



## Trends in the Prevalence of Selected Risk Behaviors for White Students National YRBS: 1991–2007

The national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) monitors priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. The national YRBS is conducted every two years during the spring semester and provides data representative of 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in public and private schools throughout the United States.

| 1991  | 1993                | 1995                | 1997                | 1999                | 2001                | 2003                | 2005                | 2007                | Changes from 1991–2007 <sup>1</sup>          | Change from 2005–2007 <sup>2</sup> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Rarely or never wore a seat belt</b><br>(When riding in a car driven by someone else.)   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 23.9<br>(18.1–30.9) <sup>3</sup>  | 17.2<br>(14.3–20.6) | 20.5<br>(16.4–25.2) | 17.1<br>(13.2–21.8) | 15.5<br>(12.0–19.9) | 13.6<br>(11.6–15.9) | 16.9<br>(12.2–22.8) | 9.4<br>(7.4–11.9)   | 10.1<br>(7.4–13.8)  | Decreased, 1991–2007                         | No change                          |
| <b>Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol</b><br>(In a car or other vehicle one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)                |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 40.5<br>(37.9–43.1)   | 34.1<br>(30.6–37.7) | 37.7<br>(32.4–43.3) | 36.9<br>(34.1–39.8) | 32.4<br>(29.9–35.0) | 30.3<br>(28.1–32.6) | 28.5<br>(25.9–31.2) | 28.3<br>(25.7–31.0) | 27.9<br>(25.4–30.6) | Decreased, 1991–2007                         | No change                          |
| <b>Carried a weapon</b><br>(For example, a gun, knife, or club on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)                                       |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 25.1<br>(22.5–27.8)   | 20.6<br>(17.9–23.6) | 18.9<br>(17.1–20.8) | 17.0<br>(14.5–19.7) | 16.4<br>(13.8–19.3) | 17.9<br>(15.4–20.7) | 16.7<br>(14.8–18.7) | 18.7<br>(16.5–21.1) | 18.2<br>(15.8–21.0) | Decreased, 1991–1999<br>No change, 1999–2007 | No change                          |
| <b>Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school</b><br>(On at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.) |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| NA <sup>4</sup>   | 3.0<br>(2.3–3.8)    | 2.8<br>(2.1–3.7)    | 2.4<br>(1.8–3.2)    | 3.9<br>(2.8–5.6)    | 5.0<br>(3.9–6.3)    | 3.1<br>(2.5–3.8)    | 4.4<br>(2.9–6.5)    | 4.0<br>(3.2–4.9)    | Increased, 1993–2007                         | No change                          |
| <b>Attempted suicide</b><br>(One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 6.7<br>(5.7–7.9)  | 7.7<br>(6.8–8.8)    | 7.6<br>(6.6–8.9)    | 6.3<br>(5.2–7.6)    | 6.7<br>(5.3–8.4)    | 7.9<br>(6.9–9.1)    | 6.9<br>(5.9–8.0)    | 7.3<br>(6.3–8.4)    | 5.6<br>(5.0–6.3)    | Decreased, 1991–2007                         | Decreased                          |
| <b>Current cigarette use</b><br>(Smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 30.9<br>(27.6–34.5)   | 33.7<br>(31.4–36.0) | 38.3<br>(35.6–41.1) | 39.7<br>(37.3–42.2) | 38.6<br>(35.5–41.9) | 31.9<br>(29.6–34.4) | 24.9<br>(22.4–27.5) | 25.9<br>(22.9–29.2) | 23.2<br>(20.4–26.2) | Increased, 1991–1997<br>Decreased, 1997–2007 | No change                          |
| <b>Current alcohol use</b><br>(Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)                                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 52.9<br>(49.7–56.1)   | 49.9<br>(47.4–52.5) | 54.1<br>(50.5–57.6) | 54.0<br>(51.0–57.0) | 52.5<br>(49.2–55.7) | 50.4<br>(48.1–52.7) | 47.1<br>(44.1–50.2) | 46.4<br>(42.8–50.2) | 47.3<br>(43.9–50.7) | No change, 1991–1995<br>Decreased, 1995–2007 | No change                          |

