



Minnesota

Minnesota received \$2,074,173 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2003.¹

Minnesota Sexuality Education Law

In 1988, the Minnesota legislature passed a bill requiring school districts to develop and implement a comprehensive HIV/AIDS-prevention and risk-reduction program. In 1999, the law was amended to include instruction on sexually transmitted diseases and “helping students to abstain from sexual activity until marriage.”

See Minnesota Statute 121A.23.

Recent Legislation

The Minnesota legislature carried bills over from the 2003 to the 2004 session. Minnesota’s legislative session ended on May 17, 2004.

Abstinence-Until-Marriage Mandate Dropped from Omnibus Education Bill

Current law in Minnesota requires a “comprehensive, technically accurate, and updated curriculum that includes helping students to abstain from sexual activity until marriage.” Members of the House attempted to change the requirement to an abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum using the omnibus education bill (HF 1404 and SF 1528) adopted by the legislature. These efforts, however, were not successful in the Senate or the conference. However, funding for the state’s five kindergarten through grade 12 HIV/STI regional training sites was cut in the bill.

HF 765 and SF 851, which would have made several changes to the current statute regarding sexually transmitted disease programs, were incorporated into the Senate version of the omnibus bill but not accepted in the conference. The bills would have changed language from “sexually transmitted infections and diseases” to “sexually transmitted infections.” Also, language regarding marriage would have been deleted from the current statute (which would have then read “comprehensive, technically accurate, and updated curriculum that includes helping students to abstain from sexual activity”).

HF 580 and SF 747, bills requiring every school district to offer two curricula to address HIV/STI prevention—one comprehensive sexual health education curricula and one abstinence-until-marriage curricula—were incorporated into the House version of the omnibus bill. The

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.

Senate version did not include this requirement, and conferees ultimately decided to drop the different requirements, thus maintaining the current law.

Also of note were proposed amendments that would have included language prohibiting any state agency or school from “promoting homosexuality.”

The House amendment was ultimately withdrawn and the Senate amendment failed.

Abstinence-Until-Marriage Requirement Died

House Bill 1227, introduced on March 26, 2003, sought to “improve student access to services that support academic success.” The bill was amended in committee to include new provisions, one of which states that if school districts comply with a state statute regarding a sexually transmitted disease program, then they must provide students with a curriculum and instruction on abstinence-until-marriage.

The bill died at the end of the legislative session.

Comprehensive Family Life and Sexuality Education Bills Die

Senate Bill 1665 and House Bill 2731, introduced in February and March 2004 respectively, would require that all school districts provide comprehensive family life and sexuality education in grades kindergarten through 12 by the 2008-2009 school year. In addition, the bills would establish regional training sites for comprehensive family planning and sexuality education, create grants for after-school enrichment programs, require referrals and distribution of family planning and contraception information after abortion services are provided, require development of a family planning website, and make changes to the MN ENABL (Education Now And Babies Later) program.

Substantially similar bills, including SB 2658, SB 2659, SB 2660, SB 2661, SB 2662, and SB 2673, were also introduced.

House Bill 2546 and Senate Bills 2443 and 2444, also introduced in February 2004 and March 2004, would make similar requirements on school districts. These bills, with slight differences, would allow schools to create comprehensive, medically accurate, age-appropriate family life and sexuality programs for their pupils in kindergarten through sixth grade and would require such programs for students in grades seven through 12. The bills provide a parental opt-out provision and makes requirements about parental notification of such courses. SB 2443 passed in committee on March 11, 2004.

All bills died at the end of the legislative session.

Health Education Requirement Died

House Bill 2209 and Senate Bill 1882, introduced in February 2004, would create a requirement of at least 50 hours of health education annually for Minnesota students. A provision requiring the commissioner to define health education through rulemaking is also included.

Both bills died at the end of the legislative session.

