

GAMBLING and YOUTH RISK and PROTECTIVE FACTORS
 2007 Minnesota Student Survey Statewide Data
 9th Grade Students

What is the purpose of these tables and graphs?

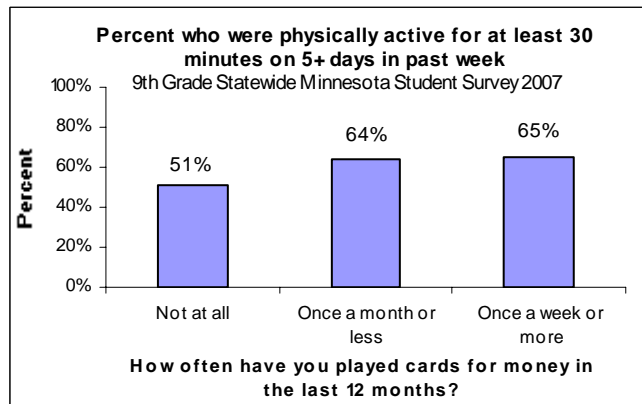
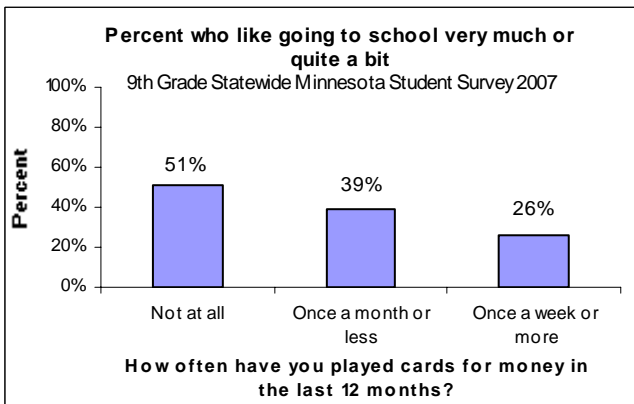
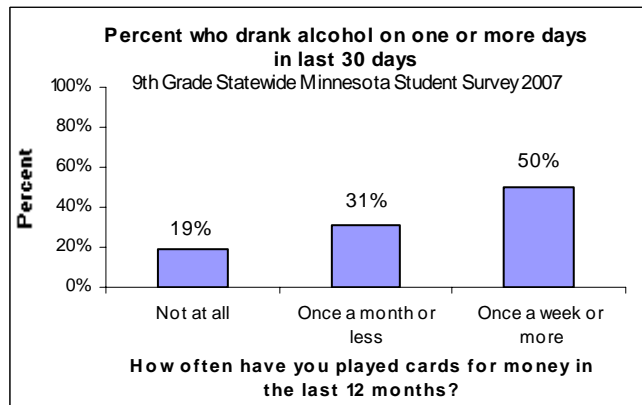
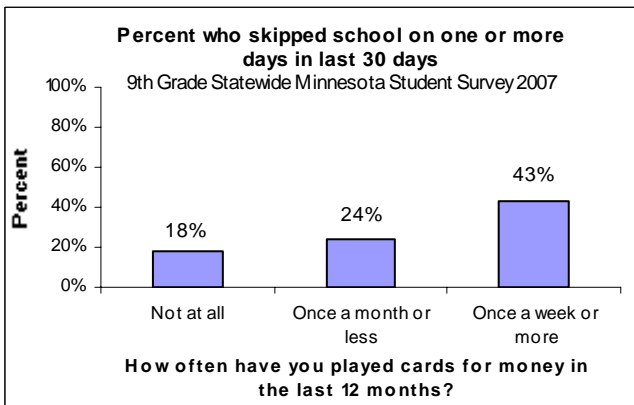
This issue brief provides data showing the extent to which selected risk and protective factors are associated with gambling (playing cards for money). The risk and protective factors selected for this brief are of interest to many who work with teens, but represent just a sample of all the survey questions 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 three groups. The table on the reverse side compares these three groups on various risk and protective factors. For example, 32,302 students said they did not play cards for money in the past 30 days; of these students, 17 percent reported skipping school on one or more days in the last 30 days. In contrast, 2,670 students said they played cards for money once a week or more often, and 43 percent of these students reported skipping school in the last 30 days.

What do these tables and graphs say about playing cards for money and other risk and protective factors?

Ninth-grade students who reported playing cards for money frequently are more likely to engage in or be exposed to each of the *risk factors* examined in the table than are students who did not gamble in this way. The relationship between gambling and *protective factors* is mixed. Students who did not play cards for money at all are slightly or somewhat more likely to engage in or be exposed to many of the *protective factors* examined in the table. There are several exceptions; frequent gamblers are somewhat more likely to eat fruits and vegetables and to be physically active than those who do not gamble.



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	How often have you played cards for money in the last 12 months?		
	Not at all	Once a month or less	Once a week or more
Number of Students (N)	32,302	13,451	2,670
Smoked cigarettes on one or more days in last 30 days	9%	14%	30%
Drank alcoholic beverages on one or more days in last 30 days	19%	31%	50%
Used marijuana on one or more days in last 30 days	7%	12%	29%
Have ever had sexual intercourse	15%	23%	49%
Felt sad all or most of the time in last 30 days	15%	11%	19%
Tried to kill themselves during past year	3%	3%	10%
Hit or beat up another person one or more times in last 12 months	19%	34%	57%
Skipped or cut one or more days of school in last 30 days	18%	24%	43%
Have been kicked, bitten or hit at least once on school property in last 12 months	20%	33%	47%
Have been teased, made fun of or excluded by other students once a week or more often	12%	12%	24%
Alcohol or drug use by family member has repeatedly caused problems	18%	20%	31%
Have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse by someone in their family	13%	11%	22%
Spend 11 or more hours per week watching TV, DVDs or videos	21%	26%	38%

Protective Factors	How often have you played cards for money in the last 12 months?		
	Not at all	Once a month or less	Once a week or more
Number of Students (N)	32,302	13,451	2,670
Had 5 or more servings of fruits & vegetables yesterday	17%	20%	26%
Were physically active for at least 30 minutes on 5 or more days in past week	51%	64%	65%
Always wear a seat belt when they ride in a car	62%	50%	40%
Like going to school "very much" or "quite a bit"	51%	39%	26%
Say that "all" or "most" of their teachers show respect for students	77%	69%	52%
Live with two parents	70%	71%	61%
Can talk to at least one parent about problems "most of the time"	58%	54%	50%
Feel their friends care about them "very much" or "quite a bit"	76%	74%	63%
Spend 6 or more hours per week doing homework	31%	26%	20%
Participate on school sports teams 1 or 2 times per week or more often	45%	56%	48%
Participate in religious activities (including youth group, programs, etc) 1 or 2 times per week or more often	44%	41%	31%

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