



The Minnesota Youth Advisory Council provides youth with a forum to exercise their voice by discussing policy issues and advising the work of the Minnesota Alliance With Youth and its partners. Each Spring, MNYAC members conduct surveys in their home communities to gather information about the issues most important to the youth they are representing.

**Who was surveyed?**

- 227 youth in grades 9-12 from around the state of MN.

**What cities were the surveys distributed in?**

- Duluth, Marshall, Minneapolis, Northfield, Robbinsdale, St Paul, and Worthington, MN.

**What questions were the youth asked?**

- MNYAC was interested in finding out what issues youth believe are of the most importance in their communities, how youth share information, and what communities can do to make Minnesota a better place for youth.

***This is what Minnesota Youth are saying:***

**Do youth feel accepted outside of their racial/ethnic group?**

Of the 227 youth surveyed, **67%** responded that they “usually” felt accepted outside of their racial/ethnic group.

- *This feeling of racial acceptance was true across lines of race.*

For example, in Worthington, 66% of African-American/Black respondents, 74% of Latino/a respondents, 68% of white respondents, 100% of American Indian respondents, and 73% of Asian-American respondents said that they “usually” felt accepted outside of their racial/ethnic group.

- **Less than 1%** of respondents responded that they “never” felt accepted outside of their racial/ethnic group.

**What are the best ways to connect with youth in your community?**

According to the survey results, many of today’s youth get information in their communities via the internet, television, and their peers.

- **36%** of the survey respondents responded that social networking websites such as MySpace and Facebook are an effective way to get their attention.
- **23%** of the youth surveyed said that television most draws their attention.
- **16%** of those surveyed responded that their peers best caught their attention.

***What issues do youth feel are of the most concern in their communities?***

- Grades and education (38%)
- Sex (36%)
- Drugs (36%)
- Teen drinking (24%)
- Future planning (21%)

***As a young person, how do you think your community can better support youth with these issues specifically?***

- **60%** of respondents seek extra support from community/non-profit organizations.
- **51%** of respondents look to their school for additional support.

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**Engagement. Voice. Success.**