

2017 SUMMARY OF RESULTS – SWANSON

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/healthyyouth/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/healthyyouth/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/>

FAMILY, HOME, COMMUNITY, SCHOOL				
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)				
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Swanson 6th	APS 6th	Swanson 8th	APS 8th
Lives with both parents	80	75	71	71
Parent graduated from college	89	74	84	77
Gets mostly A's and B's in school	99	93	90	88
Often or very often felt stressed by school	31	34	71	67
After high school most likely to attend a 4 year college, community college or technical school			89	85
Participates in an hour or more of school activities during an average week	82	78	79	74
Feels safe and secure at home (always or most of the time)	94	96	97	95
Feels safe and secure at school (always or most of the time)	91	90	91	89
Feels safe and secure in neighborhood (always or most of the time)	96	92	97	94
Adults listen to what I have to say (agree or strongly agree)	62	65	54	50
Would talk to family member about serious concern ⁱⁱ	90	84	73	69
Would talk to trusted adult about serious concern ⁱⁱ	66	68	54	49
Another student made unwelcome sexual comment, joke or gesture on school property, past 12 months			41	40

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

ⁱⁱ6th graders were asked about serious concern but did not include serious concern about sex.

SAFETY, WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Swanson 6th & 8th	APS MS
Never or rarely wears a helmet	16	17
Rode with a drinking driver, past 30 days	13	11
Victim of property crime at school, past year	14	25
In a physical fight on school property, last year	11	11

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

BULLYING		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Swanson 6th & 8th	APS MS
Victim of bullying at school, past year	29	26
Agree, bullying is a serious problem in my school	27	33

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

MENTAL HEALTH		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Swanson 6th & 8th	APS MS
Felt sad or hopeless, past year	20	19
Self-harm, past year	12	13
Considered suicide, past year	14	14

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

SUBSTANCE USE		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Swanson 6th & 8th	APS MS
Somewhat or very easy to get alcohol	39	37
Ever use over-the-counter drugs	7	9

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

PHYSICAL HEALTH		(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)			
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	Swanson 6th	APS 6th	Swanson 8th	APS 8th	
Had breakfast on 5 or more days, past week	89	85	76	74	
Went hungry because there was not enough food in the home (sometimes-always), past month	--	9	--	10	
Physically active for at least 60 minutes, 7 days past week	48	36	34	31	
Played on 1 or more sports team during past year	81	75	74	69	
Watched 2 or more hours of TV on average school day	49	47	59	63	
Played video games for 2 or more hours on average school day	32	32	26	33	
Spent 2 or more hours per day connecting socially with friends on electronic device on average school day	21	26	45	48	
Had regular dental exam during the past year	86	81	85	83	
Had regular physical exam with doctor or health care provider during the past year	89	79	82	76	
Slept 8 or more hours on an average school night	78	78	46	48	

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

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