



MONTANA

Montana received \$172,303 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in FY 2005.¹

Montana Sexuality Education Law and Policy

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. The Board of Public Education also has a position statement that states, "all Montana school districts are strongly encouraged to develop appropriate communicable disease policies that specifically include HIV and AIDS, and which address age-appropriate education, rights and accommodations of students and staff who are infected, and safety procedures."

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 or 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. Each school district sets its own 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 and Montana Board of Public Education's *Position Statement on HIV/AIDS*.

Recent Legislation

Montana does not have a regular legislative session in 2006 and did not carry bills over from 2005. SIECUS was not aware of any legislation in 2005 regarding sexuality education in Montana.

Events of Note

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

Montana's Youth: Statistical Information of Note²

- In 2005, 43% of female high school students and 44% of male high school students in Montana reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 3% of female high school students and 7% of male high school students in Montana reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 4% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 13% of female high school students and 13% of male high school students in Montana reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 12% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, 32% of female high school students and 30% 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 female high school students and 33% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 57% of females and 67% of males in Montana reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 26% of females and 21% of males in Montana reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 25% of females and 34% of males in Montana reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 28% of males nationwide.
- In 2005, 90% 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.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 \$172,303 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2005. 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 may 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 \$35,000), and distributes funds to 11 sub-grantees across the state. Sub-grantees include: 1st Way Pregnancy Support Center; Boys and Girls Club of the Fort Peck Reservation; Boys and Girls Club of Glacier County; Care Net Pregnancy Center of Billings; Cascade City-County Health Department; Hope Pregnancy Center; Montana Youth Alive; New Hope Pregnancy Support Center of Butte; New Hope Pregnancy Support Center of Dillon; Richland County Health Department; and SAFE, Inc. (Sexual Abstinence & Family Education).

Hope Pregnancy Center, a crisis pregnancy center, unabashedly promotes an anti-choice platform. It also uses misleading statistics and a fear- and shame-based approaches to abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. The Center's website maintains that:

Condoms are used correctly less than 50% of the time. A condom can break, leak or slip off during intercourse. In one test, 33% (1/3) of the latex condoms leaked HIV (the virus that causes AIDS). Unlike the AIDS virus, HPV (human papillomavirus) is a STD that is passed by direct intimate (skin to skin) contact. HPV is the most common viral STD in the United States. Experts report that condoms provide little, if any, protection against this STD. The Center for Disease Control says, 'used inconsistently (less than 100 percent of the time), condoms offer little more protection than when they are not used at all.'⁵

In truth, the CDC reports that couples can use condoms consistently and correctly and, when they do, condoms slip, break, and leak less than 2% of the time. The CDC also reports that condoms can reduce the transmission of HPV as well as help reduce the occurrence of HPV-related health issues such as cervical cancer.⁶

The website also inaccurately states that emergency contraception is as a method of abortion and states that, "if conception already occurred within the 72 hour time frame (that is the "night before"), the life is expelled. This is an early abortion."⁷ In fact, emergency contraception will not abort an already established pregnancy.

Another sub-grantee, Montana Youth Alive, is part of a national network that:

[W]as 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.⁸

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."⁹

Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE)¹⁰ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are no CBAE or AFLA grantees in Montana.

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2005

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)
Montana Abstinence Partnership http://thesmartchoice.org/	\$172,303 federal	Title V
1st Way Pregnancy Support Center	\$9,950	Title V sub-grantee
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 www.co.cascade.mt.us	\$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 www.newhopemontana.org	\$9,773	Title V sub-grantee
New Hope Pregnancy Support Center of Dillon	\$4,500	Title V sub-grantee

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, and AFLA)
Richland County Health Department	\$10,000	Title V sub-grantee
SAFE, Inc. (Sexual Abstinence & Family Education) www.safeinc.org	\$9,714	Title V sub-grantee

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Montana Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Montana
PO Box 1317
Helena, MT 59624
Phone: (406) 443-8590
www.aclumontana.org

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

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

Planned Parenthood of Montana
1500 Cannon St.
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 406) 443-7676
<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/pp2/imt/>

Montana Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Right to Life of Montana
PO Box 6787
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

Bozeman Daily Chronicle

Gail Schontzler

Education Reporter

2820 W. College St.

Bozeman, MT 59718

Phone: (406) 587-4491

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

Billings Gazette

Susan Olp

Education Staff Writer

401 N. 28th St.

Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 657-1281

The Daily Inter Lake

Nancy Kimball

Education Editor

727 E. Idaho St.

Kalispell, MT 59901

Phone: (406) 755-7000

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

M O N T A N A

Montana Standard

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

Ravalli Republic

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

Rural Montana

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

- 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 2005 begins on October 1, 2004 and ends on September 30, 2005.
- ² Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Danice K. Eaton, et. al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2005,” *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 55, no. SS-5 (9 June 2006): 1-108, accessed 8 June 2006, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>.
- ³ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Guttmacher Institute, February 2004), accessed 28 January 2005, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state_pregnancy_trends.pdf>.
- 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 *Don't Condoms Prevent STDs*, Hope Pregnancy Center, accessed 17 November 2005, <<http://www.hopepregnancycenter.org/std.htm>>.
- ⁶ *Latex Condoms and Sexually Transmitted Diseases-Prevention Messages*, (Atlanta, GA: National Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, undated document).
- ⁷ *Abortion Procedures*, Hope Pregnancy Center, accessed 17 November 2005, <<http://www.pregnancycenters.org/abortion.html>>.
- ⁸ *Know Youth Alive*, Youth Alive (2004), accessed 17 November 2005, <<http://youthalive.ag.org/knowya.cfm>>.
- ⁹ *Prayer Zone Partners*, Youth Alive (2004), accessed 17 November 2005, <<http://youthalive.ag.org/pzp.cfm>>.
- ¹⁰ In Fiscal Year 2004 SPRANS–CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In Fiscal Year 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).