



ACEs on the MSS: Past, Present, & Future

Growing Resilient Communities Gathering ●

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Adverse Childhood Experiences on the Minnesota Student Survey

MSS Background

ACEs Background

ACEs on the MSS

Challenges for the MSS

Find Your MSS ACEs Data

A decorative graphic featuring a green line that starts from the left, curves down, and then continues horizontally. A blue line starts from the bottom, curves up, and then continues horizontally. A red line starts from the top right and curves down. An orange circle is positioned to the left of the green line. Two black dots are placed on the green line: one at the top curve and one at the bottom curve.

Minnesota Student Survey



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MSS Basics

It's COMPREHENSIVE:

Administered by 5 state agencies

- **Corrections**
- **Education**
- **Health**
- **Human Services**
- **Public Safety**

So there is...

**...buy-in and
commitment
from multiple
agencies who
use the data to
inform policy &
programming.**

**The MSS was intended to cover the
data needs for all state agencies,
to prevent districts from having to
administer multiple surveys**



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MSS Basics

It's LONG RUNNING:

Conducted every three years since 1989

So it...



**...helps us
monitor long-
running trends
and helps us
celebrate wins
(like decreasing
levels of alcohol
and tobacco
use).**



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MSS Basics

It's REPRESENTATIVE:

- **Census design instead of random sample**
- **Uses comprehensive race and ethnicity categories**

So it...

...makes analysis easier:
results don't have to be weighted for statistical accuracy.
And it allows for larger samples for school districts and small counties.

Recent analysis shows that race/ethnicity closely match state Census data.



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MSS Basics

It's SAFE:

**Voluntary and anonymous,
with data privacy guidelines and suppression for
small samples**

Which ensure...

**...protection
for students.
They also
make honest
responses
more likely.**



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MSS Basics

It's AGE-APPROPRIATE:

There are 3 versions of the survey:

- **Level 1 = grade 5**
- **Level 2 = grade 8**
- **Level 3 = grades 9 and 11**

(ACEs and many other questions are not asked of 5th graders)

Which...

...captures students in all 3 grade levels: elementary, middle, and high school.

...creates cohorts: the same group of students will be surveyed, allowing us to look at differences between grades as students age.

...captures youth while they're under 18 –because students are less likely to have dropped out by 11th grade (vs. 12th grade and/or age 18), – and to assess things like gambling law compliance.



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MSS Basics

It's INCLUSIVE:

The MSS was one of the first large surveys to ask about sexual orientation and gender identity

Which matters...

...especially at a time when 34% of girls and 10% of boys identify as LGBTQ+.

(of 8th, 9th, and 11th graders on the 2022 MSS)

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a thick green line that starts horizontally from the left, curves 90 degrees down, then curves 90 degrees right, and finally curves 90 degrees down again. A small black dot is located on the first downward curve. To the left of the green line is a solid orange circle. Below the green line, a thick blue line starts horizontally from the left, curves 90 degrees down, then curves 90 degrees right, and finally curves 90 degrees down again. A small black dot is located on the final downward curve. In the top right corner, a thick red line starts horizontally from the right, curves 90 degrees down, and then curves 90 degrees left.

Adverse Childhood Experiences



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History of ACEs

- **Original study (CDC/Kaiser-Permanente in CA, 1995-1997)**
- **Found dose-response relationship between ACEs and negative outcomes**
- **ACEs are:**
 - **Stressful or traumatic experiences, including abuse, neglect and a range of household dysfunction**
 - **Associated with health problems, like substance abuse, diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular problems, and depression**



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History of ACEs / ACEs on the MSS

Original set

1. Emotional abuse
2. Physical abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. Domestic abuse
5. Household mental illness
6. Incarceration
7. Household substance abuse
8. Parental separation/divorce
9. Emotional neglect (wave 2)
10. Physical neglect (wave 2)



MSS (as of 2022)

1. Emotional abuse
2. Physical abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. Domestic abuse
5. Household mental illness
6. Incarceration
7. Household alcohol abuse
8. Household drug abuse



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ACEs on the MSS

ACEs
Module

Non-
module
items

	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016	2019
ALCOHOL							CHANGED		
DRUGS							CHANGED		
PHYSICAL ABUSE									
DOMESTIC ABUSE									
SEXUAL NON-FAMILY									
SEXUAL FAMILY									
VERBAL ABUSE									
INCARCERATION									
MENTAL ILLNESS									
DATING VIOLENCE							CHANGED		
DATING SEXUAL VIOLENCE							CHANGED		
ADULTS AT HOME									
HOMELESSNESS									
FOSTER CARE									
SEX TRAFFICKING									



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ACEs on the MSS

Many positive experiences are also included on the survey, and are integrated into the MDH ACEs dashboard, such as:

Family

Feeling that parents care about them
Can talk to parent(s) about problems
Feeling relatives care about them

Community

Feeling adults in the community care
Participating in 1-5 activities/week
Feeling safe in neighborhood

