



This is a monthly publication from Jennifer O'Brien, the Adolescent Health Coordinator at the Minnesota Department of Health (see contact information at the end of this publication). This E-Newsletter will cover adolescent health/ youth development related research, data, resources, learning and funding opportunities for interested professionals. Past issues of the newsletter are available online at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/youth/>

## *April 2007*

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## Research

### **1. Growing Proportion of Teens Say Parents Most Influence Their Decisions About Sex**

(Washington, DC) —Teens say that parents most influence their decisions about sex. However, parents of teens underestimate the influence they have in this area, according to a new nationally representative survey released today by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. In fact, the proportion of teens who say their parents most influence their decisions about sex has increased since the last National Campaign survey in 2004. Results from the survey of over 1,000 adults and 1,000 teens are contained in the report, *With One Voice 2007*.

Full report:

[[http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/pdf/WOV2007\\_fulltext.pdf](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/pdf/WOV2007_fulltext.pdf)]

### **2. Impacts of Four Abstinence Education Programs**

A recent study of four abstinence education programs, conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., finds that the programs had no effect on the sexual abstinence of youth. But it also finds that youth in these programs were no more likely to have unprotected sex, a concern that has been raised by some critics of these programs.

<http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/abstincereport.asp>

### **3. Issue Brief Highlights Special Issues Facing Adolescent Parent Families Enrolled In Early Head Start**

Early Head Start and Teen Parent Families: Partnership for Success focuses on the special needs of adolescent parents and their children and on how the unique set of services available through Early Head Start (EHS) programs can support them. The issue brief, published by the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, draws from a working meeting held in 2005 involving EHS providers and experts from a number of fields. In particular, the authors examine the benefits of EHS participation when either the child or a parent has a disability, or when the family is

involved with the child welfare system. Topics include an overview of EHS, what is known about adolescent parents and their children in EHS (child development, access to support services, parenting behavior, economic self-sufficiency); adolescent parent families, child abuse and neglect, and disabilities; partnering with early intervention and disability services; and next steps for EHS to better serve adolescents. A conclusion, a description of the working session program participants and contact list, and references are also provided. The brief is available at [http://www.clasp.org/publications/ehs\\_teens.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/publications/ehs_teens.pdf).

## Resources

### **4. Fifteen Young People Chosen to Serve on Youth Advisory Council for the Minnesota Alliance With Youth and Youth Community Connections**

The Minnesota Alliance With Youth and Youth Community Connections are pleased to present their new jointly sponsored statewide Youth Advisory Council.

The Youth Advisory Council, which has 15 youth members ages 14 to 18 along with adult advisors, represents youth from communities across Minnesota.

15 young people will serve on the Youth Advisory Council through January 2008 and will promote youth voice in their community and lead youth actions that will help make a difference for young people in their community and across the State of Minnesota. Youth leaders will gain skills in leadership and civic engagement. In return they will provide advice and youth perspective for work by the Minnesota Alliance and the YCC, participate in committee meetings and events of the Minnesota Alliance and YCC, and create or participate in local or statewide efforts addressing issues important to young people.

### **5. AAP's Response to the Virginia Tech University Tragedy**

In response to the shootings at Virginia Tech University, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has posted a list of resources for parents, teachers, students, schools and pediatricians. The resources address how to cope in the aftermath of this tragedy, as well as topics such as violence prevention, school safety, and suicide prevention. This resources list is intended to be both comprehensive and concise. As

new information emerges, the AAP will add resources to the site as appropriate. <http://www.aap.org/featured/resourcepage.htm>

## **6. Sexual Assault Awareness Month, April**

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), observed each April, is an opportunity to raise awareness about and prevent sexual violence and the devastating impact it has on victims and their communities. The 2007 national slogan is Prevent Sexual Violence in our Communities. This slogan fosters an understanding that everyone is responsible for preventing sexual violence and that prevention requires communities to work together in new and creative ways.

National Sexual Violence Resource Center - [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)

CDC - [www.cdc.gov/ncipc](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc)

## **7. Campaign Carries Important Message to Latina Adolescents**

Gracias Papa is a sexual-violence-prevention campaign designed to help Latina adolescents (ages 11-17) living in Virginia avoid coercive, exploitive, and unhealthy relationships with older men. The campaign, which consists of three radio spots and a fotonovela (comicbook-style brochure) featuring Latino fathers with daughters, was developed by the Virginia Department of Health as an expansion of the Isn't She a Little Young: Sex with a Minor, Don't Go There campaign initiated in 2004. The radio spots are available at <http://www.paramihija.com>, a Spanish-language Web page that also includes a discussion of why statutory rape and sexual coercion of minors by adults is a problem, warning signs of abusive relationships (borrowed from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Choose Respect initiative), and national links. The fotonovela, which features a discussion between a Latino father and his 14-year-old daughter, is available at <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/news/pdf/Fotonovela.pdf>. More Information about the Virginia Department of Health's sexual-violence-prevention resources is available at <http://www.vahealth.org/civp/sexualviolence/pubs.asp>.

