

What's The (data)Point?

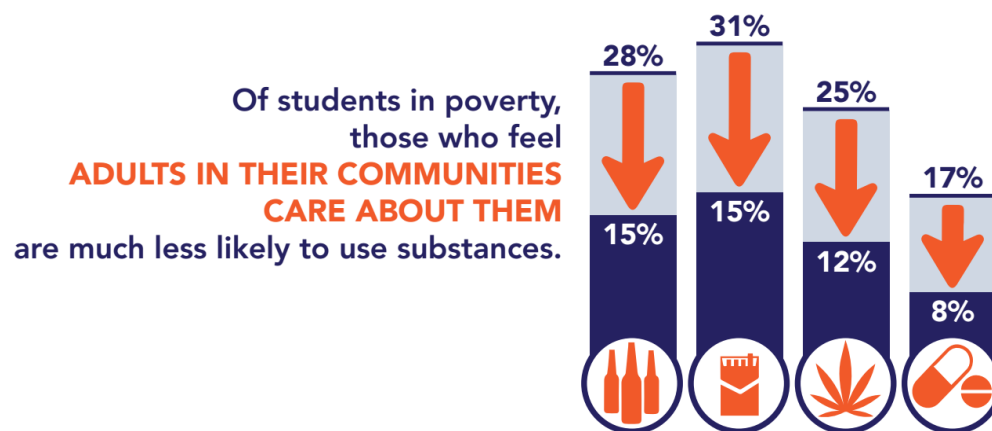
Turning Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Data Into Action

This edition explores poverty and substance abuse and how Prevention Pros can take action.

DATA

Poverty is a complex issue. Indicators for poverty in the Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) include: receiving free or reduced-price lunch, experiencing homelessness, and skipping meals.

MSS data shows students who have experienced at least 2 of these indicators are more likely to report substance use. Fortunately, this data also tell us:



Want to learn more? The data shown here is only one section of a larger infographic on this topic. [Visit Substance Use in Minnesota \(SUMN\) to view this and other graphics.](#)

RESOURCE

The resources and action sections of this edition address the two food-related poverty indicators.

Minnesota's Summer Food Service Program makes sure kids have access to **free, healthy meals** over the summer when they are not in school and lose access to school meals that many students rely on as their primary source of nutrition. Meal sites are located throughout the state and kids can drop by during meal service times to eat for free, no registration required.



This interactive map is available to [find summer meals in your community](#). By entering a zip code or full address, you can find the nearest sites to any location. You can also text "food" to 877-877 or call 1-866-3-hungry to find free meals near you.

Hunger Impact Partners also created [this mobile app](#) in 2017 to help Minnesotans find summer meal locations, hours when meals are served, and the daily menu. Learn more about the initiative supported by the app, [Summer Meals Minnesota](#), for more ways to find a site and how to get involved.



Minnesota's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is designed to fill the nutrition gap and make sure children can get the nutritious meals they need to thrive.

TAKE ACTION

Show youth in your community they are cared about, promote their health, and reduce their risk for substance abuse through one or all of the actions below.



Promote summer meal sites and the resources above through:

- Your website
- Social media
- Newsletters
- Community boards at local businesses
- Local media partners

- Faith community bulletins
- Common areas of multi-unit housing complexes
- And/or brainstorm with your community partners for ways they can help spread the word!

Sign up to be a meal site location. To learn more and to complete the application [click here](#).

Partner with meal site locations to identify ways you, your organization, or your community partners can offer support. Sites may benefit from volunteers, greeters, activities, etc. Brainstorm ways to use this programming to show youth that adults in the community care.

Get involved in food rescue with your local food shelf. What is food rescue? [Check out this information](#) from [Second Harvest Heartland](#) to learn more and contact foodrescue@2harvest.org for more information on how you can help!

Want to brainstorm other ideas? Get in touch with your [Regional Prevention Coordinator](#).

What's The (data)Point? is a monthly e-news feature, distributed by Minnesota Prevention Resource Center.

It is a collaboration of Minnesota's substance abuse prevention support service providers:



State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup

Minnesota Prevention Resource Center

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