

HIGHLIGHTING THE POSITIVE: AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS + SUBSTANCE USE



SUMN.org FACT SHEET

2019

African American Students in Minnesota

Introduction

Despite the socioeconomic disparities experienced by the African-American/Black (AAB) population in Minnesota, AAB students are doing quite well on a number of measures regarding substance use and related risk and protective factors.

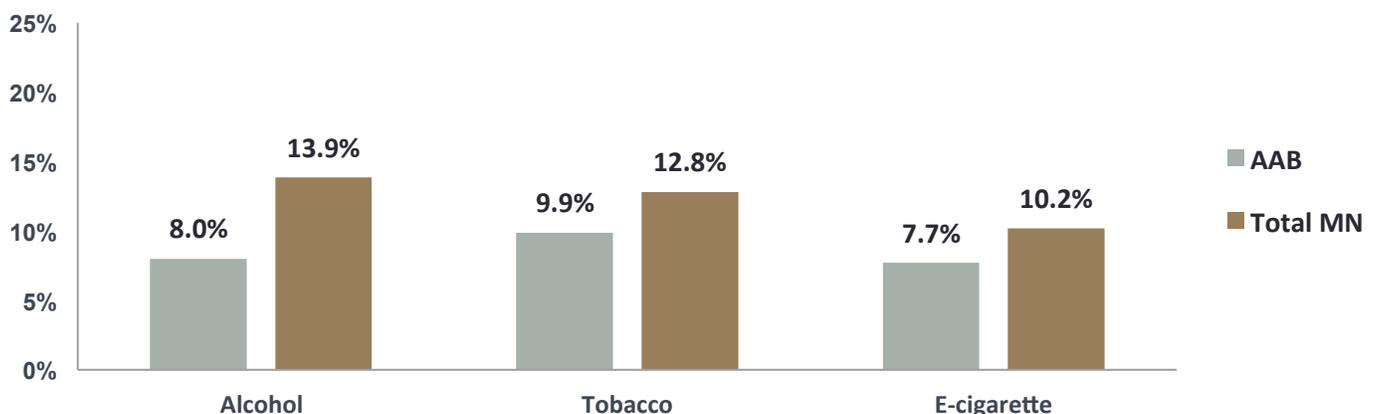
Substance Use

The Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) asks 8th, 9th, and 11th graders about past-month use of substances, such as alcohol and tobacco. According to the 2016 MSS:

- African-American/Black (AAB) students are less likely than the state average to report alcohol use.
- AAB students are also less likely to report any tobacco use (including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, or hookahs).
- While e-cigarette use is increasing among high school students both nationally and in Minnesota, the use rate for AAB students is lower than the state average.

For more information on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, consequences, contributing factors, and treatment, as well as mental health data, visit SUMN.org

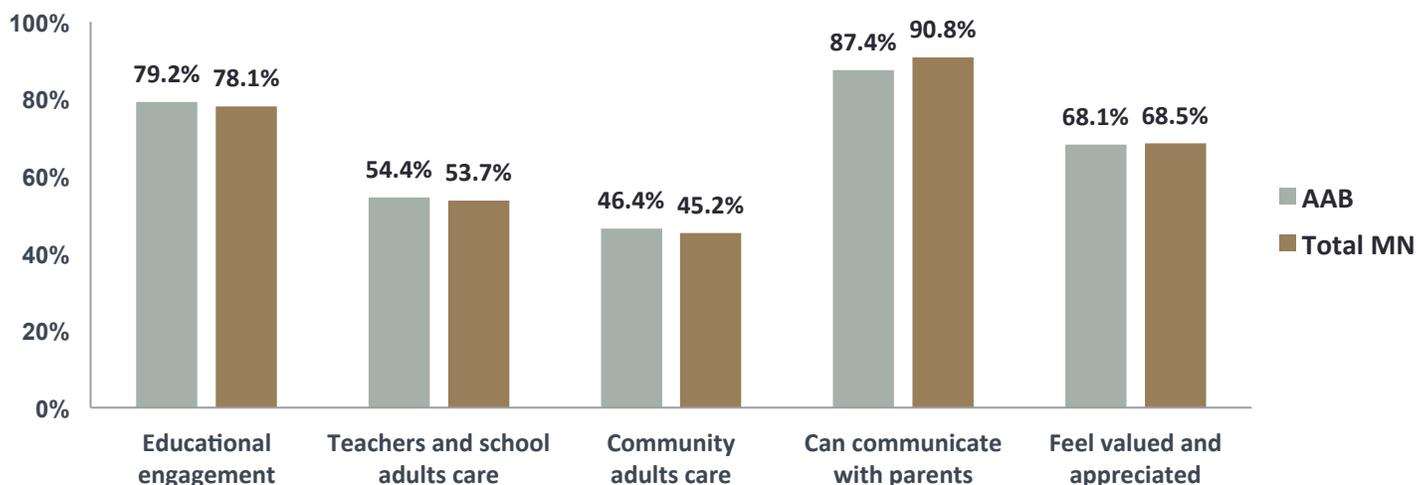
Substance Use by African-American/Black Students, Compared to MN Average
8th, 9th, and 11th Graders, 2016 MSS



