

2017 SUMMARY OF RESULTS – ARLINGTON’S ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

OVERVIEW

Survey Instrument

Arlington County has been conducting the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) with a sample of Arlington Public School (APS) students in 6th-12th grade since 2001. The survey helps to inform the community about the important factors impacting the wellbeing of youth and families in our community. Arlington uses standard CDC questions whenever possible. Standard questionnaires can be found online at: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/yrbs/questionnaires.htm>. Each year community stakeholders have the opportunity to request the addition of certain questions. Whenever possible these additional questions are culled from established question repositories or are tested with youth prior to administration.

2017 is the first year that the survey has been conducted online. This allowed for the ability to monitor response rates in real-time and ensure that each school conducted the survey with sampled youth. This also allowed for the inclusion of branching. The YRBS survey has included upwards of 145 questions. Branching allowed for a more streamlined experience, but it is yet to be determined if that will impact the results collected. Generally, a branch was not employed unless the student answered that they did not engage in a behavior at least 2 times. For example, if a student answered they did not smoke on two questions they were not asked additional questions about smoking.

Two different surveys are used, one for 6th grade students and one for 8th-12th grade students. The questionnaire used for 6th graders is shorter and, by law (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/yrbs/questionnaires.htm>), cannot include questions about sexual health.

Copies of the questionnaires, as well as additional information about the survey can be found on the APCYF website at: <https://apcyf.arlingtonva.us/youth-risk-behavior-survey/>.

Survey Administration

The survey was administered in March 2017 to a sample of APS students in 6th-12th grade. Additionally, the survey was administered to all students enrolled in APS’ alternative programs (Career Center, Langston, New Directions, Arlington Community High School). Therefore, some of the overall results include students who are not in 6th, 8th, 10th or 12th grade, but rather are ungraded or in 9th or 11th grade. The survey given to 6th graders included 97 questions and was translated into Spanish. The survey given to 6th-12th graders contained 121 questions and was translated into Spanish. The survey was administered using an online survey platform.

A random sample of classrooms was taken from 6th-10th grade Health and P.E. classes and 12th grade English classes. These courses are sampled because they are required and therefore have a representative selection of all students, not just those who elect to take a particular course. We aim to have a margin of error of less than 5% for each school. All students within a sampled classroom were then included in the survey sample. Parents and guardians for all sampled students were mailed an opt-out form. The parents had the option to request that their student not be given the survey. Students themselves could also choose not to take the survey or could choose to discontinue taking the survey at any time.

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS				
2017	Number Sampled ⁱ	Number Completed	Response Rate	Number of Usable Responses
	3,056	2,218	73%	2,058

ⁱThis number includes those in randomly sampled classrooms and all students enrolled in alternative programs

Data Processing

Once all of the results were received they were downloaded into Excel. APCYF contracted with an external vendor, Aileron, to provide quality assessment services. This included conducting a parallel consistency check to identify records that should be removed. The criteria to remove a record from the final results included factoring in the following criteria:

- was more than 75% of the survey incomplete
- were there more than 3 inconsistencies in responses (e.g. the student was 15 years old but said they first drank at 18)
- the student indicated on the two honesty questions that s/he did not tell the truth
- results that flagged for 2 inconsistencies were further scrutinized for possible inclusion or exclusion

Results were compared to create a final clean file for use in analysis. One hundred and sixty records (7% of responses) were removed due to inconsistencies or containing unusable data.

Interpreting Results

Caution should be taken when interpreting school-specific data reports. The sampling methodology ensures that the results are representative of the Arlington community as whole. The sampling framework does not ensure that each school will have a standalone, statistically valid report. Information provided within is intended as a conversation starter and descriptive snapshot of each school community. Any question that had fewer than 20 events reported was either not included or, when possible, rolled into a school-wide average. This is done in order to ensure that we uphold student trust and maintain their anonymity.

