

# **Youth Risk Behavior Survey: 2012 Administration**

**Staunton City Schools**

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## Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Staunton City Schools

### Report of the 2012 Administration

## Executive Summary and Key Findings

The results of the 2012 administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey for Staunton City schools are presented in the following report. In January and February 2012, the survey was given to those Staunton City students who did not opt out. A total of 376 surveys were completed: 146 7<sup>th</sup> graders from Shelburne Middle School and 230 from Robert E. Lee High School (115 9<sup>th</sup> graders and 115 11<sup>th</sup> graders). Ten students in the sample attend the Genesis alternative program and are included in the totals that were just presented.

A total of 14 students were opted out of the survey; five 7<sup>th</sup> graders, six 9<sup>th</sup> graders and three 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Due to the block scheduling used at the high school, the principal was able to schedule 142 9<sup>th</sup> grade students (80%) and 156 11<sup>th</sup> grade students (82%) to take the survey. Based on these figures, response rates for Lee H.S. were 81% (9<sup>th</sup> grade) and 74% (11<sup>th</sup> grade). Response rate for Shelburne 7<sup>th</sup> graders was 146/169 (86%).

The results show the differences among students in grades 7, 9 and 11 for this year's administration; for select items, results from the previous administration are presented as well.

The reader is cautioned to interpret all data carefully; the quality of self-report data is compromised by differences in student effort, perseverance, reading ability, memory and compliance.

Some key findings from this survey include:

- The percentage of students not having enough to eat continues to decrease since 2006, but is leveling off somewhat with about 12% of respondents having this concern.
- About 69% of students responding have seen a dentist in the past year.
- As students age, families exert less influence which is consistent with previous findings. Influence of friends was the same across grade levels; in the past an increase with grade level was noted.
- About 2% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 10% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and 28% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders report smoking on a daily basis in the past 30 days.
- The perceived ease of securing cigarettes, alcohol and street drugs increases with grade level, which is consistent with previous findings. Respondents believe cigarettes are the easiest substance to procure.

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- In the past 30 days, 8% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 20% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders and 41% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders have had at least 1 alcoholic drink.
- Across age groups, a jump in binge drinking is evident (specifically, during the past 30 days), from 3% in 7<sup>th</sup> graders to 14% in 9<sup>th</sup> graders.
- For risk-perception questions, perceived risk of using alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana decreases as grade level increases. High school students' responses indicate that they perceive marijuana use as less harmful than either drinking alcohol or smoking cigarettes. Overall students believe cigarette smoking to be riskier than using either alcohol or marijuana.
- The perception that parents would think smoking, alcohol use, marijuana use is "very wrong" decreases as grade level increases. Across grade levels, a low percentage of respondents indicated that their parents would regard their children's usage as "Not at all wrong."
- As in past years, consistent helmet use continues to be lower than desired. By activity, riders of motorcycles use helmets more often than riders of bicycles or skateboards. This is probably due to the fact that state law requires helmet use for motorcycles. Seventh graders in our sample are more likely to ride bicycles and skateboards than the high school students are.
- About 5% of students reported missing a day of school in the preceding month due to feeling unsafe. This is consistent with the 2010 finding. In 2008 10% of students who participated in the survey reported missing at least a day for that reason.
- On school grounds, about 17% of students have experienced vandalism of their personal property in the past year, similar to what was found in 2010.
- The proportion of 11<sup>th</sup> graders indicating they have seriously considered committing suicide is higher than for the other grades. This group also reports the highest suicide attempt rate (out of the 27 who have considered attempting suicide in the past year, 16 have actually attempted to do so).
- A sizable portion of respondents report using a cell phone for 5 or more hours per day – 32% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 42% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders and 55% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders.

## Methodology

In the fall of 2011, a core workgroup consisting of representatives from area agencies, came together to review the survey instrument and discuss the logistics of gathering data. A few small changes were made to the survey. An additional item related to family members' involvement in gangs was added. Also, a branching error from the last administration was remedied. As with the 2010 administration, a single form of the survey was employed at both the middle school and high school.

The final version of the survey had 84 questions; however, as described in further detail below, some students did not have to answer every survey item.

In December 2011, letters regarding the Youth Risk Behavior Survey were sent home with Staunton City Schools' 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Parents who did not wish to have their children participate in the survey were requested to return opt-out forms before the winter break. Survey administration took place at both schools (Shelburne Middle School and Robert E. Lee High School) January 30-February 2, 2012.

Volunteer proctors were solicited at a Regional Partners in Prevention Services meeting; administration of the survey was coordinated by John Venn and Barbara Smallwood from Staunton City Schools and by the Central Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth.

For the second time, surveys were administered on computers using Qualtrics<sup>®</sup>. A benefit offered by utilizing an electronic survey is that questions can be eliminated from a respondent's survey based on his/her previous answers. For example, if a student answers that he/she had never smoked a cigarette, none of the questions that would normally follow regarding numbers of cigarettes smoked, age at first use, etc., are administered.

Prior to creating tables and interpreting data, the dataset was cleaned in an effort to reduce error and to foster comparisons with greater validity. For the items asking about which grade the student was in, there were answer options for 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. None of the students in the sample should have been in any grades except 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Taking into consideration the reported age, 5 respondents were recoded into 11<sup>th</sup> grade and 1 was recoded into 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Even though this involved subjective judgment, prone to error, it eliminates the presence of out-of-category data throughout the report.

Final sample sizes for the middle-school and high-school groups, respectively, were  $N=146$  (Shelburne) and  $N=230$  (Lee HS; 115 9<sup>th</sup> graders and 115 11<sup>th</sup> graders). Students who took the survey at Genesis Alternative School ( $N=10$ ) are included in above totals for their respective grades. A total of 14 students were opted out of the survey by their parents or guardians; five 7<sup>th</sup> graders, six 9<sup>th</sup> graders and three 11<sup>th</sup> graders.

Student confidentiality and anonymity were maintained at all times throughout the administration of the YRBS. At no time were students asked their names in person or on the survey form.

## Reading this report

The results are presented in groupings of similar items. Each grouping is preceded by a descriptive title. The number to the left of the question is an indication of its order on the survey instrument.

Items marked with an asterisk (\*) to the left of the item number were branched from a previous question based on responses. For example, if a student indicated in item 20 that he/she had been in a physical fight in the past 12 months, then he/she would be presented with additional questions about the nature of the fight(s). The students who were not in fights would be skipped to other questions not pertaining to fights.

For survey items that were not presented to all students because of the branching design, the numbers of students endorsing each response is provided in the corresponding table. However, depending on the nature of the question, the percentages in the column to the right of these frequencies may convey information in relation to the entire grade level, instead of just for that question's respondents. The tables are clearly marked with information about what the percentages reflect.

Due to rounding, column percentages may not equal exactly 100%.

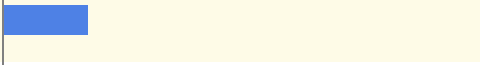
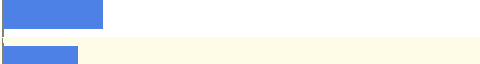

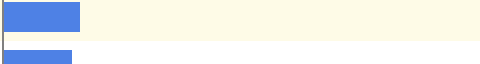

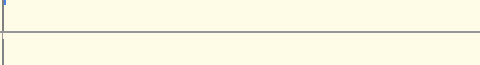
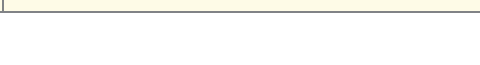
## Citing this report

Please use the following citation when referring to this report in presentations, proposals, or subsequent studies

Thelk, A. D. (2012). *Report of the 2012 Administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Staunton (VA) City Schools*. Staunton, VA: Staunton/Augusta/Waynesboro Office on Youth.