| 1991  | 1993                | 1995                | 1997                | 1999                | 2001                | 2003                | 2005                | 2007                | Changes from 1991–2007 <sup>1</sup>          | Change from 2005–2007 <sup>2</sup> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Current marijuana use</b><br>(Used marijuana one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 15.2<br>(12.5–18.3)   | 17.3<br>(14.6–20.3) | 24.5<br>(22.0–27.3) | 25.0<br>(22.0–28.3) | 26.4<br>(23.3–29.7) | 24.4<br>(22.4–26.6) | 21.7<br>(19.4–24.2) | 20.3<br>(18.1–22.6) | 19.9<br>(17.4–22.6) | Increased, 1991–1999<br>Decreased, 1999–2007 | No change                          |
| <b>Lifetime methamphetamine use</b><br>(Used methamphetamines [also called speed, crystal, crank, or ice] one or more times during their life.)       |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| NA  | NA                  | NA                  | NA                  | 10.3<br>(8.9–11.8)  | 11.4<br>(9.4–13.7)  | 8.1<br>(7.0–9.3)    | 6.5<br>(5.4–7.7)    | 4.5<br>(3.5–5.6)    | No change, 1999–2001<br>Decreased, 2001–2007 | Decreased                          |
| <b>Ever had sexual intercourse</b>  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 50.0<br>(46.7–53.4)   | 48.4<br>(45.6–51.3) | 48.9<br>(43.8–54.1) | 43.6<br>(39.4–48.0) | 45.1<br>(41.1–49.2) | 43.2<br>(40.7–45.8) | 41.8<br>(39.0–44.5) | 43.0<br>(38.8–47.3) | 43.7<br>(40.5–47.0) | Decreased, 1991–2007                         | No change                          |
| <b>Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life</b>   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 14.7<br>(13.0–16.7)   | 14.3<br>(12.3–16.6) | 14.2<br>(11.8–16.8) | 11.6<br>(10.2–13.2) | 12.4<br>(10.4–14.7) | 12.0<br>(10.6–13.5) | 10.8<br>(9.4–12.4)  | 11.4<br>(9.7–13.3)  | 11.5<br>(9.6–13.7)  | Decreased, 1991–2007                         | No change                          |
| <b>Used a condom during last sexual intercourse</b><br>(Among students who were currently sexually active.)   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 46.5<br>(41.8–51.2)   | 52.3<br>(48.2–56.3) | 52.5<br>(48.4–56.6) | 55.8<br>(53.8–57.8) | 55.0<br>(49.8–60.2) | 56.8<br>(53.7–59.9) | 62.5<br>(59.2–65.6) | 62.6<br>(60.0–65.2) | 59.7<br>(56.8–62.5) | Increased, 1991–2007                         | No change                          |
| <b>Ever taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection</b>  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 83.4<br>(79.7–86.5)   | 87.3<br>(83.8–90.1) | 87.3<br>(76.1–93.6) | 93.3<br>(91.8–94.5) | 92.2<br>(90.2–93.8) | 91.1<br>(89.6–92.5) | 90.3<br>(88.3–92.0) | 89.4<br>(86.9–91.5) | 91.1<br>(89.6–92.4) | Increased, 1991–1997<br>Decreased, 1997–2007 | No change                          |
| <b>Attended physical education classes daily</b><br>(5 days in an average week when they were in school.)   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 38.6<br>(31.9–45.7)   | 32.1<br>(26.7–38.0) | 21.7<br>(11.9–36.1) | 23.8<br>(17.6–31.4) | 28.3<br>(17.1–43.2) | 29.5<br>(24.5–35.2) | 24.9<br>(18.4–32.8) | 31.7<br>(26.3–37.6) | 28.9<br>(23.0–35.5) | Decreased, 1991–1995<br>No change, 1995–2007 | No change                          |
| <b>Were obese<sup>5</sup></b><br>(Students who were $\geq$ 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile for body mass index, by age and sex, based on reference data.) |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| NA  | NA                  | NA                  | NA                  | 10.1<br>(8.3–12.2)  | 8.8<br>(7.8–9.8)    | 10.4<br>(8.6–12.4)  | 11.8<br>(10.7–12.9) | 10.8<br>(9.3–12.4)  | No change, 1999–2007                         | No change                          |

<sup>1</sup> Based on trend analyses using a logistic regression model controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and grade.

<sup>2</sup> Based on t-test analyses,  $p < .05$ .

<sup>3</sup> 95% confidence interval.

<sup>4</sup> Not available.

<sup>5</sup> Previous YRBS fact sheets used the term "overweight" to describe those youth with a BMI  $\geq$  95th percentile for age and sex. However, this fact sheet uses the term "obese" rather than "overweight" in accordance with the 2007 recommendations from the Expert Committee on the Assessment, Prevention, and Treatment of Child and Adolescent Overweight and Obesity convened by the American Medical Association (AMA) and cofunded by AMA in collaboration with the Health Resources and Services Administration and CDC.



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