

# Equitable and Supportive Systems

## SUPPORTIVE SYSTEMS

Young people and their families need safe communities and environments, shelter, education, healthy food, a livable income, and social justice to be healthy and thrive. Yet these opportunities aren't equally available to everyone, and disparities are clear and persistent in different populations. The systems for providing these elements are often fragmented. A more coherent, integrated approach to fostering health and well-being would benefit all young people.

In Minnesota, health disparities define our adolescent health challenges. The Partnership recognizes the role that structural racism and bias play in these disparities. We embrace the challenge of eliminating personal and structural bias through systems reform while honoring the strengths and assets young people bring to our collective efforts.





# Supportive Systems

**Strengthen the systems and structures designed to support the health and well-being of young people.**

Systems and structures must be well-resourced and coordinated to effectively support young people. The goal of this priority is to ensure that Minnesota has a structure that supports a comprehensive network of adolescent health resources. These action steps focus on strengthening commitment to a common adolescent and young adult health agenda through agency partnerships. These actions move Minnesota from systems that foster a fragmented and siloed approach to health to one that is coordinated and comprehensive.

## Action Steps

- Facilitate effective partnerships and collaborations focused on adolescent and young adult health.
- Improve state-level adolescent health data through youth and community involvement.
- Strengthen and align youth health policy.
- Stabilize and sustain funding for youth health initiatives.



**The Minnesota Student Survey** is one of the nation's longest running **YOUTH surveys.**

Over **130,000** Minnesota students took the survey in 2022.

Learn more at the [Minnesota Student Survey webpage \(www.health.mn.gov/data/mchs/surveys/mss\)](http://www.health.mn.gov/data/mchs/surveys/mss).

For examples of Supportive Systems resources, visit [The Minnesota Partnership for Adolescent and Young Adult website \(www.health.mn.gov/people/adolescent/youth/partnership.html\)](http://www.health.mn.gov/people/adolescent/youth/partnership.html).

### Contact

Minnesota Department of Health | Child and Family Health Division  
Health.AdolescentHealth@state.mn.us | 651-201-3650