




What's the ^{data}point?

TURNING DATA
INTO ACTION

This edition looks at civic engagement in Minnesota and how it connects to substance abuse prevention.

DATA

MINNESOTANS' *participation in* CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



64%
of eligible
adults voted*
(#1 in the nation)



45%
volunteered+
(#2 in the nation)



61%
did favors for
neighbors+

*2018, The United States Elections Project

+2018, Corporation for National & Community Service

Minnesotans are among the most civically engaged in the nation. While there is plenty of room to grow in these areas, this is certainly something to celebrate!

In this newsletter we look at civic engagement in the categories used by [Minnesota Compass](#):

- Voter turnout (connection to government);
- Volunteerism (connection to community); and
- Neighbors helping neighbors (connection to each other).

What does civic engagement have to do with substance abuse prevention? Everything. The solutions for, means to, and results of effective prevention are rooted in a connected community.

RESOURCES & ACTION

Connection to Government



Sharing information with policy makers is an important part of our policy making system. For example, hundreds of Minnesotans weighed in on the issue of raising the sales age of tobacco to 21 last year (see infographic).

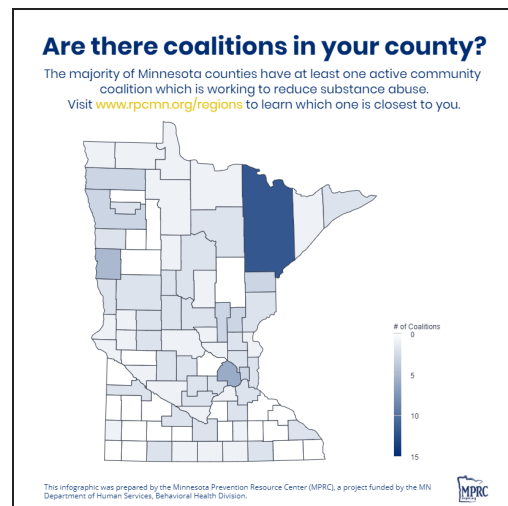
People can connect to government by voting and also by communicating with policy makers about the issues you care about. Policy makers want to hear from their constituents. They are not subject matter experts on every topic about which they need to make decisions.

Connecting to government does not have to be intimidating. Get your questions about the MN state legislative process answered on this [FAQ page](#). It covers everything from how to contact your legislator to the committee process.

Connection to Community

Community coalitions are a best practice for addressing the root causes of substance abuse. Coalitions bring together a group of people who volunteer their talents, skills, expertise, and connections for action on a common purpose. Coalitions are people connecting to their community.

Learn how many coalitions are working to reduce substance abuse near you through [this interactive map](#). See examples of how coalition members are contributing by clicking [here](#).



Connection to Each Other

Fostering connections to each other is a way to increase protections for youth within a neighborhood. Youth who feel safe in their neighborhood and feel adults in their community care about them are less likely to use substances.

Check out this resource on [Promoting Neighborhood Action](#) from Community Tool Box. Neighborhood action means, "...just about any activity that brings neighbors in contact with one another, or helps them appreciate their neighborhood more."

Connect to help with next steps by contacting your [Regional Prevention Coordinator](#). They will help you learn more about coalitions in your region and brainstorm ideas.

What's the (data)point? is a monthly e-newsletter which brings together the data, information, and personalized support that is available to you from the following:



Substance Use in Minnesota

Minnesota Prevention Resource Center

Regional Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention Coordinators



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