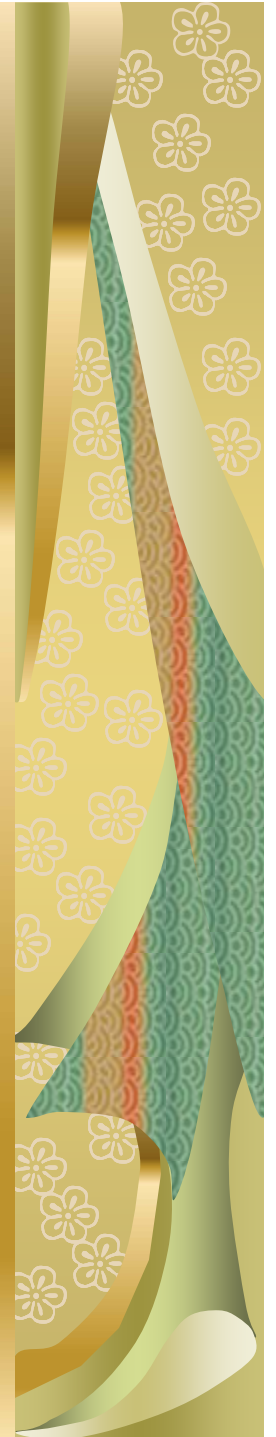


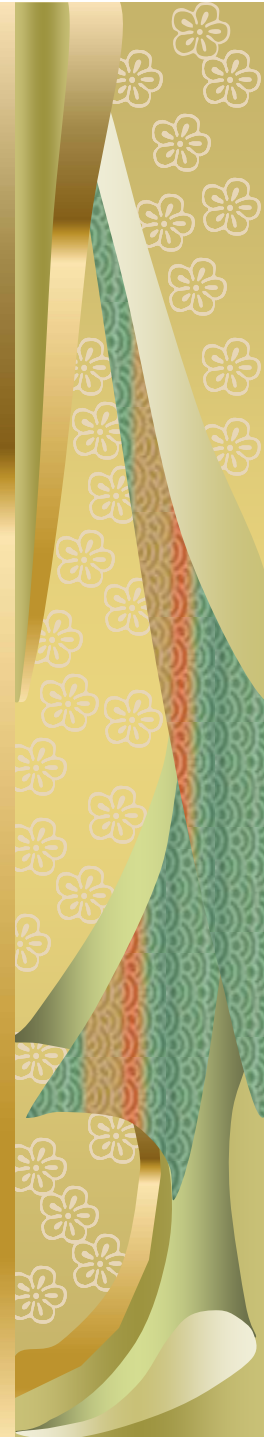
Federal Abstinence Policy

A Policy Briefing
by
Nikole Pagan and Ben Leroi



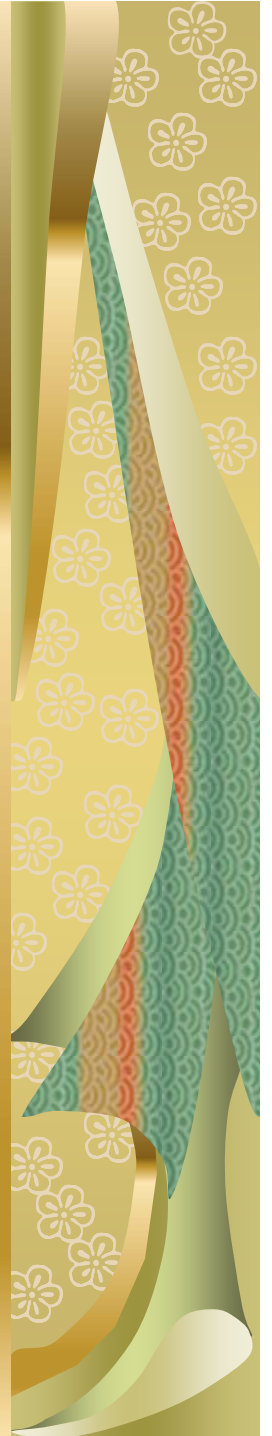
Policy Timeline

- 1981 -- Congress passes the Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA)
 - First time Federal government had codified language of “chastity”, “self-discipline”, and “abstinence” into sex education
 - Faced legal challenge from ACLU et. al.; Supreme Court found constitutional as written, but not as implemented



