

Illinois has varied sex ed curriculum

by UPI

CHICAGO -- Teen pregnancies and funding changes in Washington are prompting Illinois educators to examine how they teach sex education, officials say.

Illinois law does not require sex education but specifies the emphasis must be on abstinence if it is taught, the Chicago Tribune reported Wednesday.

Nine of 10 Illinois health educators cover abstinence but how they do so varies, says a report in the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

"There's always a balancing act, but you've got to start from someplace," says Jay Sabatino, superintendent of Community High School District 117 in Lake Villa.

Susan Cailteux who teaches at Joliet Central High School, finds some of her students lacking in knowledge about reproduction.

"It's very frustrating at times because you expect them to know the basics, but the basics have not been taught."

This spring Congress is expected to consider whether to curtail support for abstinence-only programs. Last month Congress cut \$14 million from abstinence programs.

Copyright © 2009, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Illinois has varied sex ed curriculum by UPI