

**REPORT ON**

**THE 2006 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY**

**FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, AND 12**

**FOR THE**

**ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**AND THE**

**ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOLS**

PREPARED BY:

JAMES E. BYRNE, JR. MPA  
NORTHEAST HEALTH RESOURCES  
P.O. BOX 1421  
HAVERHILL, MA 01831

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## **BACKGROUND AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In 1997, Ms. Leslie Luppold, the Senior Vice-President of Operations for Emerson Hospital, reached out to several school districts from the hospital's service area to attempt to determine areas of common interest and concern. A number of discussions ensued and through this process, Emerson Hospital and the Health Education Coordinators from the four school districts which responded, decided to collaborate on the development and implementation of the first joint Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Project in 1998.

Using an instrument based on the YRBS from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, students from grades 6, 8, and 11 were surveyed and the responses to those surveys were tabulated and analyzed. Much information of value to Emerson Hospital, the four school districts (the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools, the Concord and Concord-Carlisle Regional Schools, the Littleton Public Schools, and the Westford Public Schools), as well as their respective communities, important to program planning and curriculum development, was gathered and shared broadly.

This effort was undertaken for a second time (including seven school districts) in the year 2000. Because of the success of the first two projects, it was decided to undertake this effort in 2002 and every other year thereafter in the hopes of developing up-to-date, reliable data on youth risk behavior. Also, beginning with the survey of 2000, the scope was expanded to include all students from grades 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

In May of 2005, with the support and encouragement of administration from Emerson Hospital and each school district, a committee comprised of a representative from Emerson Hospital and Health Education Coordinators from seven area school districts, met and worked for several months to update and refine the YRBS and the process for its implementation and analysis.

The members of this committee included: Ms. Jennifer Hart from Emerson Hospital; Dr. Carolyn Imperato from the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools; Mr. Mac Reid from the Boxborough Public Schools; Ms. Kathy Bowen from the Concord and Concord-Carlisle Regional Schools; Dr. Judy Robinson from the Groton-Dunstable Regional Schools; Ms. Patricia Trahman from the Littleton Public Schools; Ms. Lisa MacLean from the Maynard Public Schools; Mr. John Lyons from the Westford Public Schools; and Mr. James Byrne from Northeast Health Resources. It is because of their continuing commitment and collaboration that this project and report are a reality.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Through the support and assistance of Emerson Hospital, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey was implemented with students in grades 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 in seven school districts including the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools, during March of 2006. These surveys were primarily based on those developed specifically for middle school and high school students at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. Students responded to questions which fall under general categories of risk behaviors including: safety, violence, suicide, tobacco use, alcohol use, drug use, gambling, HIV/AIDS education, sexual behavior, dietary behavior, and physical activity. Emerson Hospital and the seven school districts contracted with Northeast Health Resources (NHR) to assist in the design of the instrument and to carry out the tabulation and an analysis of the data gathered from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Every other year, the Massachusetts Department of Education carries out a Youth Risk Behavior Survey for high school students from a cross-section of school systems in the state. The most recent of these surveys was carried out during the Spring of 2005 and was administered to students from 51 randomly selected public school systems. A comparison with certain of the data from the results of that survey will also be provided. No such survey for middle school students is carried out on a state-wide basis.

The data gathered from the surveys in each of the school districts, was tabulated individually and then combined to form an aggregate database. The seven school systems included in this aggregate are the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools, the Boxborough Public Schools (grade 6 only), the Concord and Concord-Carlisle Regional Schools, the Groton-Dunstable Regional Schools, the Littleton Public Schools, the Maynard Public Schools, and the Westford Public Schools. As part of the following analysis, a comparison with certain of the data from the results of that aggregate will also be provided.

## **SURVEY PROCESS**

In the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools it was agreed that the Youth Risk Behavior Survey would be distributed to all students in grades 6, 8, and 9 through 12 during March of 2006. Parents were informed in advance of the survey and five students were exempted at parental request. In all six grades the survey was administered to all students in attendance in each school on March 14<sup>th</sup>. In grade 8 the survey was administered to all students simultaneously. In grade 6 and at the high school, the survey was administered over the course of the school day. In each school the survey was administered by professional staff from the school district. Teachers were provided with written instructions, which were read to students before taking the survey.

Once all of the surveys were completed, they were gathered and tabulated. There were a total of 774 students who responded to the middle school survey: 345 from grade 6 (females – 161, males – 182), and 429 from grade 8 (females – 215, males – 212). Two students in each grade did not indicate their gender.

There were a total of 1,698 students who responded to the high school survey: 480 from grade 9, 433 from grade 10, 390 from grade 11, and 393 from grade 12. There were 822 females and 870 males who responded to the survey. Six students did not indicate their gender and two students did not indicate their grade.

## **ANALYSIS OF DATA**

Frequencies of responses are reported for all items in the survey and cross-tabulations are provided for three demographic characteristics: grade, gender, and grade/gender. The results of the survey, including all cross-tabulations, are presented under separate cover. Please note that the data results were tabulated in percentages, rounded to the nearest tenth of one percent, and not all percentages will total exactly 100 due to rounding and no responses in some cases.