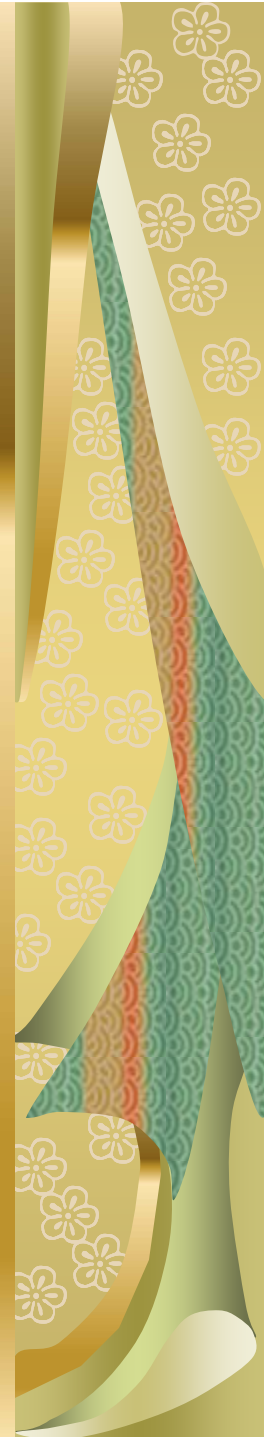
Focusing Events

- Passage of AFLA a reaction to the sexual revolution of the 60s/70s, teen pregnancy, gay rights, and Roe v. Wade
- Rise of “New Right” advocacy groups in the 70s



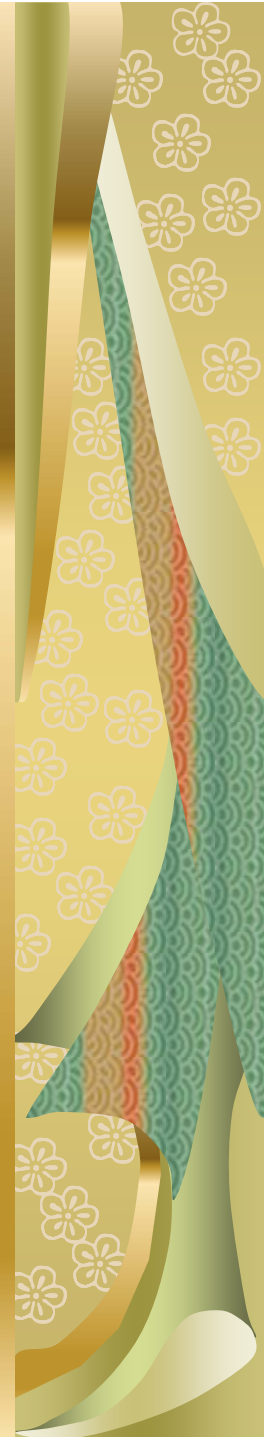
Welfare Reform Bill

- 1996 -- Congress passes comprehensive Welfare Reform Bill
 - Republican Congressmen insert Title V, Section 510(b) at juncture generally reserved for technical edits
 - Designated \$250 million over 5 years for abstinence-only sex education plus 3:4 matching funds from states



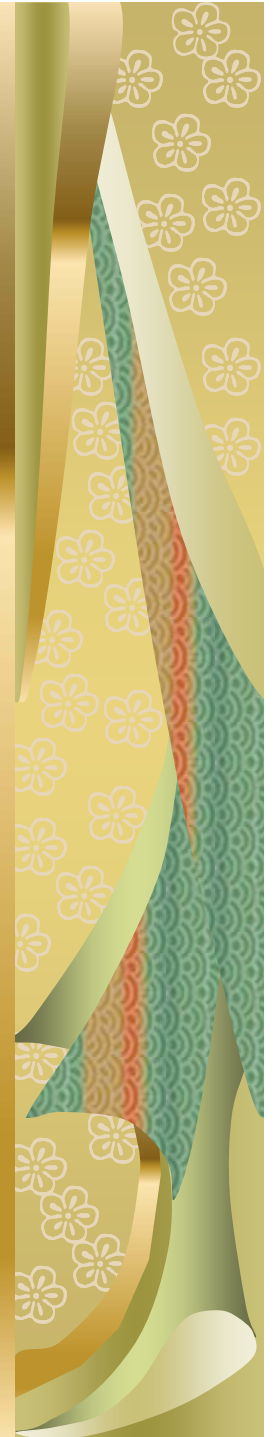
Title V Curricula Conditions

- **A) has as its exclusive purpose teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;**
- **B) teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children;**
- **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;**



