



# Health Risk Behaviors by Race/Ethnicity<sup>1</sup>

## National YRBS: 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.

Health Risk Behaviors	Black Students (%)	Hispanic Students (%)	White Students (%)
<b>A. Black students were LESS likely<sup>2</sup> than Hispanic and white students to have engaged in these health risk behaviors...</b>			
Drove when drinking alcohol (A car or other vehicle one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	5.7 (4.0–7.9) <sup>3</sup>	10.3 (8.4–12.5)	11.6 (10.2–13.2)
Current cigarette use (Smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	11.6 (9.5–14.1)	16.7 (13.5–20.4)	23.2 (20.4–26.2)
Did not try to quit smoking cigarettes (During the 12 months before the survey, among students who currently smoked cigarettes.)	41.6 (33.6–50.0)	51.7 (46.8–56.5)	50.6 (47.4–53.8)
Current smokeless tobacco use (Used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	1.2 (0.8–2.0)	4.7 (3.5–6.3)	10.3 (8.2–12.9)
Current cigar use (Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	10.0 (8.0–12.3)	12.7 (10.5–15.2)	14.8 (13.3–16.5)
Lifetime alcohol use (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their life.)	69.1 (65.8–72.2)	77.9 (75.0–80.6)	76.1 (72.4–79.4)
Current alcohol use (Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	34.5 (31.2–37.9)	47.6 (44.0–51.3)	47.3 (43.9–50.7)
Episodic heavy drinking (Had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	12.5 (11.0–14.2)	26.8 (23.5–30.3)	29.8 (27.4–32.4)
Lifetime cocaine use (Used any form of cocaine, including, powder, crack, or freebase one or more times during their life.)	1.8 (1.1–3.1)	10.9 (8.4–13.9)	7.4 (6.3–8.7)
Current cocaine use (Used any form of cocaine one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	1.1 (0.5–2.2)	5.3 (3.9–7.1)	3.0 (2.4–3.7)
Lifetime inhalant use (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.)	8.5 (6.8–10.7)	14.1 (11.7–17.0)	14.4 (12.9–16.0)
Lifetime illegal steroid use (Took steroid pills or shots without a doctor's prescription one or more times during their life.)	2.2 (1.7–2.9)	4.6 (3.3–6.4)	4.1 (3.4–4.9)
Lifetime hallucinogenic drug use (Used hallucinogenic drugs, such as LSD, acid, PCP, angel dust, mescaline, or mushrooms one or more times during their life.)	2.4 (1.5–4.0)	7.9 (5.9–10.5)	9.0 (7.8–10.5)
Lifetime methamphetamine use (Used methamphetamines [also called speed, crystal, crank, or ice] one or more times during their life.)	1.9 (1.3–2.9)	5.7 (4.1–7.9)	4.5 (3.5–5.6)
Lifetime ecstasy use (Used ecstasy [also called MDMA] one or more times during their life.)	3.7 (2.6–5.3)	7.4 (6.0–9.2)	5.6 (4.8–6.6)
Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse (Among students who were currently sexually active.)	16.4 (13.4–20.0)	21.4 (18.2–25.1)	24.8 (22.3–27.5)
Never tested for HIV (Does not include tests conducted when donating blood.)	77.6 (74.1–80.9)	87.3 (85.5–89.0)	89.3 (87.7–90.6)