## Demographic Items

### 1. How old are you?

Answer		Response	%
12 years old or younger		66	18%
13 years old		77	21%
14 years old		58	15%
15 years old		59	16%
16 years old		60	16%
17 years old		53	14%
18 years old or older		2	1%
Total		375	100%

Answer	7th grade	9th grade	11th grade
12 years old or younger	64	0	2
13 years old	76	1	0
14 years old	6	52	0
15 years old	0	59	0
16 years old	0	3	57
17 years old	0	0	53
18 years old or older	0	0	2
Total	146	115	114

Overall, age levels reasonably correspond to grade levels. Two individuals appear to have mis-answered this item (two 11<sup>th</sup> graders reported an age of 12 years old or younger). However, these invalid responses yield a tolerable error rate of 0.5%.

### 2. What is your gender?

Answer		Response	%
Male		182	48%
Female		194	52%
Total		376	100%

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Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Male	68	47%	61	53%	53	46%
Female	78	53%	54	47%	62	54%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

Gender is evenly distributed across the entire group as well as within grades.

### 3. In what grade are you?

Answer	Response	%
7th grade	146	39%
9th grade	115	31%
11th grade	115	31%
Total	376	100%

In the actual survey item, there were answer options for 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. None of the students in the sample should have been in any grades except 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Taking into consideration the reported age, 5 respondents were recoded into 11<sup>th</sup> grade and 1 was recoded into 9<sup>th</sup> grade. This eliminates out-of-category data throughout the report.

### 4. How do you describe yourself?

Answer	Response	%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	9	2%
Asian	11	3%
Black or African American	61	16%
Hispanic or Latino	12	3%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0%
White	247	66%
Other	35	9%
Total	376	100%

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Answer	7th grade	9th grade	11th grade
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	3	5
Asian	1	3	7
Black or African American	25	14	22
Hispanic or Latino	6	1	5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	0	0
White	96	80	71
Other	16	14	5
Total	146	115	115

During survey administration in Staunton schools, students asked how they could they endorse more than one category. It may be prudent to allow for multiple responses in this category, or consider eliminating the question if data are not reviewed at this level or broken down by these categories.

**5. In the home where you spend the most time, who are the adults who are most responsible for you?**

Answer	Response	%
Mother AND Father	194	52%
Mother	113	30%
Father	30	8%
Grandparent(s)	17	5%
Foster parent(s)	2	1%
Step parent(s)	1	0%
Other relative(s)	8	2%
Other	11	3%
Total	376	100%



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Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Mother AND Father	79	54%	62	54%	53	46%
Mother	42	29%	34	30%	37	32%
Father	10	7%	11	10%	9	8%
Grandparent(s)	7	5%	6	5%	4	3%
Foster parent(s)	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
Step parent(s)	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other relative(s)	3	2%	1	1%	4	3%
Other	4	3%	1	1%	6	5%
Total	146	100%	115	101%	115	99%

**8. Who/what most influences your decisions and behavior?**

Answer	Response	%
Family	138	37%
Friends and peers	98	26%
School teachers/ counselors/ nurses	4	1%
Religious leaders	16	4%
TV/ newspaper/ magazine	8	2%
Other	35	9%
Not sure	77	20%
Total	376	100%

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Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Family	62	42%	39	34%	37	32%
Friends and peers	31	21%	38	33%	29	25%
School teachers/ counselors/ nurses	3	2%	0	0%	1	1%
Religious leaders	3	2%	7	6%	6	5%
TV/ newspaper/ magazine	2	1%	4	3%	2	2%
Other	8	5%	9	8%	18	16%
Not sure	37	25%	18	16%	22	19%
Total	146	98%	115	10%	115	100%

The top two responses were “Family” and “Friends and peers.” When viewed across grade levels, influence of family decreases 10% from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> grades. In the past, influence of friends increased as grade level increased, but this does not seem to hold with this data, especially in the 11<sup>th</sup> graders. See table below for more information about how this variable has played out in previous years.

Response	2006			2008			2010			2012		
	7th	9th	11th	7th	9th	11th	7th	9th	11th	7th	9th	11th
Family	34%	24%	23%	36%	32%	21%	45%	30%	27%	42%	34%	32%
Friends/peers	22%	31%	37%	17%	32%	29%	18%	35%	36%	21%	33%	25%
School teachers/ Counselors/ Nurses	2%	3%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%	1%
Religious leaders	2%	3%	3%	2%	7%	6%	1%	4%	2%	2%	6%	5%
TV/ Newspapers/ Magazines	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	5%	1%	1%	2%	1%	3%	2%
Other	7%	8%	12%	7%	8%	12%	6%	9%	13%	5%	8%	16%
Not sure	33%	30%	23%	36%	20%	26%	28%	21%	19%	25%	16%	19%

“Not sure” comprises a large proportion of responses across grades and administrations. This uncertainty decreases as grade increases. Historically, the influence of family is increasing.

Note: Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding, and from missing data in paper-pencil administrations (2006 and 2008).

# Safety

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (<http://www.iihs.org/laws/HelmetUseCurrent.aspx>), in Virginia all motorcycle riders are required to wear a helmet, although there are no helmet laws for bicycle, skateboard and scooter riders. As items 9-11 suggest, fewer older riders wear helmets.

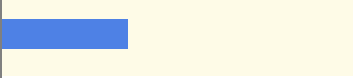




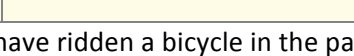
## 9. When you rode a motorcycle during the past 12 months, how often did you wear a helmet?

Answer	Response	%
I did not ride a motorcycle during the past 12 months	290	77%
Never wore a helmet	18	5%
Rarely wore a helmet	11	3%
Sometimes wore a helmet	6	2%
Most of the time wore a helmet	11	3%
Always wore a helmet	40	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>100%</b>

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I did not ride a motorcycle during the past 12 months	113	77%	86	75%	91	79%
Never wore a helmet	5	3%	6	5%	7	6%
Rarely wore a helmet	6	4%	3	3%	2	2%
Sometimes wore a helmet	2	1%	1	1%	3	3%
Most of the time wore a helmet	5	3%	2	2%	4	3%
Always wore a helmet	15	10%	17	15%	8	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100%</b>

Overall, 23-25% of students have ridden motorcycles in the past year. In 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades, 3 times as many motorcycles riders always wear helmets compared to never wearing helmets. In 11<sup>th</sup> grade, the numbers of individuals who always wear a helmet is the same as those who never wear a helmet.

**10. When you rode a bicycle/scooter during the past 12 months, how often did you wear a helmet?**

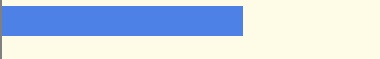





Answer		Response	%
I did not ride a bicycle or scooter during the past 12 months		136	36%
Never wore a helmet		156	41%
Rarely wore a helmet		20	5%
Sometimes wore a helmet		14	4%
Most of the time wore a helmet		24	6%
Always wore a helmet		26	7%
Total		376	100%

Nearly two thirds of students who participated have ridden a bicycle in the past year. The proportion of bicycle riders decreases with grade level (see table below).

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I did not ride a bicycle or scooter during the past 12 months	31	21%	42	37%	63	55%
Never wore a helmet	70	48%	46	40%	40	35%
Rarely wore a helmet	11	8%	7	6%	2	2%
Sometimes wore a helmet	9	6%	3	3%	2	2%
Most of the time wore a helmet	13	9%	9	8%	2	2%
Always wore a helmet	12	8%	8	7%	6	5%
Total	146	100%	115	101%	115	101%

The proportion of bicycle riders who never wear helmets increases with age: 52% of 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 63% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders and 77% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders regularly ride unprotected.

### 11. When you rode a skateboard during the past 12 months how often did you wear a helmet?






Answer		Response	%
I did not ride a skateboard during the past 12 months		241	64%
Never wore a helmet		102	27%
Rarely wore a helmet		13	3%
Sometimes wore a helmet		6	2%
Most of the time wore a helmet		5	1%
Always wore a helmet		9	2%
Total		376	100%

About one-third of respondents have ridden a skateboard in the past year.