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

### **Aggregate of Respondents From Seven School Districts 2006 YRBS Student Sample**

#### Grade and Gender

##### Grade 6: 1,374 Respondents

Females	46.6%
Males	53.2%
Gender not indicated	0.2%

##### Grade 8: 1,452 Respondents

Females	50.6%
Males	48.9%
Gender not indicated	0.6%

##### Grade 9: 1,539 Respondents

Females	49.4%
Males	50.2%
Gender not indicated	0.4%

##### Grade 10: 1,421 Respondents

Females	50.0%
Males	49.8%
Gender not indicated	0.2%

##### Grade 11: 1,265 Respondents

Females	49.8%
Males	50.0%
Gender not indicated	0.2%

##### Grade 12: 1,173 Respondents

Females	50.9%
Males	48.7%
Gender not indicated	0.4%

**DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS (CONT'D)**

**School District**

**Grade 6:**

Acton	25.1%	345
Boxborough	5.7%	79
Concord	13.0%	178
Groton - Dunstable	14.3%	196
Littleton	8.4%	116
Maynard	6.5%	89
Westford	27.0%	<u>371</u>
		1,374

**Grade 8:**

Acton - Boxborough	29.5%	429
Concord	15.1%	219
Groton - Dunstable	14.2%	206
Littleton	6.8%	99
Maynard	7.0%	102
Westford	27.3%	<u>397</u>
		1,452

**High School:**

Acton - Boxborough	31.4%	1,698
Concord - Carlisle	19.2%	1,037
Groton - Dunstable	13.6%	736
Littleton	6.9%	371
Maynard	4.8%	261
Westford	24.2%	<u>1,309</u>
		5,412

## **OVERVIEW OF MAJOR FINDINGS**

There is much important and relevant information to be found in an analysis of the tabulations of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey as taken by students from the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools. This is true when one looks at the tabulations of all students taken as a group and is especially so when one looks at the cross-tabulations by grade and gender.

With students having responded to 68 questions in grade 6, 92 questions in grade 8, and 113 questions at the high school, much can be said about the responses to each of those questions. However, it is not the intention here to discuss the results of each question. Rather, it is the intention of this report to highlight certain of the results and to offer comparisons with data gathered from the implementation of the 2005 Massachusetts High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the seven school district aggregate data. It is hoped that the following as well as a more detailed analysis of the results of this survey, will assist the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools and their Health Advisory Committee in their on-going development of health education curriculum.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL – GRADES 6 AND 8****SAFETY**

- **1.2%** of sixth grade respondents (1.6% - aggregate) and **4.2%** of eighth grade respondents (4.5% - aggregate) **report that they “never” or “rarely” wear a seatbelt when riding in a car** (grade 6: females – 1.3%, males – 1.1%; grade 8: females – 2.3%, males – 6.1%).
- **13.3%** of sixth grade respondents (16.0% - aggregate) and **27.4%** of eighth grade respondents (30.1% - aggregate) **report that they “never” or “rarely” wear a helmet when riding a bicycle**. In each grade males (grade 6 – 15.4%, grade 8 – 32.1%) report never or rarely wearing a bicycle helmet more frequently than females (grade 6 – 11.3%, grade 8 – 22.9%).
- **1.8%** of sixth grade respondents (2.0% - aggregate) and **6.1%** of eighth grade respondents (6.6% - aggregate) **report having ridden in a car or other vehicle driven by a minor (under age 21) who had been drinking alcohol or using other drugs** on at least one occasion during the thirty days prior to the survey. There was no variation by gender in grade 6, while in grade 8, males (8.5%) report doing so more frequently than females (3.7%).
- **10.5%** of sixth grade respondents (8.6% - aggregate) and **19.9%** of eighth grade respondents (19.5% - aggregate) **report having ever given information about themselves over the internet to someone they never met** (other than for purchases). Female respondents in both grades (grade 6 – 13.8%, grade 8 – 20.7%) report having ever done so more frequently than males (grade 6 – 7.8%, grade 8 – 18.8%).
- **Nearly one sixth grade respondent in five (18.0%)** (12.8% - aggregate) and **14.2%** of eighth grade respondents (13.6% - aggregate) **report having ever met someone in person with whom they initially had contact over the internet**. Male respondents in both grades (grade 6 – 21.6%, grade 8 – 17.4%) report ever doing so more frequently than females (grade 6 – 13.9%, grade 8 – 11.2%).

