



MINNESOTA

Minnesota received \$499,000 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2004.¹

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 (STDs) and “helping students to abstain from sexual activity until marriage.”

While the state has not developed a specific curriculum framework, each school district must have “a comprehensive, technically accurate, and updated curriculum that includes helping students to abstain from sexual activity until marriage” and targeting “adolescents, especially those who may be at high risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections and diseases, for prevention efforts.”

Minnesota also requires each school district to “have a procedure for a parent, guardian, or an adult student, 18 years of age or older, to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a minor child or to an adult student and, if the parent, guardian, or adult student objects to the content, to make reasonable arrangements with school personnel for alternative instruction.” This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Minnesota Statutes 120B.20 and 121A.23.

Recent Legislation

SIECUS is not aware of any recent legislation related to sexuality education in Minnesota.

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 found that sexual activity among junior high school participants of the state’s *Education Now and Babies Later (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.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 %) want their children to learn about both abstinence and contraception. In fact, only 20 % 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 2003, women ages 15-19 accounted for 15% of the 14,024 total abortions performed in Minnesota.⁶
- In 2002, Minnesota's birth rate was 28 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.⁷
- In 2002, Minnesota's gonorrhea rate was 202 per 100,000 persons ages 15-19, compared to a rate of 476 cases per 100,000 persons ages 15-19 nationwide.⁸
- In 2003, Minnesota's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate was 5.3 per 100,000 persons ages 13-19.⁹

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Minnesota received \$499,000 in federal Title V funding in Fiscal Year 2004. 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. 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's *ENABL* program, an abstinence-only-until-marriage program that was established prior to Title V funding.

Minnesota's Title V funding for *ENABL* is split among 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 ages 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*: The Minnesota Department of Health provides training and technical assistance.
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.

Minnesota’s *ENABL* program includes a website as part of its media campaign. The website, www.saynotyet.com, which displays the slogan “Sex. Not Why Not. How Not,” has a significant amount of information for teens about refusal strategies and ways to avoid early sexual activity. However, it also includes a set of “fast facts” that use fear and shame to connect premarital sex to high school dropout rates, welfare, STDs, guilt, and embarrassment.¹⁰

Some of the Minnesota Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage sub-grantees provide more comprehensive or progressive services in addition to the *ENABL* program, yet they still accept the Title V grant money. Itasca County Health and Human Services, for example, mentions that it also provides “comprehensive sexuality info...for the older teen.”¹¹ Another sub-grantee, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, sponsors a youth group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender teenagers.¹²

Title V Evaluation

Minnesota evaluated its Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program in 2003 and found that *ENABL* has reached 45,500 junior high students. The evaluation involved pre- and post-test surveys with follow-up surveys one year later. While youth did report that the program made them feel more comfortable talking with their parents about sex, the evaluation explains “there was little impact of the curriculum on youth’s attitudes, sexual intentions, and behaviors after one year.”¹³ Evaluators also expressed concern about the “ability of the initiative to reach students and families of color.”¹⁴ The evaluation, which was conducted by Professional Data Analysts and Professional Evaluations Services, concluded that *ENABL*’s weaknesses were the result of the program constraints rather than the way it was implemented. They recommend that any further intervention be based on a more comprehensive sexuality education approach.¹⁵

This evaluation was reviewed by Advocates for Youth (AFY) in its 2004 report *Five Years of Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Education: Assessing the Impact*.¹⁶ AFY concurred that the abstinence-only-until-marriage programs encouraged little change in youth attitudes or behaviors

toward abstinence.¹⁷ It also pointed out that the *ENABL* curriculum was previously used in California from 1992-1996 but that the program was ended in that state because evaluations found it to be ineffective.

Special Projects of Regional and National Significance–Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS–CBAE)¹⁸ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are no SPRANS–CBAE or AFLA grantees in Minnesota.