## **8. FREE STD Campaign Material on the MDH Website**

New data released by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) shows that a total of 16,428 sexually transmitted disease (STD) cases were reported in Minnesota in 2006. This is the highest number of STDs ever reported in Minnesota in a single year. Reportable STDs in Minnesota include chlamydia, gonorrhea and all stages of syphilis. FREE MATERIALS:

The new STD campaign posters (including the radio rap) can be downloaded from our campaign's new web site at:

<http://www.WrapTestTreat.com>

Syphilis materials available on the new MDH Syphilis Elimination Project site:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/syphilis/eliminationproject/index.html>

STD Month materials are located on the MDH site at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/stds/stdmonth.html>

## **9. Tools Designed To Assist Adolescent Programs In Measuring Performance**

The Forum for Youth Investment has released two new reports to help community organizations and organizations serving adolescents assess the impact of their work and improve its quality:

\* **Measuring Youth Program Quality: A Guide to Assessment Tools** examines nine program-observation and quality-improvement tools and explains their purpose, history, structure, methodology, and technical properties. The report is available at  
[\[http://www.forumfyi.org/Files//Measuring\\_Youth\\_Program\\_Quality.pdf\]](http://www.forumfyi.org/Files//Measuring_Youth_Program_Quality.pdf)

\* **Building Quality Improvement Systems: Lessons from Three Emerging Efforts in the Youth-Serving Sector** looks at assessment and improvement efforts under way in three networks and provides a preliminary framework for thinking about key questions when planning any work designed to improve program quality. The report is available at  
[\[http://www.forumfyi.org/Files//Building\\_Quality\\_Improvement\\_Systems.pdf\]](http://www.forumfyi.org/Files//Building_Quality_Improvement_Systems.pdf)

## 10. In the News: The Choking Game

An account of a near-fatal incident of a teen playing the “choking game” was published in the March 28, 2007 issue of the New York Times

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/28/us/28risk.html?ex=1177041600&en=be228bcb8aad9384&ei=5070>).

In 2002, a representative from NH EMSC reported two (and possibly more) deaths due to a game referred to as “space monkey” or “space cowboy” in middle school-aged boys. She asked if states had any experience in addressing the phenomenon.

Several responses indicated that states were aware of the practice. While much of the literature equates it with autoerotic asphyxia or suicide, many responders emphasized the distinctions. The goal of the practice was to achieve a high rather than sexual gratification or suicide.

### Information for Parents

Guidance Channel E-Zine for April, 2007 has information for parents on the “choking game”

<http://www.guidancechannel.com/default.aspx?index=1878&cat=13>

Collier County Sheriff’s office

The choking game: Deadly child’s play [brochure]

<http://www.colliersheriff.org/assets/PDF/choking.pdf>

Teen Choking Game Website

<http://www.teenchokinggame.com/>

This collection of printable information for parents and teachers, news stories, reports and a “press kit”.

The Dylan Blake Foundation

This information was collected by a mother whose 11 year old son died while playing the “choking game”.

[http://www.dylan-the-boy-blake.com/Foundation\\_Mission.html](http://www.dylan-the-boy-blake.com/Foundation_Mission.html)

## Conferences

### 11. The MOAPPP Conference

**BROADENING OUR PERSPECTIVE**  
*refining our approach*

May 3-4, 2007

Earle Brown Heritage Center – Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

### **It's Not Too Late to Register for MOAPPP's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference!!!**

The MOAPPP conference offers two days of dynamic speakers, challenging workshops and multiple opportunities to network with Minnesota professionals committed to teen pregnancy prevention and support for pregnant and parenting teens.

Conference brochures can be downloaded from the MOAPPP website at <http://www.moappp.org/Documents/events/2007/conference/brochure.pdf>

For more information, please contact Marilyn Colby Rivkin – [marilyn@moappp.org](mailto:marilyn@moappp.org), 651-644-1447 ext. 15.

### **12. Sharing Success Stories: Moving From Policy to Action**

PAN Forum, May 2, 2007

U of M Campus, St. Paul

Interested in improving student academic performance and your school's bottom line? Using school wellness policies to create healthier schools has many benefits. Come and hear from schools that are successfully implementing wellness policies and making a positive difference for students and staff. You will come away with great strategies to use in your school and possibly one of our great door prizes too. See attached Registration Form for additional details.

Note: Substitute pay is available for a limited number of school staff that register and attend with a school administrator.

### **13. Special Invitation to Our Whole Lives (OWL) Training!!**

The Minnesota Department of Education-Safe and Healthy Learners, the Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, The Birds & Bees Project and MOAPPP personally invite you to be trained in the highly acclaimed curriculum, Our Whole Lives (OWL). This curriculum is used nationally and is highly recommended by MSERRP (Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel).

