

City of Alexandria, Virginia

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Data Trends

2019 and 2023 Survey Responses



YRBS Data from 2019 and 2022: Overview of Responses



- Data are self reported
- Measures health behaviors that contribute greatly to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth

Survey Responses	Grade	2019	2023
Number of Youth Survey Responses	8	814	497
	10	486	637
	12	487	344

Youth Attitudes and Behaviors Regarding Alcohol



Alcohol	Grade	2019	2023
Used alcohol once or more in the past 30 days	8	11%	6%
	10	18%	16%
	12	30%	27%
Perception of intake of 1-2 alcoholic beverages a day as moderate risk	8	NA	NA
	10	39%	39%
	12	36%	34%
Perception of intake of 1-2 alcoholic beverages a day as great risk	8	25%	25%
	10	28%	27%
	12	28%	33%
Perception that most of their peers drink alcohol	8	28%	27%
	10	60%	60%
	12	75%	81%

Method for acquiring alcohol in the past month*	Grade	2019	2023
Someone gave it to me	8	15%	37%
	10	44%	23%
	12	40%	29%
I gave someone money to buy it for me	8	6%	3%
	10	2%	5%
	12	10%	11%
I bought it in a store or gas station	8	4%	NA
	10	3%	3%
	12	6%	16%
I got it some other way	8	39%	17%
	10	25%	22%
	12	23%	16%
I got it at a party	8	NA	17%
	10	NA	32%
	12	NA	15%

*Based on youth reporting past 30-day use

NA indicates question was not asked

Youth Attitudes and Behaviors Regarding Marijuana



Marijuana	Grade	2019	2023
Used marijuana once or more in the past 30 days	8	5%	9%
	10	16%	11%
	12	21%	19%
Perception of smoking marijuana regularly as moderate risk	8	NA	NA
	10	29%	30%
	12	26%	31%
Perception of smoking marijuana regularly as great risk	8	38%	39%
	10	27%	31%
	12	17%	25%

How did you usually use marijuana in the past 30 days?*	Grade	2019	2023
I ate it in food such as cookies, brownies, candy	8	NA	NA
	10	8%	10%
	12	8%	22%
I dabbed it using waxes or concentrates	8	NA	NA
	10	13%	6%
	12	8%	6%
I smoked it in a joint, bong, pipe, or blunt	8	NA	NA
	10	48%	60%
	12	58%	52%
I vaporized it	8	NA	NA
	10	27%	20%
	12	22%	19%

*Based on youth reporting past 30-day use
 NA indicates question was not asked

Youth Attitudes and Behaviors Regarding Tobacco



Cigarettes	Grade	2019	2023
Smoked cigarettes once or more in the past 30 days	8	6%	2%
	10	4%	4%
	12	6%	9%
Perception of smoking 1+ packs of cigarettes a day as moderate risk	8	NA	NA
	10	20%	28%
	12	25%	23%
Perception of smoking 1+ packs of cigarettes a day as great risk	8	49%	45%
	10	59%	49%
	12	57%	60%

E-cigarettes	Grade	2019	2023
Used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days	8	11%	6%
	10	14%	11%
	12	19%	13%
Perception of vaping as moderate risk	8	26%	30%
	10	34%	31%
	12	33%	31%
Perception of vaping as great risk	8	39%	40%
	10	39%	43%
	12	37%	47%

NA indicates question was not asked

Youth Attitudes and Behaviors Regarding E-cigarettes/Vaping



Main reason for using electronic vapor products	Grade	2019	2023
Friend or family member used them	8	24%	26%
	10	46%	30%
	12	44%	34%
Available in flavors (mint, candy, fruit)	8	20%	8%
	10	9%	12%
	12	7%	10%
They are less harmful than other forms of tobacco	8	6%	6%
	10	x	1%
	12	6%	2%
I felt pressured to use them because my peers were all using them	8	NA	20%
	10	NA	14%
	12	NA	5%
I used them for some other reason	8	44%	39%
	10	39%	40%
	12	37%	45%

Method for acquiring electronic vapor products in the past month	Grade	2019	2023
I borrowed them from someone else (or shared them with someone else)	8	33%	31%
	10	48%	28%
	12	45%	34%
I bought them myself in a vape shop or tobacco shop	8	NA	7%
	10	NA	19%
	12	NA	11%
I took them from a store or another person (without permission) (added in 2023)	8	13%	NA
	10	7%	0%
	12	4%	2%
I got or bought them from a friend, family member, or someone else (added in 2023)	8	NA	31%
	10	NA	27%
	12	NA	27%
I got them some other way	8	26%	14%
	10	15%	22%
	12	14%	20%

NA indicates question was not asked

x indicates data suppression based on too few responses

Youth Attitudes and Behaviors Regarding Prescription Drugs and Over-the-Counter Medication (OTC)



Prescription Drugs	Grade	2019	2023
Used prescription pain medicine without a prescription in the last 30 days	8	11%	7%
	10	8%	7%
	12	6%	4%
Used a prescription drug (such as OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax) without a doctor's prescription in the past 30 days	8	NA	NA
	10	6%	NA
	12	6%	NA
Used a prescription drug (such as Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax) without a doctor's prescription in the past 30 days	8	NA	NA
	10	NA	5%
	12	NA	x
Ever used opioids	8	NA	NA
	10	NA	12%
	12	NA	9%

OTC Medication	Grade	2019	2023
Used over-the-counter drugs to get high in the last 30 days	8	7%	4%
	10	6%	4%
	12	3%	1.5%

NA indicates question was not asked

x indicates data suppression based on too few responses

Youth Mental Health and Perceptions of Safety



Mental Health	Grade	2019	2023
Felt sad or hopeless feelings for 2+ weeks in the past year	8	30%	29%
	10	34%	32%
	12	32%	29%
Had significant anxiety in the past year	8	46%	41%
	10	47%	48%
	12	45%	47%

Safety	Grade	2019	2023
Didn't attend school due to feeling unsafe at school or on way there in past 30 days	8	NA	NA
	10	8%	21%
	12	6%	25%
Reported gang members present at school or in neighborhood in past year	8	26%	58%
	10	69%	76%
	12	65%	85%

Bullying	Grade	2019	2023
Bullied on school property in past year	8	26%	22%
	10	11%	13%
	12	9%	6%
Electronically bullied in past year	8	14%	14%
	10	12%	1%
	12	9%	8%

Talking to Parents and Adult about Concerns	Grade	2019	2023
Would talk to their parent about an important concern	8	34%	34%
	10	58%	59%
	12	55%	61%
Would talk to another adult about an important concern	8	25%	24%
	10	55%	47%
	12	59%	56%

NA indicates question was not asked