



**communities
that care**

Houghton Keweenaw Community Assessment Report

Houghton Keweenaw Communities That Care Community Assessment Report 2017

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Houghton Keweenaw *Communities That Care*

Houghton Keweenaw *Communities that Care* is a collaborative project of public and private health, education, human services, civic organizations, local businesses and citizens.

Key Leaders

Kristen Rundman	Jenny Dice	Tim Palosaari
Jesse Depue	Becky McCarthy	Doreen Klingbeil
Jane Markkanen	Ray Sharp	Julie Filpus
Sue Stratton	Diana Langdon	Jim Vivian
Dawn Reagor	Kathy Flagstadt	Jerry Messana
Jennifer Miner	Joe Zerbst	First Lieutenant Randy Danison
Christina Mayworm	Dave Olsson	Jim Johnson
Brian Foreman	Cassie Rentmeester	Cindy Harrison
Neeta Jacobson	Heather Guilbault	Mike Lutz
Bethanne Cadeau	Niki Jollimore	Ted Soldan
Maija Jarvi	Mary Niemela	Alice Soldan
John Niemela	Ann Vollrath	Ariel Miron
Amy Machiela	Chris Davidson	Kevin Store
Cindy Twardzik	George Stockero	Hilary Anderson
Maggie Munch	Nicole Ceccon	Chelsea Goodreau
Angie VanTassel	Lori Weir	Jerry Wuorenmaa
Ronda Bogan	Fred Gaff	
Kass Simila	Tommy Gilpin	
Sue O'Connell	Rebecca Crane	
Kevin Weir	Erin Barnett	
Taryn Mack	Chuck Williams	
Brad Barnett	Chief Wayne Butler	



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Member Organizations

Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital	Houghton-Portage Township Schools
BHK Child Development Board	Marquette County Health Department
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Western Upper Peninsula Health
Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter	Department
City of Houghton	Michigan State Police Calumet Post
Calumet Laurium Keweenaw Schools	NAMI Keweenaw
Continuum of Care	Omega House
Copper Country Mental Health	PFLAG
Dial Help	Phoenix House
Finlandia University	Portage Health Foundation
Girl Scouts	WUPPDR
Grace UMC	Hope House
Great Lakes Recovery Center	Copper County Homeless Prevention
Hancock Police Department	Coalition
Houghton County	U.P. Kids
	Hancock Public Schools
	Lake Linden-Hubbell Public Schools
	Chassell Township Schools



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Executive Summary

This report describes the results of the risk and protective factor assessment completed as part of Houghton Keweenaw *Communities That Care* effort. The *Communities That Care* system is a way for members of a community to work together to prevent youth problem behaviors, including substance use, delinquency, teen pregnancy, dropping out of school, violence, and depression & anxiety. The *Communities That Care* system was developed by Dr. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard Catalano at the University of Washington. It is based on their research, which has identified risk factors that predict youth problem behaviors and protective factors that buffer children from risk and help them succeed in life.

A key goal of the Houghton Keweenaw *Communities That Care* effort is to identify which problem behaviors, protective factors, and risk factors, are prevalent in our community, and implement evidence-based programs that address our community's unique profile. To that end, the Risk & Protective Factor Assessment work group collected and analyzed data on Houghton and Keweenaw counties. Then, with input from the community, they identified priority risk factors to address.

The assessment was completed using the *Communities That Care Youth Survey* and publicly available data. The *Communities That Care Youth Survey* was administered to students in grades 8, 10 and 12 in Chassell, Houghton, Hancock and Lake Linden schools in December 2016. To get the most complete picture of our community, the Risk & Protective Factor work group also collected data from public records to measure risk factors and problem behaviors not covered by the survey.

Based on the analysis of the data and input from the community, the survey revealed Houghton and Keweenaw community strengths. For example, the *Communities That Care Youth Survey* revealed that students are motivated to follow society's expectations and standards. They reported high levels of the protective factor "Belief in the Moral Order" and low levels of the risk factor "Rebelliousness." These are important areas of strength on which to build to help promote well-being and protect our youth from the risk of health and behavior problems.



