



National Stakeholders Collaborative Selection of State Success Stories

With the support of CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP), the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD), and the Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (Society) created a formal partnership called the National Stakeholders Collaborative. This partnership was developed to bring state health and education officials together to enhance and improve HIV, sexually transmitted disease (STD), and pregnancy prevention programs and policies for youth. With NSC assistance, 33 states have worked towards this goal. Examples of their successes are highlighted below.

Alaska

- Created a best practices summary paper for school districts and health care providers and facilitated trainings on best practices to promote evidence-based programs for preventing HIV, STDs and teen pregnancy. The paper is currently awaiting approval for publication.

"The National Stakeholders' Meeting assisted Alaska's team of state health and education agency staff in building relationships between the two departments. The collaboration continues to grow as new members of the two departments see the value of working jointly for the well-being of Alaskan students. The cross-department relationship has been very successful because there is a common goal of enhancing student health and safety."

- Sophie Wenzel, Adolescent Health Program Manager, Division of Public Health, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
- Terri Campbell, Education Specialist, Teaching and Learning Support, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Arizona

- Secured additional funding for a pilot project to use the Teen Outreach Project (TOP) curriculum in 14 out of 15 districts and worked on expanding services to local tribes using TOP's model in collaboration with the Navajo Nation.

California

- Institutionalized their Adolescent Sexual Health Workgroup (ASHWG)
 - Includes representatives from the state health and education agencies, as well as local health and education agency representatives, NGOs, and other adolescent health stakeholders
- Compiled a state data set for HIV, STD, and teen births with standardized measures for age, race, and time frame –available online, searchable, and updated annually
 - The team is striving to create similar data sets for high-priority local health jurisdictions
- Created the Core Competencies Toolkit for Providers of Adolescent Sexual Health and Reproductive Health Programs and Services – available at <http://www.californiateenhealth.org/download/CC%20HR%20Toolkit.pdf>

- The team is now working to conduct trainings for educators and providers around the state.

"You can't overstate the value of collaboration. . . . It's really exciting to have established and maintained true partnerships where we have a lot of respect for what each other does."

- Maryjane Puffer, Director, Clinical and Community Health Programs,
California Family Health Council

Connecticut

- Developed the *Tell Me What You See* program, integrating art work and poetry created by youth involved in the juvenile justice system into high school health education curricula on STDs, hepatitis, and HIV prevention. This program provides a new and powerful way to reach young people in Connecticut.

Illinois

- Produced an Adolescent Sexual Health Toolkit for distribution to professionals working with adolescents in Illinois in a variety of disciplines, including: education, public health, maternal, child, and adolescent health, community based organizations serving adolescents, counseling and mental health, juvenile corrections, drug treatment centers, etc.

Kentucky

- Hosted a professional development event on medically accurate HIV, STI, and substance abuse prevention tools and resources for Jefferson County school administrators, safe and drug free school coordinators, school nurses, counselors, and health educators.

Massachusetts

- Secured Supplemental CDC-DASH Funds to work with NGOs in MA that do teen pregnancy prevention to coordinate with schools, offering grants to districts so that they could work in communities with high teen birth rates, high Chlamydia rates, and high drop out rates.
- Developed www.mariatalks.com, a website for young people to provide them with sexual health information and help them locate teen friendly health centers; members of the team have conducted outreach with teachers and students to train them to educate their peers and promote the site.
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) staff worked together to create a manual for schools on developing appropriate HIV policies.

"The National Stakeholders Meetings demonstrated the importance of focusing on effectiveness and cooperation when crafting HIV, STD, and teen pregnancy prevention strategies, especially during challenging financial times. While our various adolescent sexual health programs have a long working relationship, the NSM process brought us together in a more intentional way to work on concrete projects affecting both programs and policy. Partnerships and collaboration were key to dealing with crisis and opportunity."

- Kevin Cranston, Director,
Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention, Response, and Services,
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Michigan

- Created a “matrix” of all current, relevant state initiatives around HIV/STD/teen pregnancy to enhance coordination.
- Re-tooled the state data collection system to enable accurate comparison of local level health and education data and better target their efforts.
- Recently revised their 2008 joint white paper on the “State of Adolescent Sexual Health in Michigan” (created by State health and education agencies) available on both departments’ websites
 - http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/WhitePaper2010_319339_7.pdf
- Spearheaded the creation of Michigan Youth Voice (MY Voice), a statewide youth advisory council that provides youth input on adolescent sexual health issues and messages for young people.

“[The revised White Paper on the State of Adolescent Sexual Health in Michigan] is a direct result of the National Stakeholders reconvene meeting cosponsored by NCSd in Tampa in January 2009, and our receipt of a mini-grant. The State Advisors on Adolescent Sexual Health (SAASH) are extremely proud of this publication and have distributed it widely in Michigan.”

- Kristine Judd, Acting STD Section Manager, STD Control Program,
Michigan Department of Community Health

“The NSC has been a catalyst for action.”

- Mark Miller, Director, Division of Local Health Services,
Michigan Department of Community Health

Minnesota

- Developed a system for jointly evaluating bills related to adolescent health during state’s legislative session.

Missouri

- Created Youth Advisory Councils in two major metropolitan areas, which provided the feedback and the momentum to create social marketing campaigns on Facebook and MySpace to promote STD and HIV testing among young people
- HIV and STD programs in the state health agency co-funded one FTE to work on adolescent prevention issues
- Put in a joint (SEA-SHA) budget request and received funding for 5 new HIV prevention educator positions in state regions
- In 2009, sponsored trainings for over 150 school counselors, nurses, health educators, and other school health professionals on effective strategies for engaging parents when developing, revising, reviewing, and promoting sex education curriculums and school health programs

South Carolina

- Collaborated, through their State Alliance for Adolescent Sexual Health (SAASH), to recommend revisions in certain health education standards for grades K-12, which were accepted by the South Carolina State Board of Education in 2009.
 - Revisions include grade level performance indicators, as well as skills building on such topics as healthy relationships, STD prevention, decision making, and advocacy

"A team can do a lot that individuals cannot. The [NSC] collaborative approach brings expertise and is especially important in tough economic times. We're working at an enhanced level."

- Lucy Gibson, Director of Women and Children's Services,
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Washington

- Created K-12 Guidelines for Sexual Health Information and Disease Prevention
- In 2007, state legislature passed the Healthy Youth Act, which mandated that if a school teaches sex education, it must be medically accurate and meet the above guidelines
- Department of Health & Office of the Supervisor of Public Instruction have been collaborating to prepare for implementation of the law in September 2008, including reviewing curricula and training teachers and community agencies