

Protective Factors and Risk Reduction for Two Negative Outcomes

8th, 9th, and 11th graders; 2025 Minnesota Student Survey

HOW TO READ THIS TABLE

Of those students who DON'T feel that adults in the community care about them, **6.6%** have vaped nicotine in the past month. However, of those students who feel adults DO care about them, only **2.2%** have vaped. This means students who feel adults in the community care about them are **3.0 times LESS LIKELY to vape**.
In Minnesota, **45%** of students feel community adults care about them.

	Prevalence of Protective Factor			Reduction in Risk among Minnesota Students	
		East Central Region	Minnesota	Depression (past 2-week)	Vaping (past month)
	%	%	%	Risk Ratio	Risk Ratio
Community					
Feel adults in the community care		39%	45%	2.3x less	3.0x less
Develop trusting relationships with adults in afterschool activities		66%	67%	2.1x less	2.2x less
Feel safe in neighborhood		97%	97%	2.5x less	2.7x less
School					
Educational engagement		62%	67%	1.8x less	3.5x less
Feel teachers care about them		44%	49%	2.1x less	3.2x less
Feel safe at school		89%	90%	2.5x less	2.3x less
Can talk to a school adult about problems		26%	27%	1.4x less	1.4x less
Peers					
Feel that friends care about them		79%	80%	2.3x less	2.1x less
Family					
Feel that parents care about them		91%	92%	3.1x less	3.8x less
Can talk to parent(s) about problems		84%	85%	3.0x less	3.2x less
Feel relatives care about them		82%	84%	2.7x less	3.0x less
Individual					
Positive Identity*		41%	45%	3.4x less	3.8x less
Social Competence*		55%	59%	2.1x less	7.1x less
Empowerment*		61%	64%	3.0x less	3.4x less
Participate in afterschool activities that provide joy and energy		82%	82%	2.3x less	2.2x less

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Risk Ratios use data from the entire state, rather than community, because the larger sample size provides more reliable data about relationships.