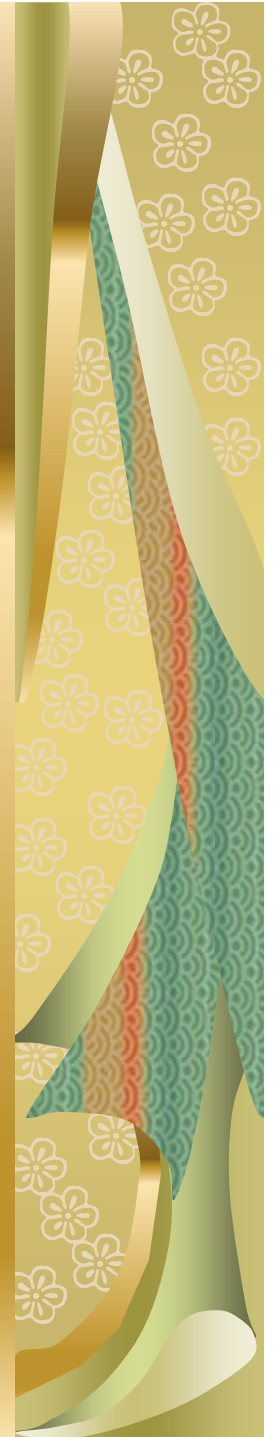
Title V Curricula (cont.)

- **D) teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the expected standard of sexual activity;**
- **E) teaches that sexual activity outside of the context of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects;**
- **F) teaches that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society;**



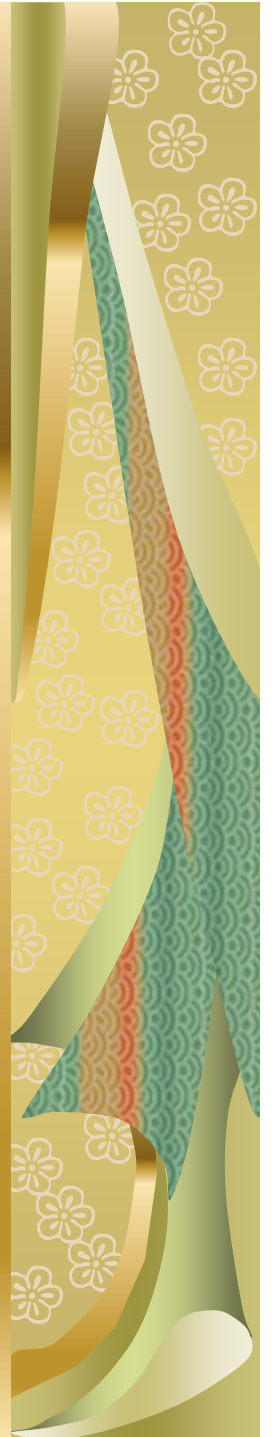
Title V Curricula (cont.)

- **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.**





Title V Implemented

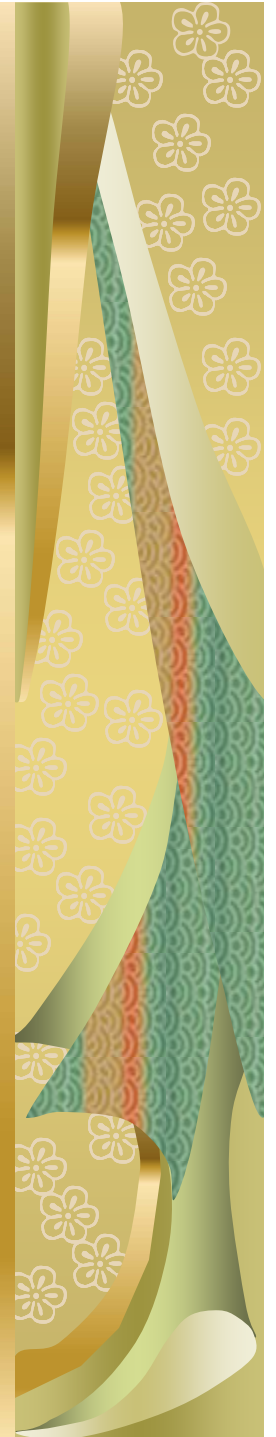
- 1998 -- Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) begins awarding categorical block grants to states
- 2001 -- HHS announces an additional \$17.1 million available for abstinence-only education via SPRANS-CBAE



