

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS and YOUTH RISK and PROTECTIVE FACTORS
 2007 Minnesota Student Survey Statewide Data
 9th Grade Students

What is the purpose of these tables and graphs?

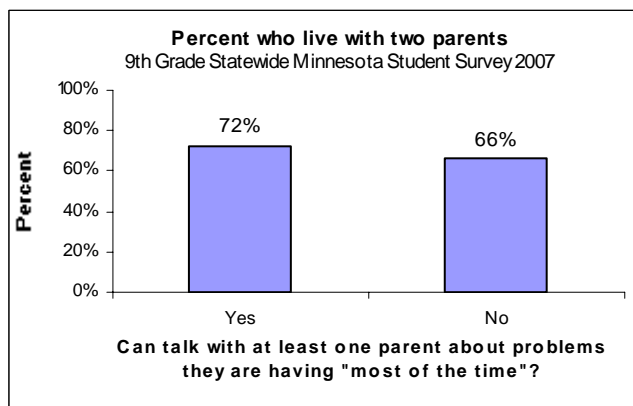
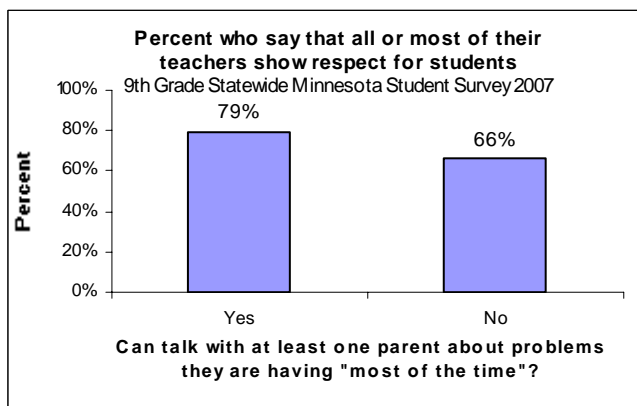
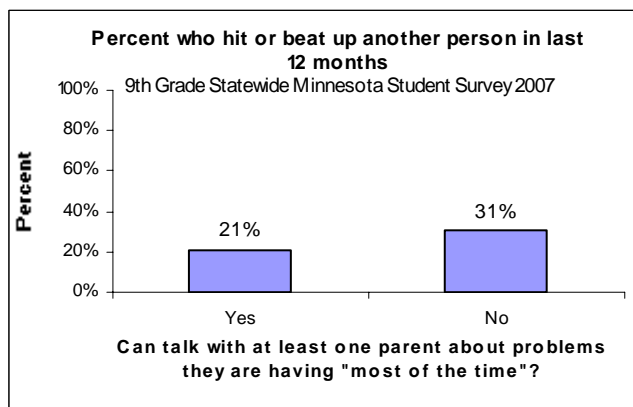
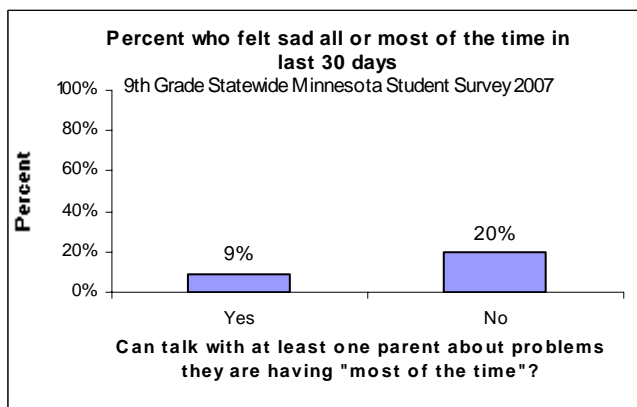
This issue brief provides data showing the extent to which selected risk and protective factors are associated with being able to communicate with one's parents. The risk and protective factors selected for this brief are of interest to many who work with teens, but represent just a sample of all the survey questions that could be investigated. Each brief in this series uses the same set of risk and protective factors. An association only means that two factors often occur together. It is important to remember that the survey results alone cannot tell us if one factor "causes" or "predicts" the other. Just because two factors are associated with each other does not mean they are causally related.

How should I read these tables and graphs?

In this brief, 9th grade students are divided into two groups. The table on the reverse side compares these two groups on various risk and protective factors. For example, 28,054 students said they could talk to one or both parents about problems they were having "most of the time"; of these students, 9 percent reported feeling sad all or most of the time in the last 30 days. In contrast, 21,898 students said they could not talk to either parent about problems "most of the time", and 20 percent of these students reported feeling sad all or most of the time.

What do these tables and graphs say about being able to talk with parents and other risk and protective factors?

Ninth-grade students who reported not being able to talk with their parents most of the time are somewhat more likely to engage in or be exposed to each of the *risk factors* examined in the table than are students who can talk with a parent most of the time. In addition, students who are able to talk with a parent most of the time are slightly or somewhat more likely to engage in or be exposed to each of the *protective factors* examined in the table. The only exception to this general pattern is watching TV, DVDs and videos.



This brief is based on responses by students in regular public schools to questions on the 2007 Minnesota Student Survey. Over 90 percent of the regular public school districts in the state participated in the 2007 survey. The participation rate for all 9th grade students was 76 percent. Statewide and county results can be found on the web at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/mss>.

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(continued from reverse side)

Risk Factors	Can talk with at least one parent about problems you are having "most of the time"*	
	Yes	No
Number of Students (N)	28,054	21,898
Smoked cigarettes on one or more days in last 30 days	9%	16%
Drank alcoholic beverages on one or more days in last 30 days	19%	30%
Used marijuana on one or more days in last 30 days	7%	13%
Have ever had sexual intercourse	15%	23%
Felt sad all or most of the time in last 30 days	9%	20%
Tried to kill yourself during the last year	2%	6%
Hit or beat up another person one or more times in last 12 months	21%	31%
Skipped or cut one or more days of school in last 30 days	17%	26%
Have been kicked, bitten or hit at least once on school property in last 12 months	22%	30%
Have been teased, made fun of, or excluded by other students once a week or more often	10%	15%
Alcohol or drug use by family member has repeatedly caused problems	15%	24%
Have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse by someone in their family	8%	18%
Spend 11 or more hours per week watching TV or videos	22%	24%

Protective Factors	Can talk with at least one parent about problems you are having "most of the time"*	
	Yes	No
Number of Students (N)	28,054	21,898
Had 5 or more servings of fruits & vegetables yesterday	20%	16%
Were physically active for at least 30 minutes on 5 or more days in past week	59%	51%
Always wear a seat belt when they ride in a car	63%	50%
Like going to school "very much" or "quite a bit"	53%	37%
Say that "all" or "most" of their teachers show respect for students	79%	66%
Live with two parents	72%	66%
Feel their friends care about them "very much" or "quite a bit"	80%	67%
Spend 6 or more hours per week doing homework	32%	25%
Participate on school sports teams 1 or 2 times per week or more often	52%	42%
Participate in religious activities (including youth group, programs, etc) 1 or 2 times per week or more often	46%	38%

*Based on responses to two questions: "Can you talk to your father about problems you are having?" and "Can you talk with your mother about problems you are having?" Response options are: Yes, most of the time; Yes, some of the time; No, not very often; No, not at all; my father [mother] is not around.

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