

2007

Charlotte-Mecklenburg

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Middle School Students



SUMMARY REPORT

A collaborative report supported by:
Charlotte Mecklenburg School System

and

Mecklenburg County Health Department
Epidemiology Program

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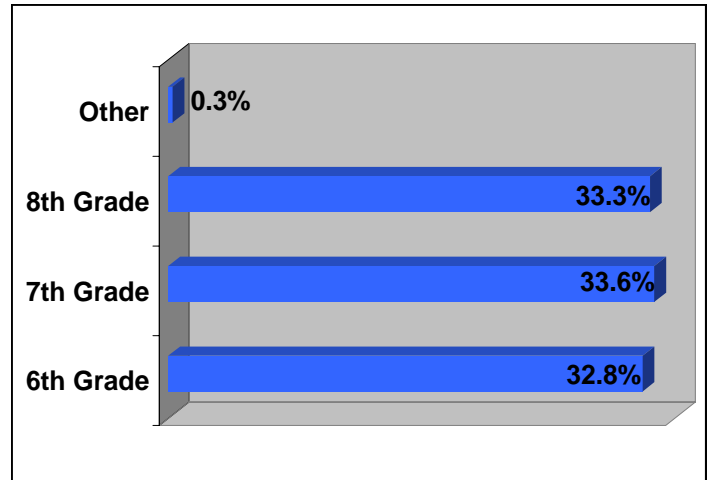
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Middle School Students

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), produced by the Centers for Disease Control and conducted every two years, assesses health risk behaviors that contribute to some of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in youth.

In 2007, the YRBS was administered for the first time in 23 public middle schools in Charlotte-Mecklenburg County. Among the 1,632 middle school students participating:

- 49.3% were female
- 50.7% were male
- 45.0% were Black, non Hispanic
- 34.7% were White, non Hispanic
- 13.3% were Hispanic/ Latino
- 7.1% were of Other Races

2007 YRBS: Grade Level Distribution
CMS Middle School Participants



Quick Facts about the Report

The survey content of the Middle and High School YRBS are similar with the exception that questions used in the middle school survey are worded differently to reflect appropriate reading levels of students. Participants in the survey completed a self-administered, anonymous questionnaire. Local parental permission procedures were followed before survey administration.

Organization of the Data

Survey data is divided into 9 categories:

- Personal Safety
- Bullying and Harassment
- Psychological Health
- Substance Abuse
- Sexual Behavior
- Weight Management and Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Selected Health Issues
- Assets for Healthy Youth Development

Highlights from the Data

Positive Results

- Nearly 68% of middle school students reported having at least one teacher or other adult in their school that they could talk to if they had a problem
- The majority of students reported attended physical education (PE) classes on one or more days in an average week when they are in school.
- 74% of students have been taught about abstaining from sexual activity.

Areas for Improvement

- 62% of students reported being in a physical fight in the past year.
- 53% of middle school students reported bullying/harassment as a problem in their school.
- Among students who rode a bicycle, 69% reported never or rarely wearing a helmet.



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The first local YRBS was administered in 2005 but only included Charlotte-Mecklenburg high school students. In the spring of 2007 the YRBS was administered to both middle and high school students. The results of the middle school survey show some encouraging findings, but also point to behavior practices among middle school youth that could result in serious health consequences.

Key findings from the 2007 local middle school survey are highlighted below. State and national data for the 2007 middle school survey are not currently available preventing a state-national comparison of local data.

Personal Safety

	%
Among students who rode a bicycle, never or rarely wore a bicycle helmet	69%
Never or rarely wore a seat belt as a passenger in the past 30 days	11%
Rode with a driver in a car or other vehicle who had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days	27%
Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, club in the past 30 days	30%
Was in a physical fight in the past year	62%
Had property, such as their clothing, or books stolen or deliberately damaged on school property one or more times in the past 12 months	32%

Bullying and Harassment

	%
Have been harassed or bullied on school property one or more times during the past 12 months	26%
Have been the victim of teasing or name calling because of their weight, size, or physical appearance during the past 30 days	35%
Agree or strongly agree that harassment and bullying by other students is a problem at their school	53%

Psychological Health

	%
Felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities in the past year	21%
Seriously thought about killing themselves	18%
Made a plan about how they would kill themselves	13%



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Substance Abuse

	%
Smoked cigarettes on one or more days in the past 30 days	7%
Ever had a drink of alcohol, other than a few sips	29%
Ever used marijuana	11%
Agree or strongly agree that illegal drugs are a problem at their school	33%

Sexual Behavior

	%
Have ever been taught about abstaining from sexual activity	74%
Parents or other adults in the students' family ever talked with the students about what they expect the students to do or not to do when it comes to sex	65%
Have ever been taught about chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, human papillomavirus, or genital warts	47%
Had ever been taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection	79%

Weight Management/Nutrition

	%
Described themselves as slightly or very overweight	21%
Are trying to lose weight	40%
Bought food and/or drinks from vending machines at school one or more times during the past seven days	35%

Physical Activity

	%
Physically active for a total of 60 minutes or more per day on five or more of the past seven days	57%
Attended physical education (PE) classes on one or more days in an average week when they are in school	68%
Played on one or more sports teams during the past 12 months	60%
Watched three or more hours per day of TV on an average school day	44%



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Selected Health Issues

	%
Ever been told by a doctor or nurse that they had asthma	17%
Last saw a doctor or nurse during the past 12 months for a check-up or physical exam when they were not sick or injured	56%
Last saw a dentist during the past 12 months for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning or other dental work	64%
Get eight or more hours of sleep on an average school night	63%

Assets for Healthy Youth Developments

	%
Parents have rules about what the students do on the Internet	65%
Parents have rules about what the students watch on TV	47%
Parents or other adults in their family never or rarely talk with them about what they are doing in school	14%
Agree or strongly agree that their parents or other adults in the students' family have clear rules and standards for the students' behavior	84%
Agree or strongly agree that their school has clear rules and consequences for behavior	78%
There was at least one teacher or other adult in this school that they could talk to if they had a problem	68%
Agree or strongly agree that in their community they feel like they matter to people	51%
Received grades of mostly D's and F's in school during the past 12 months	7%