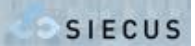


Sexual Risk Avoidance?

...let's avoid it.



Don't be fooled: "Sexual Risk Avoidance" is "Abstinence-only-until-marriage."

"Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA)" is the same, failed, abstinence-only-until-marriage (AOUM) approach to sex ed. What's changed? The name. What hasn't? Everything else.

Abstinence-only-until-marriage programs (no matter what they're called):

- **Are ineffective at their own goal.**
 - "The weight of scientific evidence finds that AOUM programs are not effective in delaying initiation of sexual intercourse or changing other sexual risk behaviors ([Journal of Adolescent Health, 2017](#))."
- **Are unethical. And they actively harm young people through misinformation based in fear, gender stereotypes, and shaming tactics:**
 - "Sex is like fire. Inside the appropriate boundary of marriage, sex is a great thing! Outside of marriage, sex can be dangerous!" ([Heritage Keepers Abstinence Education](#))
 - "[A sexually active teen] may turn inward, fail to develop healthy interests and relationships, fail to develop a personal, independent identity, experience feelings of betrayal that can lead to rage." ([Choosing the Best LIFE \(Upper Middle School – 8th Grade\) Leader Guide](#))
 - "How do some people say NO with their words, but YES with their actions or clothing?" ([Choosing the Best WAY \(Lower Middle School – 6th Grade\) Leader Guide](#))
- **Are denounced by [leading medical professional](#) organizations because they go against the basic principles of science and medical ethics.**
- **Threaten [the fundamental human right](#) to information and education about one's health and wellbeing.**

And, yet, these programs are still federally funded.

- Over the past three decades, **more than \$2 billion** has been wasted on these harmful programs.
- Congressional FY2018 funding proposals would extend funding for the "**Sexual Risk Avoidance Education**" grant program (Previously called the Title V Abstinence-Only State Grant Program) for *two years*, maintaining its current funding level of **\$75 million per year**.

If we want young people to make healthy, informed decisions about sex, we need to provide them with the information they need to do so. This includes information on safe, healthy ways to engage in sexual activity *in addition* to abstinence. [It's what research supports](#). It's what [the people](#)—including students and parents alike—support.

Young people have a right to the information they need to ensure lifelong sexual health. Young people deserve better—they deserve [comprehensive sexuality education](#).