Protective Factors

A number of factors in young people's lives are associated with lower risk of substance use. The MSS asks about protective factors at multiple levels of a student's socio-ecological environment—internal

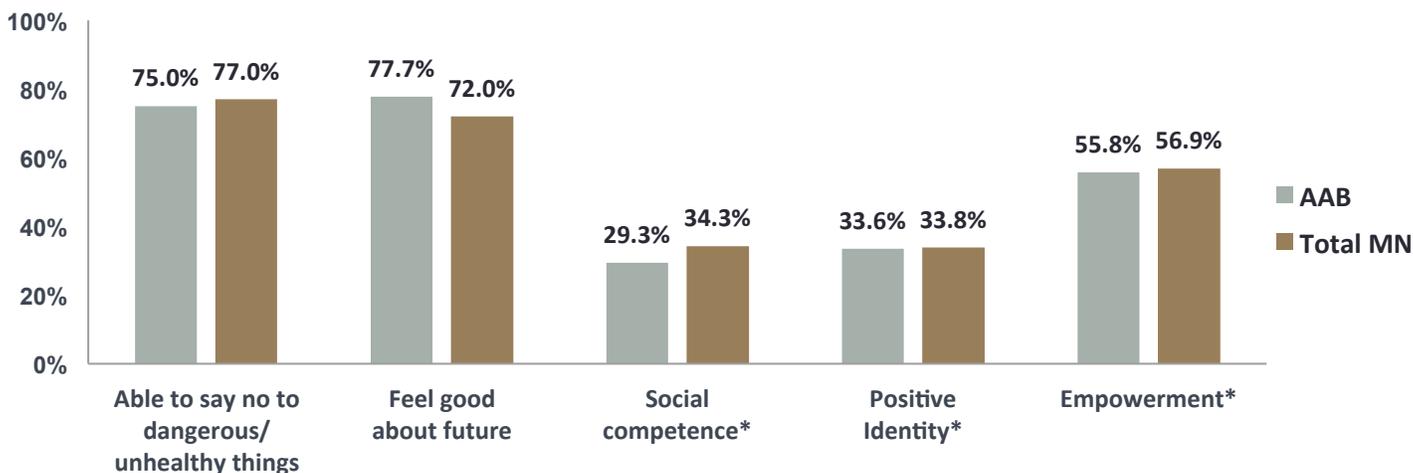
African-American/Black Students' External Protective Factors, Compared to MN Average 5th, 8th, 9th and 11th Graders, 2016 MSS



and external characteristics at the individual, family, peer, school, and community levels. Fortunately, AAB students have comparatively high levels of some of these key protective factors. For example:

- AAB students are about as likely as the average student to report feeling that community adults care about them; they also feel that teachers and other school adults care.
- They're just as likely to report educational engagement.
- They're also more likely to report feeling good about the future and just as likely to report feeling in control of their lives.
- AAB students are just about as likely to report high levels of Developmental Assets: social competence, positive identity, and empowerment.*

African-American/Black Students' Internal Protective Factors, Compared to MN Average 5th, 8th, 9th and 11th Graders, 2016 MSS

