



Healthy Youth Development-PRC e-Update

February 2008

Greetings Community Advisory Network (CAN) members, PRC staff, and friends of the Healthy Youth Development PRC network.

The University of Minnesota's Healthy Youth Development - Prevention Research Center (HYD-PRC) collaborates with state and local organizations and communities to provide training, conduct research, and disseminate findings related to best practices in healthy youth development.

The HYD-PRC melds effective research practices and sustained community collaboration to support healthy young adults in all Minnesota communities. Promoting healthy youth development requires sound research and the leadership to utilize it.

Latest Happenings-

- [2007 Minnesota Student Survey](#)
- [PRC staff news!](#)
- [Genomics Youth Projects at the Science Museum](#)
- [Youth & adolescent health in the news...](#)

2007 Minnesota Student Survey

In 2007, more than 142,000 students participated in the Minnesota Student Survey, which is given every three years and provides a valuable snapshot on the health, safety and academic status of Minnesota's students.

The survey is administered to 6th, 9th, and 12th grade students in public elementary, secondary, charter/tribal schools, as well as alternative learning centers and youth in juvenile correctional facilities.

Results from student responses in trend school districts that have participated in the survey since 1992 (115,000 students in 2007), as well as 2007 survey responses from all 142,000 participating students, indicate progress and shortfalls in health indicators-

** 52% of 9th grade boys and 48% of 9th grade girls reported that they had bullied someone in the last 30 days.*

** 49% of 12th graders and 19% of 9th graders reported having had sexual intercourse ("ever had sex").*

** 63% of sexually active 12th graders reported that they or their partner used a condom the last time they had intercourse.*

** 51% of sexually active 12th graders talked with every partner about STDs/HIV. In the 2004 survey, 60% of sexually active students responded affirmatively to this question.*

- * 73% of 12th graders felt all/most teachers show respect for students.
- * 19% of ninth grade females felt sad all or most of the time in the past month.
- * Of the 2,800 alternative school/ALC students surveyed, 52% of male and 49% of female students felt that adults in the community cared about them "a little or not at all."

School district staff are authorized to receive district specific data from the Minnesota Department of Education--

[To access some of the MN Student Survey data, click here...](#)

PRC staff news!

-Heather Palenschat has just joined the Prevention Research Center as a Research Assistant. Born and raised in Saint Paul, Heather is working toward her MPH in Public Health Administration and Policy. She received her undergraduate degree in political science at the City College of New York and has worked in community agencies in Harlem, Manhattan, and the Bronx on projects as various as syringe exchange/harm reduction education and legislative agendas for affordable housing. She is very excited to be working with the PRC, MOAPPP, and the Broadway School Project. Heather can be reached at pale0019@umn.edu.

-Michael Resnick, director of the Healthy Youth Development-Prevention Research Center at the University of Minnesota, was selected to be part of a university task force which will establish guidelines for community-based participatory research.

-Iris Borowsky, Rachel Widome and Michael Resnick have contributed a chapter on youth violence to the prestigious Encyclopedia of Public Health...congratulations!

-Rachel Widome will have a letter to the editor published in the Journal of Adolescent Health in March on the PRC's *Lead Peace* program and its community connectedness component.

Genomics Youth Projects at the Science Museum



More than 80 youth, parents, educators, and agency partners attended the Genomics Youth Project presentations held at the Science Museum of Minnesota on February 4.

The two youth-led projects, a video of science promotion PSA's by the Folwell Middle School Latino science club and a genetics-family tree board game (Circles of Life) created by Roosevelt High science students, demonstrated that science education in the schools can

be fun and a gateway to explore future career opportunities in the applied sciences.

(photo: Roosevelt High students discuss their family tree board game)

The project presentation event was made possible through the hard work of several partners including the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health at the Minnesota Dept. of Health, the University of Minnesota's Prevention Research Center, Minneapolis Public Schools, Hennepin County, Macalester College, the National Human Genome Research Institute. Special thanks to the Science Museum for hosting the Feb. 4 event.

The event was hosted by CAN Co-Chair Rosemarie-Rodriguez-Hager.

Youth & adolescent health in the news...

--Trauma in youth can lead to more smoking
USA TODAY reported on a new study showing that childhood abuse or physical violence in young adulthood greatly raises the odds of someone starting to smoke by their early 20s. Michael Resnick was quoted in the story. [Read more!](#)

--from the Center for Collaborative Education
Students in Boston's Pilot high schools outperform students from other non-exam public schools in the city on many engagement and performance standards. This included a graduation rate that was 23 percentage points higher than the rate for non-Pilot non-exam school students in the city. Pilot schools were created in 1995 and are termed "small, personalized and vision driven", among other attributes. [Read more!](#)

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