School

Educational engagement
Feeling school staff care about them
Feeling safe at school
Can talk to a school adult about problems

Individual

Positive Identity
Social Competence
Empowerment

Peer

Feeling that friends care about them

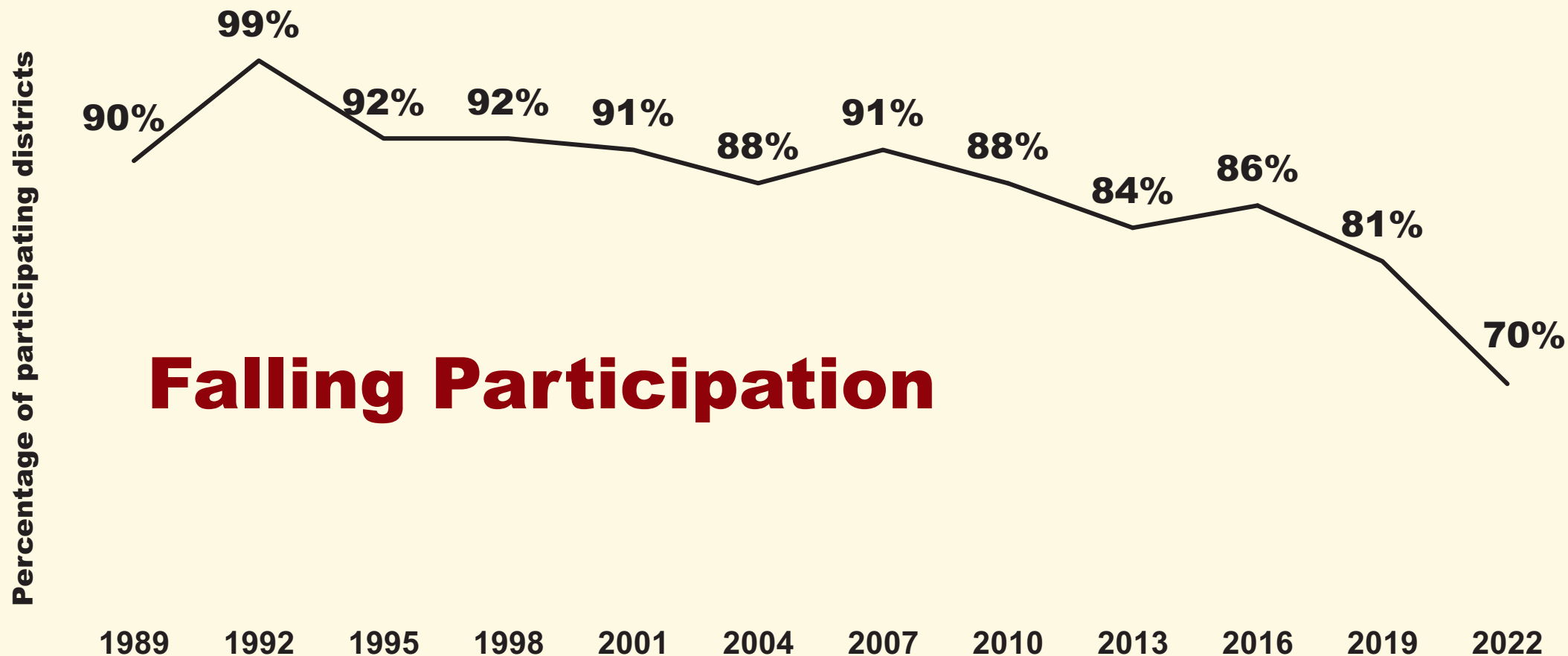
...and many more

Challenges & Changes



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Challenges and Changes





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Challenges and Changes

- **Covid**
- **Funding**
- **Length of the survey / time**
- **Length of time for results**
- **Politicization of items**
- **Buy-in from schools and communities**

Discussions with stakeholders, like legislators who need cannabis data

Some questions will be modularized

Communication with principals and superintendents

More engagement with students through programs like data summits

Survey will be administered in a format which will allow for rough data almost immediately

Prioritize feedback from students

Communication with parents about importance

Questions will be shortened and some may be cut

Provide more support resources to students

Support survey champions, like local public health



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Finding your data

1. Minnesota Department of Education

Website has links to static reports and interactive PDF tables at

<https://public.education.mn.gov/MDEAnalytics/DataTopic.jsp?TOPICID=242> or
<https://public.education.mn.gov/MDEAnalytics/DataTopic.jsp?TOPICID=11>

2. The Center for Health Statistics (at Minnesota Department of Health)

Website has PDFs of static tables, trend reports, special reports, and spreadsheets at

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mchs/surveys/mss/index.html>

3. Substance Use in Minnesota

Interactive tables, fact sheets, and infographics, maintained in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Division at <https://sumn.org>

3. Request data from MDH

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7005627/MSS-Data-Requests>

4. Minnesota Department of Health ACEs Dashboard

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ace/index.html>

Thank you!

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