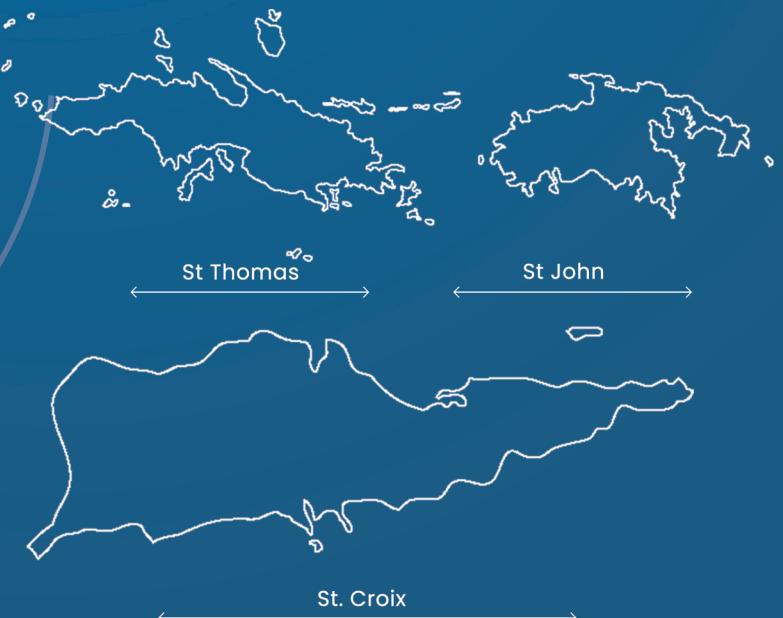


# USVI 2017 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

Caribbean  
Exploratory  
Research Center







# **USVI 2017 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY**

**Final Report  
June 2019**

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## **Disclaimer**

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## **Statement of Conflict of Interest**

None of the researchers or authors involved with the study has any affiliations or financial involvements that conflict with the material presented in this report.

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BMI	Body Mass Index
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CERC	Caribbean Exploratory Research Center
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPV	Human papillomavirus
IBM SPSS	International Business Machines-Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
IRB	Institutional Review Board
PE	Physical education
PSC	Professional Service Contract
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SEOW	State Outcomes Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup
SPF PFS	State Prevention Framework Partnership for Success
STD	Sexually transmitted disease
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
US	United States of America
USVI	United States Virgin Islands
UVI	University of the Virgin Islands
VIDE	Virgin Islands Department of Education
VIDOH	Virgin Islands Department of Health
YRBS(S)	Youth Risk Behavior Survey/Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

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## Executive Summary

Health behaviors associated with chronic conditions and leading causes of death often emerge in adolescence and track into adulthood. Yet, little is known about the health behaviors of adolescents in the USVI. To gather data on mental health and substance use among school-age children in the USVI, the VI Department of Health contracted with the Caribbean Exploratory Research Center at the University of the Virgin Islands to conduct the 2017 USVI Youth Risk Behavior Survey in all public schools on the islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John, among students enrolled in grades 7-12, during the month of May, 2018.

## Methodology

The U.S. Virgin Islands 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (USVI 2017 YRBS) sample consisted of all students in all public schools, enrolled in grades 7 through 12, in the two school districts of St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix during the 2017-2018 school year. The sample included students enrolled in four junior high schools, one middle school, one K-8 school, four senior high schools, one alternative education academy, and one technical education center. The study was approved by the Virgin Islands Department of Education and the University of the Virgin Islands Institutional Review Board (IRB No. 1223594). Parental consent (passive) and student assent were required for student participation. Trained research assistants and staff, school administrators and teachers administered the middle school and high school surveys in pen-and-paper format during the school day. Students received a specially monogrammed pen and pencil for their participation. On average, students completed the surveys in approximately 30 minutes.

## Study Participants

Out of 3083 surveys completed, yielding an overall response rate of 65%, the final sample for analysis consisted of 1782 high school and 1280 middle school surveys that met requirements for inclusion. For the high school survey sample, 52.8% were female; 31.9% were in grade 9; 27.3% in grade 10; 22.3% in grade 11; and 18.3% in grade 12; and the mean age was 15.97 (SD=1.26, n=1765). For the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade sample, 50.8% were female; 57% were in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade; and the mean age was 13.23 (SD=0.89, n=1271).

## Key Findings

### High School

#### *Behaviors that Contribute to Unintentional Injuries and Violence*

- Approximately 1 in 5 never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else.
- 18.7% rode at least one time in a car driven by someone else who had been drinking.
- Prevalence of unwanted sexual contact was reported by approximately 10% of respondents.
- 15.7% were bullied on campus and 9.5% were electronically bullied.
- 35.5% ‘felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities’.
- 17% had seriously considered attempting suicide, 13.6% made a plan and 10.3% had actually attempted suicide.

#### *Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drugs*

- While only 6.6% ever tried smoking a cigarette, the majority tried smoking before the age of 17.
- 21% had ever used an electronic vapor product but only 3.9% reported current (past 30-day) use.
- Approximately 60% reported lifetime alcohol use of at least one drink of alcohol.
- 6% reported age at first use was 17 years old or older.
- 31% were current consumers of at least one drink on at least one day (past 30 days)
- 14% reported consuming more than 4 drinks in a row on at least one day (past 30 days).
- 1 in 3 had ever used marijuana with most reporting age at first use before age 17 years old or older.
- 16.1% were current users of marijuana.
- Prescription pain medication use was most prevalent among ‘other illicit drugs’ at approximately 8%.
- 13.2% reported getting or being offered illicit drugs on school property.

#### *Sexual Behaviors Related to Unintended Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Including HIV Infection*

- 31% had ever had sexual intercourse.
- For most, age at first sexual intercourse was before age 17 years or older.
- Approximately 1 in 5 were currently sexually active (past 30 days) and 12.4% had sexual intercourse with 3 or more partners in their lives.
- 42.9% of sexually active youth did not use a condom at last sexual encounter.

### ***Dietary and Physical Activity Behaviors***

- 23.5% did not eat fruit while just 11.3% ate fruit  $\geq 3$  times per day in the 7 days prior to the survey.
- 55.5% did not eat a green salad and 61% did not eat carrots during the week before the survey.
- Approximately 80% drank a soda and 55% drank milk during the seven-day period prior to the survey.
- 36.1% ate breakfast  $< 3$  days and 35.8% ate breakfast all 7 days.
- 1 in 4 did not achieve 60 minutes per day of physical activity for the 7 days prior to the survey.
- 1 in 5 met minimum physical activity guidelines of 60 minutes a day for all seven days a week.
- 45.9% watched TV and 56% played video or computer games or used a computer for activities other than school work for  $\geq 2$  hours per day.
- 60% had no physical education while 15.3% had physical education every day for the 7-day period prior to the survey.

### ***Other Health Topics/Behaviors***

- 37.2% meet the classification of overweight (16%) or obese (21.2% or 268 youth), yet 27.7% perceive themselves to be slightly overweight (23.5%) or very overweight (4.2%).
- 40.5% said they were trying to lose weight.
- 13.1% had ever been tested for HIV.
- 7.9% had never seen a dentist.
- 16.9% had been told they had asthma.
- 22.7% thought it was easy or very easy to get beer or liquor.
- 38.5% reported gang activity at school.

## ***Middle School***

### ***Behaviors that Contribute to Unintentional Injuries and Violence***

- 61.5% never wore a helmet while riding a bicycle and approximately 20% did not wear a helmet while roller blading or skateboarding.
- Approximately 20% never or rarely wore a seat belt when riding in a car
- Approximately 17% rode in a car with someone who had been drinking alcohol.
- 16.2% reported ever having carried a weapon.
- 65.1% recall ever being in a physical fight.
- 36% had been bullied on school property and 12.5% had been bullied electronically.
- 22.5% seriously thought about killing themselves.
- 14.3% reported they made a plan and 8.5% actually tried to kill themselves.



- 32.5% ‘felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities’

### ***Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drugs***

- 1.5% reported current (past 30-day) use of cigarettes.
- 12.5% had ever used an electronic vapor product and 4% were current (past 30-day) users.
- Nearly 1 in 2 (45%) had ever had a drink of alcohol, other than a sip and 7.8% tried alcohol before age 8.
- 12.4% had ever used marijuana.
- Among other illicit drugs, the most frequently reported behavior was sniffing glue, (5.4%) followed by prescription medication (4.4%).

### ***Sexual Behaviors Related to Unintended Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Including HIV Infection***

- 14% had ever had sexual intercourse.
- 44% of sexually active did not use a condom at last sexual intercourse.

### ***Dietary and Physical Activity Behaviors***

- 47% ate breakfast on all 7 days and 10% reported not eating breakfast during the 7 days prior to the survey.
- 74% did not meet minimum guidelines of 60 minutes of physical activity each day.
- 46.4% watched television more than 3 hours per day on an average school day.
- 63.1% reported playing video or computer games or using a computer other than for school activities.
- 41.4% had no physical education (PE); 16.8% reported having PE for 5 days during the 7 days prior to the survey.
- 24.4% had a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active.

### ***Other Health Topics***

- 15.9% had been told they had asthma.
- 41.5% reported trying to lose weight while just 22.8% thought they were slightly (20.2%) or very overweight (2.6%).
- 12.6% found it easy or very easy to get beer or liquor, followed by marijuana (10%).
- 33.1% thought there was gang activity at their school and 31.3% did not feel safe at school.

## Discussion, Recommendations, Conclusion

The USVI 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Surveys conducted among students enrolled in grades 7-12 in USVI public schools during the month of May 2018 was the first attempt since 2011 to gather data on the health behaviors of the school age population and the first attempt in over a decade to survey youth attending public schools in all three major islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John at one time. Researchers from the Caribbean Exploratory Research Center at the University of the Virgin Islands utilized the 2017 State Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the 2017 Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (CDC), modified by adding questions of interest to the local Department of Health-Division of Mental (Behavioral) Health, Substance Abuse and Drug Dependency Services-State Prevention Framework Partnership for Success Grant.

The results reveal that USVI youth may be engaging in health-related behaviors that may have implications for health outcomes that increase risk of unintentional injuries and violence; sexual and reproductive health, to include exposure to infectious disease and unintended pregnancies; social problems; tobacco and drug use; unhealthy dietary behaviors and physical inactivity and a range of health conditions such as overweight and obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Additionally, the relatively high rates of suicide ideation and alcohol consumption revealed warrant further exploration.

### Recommendations

Data on the prevalence of health-related behaviors of USVI youth are critical to raise awareness among policy makers, service providers, key agencies and the community at large. Efforts to resume USVI participation in the national YRBSS, conducted every other year on the odd year, are recommended.

Further, the VI Department of Health and the Department of Education must collaborate to address the health needs of USVI youth, with evidence-based, culturally-appropriate prevention and intervention initiatives to improve short-term and long-term health outcomes. The data suggest that youth may be engaging in risk-taking behaviors at an early age, some before the age of 8, when they are in the third grade. Another potentially risky age could be at 13, when most are in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Thus, prevention efforts aimed at promoting healthy lifestyle choices, to include health education in the curriculum related to

health behaviors linked to unintentional injury and violence, reproductive health, diet and physical activity, could start as early as kindergarten and sustained, as youth develop, through high school.

## **Conclusion**

This report is important to raise awareness of the prevalence of health related behaviors of students in grades 7-12 among policy makers, decision makers, the public and a wide range of youth-serving agencies in the territory. Across the nation, YRBS data is instrumental in supporting a wide range of initiatives aimed at preventing risky behaviors in youth. Examples of initiatives informed by YRBS data include development of a law to promote and support policies to implement comprehensive sex education programs in schools; establishment of laws mandating increased daily physical activity during the school day; developing adolescent sexual health profiles; and supporting the need for suicide prevention programs in school.

The findings captured in this report can serve as a foundation upon which the VIDOH and VIDE, in collaboration with youth-serving health care providers and community based organizations, can prioritize adolescent health issues in the territory that need to be addressed. Culturally-relevant, evidence-based programs in behavioral health, diet and physical activity, health education to include sex education and health literacy adapted or developed for use with USVI students are warranted. Addressing these health behaviors during adolescence will potentially impact chronic disease prevalence in the population. Targeted interventions will be most relevant if anchored in the most current prevalence data regarding youth risky health behaviors. Thus, it is critically important that the territory resumes participation in the national YRBSS which will allow leadership in the territory to monitor progress toward *Healthy People* goals and objectives for adolescent health in the USVI.

## Introduction

In the United States, the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) monitors six categories of health-related behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death and disability among youth and adults (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-CDC). The six categories include: behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection; dietary behaviors; and physical activity. YRBSS includes a national school-based survey conducted by CDC and state, territorial, tribal jurisdictions, as well as other local surveys conducted by state, territorial, and local education and health agencies and tribal governments. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), the national school-based survey referenced above, is administered to students in grades 9-12 (2017 State and Local Youth Risk Behavior Survey) and grades 7-8 (2017 Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey) in participating states, territories, tribal governments and urban school districts. The surveys, administered every other year on the odd year since 1991, also measure the prevalence of obesity, asthma and other health-related behaviors plus sexual identity and sex of sexual contacts.

The United States Virgin Islands (USVI), an unincorporated territory of the United States, located in the Eastern Caribbean, participated in the YRBSS from 1993 to 2003 and thus has not been part of the system for 15 years. Therefore, very little data have been available on the health behaviors of USVI adolescents for over a decade.

In 2016, the Division of Behavioral Health, Alcoholism and Drug Dependency Services within the Virgin Islands Department of Health (VIDOH) identified funds through the State Prevention Framework-Partnership for Success Grant (SPF-PFS) to conduct the YRBS among youth enrolled in grades 7 through 12 in all public schools across the territory. The standard 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (middle and high school) administered on the US mainland in 2017 were modified by adding questions thought to be of relevance to the local environment, thus resulting in the USVI 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Surveys as the final instrument administered to grades 7-8 and 9-12 in the USVI.

## Methods

### Sample

In consultation with the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW), the leadership at the VIDOH agreed to attempt a census of all students enrolled in grades 7-12 in the territory. Therefore, the U.S. Virgin Islands 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (USVI 2017 YRBS) sample consisted of all students in all public schools, enrolled in grades 7 through 12, in the two school districts in the USVI during the 2017-2018 school year. The sample included students at 4 junior high schools, 1 middle school, 1 K-8 school, 4 senior high schools, 1 alternative education academy, and 1 technical education center. Enrollment figures obtained from the Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) revealed that 4,729 students were enrolled in the public schools targeted for participation in the spring 2018 semester. Overall, completion rate was 65% and varied by school, from a low of 43% (Ivanna Eudora Kean High School, St. Thomas) to a high of 94% (Addelita Cancryn Junior High School, St. Thomas). Twenty-one (21) surveys were excluded for various reasons, resulting in a final sample of 3062 for analysis.

Table 1. Participating schools and response rates, USVI 2017 YRBS

School	Sample Size (n)	Completed Surveys (n) (%)
<b>St. Croix District</b>		
St. Croix Educational Complex	705	440 (62)
St. Croix Central High School	734	344 (47)
Career & Technical Education Center	71	47 (66)
Elena L. Christian Junior High	205	164 (80)
Arthur A. Richards Junior High	254	215 (85)
John H. Woodson Junior High	352	248 (71)
<b>St. Thomas-St. John District</b>		
Charlotte Amalie High School	916	641 (70)
Ivanna Eudora Kean High School	663	280 (43)
Addelita Cancryn Junior High School	426	402 (94)
Julius E. Sprauve School*	34	31 (91)
Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School**	358	263 (74)
Edith Williams Alternative Academy	11	8 (73)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,729</b>	<b>3,083 (65%)</b>

*K-8 school-only grades 7 and 8; \*Middle school – grades 6-8; only grades 7 and 8*

## Survey Instruments

The study utilized two 2017 CDC YRBS questionnaires: one specifically for middle school and the other tailored for high school, expanded to include questions relevant to the target population. The questionnaires were designed to be self-administered in the classroom setting and contained 60 (middle school) and 99 (high school) questions (Appendix 1). The YRBS was designed to measure health risk behaviors including unintentional injuries and violence; tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use; sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection; unhealthy dietary behaviors; physical inactivity; obesity; and asthma.

## Data Collection Procedures and Methods

The research team obtained the appropriate territory, district, and school level approvals to conduct the survey in the schools and worked with the school administrators to schedule data collection and obtain parental permission. Parental consent and student assent were required for participation. Letters and parental permission forms, requesting passive consent, were delivered to schools prior to survey administration, while student assent was obtained the day of data collection prior to survey administration. Additionally, the study was approved by the University of the Virgin Islands Institutional Review Board prior to the commencement of data collection (IRB No. 1223594-1).

Due to the need to administer the survey to all children in grades 7-12, two accepted modes of survey administration occurred. In one approach, the students were gathered in a large room like a school auditorium and the researchers administered the survey using standard CDC protocols. In the second approach, particularly in the high schools where the student population was larger and/or there was no one room large enough to accommodate all the students, the research team trained teachers as data collectors to administer the questionnaire at each school during May 2018. Teachers administering the questionnaire utilized a standardized script and assured students participating that their responses were anonymous and could not be traced back to them and that voluntarily completing the survey would not affect their grades in school or their ability to take part in any school activities. On the data collection days trained research staff traveled to the schools to distribute surveys and assist in data collection. Students completed the surveys during one

class period and recorded their responses directly on the computer-scannable survey booklet using pens and pencils provided by the researchers.

## Data Management and Analysis

All surveys were scanned and imported into Remark Office OMR software to create a raw dataset converted to Microsoft Excel and IBM SPSS. Data cleaning and editing were performed by the research team in two phases: the first prior to scanning of the surveys, and the second after the raw dataset was created. Data cleaning consisted of checking surveys to ensure that bubble regions were completely filled in, in addition to checking responses for logical consistency. If more than one response was selected for a question, the response was considered invalid, with the exception of the question on race, which allowed for selecting multiple responses.

Descriptive statistics were generated using IBM SPSS 25. Frequencies for all survey item responses were generated. Chi-square test of independence examined the association between key demographic variables of sex, grade level, and ethnicity and select survey items. Survey response options were collapsed to increase likelihood of meeting assumptions for performing cross-tabulations for study categorical variables.



## Results

The results of the USVI 2017 YRBS administered to the students enrolled in the territory's public schools in May 2018 are presented for both the high school and middle school populations and organized within the six critical domains included in the surveys that hold implications for current and future health status. These domains are 1) behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence; 2) alcohol and other drug use; 3) tobacco; 4) sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection; 5) dietary behaviors; and 6) physical activity. Additionally, questions that were added pertaining to access to alcohol and other drugs, peer use of alcohol and marijuana, student feelings of safety at school and knowledge of gang activity in school are presented next. The demographic data are presented first, followed by frequencies for all survey items for both the high school and middle school populations, using SPSS 25. For select items included on both the high school and middle school surveys, the results include data comparing responses among the 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade to the results for 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Further, a series of tables present findings by gender, grade and ethnicity (Hispanic/not-Hispanic).

### Demographic Characteristics

#### **Sex, Grade and Race/Ethnicity**

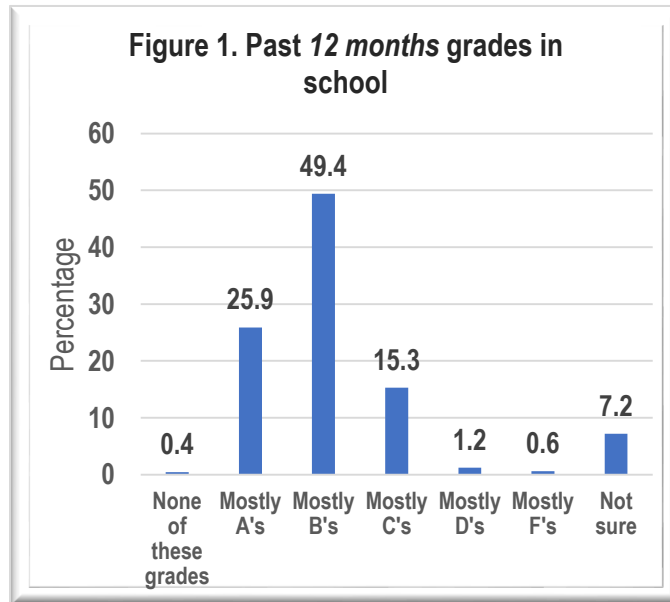
Among the high school students, 52.8% were female. Survey participants were distributed across grades 9 (31.9%), 10 (27.3%), 11 (22.3%) and 12 (18.3%). For the junior high schools, 50.8% were female, and approximately 57% of the middle school sample were in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Not surprisingly, the majority self-identified as Black/African American for high school (88.1%) and middle school (81.6%). A slightly higher proportion of students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades self-identified as Hispanic/Latino than among 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders (29.6% and 27.3%, respectively). The mean age for the high school sample was 15.97 ( $SD=1.26$ ,  $n=1765$ ) while the mean age for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade sample was 13.23 ( $SD=0.89$ ,  $n=1271$ ).



## Sexual Identity

While a large proportion of high school students self-identify as heterosexual or straight (87%), 2.5% identified as gay or lesbian, 5.4% as bi-sexual and 5.0% were unsure. This question is not included on the middle school survey.

## Grades in school



Approximately 75% of high school students described their grades in school as mostly A's or B's (Figure 1). Interestingly, a very small percentage (1.8%) said they earn mostly D's and F's. Among 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students responding to this question, 68.1% reported their grades in school as mostly A's and B's and 1.7% said they earn mostly D's and F's (data not shown).

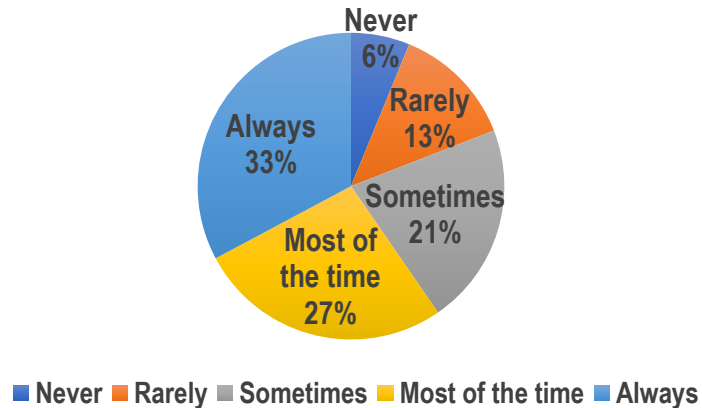
## High School Survey

### Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence

#### Q8. How often do you wear a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else?

Approximately 1 in 3 public high school youth reported wearing a seat belt at all times (32.5%, Figure 2) while 6.2% reported never wearing a seat belt and 12.9% reported rarely wearing a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else. More males (19.9%) than females (18.4%) reported rarely or never wearing a seatbelt, though the difference was not statistically significant (Chi-square (1,  $n=1759$ ) = .52 (with Yates Continuity Correction),  $p=.47$ ). Further, 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students were most likely to report 'rarely or never' wearing a seatbelt (22.5%), but there was no significant association between grade level and wearing a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else. The prevalence of rarely or never wearing a seat belt was higher for males in grades 12 (23.5%) and grade 11 (22.6%) than for females in grade 12 (21.8%).

Figure 2. Frequency of wearing a seat belt when riding with a driver

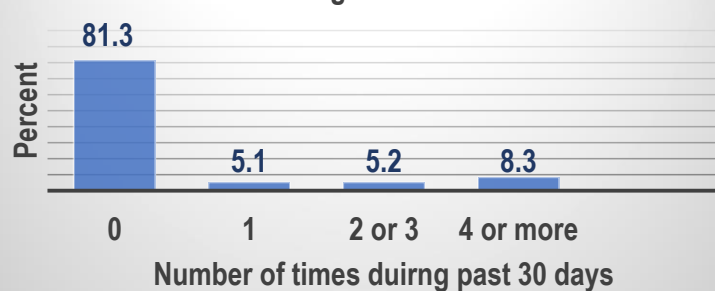


#### Q9. During the past 30 days, how many times did you ride in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?

When asked about riding in a car or vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol, 18.7% (Figure 3) reported this behavior at least one time over the 30-day period preceding the survey.

There was a statistically significant association between gender and 'ride in a car or vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol', with more males (21.1%) than females (16.5%) reporting this behavior at least one time (Chi-square (1,  $n=1755$ ) = 5.76 (with Yates Continuity Correction),  $p=.02$ ). There was no significant difference by grade level.

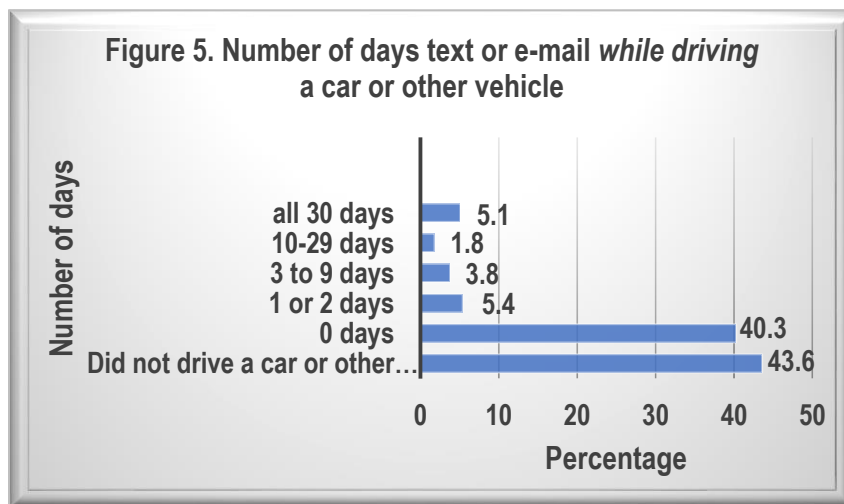
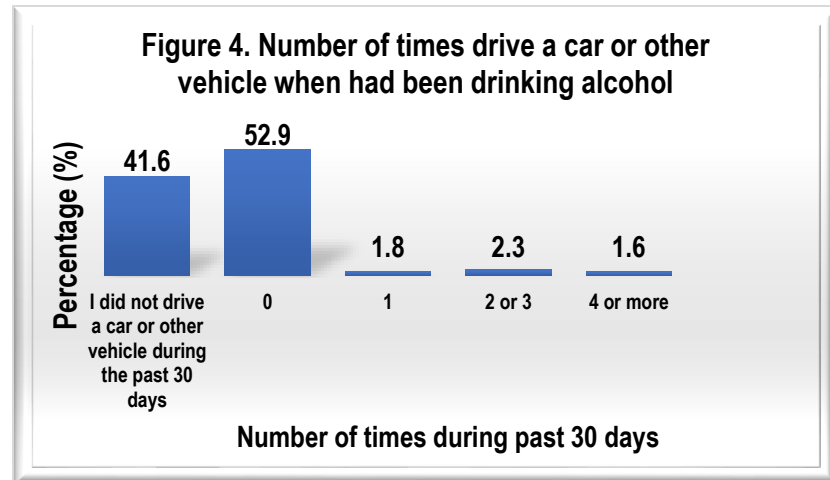
Figure 3. Number of times riding in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol



**Q10. During the past 30 days, how many times did you drive a car or other vehicle when you had been drinking alcohol?**

Slightly more than 5% of youth reported driving when they had been drinking alcohol at least one time. (Figure 4).

There was a statistically significant association between gender and grade level and the behavior of driving when having been drinking alcohol. More males (62.1%) than females (54.3%) (Chi-square (1,  $n=1733$ ) = 10.4 (with Yates Continuity Correction),  $p=.001$ ) and more 12<sup>th</sup> grade students (70%) than all other grades (Chi-square (3,  $n=1731$ ) = 39.9,  $p<.000$ ) reported engaging in this behavior at least one time during the 30 days prior to the survey.



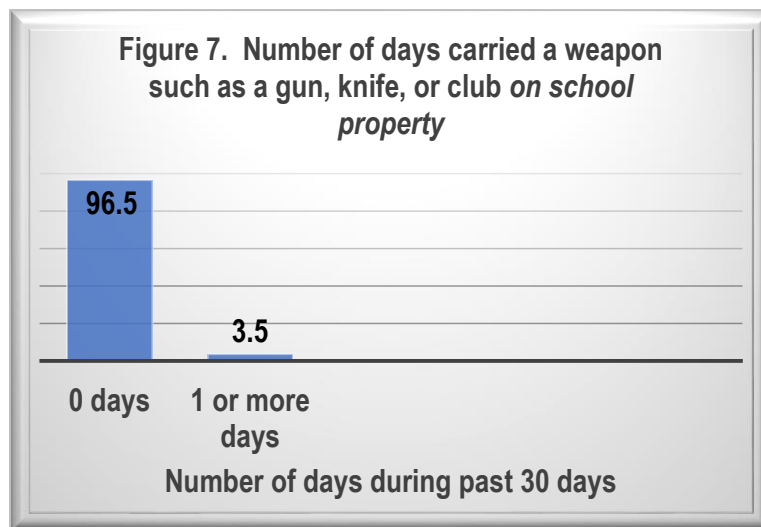
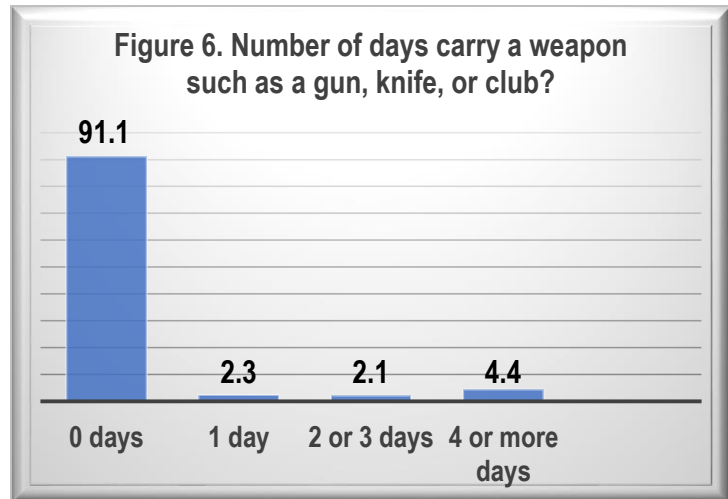
**Q11. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you text or e-mail while driving a car or other vehicle?**

Approximately five percent of drivers (5.1%, Figure 5) reported texting while driving for the entire time period of 30 days prior to the survey and, overall, 16.1% admitted to texting or emailing while driving

during that time period. More males (19.6%) than females (12.9%) reported texting or emailing while driving at least one day during the 30-day period prior to the survey (Chi-square (1,  $n=1752$ ) = 14.6 (with Yates Continuity Correction),  $p<.000$ ). Students in grade 12 were most likely to report this behaviour at least one day in the prior 30 days (32.2%). There was a statistically significant association between grade level and texting or emailing while driving at least one day in the prior 30 days (Chi-square (3,  $n=1751$ ) = 100.4,  $p<.000$ ).

**Q12. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife or club?**

When asked about carrying a weapon, 8.9% carried a weapon such as a gun, knife or club on at least one day and as many as 4.4 percent carried a weapon on 4 or more days during the 30-day period prior to the survey (Figure 6). More males (13%) than females (5%) carried a weapon on at least one day and the difference was statistically significant (Chi-square (1,  $n=1756$ ) = 33.5 (with Yates Continuity Correction),  $p<.000$ ). There was no significant association by grade level (Chi-square (3,  $n=1756$ ) = 6.4,  $p=.09$ ).

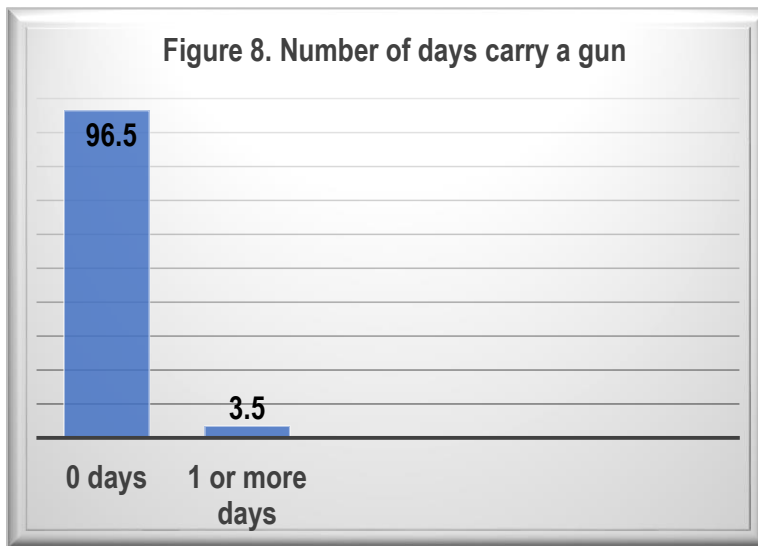


**Q13. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife or club on school property?**

Carrying a weapon on school property was less frequent (3.5%) (Figure 7), though 1.6% reported carrying a weapon on school property on 6 or more days over the 30 days prior to taking the survey. More males (5.2%) than females (3.2%)

reported carrying a weapon on school property on 1 or more days, but the difference was not statistically significant (Chi-square (1,  $n=1758$ ) = 2.2,  $p=.14$ ). Students in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade (5.9%) reported this behaviour more than students in grades 9-11, but the difference was not significantly significant (Chi-square (3,  $n=1758$ ) = 6.9,  $p=.11$ ).

Figure 8. Number of days carry a gun



**Q14. During the past 12 months, on how many days did you carry a gun?** (*Do not count the days when you carried a gun only for hunting or for a sport, such as target shooting.*)

Among those responding to this question, 3.5% reported carrying a gun at least one day over the past 12 months (Figure 8), with 1.3% reporting carrying a gun on 6 or more days over the prior 12 months. More males (5.2%) than females (1.9%) reported

carrying a gun and students in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade were more likely to carry a gun (6.2%) than any other grade.

**Q15. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?**

Interestingly, 9.4% reported not going to school due to concerns for school safety for at least 1 day during the 30 days prior to the

survey (Figure 9). There was no significant difference between male and female or 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade students when it came to feelings of safety. However, students who self-identified as Hispanic/Latino were more likely to report feeling unsafe at school or on the way to or from school (11.4%; Chi-square (1,  $n=1724$ ) = 3.9,  $p=.05$ ).