<b>Health Risk Behaviors</b>	<b>Black Students (%)</b>	<b>Hispanic Students (%)</b>	<b>White Students (%)</b>
<b>B. Black students were MORE likely than Hispanic and white students to have engaged in these health risk behaviors...</b>			
Rarely or never wore a bicycle helmet (Among students who had ridden a bicycle during the 12 months before the survey.)	94.2 (92.6–95.5)	88.7 (85.9–91.0)	82.9 (79.3–85.9)
In a physical fight (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	44.7 (42.1–47.4)	40.4 (37.9–42.9)	31.7 (29.8–33.7)
Hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend (During the 12 months before the survey.)	14.2 (12.6–15.9)	11.1 (9.5–12.9)	8.4 (7.2–9.9)
Ever had sexual intercourse	66.5 (63.0–69.9)	52.0 (48.3–55.6)	43.7 (40.5–47.0)
Had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13 years	16.3 (14.7–18.0)	8.2 (7.1–9.3)	4.4 (3.4–5.7)
Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life	27.6 (24.8–30.6)	17.3 (15.2–19.5)	11.5 (9.6–13.7)
Currently sexually active (Had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months before the survey.)	46.0 (42.3–49.7)	37.4 (33.8–41.1)	32.9 (30.3–35.5)
Drank less than three glasses per day of milk (During the 7 days before the survey.)	90.3 (88.3–92.0)	87.3 (85.8–88.6)	83.9 (81.3–86.3)
Used computers 3 or more hours per day (Played video or computer games or used a computer for something that was not school work on an average school day.)	30.5 (28.4–32.6)	26.3 (23.3–29.5)	22.6 (20.4–25.0)
Watched television 3 or more hours per day (On an average school day.)	62.7 (59.6–65.6)	43.0 (39.5–46.6)	27.2 (25.1–29.3)
Lifetime asthma (Ever been told by a doctor or nurse that they had asthma.)	24.0 (21.6–26.5)	18.5 (16.0–21.2)	19.6 (18.4–20.9)
Current asthma (Ever told by a doctor or nurse that they had asthma and still have asthma.)	14.7 (12.8–16.8)	9.5 (8.0–11.4)	10.5 (9.4–11.8)
<b>C. White students were LESS likely than black and Hispanic students to have engaged in these health risk behaviors...</b>			
Rarely or never wore a bicycle helmet (Among students who had ridden a bicycle during the 12 months before the survey.)	94.2 (92.6–95.5)	88.7 (85.9–91.0)	82.9 (79.3–85.9)
Threatened or injured with a weapon on school property (For example, a gun, knife, or club one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	9.7 (8.1–11.6)	8.7 (7.6–10.0)	6.9 (5.9–8.0)
In a physical fight (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	44.7 (42.1–47.4)	40.4 (37.9–42.9)	31.7 (29.8–33.7)
Hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend (During the 12 months before the survey.)	14.2 (12.6–15.9)	11.1 (9.5–12.9)	8.4 (7.2–9.9)
Ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse (When they did not want to.)	10.5 (8.8–12.5)	8.8 (7.3–10.4)	7.0 (6.1–8.2)
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to and from school (On at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	6.6 (5.4–8.0)	9.6 (7.8–11.8)	4.0 (3.2–4.9)
Attempted suicide (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	7.7 (6.1–9.7)	10.2 (9.0–11.6)	5.6 (5.0–6.3)
Drank alcohol for the first time before age 13 years (Other than a few sips.)	26.7 (24.2–29.4)	29.0 (27.5–30.5)	21.5 (18.8–24.4)
Ever had sexual intercourse	66.5 (63.0–69.9)	52.0 (48.3–55.6)	43.7 (40.5–47.0)

<b>Health Risk Behaviors</b>	<b>Black Students (%)</b>	<b>Hispanic Students (%)</b>	<b>White Students (%)</b>
Had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13 years	16.3 (14.7–18.0)	8.2 (7.1–9.3)	4.4 (3.4–5.7)
Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life	27.6 (24.8–30.6)	17.3 (15.2–19.5)	11.5 (9.6–13.7)
Currently sexually active (Had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months before the survey.)	46.0 (42.3–49.7)	37.4 (33.8–41.1)	32.9 (30.3–35.5)
Did not meet recommended levels of physical activity (Were not physically active doing any kind of physical activity that increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time for a total of at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more days during the 7 days before the survey.)	68.9 (67.1–70.7)	69.8 (67.0–72.4)	63.0 (59.7–66.1)
Used computers 3 or more hours per day (Played video or computer games or used a computer for something that was not school work on an average school day.)	30.5 (28.4–32.6)	26.3 (23.3–29.5)	22.6 (20.4–25.0)
Watched television 3 or more hours per day (On an average school day.)	62.7 (59.6–65.6)	43.0 (39.5–46.6)	27.2 (25.1–29.3)
Were obese <sup>4</sup> (Students who were ≥ 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile for body mass index, by age and sex, based on reference data.)	18.3 (16.2–20.7)	16.6 (14.7–18.7)	10.8 (9.3–12.4)
<b>D. White students were MORE likely than black and Hispanic students to have engaged in these health risk behaviors...</b>			
Lifetime daily cigarette use (Ever smoked at least one cigarette every day for 30 days.)	6.2 (4.5–8.4)	8.0 (6.6–9.6)	15.4 (12.8–18.5)
Current cigarette use (Smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	11.6 (9.5–14.1)	16.7 (13.5–20.4)	23.2 (20.4–26.2)
Current frequent cigarette use (Smoked cigarettes on 20 or more days during the 30 days before the survey.)	3.9 (2.8–5.4)	4.2 (3.2–5.5)	10.4 (8.5–12.6)
Current smokeless tobacco use (Used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	1.2 (0.8–2.0)	4.7 (3.5–6.3)	10.3 (8.2–12.9)
Current cigar use (Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	10.0 (8.0–12.3)	12.7 (10.5–15.2)	14.8 (13.3–16.5)
Current tobacco use (Current cigarette use, current smokeless tobacco use, or current cigar use.)	16.0 (13.1–19.3)	20.1 (16.3–24.5)	29.9 (26.7–33.2)
Ate fruits and vegetables less than five times per day (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.)	75.1 (72.8–77.2)	76.0 (74.2–77.8)	81.2 (79.3–82.9)
Did not routinely practice sun-safety behaviors (Sometimes, rarely, or never stayed in the shade, wore long pants, wore a long-sleeved shirt, or wore a hat that shaded their face, ears, and neck when they were outside for more than 1 hour on a sunny day.)	78.9 (76.8–80.8)	79.1 (76.7–81.3)	85.1 (83.9–86.3)
<b>E. Hispanic students were MORE likely than black and white students to have engaged in these health risk behaviors...</b>			
Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol (In a car or other vehicle one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	27.4 (23.7–31.5)	35.5 (32.3–38.8)	27.9 (25.4–30.6)
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to and from school (On at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	6.6 (5.4–8.0)	9.6 (7.8–11.8)	4.0 (3.2–4.9)
Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide (During the 12 months before the survey.)	9.5 (7.8–11.6)	12.8 (11.3–14.4)	10.8 (9.8–11.9)
Attempted suicide (One or more times during the 12 months before the survey.)	7.7 (6.1–9.7)	10.2 (9.0–11.6)	5.6 (5.0–6.3)
Drank alcohol on school property (At least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	3.4 (2.4–5.0)	7.5 (5.9–9.4)	3.2 (2.6–4.0)

