

State Profiles FISCAL YEAR 2016

A PORTRAIT OF SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN THE STATES

SIECUS is pleased to publish the *State Profiles: A Portrait of Sexuality Education in the States*. The fiscal year (FY) 2016 edition of the *SIECUS State Profiles* includes individual profiles for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the outer United States territories. This 14th edition contains information from FY 2016 (October 1, 2015–September 30, 2016).

As in recent years' editions, the overall status of states' policies, health data, and federal programs in the FY 2016 *SIECUS State Profiles* illustrates the progress advocates and educators have made in improving sexuality education law, policy, and implementation. Yet, not only does this year's *SIECUS State Profiles* show an all too prominent role that abstinence-only-until-marriage (AOUM) programs still play in schools and communities across the country, it also reflects the significant increase in federal funding for AOUM programs authorized and appropriated in FY 2016. While we continue to see progress in moving away from the failed experiment of AOUM programs toward evidence-informed and medically accurate sexual health programs, particularly at the state and local levels, we must continue to advocate for adolescent sexual health promotion—including advances for comprehensive sexuality education and opposition to AOUM programs—at the federal level as well.

By the end of FY 2016:

- Years of dedicated federal funding for comprehensive sexuality education: 0
- Years of continued dedicated federal funding for abstinence-only programs: 34
- \$1.96 billion in federal funds spent since 1982 on abstinence-only programs that intentionally withhold life-affirming and lifesaving information.
- Federal funding for abstinence-only programs increased by 55% to \$85 million.
 - Title V state AOUM program – 35 states and two territories
 - Competitive AOUM grant program now called “sexual risk avoidance education”– 12 states
- The average Title V AOUM state-grant award increased by 30% to the average award amount of \$1.6 million compared to the average state-grant award during the same period the prior year. When the state match requirement is taken into consideration, the average award plus match funds resulted in \$2.8 million in spending on these shaming and stigmatizing programs.
- Federal funding for evidence-based or -informed, medically accurate, and age-appropriate programs was awarded in all but one of the 59 states and territories:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) – 23 states and the District of Columbia
- Office of Adolescent Health’s (OAH) Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP) – 32 states and one territory
- Family and Youth Services Bureau’s (FYSB) Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) – 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six territories

This annual publication presents a clear record of how federal funds for adolescent sexual health promotion and AOUM programs are being utilized and implemented across the country and provides the information educators and advocates need to continue to learn and strategize with each other. At the same time, SIECUS recognizes that many schools and communities are advancing sexuality education without the assistance of federal funds. It is SIECUS’ hope that we can collectively build from all of these best practices and varying models of success to advance sexuality education and support the lifelong health of young people in our nation.

Each FY 2016 SIECUS State Profile includes:

- Current laws and policies related to sexuality education;
- Adolescent sexual health data including race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation breakdown (as available);
- Information on the recipients and their use of federal DASH, TPPP, PREP, Title V state AOUM program, and the competitive AOUM grant program funding; and
- Contact information for the state or territory’s DASH, TPPP, PREP and Title V AOUM state grant program coordinators.

In addition, the *SIECUS State Profiles* also includes a federal funding overview highlighting the year’s trends at the federal and state levels, including a historical summary of federal funding for adolescent programs related to sexual health and AOUM programs; a table of the states’ laws related to sexuality education; and description summaries of the curricula or programs used across the country.

Since the publication of the first *SIECUS State Profiles* in 2003, this resource has remained a unique tool for knowledgeable and empowered advocacy efforts to advance comprehensive sexuality education. The profiles are a resource for educators, advocates, and policymakers. We encourage supporters of comprehensive sexuality education to use the *SIECUS State Profiles* in their efforts to inform, shape, and improve sexuality education policies and practices.

The diligent research for this edition of the *SIECUS State Profiles* would not have been possible without SIECUS staff, Jesseca Boyer and Kristina Romines, and the assistance of Taissa Morimoto and Kelsey Van Nice, whom we would like to thank for their valuable contributions. We are also appreciative of our many state partners with whom we work each year to make certain that the *SIECUS State Profiles* provide the most accurate picture possible. The result is a publication that represents real collaboration, intended to benefit all of our efforts. As always, it is our great pleasure to work with these dedicated organizations, professionals, colleagues, and friends.

Thanks are also due to the Guttmacher Institute for their research on sexuality education laws and policies and to Advocates for Youth and ETR Associates for their research on evidence-based curricula, as well as The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy for their state factsheets, all of which were consulted during the drafting of this publication.

Finally, to our many donors, who support our work and believe in the rights of all people to access quality sexuality education, we extend our thanks. We are also particularly grateful to The Ford Foundation, The F.M. Kirby Foundation, and the WestWind Foundation for their support in this undertaking.

SIECUS is committed to helping advocates in states and communities secure sexuality education policies and programs that are based on sound science, public health expertise, and ensure the rights of all people. We hope that the *State Profiles* will be of great value in our collective efforts.

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to offer suggestions on how the *SIECUS State Profiles* can better help you advocate for comprehensive sexuality education and lifelong sexual health for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Chitra Panjabi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chitra Panjabi
President & CEO