Figure 9. Number of days did not go to school because felt unsafe at school or on the way to or from school

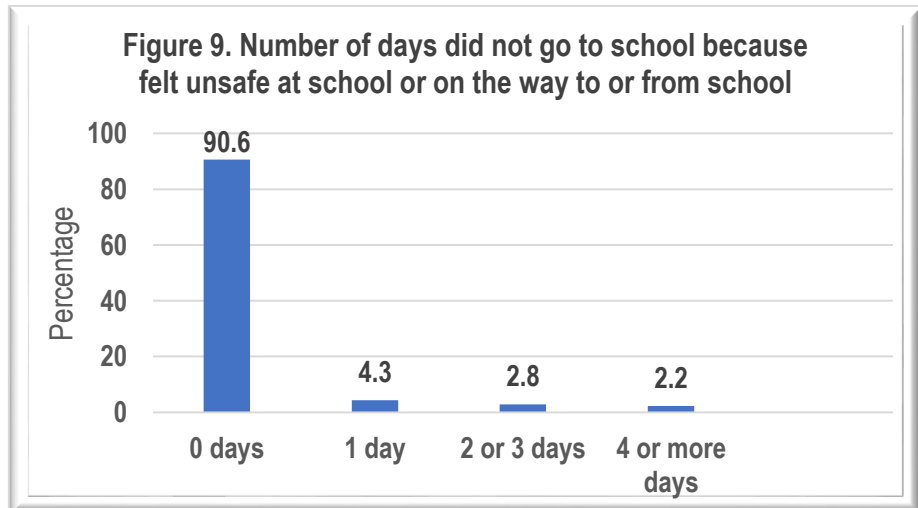
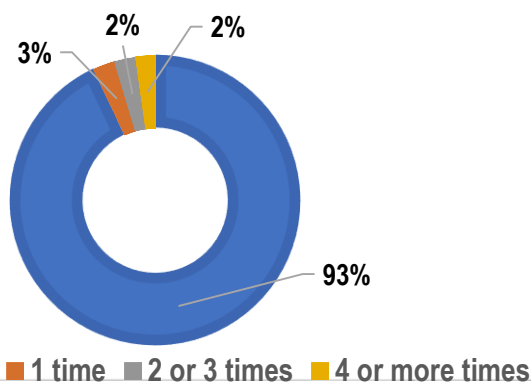


Figure 10. Number of times threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property



**Q16. During the past 12 months, how many times has someone threatened or injured you with a weapon such as a gun, knife or club on school property?**

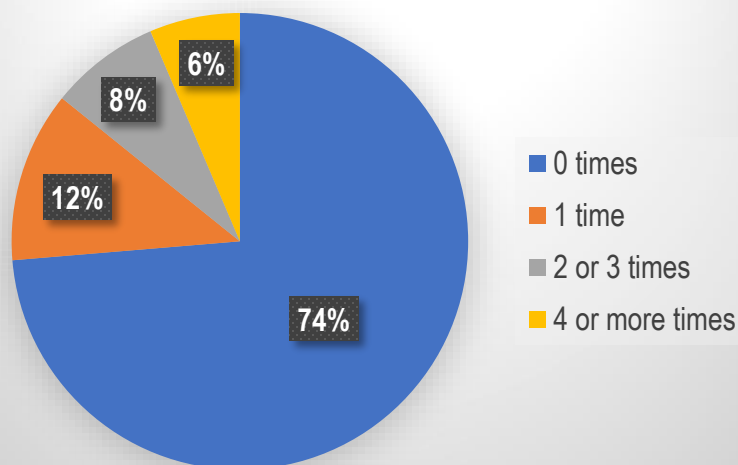
The vast majority (93%) of students were not threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife or club on school property, resulting in approximately 7% who were threatened or

injured for at least one time (Figure 10) during the 12-month period prior to the survey. More males (8.4%) than females (5.7%) reported being threatened or injured with a weapon at least one time during the 12 months prior to the survey. There was no observable difference by grade level and ethnicity for this question.

**Q17. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight?**

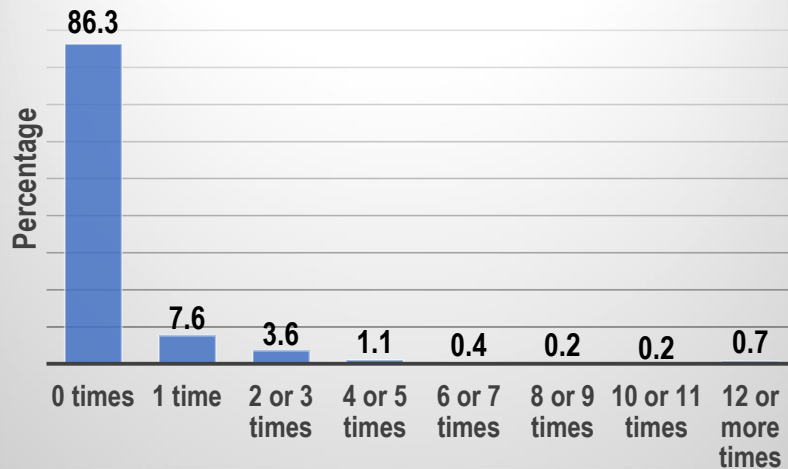
Just over 1 in 4 (26.4%) reported being in a physical fight at least one time during the 12-month period prior to the survey (Figure 11). There was a statistically significant association between gender and being in a physical fight and between grade level and being in a physical fight for this sample. More males (32.7%) reported being in a physical fight at least one time than females (20.7%) (Chi-square (1,  $n=1758$ ) = 32.4,  $p=.000$ ) and 9<sup>th</sup> graders (31.6%) were more likely than any other grade (Chi-square (3,  $n=1756$ ) = 16.9,  $p=.001$ ) to report being in a physical fight more than one time.

Figure 11. Number of times in a physical fight



**Q18. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight on school property?**

**Figure 12. Number of times in a physical fight on school property?**



For this question, 13.7% reported being in a physical fight on school property at least one time during the 12-month period before the survey (Figure 12). More males (17.9%) than females (10.0%) and more 9<sup>th</sup> grade students (18.4%) than students in any other grades reported fighting on school property during the 12-month period prior to the survey. Students in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade were least likely to

report being in a physical fight on school property (9.6%).

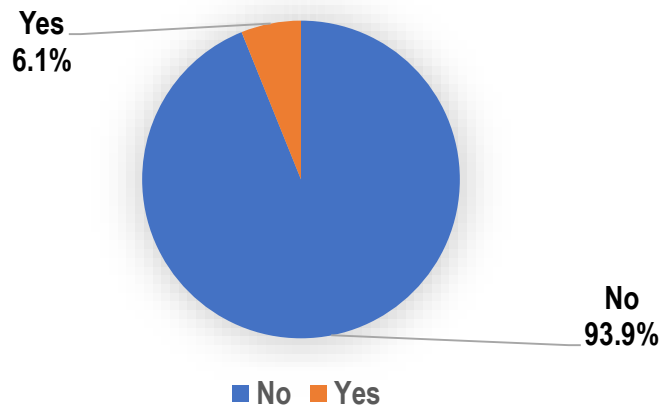
**Q19. Have you ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?**

Among students responding to the question about being physically forced to have sexual intercourse, 6.1% responded in the affirmative (Figure 13).

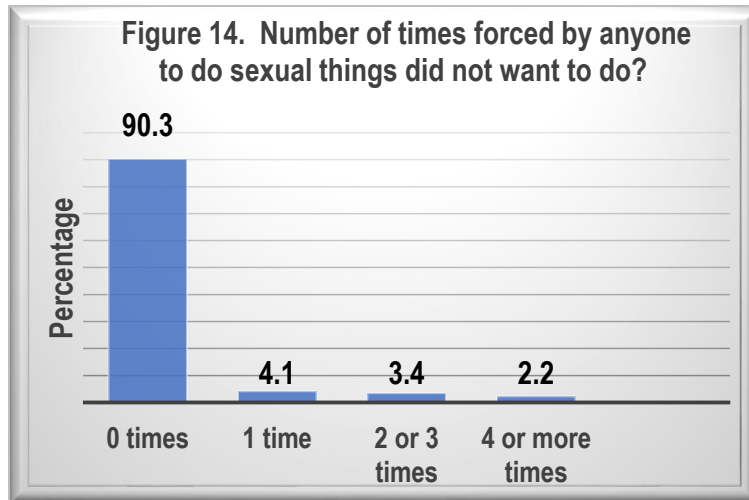
The prevalence of forced sexual intercourse was more than twice as high

for females (8.5%) than for males (3.3%) (Chi-square (1, n=1747) = 19.9,  $p < .000$ ). There was no statistically significant association between grade level and being forced to have sexual intercourse, though the prevalence was highest for those in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade (8.7%) and lowest for those in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade (4.5%).

**Figure 13. Ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when did not want to**





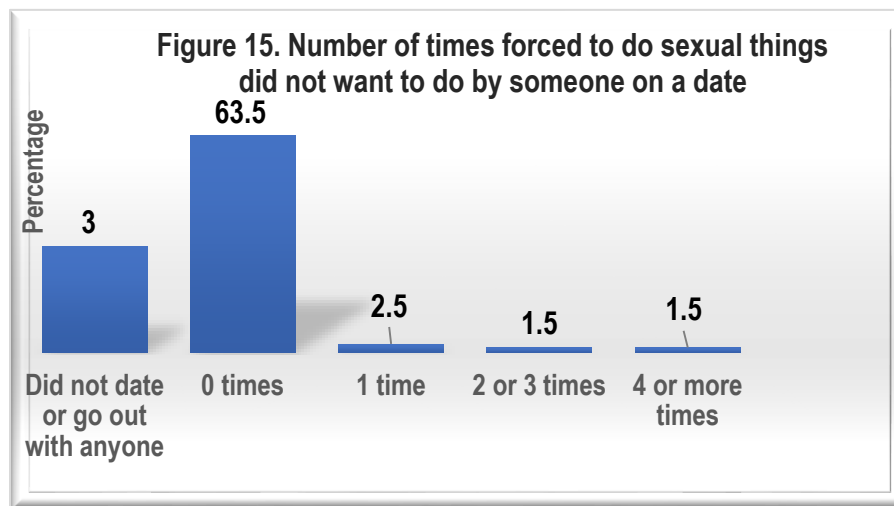


**Q20. During the past 12 months, how many times did anyone force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do?**

*(Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)*

During the 12 months prior to the survey, 9.7% experienced unwanted sexual contact at least one time (Figure 14) and 5.5% reported experiencing sexual dating violence (Figure 15) at

least once during the 12 months prior to the survey. Almost twice as many females (12.4%) as males (6.4%) had been forced to do sexual things they did not want to do (Chi-square (1,  $n=1745$ ) = 16.9,  $p<.000$ ). Students in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade were more likely to report being forced to do sexual things, though the difference between grade levels did not reach statistical significance.



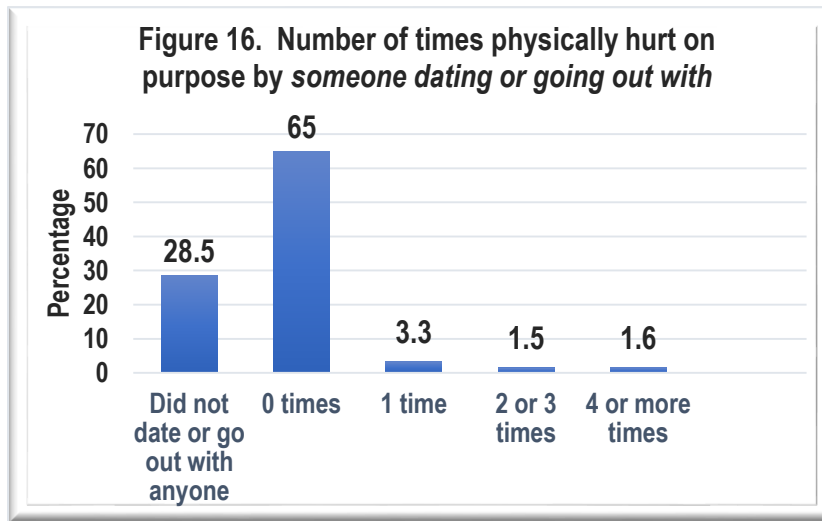
**Q21. During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do?**

*(Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)*

During the 12 month-period prior to the

survey, 5.5% reported being forced to perform sexual acts on a date (Figure 15). More female (6.5%) than male (4.0%) students reported being forced to do sexual things on a date (Chi-square (1,  $n=1743$ ) = 16.9,  $p=.03$ ). The prevalence of being forced to perform sexual things with a date was higher among 10<sup>th</sup> grade (6.7%) than 12<sup>th</sup> grade (5.9%).

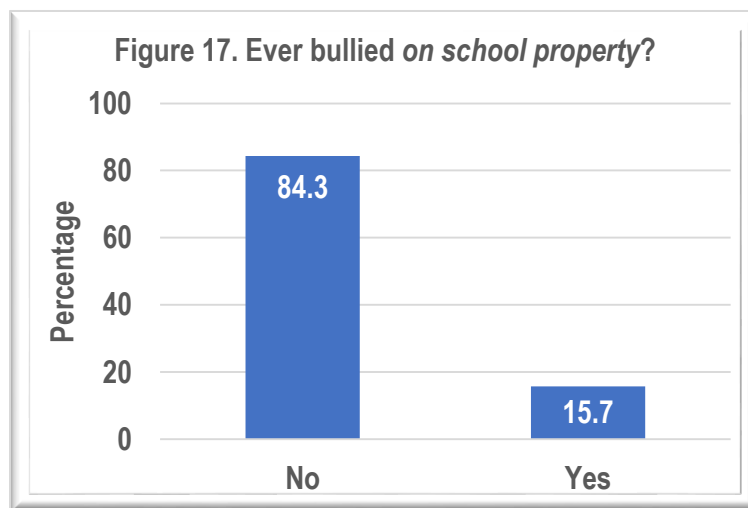




**Q22. During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with physically hurt you on purpose? (Count such things as being hit, slammed into something or injured with and object or weapon.)**

Additionally, 6.4% reported experiencing physical dating violence over the 12-month period prior to the survey

(Figure 16). Prevalence of dating violence did not vary significantly by gender (males-6.7%, females-6.2%), grade level (6.1%-9<sup>th</sup>; 5.9%-10<sup>th</sup>; 6.4%-11<sup>th</sup> and 7.7%-12<sup>th</sup> grade) or by Hispanic/Latino ethnic origin (5.9%-Non-Hispanic; 7.3%-Hispanic/Latino).

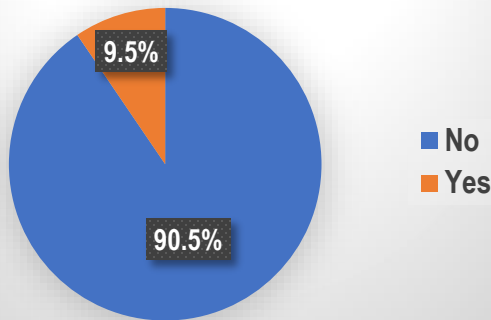


**Q23. During the past 12 months, have you ever been bullied on school property?**

During the 12-month period before the survey, 15.7% of high school students responding to this question were bullied on school property (Figure 17). The prevalence was higher among females (19.7%) than males (11.1%) (Chi-square (1,  $n=1755$ ) = 24,  $p<.000$ ). This was very similar to the results for

electronic bullying, with female students reporting being bullied more often than males (12.2% vs. 5.7%, respectively) (Chi-square (1,  $n=1749$ ) = 23.3,  $p<.000$ ). There was no statistically significant difference by grade level or Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

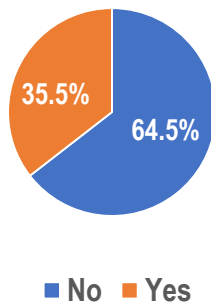
Figure 18. Ever been electronically bullied?



**Q24. During the past 12 months, have you ever been electronically bullied?**

Approximately 1 in 10 (9.5%) were electronically bullied during the 12-month period prior to the survey (Figure 18).

Figure 19. Felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row and stopped doing some usual activities

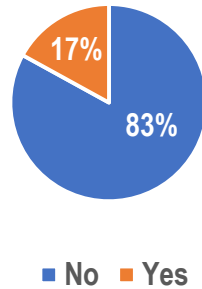


**Q25. During the past 12 months, have you ever felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?**

More than 1 in 3 high school students participating in this survey (35.5%) were 'sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities', a measure of the presence of

depression (Figure 19). Female students were almost twice as likely to report feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row and stopped doing some usual activities (46.0%) as male students (23.7%) (Chi-square (1,  $n=1746$ ) = 93.3,  $p<.000$ ). Students in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade were most likely to report being sad or hopeless (40.8%) compared to students from grades 9 (31.7%), grade 10 (35.4%) and grade 12 (35.3%) (Chi-square (3,  $n=1745$ ) = 8.3,  $p=.04$ ).

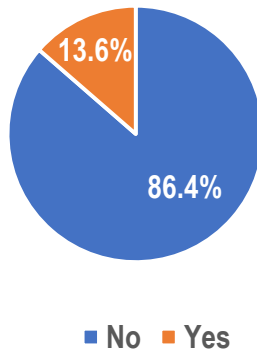
Figure 20. Ever seriously consider attempting suicide



**Q26. During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?**

When asked if they considered attempting suicide during the 12 months prior to the survey, **17% answered 'yes'** (Figure 20). Female students were more than twice as likely to consider suicide (23.4%) than male students (9.9%) (Chi-square (1,  $n=1744$ ) = 55.7,  $p<.000$ ).

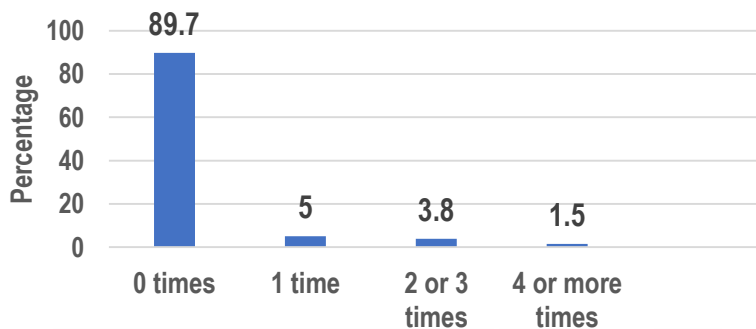
Figure 21. Made a plan about how to attempt suicide



**Q27. During the past 12 months, did you make a plan about how you would attempt suicide?**

Figure 21 shows that 13.6% reported having made a suicide plan. More females (18.1%) than males (8.6%) made a plan (Chi-square (1,  $n=1747$ ) = 32.0,  $p<.000$ ).

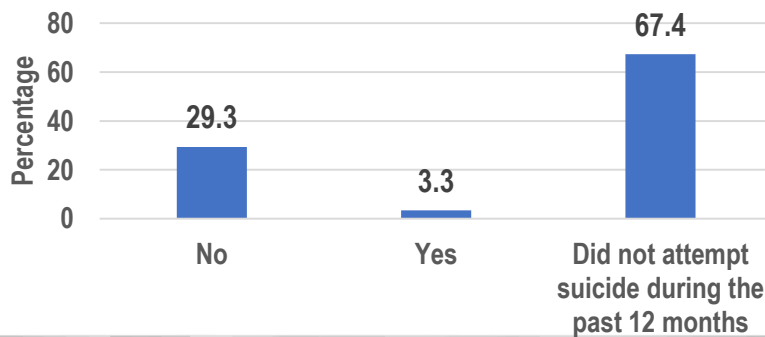
Figure 22. Number of times actually attempt suicide



**Q28. During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide?**

Approximately **1 in 10** high school students (10.3%) reported actually attempting suicide at least one time during the 12 months prior to the survey (Figure 22).

Figure 23. *Attempted suicide that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse*



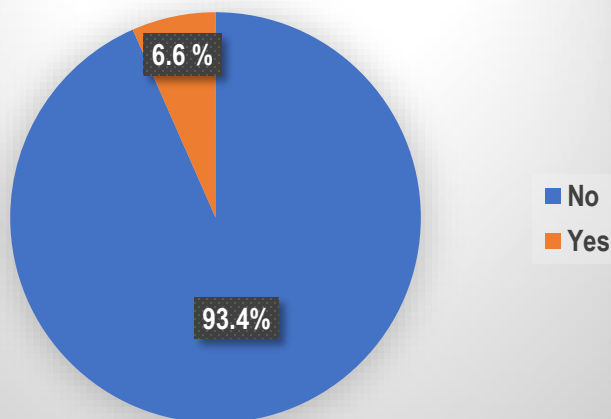
**Q29. If you attempted suicide during the past 12 months, did any attempt result in an injury, poisoning or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?**

For this question, 3.3% of respondents reported having a suicide attempt result in an injury that had to be treated by a doctor or a nurse (Figure 23). For this

question, there were no statistically significant associations between gender or grade level. However, Hispanic/Latino youth were more likely than their non-Hispanic peers to be injured as a result of a suicide attempt (3.9% vs 3.1 %, respectively) (Chi-square (2,  $n=1699$ ) = 7.7,  $p=.02$ ).

### Tobacco Use

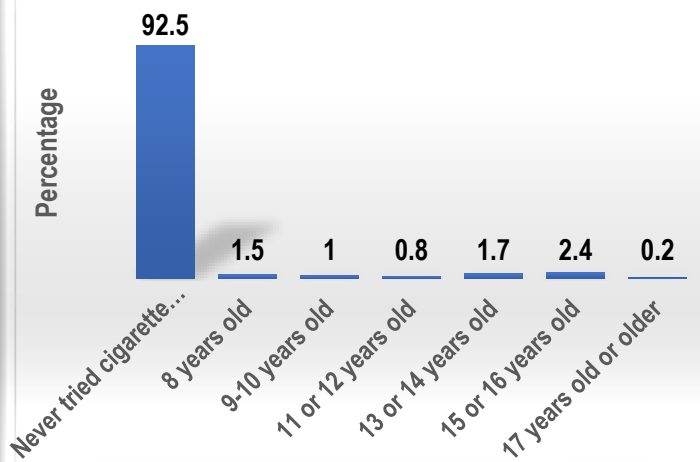
Figure 24. *Ever tried cigarette smoking*



**Q30. Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?**

Asked if they had 'ever tried cigarette smoking', 6.6% answered 'yes' (Figure 24).

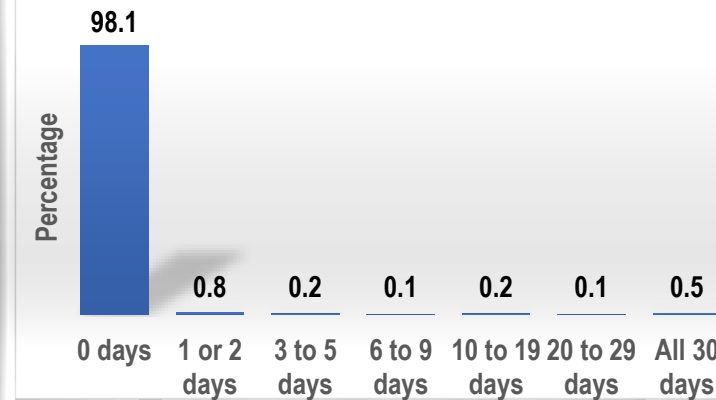
Figure 25. Age first smoked a cigarette



**Q31. How old were you when you first tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?**

Age at which youth first smoked cigarettes ranged from as low as 8 years old (1.5%) to 17 (<1%). Overall, the age most frequently reported for first time use was 15 or 16 years old (2.4%) followed by 13 or 14 years old (1.7%) (Figure 25).

Figure 26. Number of days smoked cigarettes during past 30 days



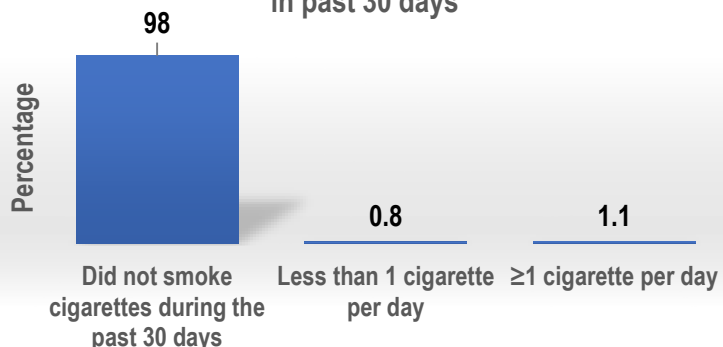
**Q32. During the past 30 days, how many days did you smoke cigarettes?**

During the 30 days prior to the survey, 1.9% reported smoking on at least one day (Figure 26).

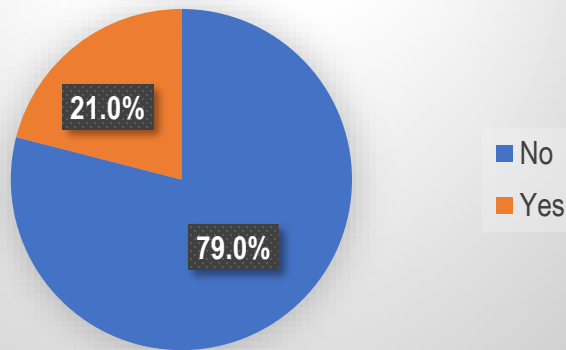
**Q33. During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?**

Among study participants responding to this question, less than two percent (2%) reported smoking at least one cigarette per day (Figure 27).

Figure 27. Number of cigarettes smoked per day in past 30 days



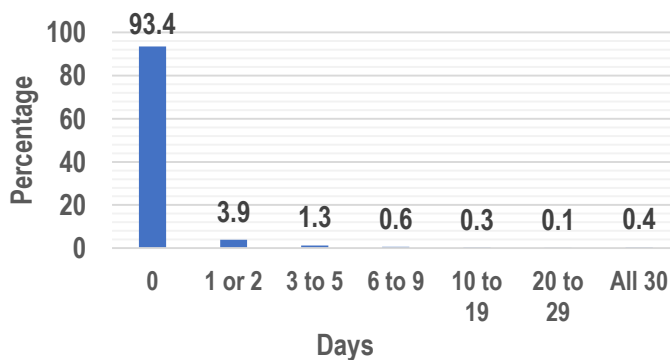
**Figure 28. Percentage of high school students who ever used an electronic vapor product**



**Q34. Have you ever used an electronic vapor product?**

A little over 1 in 5 or 21% of youth reported ever using an electronic vapor product (Figure 28).

**Figure 29. Number of days used electronic vapor product during the past 30 days**



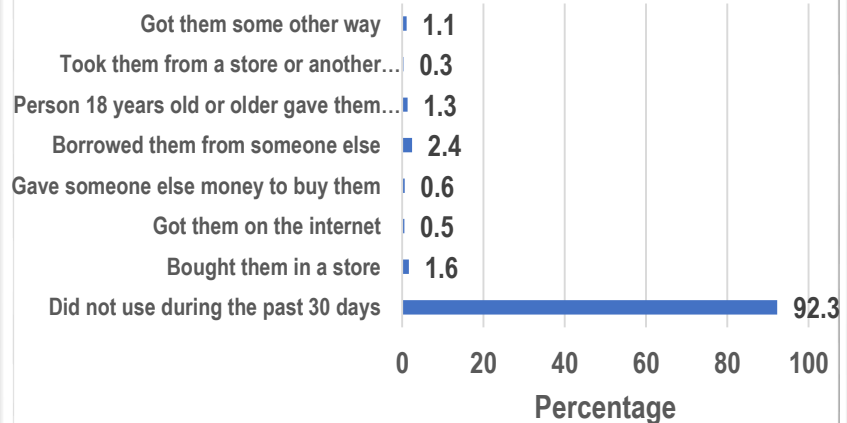
**Q35. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use an electronic vapor product?**

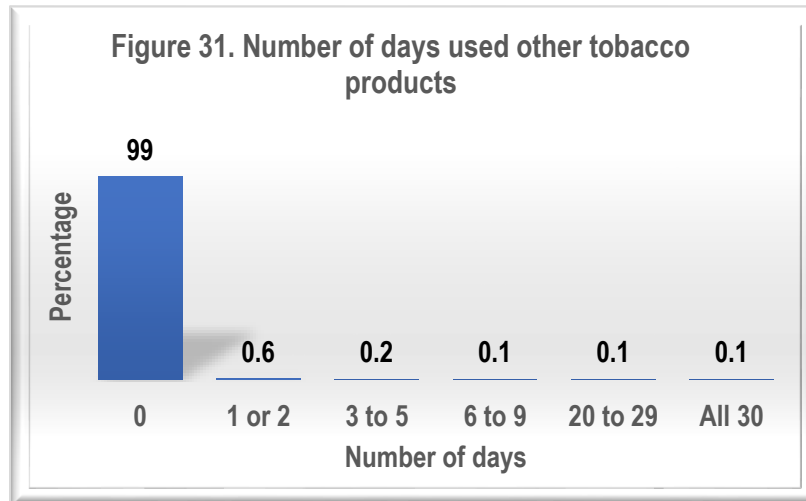
However, 3.9% used an electronic vapor product on 1 or 2 days during the 30 days prior to the survey (Figure 29).

**Q36. During the past 30 days, how did you usually get your own electronic vapor products (Select only one response)?**

The majority borrowed electronic vapor products from someone else (2.4%), were given the products by someone 18 years old or older (1.3%) or bought them at a store (1.6%) (Figure 30).

**Figure 30. Usual source of electronic vapor product**





**Q37. During the past 30 days, how many days did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco products, such as Redman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, Copenhagen, Camel Snus, Marlboro Snus, General Snus, Ariva, Stonewall, or Camel Orbs? (Do not count any electronic vapor products).**

Prevalence of tobacco use was generally low in this population of high school students. One percent (1%) used chewing tobacco, snuff, etc. on at least one day during the 30 days prior to the survey (Figure 31).

**Q38. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigars, cigarillos or little cigars?**

Similarly, only 1.1%, reported smoking cigars, cigarillos or little cigars at least one day during the 30-day period prior to the survey. (Figure 32).

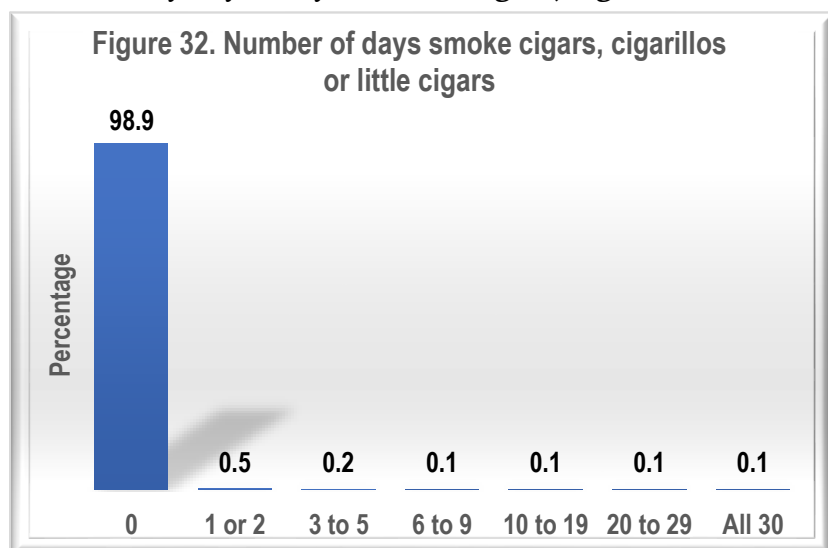
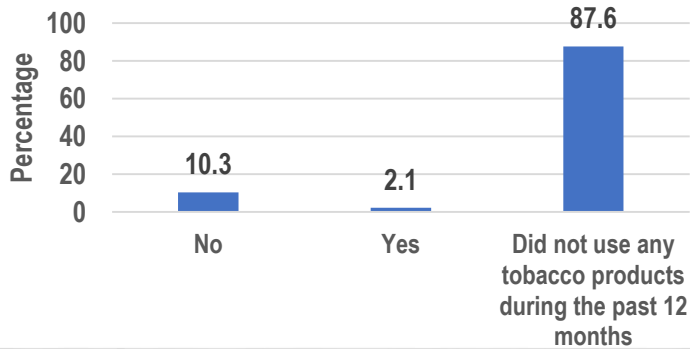


Figure 33. Percentage ever try to quit using all tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, shisha or hookah tobacco, and electronic vapor products



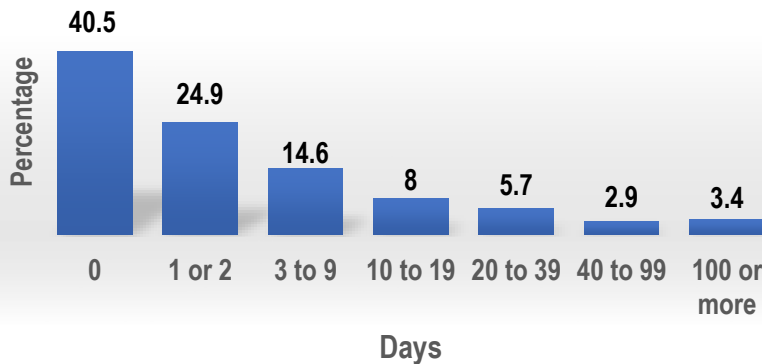
**Q39. During the past 12 months did you ever try to quit using all tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, shisha or hookah tobacco, and electronic vapor products?**

Asked if they tried to quit using all tobacco products during the 12-month period prior to the survey, 2.1% responded 'yes' and 10.3% responded 'no'. (Figure 33).



## Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Figure 34. Lifetime number of days had at least one drink of alcohol

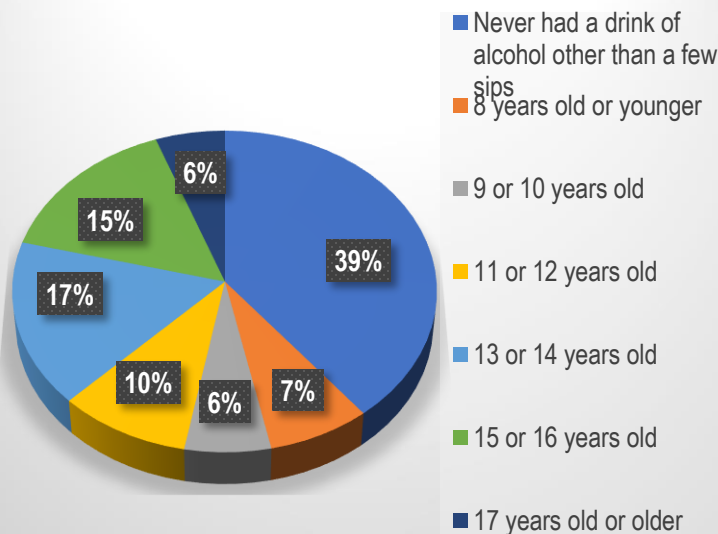


**Q40. During your life, on how many days have you had at least one drink of alcohol?**

While 40.5% reported never having at least one drink of alcohol, almost 1 in 4 or 24.9% reported having at least one drink of alcohol on 1 or two days, 14.6% on 10-19 days, 5.7% on 20-39 days and 6.3% for more than 40

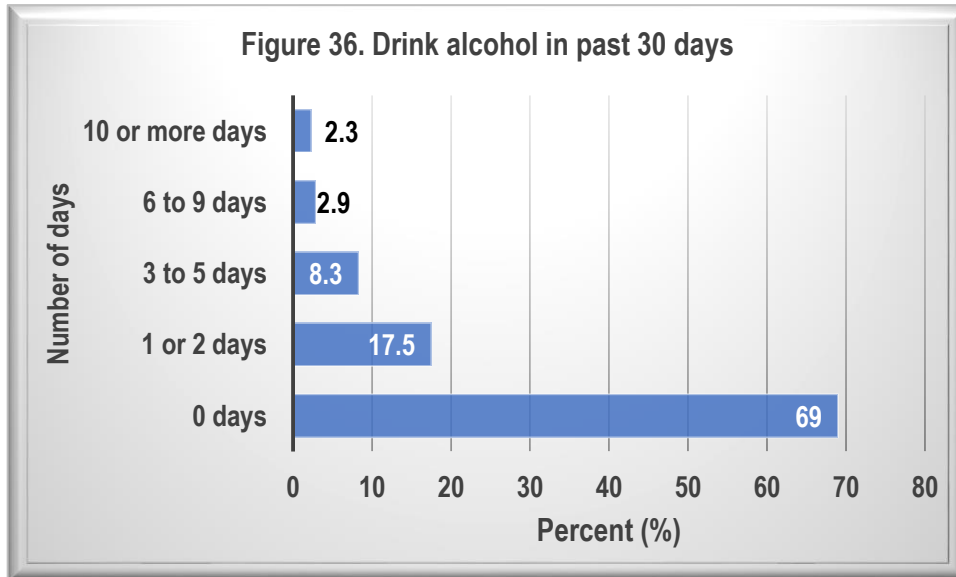
days (Figure 34).

Figure 35. Age first drank alcohol



**Q41. How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than a few sips?**

When asked about their age when they had their first drink of alcohol, 16.6% and 15.4% said at age 13 or 14 and 15 or 16, respectively. The youngest reported age was 8 years old, reported by 7.4% and the oldest was 17 years old (5.6%). (Figure 35). Approximately 40% reported no alcohol consumption at any age.



**Q42. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?**

Current alcohol use was at 31% (Figure 36).

**you usually get your alcohol?**

**Q43. How did**

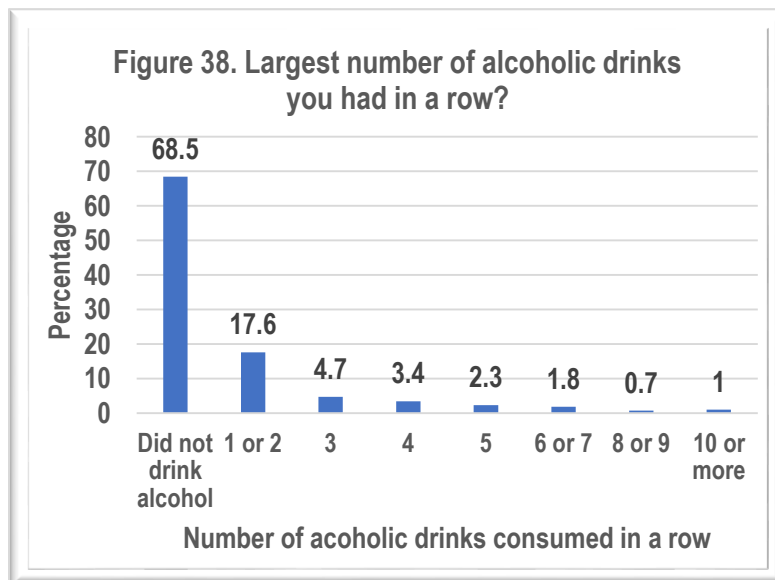
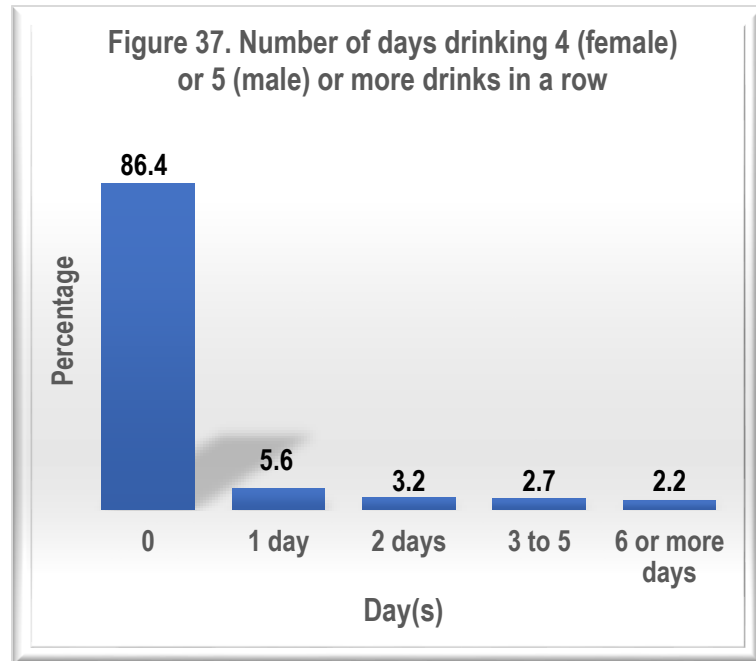
When asked how they usually get alcohol, 9.2% responded that someone gave it to them, followed by either getting it from a store or family member or some other way (Table 2).

Table 2. Usual source of alcohol, 2017 USVI YRBS, high school only

MEANS OF GETTING ALCOHOL	NUMBER	PERCENT (%)
I did not drink alcohol during the past 30 days	1116	67.4
I bought it in a store such as a liquor store convenience store supermarket discount store or gas station	39	2.4
I bought it at a restaurant bar or club	51	3.1
I bought it at a public event such as a concert or sporting event	36	2.2
I gave someone else money to buy it for me	81	4.9
Someone gave it to me	153	9.2
I took it from a store or family member	88	5.3
I got it some other way	93	5.6

**Q44. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have 4 or more drinks of alcohol in a row (if you are female) or 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row (if you are male)? (Figure 37)**

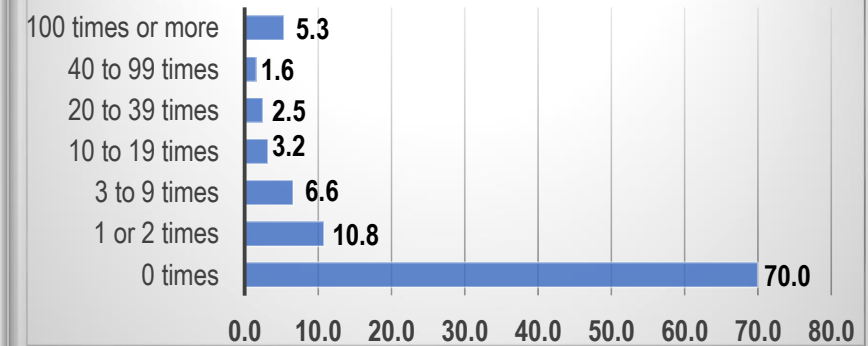
Among youth responding to this question, while the majority (86.4%) reported no days of consuming 4 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, 5.6% said they consumed 4 or more drinks of alcohol in a row on 1 day, 3.2% said 2 days, and 2.7% reported this behavior on 3 to 5 days. (Figure 37)



**Q45. During the past 30 days, what is the largest number of alcoholic drinks you had in a row?**

When asked to report on the largest number of alcoholic drinks consumed in a row during the 30-day period prior to the survey, 68.5% said they did not drink alcohol, 17.6% said 1 or 2 drinks, 4.7% reported 3 drinks, 2.3% reported 4 drinks, and 2.6% had 6 or more drinks (Figure 38).

Figure 39. Number of times used marijuana



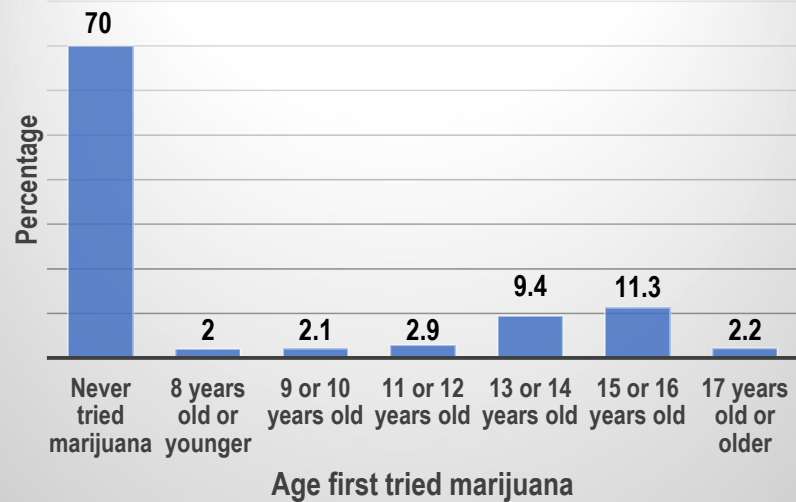
**Q46. During your life, how many times have you used marijuana?**

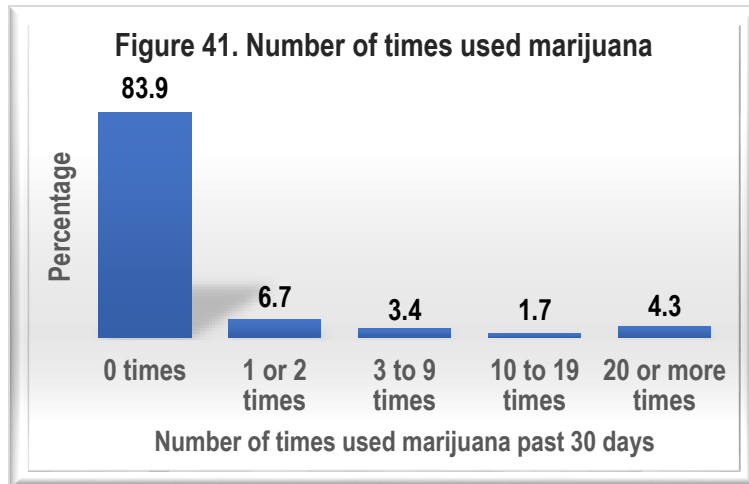
30% used at least one time, with 5.3% reporting use for 100 times or more (Figure 39).

**Q47. How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?**

While 70% reported never having tried marijuana (Figures 39 and 40), the age at which youth first tried marijuana ranged from 8 years old (2%) to 17 years or older (2.2%). The ages when the highest percentage of youth reported first trying marijuana were 15 or 16 (11.3%) followed by 13 or 14 (9.3%) (Figure 40).

Figure 40. Age first tried marijuana





**Q48. During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana?**

When asked about the number of times they used marijuana during the 30 days prior to the survey, while 83.9% reported no use, 16.1% reported using marijuana at least 1 time, with 4.3% reporting using marijuana 20 or more times (Figure 41).

### Other Illegal Drug Use

Questions 49 to 56 asked students: ‘During your life, how many times have you used.’ about the drugs included in Table 3. While the reported frequency of use for the illegal drugs is listed in Table 3, it is important to note that some drugs are used more than others, especially snuff/sniffing glue etc., synthetic marijuana and prescription pain medicine, the latter emerging as having the highest frequency overall (Table 3).

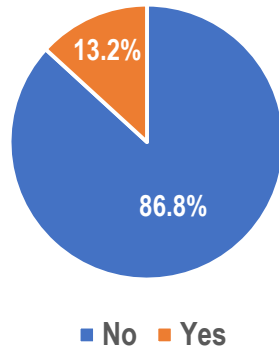
Table 3. Other Illegal Drug Use, 2017 USVI YRBS, High School

Drug	0 times		1 or 2 times		3 or more times	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Cocaine	1725	98.4	9	0.5	19	1.1
Snuff/glue, etc.	1642	93.9	54	3.1	52	3.0
Heroin	1724	98.9	5	0.3	15	0.9
Methamphetamines	1708	98.3	15	0.8	15	0.9
Ecstasy	1715	98.9	6	0.3	13	0.8
Synthetic marijuana	1668	95.9	31	1.8	41	2.4
Steroid pills	1704	98.2	14	0.8	18	1.0
Prescription pain medicine	1602	92.3	68	3.9	65	3.8

**Q57. During your life, how many times have you used a needle to inject any illegal drug into your body?**

When asked about lifetime practice of injecting drugs into the body, most reported not having done this, with 1.4 % reporting use at least one time.

**Figure 42 Percentage of youth offered, sold or given an illegal drug on school property during the past 12 months**



**Q58. During the past 12 months, has anyone offered, sold, or given you an illegal drug on school property?**

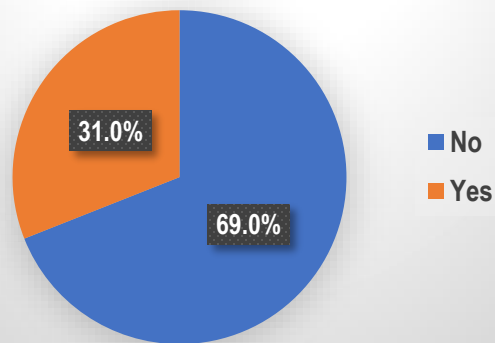
Among youth responding to this question, 13.2% said that they were offered, sold or given an illegal drug on school property (Figure 42).

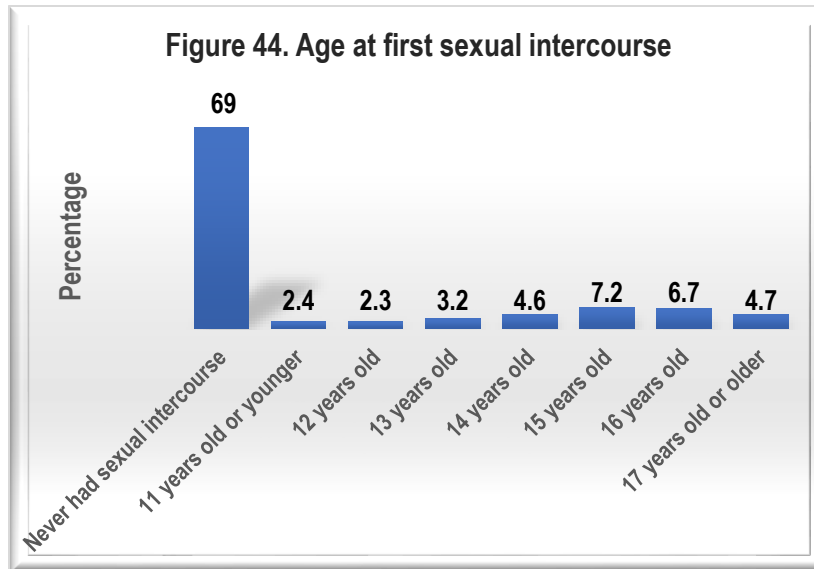
### ***Sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection***

**Q59. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?**

Thirty one percent (31%) reported ever having sexual intercourse (Figure 43). A higher percentage of males (38.6%) than females (24.0%) reported ever having had sexual intercourse and the association was statistically significant (Chi-square (1, n= 1701) = 41.6,  $p < .000$ ). The percentage of youth reporting ever having sexual intercourse increased with grade level from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Figure 43. Percentage ever had sexual intercourse**

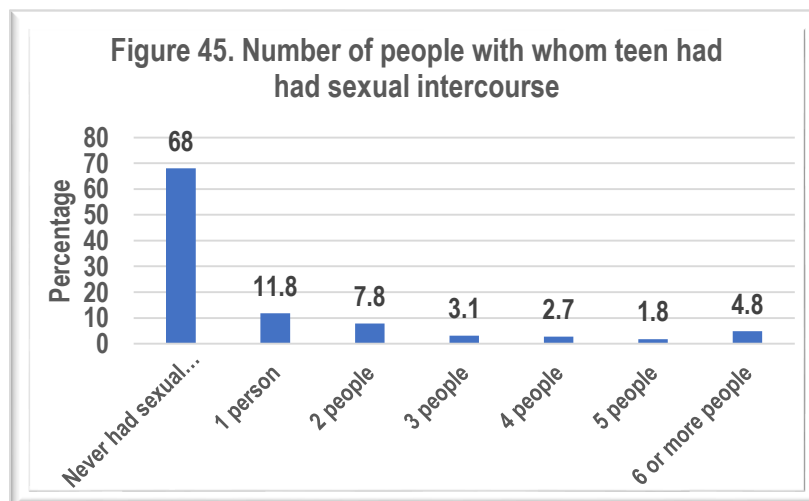




years old or younger.

**Q60. How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?**

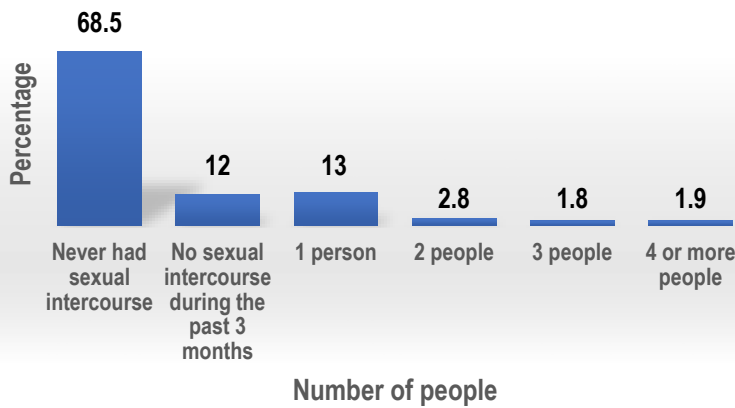
Age at first sexual intercourse ranged from 11 years or younger to 17 years and older. Among youth responding to this question, 7.2% reported having sexual intercourse for the first time at 15 years old, followed by 6.7% at 16 years old (Figure 44). Notably, 7.9% reported sexual intercourse at 13



**Q61. During your lifetime, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse?**

While 11.8% reported having had sex with one person, note that 12.4% reported having had sex with three or more persons and 4.8% reported 6 or more partners (Figure 45).

Figure 46. Number of people teen had sexual intercourse with in past 3 months



**Q62. During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?**

Thirteen percent (13%) reported sex with 1 person in the 3-month period before the survey, and 6.5% reported sex with 2 or more persons during that same period (Figure 46).

**Q63. Did you drink alcohol or use drugs before you had sexual intercourse the last time?**

Among high school students, 33.8% responded 'no' while 3.3% reported drinking alcohol or using drugs before sexual intercourse (Figure 47).

Figure 47. Drank alcohol or used drugs before sex the last time

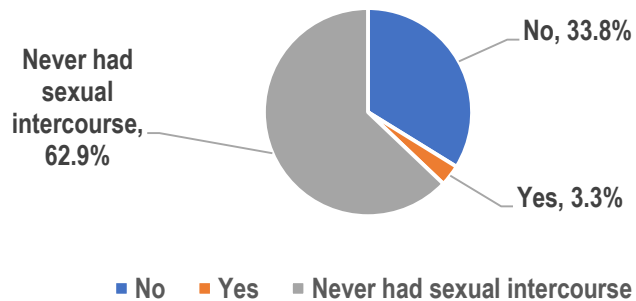
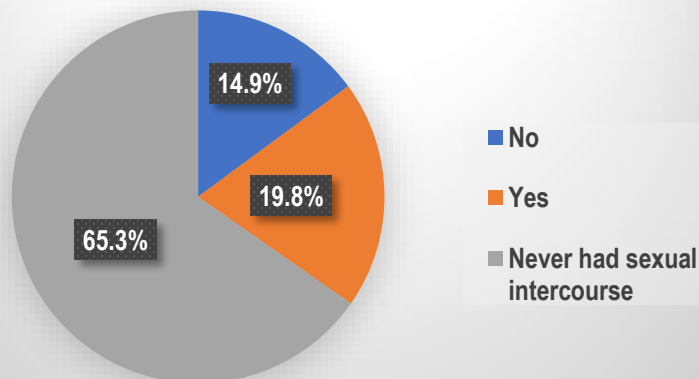


Figure 48. Percentage using condom at last sexual encounter



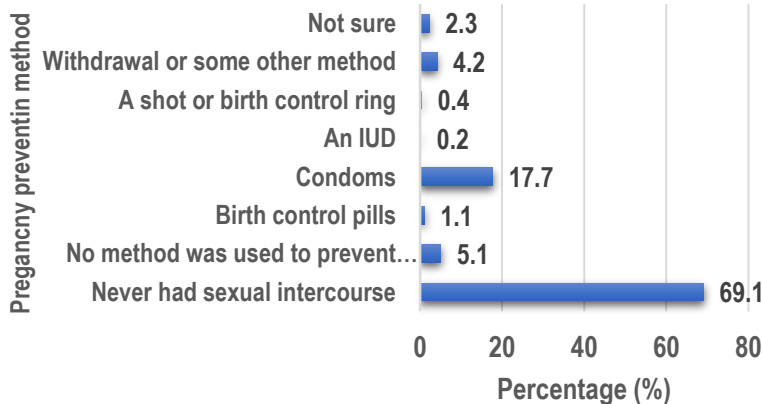
**Q64. The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?**

Approximately 1 in 5 or 19.8% said they or a partner used a condom during last intercourse, and 14.9% did not use a condom during last intercourse. (Figure 48). However, 57.1% of the sexually active youth used a condom at last sexual

intercourse.



Figure 49. Pregnancy prevention method used



**Q65. The last time you had sexual intercourse, what one method did you or your partner use to prevent pregnancy?**

The most frequently reported pregnancy prevention method was condoms, reported by approximately 18% of participants, while 5.1% reported using no method (Figure 49).

**Q66. During your life, with whom have you had sexual contact?**

Among youth responding to this question, 4% reported sexual contact with both males and females, 15% with males only, and 24% with females only during their lifetime (Figure 50).

Figure 50. Lifetime sexual contact

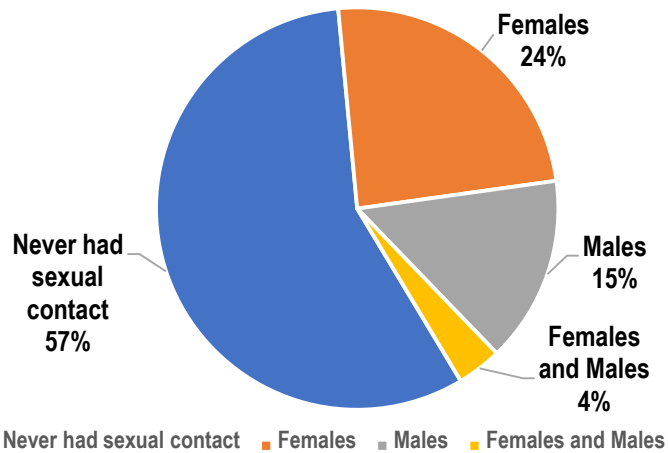
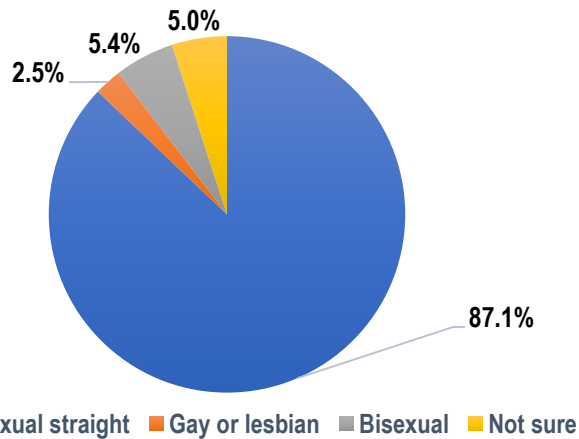


Figure 51. Sexual identity



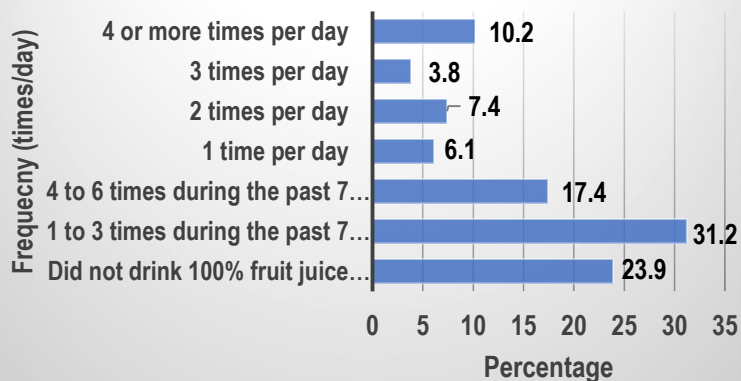
### Q67. Which of the following best describes you?

While the majority self-identify as heterosexual (87.1%), 2.5% identified as gay or lesbian, 5.4% bisexual and 5.0% was not sure (Figure 51).

## Dietary behaviors

Questions 70-78 ask about dietary intake and breakfast consumption habits during the 7 days prior to the survey.

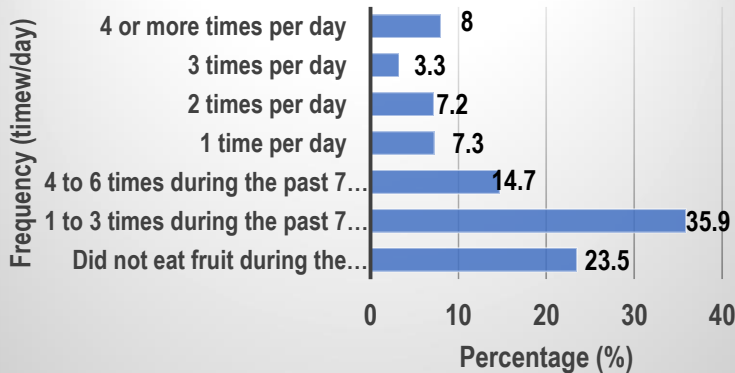
Figure 52. Number of times per day drank 100% fruit juices such as orange juice, apple juice, or grape juice



### Q 70. During the past 7 days, how many times did you drink 100% fruit juices such as orange juice, apple juice, or grape juice?

Almost 1 in 4 youth did not drink 100% fruit juice during the 7 days prior to the survey. Further, 31.2% drank 100% juice 1 to 3 times, 17.4% drank juice 4 to 6 times and 1 in 10 reported consuming 100% juice 4 or more times per day (Figure 52).

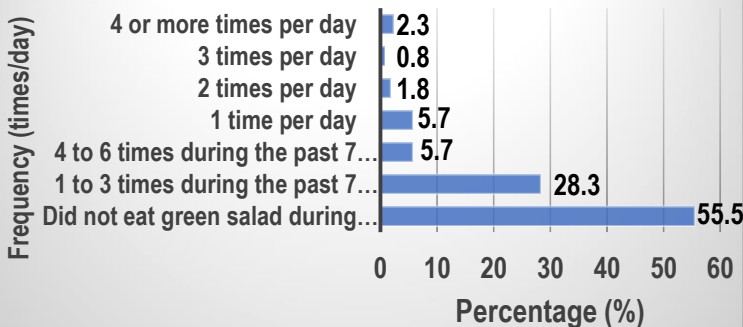
Figure 53. Past 7-day fruit consumption



**Q71. During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat fruit?**

Similar to the responses to the question on consumption of 100% fruit juice presented above, less than 1 in 4 youth did not eat fruit in the 7 days before the survey. A small percentage report consuming fruit one time per day (7.3%) (Figure 53).

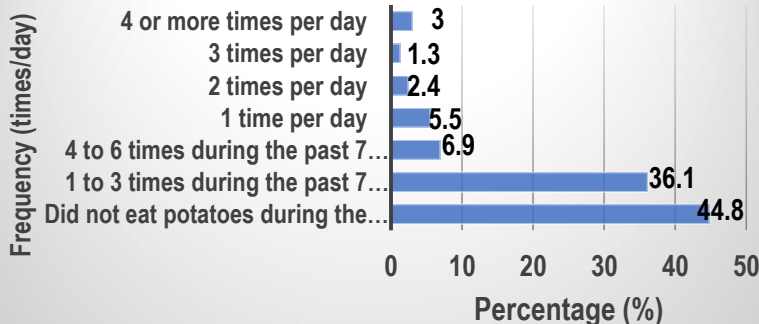
Figure 54. Eat green salad



**Q72. During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat green salad?**

More than half of the youth (55.5%) did not eat a green salad during the 7-day period prior to the survey. (Figure 54)

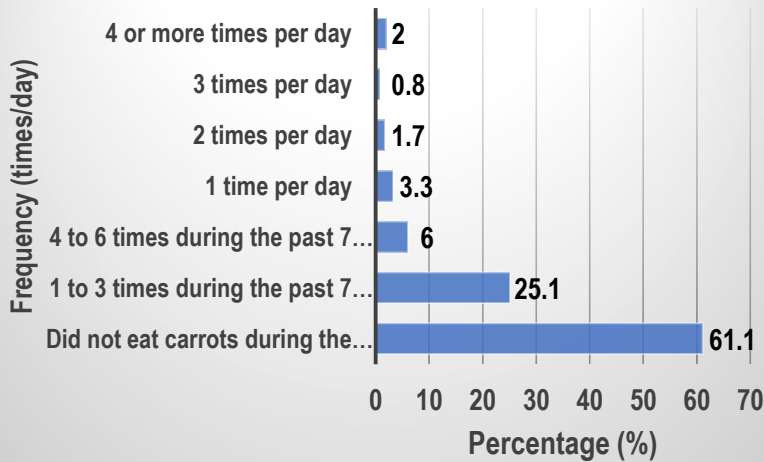
Figure 55. Number of times eat potatoes



**Q73. During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat potatoes?**

Slightly less than 50% did not eat potatoes during the 7-day period prior to the survey, while 36.1% reported consuming potatoes 1 to 3 times during the same period (Figure 55).

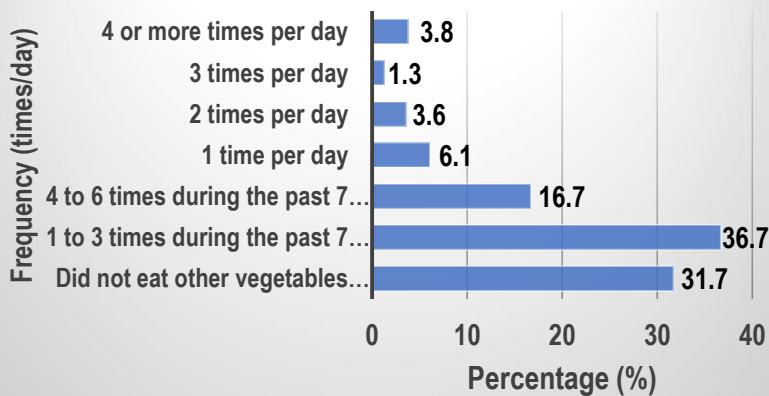
Figure 56. Number of times eat carrots



**Q74. During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat carrots?**

Just over 3 in 5 (61%) did not eat carrots, while 1 in 4 (25.1%) reported consuming carrots 1 to 3 times during the 7-day period prior to taking the survey (Figure 56).

Figure 57. Number of many times eat other vegetables



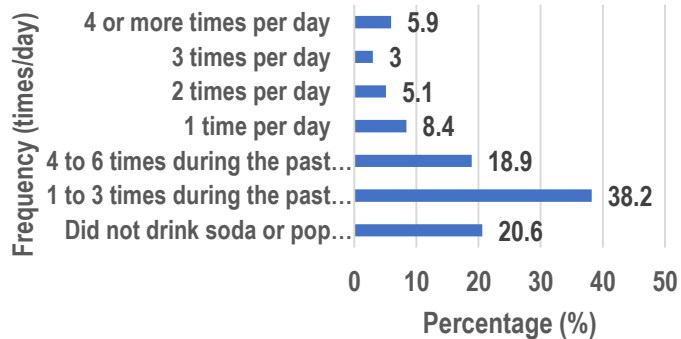
**Q75. During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat other vegetables?**

Asked about consuming other vegetables during the 7 days prior to the survey, 31.7% said they had not eaten other vegetables while 36.7% did eat other vegetables 1 to 3 times and only 3.8% ate other vegetables 4 or more times per day. (Figure 57).

**Q76. During the past 7 days, how many times did you drink a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop, such as Coke, Pepsi, or Sprite?**

Approximately 1 in 5 youth did not drink a soda, while 38.2% drank soda 1 to 3 times during the 7-day period prior to the survey. (Figure 58)

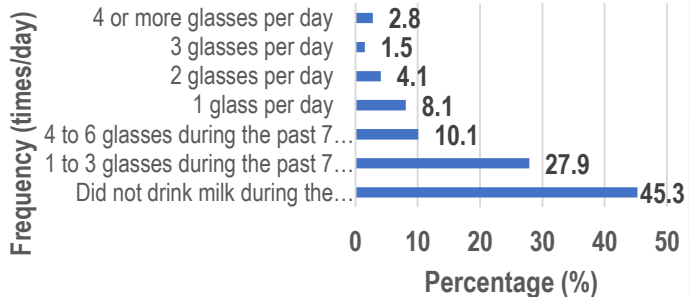
**Figure 58. Soda or pop drink consumption past 7 days**



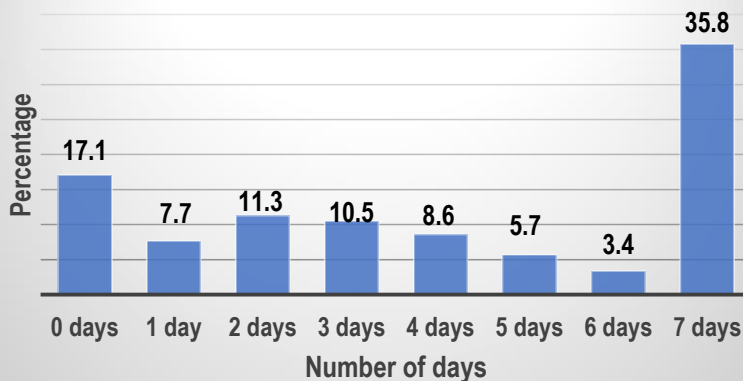
**Q77. During the past 7 days, how many glasses of milk did you drink?**

Only 2.8% of students drank 4 or more glasses of milk per day during the 7 days prior to the survey, while 45.3% did not drink any milk during that time period (Figure 59).