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Some behavior problems identified in the survey were substance abuse, and depression & anxiety. The following risk factors, shown to contribute to these behaviors, were identified as priorities for community attention:

- Academic Failure
- Depressive Symptoms
- Low Commitment to School
- Low Perceived Risk of Drug Use
- Rewards for Antisocial Behavior

These risk factors were selected as priorities for prevention action primarily because data indicated that they are elevated throughout Houghton and Keweenaw counties. This report recommends that the community give particular attention to the risk factors noted above when developing the community's action plan to prevent youth health and behavior problems and promote child and youth well-being.



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Introduction

The Houghton Keweenaw *Communities That Care* Effort

In the summer of 2016, Houghton and Keweenaw counties began implementing the *Communities That Care* prevention planning system. Developed by Dr. David Hawkins and Dr. Richard Catalano of the Social Development Research Group in Seattle, Washington, the *Communities That Care* system is a way for members of a community to work together to efficiently and effectively promote positive youth development and prevent youth problem behaviors such as substance use, delinquency, teen pregnancy, dropping out of school and violence.

Houghton and Keweenaw counties implemented the *Communities That Care* process to achieve the community's vision to develop a supportive, safe community that empowers youth through education, positive relationships, healthy beliefs, and clear standards.

Key accomplishments to date:

- In July of 2016, community leaders attended a Key Leader Orientation and committed to the *Communities That Care* effort.
- In August, a Community Board was formed. Members attended the two-day Community Board Orientation and established a structure for the Houghton Keweenaw *Communities That Care* effort. This included forming work groups to achieve the various steps in implementing the *Communities That Care* system.
- In November the Organizational ByLaws were drafted, and the Executive Board was established.
- In December, the *Communities That Care* Youth Survey was administered to 8, 10 and 12th graders in Chassell, Houghton-Portage Township, Hancock and Lake Linden-Hubbell schools.
- In January 2017, another Community Board Orientation was held. The Community Board met, and the ByLaws were adopted.
- In January, the Risk & Protective Factor work group attended the Community Assessment Workshop training and developed a plan for completing the community risk and protective factor assessment.



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The Community Assessment

Assessment Goals

Dr. Hawkins and Dr. Catalano have identified risk factors that predict problem behaviors in youth, and protective factors that help protect young people from those risks. By addressing risk and protective factors, communities can help prevent adolescent problem behaviors and promote positive youth development. A key goal of the *Communities That Care* system is for communities to develop a profile of the risk factors, protective factors and problem behaviors in their community. This helps to guide the development of a plan for addressing the risk factors that are most elevated, while enhancing protective factors.

This report represents the first step in that process. The Risk & Protective Factor work group has collected data on risk factors, protective factors and problem behaviors in Houghton and Keweenaw counties. With input from the community, the work group has identified our community's strengths and the priority risk factors to address in the prevention plan.

Data Collection Methods

As noted above, the *Communities That Care* Youth Survey was administered in December 2016. All students in Houghton-Portage Township, Hancock, and Lake Linden-Hubbell schools in grades 8, 10 & 12 were invited to participate. Students in grades 10 and 12 in Chassell Township schools also completed the survey. The complete results are provided in the Houghton Keweenaw *Communities That Care Youth Survey* report. In addition, Dr. Hawkins and Dr. Catalano have identified public data indicators that have been shown to be valid and reliable measures of certain risk factors and problem behaviors that are not measured by the survey, namely Extreme Economic Deprivation, Availability of Drugs and Alcohol, Teen Pregnancy and School Drop-Out. The Risk and Protective Factor Assessment work group collected data from local and state agencies to supplement the youth survey. 493 students participated in the survey.

