

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

What is the purpose of these tables and graphs?

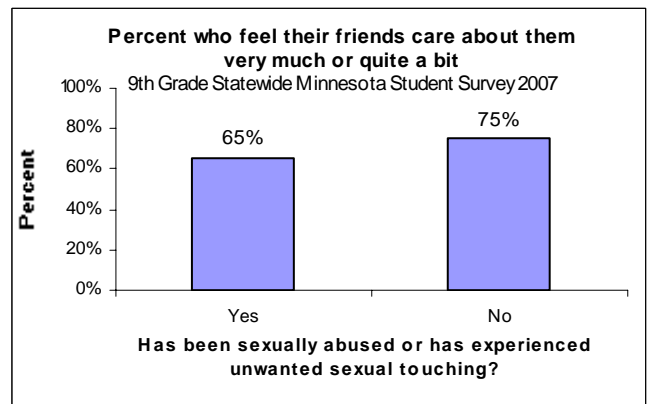
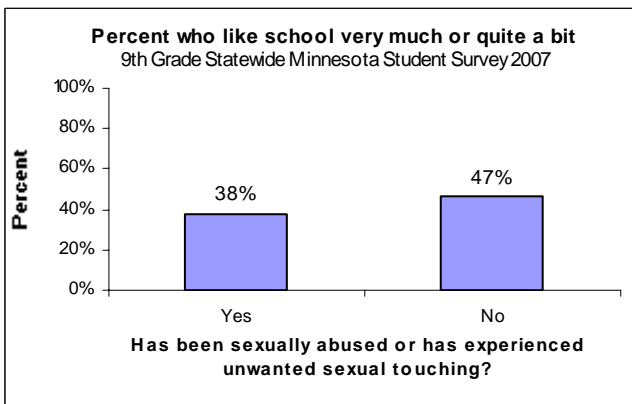
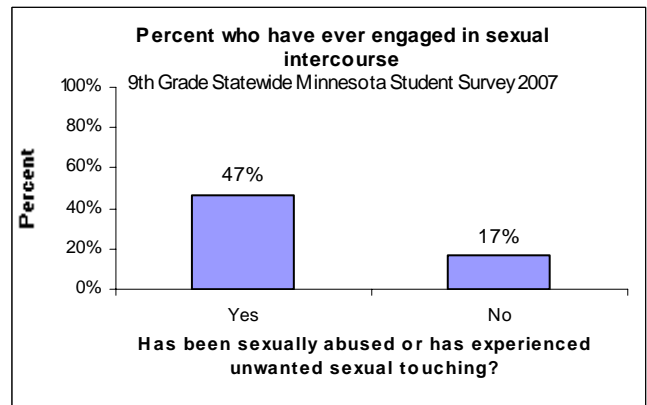
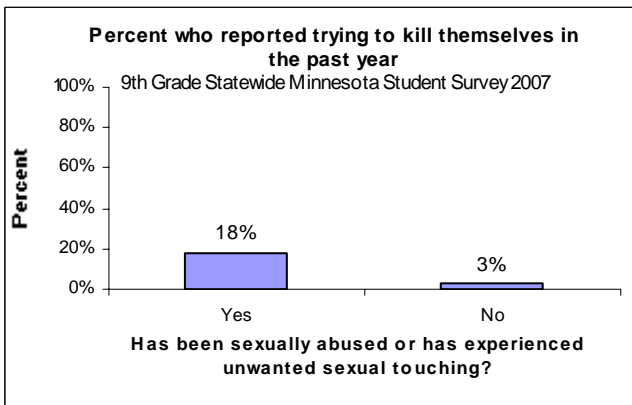
This issue brief provides data showing the extent to which selected risk and protective factors are associated with experiences of sexual abuse. The risk and protective factors selected for this brief are of interest to many who work with teens, but represent just a sample of all the survey questions 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, 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, 3,481 students said they have experienced sexual abuse or unwanted sexual touching; of these students, 18 percent reported that they tried to kill themselves in the past year. In contrast, 44,766 students said they have not experienced sexual abuse or unwanted sexual touching, and 3 percent of these students reported trying to commit suicide in the past year.

What do these tables and graphs say about being sexually abused and other risk and protective factors?

In general, 9th grade students who have been sexually abused 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 been abused. 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 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	Has ever experienced sexual abuse from person inside or outside the family*	
	Yes	No
Number of Students (N)	3,481	44,766
Smoked cigarettes on one or more days in last 30 days	34%	10%
Drank alcoholic beverages on one or more days in last 30 days	47%	22%
Used marijuana on one or more days in last 30 days	26%	9%
Have ever had sexual intercourse	47%	17%
Felt sad all or most of the time in last 30 days	38%	12%
Tried to kill yourself during the last year	18%	3%
Hit or beat up another person one or more times in last 12 months	44%	24%
Skipped or cut one or more days of school in last 30 days	38%	20%
Have been kicked, bitten or hit at least once on school property in last 12 months	42%	24%
Have been teased, made fun of, or excluded by other students once a week or more often	28%	11%
Alcohol or drug use by family member has repeatedly caused problems	45%	17%
Spend 11 or more hours per week watching TV, DVDs or videos	24%	23%

Protective Factors	Has ever experienced sexual abuse from person inside or outside the family*	
	Yes	No
Number of Students (N)	3,481	44,766
Had 5 or more servings of fruits & vegetables yesterday	20%	18%
Were physically active for at least 30 minutes on 5 or more days in past week	45%	56%
Always wear a seat belt when they ride in a car	46%	59%
Like going to school "very much" or "quite a bit"	38%	47%
Say that "all" or "most" of their teachers show respect for students	59%	75%
Live with two parents	54%	71%
Can talk to at least one parent about problems "most of the time"	42%	57%
Feel their friends care about them "very much" or "quite a bit"	65%	75%
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	35%	49%
Participate in religious activities (including youth group, programs, etc) 1 or 2 times per week or more often	36%	43%

*This table is constructed by combining two questions: (1) "Has any adult or other person outside the family ever touched you sexually against your wishes or forced you to touch them sexually?" and (2) "Has any older or stronger member of your family ever touched you sexually or had you touch them sexually?" The "Yes" column in this table includes students who answered "yes" to at least one of the question. The "No" column includes those who answered "no" to both questions.

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