

2017 SUMMARY OF RESULTS – WASHINGTON-LEE

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/>

FAMILY, HOME, COMMUNITY, SCHOOL				
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)				
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	W-L 10th	APS 10th	W-L 12th	APS 12th
Lives with both parents	70	63	63	63
Parent graduated from college	71	67	69	60
Gets mostly A's and B's in school	90	87	82	79
Spent 3+ hours per night doing homework	35	35	42	33
Often or very often felt stressed by school	64	69	79	73
Skipped school 4 or more times	--	10	30	31
After high school most likely to attend a 4 year college, community college or technical school	88	89	94	92
Participates in an hour or more of school activities during an average week	72	71	67	69
Feels safe and secure at home (always or most of the time)	97	93	95	94
Feels safe and secure at school (always or most of the time)	90	90	93	90
Feels safe and secure in neighborhood (always or most of the time)	94	94	93	92
Adults listen to what I have to say (agree or strongly agree)	54	56	53	60
Would talk to family member about serious concern	63	64	58	59
Would talk to trusted adult about serious concern	53	53	39	45

SAFETY, WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE				
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)				
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	W-L 10th	APS 10th	W-L 12th	APS 12th
Never or rarely wears a helmet	22	22	30	28
Rode with a drinking driver, past 30 days	--	12	18	18
Rode with a driver who smoked marijuana, past 30 days	--	9	27	27
Victim of property crime at school, past year	18	18	12	15
Gang members in school or neighborhood	27	23	15	15

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

RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE			(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)	
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	W-L 10th & 12th	APS HS		
Someone you dated made unwanted sexual contact, past 12 months	8	11		
Someone you dated called you names or put you down, past 12 months	10	13		
Another student made unwelcome sexual comment, joke or gesture on school property, past 12 months	31	31		

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

BULLYING					(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)			
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	W-L 10th	APS 10th	W-L 12th	APS 12th				
Victim of bullying at school, past year	15	15	16	17				
Agree, bullying is a serious problem in my school	25	27	20	22				

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

MENTAL HEALTH			(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)	
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	W-L 10th & 12th	APS HS		
Felt sad or hopeless, past year	31	34		
Self-harm, past year	13	16		
Considered suicide, past year	18	20		
IF experienced depressive symptoms, has knowledge of or is connected with support services	53	51		

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

TOBACCO USE		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	W-L 10th & 12th	APS HS
Used electronic vapor product, past 30 days	15	17
Used electronic vapor product on school property, past 30 days	8	8

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

ALCOHOL USE		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	W-L 10th & 12th	APS HS
Drank alcohol, past 30 days	27	26
Consumed 5+ drinks within a few hours, past month	13	14
Somewhat or very easy to get alcohol	65	63

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

DRUG USE		
(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)		
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	W-L 10th & 12th	APS HS
Ever use marijuana	30	31
Used marijuana, past month	16	17
Ever use prescription pain medicine other than prescribed	7	9
Ever use other prescription medicine other than prescribed	7	10
Ever use over-the-counter drugs	10	11
Been offered illegal drugs on school property	19	19

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

PHYSICAL HEALTH		(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)			
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	W-L 10th	APS 10th	W-L 12th	APS 12th	
Had breakfast on 5 or more days, past week	72	66	50	53	
Went hungry because there was not enough food in the home (sometimes-always), past month	11	13	17	18	
Physically active for at least 60 minutes, 7 days past week	23	23	23	16	
Played on 1 or more sports team during past year	69	65	60	53	
Watched 2 or more hours of TV on average school day	72	68	64	67	
Played video games for 2 or more hours on average school day	32	32	29	33	
Spent 2 or more hours per day connecting socially with friends on electronic device on average school day	62	61	65	68	
Had regular dental exam during the past year	83	79	83	79	
Had regular physical exam with doctor or health care provider during the past year	81	81	71	74	
Slept 8 or more hours on an average school night	34	32	20	19	
	WL 10th & 12th		APS HS		
Tried to lose weight using unhealthy method (diet pills, vomiting, go without eating)	5		9		

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

SEXUAL HEALTH		(VALUES ARE PERCENTAGES)			
QUESTION DESCRIPTIONS	W-L 10th	APS 10th	W-L 12th	APS 12th	
Ever had sexual intercourse	20	21	40	45	
Been taught in school about where to get sexual health services	80	78	64	64	

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