



Wisconsin

Wisconsin received \$1,112,549 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2003.¹

Wisconsin Sexuality Education Law

Wisconsin state law encourages, but does not require, school boards to provide classes in sexuality education. These classes can occur in kindergarten through twelfth grade and must be age-appropriate.

This instruction may include:

- (a) Self-esteem, responsible decision making and personal responsibility.
- (b) Interpersonal relationships.
- (c) Discouragement of adolescent sexual activity.
- (d) Family life and skills required of a parent.
- (e) Human sexuality; reproduction; family planning, as defined in [state law] s.243.07
 - (1) (a) including natural family planning; human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; prenatal development; childbirth; adoption; available prenatal and postnatal support; and male and female responsibility.
- (f) Sex stereotypes and protective behavior.

If a school board provides instruction in any of these areas, they must “also provide instruction in marriage and parental responsibility.”

Parents and guardians must be given the opportunity to review all materials related to sexuality education classes. If such classes are offered, school boards must also form advisory councils consisting of “parents, teachers, school administrators, pupils, health care professionals, members of the clergy, and other residents of the school district” to review the sexuality education curricula at least every three years.

Parents or guardians can exempt their children from sexuality education classes. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Wisconsin Statutes 115.35 and 118.019.

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

Recent Legislation

The Wisconsin legislature carries bills over from one session to the next. Wisconsin's legislature meets throughout the year but the regular session ended on March 25, 2004. All bills that did not pass by March 25 died.

Sexuality Education Bill Died

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 387 was offered on October 6, 2003 in the Committee on Education. AB 387, introduced on June 5, 2003, would have made changes to "human growth and development" curricula in the state. While existing law allows a school board to include instruction in "discouragement of adolescent sexual activity," the bill would provide instead for the promotion of abstinence as "the safest and best choice for pupils, and to include accurate information on family planning on contraception." Also, while under existing law a school board can provide instruction in HIV and AIDS, this would authorize instruction in all sexually transmitted diseases. The bill also addresses instruction relating to sexual exploitation, acquaintance rape, and legal consequences of sex with a minor as well as provisions about parent-child communication related to sexuality.

The amendment, offered on October 6 with a hearing held on October 7, would have made small changes to the bill. The first would make clear that "medically" accurate information should be given on family planning and contraception rather than simply "accurate" information. The amendment also changed language to "comprehensive, medically accurate instruction in human sexuality" rather than just "human sexuality" and included contraception among a list of possible topics.

With no further action, the bill died at the end of the 2004 legislative session.

EC Education Act and Comprehensive, Medically Accurate Sexuality Education Bills Die

Assembly Bill 979 and Senate Bill 544, both introduced in March 2004, would have enacted emergency contraception (EC) requirements for hospitals that provide emergency services. The bills also would have included the same provisions as Assembly Bill 387 with regard to sexuality education.

AB 979 and SB 544 died at the end of the 2004 legislative session.

Events of Note

Florists Distribute Abstinence Pledges With Prom Corsages

April 2002; Manitowoc County, WI

The Manitowoc County Abstinence Coalition teamed up with area florists to distribute True Love Waits abstinence pledge cards with corsages and boutonnieres sold to students attending local high school proms. Each card states "Prom...a night to remember not to regret."

According to one participating florist, "All the card is is (sic) a little, subtle reminder; there are consequences to your actions." The florist recognizes that "some parents may think it's their responsibility alone to influence their teens' behavior," but she agrees with the basic message and does not believe that her business will suffer any negative financial impact due to her participation.²

² C. Mathews, "Lakeshore Florists Urge Abstinence," *Herald Times Reporter*, Mar. 26, 2002.

Wisconsin's Youth: Statistical Information of Note³

- In 2003, 38% of female high school students and 36% of male high school students in Wisconsin reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 2% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students in Wisconsin 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, 8% of female high school students and 10% of male high school students in Wisconsin 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, 30% of female high school students and 24% of male high school students in Wisconsin 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 30% of males in Wisconsin 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 71% of males in Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin 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 2% of male high school students in Wisconsin 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 2000, Wisconsin's abortion rate was 12 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁴

³ 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/>.

⁴ *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.