**VIOLENCE RELATED BEHAVIORS**

- **7.3%** of sixth grade respondents (8.3% - aggregate) and **10.8%** of eighth grade respondents (15.4% - aggregate) **report having carried any type of weapon such as a gun, knife or club** during the thirty days prior to the survey. Male respondents (grade 6 – 10.6%, grade 8 – 17.1%) were much more likely to have done so than were females (grade 6 – 3.7%, grade 8 – 4.7%). Further, **0.3%** of 6<sup>th</sup> grade respondents (1 male) (1.0% - aggregate) and **4.0%** of 8<sup>th</sup> grade respondents (3.9% - aggregate) **report having done so on school property**.
- **37.2%** of sixth grade respondents (35.2% - aggregate) and **32.7%** of eighth grade respondents (32.9% - aggregate) **report having been in a physical fight** at least once in the twelve months prior to the survey. Male respondents (grade 6 – 48.6%, grade 8 – 42.9%) were much more likely to have done so than were females (grade 6 – 25.0%, grade 8 – 22.8%). Further, **11.3%** of 6<sup>th</sup> graders (12.2% - aggregate) and **13.8%** of 8<sup>th</sup> graders (13.0% - aggregate) **report having done so on school property**.
- **27.0%** of sixth grade respondents (26.6% - aggregate) and **21.3%** of eighth graders (22.4% - aggregate) **report having been bullied in school** during the twelve months prior to the survey. There was no variation by gender in grade 6 (grade 8: females – 19.3%, males – 23.6%). Among all respondents, **2.6%** (3.0% - aggregate) of 6<sup>th</sup> graders and **5.0%** (4.6% - aggregate) of 8<sup>th</sup> graders **report having resisted with physical force**.
- **8.5%** of eighth grade respondents (7.5% - aggregate) **report having been sexually harassed by someone in school** during the 12 months prior to the survey (females – 11.2%, males – 5.8%).
- **4.2%** of eighth grade respondents (4.0% - aggregate) **report having ever been hurt physically or sexually by a date or someone they were going out with** (females – 5.1%, males – 3.3%). **2.1%** of respondents (1.7% - aggregate) **report having ever done so to someone else**.
- **10.4%** of eighth grade respondents (11.4% - aggregate) **report having been shouted at, sworn at, scared, threatened, or insulted by someone they were dating or going out with** on at least one occasion during the twelve months prior to the survey (females – 7.5%, males – 13.5%). **7.8%** of all respondents (9.1% - aggregate) **report having done so to someone else** (females – 5.6%, males – 10.0%).
- **10.5%** of eighth grade respondents (12.6% - aggregate) **report having hurt themselves on purpose (for example by cutting, burning, or bruising yourself on purpose)** on at least one occasion during the previous twelve months. Male respondents (12.3%) report doing so more frequently than females (8.5%).

**SUICIDE**

- **6.8%** of sixth grade respondents (5.8% - aggregate) and **10.6%** of eighth grade respondents (9.8% - aggregate) **report having seriously considered attempting suicide** during the twelve months prior to the survey. The incidence of this behavior was particularly high among 8<sup>th</sup> grade males (grade 6: females 7.6%, males – 6.1%; grade 8: females – 7.5%, males – 13.8%).
- **0.9%** of sixth grade respondents (one female, two males) (1.3% - aggregate) and **5.9%** of eighth grade respondents (4.9% - aggregate) **report having actually attempted suicide** on at least one occasion during the twelve months prior to the survey. In grade 8, males (8.1%) report attempting suicide more frequently than females (3.7%). Further, among 8<sup>th</sup> graders **who report attempting suicide, 40.0% (10 respondents) report that such attempt resulted in receiving medical treatment from a doctor or nurse.**

**TOBACCO USE**

- **1.8%** of sixth grade respondents (2.1% - aggregate) and **9.3%** of eighth grade respondents (13.1% - aggregate) **report having ever tried cigarette smoking** (grade 6: females – 1.9%, males – 1.7%; grade 8: females – 6.5%, males – 12.3%). Further, **0.9% of sixth graders and 3.9% of eighth graders report having smoked a whole cigarette for the first time before the age of 12.**
- **No** sixth grade respondents (0.5% - aggregate) and **4.7%** of eighth grade respondents (5.7% - aggregate) **report having smoked cigarettes on at least one occasion** during the thirty days prior to the survey. Eighth grade males (7.5%) report recent cigarette use more frequently than females (1.9%).
- **While there was virtually no (0.3%) (0.6% - aggregate) use of cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars among sixth grade respondents** during the thirty days prior to the survey, **3.3%** of eighth grade respondents (4.7% - aggregate) **report having done so.** 8<sup>th</sup> grade male respondents (5.2%) report having done so more frequently than females (1.4%).
- **3.0%** of eighth grade respondents (3.4% - aggregate) **report having smoked Bidis, herbal cigarettes, or cloves on at least one day** during the thirty days prior to the survey (females – 1.9%, males – 4.2%).

**ALCOHOL USE**

- **6.1%** of sixth grade respondents (7.4% - aggregate) and **24.3%** of eighth grade respondents (29.1% - aggregate) **report having ever had a drink of alcohol other than for religious reasons.** Males in both grades (grade 6 – 8.2%, grade 8 – 27.4%) report ever having a drink of alcohol more frequently than females (grade 6 – 3.8%, grade 8 – 21.5%). Further, **6.1%** of sixth graders and **9.3%** of eighth graders **report having done so for the first time before the age of 12.**
- **2.0%** of sixth grade respondents (2.5% - aggregate) and **11.2%** of eighth grade respondents (15.8% - aggregate) **report having had at least one drink of alcohol on at least one occasion during the thirty days prior to the survey.** In grade 8 males (13.2%) report having a drink of alcohol recently more frequently than females (9.3%), while there was no variation by gender in grade 6.
- **7.5%** of all eighth grade respondents (8.2% - aggregate) **reports having attended parties held in homes in their school district where alcohol use by teens is allowed,** either occasionally or frequently during the twelve months prior to the survey. There was no variation by gender.
- **When eighth graders were asked their perception about how many students at their grade level in their school had used alcohol during the previous month, 44.8% believed that over 25% of their peers had done so.** In fact, **11.2%** of all eighth grade respondents actually **report having used alcohol during the previous month.**