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I did not ride a skateboard during the past 12 months	87	60%	77	67%	77	67%
Never wore a helmet	34	23%	34	30%	34	30%
Rarely wore a helmet	8	5%	2	2%	3	3%
Sometimes wore a helmet	5	3%	1	1%	0	0%
Most of the time wore a helmet	4	3%	1	1%	0	0%
Always wore a helmet	8	5%	0	0%	1	1%
Total	146	99%	115	101%	115	101%

Helmet use is very low among all three grade levels, especially in high school students: 89% of 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade skaters never wear helmets, compared to 57% of 7<sup>th</sup> grade skateboarders.

### 12. How often do you wear a seat belt when riding in a car?

Answer		Response	%
Never		13	3%
Rarely		15	4%
Sometimes		31	8%
Most of the time		100	27%
Always		217	58%
Total		376	100%

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Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Never	5	3%	2	2%	6	5%
Rarely	4	3%	8	7%	3	3%
Sometimes	12	8%	11	10%	8	7%
Most of the time	36	25%	36	31%	28	24%
Always	89	61%	58	50%	70	61%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

The 9<sup>th</sup> graders have the lowest rate of routine seat belt use (50%, compared to 61% for each of the other two grades). In the chart below (see highlighting), these same students, who were 7<sup>th</sup> graders in the 2010 administration, also had the lowest regular seat belt use.

According to the National Highway Safety Administration, in 2010 the average rate of seat belt use in Virginia was 80.5%, which reflects a 1.8% decrease from 2009. (<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811493.pdf>)

	2008			2010		
	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade
Never	3%	6%	11%	2%	2%	2%
Rarely	3%	15%	7%	3%	5%	5%
Sometimes	9%	14%	17%	9%	10%	2%
Most of the time	19%	25%	19%	32%	25%	25%
Always	66%	40%	46%	54%	58%	65%

According to Virginia state law, drivers and front-seat passengers under age 18 are required to wear a seat belt ([http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/seatbelt\\_laws.html](http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/seatbelt_laws.html) ).

**13. During the past 30 days, did you ride in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?**

Answer	Response	%
Yes	44	12%
No	306	81%
Not Sure	26	7%
Total	376	100%

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Yes	10	7%	11	10%	23	20%
No	130	89%	92	80%	84	73%
Not Sure	6	4%	12	10%	8	7%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

Occurrence of riding with a drunk driver increases with grade level; potentially this is due to increased opportunity to drive, as students in this grade and their friends are more likely to have driver’s licenses as compared to those in other grades in the sample.

**14. During the past 30 days, did you drive a car or other vehicle when you had been drinking alcohol?**

Answer	Response	%
Yes	16	4%
No	360	96%
Total	376	100%

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Yes	1	1%	5	4%	10	9%
No	145	99%	110	96%	105	91%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

As with the above item, the increased number of yes responses may be an artifact of increased opportunities to drive.

## Violence

### 6. Have you ever been intentionally hurt by someone in your home?

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
Yes	25	17%	25	22%	24	21%
No	121	83%	90	78%	91	79%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

Across grades, approximately 1 in 5 students reported being intentionally hurt by someone at home.

### 7. Are you afraid of being harmed by someone in your home?

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
No, I am not	132	90%	103	90%	105	91%
Yes, by my mother	2	1%	2	2%	0	0%
Yes, by my father	7	5%	6	5%	3	3%
Yes, by both my mother and father	1	1%	1	1%	1	1%
Yes, by someone else in my home	4	3%	3	3%	6	5%
Total	146	100%	115	101%	115	100%

The proportion of respondents endorsing each option remains about the same across grades.



**15. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a gun or knife for self-protection or to use as a weapon?**

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
0 days	123	84%	98	85%	97	84%
1 day	7	5%	0	0%	0	0%
2 or 3 days	3	2%	3	3%	1	1%
4 or 5 days	1	1%	2	2%	2	2%
6 or more days	12	8%	12	10%	15	13%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

Of the weapon-carrying respondents, most carried a gun or knife on at least 6 days in the past month, suggesting the behavior may be habitual for some.

**\*16. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun or knife on school property?**

(This item was presented to 23 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 17 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 18 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 15.)

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of entire 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of entire 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of entire 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
1 day	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%
2 or 3 days	0	0%	1	1%	2	2%
4 or 5 days	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%
6 or more days	1	1%	2	2%	8	7%
Total	1	1%	5	5%	10	9%

As grade level increases, those who carry guns or knives are more likely to do so on school property. Note an increase in 11<sup>th</sup> graders who carried a weapon on school property 6 or more days in 2012 than in 2010.

Staunton YRBS

	2010			2012		
	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade
1 day	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
2 or 3 days	0%	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%
4 or 5 days	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
6 or more days	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	7%

**17. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?**

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
0 days	139	95%	109	95%	110	96%
1 day	4	3%	2	2%	3	3%
2 or 3 days	2	1%	3	3%	0	0%
4 or 5 days	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%
6 or more days	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
Total	146	100%	115	101%	115	101%

Only 5% of students indicated that they missed school due to feeling unsafe.

**18. During the past 12 months, how many times has someone threatened or injured you with a weapon such as a gun or knife on school property?**

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
0 times	133	91%	111	97%	102	89%
1 time	7	5%	2	2%	5	4%
2 or 3 times	5	3%	2	2%	4	3%
4 or 5 times	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
6 to 9 times	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%
10 or more times	0	0%	0	0%	4	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>99%</b>

In the last survey administration, the current 11<sup>th</sup> graders had experienced fewer threats (see table below), while there was no change for the current 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Nearly 10% of the current 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders have been threatened on school property.

	2010			2012		
	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade
0 times	97%	97%	93%	91%	97%	89%
1 time	2%	1%	5%	5%	2%	4%
2 or 3 times	1%	1%	0%	3%	2%	3%
4 or 5 times	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
6 to 9 times	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
10 or more times	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	3%

**19. During the past 12 months, how many times has someone stolen or deliberately damaged your property such as your car, clothing, or books on school property?**

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
0 times	118	81%	98	85%	96	83%
1 time	14	10%	10	9%	6	5%
2 or 3 times	6	5%	5	4%	6	5%
4 or 5 times	2	1%	0	0%	0	0%
6 to 9 times	3	2%	0	0%	0	0%
10 or more times	3	2%	2	2%	7	6%
Total	146	101%	115	100%	115	99%

Incidence of damage to personal property on school grounds is about the same across grade levels.

**20. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight?**

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
0 times	96	66%	74	64%	85	74%
1 time	23	16%	16	14%	6	5%
2 or 3 times	18	12%	15	13%	12	10%
4 or 5 times	3	2%	6	5%	4	3%
6 to 9 times	3	2%	0	0%	1	1%
10 or more times	3	2%	4	3%	7	6%
Total	146	100%	115	99%	115	99%

Over 30% of respondents reported being in a fight in the past year. Fewer 11<sup>th</sup> graders report involvement in physical altercations compared to 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

**\*21. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight in which you were injured and treated by a doctor or nurse?**

(This item was presented to 50 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 41 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 30 11<sup>th</sup> graders based on responses from question 20.)

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of entire 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of entire 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of entire 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
1 time	5	3%	5	4%	1	1%
2 or 3 times	2	1%	1	1%	0	0%
4 or 5 times	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
6 to 9 times	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
10 or more times	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%
Total	7	4%	7	6%	3	3%

The majority of fights reported in the previous item did not result in injuries that required treatment by a doctor or nurse.

**\*22. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight on school property?**

(This item was presented to 50 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 41 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 30 11<sup>th</sup> graders based on responses from question 20.)

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of entire 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of entire 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of entire 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
1 time	8	5%	10	9%	3	3%
2 or 3 times	5	3%	6	5%	2	2%
4 or 5 times	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%
6 to 9 times	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
10 or more times	0	0%	1	1%	3	3%
Total	14	9%	17	15%	9	9%

9<sup>th</sup> graders had more fights on school property than students in either of the other grades.

