

MN ENABL

Minnesota Education Now And Babies Later

Background

MN ENABL is a competitive grant program supporting communities that encourage postponing sexual involvement and promote abstinence until marriage. Since 1995, MN ENABL grantees have worked with youth 12-14, their families and communities to introduce information on relationships, decision-making and skill building to resist social/peer pressure and help teens postpone sexual activity.

Legislation

The 1995 Minnesota Legislature established the Minnesota Education Now And Babies Later (MN ENABL) program (*MN Statute 145.9255*). The program targets adolescents 12-14 with the goal of reducing the incidence of adolescent pregnancy in the state and promoting abstinence until marriage.

Funding for MN ENABL in FY 2006 was \$1.040 million (\$489,000 Federal 510 Abstinence Grant, \$480,000 General Fund, and \$71,000 State Government Special Revenue Fund).

MN ENABL Activities

Twenty-two community grantees representing a diverse group of organizations and racial and ethnic populations provide curriculum, community events, and public awareness activities that support positive youth-based abstinence messages. Community events and

public awareness activities strengthen the abstinence message in MN ENABL communities. MN ENABL grantees include non profit organizations, local public health agencies, and school districts.

Statewide media campaign themes have included:

- “Being a Kids Cool. Sex Can Wait” (1998)
- “Talk Straight to Me and I Will Listen” (2003)
- “Psst Boys, Got MN ENABL, Get With the Program?”(2007)

The MN ENABL web site, www.saynotyet.com is used by both youth and parents for tips on how to talk about sex.



Between 2003 and 2006, over 28,516 youth ages 12-14 have received abstinence curriculum sessions. Over 250 parent education forums have taken place to provide skills that enhance family communication and, more than 800 community organizing and public awareness activities have been organized to garner broad support for abstinence among young people.



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MN ENABL Program Results

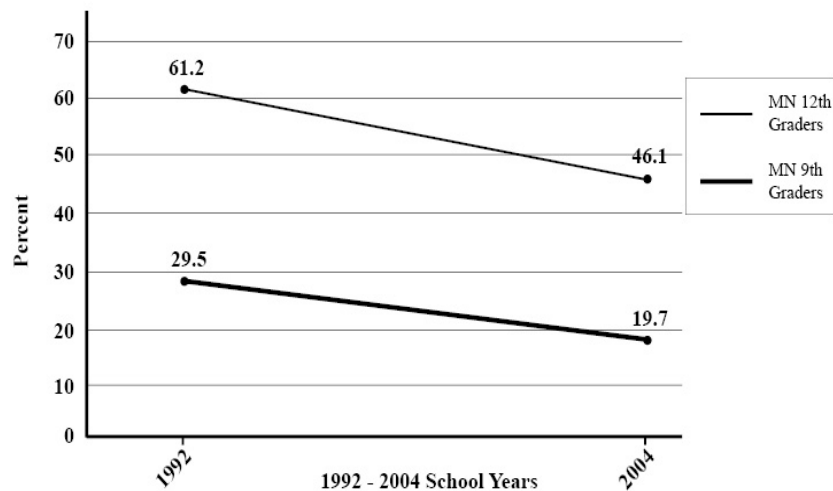
A MN ENABL evaluation was conducted from 1998-2002. The evaluation found that, after participation in MN ENABL curriculum, students reported an increased comfort and frequency level in communicating with their parents. Attitudes towards sexual abstinence generally improved immediately following participation in the MN ENABL curriculum.

Data

In Minnesota, both sexual involvement and the teen birth rate continue to decrease, although there continues to be significant disparities among racial and ethnic populations.

1.

Percent of Students Who Reported Having Ever Engaged in Sexual Intercourse



-- From the Minnesota Student Survey

2. The teen birth rate in Minnesota declined 28% between 1991 and 2004. This reduction in teen childbearing saved taxpayers an estimated \$72 million in 2004 alone.

-- National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2006). *By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing*.