

COMMUNITY-BASED, COLLECTIVE IMPACT PREVENTION RESULTS IN MINNESOTA; Both During and After Grant Funding Ended (Cohort-1 P&I grantees)

In 2005 the MN Department of Human Services (DHS) embarked on a new course for substance abuse prevention. Instead of funding ‘activities, programs, or curricula’, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was released to fund comprehensive community-based efforts to reduce youth alcohol use. This change in direction was based on literature reviews and information disseminated by the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) on evidence-based practices.

The grants were to include comprehensive community efforts, including but not limited to:

- A coalition with representation from each of the 12 community sectors required by the Drug Free Community (DFC) grant program and that had the reduction of youth alcohol use as its primary mission
- Evidence based practices such as
 - Alcohol compliance checks
 - Responsible beverage server training
 - Evidence-based alcohol use prevention curricula in the schools
- Work with a youth group to make environmental changes related to underage alcohol use. Youth from each youth group were to attend a central “Youth Leadership Academy” each year.
- Increase local capacity to lead substance abuse prevention efforts through community member attendance at in- and out-of-state conferences and meetings each year.
- Implement a Positive Community Norms Project, which was a community-based strategy to use and grow community norms to promote positive behavior change at the individual, family, school and community level.

Communities were selected to receive funding based on need (as defined by their MN Student Survey past 30-day alcohol use rate as measured against the State average) and their willingness to try this approach that was not identical to, but patterned after the requirements in place for DFC grantees. Nine communities, all with higher than average past 30-day alcohol use rates, were selected to receive funding. They are referred to as Planning & Implementation (P&I) grants. Some communities comprised two independent school districts (ISD), but most encompassed just one. As stated in the RFP, these communities were to receive funding for five years (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2011) and then the funding would move to other high need communities.

After the 2010 MSS, the MN Department of Human Services released a reportⁱ on the outcomes achieved by these school districts (now known as the cohort-1 P&Is), based on the 2001-2010 MSS data on 30-day alcohol use rates for 6th, 9th & 12th graders combined.

The report showed:

- prior to receiving the P&I grant, that is from 2001 to 2004, 30-day alcohol use rate for 6th, 9th & 12th graders increased in the P&I ISD's as a group, but for the State as a whole 30-day alcohol use rates for 6th, 9th & 12th graders decreased.
- In 2004, 30-day alcohol use rates for 6th, 9th, & 12th graders combined was almost 9 percentage points higher in these ISD's than for the state as a whole.
- From 2004 to 2010 (during the time these ISDs received grant funds from MN-DHS) they not only reversed this rate from increasing to decreasing but also closed the gap between them and the rest of the State by over 50% (to just 3.9 percentage points).
- The P&I Communities, as a group, reduced youth 30-day alcohol use by **30%** between 2004 & 2010.
- The rest of the State of MN saw a 21% reduction in youth 30-day alcohol use between 2004 & 2010. This is a statistically significant difference.

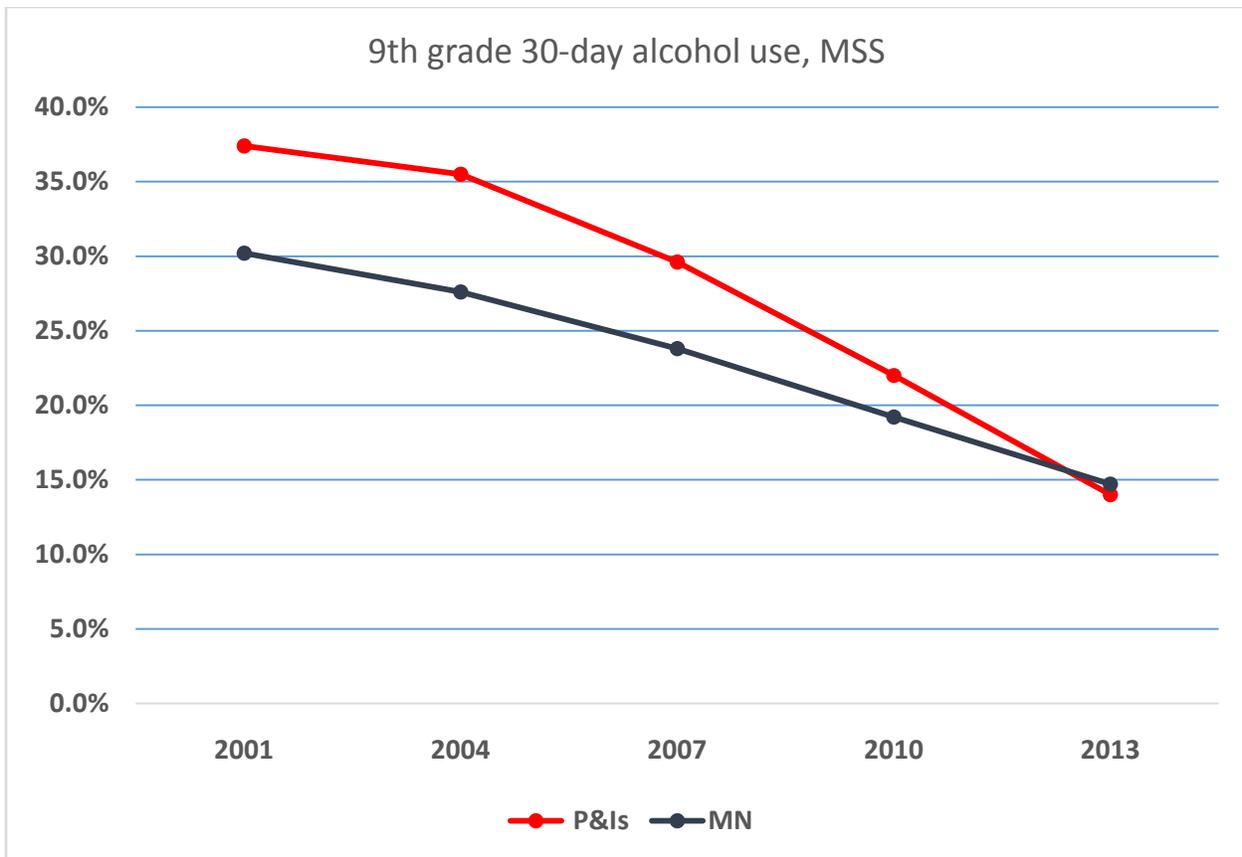
BUT HOW DID THESE COMMUNITIES FARE 'AFTER' DHS GRANT FUNDING ENDED?

