

Global School-based Student Health Survey

Sri Lanka 2016 Fact Sheet



The 2016 Sri Lanka GSHS was a school-based survey of students in grades 8-13, which are typically attended by students aged 13-17. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce data representative of all students in grades 8-13 in Sri Lanka. 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 Sri Lanka GSHS measured alcohol use; dietary behaviors; drug use; hygiene; mental health; physical activity; protective factors; tobacco use; and violence and unintentional injury. Students self-reported their responses to each question on a computer scanable answer sheet.

The school response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 89%, and the overall response rate was 89%. A total of 3,262 students participated in the Sri Lanka GSHS. Prevalence estimates (percentages) and 95% confidence intervals are presented below.

	Students Aged 13-15 Years			Students Aged 16-17 Years			Students Aged 13-17 Years		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Alcohol Use									
Percentage of students who currently drank alcohol (at least one drink of alcohol on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	2.0 (1.4-2.9)	3.2 (1.9-5.2)	0.8 (0.4-1.6)	5.8 (4.2-7.9)	10.4 (7.4-14.6)	1.5 (0.6-3.4)	3.2 (2.5-4.1)	5.5 (3.9-7.6)	1.0 (0.6-1.7)
Percentage of students who drank alcohol before age 14 years for the first time, among students who ever had a drink of alcohol other than a few sips	64.7 (48.1-78.3)	*	*	20.2 (11.9-32.2)	*	*	42.5 (31.7-54.2)	39.1 (27.5-52.1)	*
Dietary Behaviors									
Percentage of students who usually drank carbonated soft drinks one or more times per day during the 30 days before the survey	27.0 (23.5-30.9)	28.8 (23.9-34.2)	25.1 (21.2-29.6)	24.6 (20.4-29.3)	27.6 (22.2-33.8)	21.9 (18.1-26.3)	26.2 (23.4-29.3)	28.4 (24.4-32.8)	24.1 (20.9-27.5)

*Indicates data were not available.

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	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Drug Use									
Percentage of students who ever used marijuana one or more times during their life	2.3 (1.3-3.9)	3.7 (2.0-6.8)	0.6 (0.3-1.5)	3.8 (1.8-8.1)	6.6 (2.8-14.7)	1.3 (0.4-3.5)	2.8 (1.6-4.6)	4.6 (2.6-8.0)	0.8 (0.4-1.5)
Percentage of students who used drugs before age 14 years for the first time, among students who ever used drugs	*	*	*	*	*	*	63.6 (51.6-74.0)	60.4 (48.1-71.6)	*
Hygiene									
Percentage of students who usually cleaned or brushed their teeth one or more times per day during the 30 days before the survey	96.8 (96.0-97.4)	96.5 (95.3-97.4)	97.2 (96.2-98.0)	97.4 (95.4-98.6)	96.3 (93.1-98.1)	98.4 (95.9-99.4)	97.0 (96.3-97.5)	96.5 (95.4-97.3)	97.6 (96.6-98.3)
Percentage of students who never or rarely washed their hands after using the toilet or latrine during the 30 days before the survey	2.9 (2.1-4.0)	4.1 (2.9-5.7)	1.7 (0.9-2.9)	2.3 (1.6-3.3)	2.9 (1.7-5.0)	1.5 (0.8-2.5)	2.7 (2.1-3.5)	3.7 (2.7-5.0)	1.6 (1.0-2.5)
Mental Health									
Percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide during the 12 months before the survey	9.5 (7.7-11.6)	10.1 (7.3-13.9)	8.5 (6.9-10.6)	9.4 (7.1-12.2)	8.4 (6.2-11.4)	10.3 (7.0-14.8)	9.4 (7.9-11.2)	9.6 (7.5-12.2)	9.1 (7.4-11.1)
Percentage of students who attempted suicide one or more times during the 12 months before the survey	6.9 (5.8-8.2)	6.8 (5.3-8.8)	6.9 (5.2-9.0)	6.5 (4.8-8.6)	6.4 (4.4-9.1)	6.4 (4.6-8.8)	6.8 (5.8-7.9)	6.7 (5.3-8.4)	6.7 (5.3-8.4)

