

Draw the Line/Respect the Line

More Evidence of Failure than Success

| <i>Draw the Line/Respect the Line</i> | |
|---|---|
| Study conducted by independent evaluators? | NO , the one study was by the program's authors ¹ |
| Follow-up 12 months after the program to show duration of effect? | YES |
| OUTCOMES: | |
| Pregnancy | Not measured |
| STDs | Not measured |
| Sexual Initiation | Reduced for boys but not girls |
| Consistent Condom Use | Not measured |
| Condom Use At Last Sex | NO EFFECT |
| Unprotected Sex | Not measured |
| Number of Sex Partners | NO EFFECT |
| Recent Sex | NO EFFECT |
| Dual Effect: Condom Use & Abstinence | NO EFFECT |

Key Findings

There has been one study of *Draw the Line/Respect the Line* (DLRL), conducted by the program's developers.¹ According to a published research review by *The Institute for Research & Evaluation*,² **this one study did not produce sufficient evidence to label *Draw the Line/Respect the Line* as an effective school-based CSE program.** There were no effects on the intended population for any of the targeted outcomes 12 months after the program, just one subgroup effect on Sexual Initiation (it was reduced for boys but not girls). DLRL failed to reduce number of partners, recent sex, or frequency of sex and failed to increase rates of teen condom use. And there was no evidence of the dual benefit that is claimed by CSE programs of increasing both abstinence and condom use (for sexually active teens).

Summary. Contrary to the U.S. Teen Pregnancy Prevention website,³ *Draw the Line/Respect the Line* has shown little evidence of effectiveness. After 12 months, it failed to reduce sexual activity or increase condom use for sexually experienced teens and reduced sexual initiation only for boys. Moreover, it did not measure program impact on teen pregnancy or STDs and did not produce the "dual benefit" that is the supposed advantage of CSE over abstinence education. (*Draw the Line/Respect the Line* is marketed by ETR, an offshoot of Planned Parenthood.)

1. Coyle KK, Kirby DB, Marin BV, Gomez CA, & Gregorich SE. (2004). Draw the Line/Respect the line: A randomized trial of a middle school intervention to reduce sexual risk behaviors. *American Journal of Public Health, 94*, 843-851.
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>