

**PHYSICAL ABUSE and YOUTH RISK and PROTECTIVE FACTORS**  
 2007 Minnesota Student Survey Statewide Data  
 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

**What is the purpose of these tables and graphs?**

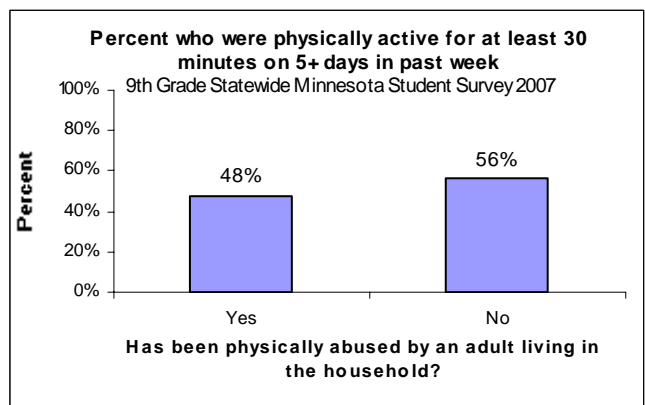
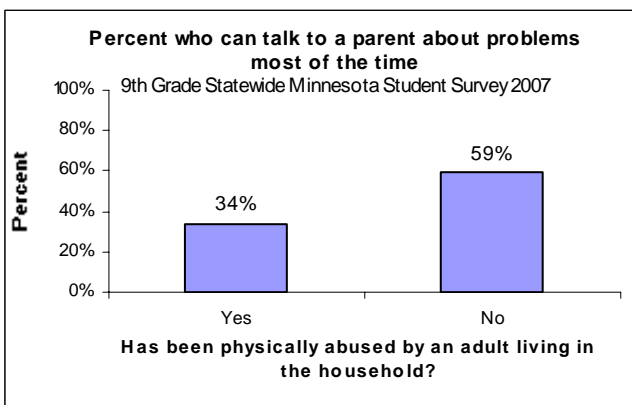
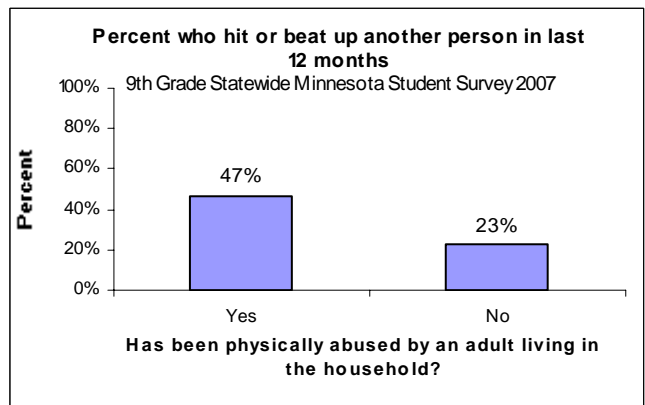
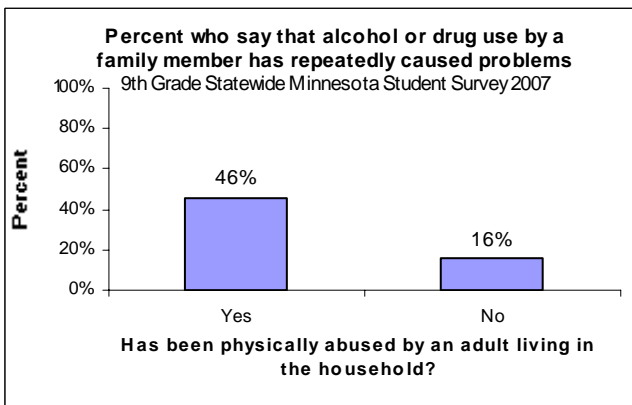
This issue brief provides data showing the extent to which selected risk and protective factors are associated with experiences of physical abuse. The risk and protective factors selected for this brief are of interest to many who work with teens, but represent just a sample of all the survey questions 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, 9<sup>th</sup> 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, 5,278 students said they had been physically abused by an adult in their household (see other side for question wording); of these students, 46 percent reported that there were alcohol or drug problems in their family. In contrast, 43,055 students said they had not been physically abused, and 16 percent of these students reported alcohol or drug problems in their family.

**What do these tables and graphs say about physical abuse and other risk and protective factors?**

In general, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who report having experienced physical abuse are much more likely to engage in or be exposed to each of the *risk factors* examined in the table than are students who have not experienced abuse. In addition, students who have not been abused are more likely to engage in or be exposed to each of the *protective factors* examined in the table. Exceptions to this general pattern include watching TV, DVDs and videos, and eating fruits and vegetables.



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 9<sup>th</sup> 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)*

| <b>Risk Factors</b>  | Has ever been physically abused by an adult in the household* |        |
|--|---|--------|
|  | Yes   | No     |
| Number of Students (N)   | 5,278   | 43,055 |
| Smoked cigarettes on one or more days in last 30 days                                  | 29%   | 10%    |
| Drank alcoholic beverages on one or more days in last 30 days                          | 43%   | 21%    |
| Used marijuana on one or more days in last 30 days                                     | 22%   | 8%     |
| Have ever had sexual intercourse   | 39%   | 16%    |
| Felt sad all or most of the time in last 30 days                                       | 36%   | 11%    |
| Tried to kill yourself during the last year  | 15%   | 2%     |
| Hit or beat up another person one or more times in last 12 months                      | 47%   | 23%    |
| Skipped or cut one or more days of school in last 30 days                              | 36%   | 19%    |
| Have been kicked, bitten or hit at least once on school property in last 12 months     | 43%   | 23%    |
| Have been teased, made fun of, or excluded by other students once a week or more often | 28%   | 10%    |
| Alcohol or drug use by family member has repeatedly caused problems                    | 46%   | 16%    |
| Spend 11 or more hours per week watching TV, DVDs or videos                            | 26%   | 23%    |

| <b>Protective Factors</b>  | Has ever been physically abused by an adult in the household* |        |
|--|---|--------|
|  | Yes   | No     |
| Number of Students (N)   | 5,278   | 43,055 |
| Had 5 or more servings of fruits & vegetables yesterday  | 19%   | 18%    |
| Were physically active for at least 30 minutes on 5 or more days in past week                                  | 48%   | 56%    |
| Always wear a seat belt when they ride in a car  | 45%   | 59%    |
| Like going to school "very much" or "quite a bit"  | 37%   | 47%    |
| Say that "all" or "most" of their teachers show respect for students   | 59%   | 75%    |
| Live with two parents  | 58%   | 71%    |
| Can talk to at least one parent about problems "most of the time"  | 34%   | 59%    |
| Feel their friends care about them "very much" or "quite a bit"  | 63%   | 76%    |
| Spend 6 or more hours per week doing homework  | 25%   | 29%    |
| Participate on school sports teams 1 or 2 times per week or more often   | 36%   | 49%    |
| Participate in religious activities (including youth group, programs, etc) 1 or 2 times per week or more often | 35%   | 43%    |

\*The question reads: "Has any adult in your household ever hit you so hard or so often that you had marks or were afraid of that person?" Responses are "Yes" or "No".