

DANE COUNTY YOUTH ASSESSMENT 2015

Homeless Data
7th-8th and 9th-12th Grade
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Survey Background

- ▣ 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.

2015 Version of DCYA

- ▣ 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.



2015 Key County Wide Findings

- ▣ 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.

Homeless Students Race and Food Insecurity

- ▣ 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 Students & Their Parents

- ▣ 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)

Homeless Students & School

- ▣ Self reported grades in school are 30% lower than other students.
- ▣ Lower connection to school (41% feeling disconnected and 18% for all)

AODA & Addiction

- ▣ 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%.

Emotional Health

- ▣ 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%)

Sexual Behavior

- ▣ 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)

Summary

Interpreting the Data

- ▣ 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