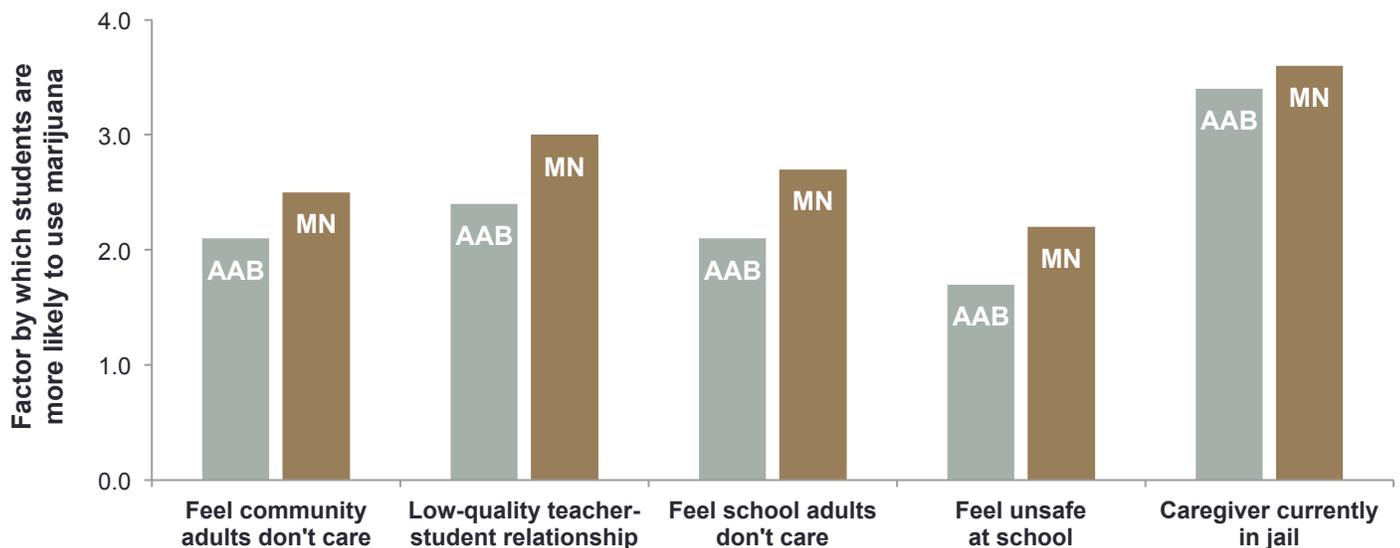


*Social Competence, Positive Identity, and Empowerment are Search Institute's Developmental Assets scales, used and adapted with permission from Search Institute (2004). The Developmental Assets Profile. Minneapolis: Author. Copyright © 2004 by Search Institute (www.search-institute.org). All rights reserved. For more information on MSS use of Developmental Assets, please find fact sheets on the scales at SUMN.org.

Risk Factors

Overall, AAB students are more likely to have experienced risk factors for substance use and mental health problems. However, they're LESS likely to respond negatively to some challenges, especially if those challenges take place outside the home. For example, in general, students who have lower-quality teacher-student relationships (TSR) are more likely to report having used marijuana in the past month. However, while the average student with a low-quality TSR is **3 times as likely** to report marijuana use, African-American/Black students are only **2.4 times as likely**, indicating that AAB students may be more resilient or more likely to have other coping strategies.

African-American/Black Students are About As Likely (or Slightly Less Likely) than MN Average to Use Marijuana When Faced with Risk Factors 9th and 11th Graders, 2016 MSS



Find more information about African-American/Black Minnesotans, as well as other populations in the state, at SUMN.org.

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State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup

Minnesota's SEOW has been monitoring substance abuse trends since 2007. The Workgroup helps guide prevention planning at the state level, and provides training and technical assistance to communities. In 2008 the SEOW launched the Substance Use in Minnesota (SUMN) website to ensure quick and easy access to data for prevention professionals.

SUMN.org

SUMN is a one-stop-shop for data, tools, and prevention resources. Visitors can search county, regional, and state level data by topic, by location, and by demographic producing tables, charts, graphs, and maps. View and download data products, such as this fact sheet, and find tips on finding, analyzing, translating, using, and disseminating data.

Contact Us

For questions or more information regarding the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup or SUMN.org, please email: info@sumn.org

To contact the Regional Prevention Coordinator for your region, please visit: www.rpcmn.org

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