



Wyoming

Wyoming received \$604,362 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2003.¹

Wyoming Sexuality Education Law

Wyoming does not require sexuality, HIV/AIDS, or STD prevention education, nor does it limit what can be taught if such education is offered. However, the *Wyoming Health Content and Performance Standards* include sexuality education. Additionally, the *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools* sets some standards for HIV/AIDS-prevention education.

Wyoming state law does not require parental permission for students to participate in such classes nor does it specify how parents or guardians can remove their children from such classes.

See the *Wyoming Content and Performance Standards*² and *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools*.³

Recent Legislation

The Wyoming legislature does not carry bills over from one session to the next. Related 2003 and 2004 bills are listed. Wyoming's legislative session ended on May 5, 2004.

Resolution Recognizing Crisis Pregnancy Centers Died

House Joint Resolution 4, which "failed introduction" in February 2004, sought to recognize crisis pregnancy centers. The resolution began: "WHEREAS, many crisis pregnancy centers work to prevent unexpected pregnancies by teaching effective abstinence education in many venues, including in public schools." It went on to encourage the federal government (Congress) to "grant crisis pregnancy centers assistance for medical equipment and abstinence education in a manner that does not compromise the religious integrity of these organizations."

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.

² *Wyoming Content and Performance Standards*, (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming Department of Education). Available online at <http://www.learning-for-life.org/lfl/resources/statereports/wyoming.pdf>.

³ *HIV/AIDS Model Policy for Wyoming Public Schools*, (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming Department of Education). Available online at <http://www.k12.wy.us/ao/hs/programs/hivpolicy.pdf>.

Events of Note

Activists Defeat Proposal for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program September 2003; Washakie County, WY

Proponents of comprehensive sexuality education successfully defeated the Washakie County School District No. 1 Board's recommendation to replace the current abstinence-based curriculum with an abstinence-only-until-marriage program.

Specifically, the board recommended, "It shall be the policy of Washakie County School District No. 1, while teaching sex education, the curriculum shall be based on abstinence only."

A large crowd, including students and members of the religious community, spoke against the change.

Wyoming's Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁴

- In 2003, 47% of female high school students and 45% of male high school students in Wyoming reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 6% of female high school students and 6% of male high school students in Wyoming 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, 16% of female high school students and 16% of male high school students in Wyoming 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, 34% of female high school students and 30% of male high school students in Wyoming 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 33% of males in Wyoming 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 67% of males in Wyoming 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, 25% of females and 21% of males in Wyoming reported having used birth control pills

⁴ 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/>.

the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 13% of males nationwide.

- In 2003, 5% of female high school students and 3% of male high school students in Wyoming 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 Wyoming reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Wyoming's abortion rate was 25 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁵
- In 2001, Wyoming's birth rate was 39 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 45 per 1,000 nationwide.⁶

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Wyoming received \$85,935 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. Wyoming matched the federal funding with \$25,000 in state funding. The rest of the match comes from in-kind services from the funded abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. The Wyoming Department of Health oversees this funding and collaborates with the Wyoming Department of Education and the Wyoming Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Task Force.

The funding is used to run a statewide media campaign, entitled *Sex Can Wait*, which is aimed at nine to 14-year olds, their parents, and their older siblings. The main goal is to increase the number of abstinence messages heard by this audience. The campaign emphasizes three points of the federal government's eight point definition of abstinence-only education:

- a) has as its exclusive purpose teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;
- g) teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances; and
- h) teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

Wyoming's program, which is currently devising a new ad campaign, uses television advertising. Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funds are also used to provide materials and technical assistance to teachers as well as materials for parents about how to speak to their children about sex.

Four percent of the federal funding will go towards evaluating the campaign based on the rates of sexual intercourse among teens, level of exposure to the media campaign's messages, teen birth rates, teen STD rates, and attitudes about abstinence among Wyoming youth.

⁵ 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.

⁶ A. Papillo, et.al., *Facts at a Glance*, (Washington, DC: Child Trends, February, 2004).

W Y O M I N G

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 Wyoming.

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

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Wyoming Department of Health http://wdh.state.wy.us/sexcnwait/index.asp	\$85,935 federal/ \$25,000 state	Title V
First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ 2003-2004	\$186,545	TANF Bonus Funds
St. Anthony's Church www.stanthonycody.org 2003-2004	\$52,080	TANF Bonus Funds
Wyoming Children's Society www.wyomingcs.org 2003-2004	\$279,802	TANF Bonus Funds

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Maternal and Child Health
Wyoming Department of Health
Hathaway Building
4020 House Ave., Room 465
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-3722

Wyoming Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains
Phone: (303) 321-7526
www.pprm.org

Wyoming Health Council
1915 Warren Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone (307) 362-3640
www.wyhc.org

NARAL Pro-Choice Wyoming
P.O. Box 271
Laramie, WY 82073
Phone: (307) 742-9189
www.prochoiceamerica.org/yourstate/wy.cfm

Wyoming Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Catholic Social Services
623 S Wolcott
Casper, WY 82601
Phone: (307) 237-2723

Catholic Social Services
P.O. Box 1468
2121 Capitol Ave
Cheyenne, WY 82003
Phone: (307) 638-1530
www.dioceseofcheyenne.org/catholic_social_services.htm

Right to Life of Wyoming
P.O. Box 304
Reliance, WY 82943
Phone: (307) 682-3435

Newspapers in Wyoming

Casper Star-Tribune
Clay Anthony
Medical/Health Editor
170 Star Lane
Casper, WY 82604
Phone: (307) 266-0535

Daily Rocket-Miner
Assignment Editor
215 D St.
Rock Springs, WY 82901
Phone: (307) 362-3736

Gillette News-Record
Sam Herley
Medical/Health Editor
1201 W. 2nd St.
Gillette, WY 82716
Phone: (307) 682-9306

Laramie Daily Boomerang
Assignment Editor
320 E. Grand Ave.
Laramie, WY 82070
Phone: (307) 742-2176

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Northern Wyoming Daily News

Assignment Editor
201 N. 8th St.
Worland, WY 82401
Phone: (307) 347-3241

Rawlins Daily Times

Merv Mecklenburg
Community News Reporter
522 W. Buffalo St.
Rawlins, WY 82301
Phone: (307) 324-3411

Riverton Ranger

Assignment Editor
421 E. Main St.
Riverton, WY 82501
Phone: (307) 856-2244

Sheridan Press

Daniel Carson
Community News Reporter
144 E. Grinnell St.
Sheridan, WY 82801
Phone: (307) 672-2431

Wyoming Tribune-Eagle

Ilene Olson
Community News Reporter
702 W. Lincolnway
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone: (307) 633-3131