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Identification & Prioritization of Risk Factors

The Risk & Protective Factor work group analyzed the data to identify which risk factors are most elevated in Houghton and Keweenaw counties. This initial short list of priorities were presented to the Community Board, which discussed other considerations, such as the community's ability to have an impact on certain risk factors at this time. By consensus, the Community Board then selected the final priorities for prevention action in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. Those priorities were presented to Key Leaders for endorsement.

Report Overview

The next sections of the report provide detailed information and analysis of the risk factors, protective factors and problem behaviors in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. The conclusion presents the final list of priorities and recommendations for future action.



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Problem Behaviors

Some problem behaviors which emerged within the data as elevated were Depression & Anxiety, and Substance Use. After these problem behaviors were revealed by the data, the Risk & Protective Factor work group identified some key risk and protective factors which have been shown to contribute to these issues.

Community Strengths

In examining the data, the Risk & Protective Factor work group were able to identify several key strengths within Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. Our communities showed elevated levels of protection in multiple domains. Schools in Houghton County have received recognition for achievement, and are well ranked among Michigan school districts. According to the survey results, our youth feel recognized for prosocial involvement in their families, schools, and communities. Our youth also feel attachment with their families. Most of our students believe that their parents disapprove of drug use and antisocial behavior. These community strengths will be instrumental in helping to reduce the incidence of depression and anxiety, and substance use among our youth.

Risk Factors

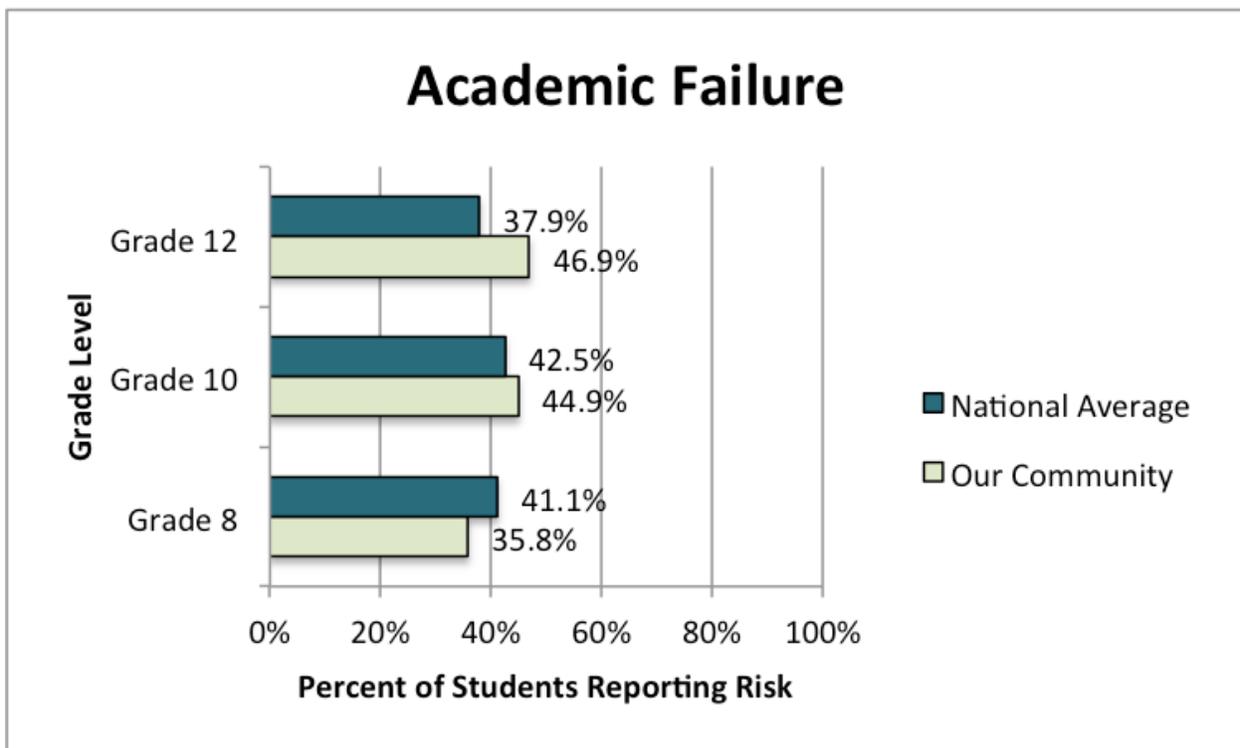
The Risk & Protective Factor work group also identified some areas of risk which should be considered when determining how to address depression, anxiety, and substance use within our community.