Policy Timeline



2001 - 2007

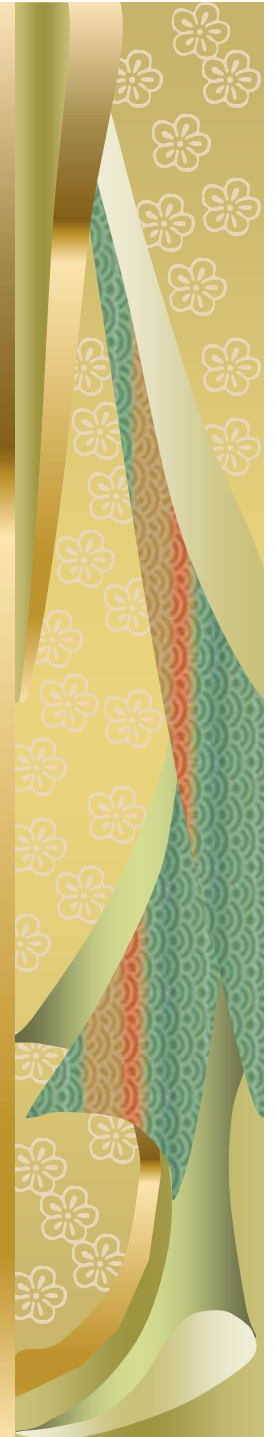
-  \$963 million of federal funding disbursed for abstinence only sex education in these 7 years
-  First evaluations of both curricula content and program effectiveness appear



Institutional Stakeholders

Congress

-  Passed AFLA, Welfare Reform Bill --
Many Congressmen support abstinence-only sex education
-  Waxman (Rep-CA) releases evaluation of curricula content and requests GAO to evaluate legality and efficacy of abstinence-only programs



Institutional Stakeholders

■ Executive Branch (President/HHS)

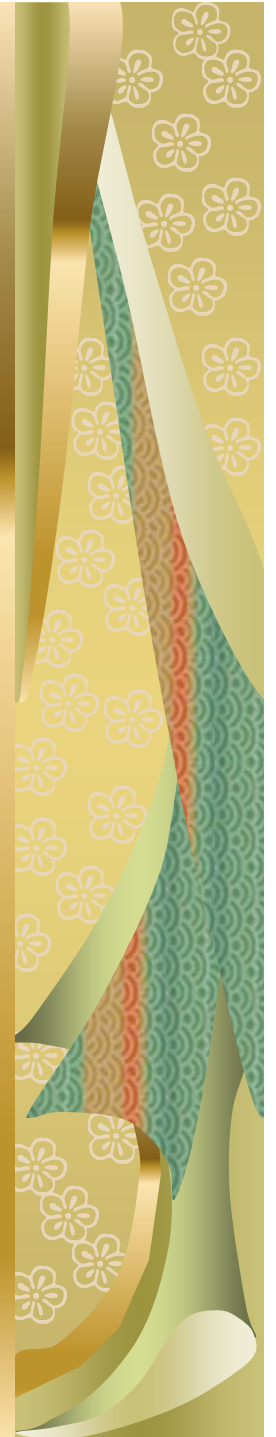
- Advocate for large amounts of federal funding for abstinence-only sex education