**ILLEGAL DRUG USE**

- **0.3%** of sixth grade respondents (one female) (1.0% - aggregate) and **5.6%** of eighth grade respondents (7.3% - aggregate) **report having ever used marijuana**. In grade 8, males (8.0%) report ever using marijuana more frequently than females (3.3%). Further, **3.6%** of eighth graders **report having used marijuana for the first time before the age of 12**.
- **No** sixth grade respondents (0.5% - aggregate) and **4.7%** of eighth grade respondents (5.1% - aggregate) **report having used marijuana on at least one occasion during the thirty days prior to the survey** (grade 8: females – 2.3%, males – 7.1%).
- **When eighth graders were asked their perception about how many students at their grade level in their school had used marijuana during the previous month, 9.1% believed that at least one-quarter of their peers had done so**. In fact, **4.7%** of all eighth grade respondents actually **report having used marijuana during the previous month**.
- **4.1%** of sixth grade respondents (5.7% - aggregate) and **5.4%** of eighth grade respondents (6.4% - aggregate) **report having sniffed glue, or breathed the contents of spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high** at least once during the thirty days prior to the survey. There was little variation by gender in grade 6, while in grade 8, males (7.1%) report using inhalants more frequently than females (3.8%).
- **4.9%** of eighth graders (5.8% - aggregate) **report having used someone else's prescription medication** during the twelve months prior to the survey. There was no variation by gender.
- **2.6%** of eighth graders (2.2% - aggregate) **report having used MDMA (i.e. ecstasy, "E", "X")** at least once during their lives (females – 1.9%, males – 3.4%).
- **0.6%** of sixth grade respondents (0.8% - aggregate) and **5.3%** of eighth grade respondents (5.8% - aggregate) **report having been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property** during the twelve months prior to the survey. There was little variation by gender in grade 8 (females – 4.4%, males – 6.2%).

**GAMBLING**

- **20.6%** of sixth grade respondents (21.2% - aggregate) and **38.5%** of eighth grade respondents (37.3% - aggregate) **report having gambled by betting on the lottery, Keno, sporting events, casino games, cards, or racing** at least once during the twelve months prior to the survey. Male respondents in both grades (grade 6 – 26.4%, grade 8 – 56.1%) report this behavior much more frequently than females (grade 6 – 14.4%, grade 8 – 21.4%). Further, **9.0% of sixth graders** and **25.7% of eighth graders report having gambled** during the prior thirty days.

**HIV/AIDS EDUCATION**

- **12.9%** of sixth grade respondents (31.0% - aggregate) and **67.3%** of eighth grade respondents (72.3% - aggregate) **report having ever been taught about AIDS or HIV infection in school.** There was no variation by gender in grade 8 (grade 6: females – 9.4%, males – 16.1%).
- **39.7%** of sixth grade respondents (34.8% - aggregate) and **41.8%** of eighth grade respondents (42.1% - aggregate) **report having ever talked about AIDS or HIV infection with their parents or other adults in their family** (grade 6: females – 40.9%, males – 39.0%; grade 8: females – 46.7%, males – 37.3%).

**SEXUAL BEHAVIOR**

- **7.8%** of eighth grade respondents **report having ever had sexual intercourse** compared to 8.0% from the six district aggregate. Male respondents (11.8%) were more likely to have had this experience than were females (3.8%). Further, **4.4%** of all eighth graders (3.2% - aggregate) **report having had sexual intercourse for the first time before the age of 12.**

**DIETARY BEHAVIOR**

- **61.4%** of sixth grade respondents and **60.6%** of eighth grade respondents **described themselves as being at about the right weight** while many were trying to lose weight (grade 6 – 30.4%, grade 8 – 32.5%) (aggregate: grade 6 – 31.1%, grade 8 – 36.3%) and others were trying to gain weight (grade 6 – 8.5%, grade 8 – 10.3%). Female respondents in both grades (grade 6 – 37.1%, grade 8 – 42.5%) were more likely to be trying to lose weight than were males (grade 6 – 24.3%, grade 8 – 22.6%).
- During the thirty days prior to the survey, **in order to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight:**
  - **68.0%** of sixth graders (67.1% - aggregate) and **59.8%** of eighth graders (64.7% - aggregate) **report having exercised.**
  - **23.4%** of sixth graders (24.8% - aggregate) and **24.0%** of eighth graders (25.5% - aggregate) **report having eaten less food, fewer calories, or foods low in fat.**
  - **2.9%** of sixth graders (2.4% - aggregate) and **7.0%** of eighth graders (7.6% - aggregate) **report having gone without eating for 24 hours or more.**
  - **No** sixth graders (0.2% - aggregate) and **2.7%** of eighth graders (2.5% - aggregate) **report having taken any diet pills, powders, or liquids without a doctor's advice.**
  - **1.2%** of sixth graders (0.8% - aggregate) and **3.1%** of eighth graders (2.9% - aggregate) **report having vomited or taken laxatives.**
- **15.8%** of sixth grade respondents (17.6% - aggregate) and **29.0%** of eighth grade respondents (29.2% - aggregate) **report that they ate breakfast on fewer than five days during the week before the survey.** In grade 8, there was little variation by gender (grade 6: females – 19.4%, males – 12.9%).

**PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

- **84.3%** of sixth grade respondents (83.3% - aggregate) and **84.2%** of eighth grade respondents (80.1% - aggregate) **report having exercised or participated in physical activity for at least 20 minutes that made them sweat or breathe hard on at least three days during the seven days prior to the survey.** There was very little variation by gender in either grade.
- **12.9%** of sixth grade respondents (13.6% - aggregate) and **40.3%** of eighth grade respondents (37.8% - aggregate) **report that they get seven or fewer hours of sleep each night on average** (grade 6: females – 12.0%, males – 13.4%; grade 8: females – 43.9%, males – 36.6%).
- **11.3%** of sixth grade respondents (16.7% - aggregate) and **13.2%** of eighth grade respondents (18.5% - aggregate) **report that they watch TV for at least 3 hours or more per day on an average school day.** Males (grade 6 – 12.9%, grade 8 – 15.3%) report doing so slightly more frequently than females (grade 6 – 9.5%, grade 8 – 11.2%).

## **HIGH SCHOOL - GRADES 9, 10, 11, AND 12**

As mentioned earlier in this report, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey was administered to Acton-Boxborough High School students in grades 9 through 12 during March of 2006. This report is an overview analysis of certain of the results of that survey. The complete tabulations of student responses to that survey are also available for review.

The following includes comparisons with certain of the data from the 2005 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey as well as the six district aggregate. It should be noted that some of the questions in this survey were not asked of students in the Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

**SAFETY**

- **3.4%** of all respondents (5.1% - aggregate) (15% - MA YRBS) report **“never” or “rarely” wearing a seatbelt when riding in a car driven by someone else**. The incidence of this behavior increased slightly each year by grade (grade 9 – 2.3%, grade 10 – 2.8%, grade 11 – 4.6%, grade 12 – 5.1%). Among those most likely to drive, 2.3% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders and 4.6% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders report “never” or “rarely” wearing a seatbelt when they themselves drive.
- **18.5%** of all respondents (19.8% - aggregate) report **having ridden in a car or other vehicle driven by a minor (under age 21) who had been drinking alcohol or using other drugs** at least once during the thirty days prior to the survey (grade 9 – 6.5%, grade 10 – 13.0%, grade 11 – 23.9%, grade 12 – 33.8%). There was no variation by gender.
- **9.1%** of all respondents (8.7% - aggregate) (11% - MA YRBS) report **having driven a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol** on at least one occasion during the thirty days prior to the survey. Respondents from grade 12 (25.4%) were most likely to have done so. The groups which most frequently reported this behavior were 11<sup>th</sup> grade males (14.7%), 12<sup>th</sup> grade females (24.4%), and 12<sup>th</sup> grade males (26.4%).
- **One-fourth (26.5%)** of all respondents (24.9% - aggregate) report **having ever given information about themselves over the internet to someone they never met (other than for purchases)**. There was little variation by grade (grade 9 – 24.5%, grade 10 – 28.2%, grade 11 – 26.7%, grade 12 – 26.7%) or gender (females – 27.3%, males – 25.6%).
- **14.2%** of all respondents (14.8% - aggregate) report **having ever met someone in person with whom they initially had contact over the internet**. Respondents from grade 12 report doing so most frequently (grade 9 – 12.4%, grade 10 – 14.2%, grade 11 – 13.8%, grade 12 – 16.8%). There was little variation by gender (females – 13.2%, males – 15.1%).

**VIOLENCE RELATED BEHAVIORS**

- **1.4%** of all respondents (1.6% - aggregate) **report having carried a gun on school property** on at least one occasion during the thirty days prior to the survey (grade 9 – 1.2%, grade 10 – 0.7%, grade 11 – 1.0%, grade 12 – 2.3%) (females – 0.2%, males – 2.4%).
- **3.4%** of all respondents (4.7% - aggregate) (5.8% - MA YRBS) **report having carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property** on at least one occasion during the thirty days prior to the survey. There was no variation by grade. Males (5.4%) were more likely to have carried a weapon on school property than were females (1.3%).
- **2.9%** of all respondents (3.6% - aggregate) (5.4% - MA YRBS) **report having been threatened or injured by someone with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property** at least once during the twelve months prior to the survey. There was very little variation by grade. Males (4.4%) report this experience more frequently than were females (1.3%).
- **5.1%** of all respondents (5.2% - aggregate) (9.8% - MA YRBS) **report having ever been hurt physically or sexually by a date or someone they were going out with**. The incidence of this experience was highest in grade 12 (6.1%) and lowest in grade 9 (4.6%) (females – 7.7%, males – 2.5%). Among all respondents, **2.3%** (2.5% - aggregate) **report having ever done so to someone else**.
- **13.0%** of all respondents (14.6% - aggregate) **report having been shouted at, sworn at, scared, threatened, or insulted by someone they were dating or going out with** on at least one occasion during the twelve months prior to the survey. There was little variation by grade (grade 9 – 11.7%, grade 10 – 11.8%, grade 11 – 14.1%, grade 12 – 14.8%) or gender (females – 14.4%, males – 11.6%). Among all respondents, **11.7%** (13.2% - aggregate) **report having done so to someone else**.
- **13.8%** of all respondents (13.4% - aggregate) (24% - MA YRBS) **report having been bullied in school** during the twelve months prior to the survey. The incidence of this experience decreased each year by grade (grade 9 – 19.9%, grade 10 – 15.8%, grade 11 – 9.8%, grade 12 – 8.2%). There was no variation by gender. Further, **2.8%** of all respondents (2.5% - aggregate) **report that they resisted being bullied in school with physical force**.