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Academic Failure

Beginning in late elementary school, academic failure, and importantly, the *perception* of academic failure, is another key risk factor which increases the risk of substance use and other problem behaviors. It appears that the experience of failure, rather than any lack of ability, increases the risk of these problem behaviors, as students in Houghton and Keweenaw county self-identified academic failure at rates above the national average, yet our graduation rates are higher than the national average.

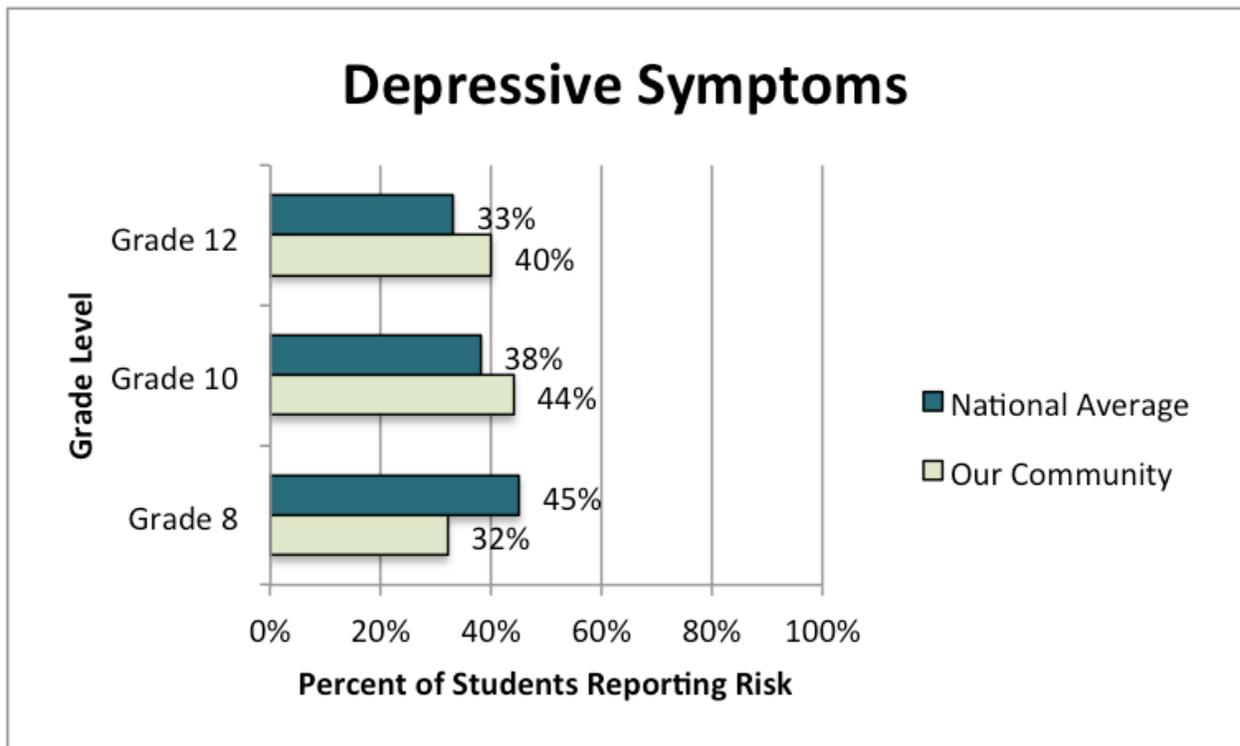




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Depressive Symptoms

Youth who are depressed are overrepresented in the criminal justice system and are more likely to use drugs. Survey research and other studies have shown a link between depression and youth problem behaviors.

