

Minnesota Student Survey Questions Used to Measure Protective Factors

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES DATA

Some protective factors are measured using multiple questions on the Minnesota Student Survey (MSS). Combining these answers creates a scale used to determine if a student has a given protective factor.

Feelings of safety

Students were asked if they agreed with the following statements about their personal safety:

1. I feel safe in my neighborhood.
2. I feel safe at school.
3. I feel safe at home.

These questions were not combined into scales but instead shown individually.

Positive student-teacher relationships at their school

Students were asked if they agreed with the following statements about adults at their school:

1. Overall, adults at my school treat students fairly.
2. Adults at my school listen to the students.
3. At my school, teachers care about students.
4. Most teachers at my school are interested in me as a person.

Social and emotional health

Students were asked how often they performed the following social skills:

1. I say no to things that are dangerous or unhealthy.
2. I build friendships with other people.
3. I express my feelings in proper ways.
4. I plan ahead and make good choices.
5. I stay away from bad influences.
6. I resolve conflicts without anyone getting hurt.
7. I accept people who are different from me.
8. I am sensitive to the needs and feelings of others.

Engaged with their studies in school

MINNESOTA STUDENT SURVEY QUESTIONS USED TO MEASURE PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Students were asked about frequency/agreement regarding statements about their schoolwork:

Frequency

1. How often do you care about doing well in school?
2. How often do you pay attention in class?
3. How often do you go to class unprepared?

Agreement

1. If something interests me, I try to learn more about it.
2. I think things I learn at school are useful.
3. Being a student is one of the most important parts of who I am.

Feeling empowered by themselves or others

Students were asked how much they agreed with statements about their feelings of empowerment:

1. I feel valued and appreciated by others.
2. I am included in family tasks and decisions.
3. I am given useful roles and responsibilities.

Strong sense of identity and control over their future

Students were asked how much they agreed with statements about themselves and their future:

1. I feel in control of my life and future.
2. I feel good about myself.
3. I feel good about my future.
4. I deal with disappointment without getting too upset.
5. I find good ways to deal with things that are hard in my life.
6. I am thinking about what my purpose is in life.

Adults in their community care about them

Students were asked to estimate how much they feel the adults in their community care about them.

An adult at school helped them think about their education options after high school

Students were asked to indicate yes or no to the question, “Has an adult in your school helped you think about education options for after high school (college or other training program)?”

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