**Figure 59. Glasses of milk drank**



**Figure 60. Eat breakfast past 7 days**

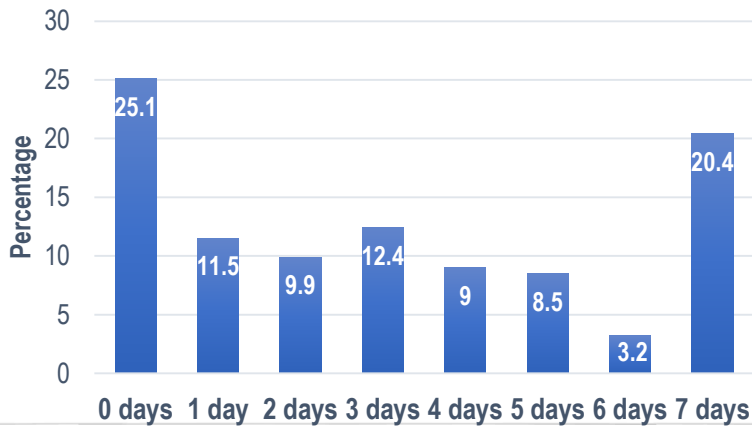


**Q78. During the past 7 days, on how many days did you eat breakfast?**

Figure 60 reveals that 35.8% of students who responded to this question ate breakfast on all seven days, while 17.1% did not eat breakfast and 7.7% ate breakfast on one day only.

## Physical Activity

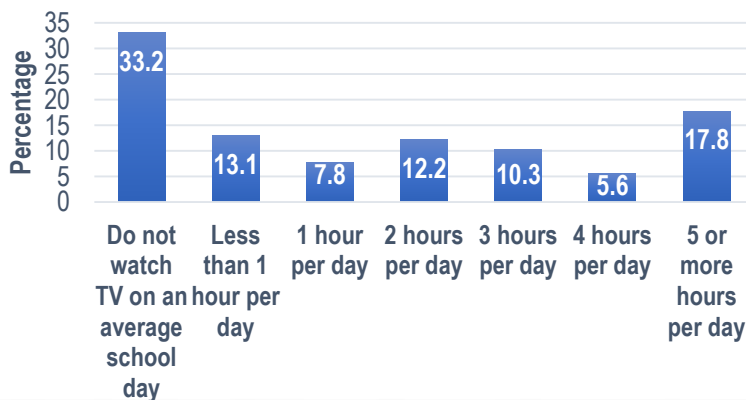
**Figure 61. Number of days physically active total of at least 60 minutes per day**



**Q79. During the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day?**

While 20.4% of respondents were physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day, 25.1% had no days where they were physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day (Figure 61).

**Figure 62. Hours per school day and television (TV)**

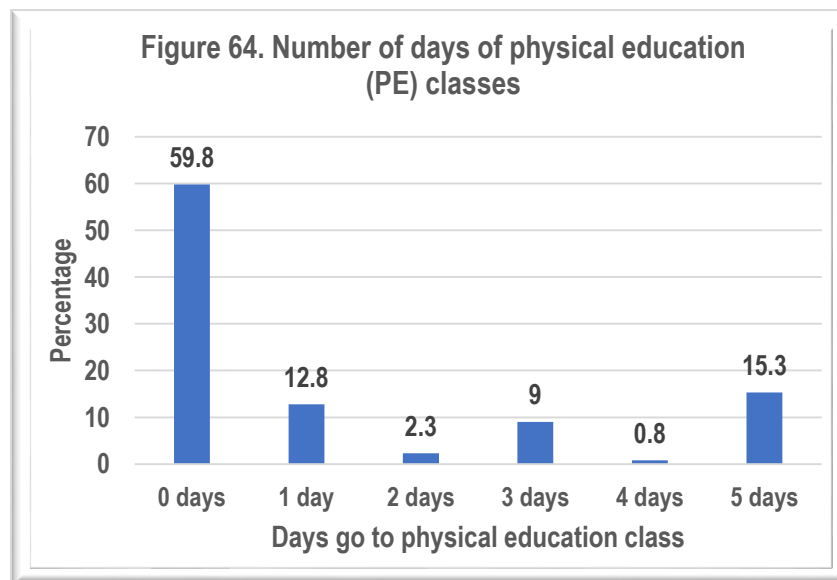
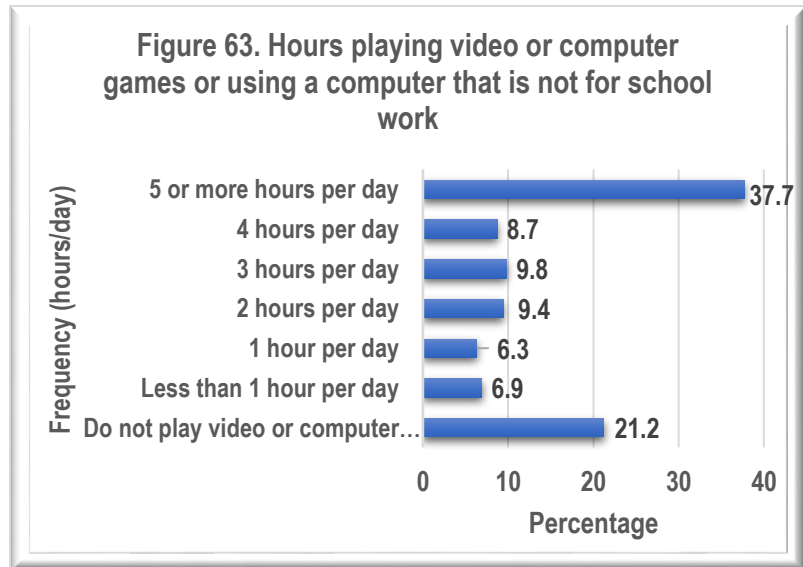


**Q80. On an average school day, how many hours do you watch TV?**

Figure 62 shows that 45.9% watched TV for 2 hours or more, on the average school day.

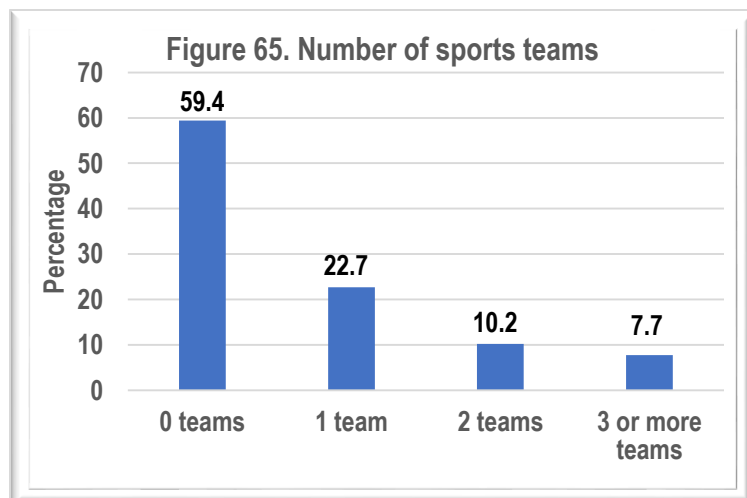
**Q81. On an average school day, how many hours do you play video or computer games or use a computer for something that is not school work?**

Approximately 38% reported spending 5 or more hours per day, on an average school day, while 21.2% did not play video or computer games or use a computer for something other than for school work (Figure 63).



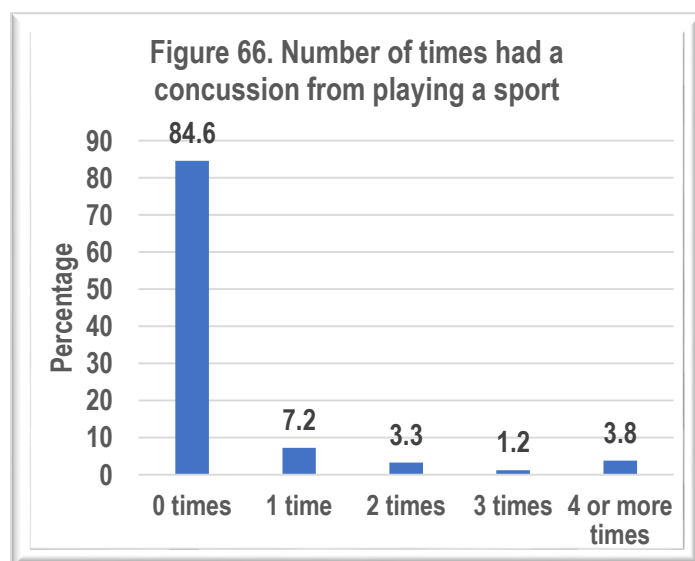
**Q82. In an average week when you are in school, on how many days do you go to physical education (PE) classes?**

During the average school day, 59.8% of respondents did not go to a PE class (Figure 64). For those who did go to PE, 12.8% went to PE class for one day; 2.3% had PE for 2 days; 9% for three days and 15.3% went to PE class for 5 days.



**Q83. During the past 12 months, on how many sports teams did you play?**

The majority of students did not play on a sports team (59.4%), while 22.7% played on 1 team, 10.2% on 2 teams and 7.7% played on 3 or more teams. (Figure 65).



**Q84 During the past 12 months, how many times did you have a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active?**

During the 12-month period preceding the survey, 7.2% of students had a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active; 4.5% had a concussion 2 to 3 times, and 3.8% 4 or more times (Figure 66).

### **Obesity, Overweight and Weight Control**

Obesity and overweight in children and adolescents is determined using body mass index (BMI) matched to percentiles of growth based on age-and-gender-specific growth charts (CDC). For this study, high school students reported on their height and weight in feet and inches and pounds, respectively. Youth are classified as obese if their BMI falls at greater than or equal to the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile and overweight if BMI is between the 85<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> percentile. For this population, 21.2% were classified as obese and 16.0 % classified as overweight (Table 4).



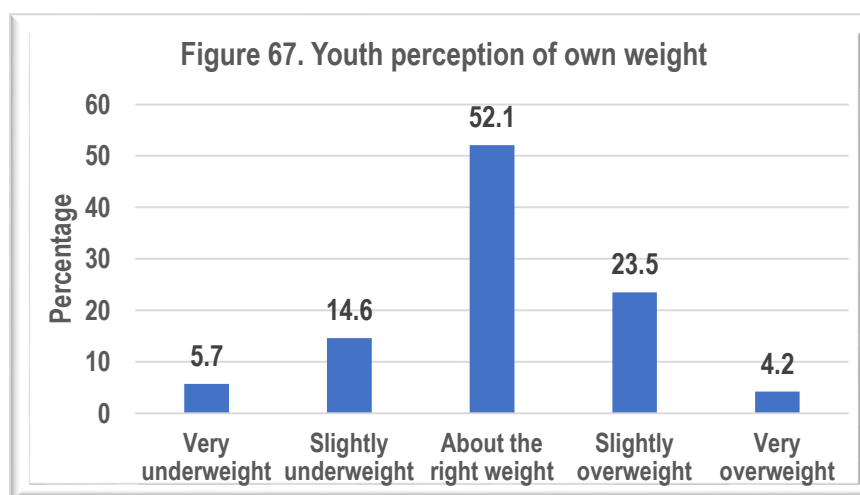
Table 4. Weight status of high school students based on body mass index (BMI) and CDC growth charts, USVI 2017 YRBS

Weight Status	Frequency	%
Underweight	73	5.8
Normal weight	723	57.1
Overweight	203	16.0
Obese	268	21.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1267</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Underweight: BMI < 5<sup>th</sup> percentile; Normal weight: 5<sup>th</sup> ≤ BMI < 85<sup>th</sup> percentile; Overweight: 85<sup>th</sup> ≤ BMI < 95<sup>th</sup> percentile; Obese: BMI ≥ 95<sup>th</sup> percentile*

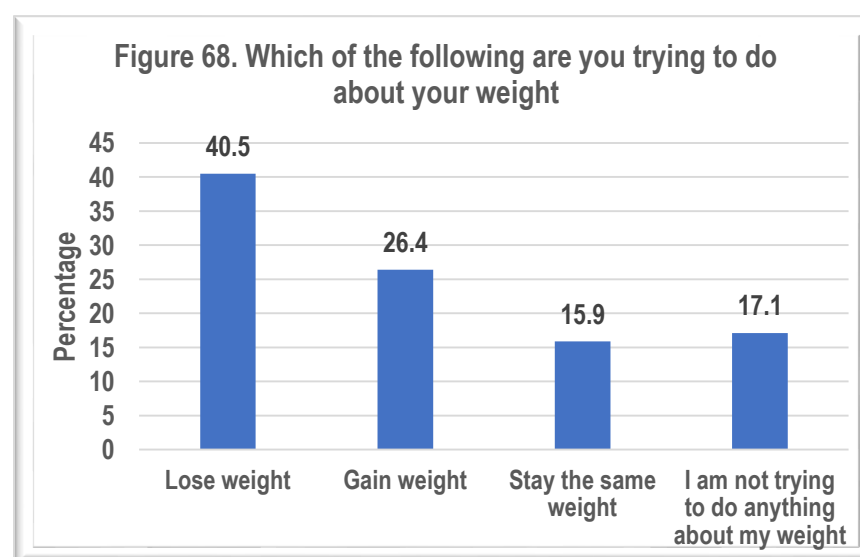
**Q68. How do you describe your weight?**

While 5.7% thought of themselves as very underweight, about 1 in 2 (52.1%) felt they were at about the right weight, and 23.5% thought they were slightly overweight (Figure 67).

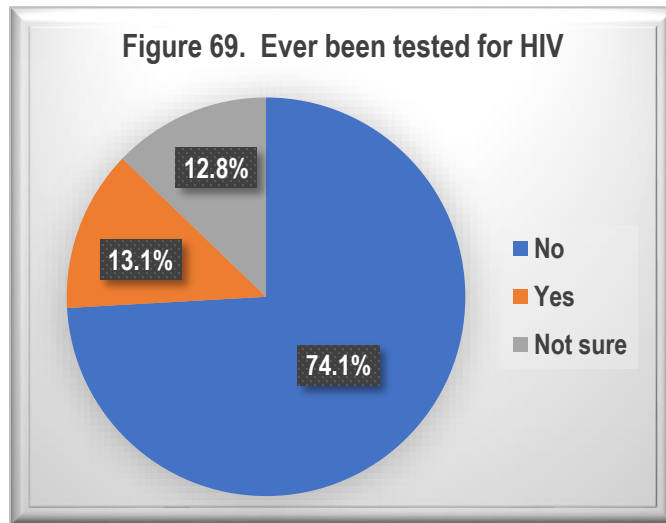


**Q69. Which of the following are you trying to do about your weight?**

Among students responding to the question of what they are trying to do about their weight, 40.5% were trying to lose weight, while about 1 in 4 were trying to gain weight (Figure 68).



## Other Health Related Topics

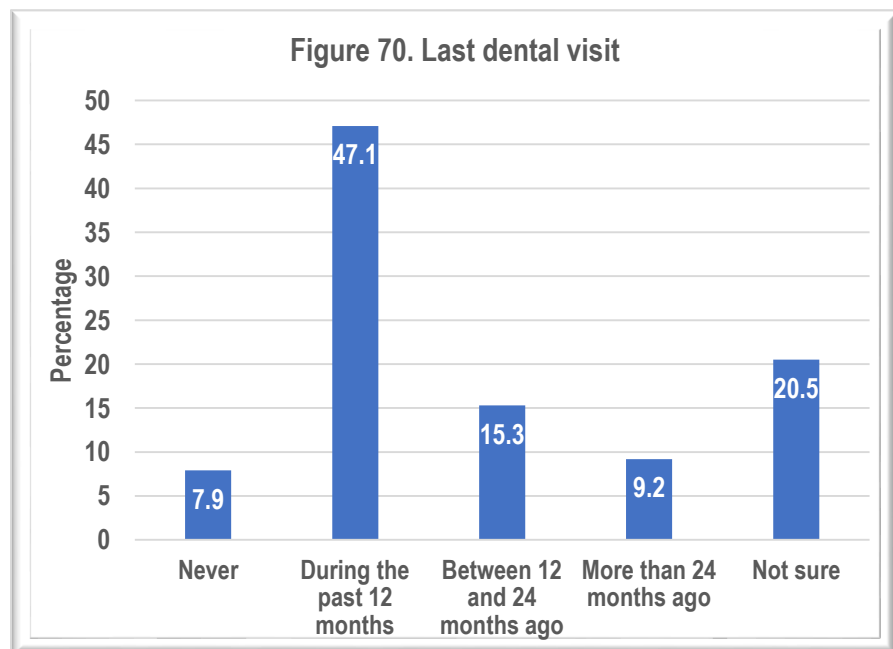


### Q85. Have you ever been tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS?

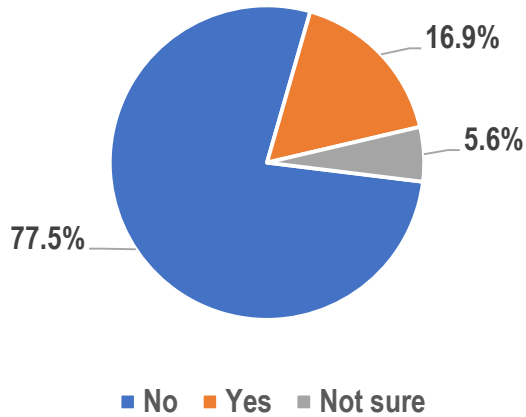
When asked if they had ever been tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, only 13.1% of students responded in the affirmative (Figure 69).

### Q86. When was the last time you saw a dentist for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning, or other dental work?

Among students responding to the question on when they had last seen a dentist, 7.9% had never seen a dentist, 47.1% had seen a dentist in the prior 12 months, 15.3% had seen a dentist between 12 and 24 months and 9.2% had seen a dentist more than 24 months prior to the survey. About 1 in 5 was not sure (Figure 70).



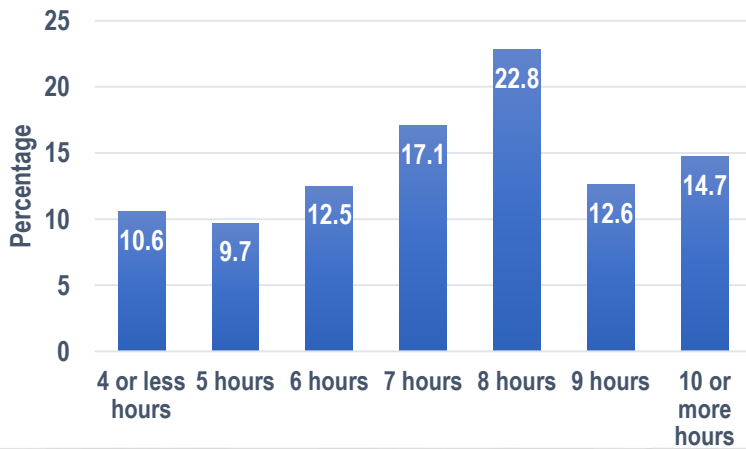
**Figure 71. Doctor or nurse ever told you that you have asthma**



**Q87. Has a doctor or nurse ever told you that you have asthma?**

When asked if a doctor had ever told them they had asthma, 16.9% said 'yes' (Figure 71).

**Figure 72. Hours of sleep on an average school night**



**Q48. On an average school night, how many hours of sleep do you get?**

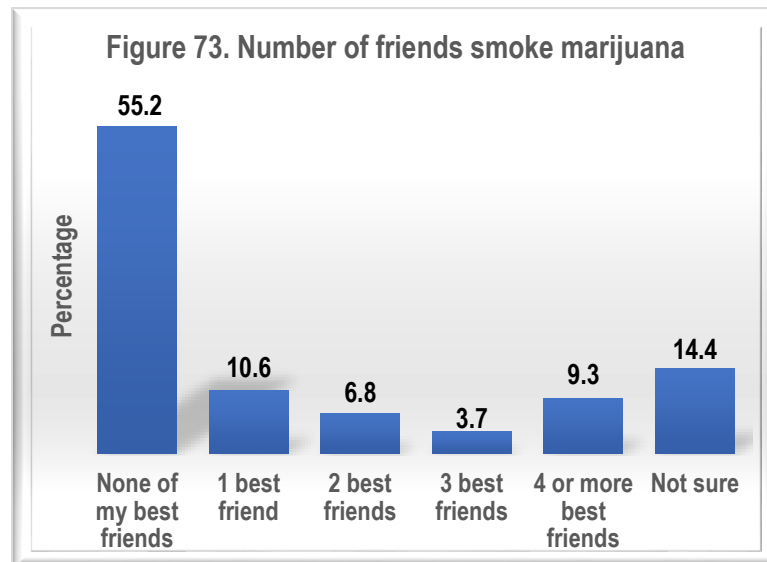
Approximately 1 in 2 youth report getting 8 or more hours of sleep per night on an average school night, while 1 in 10 report 4 or less hours of sleep.

## Other health related topics-USVI

Questions 90-93 examine youth access to alcohol and drugs in the community. Each question asked: ‘If you wanted to get some [substance], how easy would it be for you to get some?’ Table 5 presents the percentage of students who responded if they did not want to get the substance, if it was not very easy, somewhat easy, easy or very easy to get the different substances listed.

Table 5. Ease of access to illegal drugs and alcohol for high school students, USVI YRBS

Drug/Alcohol	Did not		Not very easy		Somewhat easy		Easy		Very easy	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No	%
Beer/Liquor	858	51.7	167	10.1	260	15.7	184	11.1	192	11.6
Marijuana	1020	61.4	99	6.1	156	9.4	154	9.3	232	14
Prescription medication	1498	89.8	80	4.8	41	2.5	25	1.5	25	1.5
Cocaine etc	1596	93.6	50	3.0	20	1.2	14	0.8	22	1.3



**Q94. In the past 12 months, how many of your best friends have smoked marijuana?**

Approximately 1 in 3 had at least one best friend who had tried marijuana, 14.4% were not sure (Figure 73) and 55.2% stated that none of their best friends tried marijuana in the 12-month period prior to the survey.

**Figure 74. Best friends tried alcohol in past 12 months**



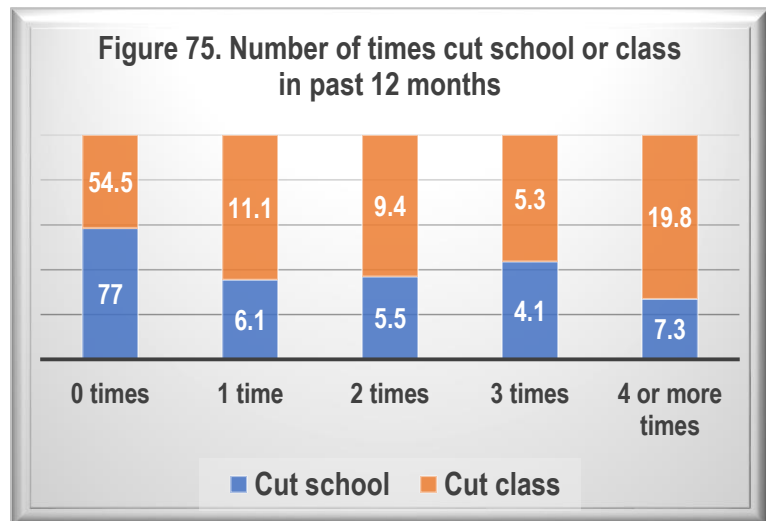
**Q95. In the past 12 months, how many of your friends have tried beer, wine or hard liquor?**

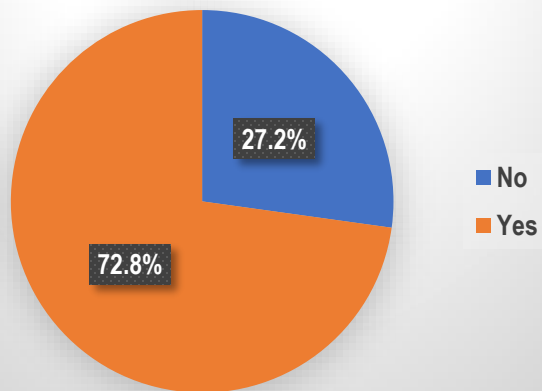
The percentage reporting friend use of alcohol was higher than for marijuana, with only 39.7% reporting that 'none' and approximately 42% reporting having at least one friend who tried alcohol in the prior 12 months. For this question, 18.5 responded 'not sure' (Figure 74).

**Q96/Q97. During the past 12 months, how many times have you 'cut' school or class?**

Approximately 23% of high school students reported 'cutting' school at least once during the 12 months prior to the survey while approximately 45% had 'cut' class during the same period (Figure 75).

**Figure 75. Number of times cut school or class in past 12 months**

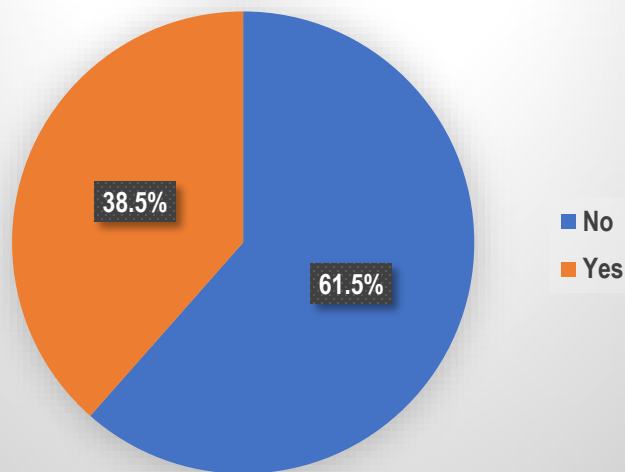


**Figure 76. Feeling safe at school****Q98. I feel safe at my school**

High school youth, overall, reported feeling safe at school (Figure 76), with 72.8% responding 'yes' to this question on the survey.

**Q99. There is gang activity at my school**

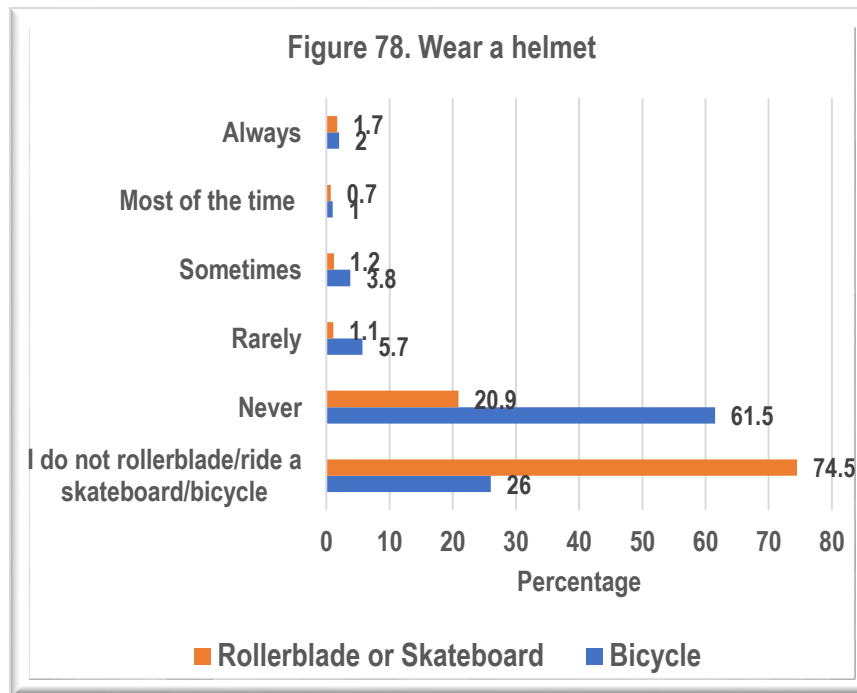
Yet, 38.5% responded 'yes' to the question about if there is gang activity in their school (Figure 77).

**Figure 77. Presence of gang activity at school**

## Middle School Survey

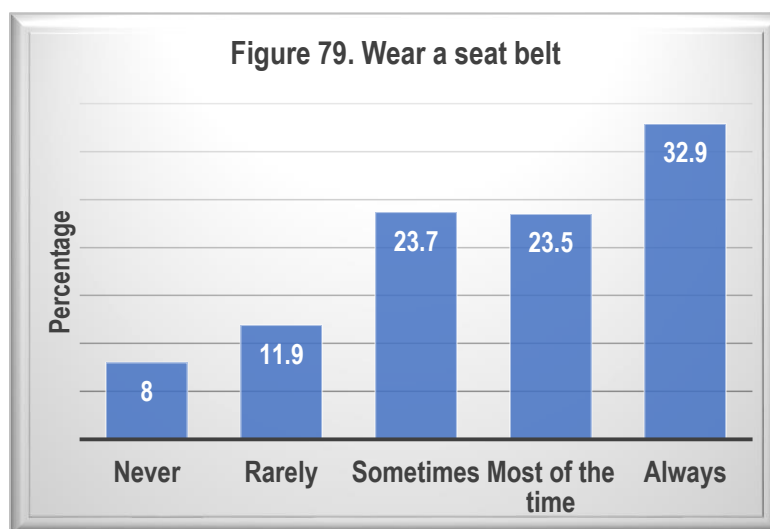
The results from the survey administered to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the territory's schools are presented in a similar format, though there are fewer questions than the survey administered to the high school students. Overall, the six categories of health behaviors remain the same, and results will be presented as laid out on the survey.

### *Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence*



#### **QM6/M7. When you ride a bicycle or rollerblade or ride a skateboard, how often do you wear a helmet?**

A very small percentage of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students reported always wearing a helmet when riding a bicycle (2%), rollerblade, or skateboard (1.7%), while 61.5% never wear a helmet while riding a bicycle and 1 in 5 never wear a helmet while using a rollerblade or skateboard (Figure 78).



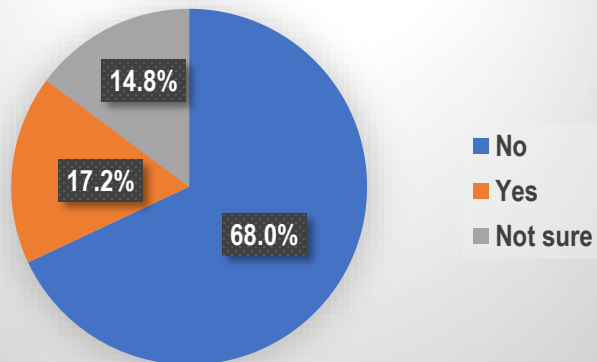
#### **QM8. How often do you wear a seat belt when riding a car?**

Approximately 33% of public middle school youth reported wearing a seat belt at all times (32.9%, Figure 79) while 8.0% reported never wearing a seat belt and 11.9% reported rarely wearing a seat belt.

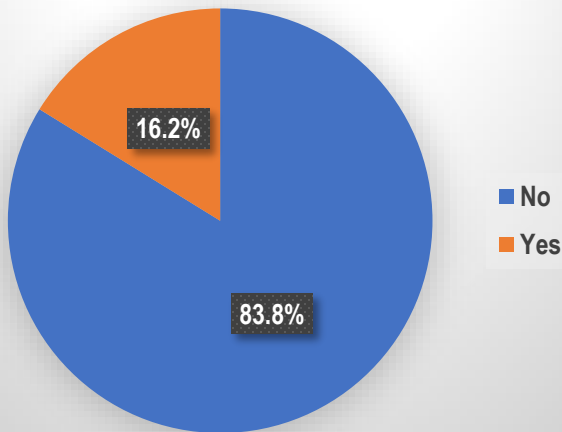
**QM9. Have you ever ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?**

Among public middle school students, 17.2% of students had ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol.

**Figure 80. Drive in a car with someone drinking alcohol**



**Figure 81. Ever carried a weapon**



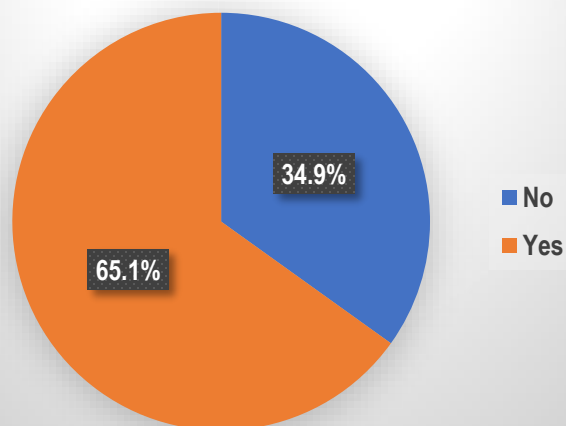
**QM10. Have you ever carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club?**

The prevalence of public middle school students having ever carried a weapon was 16.2% (Figure 81).

**QM11. Have you ever been in a physical fight?**

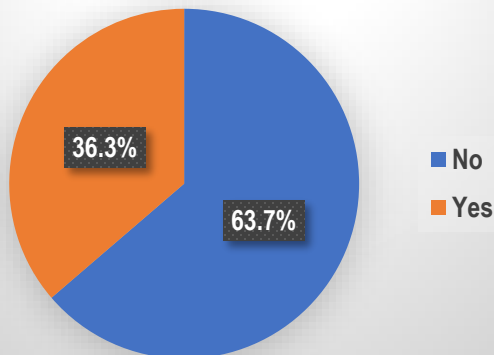
Among public middle school students, 65.1% reported having been in a physical fight.

