



Maine

Maine received \$172,468 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2003.¹

Maine Sexuality Education Law

Maine's sexuality education law is one of the most comprehensive in the country. This law mandates that the state "undertake initiatives to implement effective, comprehensive family life education services." The following must be provided: training for teachers, parents, and community members; forums among youth and community members in communities with a high need for sexuality education; staff to provide trainings, develop curricula, and evaluate the program; funding for issue management and policy development training for school boards, superintendents, principals, and administrators; and funding for programs that have shown outstanding work around sexuality education. "Comprehensive family life education" must be taught in grades kindergarten through 12. Information must be medically accurate and age-appropriate. It must also respect community values and encourage parent-child communication. Programs must teach about abstinence, healthy relationships, contraception, and conflict resolution.

Parents may choose to exempt their children from the program. This is referred to as an "opt-out" policy.

See Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, Chapter 406, Sections 1910 and 1911.

Recent Legislation

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

Events of Note

Act To Expand Family Life Education Services Becomes Law, 2002

On April 10, 2002, *An Act to Expand Family Life Education Services* (LD 1603) was signed into law by Maine's then-Governor Angus King (I). This bill, passed by the legislature with widespread bi-partisan support, inserted a definition of "family life education" into state education statutes and seeks to expand Family Life Education Services.

The new law's definition of family life education recognizes that sexuality education should be medically accurate, inclusive of information on both abstinence and contraception, age-appropriate, and taught in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Maine's Family Life Education Services has been working with communities for twenty years to develop family life education

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.

programs in schools throughout the state. Between 1980 and 1996, the rate of pregnancy for teenagers between 15 and 19 years of age in Maine decreased 33%.²

Maine's Youth: Statistical Information of Note³

- In 2003, 42% of female high school students and 44% of male high school students in Maine 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 6% of male high school students in Maine 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, 10% of female high school students and 11% of male high school students in Maine 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, 33% of female high school students and 30% of male high school students in Maine 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, 17% of females and 35% of males in Maine 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, 54% of females and 62% of males in Maine 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, 46% of females and 27% of males in Maine 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, 88% of high school students in Maine reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Maine's abortion rate was 15 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁴

² "Addressing Adolescent Pregnancy—Maine, 1980-1996," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 47, no. 22. June 5, 1998, pp. 433-438.

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/>.

- In 2001, Maine's birth rate was 27 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 45 per 1,000 nationwide.⁵

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Maine received \$172,468 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. In Maine, the federal dollars are not matched with state dollars. Instead, the required match is provided by the television station that runs Maine's abstinence-only-until-marriage media campaign. The station provides \$129,351 of in-kind services and receives all but \$18,000 of the federal funding. The remaining \$18,000 is used for evaluation purposes.

Maine's media campaign is titled, *Not Me, Not Now* and focuses on youth ages nine to 14 and their parents in an effort to promote parent-child communication about sexuality. Three points from the eight-point (A-H) federal definition of abstinence-only-until-marriage are emphasized:

- C. Teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems;
- G. Teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increase vulnerability to sexual advances, and
- H. Teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

In the most recent evaluation of this program, Maine found that the campaign has high recognition among nine to 14-year olds and their parents, but not a high level of impact.

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

There are no SPRANS—CBAE or AFLA grantees in Maine.

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 Maine Department of Human Services www.state.me.us/dhs/boh	\$172,468 federal	Title V

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.

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

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Maine Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Family Planning Association of Maine
P.O. Box 587
Augusta, ME 04332
Phone: (207) 662-7524
www.mainefamilyplanning.org

Maine Civil Liberties Union
401 Cumberland Ave.
Portland, ME 04101
Phone: (207) 774-5444

Planned Parenthood of Northern New
England Action Fund
51 Talcott Rd.
Williston, VT 05495
Phone: (802) 878-7232
www.ppnneactionfund.org

Maine Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Christian Civic League of Maine
P.O. Box 5459
Augusta, ME 04332
www.cclmaine.org

Newspapers in Maine

Bangor Daily News
Wayne Reilly
Medical/Health Editor
491 Main St.
Bangor, ME 04401
Phone: (207) 990-8108

Morning Sentinel
Patricia Ammons
Medical/Health Editor
31 Front St.
Waterville, ME 04901
Phone: (207) 621-5645

M A I N E

Portland Press Herald
Meredith Goad
Medical/Health Writer
390 Congress St.
Portland, ME 04101
Phone: (207) 791-6332

Sun Journal
Christopher Williams
Medical/Health Reporter
104 Park St.
Lewiston, ME 04240
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