



MONTANA

Montana received \$175,988 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in FY 2004.¹

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 is 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 can excuse a 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, he/she 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 related to sexuality education in Montana.

Events of Note

Montana Abstinence Education Advisory Council Created
2000

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, then-Governor Judy Martz (R) appointed a new 18-member Montana Abstinence Education Advisory Council.

Montana's Youth: Statistical Information of Note²

- 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 HIV/AIDS 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.³
- In 2002, Montana's birth rate was 36 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.⁴

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Montana received \$175,988 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2004. 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 one for one. The Montana Abstinence Partnership (MAP) oversees these funds, supports a media campaign (which receives \$50,000), and distributes funds to sub-grantee organizations across the state.

Montana's Title V sub-grantees include Hope Pregnancy Center, a crisis pregnancy center. In addition to unabashedly promoting an anti-choice platform, Hope Pregnancy Center also uses misleading statistics and a fear- and shame-based approach to abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. The website maintains that "used inconsistently (less than 100% of the time), condoms offer little more protection than when they are not used at all."⁵ In addition, the webpage dedicated to abstinence states, "abstinence is about savoring something until a time that makes it most delicious. Saving sexual activity till marriage can provide a risk free, guilt free, fear free environment to savor this experience."⁶

Another sub-grantee, Montana Youth Alive is part of a national network that "was established in 1979. It is a campus ministry strategy designed to build students' hope by presenting Jesus Christ, the message of hope, to every student on every campus. It is a combined effort of students and local youth leaders across the nation."⁷ Youth Alive initiates "Prayer Zone Partners" on campuses across the country. Prayer Zone Partners may include adults or students that adopt a school or community and "pray for its students, faculty, and administrators when they drive through a school zone, transforming it into a 'Prayer Zone,'" or "'pray walk' in the halls or around the grounds of the school."⁸

Special Projects of Regional and National Significance—Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS-CBAE)⁹ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are no SPRANS-CBAE or AFLA grantees in Montana.

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2004

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Montana Abstinence Partnership www.dphhs.state.mt.us/hpsd/pu/bheal/healsafe/abstinc/abstain.htm	\$175,988 federal	Title V
1st Way Pregnancy Support Center	\$9,950	Title V sub-grantee

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Boys and Girls Club of the Fort Peck Reservation	\$10,000	Title V sub-grantee
Boys and Girls Club of Glacier County	\$6,000	Title V sub-grantee
Care Net Pregnancy Center of Billings	\$9,956	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	\$4,000	Title V sub-grantee
New Hope Pregnancy Support Center of Butte	\$9,773	Title V sub-grantee
New Hope Pregnancy Support Center of Dillon	\$4,500	Title V sub-grantee
Richland County Health Department	\$10,000	Title V sub-grantee
SAFE, Inc. (Sexual Abstinence & Family Education)	\$9,714	Title V sub-grantee
We Care Unplanned Pregnancy Center	\$1,324	Title V sub-grantee

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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111 N. Sanders
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: (406) 444-3008

Montana Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

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

Montanans for Choice (education
partner of Montana NARAL)
PO 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
www.mtgayhealth.org

NARAL Pro-Choice Montana
PO Box 279
Helena, MT 59624
Phone: (406) 443-0276
www.mtchoice.com

Planned Parenthood of Montana
318 N. Last Chance Gulch, #2C
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: (406) 457-2469
www.plannedparenthood.org/pp2/it/

Montana Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Heartbeat of the Bitterroot/Ravalli County
Right to Life
1900 N. Main, Suite C
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: (406) 443-0827
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
Education Reporter
2820 W. College St.
Bozeman, MT 59718
Phone: (406) 587-4491

The Daily Inter Lake
Nancy Kimball
Education Editor
727 E. Idaho St.
Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone: (406) 755-7000

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The Enterprise

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

Havre Daily News

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

MEA - MFT Today

Sanna Porte
Education Editor
1232 E. 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: (406) 442-4250

Missoulian

Jane Rider
Education Reporter
500 S. Higgins Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801
Phone: (406) 523-5298

Montana Standard

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

Rural Montana

Mack McConnell
Editor
501 Bay Dr.
Great Falls, MT 59404
Phone: (406) 761-8333

Great Falls Tribune

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

Independent Record

Laura Tode
Education Reporter
317 Cruse St.
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: (406) 447-4081

Miles City Star

Denise Hartse
Education Editor
818 Main St.
Miles City, MT 59301
Phone: (406) 232-0450

Montana Magazine

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

Ravalli Republic

Jenny Johnson
Education Reporter
232 W. Main St.
Hamilton, MT 59840
Phone: (406) 363-3300

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 2004 begins on October 1, 2003 and ends on September 30, 2004.

² Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Jo Anne Grunbaum, et. al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2003,” *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 53.SS-2 (21 May 2004): 1-95, accessed 28 January 2005, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbbs/>>.

³ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, February, 2004), accessed 28 January 2005, <www.guttmacher.org>.

⁴ *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>>.

⁵ *Pregnancy*, Hope Pregnancy Center (2002), accessed 7 January 2005, <http://www.hopepregnancycenter.org/sh_preg.htm>.

⁶ *Your Health*, Hope Pregnancy Center (2002), accessed 7 January 2005, <http://www.hopepregnancycenter.org/sh_health.htm>.

⁷ *Know Youth Alive*, Youth Alive (2004), accessed 7 January 2005, <<http://youthalive.ag.org/knowya.cfm>>.

⁸ *Prayer Zone Partners*, Youth Alive (2004), accessed 7 January 2005, <<http://youthalive.ag.org/pzp.cfm>>.

⁹ In FY 2004 SPRANS–CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In FY 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).