

Hennepin County
Public Health
Assessment Team

FACT SHEET



Adolescents connected to caring adults

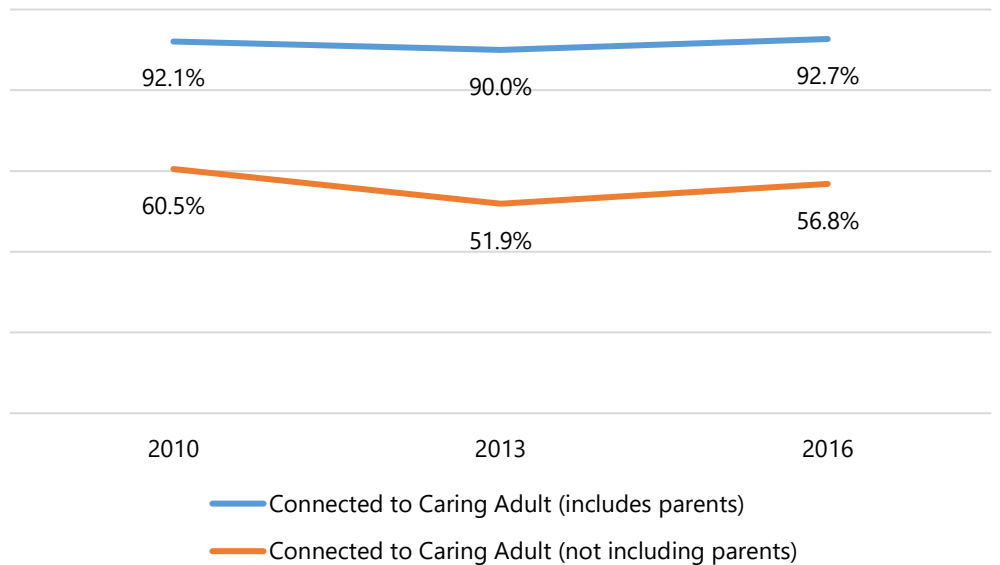
Why is this indicator important?

A Healthy People 2020 Adolescent Health Objective is to “Increase the proportion of adolescents who are connected to a parent or other positive adult caregiver”. Numerous research studies that show having a positive relationship with a caring non-parent adult is beneficial in many areas for adolescents. Researchers have documented the impact of a caring adult in reducing risky behavior and tobacco use, having better mental health, and improving other aspects of the health of adolescents.

What is the current status?

Nine out of ten 9th graders in suburban Hennepin County state they feel connected with a caring adult in the community. This rate has been relatively consistent since 2007.

Figure 1. Percentage of 9th grade Hennepin County suburban students connected to a caring adult, 2010-2016



Source: 2010-2016 Minnesota Student Survey



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For more information on the health of Hennepin County residents, visit: www.Hennepin.us/PublicHealthData or email: PublicHealthData@hennepin.us

What are the disparities?

Figure 2 shows less than half (46.1%) of the suburban Hennepin County 9th graders who participate in free or reduced-price lunch feel they are connected with a caring adult other than their parent compared to 60% of the 9th graders who do not participate in the program. Participation in free or reduced-price lunch is an indicator for household income.

Figure 2. Percentage of 9th grade Hennepin County suburban students connected to a caring adult by free or reduced-price lunch participation, 2016

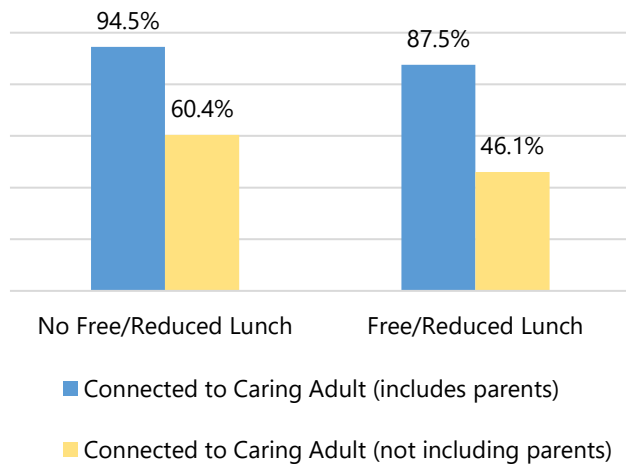
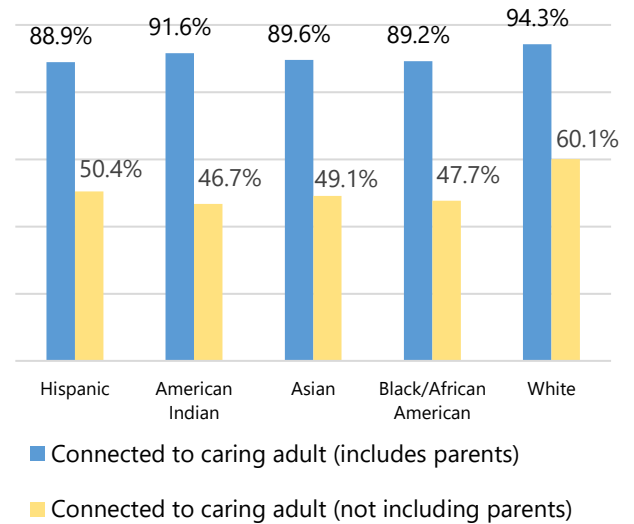


Figure 3 shows 9th graders of color in suburban Hennepin County are less likely to feel they are connected with a caring adult compared to their white counterparts. This is true for whether or not the adult is a parent or not. The percentage of white suburban Hennepin County 9th graders connected with a non-parent adult is 60.1% with the rate for students of other racial or Hispanic ethnicity groups at or below 50%.

Figure 3. Percentage of 9th grade Hennepin County suburban students connected to a caring adult by race and Hispanic ethnicity¹, 2016



¹Hispanic ethnicity not exclusive of race

The data shown in this fact sheet come from the Minnesota Student Survey. A student was identified as being connected with a caring adult if he or she said "Very Much" or "Quite a bit" to any of the following questions:

1. How much do you feel your parents care about you? Or
2. How much do you feel teachers/other adults at school care about you? Or
3. How much do you feel adults in your community care about you?