

# ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

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## News

## News Release

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### The Status of Girls: A Minnesota report

Sunday, April 27, 2008

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ST. CLOUD, Minn. - Central Minnesotans can view the findings of a study that suggests Minnesota's girls face poverty, racism, sexism, physical and sexual abuse, and low self esteem -- despite the fact they work hard inside and outside of the home, earn good grades and hold high aspirations for their futures.

The Road to Equality Tour makes its fourth stop 11 a.m. May 7 in the Wilson Suite of the St. Cloud Civic Center for a community presentation of "[The Status of Girls in Minnesota](#)" (PDF).

One startling finding is that between one in four and one in five American Indian and African American girls reports physical abuse by a family member inside or outside of their home. The report also asserts that while boys' self esteem gradually increases from sixth to ninth to 12th grade, most girls' self esteem drops in the ninth grade.

The report also offers solutions, such as a call for mandatory, comprehensive sex education programs in public schools, a step the report argues would reduce unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

Released April 28, the report was funded by the [Women's Foundation of Minnesota](#) in partnership with the [Institute for Women's Policy Research](#) in Washington, D.C.

Sponsoring the St. Cloud presentation is the [Women's Center](#) at St. Cloud State University, the Initiative Foundation and the Bremer Foundation.

Topics explored by the study include:

- socioeconomic status
- reproductive and mental health
- security, safety and risky behavior
- education and aspirations

The tour is visiting 15 Minnesota cities to gather additional information on the health and well-being of girls in the North Star State.

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## Contact

University Communications  
St. Cloud State University

(320) 308-2104  
[mproell@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:mproell@stcloudstate.edu)

## University Communications ([contact information](#))

720 4th Avenue South - St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301-4498  
Phone: (320) 308-3151

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*Minneapolis-based YouthCare trains young women from low-income communities to be mentors and leaders.*

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