Events of Note

Evaluation of ENABL Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Program Finds It to Be Ineffective January 2004

An independent study commissioned by the Minnesota Department of Health has concluded that a state and federally funded abstinence-only-until-marriage program used in some Minnesota schools is not effective in delaying sexual activity. After the release of the report,

Carol Woolverton, Assistant Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health, said, “we recognize that there might be more efficient ways to approach this.”²

The report, posted on the Department of Health’s website, found that sexual activity among junior high school participants of the state’s Education Now and Babies Later (ENABL) at three schools doubled between 2001 and 2002 and that participants who said they would “probably” have sex during high school almost doubled as well.³ With the exception of some positive effects on parent-teen communication, the study found no positive impact of the ENABL program.

ENABL, which has been taught to approximately 45,000 Minnesota students, is an abstinence-only-until-marriage program funded by Title V and matching state funds.

The Minnesota study, conducted by Professional Data Analysts, Inc. and Professional Evaluation Services, concludes by recognizing the success of comprehensive sexuality education programs and recommending that any intervention be comprehensive, thereby including information about both abstinence *and* contraception.

The evaluation also found that the majority of parents surveyed by the Minnesota ENABL program (77 percent) want their children to learn about both abstinence and contraception. In fact, only 20 percent of these Minnesota parents wanted abstinence-only-until-marriage programs to be taught to their children. This closely mirrors national numbers on public support of comprehensive sexuality education.⁴

Minnesota’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note

- In 2000, Minnesota’s abortion rate was 13 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁵
- In 2001, Minnesota’s birth rate was 28 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 45 per 1,000 nationwide.⁶
- In 2002, Minnesota’s gonorrhea rate was 202 per 100,000 persons ages 15 to 19, compared to a rate of 476 cases per 100,000 persons ages 15 to 19 nationwide.⁷

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Minnesota received \$613,756 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

² J. Marcotty, "State's abstinence-only sex education doesn't work any better, report says," *Star Tribune*, January 5, 2004.

³ *Minnesota Education Now and Babies Later (MN ENABL), Evaluation Report 1998-2002*, (St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Section.) Available online at <http://saynotyet.com/report.htm>.

⁴ SIECUS Public Policy Fact Sheet, “Public Support for Comprehensive Sexuality Education.”

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).

⁷ *2002 Minnesota Sexually Transmitted Disease Statistics*, (St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Health, STD and HIV Section). Available online at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/stds/stdreport2002.pdf>. *Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2002*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, September 2003) pp.51-57. Available online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/toc2002.htm>.

provided in part or in full by local groups. In Minnesota, the federal money is matched with \$460,317 in state funds. This funding is controlled by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Minnesota's Title V funding is used to fund Minnesota ENABL program, an abstinence-only-until-marriage program that was established prior to Title V funding. In Fiscal Year 2003, the ENABL program received an additional \$1,000,000 through TANF. In 2004, an evaluation found the program to be ineffective (see "Events of Note" section above).⁸

Minnesota's Title V funding for ENABL is split between five components:

1. *Community Organizing Activities*: This is the only area in which the money is sub-granted. There are 23 sub-grantees including three school districts, six community health organizations, and 14 non-profit organizations. There are no faith-based groups among the sub-grantees.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, these grantees "provide school and community wide activities to convey and reinforce the message of abstinence as the norm for youth age 14 and under." Each of the grantees must work in three areas: curriculum, community organizing, and public awareness.

2. *Statewide Media Campaign*: This targets youth 10-14 and people over 24. The theme of the campaign is "Be Smart. Think Smart. Live Life."
3. *Training for Staff and Community Leaders*: Training and technical assistance is provided by Minnesota Department of Health staff.
4. *Program Evaluation*: The program evaluation was released in January 2004 and showed that these programs are not effective in delaying sexual activity. The evaluation found that sexual activity among junior high school participants of the ENABL program at three schools doubled between 2001 and 2002 and that participants who said they would "probably" have sex during high school almost doubled as well. With the exception of some positive effects on parent-teen communication, the study found no positive impact of the ENABL program.
5. *Program Administration*: Funds used to provide staffing, technical assistance, and support for the statewide program.