**\*23. The last time you were in a physical fight, with whom did you fight?**

(This item was presented to 50 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 41 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 30 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 20.)

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of branched sample of 7 <sup>th</sup> graders	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of branched sample of 9 <sup>th</sup> graders	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of branched sample of 11 <sup>th</sup> graders
A total stranger	4	8%	2	5%	7	23%
A friend or someone I know	22	44%	15	37%	10	33%
A boyfriend, girlfriend, or date	1	2%	1	2%	1	3%
A parent, brother, sister, or other family member	9	18%	7	17%	4	13%
Someone not listed above	11	22%	9	22%	4	13%
More than one of the persons listed above	3	6%	7	17%	4	13%
Total	50	100%	41	100%	30	98%

The majority of fights happen with friends/acquaintances, followed by someone not listed above, and then family members. 11<sup>th</sup> graders are more likely to fight with strangers than 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders are.

**24. During the past 12 months, did your boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slap, or physically hurt you on purpose?**

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
Yes	5	3%	11	10%	11	10%
No	141	97%	104	90%	104	90%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

## 25. Have you ever been forced to have sex when you did not want to?

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
Yes	3	2%	3	3%	11	10%
No	143	98%	112	97%	104	90%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

Note an increase in Yes responses from 9<sup>th</sup> grade to 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

## 26. During the past 12 months, have you been a member of a gang?

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
Yes	5	3%	9	8%	9	8%
No	141	97%	106	92%	106	92%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

Gang membership is slightly higher for high school students as compared to 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Numbers may be increasing since last administration: in 2010, the percentage of 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, respectively, who answered Yes were 1%, 7% and 5%.

## 27. Do you know any gang members?

Answer	Response	%
Yes	164	44%
No	212	56%
Total	376	100%

In 2010, 49% answered Yes to this question.

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
Yes	46	32%	55	48%	63	55%
No	100	68%	60	52%	52	45%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

Nearly half of the overall group knows one or more gang members; however, looking at it by grade level, a third of 7<sup>th</sup> graders know a gang member, and the proportion increases with grade level.

### 28. Do any of the students in your school belong to a gang?

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
Yes	20	14%	57	50%	56	49%
No	15	10%	4	3%	9	8%
I don't know	111	76%	54	47%	50	43%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

High school students express greater certainty that there are gang members in their school than do middle school students. No more than 10% in any grade believe that there are no gang members in their school.

### 29. Are any of your family members involved in a gang?

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
Yes	11	8%	10	9%	19	17%
No	120	83%	89	77%	83	72%
I don't know	15	10%	16	14%	13	11%
Total	146	101%	115	100%	115	100%

More 11<sup>th</sup> graders believe one or more of their family members are involved in a gang. This may be due to a true difference among groups or the possibility that 11<sup>th</sup> graders have greater awareness and understanding about behaviors that suggest gang involvement.

### 30. Have you ever been approached to join a gang?

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
Yes	13	9%	12	10%	23	20%
No	133	91%	103	90%	92	80%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

Twice as many 11<sup>th</sup> graders have been approached to join a gang; since the question asked about whether they have been asked over their entire lifetime, this higher proportion may be an effect of these students having spent more time in school than their younger counterparts, thus they have had more opportunities and time to be approached.



## Depression

**31. During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?**

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
Yes	37	25%	36	31%	41	36%
No	109	75%	79	69%	74	64%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

Feelings of sadness seem to occur more often for high school students in our sample. The 2012 data mirror the 2006-2010 findings for 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders; an increase for 11<sup>th</sup> graders over previous findings can be noted (see below).

Response	7 <sup>th</sup> grade			9 <sup>th</sup> grade				11 <sup>th</sup> grade			
	2008	2010	2012	2006	2008	2010	2012	2006	2008	2010	2012
Yes	23%	20%	25%	26%	31%	33%	31%	31%	31%	29%	36%
No	77%	80%	75%	74%	67%	67%	69%	69%	64%	71%	64%

Note: 2006 and 2008 utilized paper forms of the survey; missing data results in columns not totaling 100%.

**32. During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?**

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	%	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	%
Yes	22	15%	22	19%	27	23%
No	124	85%	93	81%	88	77%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

Suicidal ideation increases with grade level. There was a significant increase in 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades from 2010: 7<sup>th</sup> graders went from 9% in 2010 to 15% in 2012, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders went from 14% in 2010 to 23% in 2012.

**\*33. During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide?**

This item was presented to 22 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 22 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 27 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 32.)

Answer	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of entire 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of entire 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	% of entire 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
0 times	134	92%	9	8%	11	10%
1 time	5	3%	2	2%	8	7%
2 or 3 times	3	2%	7	6%	2	2%
4 or 5 times	2	2%	2	2%	1	1%
6 or more times	2	2%	2	2%	5	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25%</b>

Proportion of multiple suicide attempts increases with grade level. Note an increase in actual suicide attempts in 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders since 2010.

Response	7th		9th		11th	
	2010	2012	2010	2012	2010	2012
1 time	1%	3%	5%	2%	2%	7%
2 or 3 times	1%	2%	1%	6%	2%	2%
4 or 5 times	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%
6 or more times	1%	2%	3%	2%	1%	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>15%</b>

**\*34. The last time you seriously considered attempting suicide, with whom did you talk to this about?**

This item was presented to 22 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 22 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 27 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 32).

Answer	7th grade	% of branched sample of 7 <sup>th</sup> graders	9th grade	% of branched sample of 9 <sup>th</sup> graders	11th grade	% of branched sample of 11 <sup>th</sup> graders
I did not talk to anyone	12	55%	8	35%	14	52%
A friend, boyfriend, or girlfriend	7	32%	8	36%	10	37%
A parent, brother, sister or other family member	2	9%	1	5%	1	4%
A school counselor	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Someone not listed above	1	5%	1	5%	2	7%
More than one of the people listed above	0	0%	4	18%	0	0%
Total	22	101%	22	99%	27	100%

Over half of 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 11<sup>th</sup> graders did not talk to anyone about their suicidal thoughts.

**\*35. Have you ever sought counseling, or any other service, when you felt so depressed that you seriously considered suicide?**

This item was presented to 22 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 22 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 27 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 31).

Answer	7th grade	% of branched sample of 7 <sup>th</sup> graders	9th grade	% of branched sample of 9 <sup>th</sup> graders	11th grade	% of branched sample of 11 <sup>th</sup> graders
Yes	3	14%	7	32%	12	44%
No	19	86%	15	68%	15	56%
Total	22	100%	22	100%	27	100%

Students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade are most likely to seek counseling, followed by 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and then by 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The above figures show no change from 2010 results.

**Initial Substance Use**

**36. How old were you when you first smoked a cigarette, even just a few puffs?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I have never smoked	119	82%	74	64%	59	51%
9 years old or younger	7	5%	6	5%	16	14%
10 years old	4	3%	4	3%	3	3%
11 years old	5	3%	4	3%	7	6%
12 years old	7	5%	6	5%	7	6%
13 years old	3	2%	10	9%	6	5%
14 years old	0	0%	9	8%	6	5%
15 years old	1	1%	1	1%	5	4%
16 years old	0	0%	0	0%	5	4%
17 years old	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
18 years old or older	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%
Total	146	101%	115	99%	115	99%

