

**Global School-based Student Health Survey
Jamaica (St Catherine)
2023 Fact Sheet**



The 2023 Jamaica (St Catherine) GSHS was a school-based survey of students in Grade 7 - Grade 12 (typically attended by students aged 13 – 17 years). A census was used to produce data representative of all students in Grade 7 - Grade 12 in Jamaica (St Catherine).

The Jamaica (St Catherine) GSHS measured Alcohol Use; Dietary Behaviours; Drug Use; Mental Health; Physical Activity; Protective Factors; Tobacco Use; & Violence and Unintentional Injury. Students self-reported their responses to each question on a computer scannable answer sheet.

The school response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 70.2%, and the overall response rate was 70.2%. A total of 3041 students participated in the Jamaica (St Catherine) GSHS. Weighted prevalence estimates (percentages) and 95% confidence intervals are presented below.

Results for Students Aged 13-17 Years	Total	Boys	Girls
Alcohol Use			
Percentage of students who currently drank alcohol (at least one drink containing alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	43.3 (40.4 - 46.2)	42.3 (38.4 - 46.2)	44.8 (41.4 - 48.2)
Percentage of students who drank so much alcohol that they were really drunk (one or more times during their life)	26.3 (23.6 - 29.2)	25.2 (21.5 - 29.3)	27.4 (24.4 - 30.6)
Dietary Behaviours			
Percentage of students who were underweight (<-2SD from median for BMI by age and sex)	3.5 (2.7 - 4.4)	4.2 (2.9 - 5.8)	2.7 (2.0 - 3.7)
Percentage of students who were overweight (>+1SD from median for BMI by age and sex)	30.0 (28.0 - 32.1)	26.5 (23.9 - 29.3)	33.7 (30.9 - 36.6)
Percentage of students who were obese (>+2SD from median for BMI by age and sex)	13.9 (12.5 - 15.4)	12.2 (10.4 - 14.2)	15.7 (13.4 - 18.4)
Percentage of students who drank any sugar-sweetened drink one or more times per day (during the 7 days before the survey)	55.1 (52.8 - 57.4)	55.2 (51.9 - 58.4)	54.8 (51.6 - 58.0)
Drug Use			
Percentage of students who used cannabis (one or more times during their life)	17.6 (15.2 - 20.3)	16.2 (13.2 - 19.7)	19.1 (16.3 - 22.3)
Percentage of students who used amphetamines or methamphetamines for non-medical purposes (one or more times during their life)	5.3 (4.1 - 6.8)	5.5 (4.0 - 7.6)	5.2 (3.7 - 7.2)
Mental Health			
Percentage of students who have no close friends	9.7 (8.3 - 11.3)	10.6 (8.7 - 12.9)	8.7 (6.9 - 10.9)
Percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide (during the 12 months before the survey)	30.1 (28.0 - 32.3)	18.7 (16.2 - 21.5)	42.1 (38.9 - 45.3)
Percentage of students who attempted suicide (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	24.3 (22.9 - 25.9)	17.8 (15.8 - 20.0)	30.9 (28.3 - 33.7)
Physical Activity			
Percentage of students who were not physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day (during the 7 days before the survey)	78.4 (76.6 - 80.1)	75.7 (72.8 - 78.4)	81.4 (79.2 - 83.3)
Percentage of students who did not go to physical education class (each week during this school year)	47.3 (40.5 - 54.2)	45.3 (38.7 - 52.0)	49.3 (41.1 - 57.6)
Percentage of students who spent three or more hours per day sitting or lying down (when they are not in school or doing homework or sleeping at night during a typical or usual day)	68.4 (65.6 - 71.0)	63.7 (59.6 - 67.7)	73.7 (70.4 - 76.7)
Percentage of students who got less than eight hours of sleep on an average school night	73.0 (70.6 - 75.3)	74.2 (71.0 - 77.2)	71.4 (68.5 - 74.1)

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Protective Factors			
Percentage of students who missed classes or school without permission (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	31.4 (28.9 - 34.1)	32.8 (29.6 - 36.2)	30.1 (27.0 - 33.5)
Percentage of students who reported that their parents or guardians never or rarely understood their problems and worries (during the 30 days before the survey)	57.8 (55.4 - 60.2)	52.9 (49.4 - 56.3)	63.5 (60.6 - 66.2)
Percentage of students who reported that their parents or guardians never or rarely really knew what they were doing with their free time (during the 30 days before the survey)	40.2 (37.9 - 42.4)	40.0 (36.8 - 43.2)	40.4 (37.3 - 43.7)
Tobacco Use			
Percentage of students who currently smoked cigarettes (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	16.0 (14.0 - 18.1)	13.8 (11.4 - 16.6)	18.3 (15.7 - 21.3)
Percentage of students who currently used a tobacco product (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	21.5 (19.2 - 24.1)	20.0 (17.2 - 23.1)	23.1 (20.0 - 26.6)
Percentage of students who currently used electronic cigarettes (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	17.6 (15.9 - 19.5)	14.7 (12.4 - 17.3)	20.8 (18.2 - 23.7)
Violence and Unintentional Injury			
Percentage of students who were seriously injured (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	52.0 (49.4 - 54.7)	54.9 (51.4 - 58.4)	48.9 (45.0 - 52.8)
Percentage of students who were in a physical fight (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	30.0 (27.3 - 32.8)	34.3 (30.9 - 37.8)	25.1 (21.8 - 28.7)
Percentage of students who were bullied on school property (during the 12 months before the survey)	26.8 (24.5 - 29.2)	20.9 (18.1 - 24.1)	33.3 (29.9 - 36.8)
Percentage of students who were cyber bullied (during the 12 months before the survey)	14.1 (12.8 - 15.6)	11.8 (9.7 - 14.3)	16.6 (14.7 - 18.7)

<p>For additional information, please contact: Uki Atkinson Research Analyst National Council on Drug Abuse, Kingston, Jamaica uatkinson@ncda.org.jm</p>	<p>For general information about the GSHS, please visit: https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/surveillance/systems-tools/global-school-based-student-health-survey</p>
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