DANE COUNTY YOUTH ASSESSMENT 2015

Homeless Data
7th-8th and 9th-12th Grade
May 18, 2016

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County-wide survey was given to students between late January and March 2015.

The survey is taken online and students are assured that all their comments are confidential.

The Dane County Youth Survey is given every 3 years and is designed to help track the effectiveness of current programming and determine community needs.
Thirty-five years of Dane County data now collected.

In 2015, almost 28,000 7th-12th graders surveyed.

The project is funded by the Dane County United Way, Dane County Human Services, Public Health and 17 school districts.
70% HS students are up past 11pm at least 2 nights per week (48% of MS).

HS kids who stay up late 3+ nights drink more alcohol (35% to 43%) and use more marijuana (22% to 29%) than other students in last 12 months.

Alcohol consumption by teens has decreased county wide. (41% in 2012 to 35% in 2015)

19% HS students were at risk on the CRAFFT AOD addiction screener.

Tobacco use (10% down to 6%) and marijuana use (26% to 22%) is down from 2012.

21% of MS students report experiencing some depression in the last 12 months (16% in 2012), and 25% of MS youth say they feel anxious always or often (19% in 2012).
Homeless Students 2015 Dane County

- About 990 HS students and 340 MS students say they are or have been homeless.

- Includes self-report of homelessness and family ever lived in a car.
Both MS and HS homeless are 2X more likely to be African-American or mixed race.

Nearly 50% of HS and 33% of MS homeless kids have 2 or less breakfasts each week.

By nearly the same percentages homeless students are far less likely to have evening meals with parents.

43% of MS and 34% HS have had to skip meals because their family doesn’t have enough money (13% of all kids)
Homeless HS students are far more likely to be up past 11pm on school nights compared to other students (75% 3 out 5 school nights)

Less parental monitoring of school performance (HS 58% compared to 80% often/always)

30% have a parent getting drunk weekly (11% all students)

31% are concerned about a parent’s mental health problem (10% all)
Self reported grades in school are 30% lower than other students.

Lower connection to school (41% feeling disconnected and 18% for all)
Much higher scores on CRAFFT addiction scale (70% at some risk versus 30% for all other)

Alcohol use at 67% compared to 32% for all high schoolers.

Marijuana use is 54% compared to 22%.
Anxiety levels are rising for all student but much higher for homeless kids
- For HS 58% compared to 31%
- For MS 47% compared to 25%

Depression for HS homeless students is more than double that of all other students (54% to 22%)
Homeless kids are 2X more likely to be sexually active than other students their age.

Nearly 25% of homeless HS students have been forced to participate in sexual activity at some time in their life (7% for all other)

15% have been involved sex trafficking where they have been forced to have sex for a place to stay, food or shelter (3% for all other)
Topics Connecting with Homelessness
(Levels of correlation)

- Home instability
  - Been kicked out (.88)
  - Run away (.42)
  - Juvenile corrections (.32)

- Negative emotional health
  - Suicide ideation (.30)
  - Suicide attempts (.30)

- Experimentation with AOD
  - Risk of addiction (.30)
  - Abusing prescription and non-prescription (.25)
Risk factors at home
- Home insecurity
- Food insecurity
- Parent’s AOD and mental health
- Lower parent involvement

Negative Outcomes
- Risk of addiction, AOD experimentation
- Disconnection from school
- Lower grades
- Much higher suicide ideation, depression and anxiety
- Sexually active