**44. How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips?**

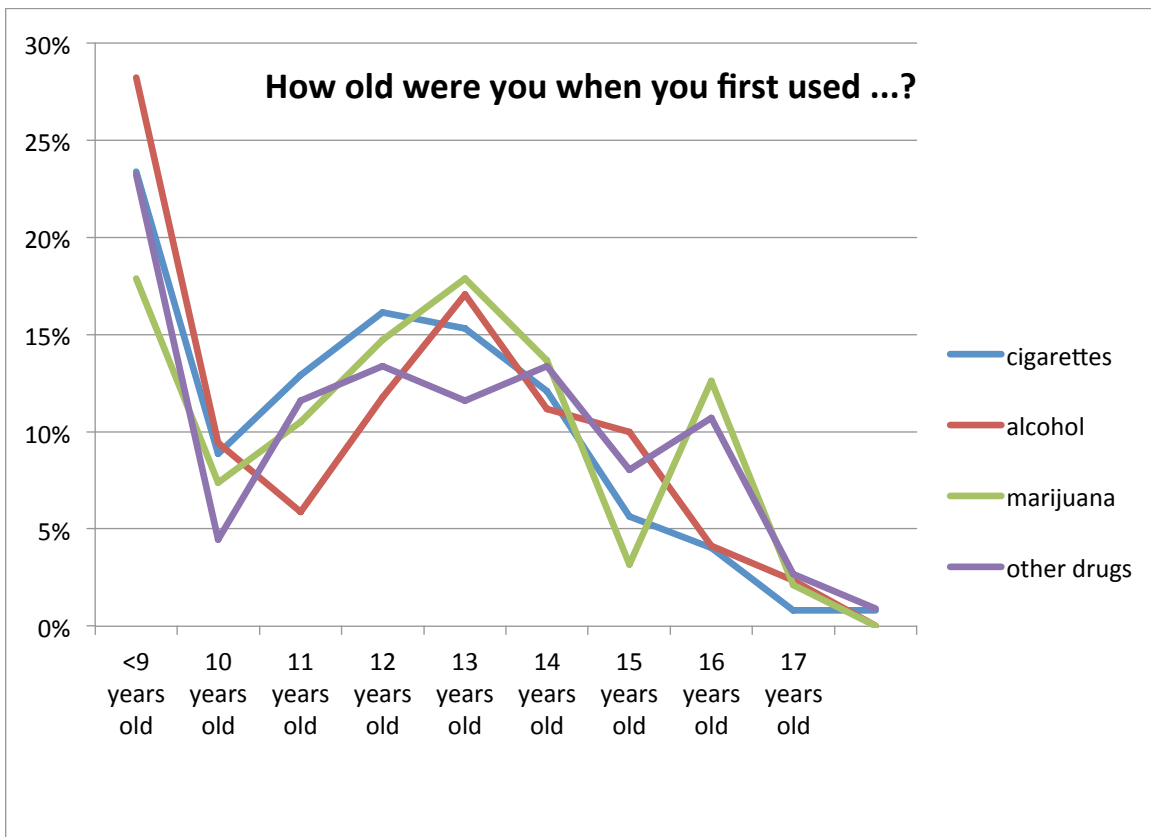
Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I have never had a drink of alcohol other than a few sips	104	71%	62	54%	40	35%
9 years old or younger	17	12%	12	10%	19	17%
10 years old	7	5%	5	4%	4	3%
11 years old	4	3%	5	4%	1	1%
12 years old	12	8%	4	3%	4	3%
13 years old	2	1%	13	11%	14	12%
14 years old	0	0%	9	8%	10	9%
15 years old	0	0%	3	3%	14	12%
16 years old	0	0%	2	2%	5	4%
17 years old	0	0%	0	0%	4	3%
18 years old or older	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	146	100%	115	99%	115	99%

**52. How old were you when you first smoked marijuana?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I have never smoked marijuana	133	91%	85	74%	63	55%
9 years old or younger	3	2%	4	3%	10	9%
10 years old	1	1%	3	3%	3	3%
11 years old	4	3%	2	2%	4	3%
12 years old	4	3%	6	5%	4	3%
13 years old	1	1%	6	5%	10	10%
14 years old	0	0%	8	7%	5	4%
15 years old	0	0%	1	1%	2	2%
16 years old	0	0%	0	0%	12	10%
17 years old	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
18 years old or older	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	146	101%	115	100%	115	101%

**63. How old were you when you tried any form of illegal drug for the first time (excluding tobacco and alcohol)?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I have never tried any illegal drug	127	87%	84	73%	53	46%
9 years old or younger	7	5%	5	4%	14	12%
10 years old	0	0%	2	2%	3	3%
11 years old	5	3%	3	3%	5	4%
12 years old	5	3%	6	5%	4	3%
13 years old	2	1%	5	4%	6	5%
14 years old	0	0%	9	8%	6	5%
15 years old	0	0%	1	1%	8	7%
16 years old	0	0%	0	0%	12	10%
17 years old	0	0%	0	0%	3	3%
18 years old or older	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
Total	146	99%	115	100%	115	99%



The above graph only contains data for those who have used each substance. The total numbers of individuals in each category are as follows: cigarettes ( $n=124$ ), alcohol ( $n=170$ ), marijuana ( $n=95$ ), and other drugs ( $n=112$ ). For those who have used cigarettes, alcohol, and other drugs the age of first use is most often age 9 and under. First use of cigarettes peaks again at age 12, alcohol and marijuana at age 13, and other drugs at age 14. Notice a spike in first use of marijuana and other drugs at age 16.

## Substance Use -- Past 30 days

The following 10 survey items all ask about substance use over the 30 days preceding the survey. Each item asks about a different drug: cigarettes, other tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, huffing of aerosols or other gases, heroin, methamphetamines, steroids, and prescription/OTC drugs.

When reviewing these numbers, the reader is encouraged to keep in mind that the 30 days preceding the survey would have included winter break, which may skew typical behavior.

### **\*37. During the past 30 days, if you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?**

(This item was presented to 27 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 41 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 56 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 36.)

Answer	7th grade	% of entire 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9th grade	% of entire 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11th grade	% of entire 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
I did not smoke during the past 30 days.	23	16%	30	26%	23	20%
1 cigarette per day	2	1%	2	2%	6	5%
2 to 5 cigarettes per day	2	1%	4	3%	9	8%
6 to 10 cigarettes per day	0	0%	2	2%	6	5%
11 to 20 cigarettes per day	0	0%	3	3%	6	5%
More than 20 cigarettes per day	0	0%	0	0%	6	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>48%</b>

As grade level increases, frequency of smoking increases.

**43. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco or snuff?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
0 days	141	97%	110	96%	101	88%
1 or 2 days	5	3%	2	2%	0	0%
3 to 5 days	0	0%	2	2%	2	2%
6 to 9 days	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
10 to 19 days	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
20 to 29 days	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
All 30 days	0	0%	1	1%	9	8%
Total	146	100%	115	101%	115	101%

As age increases, use of chewing tobacco increases.

**\*45. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?** (This item was presented to 42 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 53 9<sup>th</sup>-

graders and 75 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 44.)

Answer	7th grade	% of entire 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9th grade	% of entire 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11th grade	% of entire 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
0 days	30	21%	30	26%	27	23%
1 or 2 days	5	3%	9	8%	21	18%
3 to 5 days	1	1%	8	7%	9	8%
6 to 9 days	2	1%	4	3%	8	7%
10 to 19 days	3	2%	2	2%	5	4%
20 to 29 days	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
All 30 days	1	1%	0	0%	4	3%
Total	42	29%	53	46%	75	64%



**\*53. During the past 30 days, how many times have you used marijuana?** (This item was presented to 13 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 30 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 52 11<sup>th</sup> graders based on responses from question 52.)

Answer	7th grade	% of entire 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9th grade	% of entire 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11th grade	% of entire 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
0 times	7	5%	12	10%	18	13%
1 or 2 times	4	3%	5	4%	6	5%
3 to 5 times	1	1%	4	3%	2	2%
6 to 9 times	0	0%	1	1%	5	4%
10 to 19 times	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%
20 to 39 times	0	0%	3	3%	2	2%
40 or more times	1	1%	4	3%	18	16%
Total	13	10%	30	25%	52	43%

In the past 30 days, 16% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders smoked marijuana 40 or more times. Of all the substances targeted in this series of items, marijuana was the most frequently used, as reported by 11<sup>th</sup> graders.