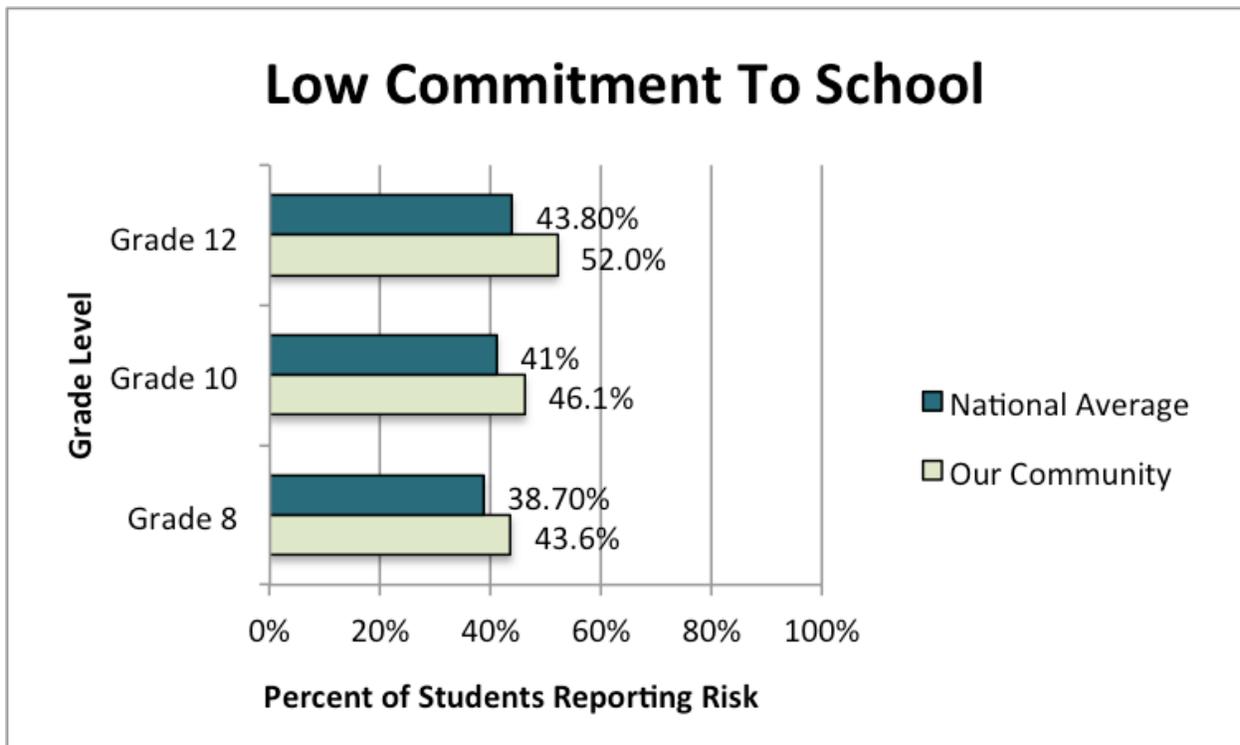




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Low Commitment to School

The Communities That Care Youth Survey revealed that this risk factor is elevated throughout the county. As the graph indicates, students reported particularly high scores for low commitment to school in comparison with the national average for this survey. Surveys of high school seniors have shown that the use of drugs is significantly lower among students who expect to attend college than among those who do not. Factors such as liking school, spending time on homework, and perceiving the coursework as relevant are also negatively related to drug use. Those who reported positively on those factors are less likely to use drugs.