VIOLENCE RELATED BEHAVIORS (CONT'D)

- **6.0%** of all respondents (6.3% - aggregate) **report having been sexually harassed in school** during the twelve months prior to the survey (grade 9 – 7.3%, grade 10 – 6.9%, grade 11 – 5.4%, grade 12 – 3.8%). Female respondents (8.7%) report this experience more frequently than males (3.2%).
- **13.5%** of all respondents (14.0% - aggregate) (19% - MA YRBS) **report having hurt themselves on purpose (cuts, burns, bruises)** on at least one occasion during the previous twelve months (grade 9 – 14.0%, grade 10 – 15.0%, grade 11 – 11.8%, grade 12 – 12.8%). Female respondents (18.3%) report having done so twice as frequently as males (8.7%).

**SUICIDE**

- **11.3%** of all respondents (10.7% - aggregate) (12.7% - MA YRBS) **report having seriously considered attempting suicide** during the twelve months prior to the survey. There was very little variation by grade (grade 9 – 11.3%, grade 10 – 10.2%, grade 11 – 11.8%, grade 12 – 11.7%). Female respondents (14.9%) report seriously considering suicide more frequently than males (7.8%).
- **3.4%** of all respondents (3.6% - aggregate) (6.4% - MA YRBS) **report having actually attempted suicide** on at least one occasion during the twelve months prior to the survey (grade 9 – 4.8%, grade 10 – 2.5%, grade 11 – 2.6%, grade 12 – 3.3%). There was no variation by gender. Further, **among those who report attempting suicide, 29.3% report that such attempt resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse.**

**TOBACCO USE**

- **26.5%** of all respondents (28.9% - aggregate) (50.7% - MA YRBS) **report having ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs.** The incidence of lifetime cigarette smoking increased each year by grade (grade 9 – 13.2%, grade 10 – 21.1%, grade 11 – 29.8%, grade 12 – 45.3%). There was little variation by gender. Further, **4.4%** of all respondents (4.8% - aggregate) (13.2% - MA YRBS) **report having smoked a whole cigarette for the first time before the age of 13.**
- **12.6%** of all respondents (13.6% - aggregate) (20.5% - MA YRBS) **report having smoked cigarettes on at least one day during the thirty days prior to the survey** (grade 9 – 4.0%, grade 10 – 7.7%, grade 11 – 14.1%, grade 12 – 27.0%). Again, there was little variation by gender (females – 11.8%, males – 13.4%).
- **9.7%** of all respondents (12.1% - aggregate) (14% - MA YRBS) **report having smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars** on at least one occasion during the thirty days prior to the survey. 12<sup>th</sup> graders (18.9%) report this behavior much more frequently than those from the other grades (grade 9 – 4.4%, grade 10 – 7.2%, grade 11 – 9.5%). Males (15.1%) were much more likely to have done so than were females (3.9%).
- **7.8%** of all respondents (6.4% - aggregate) **report having smoked Bidis, herbal cigarettes, or cloves** on at least one day during the thirty days prior to the survey (grade 9 – 1.7%, grade 10 – 4.2%, grade 11 – 9.0%, grade 12 – 13.8%). There was no variation by gender.

ALCOHOL USE

- **62.8%** of all respondents (65.9% - aggregate) (76% - MA YRBS) **report having had at least one drink of alcohol (other than for religious reasons) on at least one occasion during their lives** and **11.4%** (11.5% - aggregate) (22% - MA YRBS) **report having had their first drink of alcohol before the age of 13**. The incidence of lifetime alcohol use increased each year by grade (grade 9 – 44.4%, grade 10 – 61.8%, grade 11 – 69.2%, grade 12 – 80.1%). Male respondents (65.3%) report ever having a drink of alcohol more frequently than females (59.9%).
- **38.7%** of all respondents (40.1% - aggregate) (47.8% - MA YRBS) **report having had at least one drink of alcohol on at least one occasion during the thirty days prior to the survey**. The incidence of recent alcohol use increased each year by grade (grade 9 – 18.5%, grade 10 – 33.4%, grade 11 – 46.3%, grade 12 – 61.7%). There was little variation by gender (females – 37.4%, males – 39.8%).
- **Nearly one-quarter (23.3%)** of all respondents (24.2% - aggregate) (26.5% - MA YRBS) **report having had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row** (within a couple of hours) on at least one occasion during the thirty days prior to the survey. The incidence of recent binge drinking increased each year by grade (grade 9 – 8.1%, grade 10 – 17.2%, grade 11 – 27.3%, grade 12 – 44.4%). Males (25.3%) report doing so more frequently than females (21.1%).
- **26.1%** of all respondents (28.5% - aggregate) **report having attended parties held in homes in their school district where alcohol use by teens was allowed, either occasionally or frequently** during the twelve months prior to the survey. The incidence of this experience increased each year by grade (grade 9 – 12.0%, grade 10 – 20.4%, grade 11 – 33.2%, grade 12 – 42.3%). There was no variation by gender.
- **When asked their perception about how many students at their grade level in their school had used alcohol during the previous month, 16.8% believed that over three-quarters of their peers had done so** and another 36.5% (total of 53.3%) believed that over half had done so. In fact, **38.7%** of all respondents actually **report having used alcohol during the previous month**.