**56. During the past 30 days, how many times have you used any form of cocaine?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
0 times	146	100%	114	99%	101	88%
1 or 2 times	0	0%	0	0%	4	3%
3 to 5 times	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
6 to 9 times	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%
10 to 19 times	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
20 to 39 times	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
40 or more times	0	0%	0	0%	7	6%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

**57. During the past 30 days, how many times have you huffed (sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays) to get high?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
0 times	131	90%	111	97%	104	90%
1 or 2 times	6	4%	4	3%	2	2%
3 to 5 times	4	3%	0	0%	2	2%
6 to 9 times	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
10 to 19 times	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%
20 to 39 times	2	1%	0	0%	1	1%
40 or more times	2	1%	0	0%	3	3%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	101%

After cigarettes, huffing is the most abused substance reported by 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

**58. During the past 30 days, how many times have you used heroin?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
0 times	146	100%	114	99%	107	93%
1 or 2 times	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
3 to 5 times	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
6 to 9 times	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
10 to 19 times	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
20 to 39 times	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
40 or more times	0	0%	1	1%	4	3%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

**59. During the past 30 days, how many times have you used methamphetamine (also called “speed,” or “crystal)?**

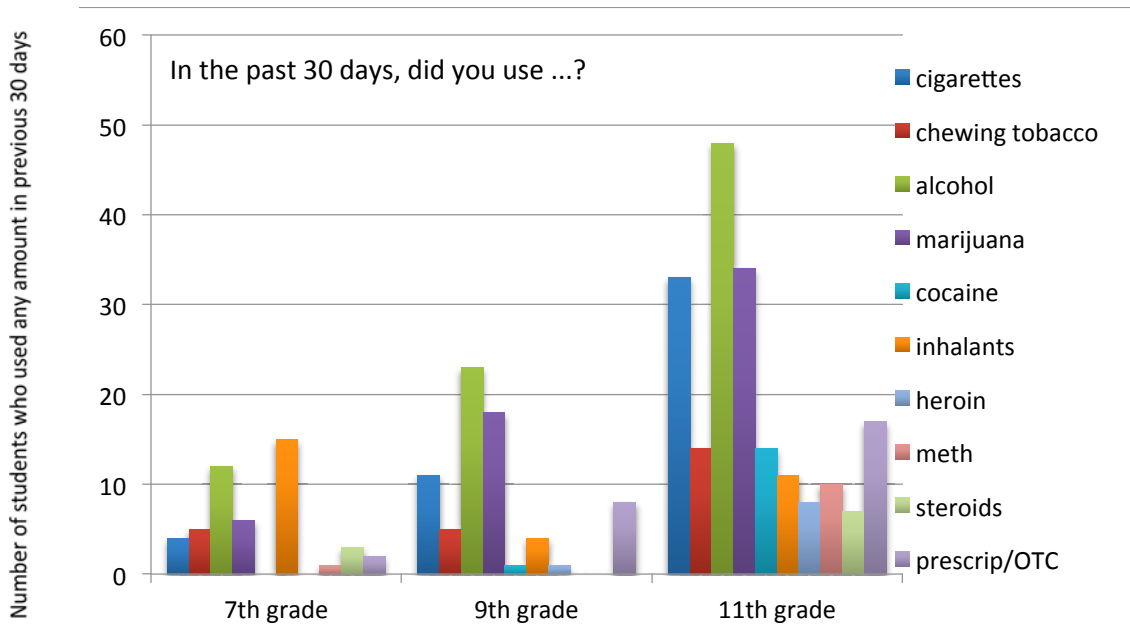
Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
0 times	145	99%	115	100%	105	91%
1 or 2 times	1	1%	0	0%	2	2%
3 to 5 times	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
6 to 9 times	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
10 to 19 times	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
20 to 39 times	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
40 or more times	0	0%	0	0%	5	4%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

**60. During the past 30 days, how many times have you taken steroids without a doctor’s prescription?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
0 times	143	98%	115	100%	108	94%
1 or 2 times	2	1%	0	0%	1	1%
3 to 5 times	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%
6 to 9 times	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
10 to 19 times	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
20 to 39 times	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
40 or more times	0	0%	0	0%	5	4%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

**61. During the past 30 days, how many times have you used prescription or over-the-counter drugs to get high?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
0 times	144	99%	107	93%	98	85%
1 or 2 times	0	0%	7	6%	8	7%
3 to 5 times	0	0%	0	0%	4	3%
6 to 9 times	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%
10 to 19 times	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
20 to 39 times	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%
40 or more times	0	0%	0	0%	3	3%
Total	146	101%	115	100%	115	100%



This chart displays all 30-day use information. Anybody who used in any amount during the 30 days preceding survey administration was counted in this total.

Alcohol use is highest within each grade, and increases noticeably with each grade. Marijuana use and cigarette smoking also appears to increase suddenly across all three grade levels. Note that inhalant use decreases from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> graders, then picks up again.

## Perceived Ease -- Substance Procurement

Of the substances mentioned in the following set of items, students felt that it would be easiest to get cigarettes and hardest to get drugs. As students get older, their responses indicate it becomes easier to obtain tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

### 40. If you wanted to get some cigarettes, how easy do you think it would be for you to get some?

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Very difficult	70	48%	28	24%	10	9%
Somewhat difficult	29	20%	20	17%	18	16%
Somewhat easy	20	14%	34	30%	25	22%
Very easy	27	18%	33	29%	62	54%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	101%

### 49. If you wanted to get some alcohol, how easy do you think it would be for you to get some?

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Very Difficult	63	43%	25	22%	11	10%
Somewhat Difficult	39	27%	29	25%	28	24%
Somewhat Easy	20	14%	25	22%	31	27%
Very Easy	24	16%	36	31%	45	39%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

### 64. If you wanted to get street drugs, how easy do you think it would be for you to get some?

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Very Difficult	78	53%	32	28%	22	19%
Somewhat Difficult	37	25%	27	23%	24	21%
Somewhat Easy	19	13%	27	23%	28	24%
Very Easy	12	8%	29	25%	41	36%
Total	146	99%	115	99%	115	100%

## Perceived Risk of Substance Use

As grade level increases, perceived risk decreases for cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana, although this trend is least pronounced in the question about alcohol. Respondents indicated that they perceive cigarette smoke to be the most harmful substance. High school students responses indicate that they perceive marijuana use as less harmful than either drinking alcohol or smoking cigarettes (as indicated by those who answered there is “no risk”).

### 41. How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
No risk	3	2%	4	3%	8	7%
Slight risk	7	5%	7	6%	13	11%
Moderate risk	27	18%	27	23%	24	21%
Great risk	109	75%	77	67%	70	61%
Total	146	100%	115	99%	115	100%

### 50. How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day?

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
No risk	5	3%	11	10%	12	10%
Slight risk	36	25%	24	21%	24	21%
Moderate risk	57	39%	50	43%	43	37%
Great risk	48	33%	30	26%	36	31%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	99%

Perceptions don’t change significantly across grade levels.

**54. How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they smoke marijuana regularly?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
No risk	12	8%	24	21%	32	28%
Slight risk	15	10%	13	11%	32	28%
Moderate risk	18	12%	28	24%	17	15%
Great risk	101	69%	50	43%	34	30%
Total	146	99%	115	99%	115	101%

**Parental Disapproval**

Overall, intensity of disapproval decreases as age increases (i.e. more 7<sup>th</sup> graders say their parents will think it is “Very Wrong” to engage in the behavior compared to 11<sup>th</sup> graders), whereas older students endorse the choices of “Wrong” and “A little bit wrong” at a higher rate. For all three substances, a relatively low percentage of respondents (usually fewer than 10%) indicated that their parents would regard their children’s substance usage as “Not at all wrong,” although students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade answered this way at a higher rate than the 9<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders did.