The program uses four curricula: *Postponing Sexual Involvement*, *Managing Pressures*, an untitled abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum, and *Worth the Wait*. According to the Department of Health, all curricula must be technically accurate; up to date; use a positive approach; gender-fair; racially, ethnically, and culturally non-biased; and not teach or promote religion.

⁸ *Minnesota Education Now and Babies Later (MN ENABL), Evaluation Report 1998-2002*, (St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Section.) Available online at <http://saynotyet.com/report.htm>.

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 Minnesota. However, in FY 2001 the Lao Family Community of Minnesota received a SPRANS–CBAE (Planning Grant) in the amount of \$74,920.

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2003⁹

Abstinence Only-Until- Marriage Program Grantee	Amount of Grant Money	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Length of Grant		
Minnesota Department of Health/ ENABL	\$1,074,173 federal/ \$460,317 state	Title V
DUAL GRANTEE www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/mc/h/MNenabl/mnenabl.html	\$1,000,000	TANF
Agape House for Mothers www.agapehouseinc.com		Title V sub-grantee
American Indian Family Center www.aifc.net		Title V sub-grantee
Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota www.aahwm.org		Title V sub-grantee
Cass County/ Leech Lake Reservation Children’s Initiative		Title V sub-grantee
Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis www.cespm.org		Title V sub-grantee

⁹ SIECUS was not able to obtain exact funding information for all grantees.

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Abstinence Only-Until- Marriage Program Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant Money	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Cottonwood-Jackson County Community Health Services		Title V sub-grantee
Crookston Public Schools Independent School District #593 www.crookston.k12.mn.us		Title V sub-grantee
Freshwater Education District www.fed.k12.mn.us/		Title V sub-grantee
Independent School District #840/St. James (Watonwan County)		Title V sub-grantee
Itasca County Health & Human Services www.co.itasca.mn.us/HHS/index_old.htm		Title V sub-grantee
Kanabec/Pine Community Health Services		Title V sub-grantee
Koochiching County Health Department www.co.koochiching.mn.us/dept/county_health/cohealthmain.htm		Title V sub-grantee
Lao Family Community www.laofamily.org/		Title V sub-grantee
Lutheran Social Service www.lssmn.org/		Title V sub-grantee
Mid-State Community Health Services		Title V sub-grantee

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Abstinence Only-Until- Marriage Program Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant Money	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Minneapolis Urban League www.mul.org		Title V sub-grantee
Parenting Resource Center www.parentonline.org/main.htm		Title V sub-grantee
Project SIGHT		Title V sub-grantee
St. Paul Urban League		Title V sub-grantee
University of Minnesota Extension Service – Crow Wing County www.extension.umn.edu/county/template/index.aspx?countyID=18		Title V sub-grantee
Volunteers of America/Federal F.O.R.U.M. www.voa.org		Title V sub-grantee
Wadena County Public Health www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/wadena.html		Title V sub-grantee
Youth Values for Life Abstinence Program		Title V sub-grantee

Past Federal Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs

Abstinence Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant Money	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Lao Family Community of Minnesota www.laofamily.org	\$74,920	SPRANS-CBAE (Planning Grant)

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Minnesota Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

American Red Cross
 Central Minnesota Chapter
 1204 7th St. South
 St. Cloud, Minnesota 56302
 Phone: (800) 560-7641
www.cenmnredcross.org

Camp Fire USA Minnesota Council
 2610 University Ave. West
 Saint Paul, MN 55114
 Phone: (888) 335-8778
<http://campfire.nonprofitoffice.com>

Children’s Hospitals and Clinics –
 Saint Paul
 345 North Smith Ave.
 Saint Paul, MN 55102
 Phone: (651) 220-6000
www.childrenhc.org

Children’s Hospitals and Clinics –
 Minneapolis
 2525 Chicago Ave.
 Minneapolis, MN 55404
 Phone: (612) 813-6100
www.childrenhc.org

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The City, Inc.
1315 12th Ave. North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
Phone: (612) 377-7559
www.thecityinc.org

Health Start
491 West University Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55103
Phone: (651) 312-1995

