

YOUTH SURVEY

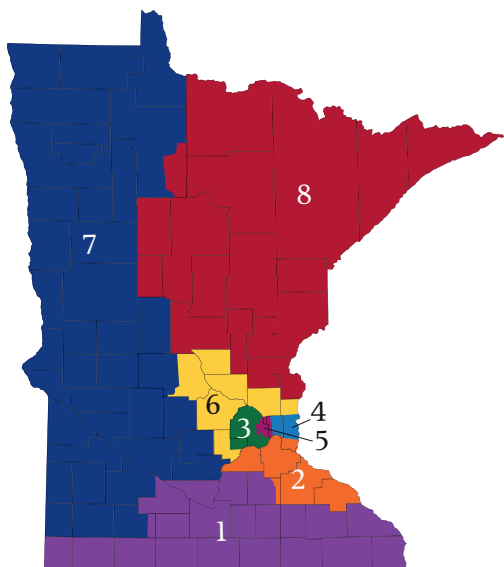
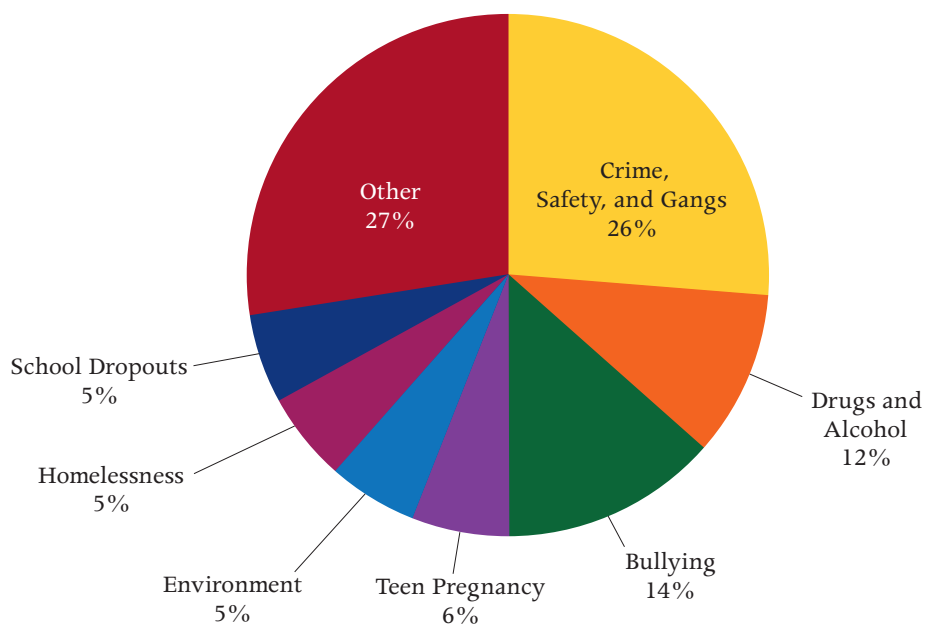
MYC Members Survey More than 1,000 Peers Statewide

Recently, young people from all congressional districts across the state surveyed more than 1,000 of their peers to uncover the biggest concerns in their communities. Their top three issues are:

- Crime, safety, and gangs
- Bullying
- Drugs and alcohol

Other (27%) includes issues of concern for four percent or less of youth: health care, youth employment, teacher fairness, classroom learning can be applied to real life, treatment by police, positive things to do after school, positive things to do on the weekends, opportunities for youth to be involved in improving the community, and other.

Issues of Concern to Youth



Issues of Concern by Congressional District

	Crime, Safety, and Gangs	Bullying	Drugs and Alcohol	Teen Pregnancy	Environment
District 1	25%	16%	10%	10%	9%
District 2	14%	24%	12%	4%	8%
District 3	20%	14%	18%	5%	4%
District 4	35%	13%	9%	6%	4%
District 5	35%	10%	5%	6%	5%
District 6	25%	20%	7%	1%	7%
District 7	25%	15%	16%	6%	5%
District 8	22%	17%	18%	8%	4%

Furthermore:

- While 44% feel accepted at their schools, 54% feel most accepted at after-school programs;
- 34.5% believe adults never or seldom listen to them about community concerns; and
- 37% do not feel respected in political arenas such as the state capitol, local city halls, and school board meetings.

And, though 47% feel they have the power to make change in their community, 33% say they have “little or no knowledge” of how to make change happen.

The MYC will act on these results by:

1. Supporting policy efforts focused on bullying, crime/safety/gangs, and drug and alcohol abuse;
2. Mobilizing communities in each of the eight congressional districts to support summits focused on the top youth issues identified in 2013–2014;
3. Developing a philanthropic approach that builds support for the issues identified in the mapping process, and regranting \$50,000 to address these issues by June 2013; and
4. Ensuring passage of the Minnesota Youth Council Bill to formally integrate youth voice into the Minnesota Legislature.



MYC members meet with Sen. Jim Carlson. (L-R: Tiaryn Daniels, Sheyenne Hokit, Kelly Timian, and Denisia Parker)

The Minnesota Youth Council is part of a strategic partnership among the Minnesota Alliance With Youth, Youthprise, and youthrive. These organizations share resources and expertise to help transform communities so that all young people – statewide – can thrive.

Methodology

- **Community Asset-mapping Process.** MYC members first explored the institutional assets of their communities: local businesses, social services, youth-serving organizations, and cultural groups. They then added their individual skills, networks, and talents.
- **Interviews, Youth Surveys, and Focus Groups.** MYC members generated questions addressing issues facing youth under 18 in their communities, and used them to:
 1. Interview people who they would go to if they wanted to create community change – teachers, mayors, and staff at the Minnesota Department of Education, for example;
 2. Create and disseminate a survey to more than 1,000 young people throughout the state to elicit their perspectives on issues, with the support of Rainbow Research; and
 3. Convene focus groups in Fergus Falls, Worthington, Minneapolis, Northfield, and Brooklyn Park to bring a qualitative perspective to the work.

The Minnesota Youth Council is a program of Minnesota Alliance With Youth, an affiliate of America's Promise – and Minnesota's leading convener, collaborator, and capacity-builder for youth development. The Alliance works with and for young people to ensure that all have access to fundamental resources, the “Five Promises”: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, effective education, and opportunities to help others. As a statewide network of existing organizations, the Alliance offers training, resources, support, and more than 100 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows annually to promote youth outcomes, including graduation for all.