Health Risk Behaviors	Black Students (%)	Hispanic Students (%)	White Students (%)
Lifetime cocaine use (Used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase one or more times during their life.)	1.8 (1.1–3.1)	10.9 (8.4–13.9)	7.4 (6.3–8.7)
Current cocaine use (Used any form of cocaine one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	1.1 (0.5–2.2)	5.3 (3.9–7.1)	3.0 (2.4–3.7)
Lifetime heroin use (Used heroin [also called smack, junk, or China white] one or more times during their life.)	1.8 (1.2–2.7)	3.7 (2.5–5.2)	1.7 (1.2–2.4)
Lifetime ecstasy use (Used ecstasy [also called MDMA] one or more times during their life.)	3.7 (2.6–5.3)	7.4 (6.0–9.2)	5.6 (4.8–6.6)
Offered, sold, or given an illegal drug by someone on school property (During the 12 months before the survey.)	19.2 (16.6–22.1)	29.1 (25.3–33.2)	20.8 (18.4–23.4)
Never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection	9.7 (8.2–11.4)	15.0 (13.2–17.1)	8.9 (7.6–10.4)
Did not eat for 24 or more hours to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight (During the 30 days before the survey.)	10.3 (9.0–11.9)	14.1 (12.4–15.9)	11.2 (10.3–12.1)
<b>F. Black, Hispanic, and white students were EQUALLY likely to have engaged in these health risk behaviors...</b>			
Rarely or never wore a seat belt (When riding in a car driven by someone else.)	12.4 (10.0–15.4)	12.9 (9.7–17.0)	10.1 (7.4–13.8)
Carried a weapon (For example, a gun, knife, or club on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	17.2 (15.2–19.4)	18.5 (16.2–21.1)	18.2 (15.8–21.0)
Carried a weapon on school property (For example, a gun, knife, or club on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)	6.0 (5.1–7.0)	7.3 (5.8–9.1)	5.3 (4.3–6.5)
Seriously considered attempting suicide (During the 12 months before the survey.)	13.2 (11.1–15.6)	15.9 (14.0–17.9)	14.0 (12.8–15.3)
Lifetime cigarette use (Ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs.)	50.3 (46.5–54.1)	53.3 (49.2–57.3)	50.0 (45.4–54.7)
Smoked a whole cigarette for the first time before age 13 years	12.5 (10.6–14.7)	14.3 (12.4–16.4)	14.4 (11.5–17.9)
Lifetime marijuana use (Used marijuana one or more times during their life.)	39.6 (35.3–44.1)	38.9 (34.4–43.6)	38.0 (34.7–41.4)
Current marijuana use (Used marijuana one or more times during the 30 days before the survey.)	21.5 (18.4–25.0)	18.5 (15.8–21.5)	19.9 (17.4–22.6)
Did not attend physical education classes daily (5 days in an average week when they were in school.)	68.1 (61.6–74.0)	64.0 (55.7–71.6)	71.1 (64.5–77.0)

<sup>1</sup> Data are presented only for non-Hispanic black, non-Hispanic white, and Hispanic students because the numbers of students from other racial/ethnic populations were too small for meaningful analysis.

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

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

<sup>4</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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