**Figure 82. Ever been in a physical fight**





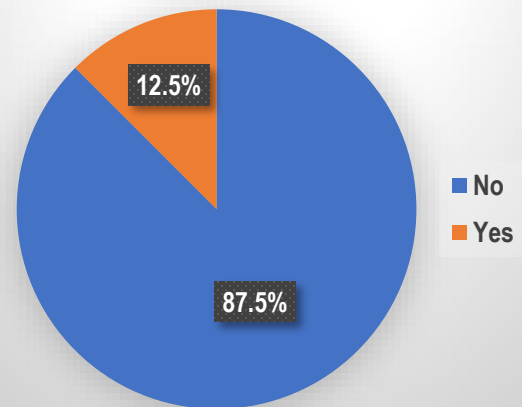
**Figure 83. Ever been bullied on school property?**



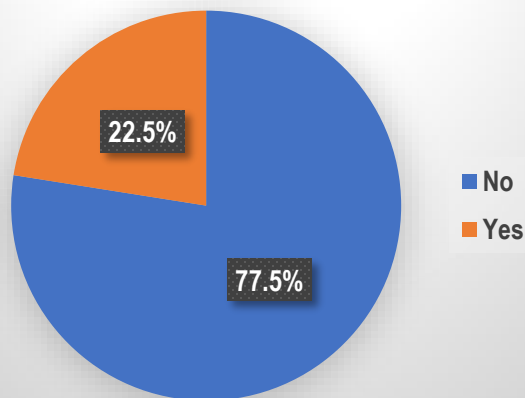
**QM12. Have you ever been bullied on school property?**

More than 1 in 3 students reported being bullied on school property (Figure 83), while 12.5% reported being electronically bullied (Figure 84).

**Figure 84. Ever bullied electronically**



**Figure 85. Ever seriously thought about killing yourself?**



**QM14. Have you ever seriously thought about killing yourself?**

A little over one in five (22.5%) public middle school students reported having seriously considered attempting suicide (Figure 85).

**QM15. Have you ever made a plan about how you would kill yourself?**

Asked if they had ever made a plan to kill themselves, 14.3% of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students responding to this question said 'yes' (Figure 86).

Figure 86. Ever made a suicide plan

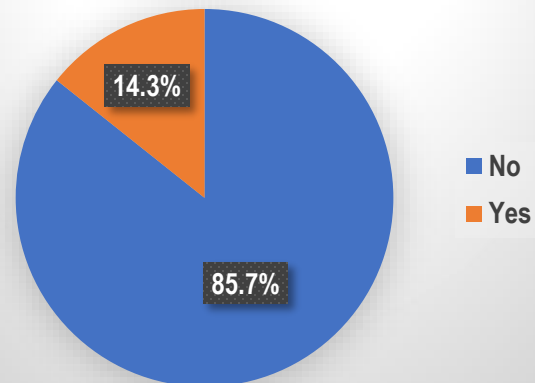
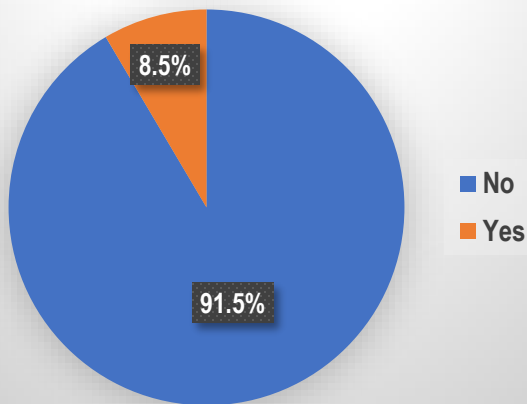


Figure 87. Percentage of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who attempted suicide



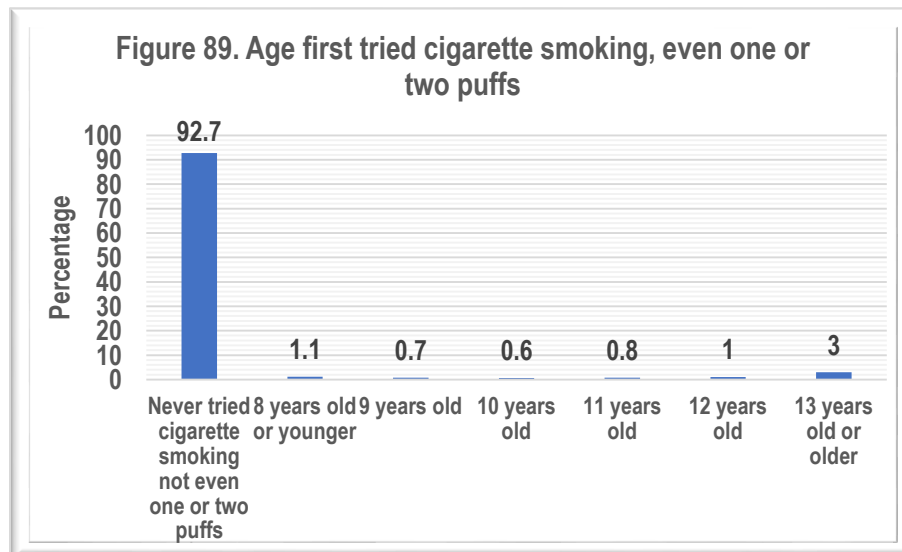
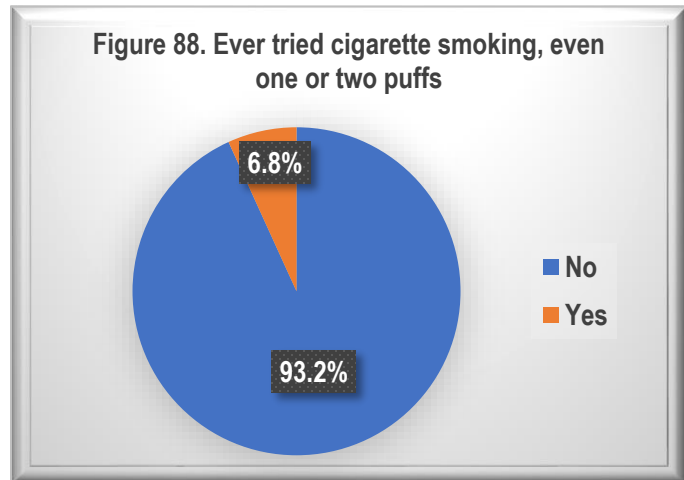
**QM16. Have you ever tried to kill yourself?**

Figure 87 shows that 8.5% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students attempted suicide.

## Tobacco Use

### QM17. Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?

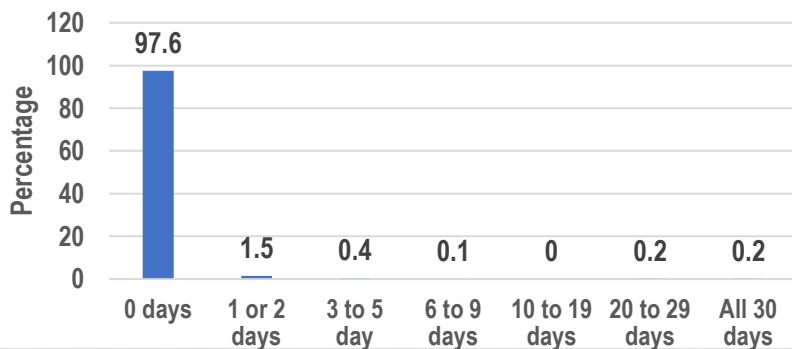
Among public middle schoolers, 6.8 % of students had ever tried cigarette smoking (Figure 88).



### QM18. How old were you when you first tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?

The age at which most students first tried cigarette smoking was 13 years old or older (3%) (Figure 89).

Figure 90. During the past 30 days, number of days smoked cigarettes



**QM19. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?**

Similar to their peers in high school, only 1.5% of middle school students reported smoking cigarettes on 1 or 2 days in the 30-day period prior to the survey and the majority did not smoke cigarettes on any day at all

(Figure 90).

**QM20. During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?**

Cigarette smoking is at a low level, with 2.3% reporting smoking 1 or more cigarettes per day and 1.3% reporting less than one cigarette per day (Figure 91).

Figure 91. Number of cigarettes smoked per day

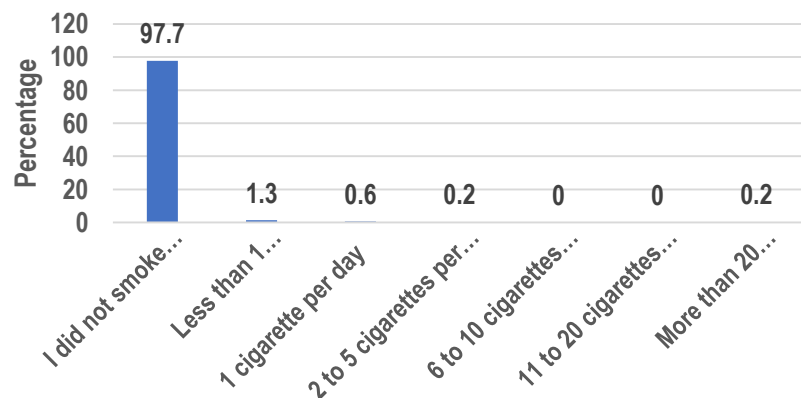
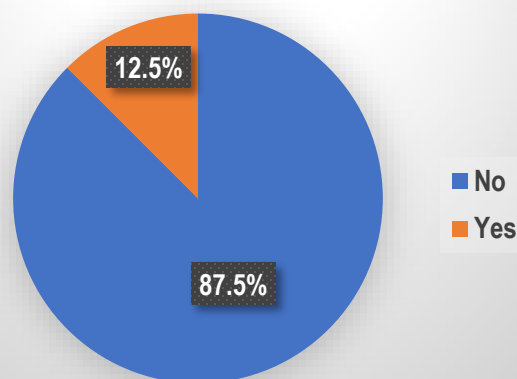
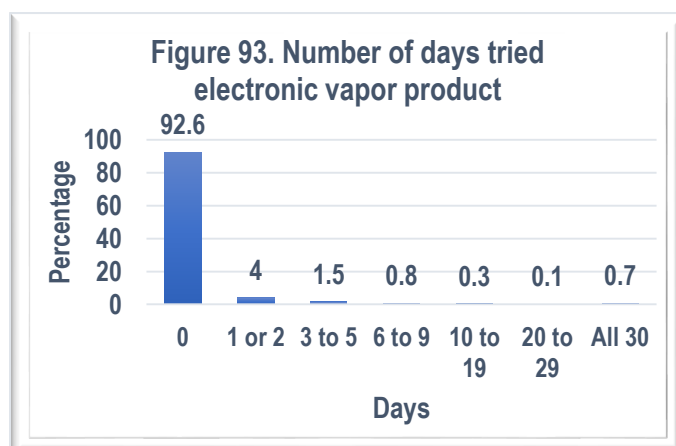


Figure 92. Ever used electronic vapor product



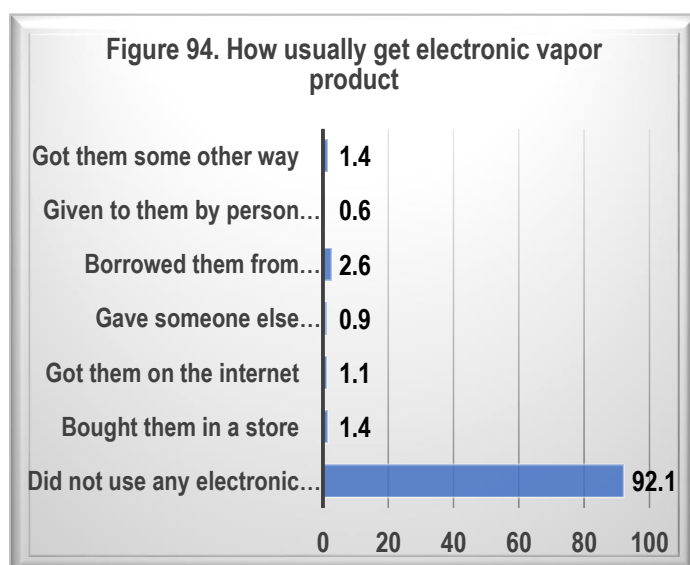
**QM21 Have you ever used an electronic vapor product?**

Territory-wide, 12.5% percent of middle school students reported ever using an electronic vapor product (Figure 92). This is more than the percentage reporting smoking cigarettes.



**QM22. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use an electronic vapor product?**

During the 30 days before the survey, 4% of middle school students reported using electronic vapor products on 1 or 2 days (Figure 93).

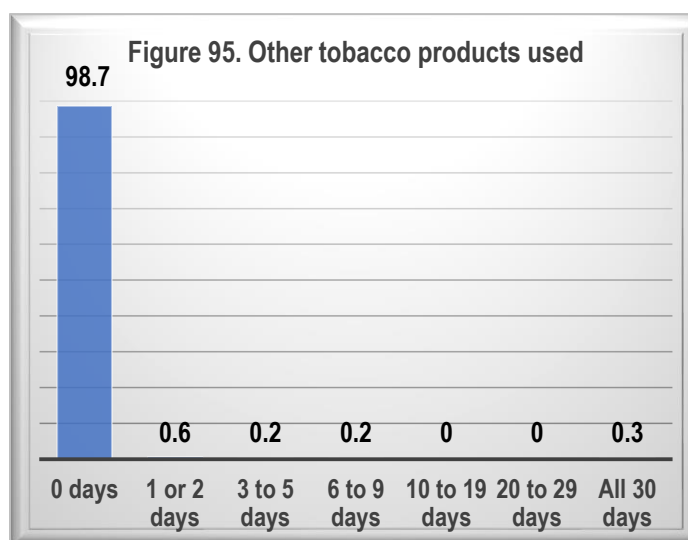


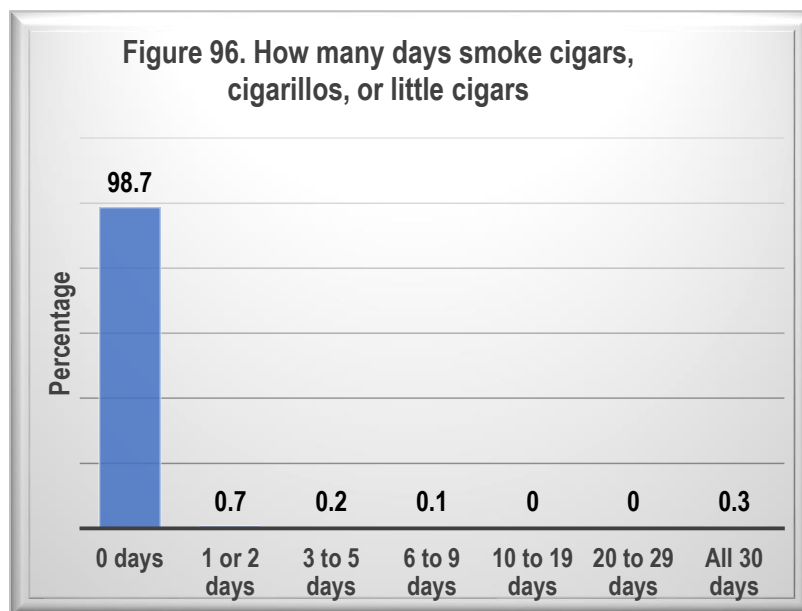
**QM23. During the past 30 days, how did you usually get your own electronic vapor products?**

In responding to this question of how they usually get electronic vapor products, the most frequent method reported by the most students was through borrowing from someone else (2.6%), followed by 1.4% percent who bought them in a store, and 1.4% who got them some other way (Figure 94).

**QM24. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco products, such as REDman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, Copenhagen, Camel Snus, Malboro Snus, General Snus, Ariva, Stonewall or Camel Orbs? (Do not count any electronic vapor products.).**

During the 30 days prior to the survey, 1.3% of students had used chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco products (Figure 95).

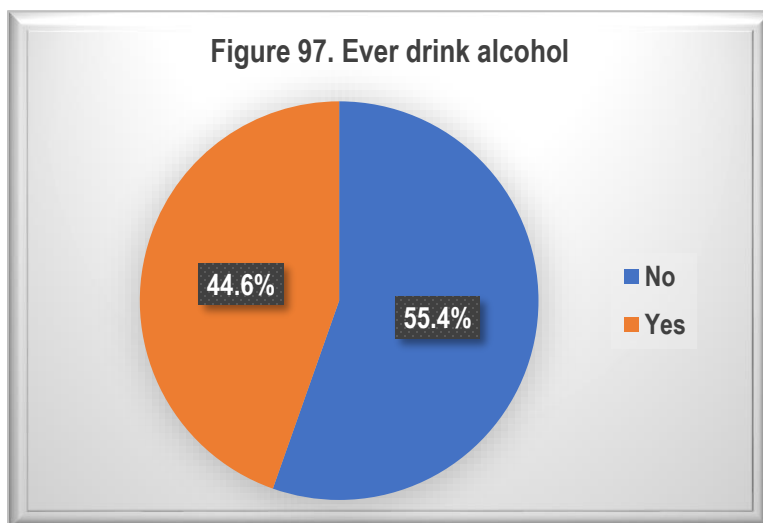




**QM25. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars?**

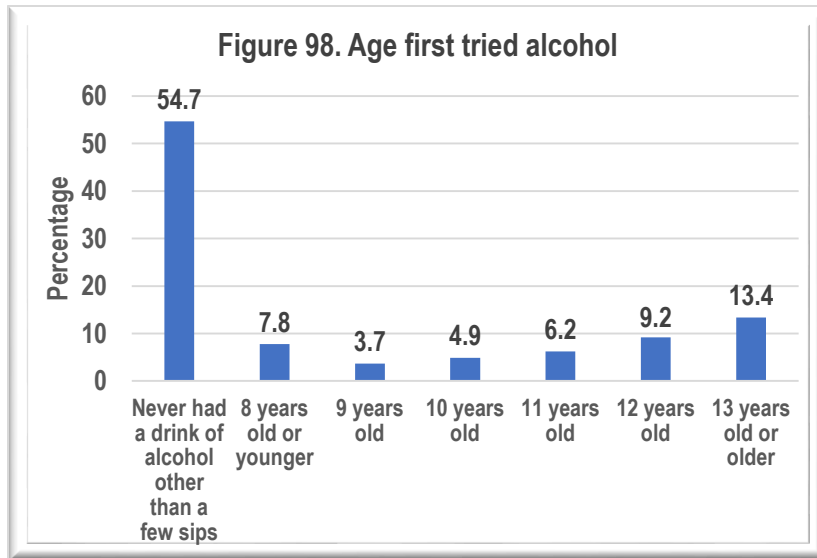
During the 30 days before the survey, 1.3% of students smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least 1 day (Figure 96).

### *Alcohol and Other Drug Use*



**QM26. Have you ever had a drink of alcohol, other than a few sips?**

Nearly 1 in 2 reported having had a drink of alcohol (Figure 97).

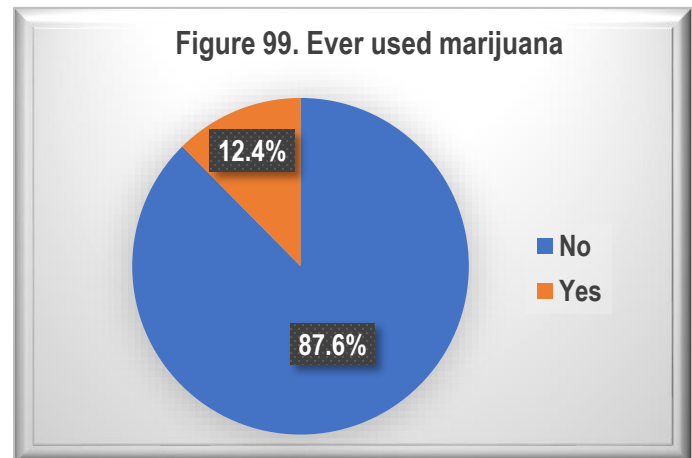


**QM27. How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than a few sips?**

The age at which students report having their first alcoholic drink ranged from 8 years old or younger (7.8%) to 13 years old or older (13.4%) (Figure 98).

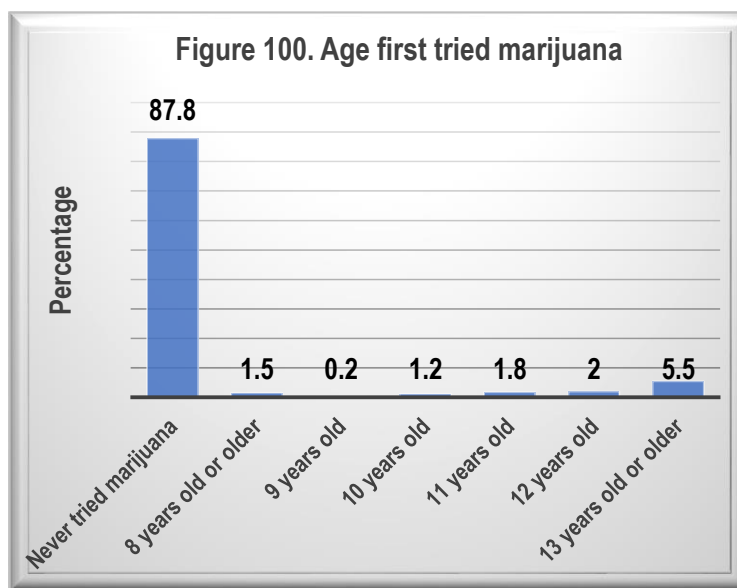
**QM28. Have you ever used marijuana?**

Among 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, 12.4% reported using marijuana (Figure 99).



**QM29. How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?**

While the most frequent age at which the students started using marijuana was 13 years or older (5.5%), 1.5% reported use at 8 years old and younger (Figure 100). Of the 12.2% reporting trying marijuana, 6.7% tried marijuana before age 13.



**QM30-33.** Questions 30-33 asked students about their drug use.

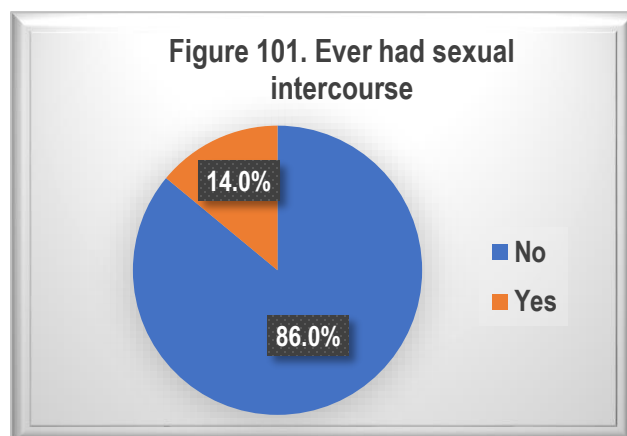
Territory-wide, 1.3% of students had used any form of cocaine, 5.4% sniffed glue, 2.1% used steroid pills, and 4.4% ever used prescription medications one or more times during their life (Table 6).

Table 6. Number and percent of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades ever used select drugs

Drug	Yes		No	
	No.	%	No.	%
Cocaine	17	1.3	1253	98.7
Sniffed glue	69	5.4	1194	94.5
Steroid pills	27	2.1	1221	97.8
Prescription medication	54	4.4	1187	95.6



***Sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection***



**QM34. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?**

Among 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, 14% reported ever having sexual intercourse (Figure 101).

**QM35 How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?**

Age at first sexual intercourse ranged from 8 years of age (2%) to 13 years and older (5.7%). The prevalence of having had sexual intercourse before age 13 years was 8.4% (Figure 102).

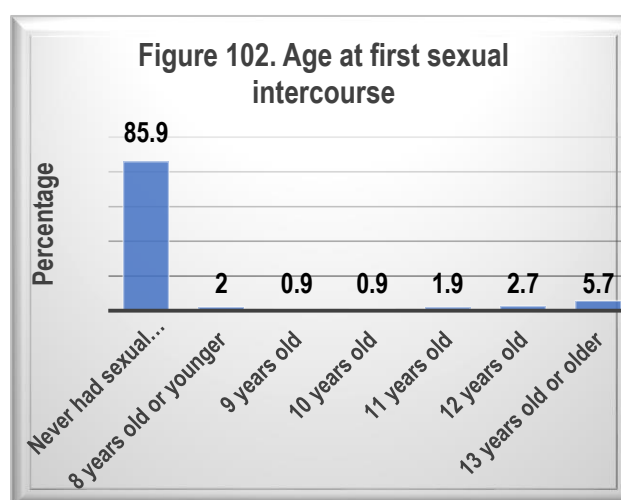
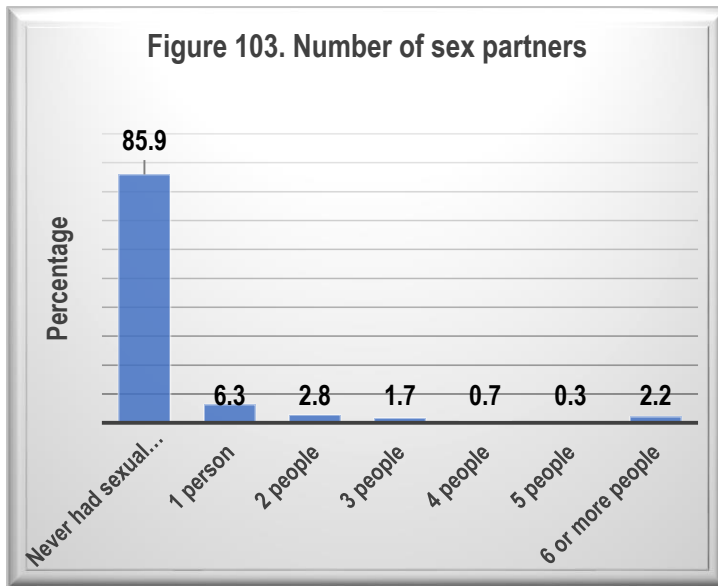


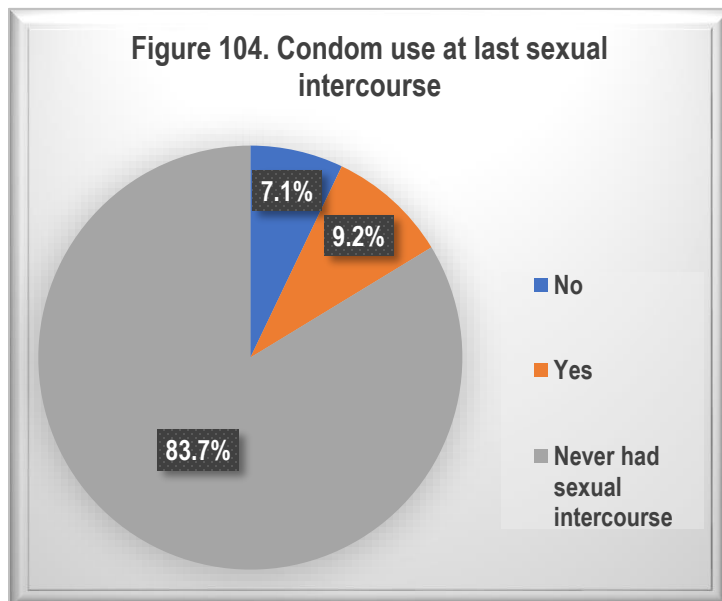
Figure 103. Number of sex partners



**QM36. With how many people have you ever had sexual intercourse?**

14.1% of students in grades 7 and 8 reported having had sexual intercourse with at least one person, with 2.2% reporting 6 or more sexual partners in their lifetime (Figure 103).

Figure 104. Condom use at last sexual intercourse



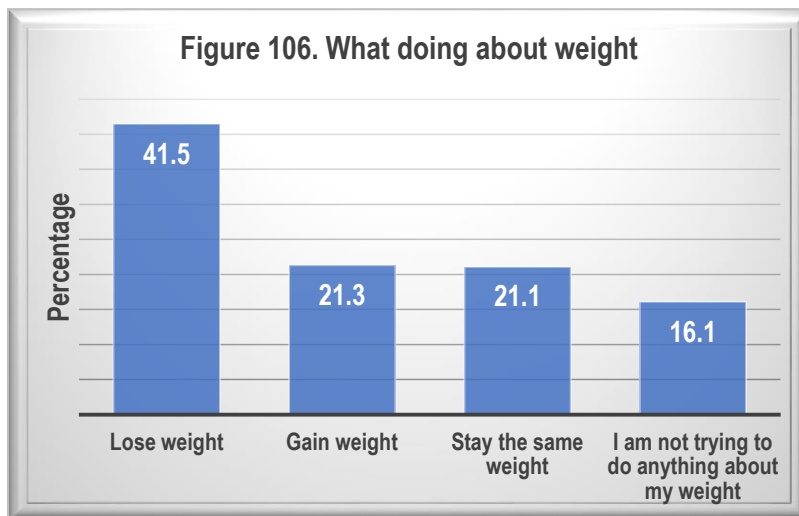
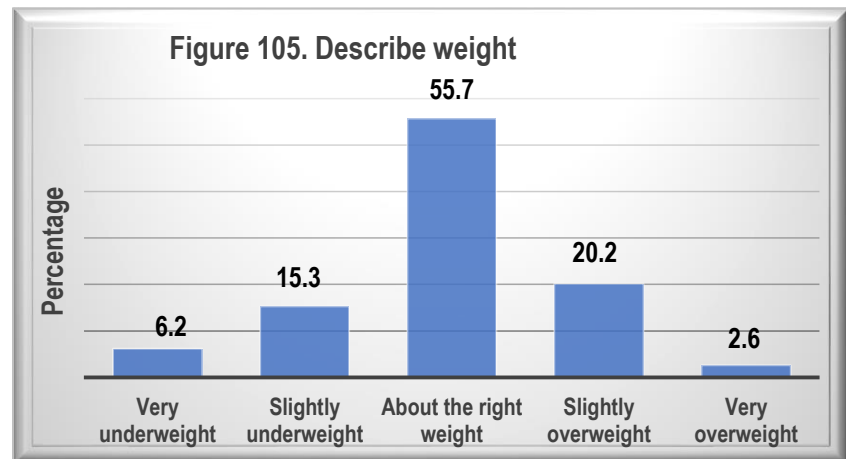
**QM37. The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?**

Whereas the majority never had sexual intercourse, overall, 7.1% did not use a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse (Figure 104). However, of the sexually active youth responding to this question on condom use at last sexual intercourse, 56.2% used a condom.

## Weight Control

### QM38. How do you describe your weight?

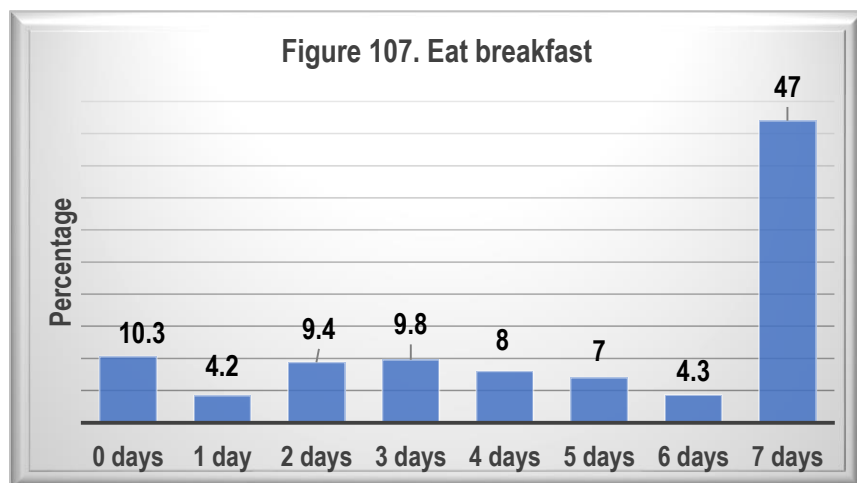
The proportion of students describing themselves as slightly overweight or very overweight was 22.8%, while 21.5% of students described themselves as slightly underweight or very underweight (Figure 105).



### QM39. Which of the following are you trying to do about your weight?

Among public middle school students, 41.5% of students were trying to lose weight. (Figure 106).

## Dietary behaviors



**QM40. During the past 7 days, on how many days did you eat breakfast?**

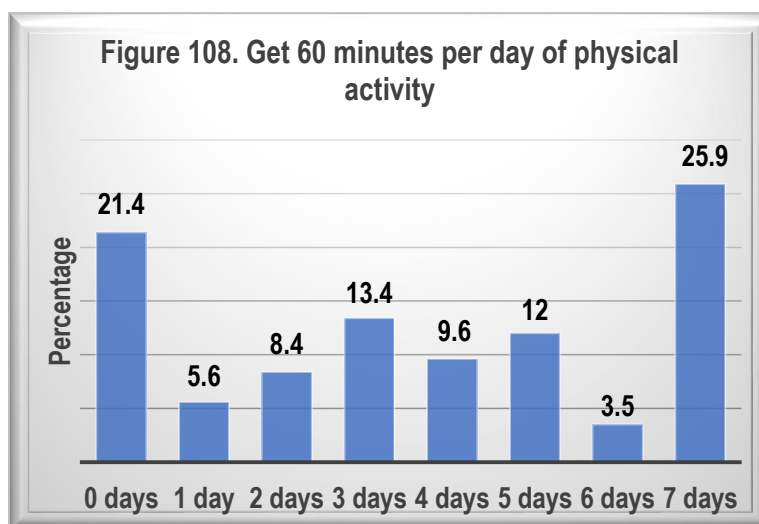
Territory-wide, 1 in 10 students had not eaten breakfast during the 7 days before the survey. However, nearly half of the students had eaten breakfast on all 7 days during the 7 days before

the survey (Figure 107).

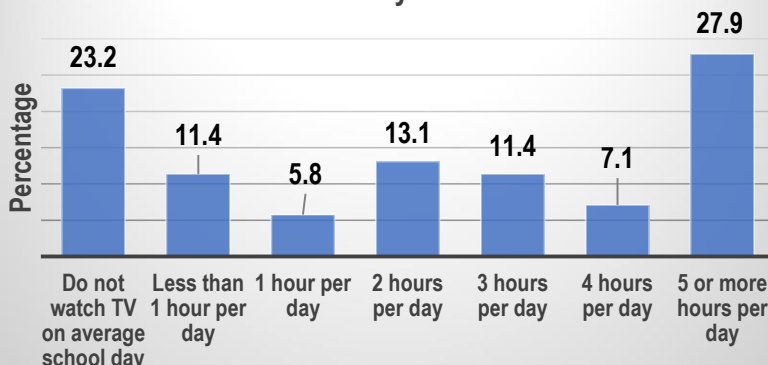
## Physical activity

**QM41. During the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day?**

The prevalence of not having been physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes on at least 1 day during the 7 days before the survey was 21.4%. Among students reporting that they were physically active, 1 in 4 students were active for at least 60 minutes per day all 7 days prior to the survey (Figure 108).



