



# Comparison Between Massachusetts Students and U.S. Students 2007 YRBS

The 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 9th through 12th grade students in public and private schools throughout the United States. The Massachusetts YRBS also is conducted every 2 years and provides data representative of 9th through 12th grade students in public schools throughout Massachusetts.

	Massachusetts Students %	U.S. Students %	Massachusetts Students Are At: <sup>1</sup>
<b>Behaviors that Contribute to Unintentional Injuries and Violence</b>			
<b>Rarely or never wore a seat belt</b> (When riding in a car driven by someone else.)	14.7 (12.4 - 17.3) <sup>2</sup>	11.1 (8.9 - 13.8)	Greater risk
<b>Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol</b> (In a car or other vehicle one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	25.8 (23.3 - 28.4)	29.1 (27.2 - 31.2)	Less risk
<b>Carried a weapon</b> (For example, a gun, knife, or club on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	14.9 (13.2 - 16.8)	18.0 (16.3 - 19.8)	Less risk
<b>In a physical fight</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	27.5 (24.9 - 30.4)	35.5 (34.0 - 37.1)	Less risk
<b>Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school</b> (On at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	4.7 (3.8 - 5.8)	5.5 (4.7 - 6.3)	Equal risk
<b>Seriously considered attempting suicide</b> (During the 12 months before the survey.)	12.5 (10.9 - 14.2)	14.5 (13.4 - 15.6)	Less risk
<b>Attempted suicide</b> (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	7.6 (6.2 - 9.3)	6.9 (6.3 - 7.6)	Equal risk
<b>Tobacco Use</b>			
<b>Lifetime cigarette use</b> (Ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs.)	46.4 (42.8 - 50.1)	50.3 (47.2 - 53.5)	Equal risk
<b>Current cigarette use</b> (Smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	17.7 (15.3 - 20.4)	20.0 (17.6 - 22.6)	Equal risk
<b>Current smokeless tobacco use</b> (Used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	6.7 (5.2 - 8.5)	7.9 (6.3 - 9.8)	Equal risk
<b>Alcohol and Other Drug Use</b>			
<b>Lifetime alcohol use</b> (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)	72.5 (70.2 - 74.7)	75.0 (72.4 - 77.4)	Equal risk
<b>Current alcohol use</b> (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	46.2 (43.0 - 49.4)	44.7 (42.4 - 47.0)	Equal risk
<b>Episodic heavy drinking</b> (Had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple hours on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	27.9 (25.0 - 31.0)	26.0 (24.0 - 28.0)	Equal risk
<b>Lifetime marijuana use</b> (Used marijuana one or more times during their life.)	41.2 (37.8 - 44.6)	38.1 (35.5 - 40.7)	Equal risk

	Massachusetts Students %	U.S. Students %	Massachusetts Students Are At: <sup>1</sup>
<b>Alcohol and Other Drug Use (continued)</b>			
<b>Lifetime cocaine use</b> (Used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase one or more times during their life.)	8.7 (7.3 - 10.4)	7.2 (6.2 - 8.2)	Equal risk
<b>Lifetime methamphetamine use</b> (Used methamphetamines [also called speed, crystal, crank, or ice] one or more times during their life.)	4.0 (3.1 - 5.0)	4.4 (3.7 - 5.3)	Equal risk
<b>Lifetime inhalant use</b> (Sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high one or more times during their life.)	NA	13.3 (12.1 - 14.6)	NA
<b>Offered, sold, or given an illegal drug by someone on school property</b> (During the 12 months before the survey.)	27.3 (25.2 - 29.6)	22.3 (20.3 - 24.4)	Greater risk
<b>Sexual Behaviors that Contribute to Unintended Pregnancy and STDs, including HIV Infection</b>			
<b>Ever had sexual intercourse</b>	44.4 (40.1 - 48.8)	47.8 (45.1 - 50.6)	Equal risk
<b>Currently sexually active</b> (Had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months before the survey.)	32.7 (29.0 - 36.6)	35.0 (32.8 - 37.2)	Equal risk
<b>Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life</b>	12.3 (10.4 - 14.6)	14.9 (13.4 - 16.5)	Equal risk
<b>Did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse</b> (Among students who were currently sexually active.)	38.9 (35.6 - 42.4)	38.5 (36.4 - 40.6)	Equal risk
<b>Physical Activity</b>			
<b>Watched television 3 or more hours per day</b> (On an average school day.)	28.4 (25.6 - 31.4)	35.4 (33.1 - 37.7)	Less risk
<b>Did not attend physical education classes daily</b> (5 days in an average week when they were in school.)	81.8 (76.3 - 86.2)	69.7 (64.2 - 74.6)	Greater risk
<b>Obesity and Dietary Behaviors</b>			
<b>Were obese</b> (Students who were ≥ 95th percentile for body mass index, by age and sex, based on reference data.)	11.1 (9.6 - 12.8)	13.0 (11.9 - 14.1)	Less risk
<b>Ate fruits and vegetables less than five times per day</b> (100% fruit juices, fruit, green salad, potatoes [excluding French fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips], carrots, or other vegetables during the 7 days before the survey.)	NA	78.6 (76.9 - 80.2)	NA
<b>Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop at least one time per day</b> (Not including diet soda or diet pop, during the 7 days before the survey.)	24.9 (22.2 - 27.8)	33.8 (31.0 - 36.8)	Less risk

1. Compared to U.S. students, based on t-test analyses,  $p < .05$ .

2. 95% confidence interval.

NA = Not available.



Where can I get more information?  
Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/yrbss> or call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