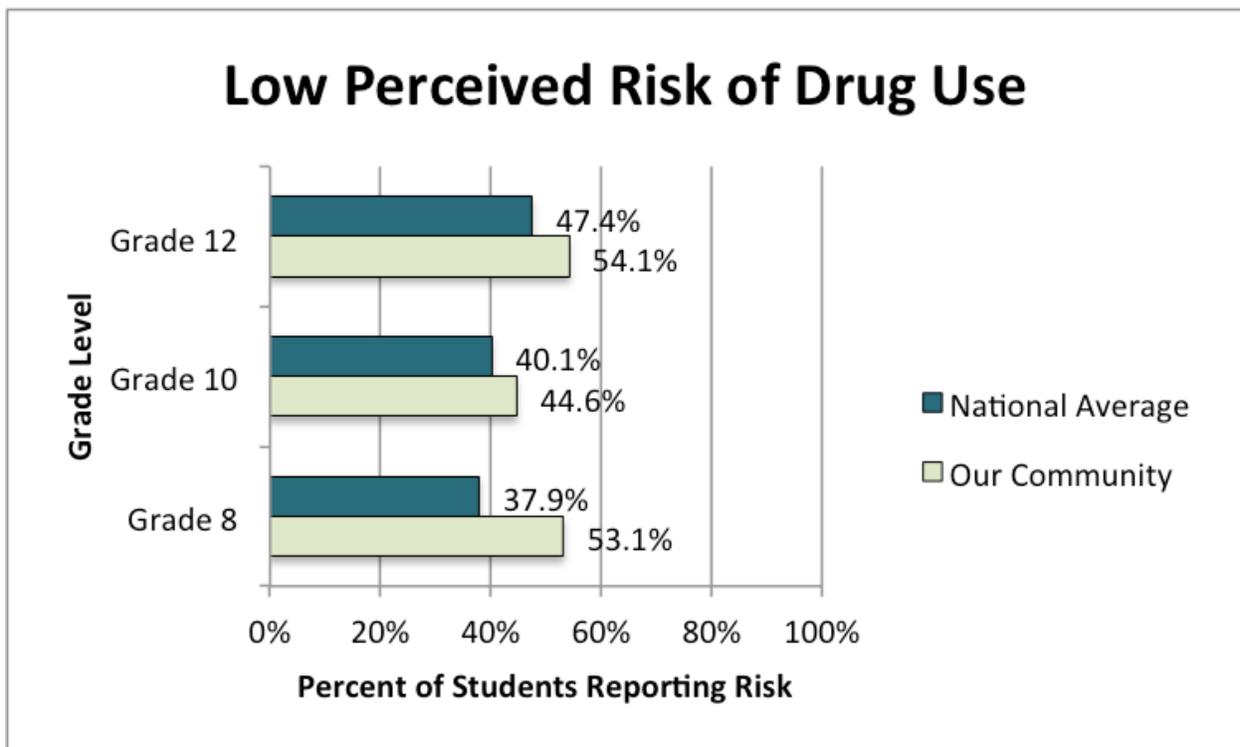




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Low Perceived Risk of Drug Use

Youth who do not perceive drug use to be risky are far more likely to engage in drug use. Compared to other surveyed youth, youth in our community are less likely to believe that people risk harming themselves, either physically or in other ways, by engaging in drug use.

