682-9306

*Jackson Hole Journal*  
Education Editor  
1180 S. U.S. Highway 89  
Jackson, WY 83001  
Phone: (307) 733-2120

*Jackson Hole News & Guide*  
Education Editor  
1225 Maple Way  
Jackson, WY 83001  
Phone: (307) 733-2047

*Lander Wyoming State Journal*  
Education Editor  
332 Main St.  
Lander, WY 82520  
Phone: (307) 332-2323

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

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

*Planet Jackson Hole*  
Education Editor  
567 W. Broadway  
Jackson, WY 83001  
Phone: (307) 732-0299

W Y O M I N G

*Powell Tribune*  
Education Editor  
128 S. Bent St.  
Powell, WY 82435  
Phone: (307) 754-2221

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

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

*The Sentinel*  
Education Editor  
202 E. 18<sup>th</sup> St.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
Phone: (307) 632-5666

*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

*Wyoming Tribune-Eagle*  
Becky Orr  
Education Reporter  
702 W. Lincolnway  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
Phone: (307) 633-3183

<sup>1</sup> 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 2005 begins on October 1, 2004 and ends on September 30, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Danice K. Eaton, et. al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2005,” *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 55, no. SS-5 (9 June 2006): 1-108, accessed 8 June 2006, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>.

<sup>3</sup> *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, February 2004), accessed 28 January 2005, <[http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state\\_pregnancy\\_trends.pdf](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state_pregnancy_trends.pdf)>.

<sup>4</sup> *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>>.

<sup>5</sup> In Fiscal Year 2004 SPRANS–CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In Fiscal Year 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).