

CARRYING A WEAPON and YOUTH RISK and PROTECTIVE FACTORS
 2007 Minnesota Student Survey Statewide Data
 9th Grade Students

What is the purpose of these tables and graphs?

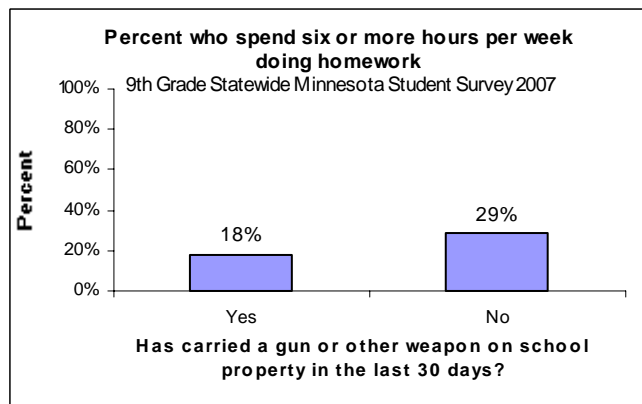
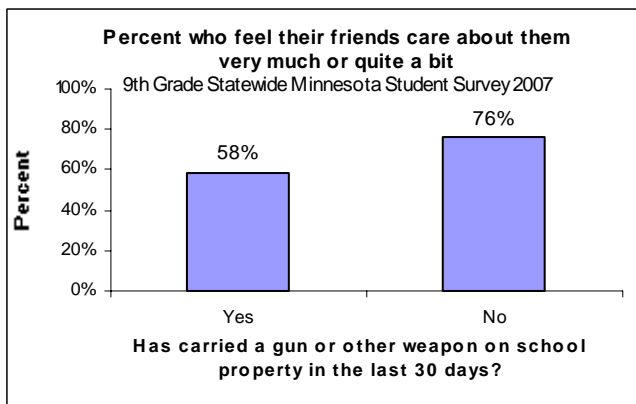
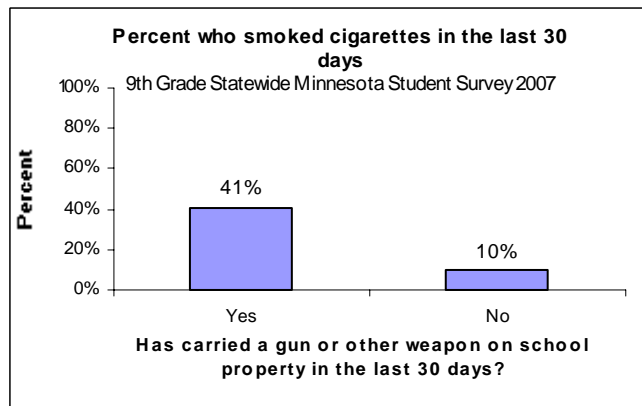
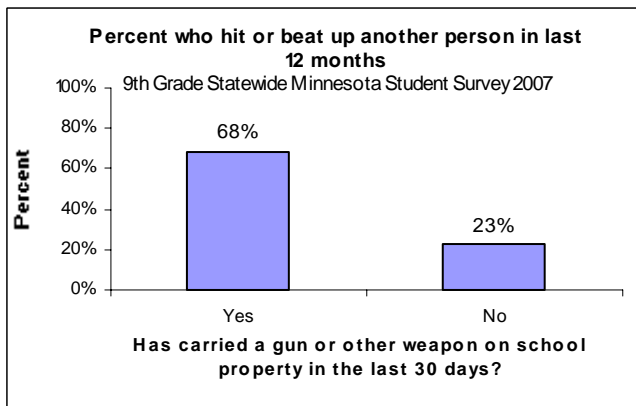
This issue brief provides data showing the extent to which selected risk and protective factors are associated with carrying a weapon on school property. The risk and protective factors selected for this brief are of interest to many who work with teens, but represent just a sample of all the survey 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, 3,463 students said they carried a weapon on school property at least once in the past 30 days; of these students, 68 percent reported hitting or beating up another person in the last 12 months. In contrast, 46,801 students said they never carried a weapon on school property in the last 30 days, and 23 percent of these students reported hitting or beating up another person in the last 12 months.

What do these tables and graphs say about carrying a weapon and other risk and protective factors?

Ninth grade students who reported carrying a weapon are much more likely to engage in or be exposed to each of the *risk factors* examined in the table than are students who did not carry a weapon. In addition, students who did not carry a weapon in the last 30 days are more likely to engage in or be exposed to the *protective factors* examined in the table. Exceptions to this general pattern include eating fruits and vegetables, and being physically active.



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>.

CARRYING A WEAPON AND YOUTH RISK and PROTECTIVE FACTORS
 2007 Minnesota Student Survey Statewide Data
 9th Grade Students

(continued from reverse side)

Risk Factors	Carried a weapon on school property during the last 30 days?*	
	Yes	No
Number of Students (N)	3,463	46,801
Smoked cigarettes on one or more days in last 30 days	41%	10%
Drank alcoholic beverages on one or more days in last 30 days	58%	21%
Used marijuana on one or more days in last 30 days	38%	8%
Have ever had sexual intercourse	56%	16%
Felt sad all or most of the time in last 30 days	27%	13%
Tried to kill yourself during the last year	14%	3%
Hit or beat up another person one or more times in last 12 months	68%	23%
Skipped or cut one or more days of school in last 30 days	52%	19%
Have been kicked, bitten or hit at least once on school property in last 12 months	58%	23%
Have been teased, made fun of, or excluded by other students once a week or more often	31%	11%
Alcohol or drug use by family member has repeatedly caused problems	38%	18%
Have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse by someone in their family	32%	11%
Spend 11 or more hours per week watching TV, DVDs or videos	33%	22%

Protective Factors	Carried a weapon on school property during the last 30 days?*	
	Yes	No
Number of Students (N)	3,463	46,801
Had 5 or more servings of fruits & vegetables yesterday	23%	18%
Were physically active for at least 30 minutes on 5 or more days in past week	55%	55%
Always wear a seat belt when they ride in a car	37%	59%
Like going to school "very much" or "quite a bit"	24%	48%
Say that "all" or "most" of their teachers show respect for students	47%	75%
Live with two parents	55%	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"	58%	76%
Spend 6 or more hours per week doing homework	18%	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	30%	43%

*Carrying a weapon is determined by two questions: (1) "During the last 30 days, on how many days did you carry a gun on school property?" and (2) "During the last 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon (other than a gun) on school property?" For each question, the response options are: 0 days, 1 day, 2 or 3 days, 4 or 5 days, 6 or more days. The "Yes" column in this table includes all students who answered one day or more to at least one of the questions. The "No" column includes students who answered "0 days" to both questions.

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>.