**Figure 109. Hours spent watching TV on a school day**



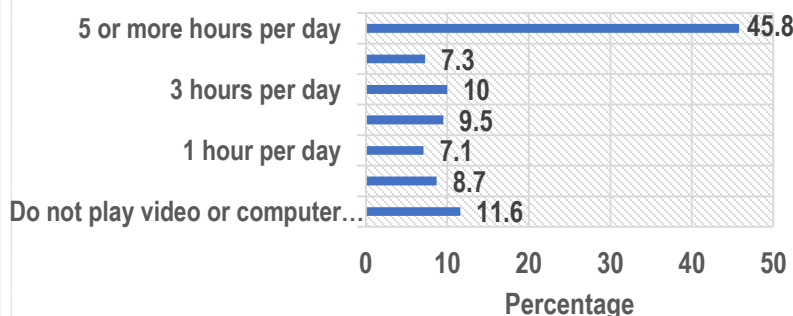
students either did not watch television (23.2%) or watched less than the recommended level of 2 hours per day (30.3%) (Figure 109).

**QM42. On an average school day, how many hours do you watch TV?**

Among middle school students, 46.4% of students watched television 3 or more hours per day on an average school day, while 27.9% watched television 5 or more hours per day (Figure 109).

Approximately 1 in 2

**Figure 110. Hours spent palying video or computer games or using a computer for something that is not school work**



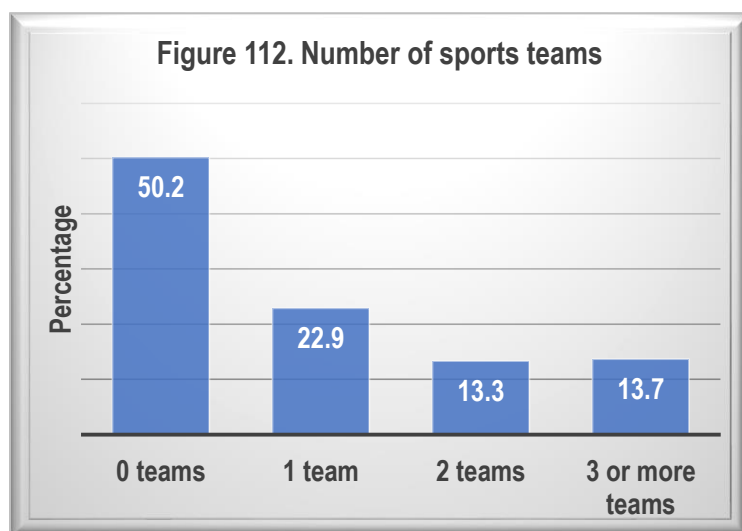
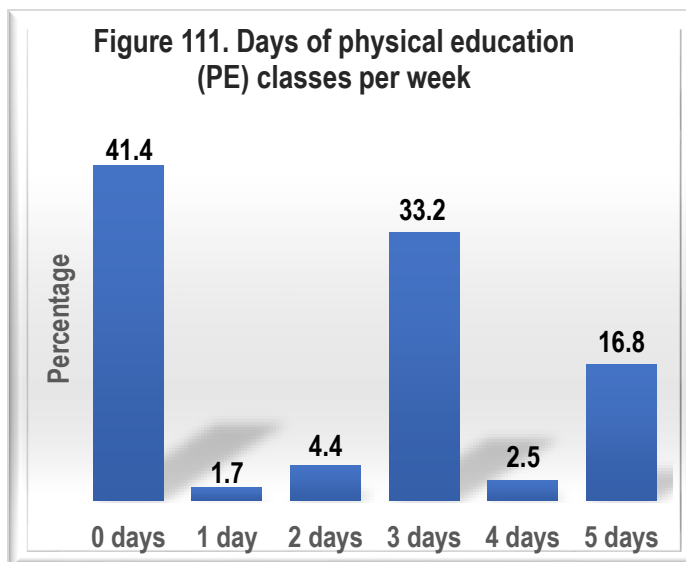
school work (counting “time spent on things such as Xbox, PlayStation, an iPad or other tablet, a smartphone, texting, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media”) (Figure 110).

**QM43. On an average school day, how many hours do you play video or computer games or use a computer for something that is not school work?**

Among middle school students, 63.1% reported playing video or computer games or used a computer 3 or more hours per day on an average school day for something that was not

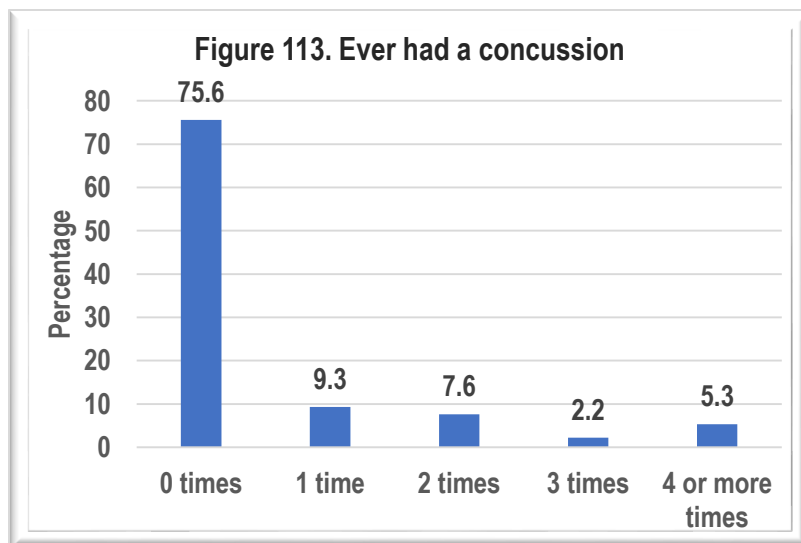
**QM44. In an average week when you are in school, on how many days do you go to physical education (PE) classes?**

In responding to the question of week days of physical education classes, 33.5% of middle school students reported going to physical education classes 3 days in an average week. While 41.4% of students did not go to PE classes at all, 16.8% went to PE classes on all 5 days in an average week (Figure 111).



**QM45. During the past 12 months, on how many sports teams did you play?**

In the 12 months prior to the survey, nearly 50% of middle school students played on at least 1 sports team (Figure 112).



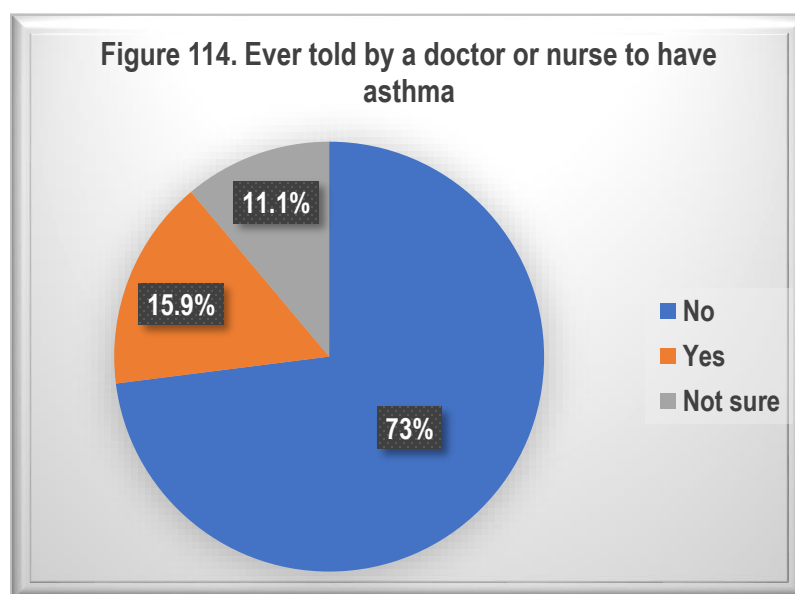
**Q46 During the past 12 months, how many times did you have a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active?**

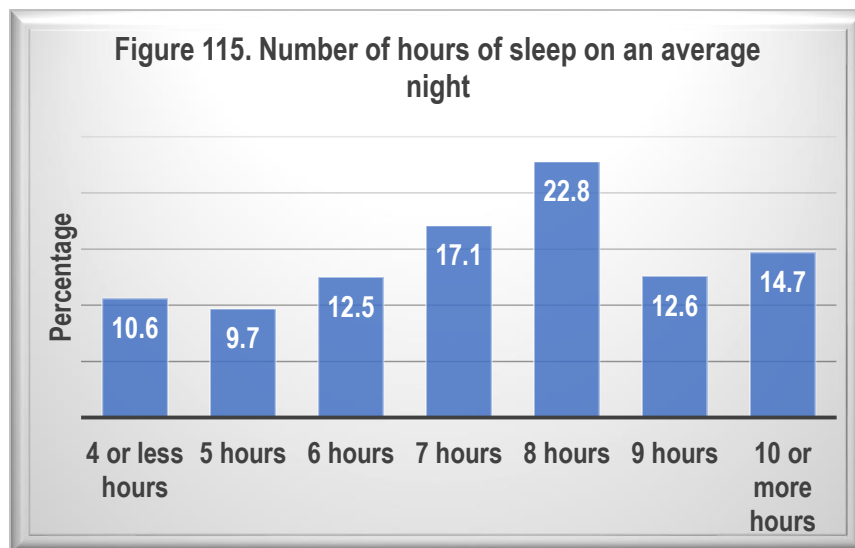
Among students playing a sport or being physically active, 24.4% had a concussion at least once, while 5.3% had a concussion 4 or more times during the 12 months before the survey (Figure 113).

### *Other Health Related Topics*

**QM47. Has a doctor or nurse ever told you that you have asthma?**

While 11.1% of respondents were 'not sure' they had ever been told they had asthma, 15.9% of middle school students had ever been told by a doctor or nurse that they have asthma. (Figure 114).





**QM48 On an average school night, how many hours of sleep do you get?**

Territory-wide, just over 50% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students got 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night (Figure 115).

### Other health related topics-USVI

Questions 51-54 asked 'If you wanted to get some [substance] how easy would it be for you to get some' about the substances listed in Table 7.

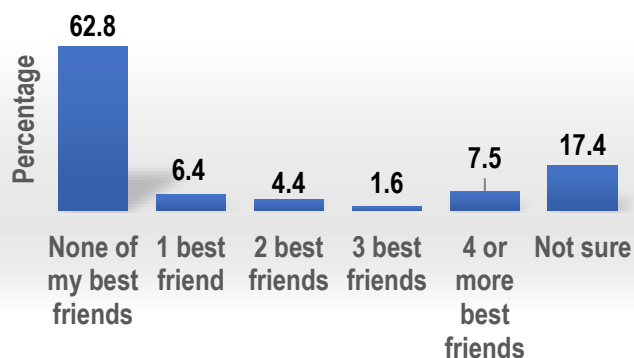
When asked about how easy it is to get drugs and alcohol, 12.6% of students reported that it was easy or very easy to get beer/liquor, 10% of students reported that it was easy or very easy to get marijuana, 2.8% of students reported that it was easy or very easy to get prescription medication, and 1.2% of students reported that it was easy or very easy to get cocaine.

Table 7. Access to alcohol and drugs

SUBSTANCE	DID NOT TRY		NOT VERY EASY		SOMEWHAT EASY		EASY		VERY EASY	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	N	%
Beer/Liquor	791	64	156	12.6	133	10.8	77	6.2	79	6.4
Marijuana	990	80	65	5.3	58	4.7	44	3.6	79	6.4
Prescription medication	1144	92.8	38	3.1	17	1.4	18	1.5	16	1.3
Cocaine etc.	1186	95.7	30	2.4	8	0.6	6	0.5	9	0.7



Figure 116. Number of friends smoke marijuana

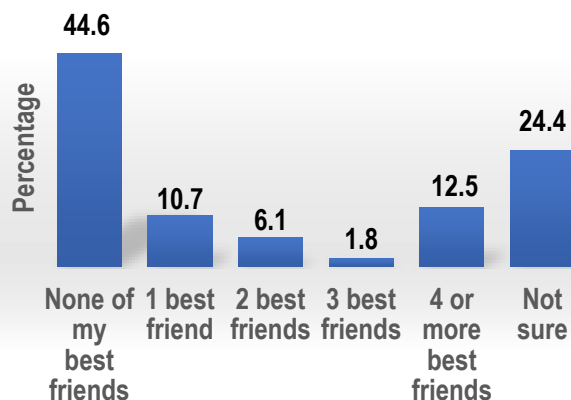


**QM55. In the past 12 months, how many of your best friends have smoked marijuana?**

In the 12 months before the survey, nearly 20% of students had at least 1 best friend that had smoked marijuana (Figure 116) and over 30% had a best friend that had tried beer, wine, or hard liquor (Figure 117).

**QM56 In the past 12 months, how many of your best friends have tried beer, wine or hard liquor?**

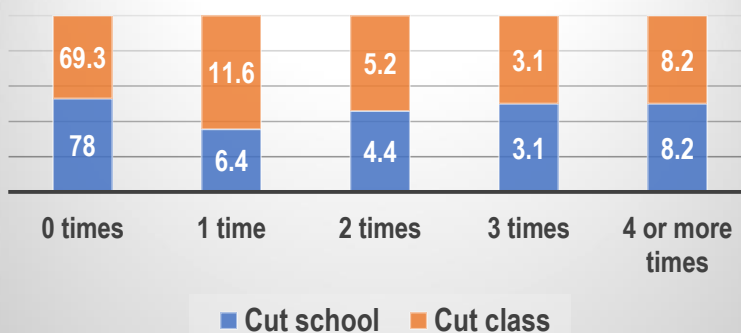
Figure 117. Number of friends tried alcohol

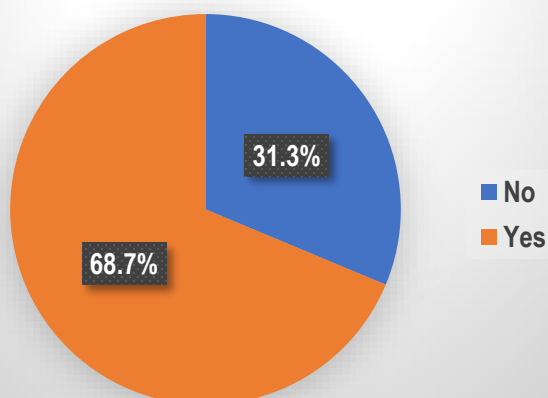


**QM57/58. During the past 12 months, how many times have you “cut” school?**

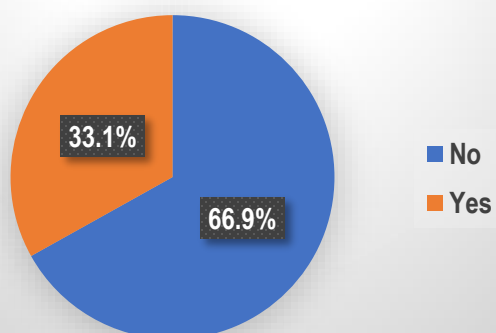
The percentage of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who ‘cut’ school was slightly lower than the percentage who reported cutting class, but, overall, youth seemed to report very similar patterns in not going to school or class over the 12-month period prior to the survey (Figure 118).

Figure 118. Number of times youth ‘cut’ school and ‘cut’ class



**Figure 119. Feeling safe at school****QM59. I feel safe at my school**

Among middle school students, almost 1 in 3 students reported they did not feel safe at their school. (Figure 119). Similarly, 1 in 3 students said there was gang activity at their school (Figure 120).

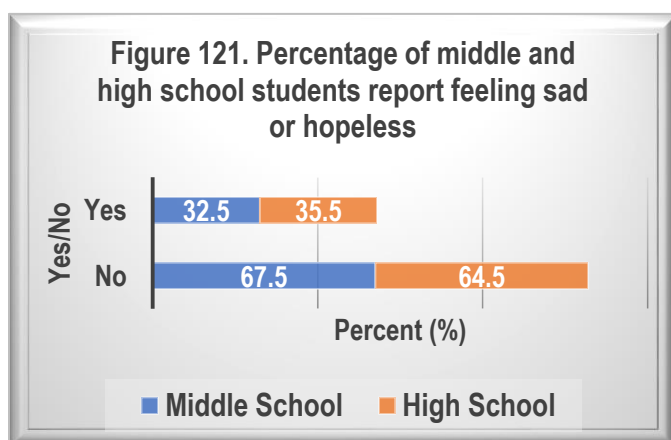
**Figure 120. Presence of gang activity in school****QM60. There is gang activity in my school**

## High School and Middle School comparisons

The different developmental stages within the adolescent age range of 10 to 24 are fairly distinct, therefore it is not surprising that youth in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade may demonstrate some differences in behavior when compared to their older peers in grades 9-12. The YRBS surveys for middle school and high school reflect this reality. Whereas some behaviors may manifest at the high school level that would not be expected at the middle school level, there are some traits and behaviors that can be observed in all adolescents regardless of grade level.

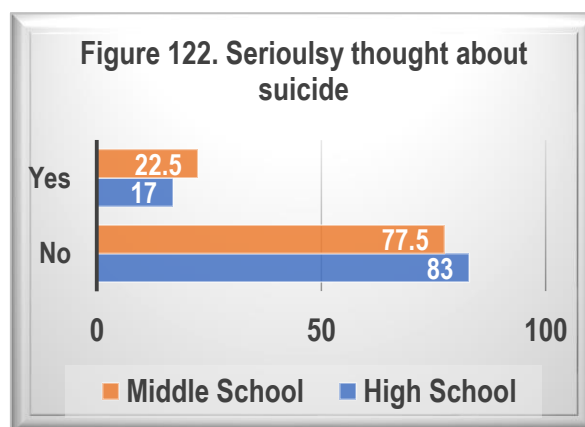
This section of the report presents comparative results of the questionnaires for some key variables and behaviors that are included on both versions of the survey.

### *Mental health and suicide*

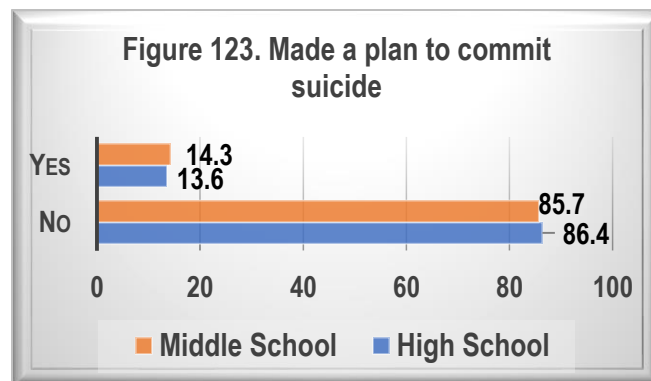


During the 12 months before the survey, 32.5% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students 'felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities'. Among the high school students, 35.5% reported similar states of mental health.

There were both similarities and differences in suicidal ideation and behavior between the two groups. More 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students reported seriously thinking about suicide and reported making a plan to commit suicide (Figure 122).

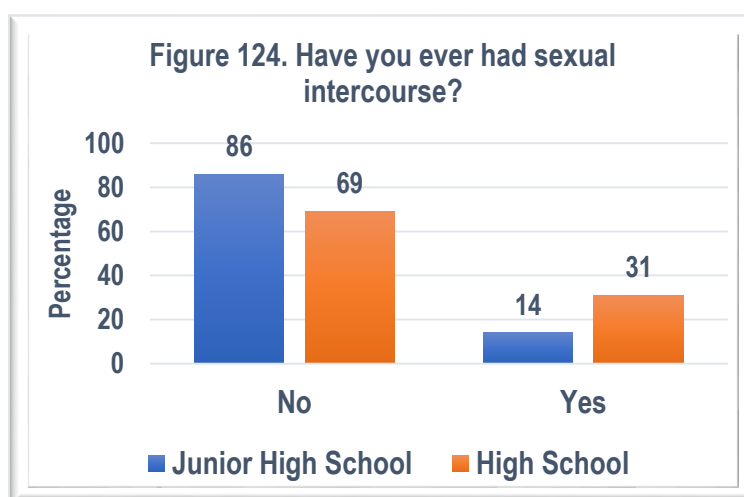


The two groups were similar in the percentage who made a plan to commit suicide, at approximately 14% (Figure 123).



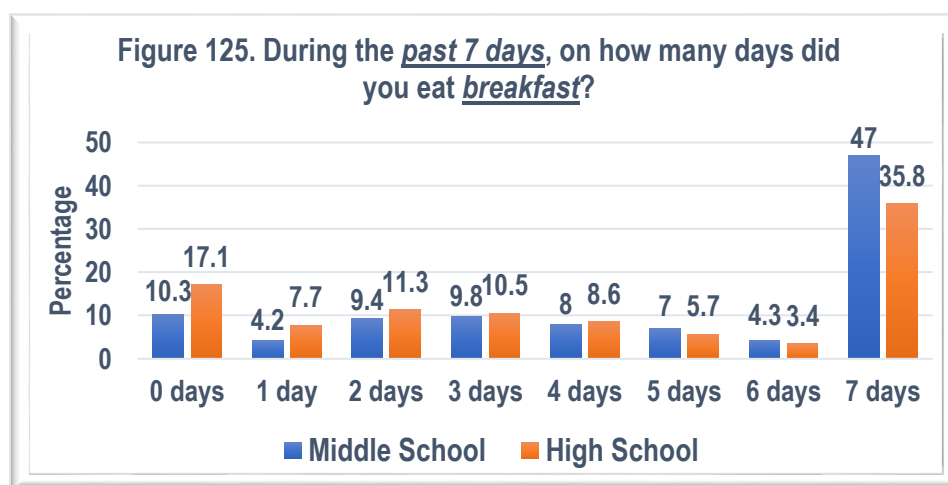
### Sexual behavior

In examining the response to the question “have you ever had sexual intercourse”, Figure 124 shows that the percentage responding ‘yes’ is more than twice as high for the high school students compared to the middle school students.

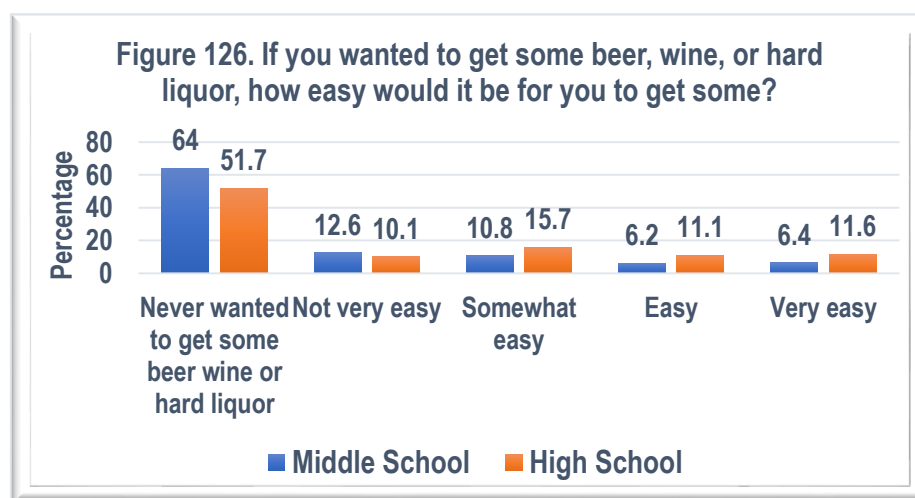


### Dietary behavior

On the middle school survey, one question captures dietary behavior and is also included on the high school survey. As shown, high school students are more likely to skip breakfast than the younger students (Figure 125).



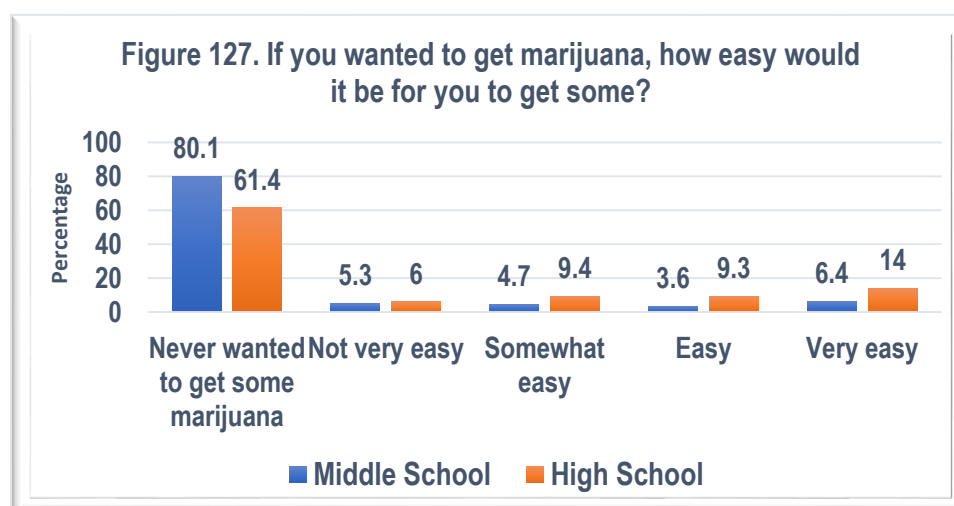
## Access to alcohol and other drugs



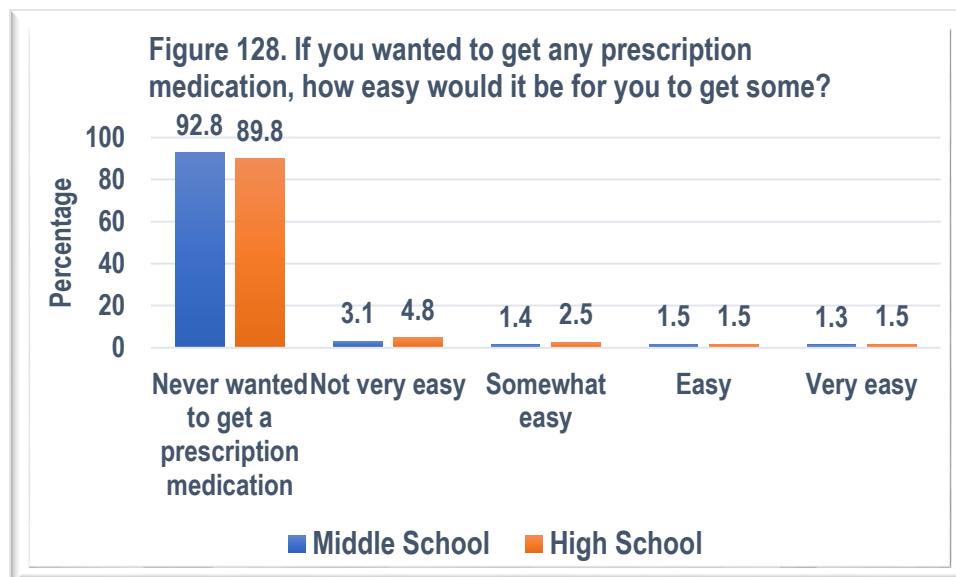
The results of the responses to the question ‘if you wanted to get some beer, wine, or hard liquor, how easy would it be for you to get some’ reveal that while these findings are in the direction one might expect, considering the ages of these two groups,

it is noteworthy that only 64% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students ‘never wanted to get some beer, wine or hard liquor’ and 1 in 10 thought it was ‘somewhat easy’, 6.2% thought it was ‘easy’ and 6.4% thought it was ‘very easy’ to get alcohol and other drugs if they wanted to do so (Figure 126). For the high school students, 51.7% ‘never wanted to get some beer, wine or hard liquor’ and approximately 1 in 5 found it ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to get alcohol if they wanted to.

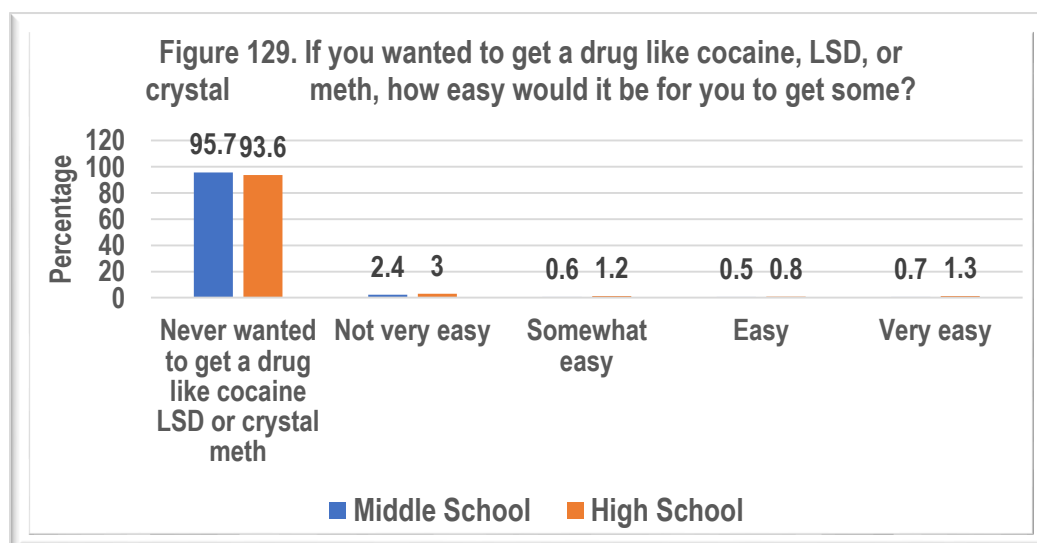
Access to marijuana showed a similar pattern, with more 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (80.1%) reporting they ‘never wanted to get some marijuana’ compared to 61.4% of high school students. Further, 10% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students thought it was ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ while that percentage was higher for high school students (23.3%, Figure 127).



When asked about easy access to prescription medication, the majority of both groups indicated that they ‘never wanted to get any prescription medication’, though the percentage was slightly lower for high school students compared to middle school students (Figure 128).



A similar outcome was observed when asked about cocaine, LSD or crystal meth, where the percentage ‘never wanted to get a drug like cocaine, LSD or crystal meth’ was even higher than for cocaine indicating less frequent use of these substances than either alcohol or marijuana (Figure 129).



### Peer behavior

Asked how many of their best friends smoked marijuana (Figure 130) or tried beer, wine or hard liquor (Figure 131), more students overall responded 'none of my best friends' for the question on smoking marijuana than for the questions about trying alcoholic beverages.

Figure 130. In the past 12 months, how many of your best friends have smoked marijuana?

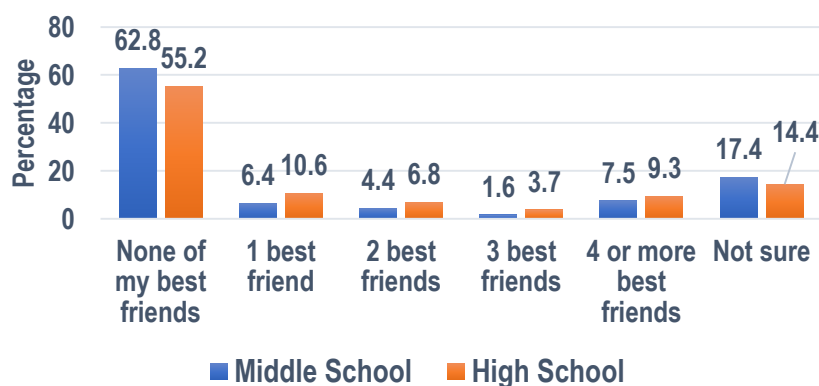
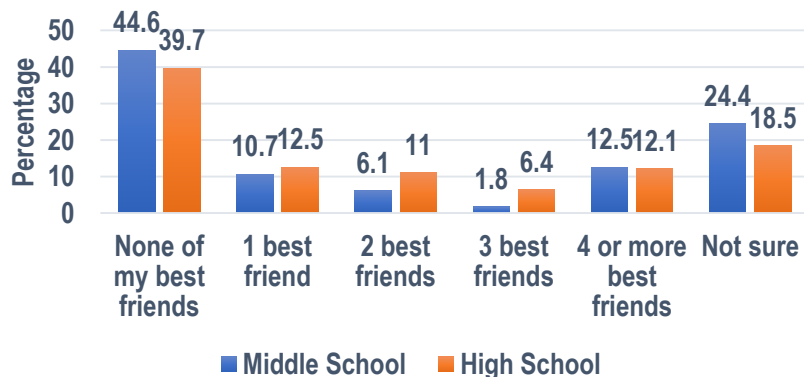


Figure 131. In the past 12 months, how many of your best friends have tried beer, wine or hard liquor?