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2004¹⁹

Abstinence Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant Money	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Minnesota Department of Health/ ENABL www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/mch/MNenabl/mnenabl.html	\$499,000 federal \$460,317 state	Title V
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.ccspm.org		Title V sub-grantee

MINNESOTA

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/cohealth_main.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

MINNESOTA

Abstinence Only-Until-Marriage Program Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant Money	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Mid-State Community Health Services		Title V sub-grantee
Minneapolis Urban League www.mul.org		Title V sub-grantee
Parenting Resource Center www.parentonline.org		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

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

Jill Briggs
Minnesota Department of Health
85 East Seventh Pl.
PO Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164
Phone: (651) 281-9781

Minnesota Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Minnesota AIDS Project
1400 Park Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Phone: (612) 341-2060
www.mnaidsproject.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., Suite 303
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Phone: (612) 870-0974
www.mnrcrc.org

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. SE, Suite 260
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: (612) 626-2820
www.allaboutkids.umn.edu/cfahad/index.htm

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

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

Minnesota Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Center of the American Experiment
1024 Plymouth Building
12 South 6th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Phone: (612) 338-3605
www.amexp.org

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
Minneapolis, MN 55418
Phone: (612) 789-8811
www.mfc.org

Newspapers in Minnesota

The Brainerd Daily Dispatch
Nancy Vogt
Health & Medicine 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

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
Health & Medicine Reporter
345 Cedar St.
Saint Paul, MN 55101
Phone: (651) 228-5583

MINNESOTA

Star Tribune
H.J. Cummins
Family & Parenting Reporter
425 Portland Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55488
Phone: (612) 673-4671

Star Tribune
Greg Gordon
Politics Reporter
420 National Press Bldg.
Washington, DC 20045
Phone: (202) 383-0005

Star Tribune
Maura Lerner
Health & Medicine Reporter
425 Portland Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55488
Phone: (612) 673-7384

Star Tribune
David Shaffer
Health & Medicine Team Leader
425 Portland Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55488
Phone: (612) 673-7090

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

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 2004 begins on October 1, 2003 and ends on September 30, 2004.

² J. Marcotty, "State's abstinence-only sex education doesn't work any better, report says," *Star Tribune*, 5 January 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), accessed 28 January 2005, <<http://saynotyet.com/report.htm>>.

⁴ *Fact Sheet: Public Support for Comprehensive Sexuality Education* (Washington, DC: SIECUS, 2004), accessed 8 February 2005, <http://www.siecus.org/policy/public_support.pdf>.

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), accessed 28 January 2005, <www.guttmacher.org>.

⁶ *Induced Abortions in Minnesota, January – December 2003: Report to the Legislature* (St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, July 2004), Table 4, accessed 8 February 2005, <<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/abrpt/2003abrpt.pdf>>.

⁷ *National Vital Statistics Reports 52.10* (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2003), 48, accessed 4 February 2005, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/births.htm#stat%20tables>>.

⁸ *2002 Minnesota Sexually Transmitted Disease Statistics* (St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Department of Health, STD and HIV Section), Table 2, accessed 3 February 2005,

<<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), 51-57, accessed 3 February 2004, <<http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/toc2002.htm>>.

⁹ *HIV/AIDS Prevalence and Mortality Tables*, Minnesota Department of Health (2004), Table 1, accessed 3 February 2005, <<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/hiv/pmtables.html#table1>>.

¹⁰ *Fast Facts*, Minnesota Education Now and Babies Later (2003), accessed 23 December 2004, <<http://www.saynotyet.com/fastfacts.htm>>.

¹¹ Kate Lavalier, *Teen Pregnancy Prevention* (20 September 2004), accessed 23 December 2004, <<http://www.co.itasca.mn.us/HHS/health/teenpreg.htm>>.

¹² *Together For Youth*, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota (2004), accessed 23 December 2004, <http://www.lssmn.org/together_for_youth.htm>.

¹³ Professional Data Analysts and Professional Evaluation Services, *Minnesota Education Now and Babies Later: Evaluation Report 1998-2002* (St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Dept. of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Section, 2003).

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 10.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Debra Hauser, *Five Years of Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Education: Assessing the Impact* (Washington, D.C: Advocates for Youth, 2004), 12.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ In FY 2004 SPRANS–CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In FY 2005 this funding stream was moved to HHS' Administration for Children and Families and is now referred to simply as Community Based Abstinence Education (CBAE).

¹⁹ SIECUS was not able to obtain exact funding amounts for all grantees.