■ Surgeon General

- Advocates for medically accurate sex education



■ States

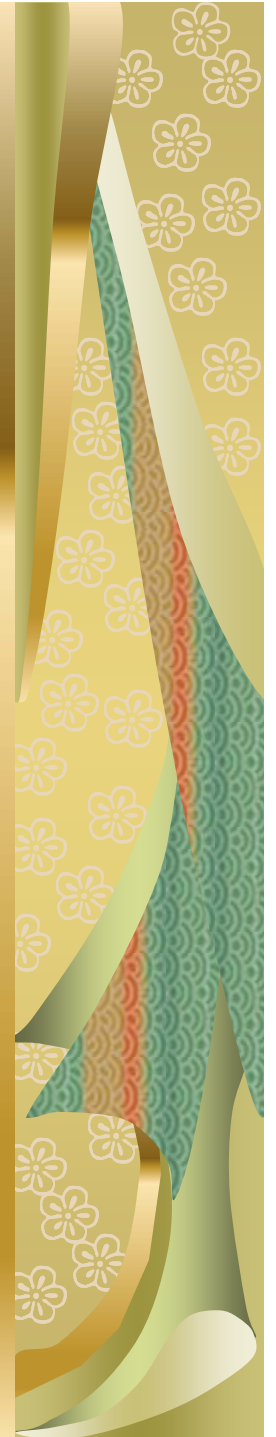
- Power to refuse federal funding, but majority of states still accept abstinence-only funding and supply matching funds



Non-Institutional Stakeholders


Advocacy Groups

-  “New Right” (e.g. Focus on the Family) advocate for Federal abstinence-only funding
-  Medical/Civil Rights/Liberal groups (e.g. SIECUS) lobby for comprehensive, medically accurate sex education including harm reduction techniques




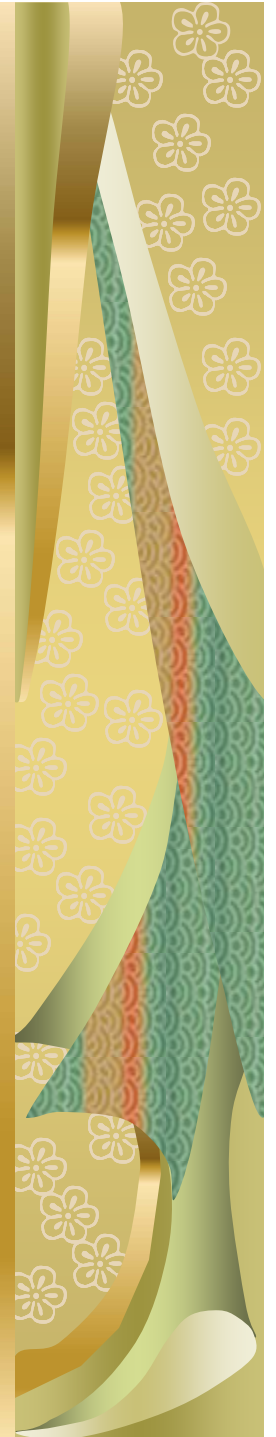
Non-Institutional Stakeholders

LGBT teens/community

-  Want to be included in sex education curricula

Parents

-  Wide range of opinions among parents, though polls show majority favor comprehensive, medically accurate sex education



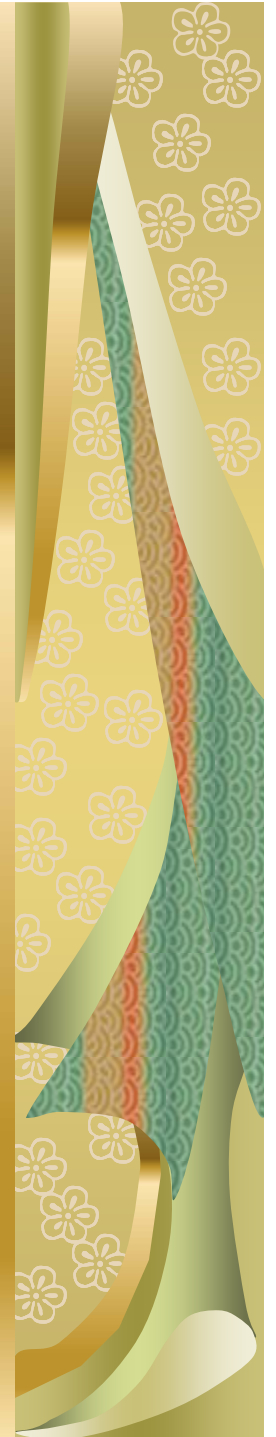
Process Models

■ Advocacy Coalition Framework (Sabatier)

- Shared core belief has brought diverse groups together around this policy issue
- Symbolic use of language utilized to unite support around issue (Edelman)


■ Subgovernments (Heclo)

- Executive, Legislative, and “New Right” lobby form iron triangle on this policy issue



Process Models

Streams Metaphor (Kingdon)

-  “Policy Window” opened when the problem stream, political stream, and solution stream coincided