Additional information about the survey and the overall findings can be found online at: <https://apcyf.arlingtonva.us/youth-risk-behavior-survey-2017-results/>

2017 SUMMARY OF RESULTS – ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS (LANGSTON, ARLINGTON COMMUNITY HS, CAREER CENTER, NEW DIRECTIONS)

FAMILY, HOME, COMMUNITY, SCHOOL		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Alt. Programs	APS HS Average
Lives with both parents	33	62
Parent graduated from college	18	63
Gets mostly A's and B's in school	60	82
Spent 3+ hours per night doing homework	11	33
Often or very often felt stressed by school	43	70
Skipped school 4 or more times	31	19
After high school most likely to attend a 4 year college, community college or technical school	71	89
Participates in an hour or more of school activities during an average week	33	69
Feels safe and secure at home (always or most of the time)	83	93
Feels safe and secure at school (always or most of the time)	93	91
Feels safe and secure in neighborhood (always or most of the time)	83	93
Adults listen to what I have to say (agree or strongly agree)	72	58
Would talk to family member about serious concern ^{vi}	59	62
Would talk to trusted adult about serious concern ^{vi}	59	51

SAFETY, WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Alt. Programs	APS HS
Never or rarely wears a helmet	29	24
Rode with a drinking driver, past 30 days	17	15
Rode with a driver who smoked marijuana, past 30 days	27	18
Victim of property crime at school, past year	--	16
Gang members in school or neighborhood	26	20

All percentages are calculated from valid cases (missing responses were not included).

RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Alt. Programs	APS HS
Someone you dated made unwanted sexual contact, past 12 months	--	11
Someone you dated called you names or put you down, past 12 months	19	13
Another student made unwelcome sexual comment, joke or gesture on school property, past 12 months	--	31

All percentages are calculated from valid cases (missing responses were not included).

BULLYING		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Alt. Programs	APS HS
Victim of bullying at school, past year	--	15
Agree, bullying is a serious problem in my school	23	25

All percentages are calculated from valid cases (missing responses were not included).

MENTAL HEALTH		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Alt. Programs	APS HS
Felt sad or hopeless, past year	47	34
Self-harm, past year	24	16
Considered suicide	24	20
IF experienced depressive symptoms, has knowledge of or is connected with support services	52	51

All percentages are calculated from valid cases (missing responses were not included).

TOBACCO USE		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Alt. Programs	APS HS
Used electronic vapor product, past 30 days	19	30
Used electronic vapor product on school property, past 30 days	--	17

All percentages are calculated from valid cases (missing responses were not included).

ALCOHOL USE		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Alt. Programs	APS HS
Drank alcohol, past 30 days	34	26
Consumed 5+ drinks within a few hours, past month	--	14
Somewhat or very easy to get alcohol	57	63

All percentages are calculated from valid cases (missing responses were not included)

DRUG USE		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Alt. Programs	APS HS
Ever use marijuana	41	31
Used marijuana, past month	24	17
Ever use prescription pain medicine other than prescribed	--	9
Ever use other prescription medicine other than prescribed	17	10
Ever use over-the-counter drugs	--	11
Been offered illegal drugs on school property	--	19

All percentages are calculated from valid cases (missing responses were not included).

PHYSICAL HEALTH		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Alt. Programs	APS HS
Had breakfast on 5 or more days, past week	35	60
Went hungry because there was not enough food in the home (sometimes-always), past month	36	16
Physically active for at least 60 minutes, 7 days past week	--	19
Played on 1 or more sports team during past year	33	59
Watched 2 or more hours of TV on average school day	59	67
Played video games for 2 or more hours on average school day	35	33
Spent 2 or more hours per day connecting socially with friends on electronic device on average school day	58	64
Had regular dental exam during the past year	72	78
Had regular physical exam with doctor or health care provider during the past year	59	77
Slept 8 or more hours on an average school night	17	26

All percentages are calculated from valid cases (missing responses were not included).

SEXUAL HEALTH		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Alt. Programs	APS HS
Ever had sexual intercourse	51	33
Been taught in school about where to get sexual health services	56	71

All percentages are calculated from valid cases (missing responses were not included).

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