

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Methodology

November 2019

In November 2019, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was completed by 1,372 students across 7 middle schools in Arlington (Jefferson, Kenmore, Swanson, Gunston, Williamsburg, and H-B Woodlawn) and 1,461 students across 5 high schools (Washington-Lee, Arlington Community, Wakefield, Yorktown and H-B Woodlawn). The student response rate for middle school was 75% and for high school was 71%.

The results are representative of all students in grades 6-12 and the weighted demographic characteristics of the sample are as follows:

GENDER	Middle School	High School
Female	50%	48.5%
Male	50%	51.5%

GRADE	
6 th	34.8%
7 th	34.5%
8 th	30.7%
9 th	27.0%
10 th	24.9%
11 th	23.1%
12 th	24.6%

RACE	Middle School	High School
Asian	8.0%	8.0%
Black	10.3%	10.4%
Hispanic/Latino	28.5%	31.5%
White	46.0%	43.7%
All other races	0.1%	0.4%
Multiple races	7.2%	6.0%

Students completed a self-administered, anonymous, questionnaire. Survey procedures were designed to protect the privacy of students by allowing for anonymous and voluntary participation. Parental permission procedures were followed before survey administration.

The YRBS is one component of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in collaboration with representatives from state and local departments of education and health, other federal agencies, and national education and health organizations. The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System was designed to focus the nation on behaviors among youth related to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among both youth and adults and to assess how these risk behaviors change over time. The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System measures behaviors that fall into six categories:

1. Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence;
2. Sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection;
3. Alcohol and other drug use;
4. Tobacco use;
5. Unhealthy dietary behaviors; and
6. Inadequate physical activity.

The YRBS also measures asthma and self-reported height and weight to allow calculation of body mass index for assessment of overweight and obesity. More information about the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System can be obtained from <http://www.cdc.gov/yrbss>.