

Aban Aya Youth Project

More Evidence of Failure than Success

Aban Aya	School Classroom Curriculum Only ¹	Parent/Community Component added ¹
Impact study conducted by independent evaluators?	NO , study was by the program authors	NO , study was by the program authors
Follow-up measure 12 months after the program to show duration of effect?	NO , measures were at the end of 4-year program	NO , measures were at the end of a 4-year program
OUTCOMES:		
Pregnancy	Not measured	Not measured
STDs	Not measured	Not measured
Sexual Initiation	Not measured	Not measured
Consistent Condom Use	Not measured	Not measured
Condom Use Frequency	NO EFFECT	Boys Only, at program's end
Unprotected Sex	Not measured	Not measured
Number of Sex Partners	Not measured	Not measured
Recent Sex	NO EFFECT	Boys Only, at program's end
Dual Effect: Condom Use & Abstinence	NO EFFECT	Boys Only, at program's end

Key Findings

The *Aban Aya Youth Project* is a four-year sex education, drug and alcohol avoidance, and conflict resolution program designed for students in 5th through 8th grades (ages 10 to 14). The curriculum promotes condom use and abstinence. Two versions of *Aban Aya* were evaluated: a school classroom curriculum and the classroom curriculum with parent and community components added. One impact study has been conducted, by the program's developers/authors.¹ A published research review by *The Institute for Research & Evaluation*² found that **this study did not show sufficient evidence to label *Aban Aya* an effective school-based program**. The *Aban Aya* study found that after participating for four years, students in the school classroom version were not more likely to be abstinent or to use condoms. The parent/community components produced increases in abstinence and condom use for boys but not girls, at the end of the program, with no measure of whether effects endured after the program's end. (The study also did not measure program impact on pregnancy or STDs.)

Summary. Contrary to the U.S. Teen Pregnancy Prevention website,³ *Aban Aya Youth Project* has not shown evidence of effectiveness in U.S. schools. The school classroom program did not increase teen abstinence or condom use; only an ancillary program component produced some subgroup effects, but there was no evidence that even these results were sustained beyond the end of the program. In addition, *Aban Aya* has not demonstrated any success at reducing teen pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in school populations in the United States.

1. Flay BR, Graumlich S, Segawa E, Burns JL, Holliday MY, Aban Aya Investigators. (2004). Effects of 2 prevention programs on high risk behaviors among Africa-American youth: A randomized trial. *Archives of Pediatric Adolescent Medicine* 158:377-384.
2. Ericksen IH, Weed SE. (2019). "Re-Examining the Evidence for School-based Comprehensive Sex Education: A Global Research Review." *Issues in Law and Medicine*, 34(2):161-182.
3. See: <https://tppevidencereview.youth.gov/EvidencePrograms.aspx>