Konopka Institute for Best Practices in
Adolescent Health
Division of General Pediatrics and
Adolescent Health
McNamara Alumni Center
University of Minnesota Gateway
200 Oak St. S.E., Suite 260
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: (612) 626-2820
www.allaboutkids.umn.edu/konopka/

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
2485 Como Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55108
Phone: (651) 642-5990
www.lssmn.org

Minneapolis Department of Health and
Family Support
Public Service Center
250 South 4th St., Rm 510
Minneapolis, MN 55415
Phone: (612) 673-2301
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs

Minneapolis Urban League
2100 Plymouth Ave. North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
Phone: (612) 302-3100
www.mul.org

Minnesota AIDS Project
1400 Park Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Phone: (612) 341-2060
www.mnaidsproject.org

Minnesota Nurses Association
1625 Energy Park Dr.
Saint Paul, MN 55108
Phone: (651) 646-4807
www.mnnurses.org

Minnesota Organization on Adolescent
Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting
(MOAPPP)
1619 Dayton Ave., Suite 111
St. Paul, MN 55104
Phone: (651) 644-1447
www.moappp.org

Minnesota Religious Coalition for
Reproductive Choice
122 W. Franklin Ave Ste 303
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Phone: (612) 870-0974

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NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota
550 Rice Street
Saint Paul, MN 55103
Phone: (651) 602-7655
www.mnnaral.org

The National Teen Pregnancy Prevention
Research Center
Division of General Pediatrics and
Adolescent Health
McNamara Alumni Center
University Gateway Building
200 Oak St. S.E., Suite 260
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: (612) 625-1674
www.allaboutkids.umn.edu/cfahad/index.htm

Outfront MN
310 38th St. East #204
Minneapolis, MN 55409
Phone: (612) 822-0127

Planned Parenthood of Minnesota and South
Dakota
1965 Ford Pkwy
St. Paul, MN 55116
Phone: (651) 698-2401

Rape and Sexual Abuse Center
2431 Hennepin Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55405
Phone: (612) 374-9077
www.rsac-nip.org

Rum River Health Services, Inc.
508 South 2nd St.
Princeton, MN 55371
Phone: (763) 389-5080

The School Nurse Organization of
Minnesota
www.minnesotaschoolnurses.org

Minnesota Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life
4249 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55409
Phone: (612) 825-6831
www.mccl-inc.org

Minnesota Family Council
2855 Anthony Lane South, Suite 150
Minneapolis, MN 55418
www.mfc.org

Center of the American Experiment
1024 Plymouth Building
12 South 6th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55402
www.amexp.org

Newspapers in Minnesota

The Brainerd Daily Dispatch
Assignment Editor
506 James St.
Brainerd, MN 56401
Phone: (218) 829-4705

Daily Globe
Beth Rickers
Medical/Health Editor
300 11th St.
Worthington, MN 56187
Phone: (507) 376-9711

Duluth News-Tribune
Holly Gruber
Community News Editor
424 W 1st St.
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 720-4106

The Free Press
Brian Ojanpa
Community News Reporter
418 S 2nd St.
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: (507) 344-6316

The Mesabi Daily News
Jesse White
Community News Reporter
704 S 7th Ave.
Virginia, MN 55792
Phone: (218) 741-5544

Post-Bulletin
Dawn Schuett
Community News Reporter
18 1st Ave., SE
Rochester, MN 55904
Phone: (507) 281-7487

Star Tribune
Steve Brandt
Community News Reporter
425 Portland Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55488
Phone: (612) 673-4438

St. Cloud Times
Kate Kompas
Medical/Health Writer
3000 7th St., N
Saint Cloud, MN 56303
Phone: (320) 255-8745

St. Paul Pioneer Press
Tom Majeski
Medical/Health Reporter
345 Cedar St.
Saint Paul, MN 55101
Phone: (651) 228-5583

West Central Tribune
Anne Polta
Medical/Health Reporter
2208 Trott Ave., SW
Willmar, MN 56201
Phone: (320) 235-1150