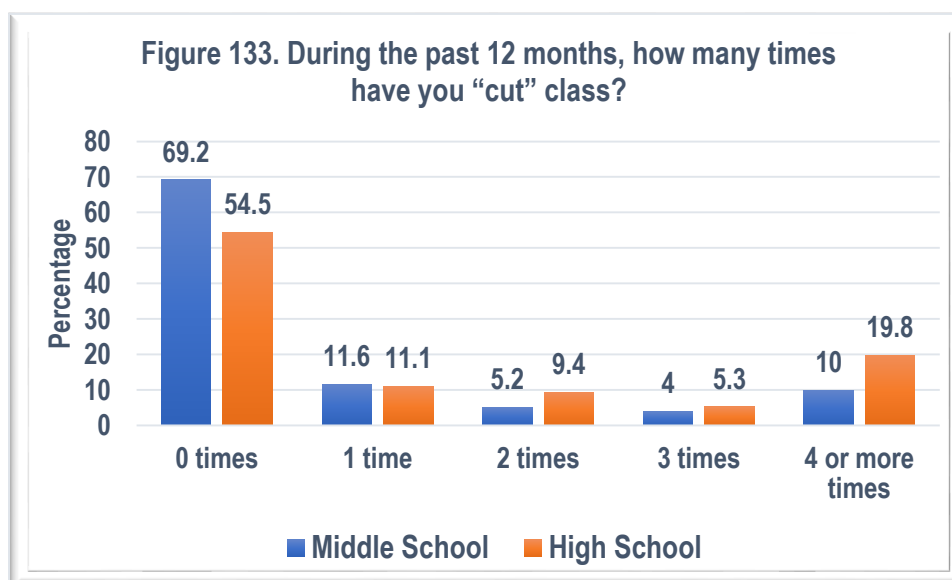
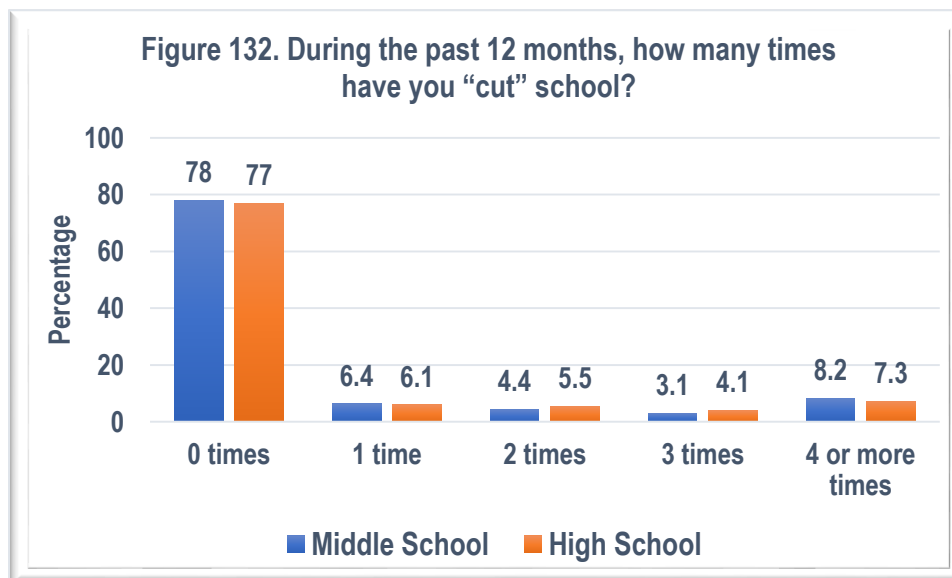


Across both middle school and high school, youth were more likely to have friends who tried alcohol than those who tried marijuana. High school students reported having more friends who tried both marijuana and alcohol than 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, with one exception,

where more middle school students reported having 4 or more friends who tried marijuana (12.5%) compared to the high school students (12.1%).

### ***Truancy behaviors***

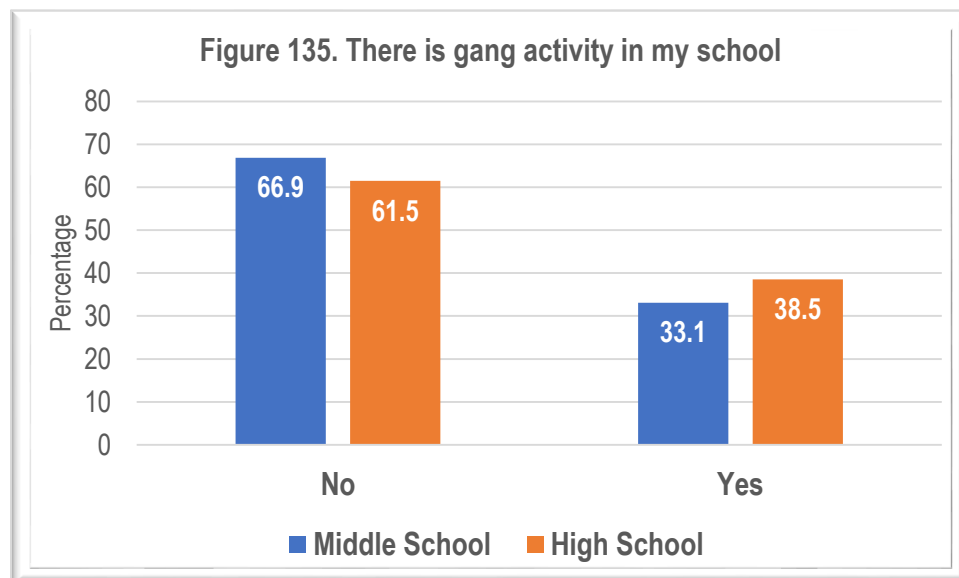
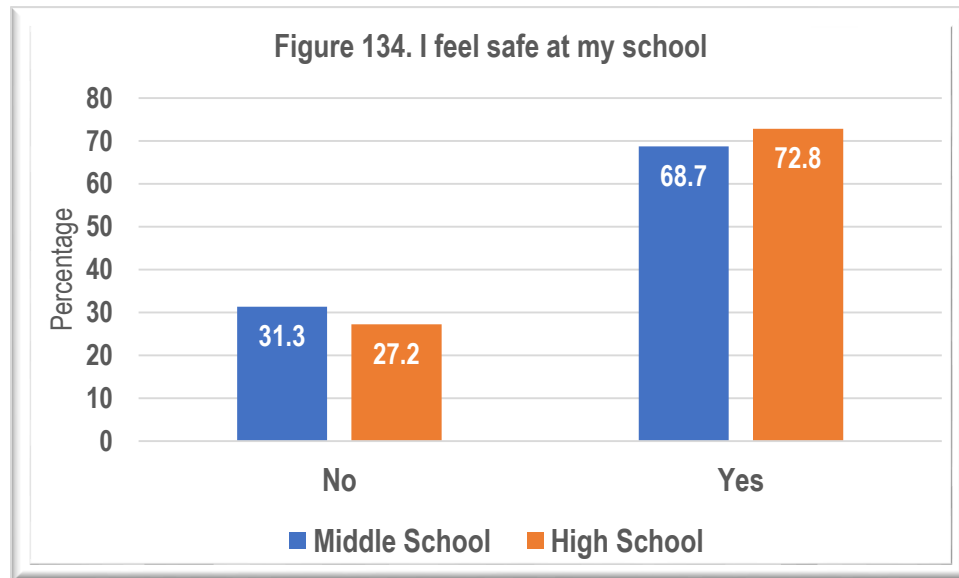
When asked if they ‘cut’ school (Figure 132) or class (Figure 133), youth from both school levels were similar in their behaviors. High school students were more likely (19.8%) to cut class 4 or more times than students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade (10%) (Figure 133).





### ***School safety and gang activity at school***

The majority of both groups expressed feeling safe at school, though that figure was slightly higher for the high school students (Figure 134). Interestingly, a higher percentage of high school as opposed to middle school students report gang activity at their school (Figure 135).



## Discussion

The YRBS seeks to identify modifiable health-risk behaviors associated with the leading causes of death among adolescents and young adults, generally considered to be between the ages of 10-24. Therefore, the purpose of the YRBS is to gather data on key health behaviors in six broad categories of behavior that hold critical importance for adolescent and adult health outcomes. The 2017 State and Local Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the 2017 Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey were modified for use in the USVI and administered to all students enrolled in grades 7 and 8 (USVI 2017 Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey) and grades 9-12 (USVI 2017 State and Local Youth Risk Behavior Survey) in the USVI public schools in May 2018. The final sample included in analyses consisted of 3062 surveys completed by students in grades 9-12 enrolled in four high schools, one alternative school and one career and technical school ( $n=1782$ ), and in grades 7-8 enrolled in six schools ( $n=1280$ ) across all three major islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John. Overall, youth in the USVI share some similarities to, as well as differences from, their peers on the US mainland in the six categories of health behaviors included in the YRBS.

### Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injury and violence

In the US, the leading causes of death among 15-19 year olds are unintentional injury due primarily to automobile-related accidents, suicide and homicide (CDC). Risky behaviors related to deaths from automobile-related accidents include seat belt use, driving while drinking or driving with someone who has been drinking and texting while driving. The results from the 2017 USVI-YRBS reveal that during the 30 days prior to completing the YRBS, 19.1% of high school students in the USVI public school system rarely or never wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else and 18.7% rode at least one time in a car or other vehicle at least one time when they had been drinking alcohol. Further, of the 58.4% that drove a car during the 30-day period prior to the survey, 5% reported driving when they had been drinking alcohol. Further, 16.2% admitted to texting while driving. For all these behaviors, males were more likely than females, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students were more likely than their peers to have practiced these risky behaviors at least

one time. Notably, though the percentage of high school students, during the 30 days before the survey, who drove a car or other vehicle and reported texting or using email while driving was 39.2% nationwide, which is twice the proportion for USVI youth, efforts to educate teenagers on the need to practice safe driving behaviors and reduce risk of unintentional injury is warranted.

Of particular concern are the proportion of youth, approximately one-third ( $n=1049$ ), across all grades surveyed, who reported being ‘so sad or hopeless that they did not want to do usual things’, suggesting the presence of depression. Additionally, 17% of high school students ( $n=303$ ) ‘seriously considered attempting suicide’ during the 12 months prior to the survey, and 22.5% of middle school youth ( $n=288$ ) had ‘ever seriously thought about killing’ themselves. Overall, for this sample, 10.3% ( $n=184$ ) of high school students and 8.4% ( $n=109$ ) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students reported having actually attempted suicide. These rates are high when compared to the rates reported for US high school students, where 7.4% had attempted suicide in the 12-month period prior to the survey. In light of the findings of a recent needs assessment that symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) were as high as 42.5% for students in students enrolled in grades 7 – 12 in the territory’s private and parochial schools, local health and education professionals, and the community at large, must address the behavioral health needs of children and youth in the immediate future (Michael, N., Valmond, J.M., Ragster, L.E., Brown, D.E., & Callwood, G.B., 2019).

In addition to examining driving safety, mood and suicide-related behaviors that may result in unintentional injury, the YRBS asked students several questions related to violence, to include carrying a weapon (described as a gun, knife or club), engaging in a physical fight either on school property or in general, or experiencing sexual dating violence. Overall, female students were more likely to report being the victims of violence than males, to include being ‘physically forced to have sexual intercourse when [you] did not want to’ in general or on a date, to include ‘being physically hurt on purpose’. The prevalence of dating violence was also more often reported by female students, suggesting the need to engage youth in programs to understand the elements of positive, healthy relationships and safe dating behaviors.

Also included in this category of unintentional injury and violence-related behaviors is the issue of bullying, which has received national attention in the past decade. During the 12 months before the survey, 15.7% of high school students were bullied on school property and 9.5% were electronically bullied. The prevalence among 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students was over twice as much as for the high school students, at 36.3%, while 12.5% were electronically bullied. Among US youth, 19% reported being bullied on school property, which is higher than the prevalence for USVI high school students, but much lower than reported by the younger USVI students.

Overall, the risky behaviors related to unintentional injury and violence among youth in the USVI public schools warrant attention. School-based and community-based programs, involving the youth, peers, family, school and broader community networks hold the best chance of improving outcomes for this vulnerable segment of the population.

### Alcohol and other drug use

In addition to examining risky behaviors related to unintentional injury and violence, the YRBS surveyed youth on their consumption of alcohol and other drugs. Among high school students, 31% reported current alcohol use and 16.1% reported current marijuana use. Among 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, 44.6% responded ‘yes’ to the question ‘have you ever tried a drink of alcohol, other than a few sips’ and 12.4% ‘had ever used marijuana’. USVI youth report higher current alcohol use and lower current marijuana use than their mainland peers: 29.8% of US youth reported current alcohol use, while 19.8% reported current marijuana use (CDC). Use of other drugs was generally low, at less than 5%, though 6.1% reported having ‘sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high’. Among 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, 5.4% responded ‘yes’ to the question ‘have you ever sniffed glue, breathed the contents of spray cans or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high’ (Table 6.). The results of this survey highlight the issue of underage drinking and marijuana use in the territory, two behaviors that hold serious implications for current and long-term health outcomes. It is well documented that health behaviors practiced in adolescents often continue into adulthood (Guttmannova, K., Kosterman, R., White, H. R., Bailey, J. A., Lee, J. O., Epstein, M., Jones, T. M., Hawkins, J. D., 2017).

## Sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV

In the USVI, 31% of high school students and 14% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students had ever had sexual intercourse, compared to 39.5% of US youth nationwide (Kahn, et al., 2018). When asked about lifetime number of partners, USVI youth and youth nationwide were similar in those reporting having sex with 4 or more partners (9.3% and 9.7%, respectively). For USVI youth who reported being sexually active, 57.1% of high school students and 56.2% of middle school students indicated that they had used a condom during last sexual intercourse. These percentages are slightly higher than national estimates from the 2017 YRBS, where, among sexually active students nationwide, 53.8% reported that either they or their partner had used a condom during last sexual intercourse (Kahn, et al., 2018). Though teenage pregnancy rates in the territory have been declining, the rate of sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, and syphilis are unacceptably high, particularly in the 15-24 age group (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018). Therefore, while condoms are not the only method to prevent infection, besides abstinence, condoms used correctly are the most effective method currently known to reduce the risk of STDs and STIs, including HIV and HPV.

## Risk behaviors related to chronic conditions

Results from the USVI 2017 YRBS suggest that similar to their counterparts on the US mainland, students in the territory are engaging in behaviors known to be associated with chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Historically, tobacco use is low among youth across the territory. This trend persisted in 2018, with 6% of the high school and 6.8% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students reporting that they had ever tried cigarette smoking. Additionally, past 30-day use was reported at 1.9% for high school and 2.4% for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. However, 21% of high school and 12.5% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students had ever tried an electronic vapor product and 6.6% of high school and 4% of middle school students had used an electronic vapor product in the 30 days prior to the survey. This pattern is similar to the national rates (The use of electronic vapor products among adolescents has increased since they entered the market in 2007. Prior studies show

that they hold some health implications that are not yet well understood, though data are emerging to show that there are health risks associated with the use of electronic vapor products as well as the traditional tobacco products (citations).

Dietary and physical activity behaviors examined reveal that USVI youth may not be eating enough fruits and vegetables and did not meet minimum guidelines for daily physical activity. Territory wide, during the 7 days prior to the survey, 24% did not eat any fruit, 35.9% had eaten fruit 1 to 3 times and only 8% had fruit 4 or more times per day. When asked about consuming a green salad, carrots or other vegetables, 55.5% had not eaten a green salad, 61% had not eaten carrots and 31.7% had not eaten other vegetables. Questions on beverage consumption reveal that while 79.4% drank a can, bottle or glass of soda or pop such as Coke, Pepsi or Sprite, and 76.1% drank 100% juice such as orange, apple or grape juice, just 54.7% had consumed any milk during the 7 days prior to the survey. Diets high in sugar, as contained in soda and many commercial juices combined with low fruit and vegetable consumption could place youth at elevated risk for chronic diseases, as previously mentioned, that often track into adulthood. Further, the only question related to dietary behavior on the middle school survey explored breakfast consumption habits of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Among the students completing the middle school survey, approximately 90% reported eating breakfast at least one day during the 7-day period prior to the survey, and 47% ate breakfast on all 7 days. For high school students, approximately 83% ate breakfast at least one day, and 35.8% ate breakfast on all 7 days.

In addition to examining dietary intake and meal behavior, the YRBS includes questions on physical activity and sedentary behavior. Guidelines call for youth to accumulate a minimum of 60 minutes per day of physical activity that ‘increased the heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time’. Territory-wide, 25.1% of high school students and 21.4% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were not physically active on at least one day, while 20.4% of high school and 25.9% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders reported being physically active on all 7 days prior to the survey. In the US, 15.4% had not been active for a total of 60 minutes on at least 1 day during the 7 days prior to the survey. Students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade were more sedentary than their high school peers: more watched in excess of 2 hours per day of television (59.5% vs 53.7%) and a larger percentage spent 2 hours or more per

day playing video or computer games or using a computer for something that is not school work (72.6% vs 65.6%). A slightly higher percentage of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders had physical education class on 5 or more days (16.8%) than did high school students (15.3%). Sixty percent (60%) of high school students had no PE during the week preceding the survey. The low participation rates in PE are a direct impact of the block scheduling in place in the territory's schools. In order to increase youth opportunities to be physically active during the school day, the VI Department of Education may need to re-examine the use of block scheduling and find ways to increase physical education during the school day and during non-school hours.

### Other health conditions

Other health conditions examined in the YRBS reveal that 16.9% of high school students and 15.9% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have been told by a doctor or nurse that they have asthma. Nationwide, The high school survey also asked about HIV testing and dental visits. While 12.8% of students were not sure if they had ever been tested for HIV, 13.1% responded yes and 74.1% had never been tested. Though 20.5% were not sure of the last time they saw a dentist, 7.9% revealed that they had never seen a dentist, and 47.1% had seen a dentist during the past 12 months.

### Access to substances, truancy, feeling safe and gang activity at school

The USVI YRBS included several questions related to access to alcohol and drugs, school attendance, how safe youth felt at school and their knowledge of gang activity at their schools. Overall, both high school and middle school youth thought that obtaining alcohol was easier than the drugs listed, with the majority not really expressing curiosity about access to most drugs. High school students were more likely to 'cut' school or class. A slightly higher percentage of high school students reported feeling safe at school compared to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (72.8% vs 68.7%, respectively) and higher percentage of high school students reported knowledge of gang activity at their school (38.5% vs 33.1%). School environment is an important factor in the positive development of youth and policies promoting safety have the potential to improve academic achievement as well as school connectedness among youth.



## Age at initiation of health risk behaviors

To be effective, prevention efforts aimed at reducing risky health behaviors must target children and youth before these behaviors occur. The results of this survey reveal that health risk behaviors such as alcohol consumption, marijuana use, sexual intercourse and cigarette smoking are being initiated around age 13. By age 17, the percentage of youth reporting first time use of these substances and first age at sexual intercourse were very low. This suggests that these behaviors emerge more often when youth transition to junior high schools in the territory, where, with the exception of one middle school on the island of St. Thomas that includes grades 6-8 and one K-8 school on the island of St. John, public school students go from an elementary school setting for Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> grade to a junior high school setting for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade before moving on to the high school for grades 9-12. Thus, prevention messages may need to start at the elementary school level, and continue through junior high and high school.



## Strengths and Limitations

The plan to administer the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey to all children enrolled in grades 7 to 12 in the territory's public schools was an ambitious task. One of the strengths of the study is the fact that the research team, along with the staff at the VI Department of Health, the funding source for this project, opted to attempt a census of all students enrolled in the public schools in the spring term, 2018. One limitation is that the private and parochial schools were not included, recognizing that children attending private and parochial schools may display slightly different health behaviors. However, due to the small number of private and parochial school children enrolled in grades 7-12 compared to the public school population, the research team considers the survey results generally representative of the overall 7-12 grade population in the territory. The authors also acknowledge the possibility of some threats to internal validity that may have been unavoidably introduced as a result of the need to utilize two different methods of survey administration. In some instances, the research team was able to administer the survey to a full assembly of children, whereas at some schools, the team had to train the teachers to conduct data collection in the classrooms. Every effort was made to standardize the survey administration process through the training and use of standard protocols, but it is conceivable that some variability may have been introduced due to this dual methodology. Further, the authors must remind the reader that this is a cross sectional study so no conclusions as to causality can be drawn from the results presented. However, notwithstanding the limitations, the authors offer this body of data for the use of policy makers, planners, researchers and the community at large as a major contribution to filling the gap the data on the health behaviors of USVI adolescents.

## Conclusion

In the US, since 1991, the YRBSS has been a consistent source of valid and reliable data, collected using scientific and systematic procedures and methods, to monitor health-related behaviors among youth in six broad domains that are associated with the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the population. In 2017, two surveys, one for use with middle school youth and the other for use with high school students, were administered in several states and large urban school districts across the nation. However, the USVI has not participated in the national YRBSS since 2003, though intermittent attempts were undertaken in 2007, 2010 and 2011 at the local and district levels (State Epidemiological Profile, USVI, 2016, unpublished). In an attempt to meet the need for updating the State Epidemiological Profile as part of the SPF PFS grant program requirements, the VI DOH entered into a Professional Service Contract (PSC) with CERC to utilize carryover funds from the first year of the five-year grant to conduct the YRBS among the territory's public school students enrolled in grades 7-12 during the 2017-2018 school year. The passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017 meant that data collection had to be moved to May 2018 in an environment struggling with recovery. Schools were operating at reduced hours on split sessions and struggling to complete a school year in an education system reeling from the destruction of the two category 5 storms.

Nevertheless, over 3000 youth completed the 2017 USVI Middle School Survey (n=1280, grades 7 and 8) and the 2017 State and Local Survey (n=1782, grades 9-12), administered by trained research staff and trained school personnel across four junior high, one middle school (grades 7 and 8 only), one K-8 elementary school (grades 7 and 8 only), four high schools, one alternative academy and one career technical and vocational school across the three main islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John, using standard CDC protocols. The results of the survey provide critical data on the prevalence of health-related behaviors among USVI public school students that hold critical implications for current and future health outcomes and thus warrant ongoing monitoring and intervention. For example, a large number of youth may be depressed (625 high school and 400 in grades 7 and 8) and think about attempting suicide (299 in high school and 281 in grades 7 and 8). Evidenced-based programs aimed at promoting student mental health and emotional well-

being and ongoing training and resources to support school counselors are warranted. Further, with rates of HIV and other STD's on the rise in youth aged 15-24, prevention efforts should target youth with messages to reduce exposure by using condoms effectively and correctly or delaying initiation of sexual activity, as well as getting tested for HIV. Student dietary intake of fruits and vegetables is low and youth are not meeting minimum guidelines for daily physical activity or screen time use. More opportunities to engage in physical activity during the school day need to be addressed. Also of concern is the need to delay the age at which youth in the USVI are initiating risky health-related behaviors that could lead to chronic disease, cancer, overweight and obesity, and negative reproductive health outcomes in adulthood.

Therefore, this report is important to raise awareness of the prevalence of health related behaviors of students in grades 7-12 among policy makers, decision makers, the public and a wide range of youth-serving agencies in the territory. Across the nation, YRBS data is instrumental in supporting a wide range of initiatives aimed at preventing risky behaviors in youth. Examples of initiatives informed by YRBS data include development of a law to promote and support policies to implement comprehensive sex education programs in schools; establishment of laws mandating increased daily physical activity during the school day; developing adolescent sexual health profiles; and supporting the need for suicide prevention programs in school.

The VIDOH and VIDE, in collaboration with youth-serving health care providers and community based organizations, must prioritize development of plans to address adolescent health issues in the territory. Culturally-relevant, evidence-based programs in behavioral health, nutrition and physical activity, health education to include sex education and health literacy adapted or developed for use with USVI students are warranted. Addressing these health behaviors during adolescence will potentially impact chronic disease prevalence in the population. Thus, it is critically important that the territory resumes participation in the national YRBSS which will allow leadership in the territory to monitor progress toward *Healthy People* goals and objectives for adolescent health in the USVI.

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## Appendices

## Appendix I: USVI 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

# 2017 State and Local Youth Risk Behavior Survey

This survey is about health behavior. It has been developed so you can tell us what you do that may affect your health. The information you give will be used to improve health education for young people like yourself.

DO NOT write your name on this survey. The answers you give will be kept private. No one will know what you write. Answer the questions based on what you really do.

Completing the survey is voluntary. Whether or not you answer the questions will not affect your grade in this class. If you are not comfortable answering a question, just leave it blank.

The questions that ask about your background will be used only to describe the types of students completing this survey. The information will not be used to find out your name. No names will ever be reported.

Make sure to read every question. Fill in the ovals completely. When you are finished, follow the instructions of the person giving you the survey.

*Thank you very much for your help.*

**Directions**

- Use a #2 pencil only.
- Make dark marks.
- Fill in a response like this: A B ● D.
- If you change your answer, erase your old answer completely.

1. How old are you?
  - A. 12 years old or younger
  - B. 13 years old
  - C. 14 years old
  - D. 15 years old
  - E. 16 years old
  - F. 17 years old
  - G. 18 years old or older
2. What is your sex?
  - A. Female
  - B. Male
3. In what grade are you?
  - A. 9th grade
  - B. 10th grade
  - C. 11th grade
  - D. 12th grade
  - E. Ungraded or other grade
4. Are you Hispanic or Latino?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
5. What is your race? (Select one or more responses.)
  - A. American Indian or Alaska Native
  - B. Asian
  - C. Black or African American
  - D. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  - E. White

6. How tall are you without your shoes on?  
 Directions: Write your height in the shaded blank boxes. Fill in the matching oval below each number.

Example

Height	
Feet	Inches
5	7
③	⑩
④	①
●	②
⑥	③
⑦	④
	⑤
	⑥
	●
	⑧
	⑨
	⑩
	⑪

Height	
Feet	Inches
③	⑩
④	①
⑤	②
⑥	③
⑦	④
	⑤
	⑥
	⑦
	⑧
	⑨
	⑩
	⑪

7. How much do you weigh without your shoes on?  
 Directions: Write your weight in the shaded blank boxes. Fill in the matching oval below each number.

Example

Weight Pounds		
1	5	2
⑩	⑩	⑩
●	①	①
②	②	●
③	③	③
	④	④
	●	⑤
	⑥	⑥
	⑦	⑦
	⑧	⑧
	⑨	⑨

Weight Pounds		
⑩	⑩	⑩
①	①	①
②	②	②
③	③	③
	④	④
	⑤	⑤
	⑥	⑥
	⑦	⑦
	⑧	⑧
	⑨	⑨



The next 4 questions ask about safety.

8. How often do you wear a seat belt when **riding** in a car driven by someone else?
  - A. Never
  - B. Rarely
  - C. Sometimes
  - D. Most of the time
  - E. Always
9. During the past 30 days, how many times did you **ride** in a car or other vehicle **driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol**?
  - A. 0 times
  - B. 1 time
  - C. 2 or 3 times
  - D. 4 or 5 times
  - E. 6 or more times
10. During the past 30 days, how many times did you **drive** a car or other vehicle **when you had been drinking alcohol**?
  - A. I did not drive a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days
  - B. 0 times
  - C. 1 time
  - D. 2 or 3 times
  - E. 4 or 5 times
  - F. 6 or more times
11. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you **text or e-mail** while **driving** a car or other vehicle?
  - A. I did not drive a car or other vehicle during the past 30 days
  - B. 0 days
  - C. 1 or 2 days
  - D. 3 to 5 days
  - E. 6 to 9 days
  - F. 10 to 19 days
  - G. 20 to 29 days
  - H. All 30 days

The next 11 questions ask about violence-related behaviors.

12. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry **a weapon** such as a gun, knife, or club?
  - A. 0 days
  - B. 1 day
  - C. 2 or 3 days
  - D. 4 or 5 days
  - E. 6 or more days
13. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry **a weapon** such as a gun, knife, or club **on school property**?
  - A. 0 days
  - B. 1 day
  - C. 2 or 3 days
  - D. 4 or 5 days
  - E. 6 or more days
14. **During the past 12 months**, on how many days did you carry a **gun**? (Do **not** count the days when you carried a gun only for hunting or for a sport, such as target shooting.)
  - A. 0 days
  - B. 1 day
  - C. 2 or 3 days
  - D. 4 or 5 days
  - E. 6 or more days
15. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you **not** go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?
  - A. 0 days
  - B. 1 day
  - C. 2 or 3 days
  - D. 4 or 5 days
  - E. 6 or more days
16. During the past 12 months, how many times has someone threatened or injured you with **a weapon** such as a gun, knife, or club **on school property**?
  - A. 0 times
  - B. 1 time
  - C. 2 or 3 times
  - D. 4 or 5 times
  - E. 6 or 7 times
  - F. 8 or 9 times
  - G. 10 or 11 times
  - H. 12 or more times

17. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a **physical fight**?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 time
  - C. 2 or 3 times
  - D. 4 or 5 times
  - E. 6 or 7 times
  - F. 8 or 9 times
  - G. 10 or 11 times
  - H. 12 or more times
18. During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a **physical fight on school property**?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 time
  - C. 2 or 3 times
  - D. 4 or 5 times
  - E. 6 or 7 times
  - F. 8 or 9 times
  - G. 10 or 11 times
  - H. 12 or more times
19. Have you ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
20. During the past 12 months, how many times did **anyone** force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do? (Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 time
  - C. 2 or 3 times
  - D. 4 or 5 times
  - E. 6 or more times

21. During the past 12 months, how many times did **someone you were dating or going out with** force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do? (Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)
- A. I did not date or go out with anyone during the past 12 months
  - B. 0 times
  - C. 1 time
  - D. 2 or 3 times
  - E. 4 or 5 times
  - F. 6 or more times
22. During the past 12 months, how many times did **someone you were dating or going out with** physically hurt you on purpose? (Count such things as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon.)
- A. I did not date or go out with anyone during the past 12 months
  - B. 0 times
  - C. 1 time
  - D. 2 or 3 times
  - E. 4 or 5 times
  - F. 6 or more times

**The next 2 questions ask about bullying. Bullying is when 1 or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove, or hurt another student over and over again. It is not bullying when 2 students of about the same strength or power argue or fight or tease each other in a friendly way.**

23. During the past 12 months, have you ever been bullied **on school property**?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
24. During the past 12 months, have you ever been **electronically** bullied? (Count being bullied through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media.)
- A. Yes
  - B. No

**The next 5 questions ask about sad feelings and attempted suicide. Sometimes people feel so depressed about the future that they may consider attempting suicide, that is, taking some action to end their own life.**

25. During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for **two weeks or more in a row** that you stopped doing some usual activities?
- A. Yes
  - B. No

26. During the past 12 months, did you ever **seriously** consider attempting suicide?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
27. During the past 12 months, did you make a plan about how you would attempt suicide?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
28. During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 time
  - C. 2 or 3 times
  - D. 4 or 5 times
  - E. 6 or more times
29. **If you attempted suicide** during the past 12 months, did any attempt result in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?
- A. **I did not attempt suicide** during the past 12 months
  - B. Yes
  - C. No

**The next 4 questions ask about cigarette smoking.**

30. Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
31. How old were you when you first tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?
- A. I have never tried cigarette smoking, not even one or two puffs
  - B. 8 years old or younger
  - C. 9 or 10 years old
  - D. 11 or 12 years old
  - E. 13 or 14 years old
  - F. 15 or 16 years old
  - G. 17 years old or older
32. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 or 2 days
  - C. 3 to 5 days
  - D. 6 to 9 days
  - E. 10 to 19 days
  - F. 20 to 29 days
  - G. All 30 days

33. During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke **per day**?
- A. I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days
  - B. Less than 1 cigarette per day
  - C. 1 cigarette per day
  - D. 2 to 5 cigarettes per day
  - E. 6 to 10 cigarettes per day
  - F. 11 to 20 cigarettes per day
  - G. More than 20 cigarettes per day

**The next 3 questions ask about electronic vapor products, such as blu, NJOY, Vuse, MarkTen, Logic, Vapin Plus, eGo, and Halo. Electronic vapor products include e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens.**

34. Have you ever used an electronic vapor product?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
35. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use an electronic vapor product?
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 or 2 days
  - C. 3 to 5 days
  - D. 6 to 9 days
  - E. 10 to 19 days
  - F. 20 to 29 days
  - G. All 30 days
36. During the past 30 days, how did you **usually** get your own electronic vapor products? (Select only **one** response.)
- A. I did not use any electronic vapor products during the past 30 days
  - B. I bought them in a store such as a convenience store, supermarket, discount store, gas station, or vape store
  - C. I got them on the Internet
  - D. I gave someone else money to buy them for me
  - E. I borrowed them from someone else
  - F. A person 18 years old or older gave them to me
  - G. I took them from a store or another person
  - H. I got them some other way

**The next 3 questions ask about other tobacco products.**

37. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use **chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco products**, such as Redman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, Copenhagen, Camel Snus, Marlboro Snus, General Snus, Ariva, Stonewall, or Camel Orbs? (Do not count any electronic vapor products.)
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 or 2 days
  - C. 3 to 5 days
  - D. 6 to 9 days
  - E. 10 to 19 days
  - F. 20 to 29 days
  - G. All 30 days
38. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke **cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars**?
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 or 2 days
  - C. 3 to 5 days
  - D. 6 to 9 days
  - E. 10 to 19 days
  - F. 20 to 29 days
  - G. All 30 days
39. During the past 12 months, did you ever try **to quit** using **all** tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, shisha or hookah tobacco, and electronic vapor products?
- A. I did not use any tobacco products during the past 12 months
  - B. Yes
  - C. No

**The next 4 questions ask about drinking alcohol. This includes drinking beer, wine, wine coolers, and liquor such as rum, gin, vodka, or whiskey. For these questions, drinking alcohol does not include drinking a few sips of wine for religious purposes.**

40. During your life, on how many days have you had at least one drink of alcohol?
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 or 2 days
  - C. 3 to 9 days
  - D. 10 to 19 days
  - E. 20 to 39 days
  - F. 40 to 99 days
  - G. 100 or more days

41. How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than a few sips?
- A. I have never had a drink of alcohol other than a few sips
  - B. 8 years old or younger
  - C. 9 or 10 years old
  - D. 11 or 12 years old
  - E. 13 or 14 years old
  - F. 15 or 16 years old
  - G. 17 years old or older
42. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 or 2 days
  - C. 3 to 5 days
  - D. 6 to 9 days
  - E. 10 to 19 days
  - F. 20 to 29 days
  - G. All 30 days
43. During the past 30 days, how did you **usually** get the alcohol you drank?
- A. I did not drink alcohol during the past 30 days
  - B. I bought it in a store such as a liquor store, convenience store, supermarket, discount store, or gas station
  - C. I bought it at a restaurant, bar, or club
  - D. I bought it at a public event such as a concert or sporting event
  - E. I gave someone else money to buy it for me
  - F. Someone gave it to me
  - G. I took it from a store or family member
  - H. I got it some other way

**The next 2 questions ask about how many drinks of alcohol you have had in a row, that is, within a couple of hours. For the first question, the number of drinks you need to think about is different for female students and male students.**

44. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have **4** or more drinks of alcohol in a row (if you are **female**) or **5** or more drinks of alcohol in a row (if you are **male**)?
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 day
  - C. 2 days
  - D. 3 to 5 days
  - E. 6 to 9 days
  - F. 10 to 19 days
  - G. 20 or more days



45. During the past 30 days, what is the largest number of alcoholic drinks you had in a row?
- A. I did not drink alcohol during the past 30 days
  - B. 1 or 2 drinks
  - C. 3 drinks
  - D. 4 drinks
  - E. 5 drinks
  - F. 6 or 7 drinks
  - G. 8 or 9 drinks
  - H. 10 or more drinks

**The next 3 questions ask about marijuana use. Marijuana also is called grass, pot, or weed.**

46. During your life, how many times have you used marijuana?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 or 2 times
  - C. 3 to 9 times
  - D. 10 to 19 times
  - E. 20 to 39 times
  - F. 40 to 99 times
  - G. 100 or more times
47. How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?
- A. I have never tried marijuana
  - B. 8 years old or younger
  - C. 9 or 10 years old
  - D. 11 or 12 years old
  - E. 13 or 14 years old
  - F. 15 or 16 years old
  - G. 17 years old or older
48. During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 or 2 times
  - C. 3 to 9 times
  - D. 10 to 19 times
  - E. 20 to 39 times
  - F. 40 or more times

**The next 10 questions ask about other drugs.**

49. During your life, how many times have you used **any** form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 or 2 times
  - C. 3 to 9 times
  - D. 10 to 19 times
  - E. 20 to 39 times
  - F. 40 or more times
50. During your life, how many times have you sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 or 2 times
  - C. 3 to 9 times
  - D. 10 to 19 times
  - E. 20 to 39 times
  - F. 40 or more times
51. During your life, how many times have you used **heroin** (also called smack, junk, or China White)?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 or 2 times
  - C. 3 to 9 times
  - D. 10 to 19 times
  - E. 20 to 39 times
  - F. 40 or more times
52. During your life, how many times have you used **methamphetamines** (also called speed, crystal, crank, or ice)?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 or 2 times
  - C. 3 to 9 times
  - D. 10 to 19 times
  - E. 20 to 39 times
  - F. 40 or more times
53. During your life, how many times have you used **ecstasy** (also called MDMA)?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 or 2 times
  - C. 3 to 9 times
  - D. 10 to 19 times
  - E. 20 to 39 times
  - F. 40 or more times

54. During your life, how many times have you used **synthetic marijuana** (also called K2, Spice, fake weed, King Kong, Yucatan Fire, Skunk, or Moon Rocks)?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 or 2 times
  - C. 3 to 9 times
  - D. 10 to 19 times
  - E. 20 to 39 times
  - F. 40 or more times
55. During your life, how many times have you taken **steroid pills or shots** without a doctor's prescription?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 or 2 times
  - C. 3 to 9 times
  - D. 10 to 19 times
  - E. 20 to 39 times
  - F. 40 or more times
56. During your life, how many times have you taken **prescription pain medicine** without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told you to use it? (Count drugs such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet.)
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 or 2 times
  - C. 3 to 9 times
  - D. 10 to 19 times
  - E. 20 to 39 times
  - F. 40 or more times
57. During your life, how many times have you used a needle to inject any **illegal** drug into your body?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 time
  - C. 2 or more times
58. During the past 12 months, has anyone offered, sold, or given you an illegal drug **on school property**?
- A. Yes
  - B. No

**The next 9 questions ask about sexual behavior.**

59. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?
- A. Yes
  - B. No

60. How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?
- A. I have never had sexual intercourse
  - B. 11 years old or younger
  - C. 12 years old
  - D. 13 years old
  - E. 14 years old
  - F. 15 years old
  - G. 16 years old
  - H. 17 years old or older
61. During your life, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse?
- A. I have never had sexual intercourse
  - B. 1 person
  - C. 2 people
  - D. 3 people
  - E. 4 people
  - F. 5 people
  - G. 6 or more people
62. During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?
- A. I have never had sexual intercourse
  - B. I have had sexual intercourse, but not during the past 3 months
  - C. 1 person
  - D. 2 people
  - E. 3 people
  - F. 4 people
  - G. 5 people
  - H. 6 or more people
63. Did you drink alcohol or use drugs before you had sexual intercourse the **last time**?
- A. I have never had sexual intercourse
  - B. Yes
  - C. No
64. The **last time** you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?
- A. I have never had sexual intercourse
  - B. Yes
  - C. No

65. The **last time** you had sexual intercourse, what **one** method did you or your partner use to **prevent pregnancy**? (Select only **one** response.)
- A. I have never had sexual intercourse
  - B. No method was used to prevent pregnancy
  - C. Birth control pills
  - D. Condoms
  - E. An IUD (such as Mirena or ParaGard) or implant (such as Implanon or Nexplanon)
  - F. A shot (such as Depo-Provera), patch (such as Ortho Evra), or birth control ring (such as NuvaRing)
  - G. Withdrawal or some other method
  - H. Not sure
66. During your life, with whom have you had sexual contact?
- A. I have never had sexual contact
  - B. Females
  - C. Males
  - D. Females and males
67. Which of the following best describes you?
- A. Heterosexual (straight)
  - B. Gay or lesbian
  - C. Bisexual
  - D. Not sure

**The next 2 questions ask about body weight.**

68. How do **you** describe your weight?
- A. Very underweight
  - B. Slightly underweight
  - C. About the right weight
  - D. Slightly overweight
  - E. Very overweight
69. Which of the following are you trying to do about your weight?
- A. **Lose** weight
  - B. **Gain** weight
  - C. **Stay** the same weight
  - D. I am **not trying to do anything** about my weight

The next 9 questions ask about food you ate or drank during the past 7 days. Think about all the meals and snacks you had from the time you got up until you went to bed. Be sure to include food you ate at home, at school, at restaurants, or anywhere else.