**42. How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to smoke cigarettes?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Very wrong	119	82%	87	76%	64	56%
Wrong	18	12%	22	19%	24	21%
A little bit wrong	7	5%	4	3%	18	16%
Not at all wrong	2	1%	2	2%	9	8%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	101%

**51. How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to drink alcohol regularly?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Very wrong	106	73%	70	61%	53	46%
Wrong	23	16%	28	24%	39	34%
A little bit wrong	14	10%	14	12%	14	12%
Not at all wrong	3	2%	3	3%	9	8%
Total	146	101%	115	100%	115	100%

**55. How wrong do your parents feel it would be for you to smoke marijuana?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Very wrong	130	89%	89	77%	69	60%
Wrong	12	8%	15	13%	21	18%
A little bit wrong	1	1%	4	3%	12	10%
Not at all wrong	3	2%	7	6%	13	11%
Total	146	100%	115	99%	115	99%



## Additional Tobacco Items

**38. During the past 30 days, if you got cigarettes, how did you usually get them?** (This item was presented to 27 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 41 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 56 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 36.)

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I did not get cigarettes in the past 30 days	24	89%	24	60%	23	41%
I bought them in a store such as a convenience store or supermarket	0	0%	0	0%	5	9%
I gave someone else money to buy them for me	0	0%	3	7%	16	29%
I got them from my parent	0	0%	1	2%	2	4%
Borrowed them from someone	0	0%	4	10%	5	9%
I stole them	1	4%	2	5%	4	7%
I got them some other way	2	7%	7	17%	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>101%</b>

**\*39. If you bought cigarettes in a store during the past 30 days, were you ever asked to show proof of age?** (This item was presented to 27 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 41 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 56 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 36.)

Answer	7th grade	% of branched sample of 7 <sup>th</sup> graders	9th grade	% of branched sample of 9 <sup>th</sup> graders	11th grade	% of branched sample of 11 <sup>th</sup> graders
Yes	0	0%	1	1%	6	5%
No	2	1%	2	2%	13	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16%</b>

Significantly fewer report having to show proof of age compared to 2010.

## Additional Alcohol Items

### 46. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you possess alcohol on school property?

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
0 days	146	100%	114	99%	106	92%
1 or 2 days	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
3 to 5 days	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
6 to 9 days	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
10 to 19 days	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
20 to 29 days	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
All 30 days	0	0%	1	1%	6	5%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

### \*47. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have 5 or more drinks of alcohol within a couple of hours?

(This item was presented to 42 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 53 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 75 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 44.)

Answer	7th grade	% of entire 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9th grade	% of entire 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11th grade	% of entire 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
1 or 2 days	1	1%	6	5%	10	9%
3 to 5 days	1	1%	8	7%	6	5%
6 to 9 days	1	1%	1	1%	3	3%
10 to 19 days	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
20 to 29 days	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
All 30 days	0	0%	1	1%	4	3%
Total	3	3%	16	14%	25	22%

**\*48. The last time you drank more than a few sips of alcohol, which one answer most closely explains your reason for drinking?** (This item was presented to 42 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 53 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 75 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 44.)

Answer	7th grade	% of branched 7 <sup>th</sup> grade sample	9th grade	% of branched 9 <sup>th</sup> grade sample	11th grade	% of branched 11 <sup>th</sup> grade sample
To have fun	7	17%	23	43%	40	53%
To fit in	1	2%	0	0%	3	4%
Because my friends drink	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
To escape problems	6	14%	8	15%	11	15%
Boredom	1	2%	3	6%	6	8%
Curiosity	10	24%	11	21%	4	5%
Other	17	40%	8	15%	10	13%
Total	42	99%	53	100%	75	99%

**Additional Item about Other Drugs**

**62. During the past 12 months, has anyone offered, sold, or given you an illegal drug on school property?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Yes	5	3%	13	11%	16	14%
No	141	97%	102	89%	99	86%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

There is a pronounced (8%) increase between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors

### 65. Have you talked about sex with your parents or other adults in your family?

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Yes	104	71%	94	82%	91	79%
No	42	29%	21	18%	24	21%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

### 66. How old were you when you engaged in sexual activity for the first time?

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I have never engaged in sexual activity	131	90%	68	59%	41	36%
11 years old or younger	8	5%	4	3%	8	7%
12 years old	5	3%	2	2%	7	6%
13 years old	1	1%	14	12%	13	11%
14 years old	1	1%	21	18%	13	11%
15 years old	0	0%	6	5%	15	13%
16 years old	0	0%	0	0%	16	14%
17 years old or older	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
Total	146	100%	115	99%	115	100%

Staunton YRBS

Answer	Male	%	Female	%
I have never engaged in sexual activity	113	62%	127	65%
11 years old or younger	17	9%	3	2%
12 years old	9	5%	5	3%
13 years old	15	8%	13	7%
14 years old	15	8%	20	10%
15 years old	9	5%	12	6%
16 years old	3	2%	13	7%
17 years old or older	1	1%	1	1%
Total	182	100%	194	101%

Males generally engage in sexual activity earlier than females do.

**\*67. During your life, with how many different people have you had sexual activity?** (This item was presented to 15 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 47 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 74 11<sup>th</sup> graders based on responses from question 66.)

Answer	7th grade	% of entire 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9th grade	% of entire 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11th grade	% of entire 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
1 person	9	6%	20	17%	16	14%
2 people	3	2%	16	14%	14	12%
3 people	0	0%	4	3%	10	9%
4 people	1	1%	2	2%	6	5%
5 people	0	0%	1	1%	6	5%
6 or more people	2	1%	4	3%	22	19%
Total	15	10%	47	40%	74	64%

Over a third of 11<sup>th</sup> graders have had sexual activity with three or more people.

Staunton YRBS

Answer	Male	%	Female	%
1 person	16	23%	29	43%
2 people	15	22%	18	27%
3 people	8	12%	6	9%
4 people	8	12%	1	1%
5 people	3	4%	4	6%
6 or more people	19	28%	9	13%
Total	69	101%	67	99%

**\*68. Have you ever drunk alcohol or used drugs before you engaged in sexual activity?** (This item was presented to 15 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 47 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 74 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 66.)

Answer	7th grade	% of entire 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	9th grade	% of entire 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	11th grade	% of entire 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
Yes	1	1%	12	10%	37	32%
No	14	10%	35	30%	37	32%
Total	15	11%	47	40%	74	64%

For sexually active students, a big jump in alcohol use from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> grade (10% to 32%) is evident. A noticeably higher proportion of 11<sup>th</sup> graders (nearly a third) report alcohol/drug use in combination with sexual activity.

Answer	Male	%	Female	%
Yes	23	33%	27	40%
No	46	67%	40	60%
Total	69	100%	67	100%

Females are slightly more likely to have used drugs/alcohol prior to sexual activity.

**\*69. If you have engaged in sexual activity, how often did you use any form of birth control?** (This item was presented to 15 7<sup>th</sup>-graders, 47 9<sup>th</sup>-graders and 74 11<sup>th</sup>-graders based on responses from question 66.)

Answer	7th grade	% of branched 7 <sup>th</sup> grade sample	9th grade	% of branched 9 <sup>th</sup> grade sample	11th grade	% of branched 11 <sup>th</sup> grade sample
Every time	7	47%	17	36%	29	39%
Most of the time	1	7%	4	9%	16	22%
Sometimes	0	0%	2	4%	10	14%
Never	7	47%	24	51%	19	26%
Total	15	101%	47	100%	74	101%

Use of some form of birth control goes up drastically from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

Answer	Male	%	Female	%
Every time	22	32%	31	46%
Most of the time	10	14%	11	16%
Sometimes	5	7%	7	10%
Never	32	46%	18	27%
Total	69	99%	67	99%

Males are less likely to reliably use birth control.

**70. Where have you received most of your information about sex and sexually transmitted diseases/infections (STDs/STIs)?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I have not received any information about sex and STDs	26	18%	7	6%	10	9%
Friends/ peers	14	10%	14	12%	11	10%
Parents/ other family members	41	28%	32	28%	18	16%
Brother/ sisters	4	3%	0	0%	1	1%
School teachers/ counselors	56	38%	47	41%	59	51%
Doctors or nurses	1	1%	7	6%	9	8%
TV/ radio	0	0%	5	4%	4	3%
Magazines/ newspapers/ books	4	3%	3	3%	3	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>101%</b>

School is the primary source of sexual health information for young people.