The grades to take the MSS changed with the 2013 administration from 6, 9th and 12th graders to 5th, 8th, 9th & 11th graders. **For this reason, in looking at what happened with alcohol use rates within these communities, only 9th grade data could be used to compare rates across time beyond 2010.** The following information is based on just the 30-day alcohol use as reported by 9th graders on the MSS from 2004 to 2013.

- From **2004 to 2010 the rest of MN** (not including the 12 ISD's that participated in the Cohort-1 P&I grant) **reduced 9th grade 30-day alcohol use by 30.4%** (from 27.6% to **19.2%**)
- During this same time period, **the Cohort-1 P&I ISD's as a group reduced 9th grade 30-day alcohol use by 38%** (from 35.5% to 22%). This is remarkable in that during grant funding they were able to reduce youth alcohol use from almost 8 percentage points above the state average to just 2.8 percentage points above the State average.

DHS's P&I grant funding ended in 2011. What happened to the 9th grade alcohol use rates in these communities after this funding ended (from 2010 to 2013)?

- During that time the rest of the State (not including the 12 former P&I ISD's) reduced 9th grade 30-day alcohol use by 23.4% (from 19.2% to 14.7%).
- During this same time **these 12 former P&I ISD's as a whole reduced 9th grade 30-day alcohol use by 36% (from 22% to just 14%)**. This is a statistically significant difference in amount of reduction achieved.
- By 2013 (two years after DHS P&I funding ended) 9th grade 30-day alcohol use in these 12 ISD's as a group, was now **below** the average for the rest of the State (see graph below).



In 2004 the average 9th grade 30-day alcohol use rate for the 12 Cohort-1 P&I ISD's as a group was 28.6% above the average for the remainder of the State.

Six (6) years later in 2010 the average 9th grade 30-day alcohol use rate for the 12 Cohort-1 P&I ISD's as a group was 14.6% above the average for the remainder of the State.

Three (3) years after that (and two years after grant funding ended) in 2013 the average 9th grade 30-day alcohol use rate for the 12 Cohort-1 P&I ISD's as a group was 4.8% **below** the average for the remainder of the State.

As with the design of the Drug Free Communities' evaluation, the design of the P&I evaluation cannot support causal claims that the program's activities resulted in the improvements in alcohol use among youth in the P&I Communities: alternative explanations for the observed changes cannot be ruled out. However, the results are consistent with the premise that the P&I program is effective in reducing youth alcohol use and in making environmental changes within the communities that continue this reduction continued after P&I funding ends.

See next page for a table of the 9th grade 30-day alcohol use rates for the 12 Cohort-1 P&I ISD's as a group vs the remainder of MN for 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010 & 2013.

9th grade 30-day alcohol use, MSS 2001-2013

	P&Is	Rest of MN
2001	37.4%	30.2%
2004	35.5%	27.6%
2007	29.6%	23.8%
2010	22.0%	19.2%
2013	14.0%	14.7%

ⁱ For a copy of the report, contact Phyllis Bengtson, MN-Department of Human Services, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Division, 651-431-2476 (office). 763-232-5890 (cell) or at Phyllis.bengtson@state.mn.us