



## Montana

***Montana received \$186,439 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in FY 2003.<sup>1</sup>***

### Montana Sexuality Education Law

Montana's public education system is supervised by the Montana Board of Public Education which sets standards for curricula in public schools. According to the Montana Office of Public Instruction, the Board of Public Education requires a "health enhancement" program, one component of which is sexuality education, including information about HIV/AIDS.

However, due to the autonomous nature of Montana school districts, standards for the sexuality education portion of the health enhancement program are not defined. Furthermore, there is no oversight of what is being taught nor are there standards for who are teaching these classes. As long as schools believe that they are meeting the requirements, the Montana Board of Public Education considers them fulfilled.

Parents and/or guardians must receive notification that their child will be attending the "health enhancement" programs. The school district sets procedures for how a parent or guardian excuses their child from a class. This is referred to as an "opt-out" policy. However, if a parent or guardian does choose to remove his/her child from class, they must agree to provide alternative instruction.

See Montana Administrative Rules 10.54.7011, 7012 and 7013, 10.54.2501, and 10.55.905.

### Recent Legislation

SIECUS is not aware of any recent legislation in Montana regarding sexuality education.

### Events of Note

In 2000, Montana's then-Governor Marc Racicot (R) issued an executive order creating the Montana Abstinence Education Advisory Council. This council consisted of 19 representatives from throughout the state of Montana, including two youth representatives and one college representative and remained in place for two years. In March 2002, now-Governor Judy Martz (R) appointed a new 18-member Montana Abstinence Education Advisory Council.

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<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 2003 begins on October 1, 2002 and ends on September 30, 2003.

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

- In 2003, 42% of female high school students and 45% of male high school students in Montana reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 3% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students in Montana 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, 12% of female high school students and 15% of male high school students in Montana 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, 29% of female high school students and 31% of male high school students in Montana 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, 29% of females and 37% of males in Montana 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, 55% of females and 65% of males in Montana 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, 29% of females and 19% of males in Montana 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, 4% of female high school students and 3% of male high school students in Montana 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 Montana reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Montana's abortion rate was 14 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: J. Grunbaum, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2003," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 53, no. SS-2, May 21, 2004, pp. 1-95. Available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>.

<sup>3</sup> *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information*, (New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, February, 2004). Available online at [www.guttmacher.org](http://www.guttmacher.org).

- In 2001, Montana's birth rate was 36 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 45 per 1,000 nationwide.<sup>4</sup>

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

Montana received \$186,439 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2003. 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. Montana matches the federal funds with in-kind matches from sub-grantees. In addition, the developers of Montana's media campaign provide more than the required amount by matching the federal funds almost two for one.

The Montana Abstinence Partnership (MAP) oversees these funds, supports a media campaign, and distributes funds to sub-grantee organizations across the state. Montana Abstinence Partnership's website, run by the Montana Department of Health and Human Services, lists six reasons for remaining abstinent:

1. Better marriage
2. Increased self-esteem
3. Better relationships
4. Risk of pregnancy
5. Risk of disease
6. Regrets of others who didn't wait

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

There are currently no SPRANS—CBAE or AFLA grantees in Montana.

### **Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2003**

<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)</b>
<b>Length of Grant</b>		
Montana Abstinence Partnership <a href="http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us/hpsd/public/healsafe/abstinc/abstain.htm">www.dphhs.state.mt.us/hpsd/public/healsafe/abstinc/abstain.htm</a>	\$186,439 federal	Title V
1st Way Pregnancy Support Center	\$9,950	Title V sub-grantee
New Hope Pregnancy Support Center	\$6,917	Title V sub-grantee

<sup>4</sup> A. Papillo, et.al., *Facts at a Glance*, (Washington, DC: Child Trends, February, 2004).

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<b>Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee  Length of Grant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>	<b>Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)</b>
Richland County Health Department	\$10,000	Title V sub-grantee
Cascade City-County Health Department	\$10,000	Title V sub-grantee
Hope Pregnancy Center	\$10,000	Title V sub-grantee
Montana Youth Alive	\$10,000	Title V sub-grantee
SAFE, Inc. (Sexual Abstinence & Family Education)	\$9,661	Title V sub-grantee
Boys and Girls Club of the Fort Peck Reservation	\$10,000	Title V sub-grantee

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

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Helena, MT 59620  
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**Montana Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Blue Mountain Clinic  
610 N. California St.  
Missoula, MT 59802  
Phone: (406) 721-1646

InterMountain Planned Parenthood  
721 N. 29th St.  
Billings, MT 59101  
Phone: (406) 248-3636

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Montanans for Choice (education  
partner of Montana NARAL)  
P.O. Box 226  
Helena, MT 59624  
Phone: (406) 449-0183

Montana Gay Men's Task Force  
PO Box 7984  
Missoula, MT 59807  
Phone: (406) 829-8075

Montana NARAL  
P.O. Box 279  
Helena, MT 59624  
Phone: (406) 443-0276

**Montana Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Heartbeat of the Bitterroot/Ravalli County  
Right to Life  
Hamilton, MT  
Phone: (406) 363-6710  
[www.montanarighttolife.org](http://www.montanarighttolife.org)

**Newspapers in Montana**

*Big Sky Journal*  
Laura Hengstler  
Editor  
101 E. Main St.  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
Phone: (406) 586-2712

*Billings Gazette*  
Susan Olp  
Education Staff Writer  
401 N. 28th St.  
Billings, MT 59101  
Phone: (406) 657-1281

*Bozeman Daily Chronicle*  
Gail Schontzler  
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2820 W. College St.  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
Phone: (406) 587-4491

*The Daily Inter Lake*  
Nancy Kimball  
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Phone: (406) 755-7000

*The Enterprise*  
John Sullivan  
Editor  
401 S. Main St.  
Livingston, MT 59047-3418  
Phone: (406) 222-2000

*Great Falls Tribune*  
Jan-Mikael Patterson  
Community News Reporter  
205 River Dr. S.  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
Phone: (406) 791-1444

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*Havre Daily News*

Education Editor  
119 2nd St.  
Havre, MT 59501  
Phone: (406) 265-6796

*Independent Record*

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*MEA - MFT Today*

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*Miles City Star*

Denise Hartse  
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Miles City, MT 59301  
Phone: (406) 232-0450

*Missoulian*

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Phone: (406) 523-5298

*Montana Magazine*

Beverly Magley  
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2222 Washington St.  
Helena, MT 59602  
Phone: (406) 444-5120

*Montana Standard*

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25 W. Granite St.  
Butte, MT 59701  
Phone: (406) 496-5519

*Ravalli Republic*

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Phone: (406) 363-3300

*Rural Montana*

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501 Bay Dr.  
Great Falls, MT 59404  
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