

2004 Minnesota Student Survey

County Tables

Fall 2004

Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team:
Minnesota Department of Education
Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Minnesota Department of Public safety
Minnesota Department of Corrections

For more information contact:
Allison Anfinson, Results Measurements Director, Safe and Healthy Learners
Unit, Minnesota Department of Education
Ph: 651-582-8452 e: Allison.anfinson@state.mn.us

or

Ann Kinney, Senior Research Scientist
Minnesota Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health
Ph: 651-201-5946 e: ann.kinney@health.state.mn.us

In Appreciation

We are indebted to the students, teachers, Minnesota Student Survey coordinators and superintendents across the state that agreed to participate in and willingly supported the student survey when it was administered in the spring of 2004. These data are made available as a result of their interest and time and we are grateful for their efforts. A special note to students and parents—we hope these data can be used to help further prevention activities in your schools and communities and thank you for supporting efforts to ensure healthy environments for all youth. We are also indebted to the many state agency staff, especially the analysts with the Center for Health Statistics at the Minnesota Department of Health, for their tireless work on making these data available.

2004 MINNESOTA STUDENT SURVEY

Survey Participation

The 2004 Minnesota Student Survey was administered in the spring of 2004 to public school students in Grades 6, 9, and 12. All public school districts in Minnesota were invited to participate. Of the 342 public operating districts, 301 agreed to participate (88% of public operating school districts).

Student participation was voluntary. Surveys were anonymous. Sixth, ninth and twelfth graders were invited to participate in the survey. Across the state, approximately 77% of public school sixth graders, 73% of public school ninth graders, and 49% of public school twelfth graders participated in the 2004 Minnesota Student Survey. Overall participation across the three grades was approximately 66%.

The majority of schools in the state used an opt-out consent procedure for the survey (meaning that parents could decline to have their children take the survey). A few school districts used an active consent process (meaning parents returned a signed permission slip to school before their children took the survey). Also note that not every student who participated in the survey answered every question.

Items on the Tables

The accompanying set of tables includes responses to all survey items. Items are ordered within the tables according to meaningful domains; the order items appear on the tables is not necessarily the order they appeared on the survey. A Table of Contents is provided on page iv. The Grade 6 survey version was shorter than the Grade 9-12 version and did not include items appropriate only for older students. Items found on one version of the survey but not the other are identified on the tables.

Year-to-Year Comparisons

The 2004 survey questions were not changed in any way from the 2001 survey, so comparisons between data from the 2004 and 2001 surveys should be relatively easy. Please note that although these surveys are given repeatedly over time, student populations may change between administrations of the survey.

Validity of Responses

A small percentage of surveys (approximately 3%) were eliminated from analyses because gender was missing, responses were highly inconsistent, or there was a pattern of likely exaggeration.

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