

MN Dept. of Human Services: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division Prevention Planning & Implementation (P&I) Programming Changes in 30-Day Youth Alcohol Use Rates

In 2006 the MN Dept. of Human Services, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) funded nine Planning and Implementation (P&I) grants, now referred to as **Cohort-1 P&I grantees**, each included the following set of services:

1. A community coalition that included the reduction of youth alcohol use as primary to its mission and had representation from each of the 12 community sectors required by the Drug Free Community (DFC) grant program. Each coalition met monthly and had a written vision, mission and bylaws.
2. Implementation of the evidence-based program Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA). Each did 100 one-to-one interviews with community members to assess community views on youth alcohol use and build relationships between the coalition and community members.
3. Implementation of Project Northland, an evidence-based curriculum to prevent youth alcohol use in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades and at least two grades of High School.
4. Three community members to attend the 40-hr Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist training (a national prevention curriculum delivered locally).
5. Provide Responsible Beverage Server Training annually to owners and servers at establishments that sell alcoholic beverages.
6. Implement Alcohol Compliance Checks twice annually and Tobacco Compliance Checks at least once each year.
7. Work toward changing local ordinances around selling/use of alcohol at community festivals/events.
8. Hold a Town Hall meeting annually on youth alcohol use.
9. Work with a youth group to make environmental changes related to underage alcohol use. Youth from each youth group to attend a central “Youth Leadership Academy” each year.
10. At least two community members to attend the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America’s (CADCA) mid-year conference each year.
11. Work with the judicial system and law enforcement to implement a Zero Adult Providers (ZAP) program.
12. Implementation of the Positive Community Norms project, a community-based strategy to use and grow community norms to promote positive behavior change at the individual, family, school and community level.

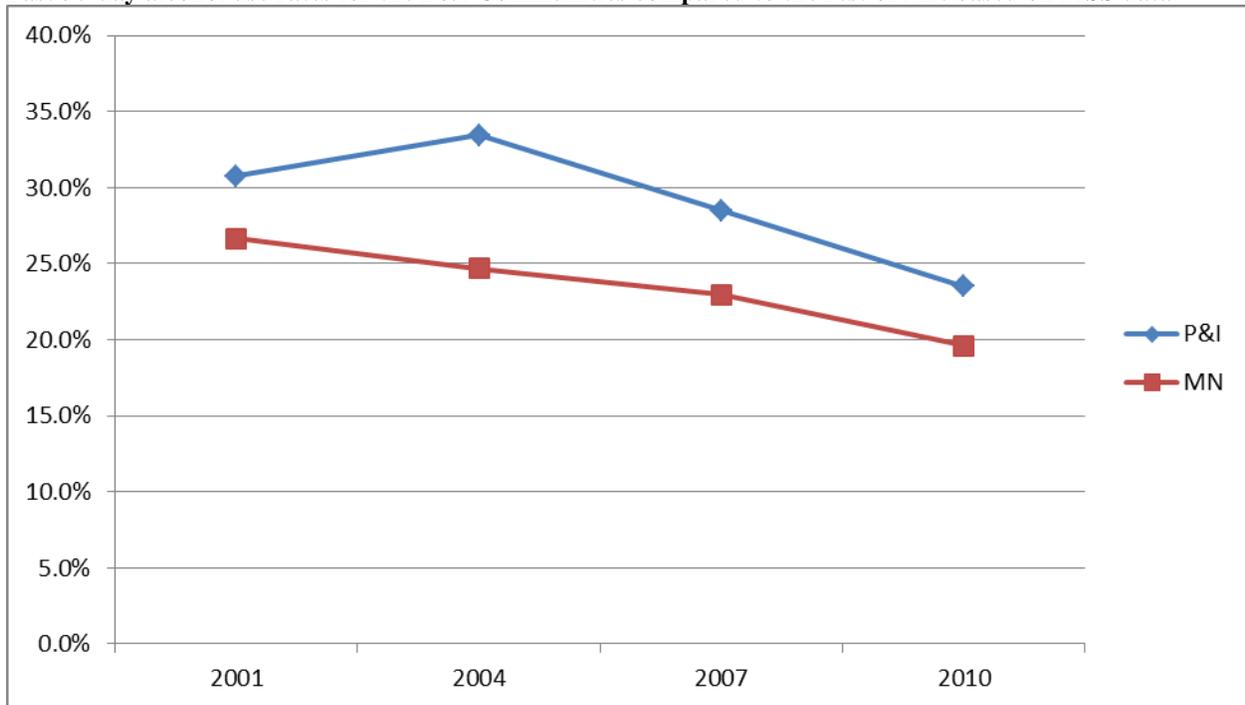
While this is not an exhaustive list, it does show the broad-based community nature of the services provided.

These community-based grants were funded primarily on need as assessed by youth alcohol use from the 2004 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS). While these nine grants included 17 Independent School Districts (ISD's), only data from the 15 ISD's for which MSS data was available for each year the MSS was conducted between 2001 and 2010 are included in the following outcome analysis.

As the main focus of the grants was to reduce youth (6th through 12th grade) alcohol use, 30-day past alcohol use, as measured by the MSS, was used as the outcome indicator. Analyses found:

- A statistically significant difference existed between P&I communities and the remainder of the State in youth 30-day past alcohol use at the start of the grants (2004 MSS data)
- Youth 30-day alcohol use rates declined at a statistically significant greater rate in the P&I communities than the average decline for the rest of the State during the time these communities received P&I grant funding (2004-2010 MSS data).

Past 30-day alcohol use rates for the P&I Communities compared to the rest of MN based on MSS data



Before receiving funding from DHS, ADAD, past 30-day alcohol use was not only increasing in the P&I's as a group but was 8.7 percentage points higher than the rest of MN. Six years later, these communities had 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.¹

¹ MSS data was analyzed by Wilder Research to test if the difference between the past 30-day alcohol use rate of the 15 ISD's that comprised the Cohort-1 communities and all the other ISD's within MN was a statically significant

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.

The following table shows that the change in the P&I communities compared to the change in all of MN minus the P&I communities based on 2001, 2004, 2007 and 2010 MSS data.

Past 30-Day Youth Alcohol Use based on MSS data

Year		Change	Lower Interval	Upper Interval	95% CI
2001-2004	Statewide	-2.0%	NA	NA	NA
	P & I	2.7%	0.3%	5.0%	2.7% +/- 2.34%
2004-2010	Statewide	-5.1%	NA	NA	NA
	P & I	-9.9%	-12.2%	-7.6%	-9.9% +/- 2.33%

Year	Statewide (NOT incl P&I)				
	Total	Used	%	% Points Change	% Change
2001	116949	31191	26.7%		
2004	114673	28300	24.7%	-2	-7.5%
2007	123536	28391	23%		
2010	117152	22989	19.6%	-5.1	-20.5%

Year	P&I				
	Total	Used	%	% Points Change	% Change
2001	3035	934	30.8		
2004	3093	1034	33.4	2.7	8.6%
2007	2822	804	28.5		
2010	2593	610	23.5	-9.9	-29.6%

difference. Given that the MSS is a census methodology, their analyst treated the statewide MSS data as a population parameter. The P&I school districts were then treated as a sample. The P&I cohort numbers were removed from the statewide numbers to make a comparison group that didn't also include the treatment group.