

Jamaica

2010 Fact Sheet



The **2010 Jamaica GSHS** measured alcohol use; dietary behaviors; drug use; mental health; protective factors; tobacco use; and violence and unintentional injury.

The Jamaica GSHS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7-12. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce data representative of all students in grades 7-12 in Jamaica. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 72%, and the overall response rate was 72%. A total of 1623 students participated in the Jamaica GSHS. Students self-reported their responses to each question on a computer scannable answer sheet. For comparison purposes, only students aged 13-15 years are included in the analyses for this fact sheet.

Results for students aged 13-15 years	Total	Boys	Girls
Alcohol Use			
Percentage of students who drank at least one drink containing alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days	52.5 (48.2-56.9)	57.8 (53.3-62.3)	47.1 (41.0-53.2)
Among students who ever had a drink of alcohol (other than a few sips), the percentage who had their first drink of alcohol before age 14 years	80.2 (74.4-85.0)	84.6 (81.7-87.1)	74.3 (63.4-82.9)
Percentage of students who drank so much alcohol that they were really drunk one or more times during their life	35.3 (28.4-42.8)	43.5 (35.9-51.5)	27.0 (20.1-35.4)
Dietary Behaviours			
Percentage of students who were underweight (< -2SD from median for BMI for age and sex)	2.1 (1.3-3.6)	1.8 (0.7-4.8)	2.4 (1.0-5.8)
Percentage of students who were overweight (> +1SD from median for BMI for age and sex)	21.7 (18.2-25.6)	18.1 (13.4-24.0)	25.2 (21.9-28.8)
Percentage of students who were obese (> +2SD from median for BMI for age and sex)	6.0 (4.4-8.1)	5.3 (3.2-8.8)	6.7 (4.9-9.0)
Percentage of students who usually drank carbonated soft drinks one or more times per day during the past 30 days	72.5 (67.8-76.6)	74.5 (70.0-78.6)	70.6 (61.9-78.1)
Drug Use			
Among students who ever used drugs, the percentage who first used drugs before age 14 years	79.9 (74.0-84.7)	77.0 (69.9-82.8)	85.7 (73.1-92.9)
Mental Health			
Percentage of students who ever seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	23.0 (20.1-26.2)	19.8 (12.7-29.6)	25.7 (19.5-33.1)
Percentage of students who actually attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months	22.0 (16.4-28.9)	21.1 (14.7-29.2)	23.1 (15.9-32.3)
Percentage of students who had no close friends	8.8 (6.9-11.3)	9.7 (6.1-15.2)	8.0 (4.6-13.5)
Protective Factors			
Percentage of students who missed classes or school without permission on one or more of the past 30 days	38.3 (30.5-46.7)	41.3 (33.0-50.1)	34.9 (27.2-43.5)
Percentage of students whose parents or guardians understood their problems and worries most of the time or always during the past 30 days	31.9 (27.2-37.1)	31.7 (26.4-37.6)	32.2 (21.6-45.1)
Percentage of students whose parents or guardians really knew what they were doing with their free time most of the time or always during the past 30 days	40.4 (36.3-44.6)	37.6 (33.4-42.0)	43.6 (35.8-51.8)

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Results for students aged 13-15 years	Total	Boys	Girls
Tobacco Use			
Percentage of students who smoked cigarettes on one or more days during the past 30 days	23.9 (18.5-30.3)	31.0 (20.9-43.3)	16.9 (12.0-23.3)
Among students who ever smoked cigarettes, the percentage who first tried a cigarette before age 14 years	86.3 (83.6-88.7)	87.0 (79.8-91.9)	85.3 (78.8-90.0)
Percentage of students who reported people smoked in their presence on one or more days during the past seven days	69.5 (63.2-75.1)	69.9 (64.5-74.8)	69.4 (59.7-77.7)
Violence and Unintentional Injury			
Percentage of students who were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months	50.1 (42.9-57.2)	60.5 (52.9-67.5)	39.2 (31.8-47.1)
Percentage of students who were seriously injured one or more times during the past 12 months	59.6 (52.1-66.8)	63.7 (55.5-71.1)	55.4 (46.7-63.8)
Percentage of students who were bullied on one or more days during the past 30 days	40.2 (34.5-46.1)	40.3 (33.5-47.6)	39.1 (32.0-46.6)

For additional information, please contact:

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