**ILLEGAL DRUG USE**

- **29.5%** of all respondents (31.8% - aggregate) (45% - MA YRBS) **report having ever used marijuana** and **3.4%** (3.9% - aggregate) (9% - MA YRBS) **report having done so for the first time before the age of 13**. The incidence of lifetime marijuana use increased each year by grade (grade 9 – 11.1%, grade 10 – 24.1%, grade 11 – 36.2%, grade 12 – 51.2%). Males (33.9%) were more likely to have ever used marijuana than were females (24.8%). Further, **18.7%** of all respondents (19.6% - aggregate) (26.2% - MA YRBS) **report having used marijuana on at least one occasion during the thirty days prior to the survey** (females – 14.0%, males – 23.3%).
- **When asked their perception about how many students at their grade level in their school had used marijuana during the previous month, 3.0% believed that over three-quarters of their peers had done so** and another 13.9% (total of 16.9%) believed that over half had done so. In fact, **18.7%** of all respondents actually **report having used marijuana during the previous month**.
- **One respondent in eleven (9.2%)** (10.0% - aggregate) **reports having used someone else's prescription medication** during the twelve months prior to the survey (grade 9 – 5.2%, grade 10 – 7.7%, grade 11 – 11.3%, grade 12 – 13.6%). There was no variation by gender.
- **4.6%** all respondents (5.2% - aggregate) (7.9% - MA YRBS) **report having ever used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase** (grade 9 – 1.3%, grade 10 – 1.6%, grade 11 – 5.7%, grade 12 – 10.8%). There was little variation by gender.
- **4.1%** all respondents (4.1% - aggregate) **report having sniffed glue, or breathed the contents of spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high** on at least one occasion during the thirty days prior to the survey. There was no variation by grade or gender.
- **5.0%** of all respondents (4.8% - aggregate) (7% - MA YRBS) **report having ever used MDMA (i.e. ecstasy, "E", "X")**. The incidence of this behavior was much higher in grades 11 and 12 (grade 9 – 0.6%, grade 10 – 1.6%, grade 11 – 8.5%, grade 12 – 10.5%). There was little variation by gender (females – 4.0%, males – 6.0%).

ILLEGAL DRUG USE (CONT'D)

- **6.9%** all respondents (6.9% - aggregate) **report having ever used any “other type” of illegal drug such as LSD (acid), PCP, mushrooms, Ketamine (Special K), Rohypnol (Roofies), or GHB.** The incidence of this behavior was highest in grade 12 (grade 9 – 2.1%, grade 10 – 3.0%, grade 11 – 10.1%, grade 12 – 13.6%). Male respondents (8.4%) report doing so slightly more frequently than females (5.3%).
- **15.6%** of all respondents (17.0% - aggregate) (29.9% - MA YRBS) **report having been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property** on at least one occasion during the twelve months prior to the survey. Respondents from grades 11 and 12 report this experience most frequently (grade 9 – 9.0%, grade 10 – 14.0%, grade 11 – 20.4%, grade 12 – 20.2%). Male respondents (18.1%) were more likely to have been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property than were females (12.8%).

### GAMBLING

- **39.7%** of all respondents (40.5% - aggregate) **report having gambled by betting on the lottery, Keno, sporting events, casino games, cards, or racing** at least once during the twelve months prior to the survey. The incidence of this behavior increased slightly each year by grade (grade 9 – 37.7%, grade 10 – 38.8%, grade 11 – 40.3%, grade 12 – 42.5%). Further, male respondents (56.9%) report doing so much more frequently than females (21.1%). In fact, **24.1%** of all respondents (25.0% - aggregate) **report having gambled during the previous month.**

### HIV/AIDS EDUCATION

- **51.3%** of all respondents (50.5% - aggregate) **report having ever talked about AIDS or HIV infection with their parents or other adults in their family** (grade 9 – 47.6%, grade 10 – 57.4%, grade 11 – 51.8%, grade 12 – 48.8%). Female respondents (54.0%) report having such discussions more frequently than males (48.6%).
- **96.0%** of all respondents (94.2% - aggregate) (93% - MA YRBS) **report having ever been taught about AIDS/HIV infection in school.** There was little or no variation by grade or gender.