OWL equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health and society/culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives provides medically-accurate information as well as helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional and social aspects of sexuality. Developed jointly by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association, the OWL curriculum contains no overtly religious language. It is taught in school and community groups across the country. This training will focus on both the 7-9 and 10-12 grade curricula.

When: June 5-6th, 2007 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm (participants must be present for the entire training)

Where: Minnesota Department of Education

1500 Highway 36 West; Roseville, MN 55113; Conference Center A Room CC 13

Directions: [http://education.state.mn.us/mde/About\\_MDE/004657](http://education.state.mn.us/mde/About_MDE/004657)  
(Do NOT use Mapquest because the directions are wrong.)

Fee: \$100 - The cost of this training and curriculum has been greatly subsidized by the Minnesota Department of Education. Fee includes breakfast, lunch and snacks as well as both 7-9 and 10-12 curricula. Participants will be asked to evaluate the training and their use of the materials approximately 6 months after the training.

Registration is limited to the first 20 people.

The registration form is attached to this e-mail.

Registration deadline May 1, 2007!

#### **14. NCTSN Culture and Trauma Series Teleconferences (2007)**

In this year-long series, NCTSN clinical and research experts address a variety of cultural issues surrounding the treatment of trauma. The series is designed for Network members but is open to others as space allows. See attached copy or follow this link for more information:

[http://www.nctsn.org/ncts/nav.do?pid=ctr\\_top\\_train\\_tele\\_culsched](http://www.nctsn.org/ncts/nav.do?pid=ctr_top_train_tele_culsched)

#### **Grants (Please note: MDH is NOT a contact for the following opportunities)**

#### **15. The Influence of Religiosity and Spirituality on Health Risk Behaviors in Children and Adolescents --National Institutes of Health**

The National Institutes of Health is accepting applications for the Influence of Religiosity and Spirituality on Health Risk Behaviors in Children and Adolescents Program. The purpose of this program is to study the effects of spirituality and religiosity on early alcohol and drug use and sexual behavior, particularly in the area of HIV transmission.

Depending upon the number of applicants, the award size of this grant will be determined appropriately. Eligible applicants include for profit or nonprofit organizations, public or private institutions, state and local government, faith-based organizations and Tribal organizations.

Deadline: June 5, 2007

For complete program information and application guidelines, please visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-181.html>

#### **16. Dreyer's (Grand Ice Cream) Foundation: Event Grants**

Dreyer's funds projects that promote family, school and community environments that build skills and foster talents in young people. Small

event grants (up to \$3,000) and ice cream products/auction items are provided.

For more information, visit [www.dreyersinc.com](http://www.dreyersinc.com).

### **17. CIGNA Foundation -- Targeted Grants**

The CIGNA Foundation is accepting applications for its Targeted Grants program. The purpose of this program is to support innovative programs addressing the health and well-being of children, families and communities.

Grant amounts will vary. Eligible applicants include public charities with a 501(c)(3) status.

Deadline: Rolling

For program information and application guidelines, please visit [http://www.cigna.com/about\\_us/community/targeted\\_grant.html](http://www.cigna.com/about_us/community/targeted_grant.html)

### **18. Micro Grants Targeting Minneapolis youth 10-18**

**The Department of Health & Family Support** is soliciting Request for Proposals for micro grants of up to \$1,000 targeting Minneapolis youth ages 10-18. These funds may be used to fund well-planned projects that help reduce violence in the community with strategies that utilize healthy youth development practices. Up to a total of \$20,000 is available for these micro grants for non-profit organizations, schools, libraries, park/recreational centers, and other public organizations that serve Minneapolis youth.

If this notice is not relevant to the services you provide, please feel free to pass it along to others.

Projects funded must serve Minneapolis residents. Funds requested may be used to enhance existing initiatives or for stand-alone activities. Funding is available for use within the time period of May 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007

The application is available:

- The city's website: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs)
- Emailing your request for an electronic copy to the Department of Health and Family Support at: [health.familysupport@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:health.familysupport@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)
- Picking-up a copy at the Department of Health and Family Support at 250 South 4th Street (Public Service Center), Room 510, Minneapolis, Monday-Friday



between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or call 612-673-2301 to have a copy mailed or faxed to you.

Timeline

April 3 RFP posted on website  
April 20 Applications due (Can be mailed or dropped off before 4:30 pm to Health and Family Support office, 250 South 4th Street Room 510)  
April 30 Successful applicants notified  
May 1- September 30, 2007 Maximum timeframe for projects.

If you need this document in an alternative format, please notify us at:

Fax - 612-673-3866

Email - [health.familysupport@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:health.familysupport@ci.minneapolis.mn.us), or

TTY - 612-673-2157 (General City Information).

Please allow a reasonable amount of time for special needs accommodation.

MDH IS NOT A CONTACT FOR THE ABOVE GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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For more information on Adolescent Health at MDH, please contact

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