- In 2001, Wisconsin's birth rate was 34 per 1000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 45 per 1,000 nationwide.⁵

Milwaukee, Wisconsin's Youth: Statistical Information of Note

- In 2003, 55% of female high school students and 65% of male high school students in Milwaukee reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 5% of female high school students and 18% of male high school students in Milwaukee 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, 14% of female high school students and 32% of male high school students in Milwaukee 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, 37% of female high school students and 43% of male high school students in Milwaukee 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, 9% of females and 24% of males in Milwaukee 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, 63% of females and 78% of males in Milwaukee 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, 12% of females and 7% of males in Milwaukee 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, 10% of female high school students and 6% of male high school students in Milwaukee 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.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Wisconsin received \$795,859 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

⁵ A. Papillo, et.al., *Facts at a Glance*, (Washington, DC: Child Trends, February, 2004).

services for every four federal dollars received. The state match can be provided in part or in full by local groups. Wisconsin does an in-kind match using tobacco control funds.

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and the Bureau of Community and Family Development (BCFD) coordinate the Wisconsin Abstinence Education Project (WAEP). Approximately \$375,000 of the funding is used by the WAEP media information and material production. The rest of the funding is given out in grants to groups across the state.

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

There is one SPRANS–CBAE grantee in Wisconsin: the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. There is one AFLA grantee in Wisconsin: the Wise Women Gathering Place.

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin focuses on “harm reduction.” The organization runs a needle exchange program, works with women who have sex for money and/or drugs, and focus on LGBTQ populations.

Wise Women Gathering Place also works with a variety of populations including lesbians, bisexual women, immigrants, and HIV-positive women. It uses the AFLA funds for “Discovery Dating,” a program for eighth grade girls that focuses on assertiveness training, decision making choices, and mentoring programs.

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

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Length of Grant		
Wisconsin Abstinence Education Project http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/waiy/index.htm	\$795,859 federal/ \$795,859 state	Title V
Bethany Christian Services www.bethany.org	\$40,000	Title V sub-grantee
Center for Self-Sufficiency	\$50,000	Title V sub-grantee
Community Enterprises of Greater Milwaukee	\$75,000	Title V sub-grantee
Family Resource Center www.frc-sc.org	\$37,500	Title V sub-grantee

W I S C O N S I N

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS- CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Length of Grant		
Family Support Center	\$40,000	Title V sub-grantee
Jefferson Co. Human Services	\$73,244	Title V sub-grantee
Lincoln Country Social Services	\$20,000	Title V sub-grantee
Medical College of Wisconsin www.mcw.edu	\$60,000	Title V sub-grantee
Rosalie Manor www.rosaliemanor.org	\$50,000	Title V sub-grantee
Shalom Zone	\$46,580	Title V sub-grantee
Up Connection	\$50,000	Title V sub-grantee
WI Coulee Community Action Program	\$20,000	Title V sub-grantee
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin 2002-2003 www.arcw.org	\$91,690	SPRANS-CBAE (Planning Grant)
Wise Women Gathering Place	\$225,000	AFLA

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Wisconsin Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Wisconsin
207 E. Buffalo St., Suite 325
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 272-4032
www.aclu-wi.org

Action Wisconsin
1202 Williamson St.
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 441-0143
www.actionwisconsin.org

NARAL of Wisconsin
122 State St., Suite 402
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 287-0016
www.naralwi.org

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin
302 N. Jackson St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 271-8045
www.plannedparenthoodwi.org

Wisconsin Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Family Research Institute of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 2075
Madison, WI 53701
Phone: (608) 256-3228
www.fri-wi.org

Pro-Life Wisconsin
19270 North Hills Dr.
P.O. Box 221
Brookfield, WI 53045
Phone: (262) 796-1111
www.prolifewisconsin.org

Newspapers in Wisconsin

Green Bay Press-Gazette
Terry Anderson
Community News Reporter
435 E. Walnut St.
Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: (920) 431-8214

The Janesville Gazette
Tracy Ndlovu
Medical/Health Editor
1 S. Parker Dr.
Janesville, WI 53545
Phone: (608) 754-3311

The Journal Times
Lee Roberts
Medical/Health Reporter
212 4th St.
Racine, WI 53403
Phone: (262) 631-1721

Kenosha News
Liza Berger
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5800 7th Ave.
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La Crosse Tribune

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