

Global School-based Student Health Survey



Bahamas

2013 Fact Sheet

The 2013 Bahamas GSHS measured alcohol use; dietary behaviors; drug use; hygiene; mental health; physical activity; protective factors; sexual behaviors; tobacco use; and violence and unintentional injury.

The Bahamas GSHS was a school-based survey of students in grades 8, 9, and 10. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce data representative of all students in grades 8, 9, and 10 in Bahamas. 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 90%, the student response rate was 87%, and the overall response rate was 78%. A total of 1357 students participated in the Bahamas 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	28.6 (25.1-32.4)	29.7 (26.4-33.3)	27.2 (22.4-32.6)
Percentage of students who drank so much alcohol that they were really drunk one or more times during their life	21.1 (17.3-25.3)	24.5 (18.9-31.1)	17.3 (14.9-20.1)
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	85.9 (81.5-89.3)	84.6 (79.5-88.5)	87.5 (81.5-91.8)
Dietary Behaviors			
Percentage of students who were underweight (<-2SD from median for BMI by age and sex)	3.2 (1.7-6.0)	3.8 (2.3-6.4)	2.6 (0.6-10.1)
Percentage of students who were overweight (>+1SD from median for BMI by age and sex)	44.7 (39.5-50.0)	42.0 (35.6-48.7)	47.1 (41.8-52.5)
Percentage of students who were obese (>+2SD from median for BMI by age and sex)	21.0 (17.3-25.3)	18.2 (14.7-22.3)	23.6 (19.0-29.0)
Percentage of students who usually drank carbonated soft drinks one or more times per day during the past 30 days	69.0 (63.2-74.3)	67.2 (59.2-74.3)	70.6 (65.0-75.6)

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2013 Fact Sheet

Results for students aged 13-15 years	Total	Boys	Girls
Drug Use			
Percentage of students who used marijuana one or more times during their life	10.5 (8.1-13.4)	13.4 (10.3-17.4)	7.6 (5.2-10.9)
Among students who ever used drugs, the percentage who first used drugs before age 14 years	83.8 (73.3-90.7)	*	*
Hygiene			
Percentage of students who usually cleaned or brushed their teeth less than one time per day during the past 30 days	5.9 (4.3-7.9)	7.9 (5.7-10.9)	3.9 (2.5-6.1)
Percentage of students who never or rarely washed their hands after using the toilet or latrine during the past 30 days	4.8 (3.5-6.6)	4.7 (2.9-7.4)	5.0 (3.7-6.8)
Mental Health			
Percentage of students who ever seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	19.3 (16.5-22.6)	14.6 (12.0-17.7)	23.6 (19.3-28.6)
Percentage of students who actually attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months	13.6 (11.1-16.7)	12.1 (8.5-16.8)	14.9 (12.0-18.4)
Percentage of students who had no close friends	9.8 (7.8-12.2)	10.0 (7.3-13.7)	9.3 (6.5-13.1)
Physical Activity			
Percentage of students who were physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day on all seven days during the past seven days	15.9 (12.4-20.2)	19.4 (14.0-26.3)	12.5 (9.9-15.7)
Percentage of students who went to physical education (PE) class on three or more days each week during this school year	20.5 (17.3-24.2)	24.4 (19.0-30.7)	16.9 (12.7-22.3)
Percentage of students who spent three or more hours per day during a typical or usual day doing sitting activities	55.5 (51.6-59.4)	50.4 (45.8-54.9)	60.3 (55.5-64.9)

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2013 Fact Sheet

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Protective Factors

Percentage of students who missed classes or school without permission on one or more of the past 30 days

14.4 (11.2-18.3)

20.5 (15.5-26.5)

8.8 (6.3-12.1)

Percentage of students whose parents or guardians understood their problems and worries most of the time or always during the past 30 days

35.0 (32.7-37.4)

34.4 (29.7-39.5)

35.6 (30.6-40.9)

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

45.5 (41.7-49.4)

43.1 (36.9-49.4)

47.6 (43.3-52.0)

Sexual Behaviors

Percentage of students who ever had sexual intercourse

27.9 (23.0-33.4)

39.2 (31.6-47.2)

17.8 (14.3-22.0)

Among students who ever had sexual intercourse, the percentage who had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 14 years

82.0 (76.9-86.2)

84.8 (78.7-89.3)

*

Among students who ever had sexual intercourse, the percentage who used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse

59.3 (50.7-67.3)

56.0 (44.2-67.1)

*

Tobacco Use

Percentage of students who smoked cigarettes on one or more days during the past 30 days

5.2 (3.6-7.4)

7.7 (5.2-11.1)

2.8 (1.3-5.6)

Percentage of students who used any tobacco on one or more days during the past 30 days

9.8 (7.2-13.1)

12.3 (8.8-16.8)

7.4 (4.6-11.6)

Percentage of students who reported people smoked in their presence on one or more days during the past seven days

47.5 (42.9-52.2)

50.8 (45.5-56.1)

44.5 (40.0-49.0)

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Violence and Unintentional Injury			
Percentage of students who were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months	40.0 (34.2-46.0)	44.3 (37.8-51.0)	35.9 (29.8-42.6)
Percentage of students who were seriously injured one or more times during the past 12 months	44.8 (40.3-49.4)	50.6 (44.8-56.4)	39.5 (35.1-44.0)
Percentage of students who were bullied on one or more days during the past 30 days	23.6 (20.1-27.3)	24.7 (19.6-30.8)	22.0 (17.8-26.8)

*Indicates data were not available.

For additional information, please contact:

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