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	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Mental Health									
Percentage of students who did not have any close friends	5.4 (4.1-7.0)	5.1 (3.2-7.9)	5.5 (4.2-7.2)	6.1 (4.4-8.5)	4.7 (2.7-8.0)	7.3 (5.2-10.1)	5.6 (4.5-7.0)	5.0 (3.5-7.0)	6.1 (5.1-7.3)
Physical Activity									
Percentage of students were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on all 7 days during the 7 days before the survey	17.2 (14.1-20.9)	21.3 (17.4-25.8)	13.2 (10.1-17.0)	11.6 (9.1-14.7)	14.6 (11.5-18.4)	8.8 (6.0-12.5)	15.5 (12.9-18.4)	19.3 (16.2-22.8)	11.7 (9.2-14.9)
Percentage of students who attended physical education classes on three or more days each week during this school year	43.4 (37.9-49.0)	43.9 (39.0-49.0)	42.8 (35.3-50.6)	37.5 (30.2-45.4)	38.3 (29.5-48.0)	36.7 (28.8-45.4)	41.5 (36.1-47.1)	42.2 (36.9-47.7)	40.8 (34.2-47.7)
Percentage of students who spent three or more hours per day sitting and watching television, playing computer games, or talking with friends, when not in school or doing homework during a typical or usual day	35.0 (30.2-40.1)	35.9 (30.3-42.0)	34.3 (28.4-40.7)	42.1 (35.8-48.7)	45.4 (38.5-52.4)	39.4 (30.4-49.2)	37.3 (32.9-41.9)	38.8 (34.2-43.6)	36.0 (30.0-42.5)
Protective Factors									
Percentage of students who missed classes or school without permission on one or more days during the 30 days before the survey	31.2 (29.3-33.2)	33.3 (30.2-36.5)	29.3 (26.5-32.2)	37.8 (33.9-41.8)	37.9 (33.3-42.6)	37.8 (31.5-44.6)	33.3 (31.4-35.2)	34.7 (32.3-37.2)	32.0 (29.2-35.0)

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	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Protective Factors									
Percentage of students who reported that their parents or guardians most of the time or always understood their problems and worries during the 30 days before the survey	63.4 (60.3-66.5)	58.4 (53.8-62.8)	68.6 (65.0-72.0)	60.7 (56.1-65.0)	54.8 (48.8-60.7)	65.9 (60.0-71.3)	62.6 (59.8-65.2)	57.3 (53.8-60.7)	67.7 (65.2-70.1)
Percentage of students who reported that their parents or guardians most of the time or always really knew what they were doing with their free time during the 30 days before the survey	70.1 (66.4-73.6)	65.0 (59.9-69.8)	75.3 (71.0-79.1)	67.3 (62.2-72.0)	59.8 (53.5-65.8)	73.9 (68.4-78.7)	69.2 (65.7-72.5)	63.4 (59.3-67.4)	74.8 (71.3-78.1)
Tobacco Use									
Percentage of students who currently used any tobacco products (used any tobacco products on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	8.1 (6.2-10.5)	13.0 (9.2-18.2)	3.1 (2.2-4.2)	11.7 (8.5-15.9)	21.3 (15.4-28.7)	3.0 (1.6-5.4)	9.2 (7.3-11.5)	15.6 (12.0-19.9)	3.0 (2.3-4.0)
Percentage of students who currently smoked cigarettes (smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	2.5 (1.6-3.9)	4.2 (2.4-7.0)	0.7 (0.3-1.7)	5.5 (3.7-8.0)	10.9 (7.4-15.8)	0.7 (0.3-1.7)	3.5 (2.4-4.9)	6.2 (4.2-9.2)	0.7 (0.4-1.3)
Percentage of students who reported that people smoked in their presence on one or more days during the 7 days before the survey	40.0 (36.7-43.5)	44.7 (40.6-48.9)	35.3 (31.6-39.1)	47.1 (41.4-52.9)	56.5 (48.7-63.9)	38.9 (32.5-45.8)	42.3 (38.4-46.2)	48.3 (43.8-52.9)	36.5 (32.4-40.7)
Violence and Unintentional Injury									
Percentage of students who were in a physical fight one or more times during the 12 months before the survey	46.3 (40.9-51.8)	56.7 (51.5-61.7)	36.1 (29.9-42.9)	38.3 (32.0-45.0)	51.1 (43.4-58.7)	27.0 (19.4-36.2)	43.8 (38.7-49.0)	54.9 (50.0-59.8)	33.2 (27.1-39.8)

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	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Violence and Unintentional Injury									
Percentage of students who were seriously injured one or more times during the 12 months before the survey	35.9 (30.3-41.9)	45.7 (38.6-52.9)	26.5 (21.6-32.1)	34.8 (29.1-40.9)	44.6 (37.6-51.8)	26.1 (19.2-34.3)	35.6 (30.6-40.9)	45.3 (39.7-51.1)	26.4 (21.5-31.9)
Percentage of students who were bullied on one or more days during the 30 days before the survey	39.4 (34.5-44.7)	50.2 (44.2-56.3)	28.8 (23.7-34.5)	36.4 (28.5-45.1)	45.0 (35.8-54.5)	28.6 (20.5-38.4)	38.5 (33.0-44.2)	48.6 (43.0-54.3)	28.7 (23.2-35.0)

For additional information, please contact:
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For general information about the GSHS, please visit:
<http://www.who.int/chp/gshs/en/>
or
<http://www.cdc.gov/gshs>