**SEXUAL BEHAVIOR**

- **Nearly one-quarter (23.0%)** of all respondents (27.1% - aggregate) (45.4% - MA YRBS) **report having ever had sexual intercourse.** The incidence of lifetime sexual intercourse increased each year by grade (grade 9 – 9.5%, grade 10 – 16.5%, grade 11 – 26.5%, grade 12 – 43.1%). There was no variation by gender. Further, **1.3%** of all respondents (1.9% - aggregate) (5% - MA YRBS) **report having had sexual intercourse for the first time before the age of 13.**
- **5.6%** of all respondents (6.2% - aggregate) (12.6% - MA YRBS) **report having had sexual intercourse with four or more partners** during their lives (grade 9 – 1.9%, grade 10 – 3.0%, grade 11 – 5.9%, grade 12 – 12.5%). There was no variation by gender.
- **18.3%** of all respondents (20.9% - aggregate) (34% - MA YRBS) **report having had sexual intercourse on at least one occasion during the three months prior to the survey.** The incidence of recent sexual intercourse increased each year by grade (grade 9 – 6.1%, grade 10 – 11.6%, grade 11 – 21.0%, grade 12 – 37.7%). There was no variation by gender.
- **6.2%** of all respondents (6.9% - aggregate) **report having drunk alcohol or used drugs before they had sexual intercourse the last time** (grade 9 – 1.7%, grade 10 – 3.7%, grade 11 – 8.0%, grade 12 – 12.3%). There was no variation by gender.
- **One respondent in three (32.7%)** (35.9% - aggregate) **reports having ever had oral sex, either given or received.** The incidence of lifetime oral sex increased each year by grade (grade 9 – 16.6%, grade 10 – 25.8%, grade 11 – 38.5%, grade 12 – 54.4%). There was very little variation by gender (females – 31.7%, males – 33.6%). Further, **30.5%** of all respondents (33.3% - aggregate) **report having oral sex at least once during the previous twelve months.**
- **When asked their perception about how many students at their grade level in their school had ever had sexual intercourse, 17.8% believed that more than half of their peers had done so.** In fact, **23.0%** of all respondents actually report having ever had sexual intercourse.

**DIETARY BEHAVIOR**

- While **59.6%** of all respondents **described themselves as being at about the right weight**, **38.6%** (39.8% - aggregate) (47% - MA YRBS) were **trying to lose weight** (grade 9 – 38.3%, grade 10 – 36.0%, grade 11 – 39.2%, grade 12 – 41.4%). Females (59.8%) were much more likely to be trying to lose weight than were males (18.4%) who were much more likely to be trying to gain weight.
- During the thirty days prior to the survey, **in order to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight**:
  - **58.7%** of all respondents (60.4% - aggregate) **report having exercised**. (females – 68.9%, males – 48.6%)
  - **35.1%** of all respondents (33.5% - aggregate) **report having eaten less food, fewer calories, or foods low in fat**. (females – 52.0%, males – 18.9%)
  - **6.4%** of all respondents (7.2% - aggregate) (11% - MA YRBS) **report having gone without eating for 24 hours or more**. (females – 9.4%, males – 3.4%)
  - **2.7%** of all respondents (3.6% - aggregate) (5% - MA YRBS) **report having taken diet pills, powders, or liquids without a doctor's advice**. (females – 4.3%, males – 1.3%)
  - **3.5%** of all respondents (3.7% - aggregate) (6 % - MA YRBS) **report having vomited or taken laxatives**. (females – 5.9%, males – 1.2%)
- **35.4%** of all respondents (38.3% - aggregate) **report having eaten breakfast on fewer than five days during the week prior to the survey**. The incidence of this behavior increased each year by grade (grade 9 – 26.5%, grade 10 – 34.0%, grade 11 – 36.0%, grade 12 – 47.3%). There was very little variation by gender.
- **4.5%** of all respondents (5.5% - aggregate) **report having taken performance enhancing supplements such as androstenedione or creatine** on at least one occasion during the twelve months prior to the survey. The incidence of this behavior was highest in grade 12 (grade 9 – 1.3%, grade 10 – 2.6%, grade 11 – 5.9%, grade 12 – 8.5%). Males (7.9%) report using these supplements much more frequently than females (0.9%).

**PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

- **72.7%** of all respondents (71.6% - aggregate) (62.9% - MA YRBS) **report having exercised or participated in physical activities for at least 20 minutes on at least three days during the week prior to the survey.** The incidence of such regular exercise was highest in grade 10 (grade 9 – 72.3%, grade 10 – 80.2%, grade 11 – 66.9%, grade 12 – 71.3%). Male respondents (75.5%) report regular exercise more frequently than females (70.2%).
- **Two-thirds (66.7%)** of all respondents (66.3% - aggregate) **report that they get seven or fewer hours of sleep each night on average.** The incidence of this behavior increased each year by grade (grade 9 – 52.2%, grade 10 – 67.6%, grade 11 – 71.5%, grade 12 – 78.2%). Females (72.6%) report doing so more frequently than males (61.0%).
- **11.1%** of all respondents (15.5% - aggregate) (32.8% - MA YRBS) **report that they watch television 3 hours or more per day on an average school day.** The incidence of this behavior was lowest in grade 11 (grade 9 – 12.5%, grade 10 – 10.3%, grade 11 – 7.7%, grade 12 – 13.4%). Males (13.6%) report watching television for 3 hours or more on school days more frequently than females (8.3%).