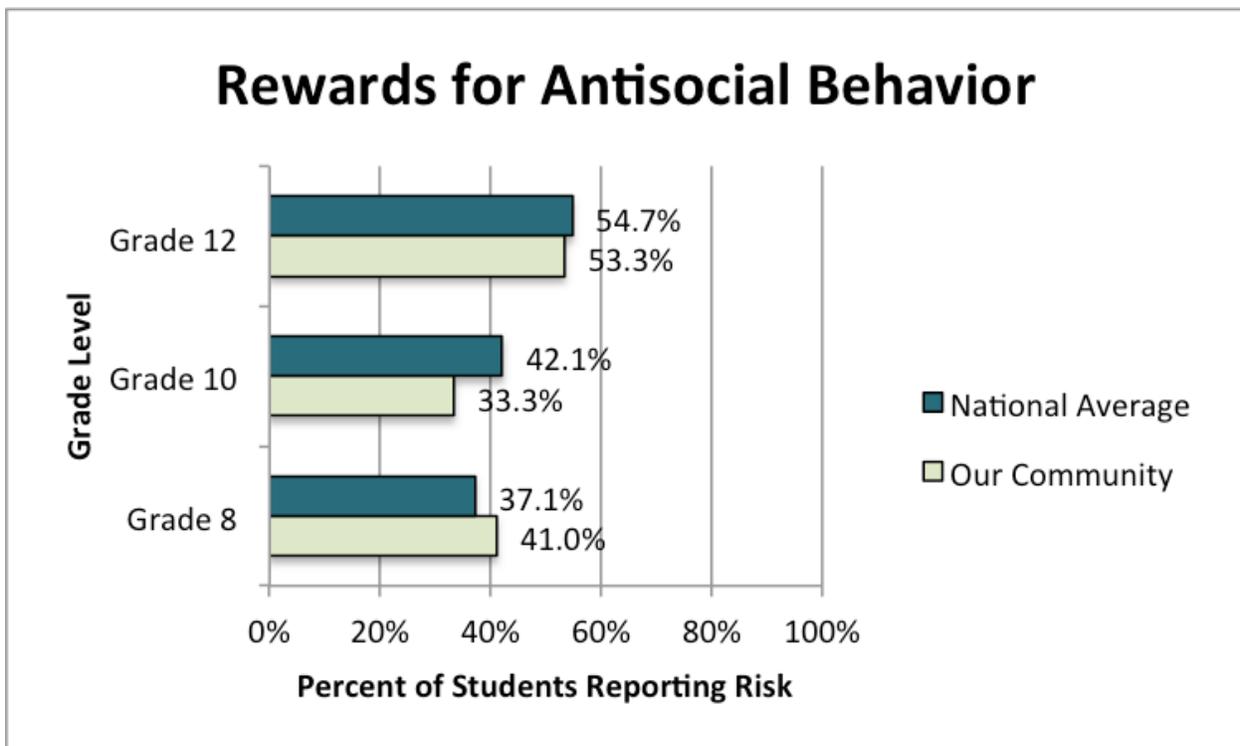




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Rewards for Antisocial Behavior

Youth who receive rewards for their antisocial behavior are at a higher risk for engaging in other antisocial behavior and substance use. Compared to other youth who completed the Communities That Care Youth Survey, youth in our community are more likely to believe that antisocial behavior is seen as “cool.”





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Conclusion and Recommendations

Houghton and Keweenaw Counties Strengths

The data revealed that young people in Houghton and Keweenaw counties are motivated to follow society's expectations and standards. In particular, young people reported high levels of the protective factor "Belief in Moral Order" and "Family Attachment." Houghton and Keweenaw counties should work to build on this strength while enhancing other protective factors in its prevention efforts.

Community Priorities

Based on the analysis of the data and input from the community, the following priority risk factors were identified for the community to focus on over the next several years:

-
-
-

These risk factors were selected as priorities because the data indicated that they are among the most elevated throughout Houghton and Keweenaw counties. We recommend that Houghton and Keweenaw counties give particular attention to implementing strategies or programs to address these four risk factors when developing a prevention plan.

Next Steps

The next step in the *Communities That Care* process is to find out what resources are already in place in Houghton and Keweenaw counties that address the priorities outlined above. The Resources Assessment and Evaluation work group will attend the Assessing Community Resources Workshop in March. Their assessment combined with this report, will make up the profile of Houghton and Keweenaw counties that will be used to identify programs and strategies to promote child and youth well-being and prevent health & behavior problems in Houghton and Keweenaw counties.