**Nutrition**

**71. During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat vegetables?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I did not eat vegetables during the past 7 days	10	7%	6	5%	8	7%
1-3 servings during the past 7 days	28	19%	22	19%	23	20%
4-6 servings during the past 7 days	13	9%	19	17%	19	17%
About 1 serving per day	28	19%	16	14%	23	20%
About 2 servings per day	34	23%	25	22%	22	19%
About 3 servings per day	13	9%	12	10%	13	11%
About 4 or more servings per day	20	14%	15	13%	7	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100%</b>

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Food Guide Pyramid recommends that adolescent girls eat four servings of vegetables per day; the recommended amount for adolescent boys is five servings.



**72. During the past 7 days, how many times did you drink a can, a bottle, or a glass of soda/pop, such as Coke, Pepsi, or Sprite? (Do not include diet soda/diet pop.)**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I did not drink soda/pop during the past 7 days.	28	19%	22	19%	28	24%
1-3 times during the past 7 days	61	42%	40	35%	38	33%
4-6 times during the past 7 days	15	10%	16	14%	12	10%
About 1 time per day	18	12%	8	7%	16	14%
About 2 times per day	10	7%	9	8%	8	7%
About 3 times per day	5	3%	10	9%	5	4%
About 4 or more times per day	9	6%	10	9%	8	7%
Total	146	99%	115	101%	115	99%

Across grade levels, over a quarter of students drink at least one soda per day.

**73. During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat candy, cookies, donuts, pie or cake?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I did not eat candy, cookies, donuts, pie or cake during the past 7 days	31	21%	18	16%	13	11%
1-3 servings during the past 7 days	60	41%	45	39%	45	39%
4-6 servings during the past 7 days	19	13%	12	10%	21	18%
About 1 serving per day	17	12%	19	17%	12	10%
About 2 servings per day	7	5%	13	11%	13	11%
About 3 servings per day	2	1%	1	1%	4	3%
About 4 or more servings per day	10	7%	7	6%	7	6%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	98%

## 74. Have you ever gone to bed hungry because there was not enough food in your home?

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Yes	15	10%	15	13%	14	12%
No	131	90%	100	87%	101	88%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

Results approximately equal across grade levels.

Response	7 <sup>th</sup> grade			9 <sup>th</sup> grade				11 <sup>th</sup> grade			
	2008	2010	2012	2006	2008	2010	2012	2006	2008	2010	2012
Yes	17%	13%	10%	31%	12%	16%	13%	27%	18%	11%	12%
No	81%	87%	90%	68%	77%	84%	87%	72%	68%	89%	88%

The results from 2008 and 2010 are similar; 2006 results (shaded) indicate more hunger.

Note: Percentages from 2006 and 2008 do not total 100% due to missing data. Question not asked to 7<sup>th</sup> graders on 2006 version.

## Physical Activity and Leisure Time

**75. During the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day? (Add up all the time you spent in any kind of physical activity that increased your heart rate and made you breathe hard some of the time.)**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
0 days	8	5%	13	11%	21	18%
1 day	13	9%	4	3%	6	5%
2 days	16	11%	5	4%	14	12%
3 days	13	9%	15	13%	13	11%
4 days	16	11%	15	13%	11	10%
5 days	25	17%	20	17%	13	11%
6 days	12	8%	11	10%	5	4%
7 days	43	29%	32	28%	32	28%
Total	146	99%	115	99%	115	99%

Over 50% of students report being physically active for at least 60 minutes/day a majority of days in a week.

**76. In an average week in school, on how many days did you go to PE (physical education) classes?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
0 days	17	12%	12	10%	86	75%
1 day	2	1%	0	0%	0	0%
2 days	2	1%	0	0%	0	0%
3 days	66	45%	5	4%	4	3%
4 days	7	5%	4	3%	3	3%
5 days	52	36%	94	82%	22	19%
Total	146	100%	115	99%	115	100%

**77. On an average school day, how many hours do you watch TV?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I do not watch TV on an average school day	17	12%	23	20%	16	14%
Less than 1 hour per day	23	16%	17	15%	18	16%
1 hour per day	17	12%	9	8%	15	13%
2 hours per day	40	27%	20	17%	24	21%
3 hours per day	20	17%	18	16%	19	17%
4 hours per day	9	6%	12	10%	7	6%
5 or more hours per day	20	17%	16	14%	16	14%
Total	146	97%	115	100%	115	101%

**78. On an average school day, how many hours do you play video or computer games or use a computer for something that is not schoolwork?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I do not play video or computer games or use a computer on an average school day	25	17%	25	22%	18	16%
Less than 1 hour per day	34	23%	8	7%	16	14%
1 hour per day	28	19%	21	18%	20	17%
2 hours per day	23	16%	20	17%	18	16%
3 hours per day	17	12%	14	12%	17	15%
4 hours per day	4	3%	13	11%	8	7%
5 or more hours per day	15	10%	14	12%	18	16%
Total	146	100%	115	99%	115	101%

**79. On an average school day, how many hours do you spend using a cell phone (talking and text messaging)?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I do not use a cell phone on an average school day	31	21%	23	20%	6	5%
Less than 1 hour	24	16%	12	10%	13	11%
1 hour per day	17	12%	4	3%	12	10%
2 hours per day	8	5%	11	8%	7	6%
3 hours per day	10	7%	10	9%	7	6%
4 hours per day	9	6%	7	6%	7	6%
5 or more hours per day	47	32%	48	42%	63	55%
Total	146	99%	115	98%	115	99%

**81. If you have a job, how many hours do you work in a typical week? (A job can include babysitting, yard work or anything you get paid to do.)**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
I don't have a job	111	76%	90	78%	76	66%
Less than 5 hours per week	11	8%	9	8%	11	10%
Between 5 and 10 hours per week	10	7%	6	5%	8	7%
Between 11 and 15 hours per week	6	4%	5	4%	5	4%
Between 16 and 20 hours per week	5	3%	0	0%	6	5%
More than 20 hours per week	3	2%	5	4%	9	8%
Total	146	100%	115	99%	115	100%

# Health

## 80. How much sleep do you usually get at night?

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Less than 7 hours	22	15%	30	26%	48	42%
7 hours	35	24%	39	34%	29	25%
8 hours	38	26%	30	26%	27	23%
More than 8 hours	51	35%	16	14%	11	10%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, adolescents need 8.5-9.5 hours of sleep per night. Only one-third of 11<sup>th</sup> graders get the recommended amount of sleep per night.

## 82. In the past year, have you ever been sick enough to want to see a doctor but were not able to?

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
Yes	23	16%	14	12%	19	17%
No	123	84%	101	88%	96	83%
Total	146	100%	115	100%	115	100%

## 83. For what reason were you not able to see the doctor?

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
No insurance	4	17%	1	7%	3	16%
No transportation	2	9%	1	7%	6	32%
Couldn't afford	2	9%	2	14%	6	32%
Don't have a regular doctor	1	4%	1	7%	0	0%
I don't know	14	61%	9	64%	4	21%
Total	23	100%	14	99%	19	101%

According to the Children's Defense Fund, in 2010 10.4% of children in our nation were uninsured; in Virginia, 8.4% of children were uninsured.

**84. When was the last time you saw a dentist for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning, or other dental work?**

Answer	7th grade	%	9th grade	%	11th grade	%
During the past 12 months	93	64%	85	74%	79	69%
Between 12 and 24 months ago	10	7%	8	7%	15	13%
More than 24 months ago	9	6%	8	7%	5	4%
Never	1	1%	0	0%	4	3%
Not sure/don't remember	33	23%	14	12%	12	10%
Total	146	101%	115	100%	115	99%