70. During the past 7 days, how many times did you drink **100% fruit juices** such as orange juice, apple juice, or grape juice? (Do **not** count punch, Kool-Aid, sports drinks, or other fruit-flavored drinks.)
- A. I did not drink 100% fruit juice during the past 7 days
  - B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days
  - C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days
  - D. 1 time per day
  - E. 2 times per day
  - F. 3 times per day
  - G. 4 or more times per day
71. During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat **fruit**? (Do **not** count fruit juice.)
- A. I did not eat fruit during the past 7 days
  - B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days
  - C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days
  - D. 1 time per day
  - E. 2 times per day
  - F. 3 times per day
  - G. 4 or more times per day
72. During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat **green salad**?
- A. I did not eat green salad during the past 7 days
  - B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days
  - C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days
  - D. 1 time per day
  - E. 2 times per day
  - F. 3 times per day
  - G. 4 or more times per day
73. During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat **potatoes**? (Do **not** count french fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips.)
- A. I did not eat potatoes during the past 7 days
  - B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days
  - C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days
  - D. 1 time per day
  - E. 2 times per day
  - F. 3 times per day
  - G. 4 or more times per day

74. During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat **carrots**?
- A. I did not eat carrots during the past 7 days
  - B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days
  - C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days
  - D. 1 time per day
  - E. 2 times per day
  - F. 3 times per day
  - G. 4 or more times per day
75. During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat **other vegetables**? (Do **not** count green salad, potatoes, or carrots.)
- A. I did not eat other vegetables during the past 7 days
  - B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days
  - C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days
  - D. 1 time per day
  - E. 2 times per day
  - F. 3 times per day
  - G. 4 or more times per day
76. During the past 7 days, how many times did you drink a **can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop**, such as Coke, Pepsi, or Sprite? (Do **not** count diet soda or diet pop.)
- A. I did not drink soda or pop during the past 7 days
  - B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days
  - C. 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days
  - D. 1 time per day
  - E. 2 times per day
  - F. 3 times per day
  - G. 4 or more times per day
77. During the past 7 days, how many **glasses of milk** did you drink? (Count the milk you drank in a glass or cup, from a carton, or with cereal. Count the half pint of milk served at school as equal to one glass.)
- A. I did not drink milk during the past 7 days
  - B. 1 to 3 glasses during the past 7 days
  - C. 4 to 6 glasses during the past 7 days
  - D. 1 glass per day
  - E. 2 glasses per day
  - F. 3 glasses per day
  - G. 4 or more glasses per day

78. During the past 7 days, on how many days did you eat **breakfast**?
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 day
  - C. 2 days
  - D. 3 days
  - E. 4 days
  - F. 5 days
  - G. 6 days
  - H. 7 days

**The next 5 questions ask about physical activity.**

79. During the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of **at least 60 minutes per day**? (Add up all the time you spent in any kind of physical activity that increased your heart rate and made you breathe hard some of the time.)
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 day
  - C. 2 days
  - D. 3 days
  - E. 4 days
  - F. 5 days
  - G. 6 days
  - H. 7 days
80. On an average school day, how many hours do you watch TV?
- A. I do not watch TV on an average school day
  - B. Less than 1 hour per day
  - C. 1 hour per day
  - D. 2 hours per day
  - E. 3 hours per day
  - F. 4 hours per day
  - G. 5 or more hours per day
81. On an average school day, how many hours do you play video or computer games or use a computer for something that is not school work? (Count time spent on things such as Xbox, PlayStation, an iPad or other tablet, a smartphone, texting, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media.)
- A. I do not play video or computer games or use a computer for something that is not school work
  - B. Less than 1 hour per day
  - C. 1 hour per day
  - D. 2 hours per day
  - E. 3 hours per day
  - F. 4 hours per day
  - G. 5 or more hours per day



82. In an average week when you are in school, on how many days do you go to physical education (PE) classes?
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 day
  - C. 2 days
  - D. 3 days
  - E. 4 days
  - F. 5 days
83. During the past 12 months, on how many sports teams did you play? (Count any teams run by your school or community groups.)
- A. 0 teams
  - B. 1 team
  - C. 2 teams
  - D. 3 or more teams

**The next question asks about concussions. A concussion is when a blow or jolt to the head causes problems such as headaches, dizziness, being dazed or confused, difficulty remembering or concentrating, vomiting, blurred vision, or being knocked out.**

84. During the past 12 months, how many times did you have a concussion **from playing a sport or being physically active**?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 time
  - C. 2 times
  - D. 3 times
  - E. 4 or more times

**The next 5 questions ask about other health-related topics.**

85. Have you ever been tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS? (Do **not** count tests done if you donated blood.)
- A. Yes
  - B. No
  - C. Not sure
86. When was the last time you saw a dentist for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning, or other dental work?
- A. During the past 12 months
  - B. Between 12 and 24 months ago
  - C. More than 24 months ago
  - D. Never
  - E. Not sure

87. Has a doctor or nurse ever told you that you have asthma?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
  - C. Not sure
88. On an average school night, how many hours of sleep do you get?
- A. 4 or less hours
  - B. 5 hours
  - C. 6 hours
  - D. 7 hours
  - E. 8 hours
  - F. 9 hours
  - G. 10 or more hours
89. During the past 12 months, how would you describe your grades in school?
- A. Mostly A's
  - B. Mostly B's
  - C. Mostly C's
  - D. Mostly D's
  - E. Mostly F's
  - F. None of these grades
  - G. Not sure

**This is the end of the survey.  
Thank you very much for your help.**

## Appendix II: USVI 2017 Middle School Survey

## 2017 Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey

This survey is about health behavior. It has been developed so you can tell us what you do that may affect your health. The information you give will be used to improve health education for young people like yourself.

DO NOT write your name on this survey. The answers you give will be kept private. No one will know what you write. Answer the questions based on what you really do.

Completing the survey is voluntary. Whether or not you answer the questions will not affect your grade in this class. If you are not comfortable answering a question, just leave it blank.

The questions that ask about your background will be used only to describe the types of students completing this survey. The information will not be used to find out your name. No names will ever be reported.

Make sure to read every question. Fill in the ovals completely. When you are finished, follow the instructions of the person giving you the survey.

*Thank you very much for your help.*

**Directions**

- Use a #2 pencil only.
- Make dark marks.
- Fill in a response like this: A B ● D.
- If you change your answer, erase your old answer completely.

- How old are you?
  - 10 years old or younger
  - 11 years old
  - 12 years old
  - 13 years old
  - 14 years old
  - 15 years old
  - 16 years old or older
- What is your sex?
  - Female
  - Male
- In what grade are you?
  - 6th grade
  - 7th grade
  - 8th grade
  - Ungraded or other grade
- Are you Hispanic or Latino?
  - Yes
  - No
- What is your race? (**Select one or more responses.**)
  - American Indian or Alaska Native
  - Asian
  - Black or African American
  - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  - White

**The next 4 questions ask about safety.**

- When you ride a bicycle**, how often do you wear a helmet?
  - I do not ride a bicycle
  - Never wear a helmet
  - Rarely wear a helmet
  - Sometimes wear a helmet
  - Most of the time wear a helmet
  - Always wear a helmet

7. **When you rollerblade or ride a skateboard**, how often do you wear a helmet?
  - A. I do not rollerblade or ride a skateboard
  - B. Never wear a helmet
  - C. Rarely wear a helmet
  - D. Sometimes wear a helmet
  - E. Most of the time wear a helmet
  - F. Always wear a helmet
8. How often do you wear a seat belt when **riding** in a car?
  - A. Never
  - B. Rarely
  - C. Sometimes
  - D. Most of the time
  - E. Always
9. Have you ever ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  - C. Not sure

**The next 2 questions ask about violence-related behaviors.**

10. Have you ever carried a **weapon**, such as a gun, knife, or club?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
11. Have you ever been in a physical fight?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No

**The next 2 questions ask about bullying. Bullying is when 1 or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove, or hurt another student over and over again. It is not bullying when 2 students of about the same strength or power argue or fight or tease each other in a friendly way.**

12. Have you ever been bullied **on school property**?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
13. Have you ever been **electronically** bullied? (Count being bullied through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media.)
  - A. Yes
  - B. No

**The next 3 questions ask about attempted suicide. Sometimes people feel so depressed about the future that they may consider attempting suicide or killing themselves.**

14. Have you ever **seriously** thought about killing yourself?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
15. Have you ever made a **plan** about how you would kill yourself?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
16. Have you ever **tried** to kill yourself?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No

**The next 4 questions ask about cigarette smoking.**

17. Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
18. How old were you when you first tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?
  - A. I have never tried cigarette smoking, not even one or two puffs
  - B. 8 years old or younger
  - C. 9 years old
  - D. 10 years old
  - E. 11 years old
  - F. 12 years old
  - G. 13 years old or older
19. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?
  - A. 0 days
  - B. 1 or 2 days
  - C. 3 to 5 days
  - D. 6 to 9 days
  - E. 10 to 19 days
  - F. 20 to 29 days
  - G. All 30 days
20. During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke **per day**?
  - A. I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days
  - B. Less than 1 cigarette per day
  - C. 1 cigarette per day
  - D. 2 to 5 cigarettes per day
  - E. 6 to 10 cigarettes per day
  - F. 11 to 20 cigarettes per day
  - G. More than 20 cigarettes per day

The next 3 questions ask about electronic vapor products, such as blu, NJOY, Vuse, MarkTen, Logic, Vapin Plus, eGo, and Halo. Electronic vapor products include e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens.

21. Have you ever used an electronic vapor product?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  
22. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use an electronic vapor product?
  - A. 0 days
  - B. 1 or 2 days
  - C. 3 to 5 days
  - D. 6 to 9 days
  - E. 10 to 19 days
  - F. 20 to 29 days
  - G. All 30 days
  
23. During the past 30 days, how did you **usually** get your own electronic vapor products? (Select only **one** response.)
  - A. I did not use any electronic vapor products during the past 30 days
  - B. I bought them in a store such as a convenience store, supermarket, discount store, gas station, or vape store
  - C. I got them on the Internet
  - D. I gave someone else money to buy them for me
  - E. I borrowed them from someone else
  - F. A person 18 years old or older gave them to me
  - G. I took them from a store or another person
  - H. I got them some other way

The next 2 questions ask about other tobacco products.

24. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use **chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco products**, such as Redman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, Copenhagen, Camel Snus, Marlboro Snus, General Snus, Ariva, Stonewall, or Camel Orbs? (Do not count any electronic vapor products.)
  - A. 0 days
  - B. 1 or 2 days
  - C. 3 to 5 days
  - D. 6 to 9 days
  - E. 10 to 19 days
  - F. 20 to 29 days
  - G. All 30 days

25. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke **cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars?**
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 or 2 days
  - C. 3 to 5 days
  - D. 6 to 9 days
  - E. 10 to 19 days
  - F. 20 to 29 days
  - G. All 30 days

**The next 2 questions ask about drinking alcohol. This includes drinking beer, wine, wine coolers, and liquor such as rum, gin, vodka, or whiskey. For these questions, drinking alcohol does not include drinking a few sips of wine for religious purposes.**

26. Have you ever had a drink of alcohol, other than a few sips?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
27. How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than a few sips?
- A. I have never had a drink of alcohol other than a few sips
  - B. 8 years old or younger
  - C. 9 years old
  - D. 10 years old
  - E. 11 years old
  - F. 12 years old
  - G. 13 years old or older

**The next 2 questions ask about marijuana use. Marijuana also is called grass, pot, or weed.**

28. Have you ever used marijuana?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
29. How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?
- A. I have never tried marijuana
  - B. 8 years old or younger
  - C. 9 years old
  - D. 10 years old
  - E. 11 years old
  - F. 12 years old
  - G. 13 years old or older



**The next 4 questions ask about other drugs.**

30. Have you ever used **any** form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
31. Have you ever sniffed glue, breathed the contents of spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
32. Have you ever taken **steroid pills or shots** without a doctor's prescription?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
33. Have you ever taken **prescription pain medicine** without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told you to use it? (Count drugs such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet.)
  - A. Yes
  - B. No

**The next 4 questions ask about sexual intercourse.**

34. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
35. How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?
  - A. I have never had sexual intercourse
  - B. 8 years old or younger
  - C. 9 years old
  - D. 10 years old
  - E. 11 years old
  - F. 12 years old
  - G. 13 years old or older
36. With how many people have you ever had sexual intercourse?
  - A. I have never had sexual intercourse
  - B. 1 person
  - C. 2 people
  - D. 3 people
  - E. 4 people
  - F. 5 people
  - G. 6 or more people
37. The **last time** you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?
  - A. I have never had sexual intercourse
  - B. Yes
  - C. No

The next 2 questions ask about body weight.

38. How do **you** describe your weight?
- A. Very underweight
  - B. Slightly underweight
  - C. About the right weight
  - D. Slightly overweight
  - E. Very overweight
39. Which of the following are you trying to do about your weight?
- A. **Lose** weight
  - B. **Gain** weight
  - C. **Stay** the same weight
  - D. I am **not trying to do anything** about my weight

The next question asks about eating breakfast.

40. During the past 7 days, on how many days did you eat **breakfast**?
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 day
  - C. 2 days
  - D. 3 days
  - E. 4 days
  - F. 5 days
  - G. 6 days
  - H. 7 days

The next 5 questions ask about physical activity.

41. During the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of **at least 60 minutes per day**? (Add up all the time you spent in any kind of physical activity that increased your heart rate and made you breathe hard some of the time.)
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 day
  - C. 2 days
  - D. 3 days
  - E. 4 days
  - F. 5 days
  - G. 6 days
  - H. 7 days

42. On an average school day, how many hours do you watch TV?
- A. I do not watch TV on an average school day
  - B. Less than 1 hour per day
  - C. 1 hour per day
  - D. 2 hours per day
  - E. 3 hours per day
  - F. 4 hours per day
  - G. 5 or more hours per day
43. On an average school day, how many hours do you play video or computer games or use a computer for something that is not school work? (Count time spent on things such as Xbox, PlayStation, an iPad or other tablet, a smartphone, texting, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media.)
- A. I do not play video or computer games or use a computer for something that is not school work
  - B. Less than 1 hour per day
  - C. 1 hour per day
  - D. 2 hours per day
  - E. 3 hours per day
  - F. 4 hours per day
  - G. 5 or more hours per day
44. In an average week when you are in school, on how many days do you go to physical education (PE) classes?
- A. 0 days
  - B. 1 day
  - C. 2 days
  - D. 3 days
  - E. 4 days
  - F. 5 days
45. During the past 12 months, on how many sports teams did you play? (Count any teams run by your school or community groups.)
- A. 0 teams
  - B. 1 team
  - C. 2 teams
  - D. 3 or more teams

**The next question asks about concussions. A concussion is when a blow or jolt to the head causes problems such as headaches, dizziness, being dazed or confused, difficulty remembering or concentrating, vomiting, blurred vision, or being knocked out.**

46. During the past 12 months, how many times did you have a concussion **from playing a sport or being physically active**?
- A. 0 times
  - B. 1 time
  - C. 2 times
  - D. 3 times
  - E. 4 or more times

**The next 3 questions ask about other health-related topics.**

47. Has a doctor or nurse ever told you that you have asthma?
- A. Yes
  - B. No
  - C. Not sure
48. On an average school night, how many hours of sleep do you get?
- A. 4 or less hours
  - B. 5 hours
  - C. 6 hours
  - D. 7 hours
  - E. 8 hours
  - F. 9 hours
  - G. 10 or more hours
49. During the past 12 months, how would you describe your grades in school?
- A. Mostly A's
  - B. Mostly B's
  - C. Mostly C's
  - D. Mostly D's
  - E. Mostly F's
  - F. None of these grades
  - G. Not sure

**This is the end of the survey.  
Thank you very much for your help.**

## Appendix III: VIDE Application

# RESEARCH APPLICATION

Office of Testing, Planning, Research and Evaluation  
Department of Education  
44-46 Kongens Gade  
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Applicant: Noreen Michael; Janis Valmond DATE: May 10, 2018

Home Address: UVI-CERC, No. 2 John Brewers Bay, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands 00802

Home: None Office: 340-693-1172 FAX: Not working E-Mail Address: nmichae@uvi.edu

## IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICANT

1. Your Professional Position (check one)
 

☐ Graduate Student    ☒ UVI Faculty/Staff    ☐ Teacher    ☐ Independent  
☐ School/Central Office Administrator    ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please Specify)
2. Are you employed by the VI Department of Education?    ☐ Yes    ☒ No  
 If yes, indicate your job title and work site  
 Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Site: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which of the following best describes your proposal study?
 

☐ (a) A VI Department of Education project  
☐ (b) An independent study to fulfill degree requirements  
☐ (c) A Master's thesis project  
☐ (d) A federally funded study  
☐ (e) A collaborated project between/among government agencies  
☐ (f) A doctoral dissertation project  
☒ (g) Other (please specify): Research project in support of Memorandum of Agreement between the University of the Virgin Islands and the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands to complete a Community Needs Assessment of the Status of Vulnerable Children and Families in the Aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, with a focus on Health, Education, Select Human Services, and Housing
4. Is the proposed study in connection with the degree requirements of a college or a university?
 

☒ No (Go to question "5".)  
☐ Yes (If yes, answer parts "a", "b", "c", and "d" of this question)

  - a) What degree requirements?
 

☐ Masters Thesis    ☐ Doctoral Dissertation    ☐ Independent  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please Specify)
  - b) Who is your advisor or committee chairperson?  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Institution \_\_\_\_\_ Department in Institution \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Indicate your current degree status:  
☐ Non-degree    ☐ Baccalaureate    ☐ Master's    ☐ Doctoral
  - d) If you are applying as an individual, briefly describe your area of research specialization and your credentials. \_\_\_\_\_

5. How are the costs of this proposed study being financed?

\_\_\_By applicant

☒ By government, foundation, or other research grant (identify source):  
Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI)

6. List the name(s), position(s) related to this study, institutional affiliations, and all persons who will (to the best of your knowledge) use the data generated by this study for higher education: degrees, grant applications, or publication purposes:  
**(Attach additional sheets if necessary)**

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#### B. ATTACHMENTS

Check the required items attached to this application:

- ☒ Application Form
- ☒ Research Proposal
- ☒ Data Collection (*Part of Application Form/Research Proposal*)
- ☒ Instruments
- \_\_\_ Study Recommendation Form/Thesis Proposal Approval Form (*Not applicable*)
- ☒ Statement of Confidentiality Form
- ☒ Rights of Human Subjects Form
- \_\_\_ Statement of Non-disclosure (*Not applicable*)
- ☒ Signed signature of approval sheet
- \_\_\_ Adherence to due date to ensure timely processing

## 7. REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT SUBJECTS

Will pupils be required as subjects for this study?

- ☒ Yes (If yes, answer parts "a", "b", "c" and "d" of this question.  
☐ No ( If no, skip to question "8".)

a) Enter grade(s) and number of students requested.  
 Grade(s) 4-6 No. of Students\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Specific number unknown. Research Team proposes using cluster sampling to sample classrooms, rather than individual students. Classrooms will be sampled from intermediate elementary school grades in both districts.

b) Check and describe any specific criteria for selection of students to take part in the study.

☒ Ability level (specify) *Students should be able to read and comprehend instruments being used (for grade levels included in study).*

☐ Socioeconomic level(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Ethnic, racial background \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Physical Characteristics \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Clinically identified conditions \_\_\_\_\_

☐ History of personal problems \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Other (specify) Students in intermediate elementary grades

c) Procedures which will be used to gather data from students:

☐ Group testing

☐ Individual testing

☐ Interviews- face to face

☐ Interviews – telephone

☒ Questionnaires

☐ Observations

☐ Inventories

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Specify)

d) Are file data on students required?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, specify tests, scores, type(s) of other information and the period for which data are needed:

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## 8. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBJECTS OTHER THAN STUDENTS

Will V.I. Department of Education personnel, parents, or former students be subjects in the study?

☒ Yes (If yes, answer parts "a", "b", and "c" of this question)  
☐ No (If no, skip to question "9")

a) Indicate category by number requested

25-35 Teachers (*for focus group discussions*) \_\_\_\_\_# Counselors (*Elementary-all*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_# School-Based Administrators \_\_\_\_\_# Parents  
 \_\_\_\_\_# Central Office Administrators \_\_\_\_\_# Other School nurses  
 (*Elementary-all*) (Specify)

b) Are file data on staff requested?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, specify and discuss how data will be used.

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c) Are file data on parents requested?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, specify and discuss how data will be used.

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## 9. REQUIREMENTS FOR ARCHIVAL DATA

Will archival data on students or staff be needed to complete the proposed study?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, check sources requested:

☐ Reports                      ☐ Research Studies                      ☐ Charts/Graphs/Tables  
☐ Handbook                      ☐ Policies                      ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(Specify)

# 10. INSTRUMENTS, EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

What tests, observation guides, questionnaires, attitude scales, interest inventories, and other typed or printed instruments will be used? Specify below **and enclose copies**.

\_\_\_\_ Group Test (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ Individual Test \_\_\_\_\_  
☒ Questionnaire The Child Trauma Screening Questionnaire (CTSQ)  
 \_\_\_\_ Interview Protocol \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ Observation Guide \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ Attitude/Interest Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
☒ Other (specify) Focus group discussion protocol

What instructional materials will be used for research purposes? None

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(Specify or indicate "None".) ☒ None

# 11. DESCRIBE THE DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION FEATURES OF THE RESEARCH

(Include description of statistical tests, quantitative/qualitative factors, correlation factors- where applicable)

Descriptive statistics will be used to describe the study participants (demographic variables; grade level of student participants; number of schools that participated, etc.) and also to provide percentages of students who would be identified as having PTSD symptomology. It is important to note that the data collected will not make any determination of whether students have PTSD, but rather if their responses show some symptoms of PTSD.

For focus group discussions with key educators (teachers, counselors, nurses), the team will identify themes that emerge from the discussions and report the extent to which the themes align with responses students provide on the survey to be administered.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**C. APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE**

I understand that acceptance of this request for approval of a research proposal in no way obligates VI Department of Education schools or central offices to participate in this research. I also understand that approval does not constitute commitment of resources or endorsement of the study or its findings by the VI Department of Education.

I acknowledge that participation in research studies by students, parents, and school staff is voluntary. I will preserve the anonymity of all participants in the reporting of research results. I will not reveal the identity or include identifiable characteristics of schools or of the school system unless authorized by the VI Department of Education.

If approval is granted, I will abide by the VI Department of education policies and regulations and will conduct this research within the stipulations accompanying any document of approval.

At the completion of the study, I will provide the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation with one (1) bound copy of the research results.

  
Applicants' Signatures

May 21, 2018  
Date

***CONTACT:***

***Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation  
Department of Education  
1834 Kongens Gade  
St. Thomas, VI 00802-6746  
(340)774-0100 x 8104 (Amariel M. Smith)***

## RESEARCH PROPOSAL

**NOTE:** This form *MUST* be completed in its entirety. Failure to do so *WILL DELAY* the processing of your research application.

APPLICANTS' NAMES: Noreen Michael; Janis Valmond      DATE OF SUBMISSION: May 21, 2018

### Part I: INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 TITLE OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT: UNDERSTANDING THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOUSING NEEDS OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES POST HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA

#### 1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There is a dearth of research in this area focused on the US Virgin Islands, so the proposed study will fill a gap in the existing literature on disasters and health and other social effects. Therefore, recognizing the significant impact that natural disasters have had on the lives of children and families in recent years, the proposed study will investigate the impact/effects that hurricanes Irma and Maria have had on vulnerable children and families in the USVI.

#### 1.3A STATEMENT OF HYPOTHESIS/HYPOTHESES

The proposed research study will be guided by research objectives, rather than research hypotheses.

#### 1.3B STATEMENT OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the USVI community by completing a community profile.
2. Describe/document the current status (post hurricanes) of the health of children and families.
3. Describe/document the current status (post hurricanes) of the education of children and families
4. Describe/document the current status (post hurricanes) of select human services for children and families.
5. Describe/document the current status (post hurricanes) of housing and housing options for children and families.
6. Describe/document gap areas with respect to health programs and services, education and educational services, select human services, and housing and housing options for children and families.
7. Describe/document priority programmatic and service delivery issues in the areas of health, education, select human services, and housing that need urgent attention.

## PART II: METHOD

### 2.1 DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECTS

#### A. Definition of Population from which Sample will be selected

Students will be 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders attending one of the Territory's public elementary schools (to include Julius E. Sprauve School [JESS])

#### B. Technique for Selecting Sample (*Random, stratified, cluster, etc*)

We will use cluster sampling to select 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms from elementary schools (including JESS) in the two districts. Additionally, for teacher, counselor, and school nurse focus groups, purposive sampling will be used invite persons to participate in focus group discussions.

**C. Basis for Determining Sample Size:** Fourth, fifth, and sixth grade classes will be included to be representative of the schools in the Department. Without specific information on the number of students in each of these classes, we are unable to determine the specific number of students that will be included. However, we anticipate sampling approximately a minimum of 33% of classes.

### 2.2 INSTRUMENTS

#### A) Instrument(s) to be utilized (*name and include a copy of each*) \_\_\_\_\_

Child Trauma Screening Questionnaire (CTSQ) \_\_\_\_\_

#### B) Provide a Rationale for the selection of Instrument(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Child Trauma Screening Questionnaire (CTSQ), a 10-item, self-report instrument which serves as a risk assessment tool to predict the likely onset of PTSD. The questions are designed to assess traumatic stress reactions in children following a potentially traumatic event. The instrument has good reliability and validity and has been documented to be appropriate for use in research studies.

### 2.3 MATERIALS/APPARATIONS TO BE USED – N/A

#### A) Describe special materials to be developed and/or used in carrying out study. \_\_\_\_\_

#### B) Describe special apparitions to be utilized in carrying out study (*E.g. computers, graphing calculators, manipulatives, etc.*) \_\_\_\_\_



## 2.4 DESIGN

A) Number of Groups to be Used N/A

B) Basis for Assignment to Groups (i.e., *random assignment, use of pretest, matching on key variables, etc.*) \_\_\_\_\_  
N/A

C) Type of Research Design (i.e., *correlational, experimental, casual-comparative, etc.*)

The research team is utilizing a mixed method design to complete the community needs assessment – both quantitative and qualitative data will be collected. Quantitative data will be collected from students and qualitative data (focus group discussions and key informant interviews) will be completed with select VIDE personnel.

## 2.5 PROCEDURE *(Describe exactly how the proposed study will be implemented. Description should be in list form and should be sufficiently clear for the reader to conduct the proposed study!)* **(Attach)**

The research team proposes to administer the surveys in the classrooms selected for the study.

### Preparation for data collection:

1. Submit parent consent forms to school for distribution to selected teachers (whose classrooms will be participating in the study.)
2. Confirm date(s) for data collection with each school Principal or her/his designee.
3. Research Team member(s) will deliver surveys to each school, sorted by grade level and teacher's name.

### On the day of data collection:

- Step 1: The teacher will read *Survey Administration Script – Part I: Student Assent*– to students and ask students to verbally agree to complete the survey.
- Step 2: The teacher will distribute surveys **only** to students who verbally assented to participate.
- Step 4: Following the script, the teacher will instruct students to complete the three demographic items on the survey: age, sex, and grade level; look at the sample completed item; and indicate that he/she will read each question out loud, and the students will have an opportunity record their response.
- Step 5: After students have completed the 10 items, teachers will collect the completed surveys and place them in the sealable envelope provided and return to the designated school representative to be secured for pick-up by a member of the research team.
- Step 6: The research team will query the administration date and time and be at the school to collect completed surveys on the day of data collection.

### PART III: DATA ANALYSIS

#### STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED TO ANALYZE DATA

##### A) Descriptive Statistics to be Reported\_\_\_\_\_

Descriptive statistics will be used to describe the study participants (demographic variables: grade level of student participants; number of schools that participated, etc.) and also to provide percentages of students who would be identified as having PTSD symptomology. It is important to note that the data collected will not make any determination of whether students have PTSD, but rather if their responses show some symptoms of PTSD.

##### B) Statistical Tests to be Used\_\_\_\_\_

Correlations; chi square; logistic regressions

##### C) Inferential Statistics to be Reported\_\_\_\_\_

The study will report odds ratios; significance of correlations; and logistic regression results at an alpha = .05 level.

### PART IV: TIME SCHEDULE *(Identify Major Activities & Indicate Time Frame for completion. Though not required, a GANTT or PERT chart can be used.)*

The team anticipates collecting data during the first week of June and any make up the second week of June. Additionally, the team proposes to administer the survey in each classroom selected for participation. The administration process should take between 15-20 minutes, including instructions and reading the survey (10-items) to the students and giving them an opportunity to record their responses.

## SIGNATURE OF APPROVAL SHEET

Practices will comply with ethical and confidential considerations of the study/research.

Michael James Valentin  
Signature of Requesting Party

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

5/25/2018

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

5/25/18

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

5/25/18

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

5/25/18

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

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RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

5/25/18

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

5-25-18

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

6-4-18

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

Date

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

Date

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

Date

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

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Principal/Director

Date

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

Date

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Principal/Director

Date

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Insular Superintendent

Date

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Insular Superintendent

5/30/18

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Director/ Planning, Research, & Evaluation

5/31/18

Date

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED

Commissioner of Education

6/1/18

Date



## SIGNATURE OF APPROVAL SHEET

Practices will comply with ethical and confidential considerations of the study/research.

Michael James Valuono  
Signature of Requesting Party

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED	<i>Nichelle D. Rogers - Bully</i>	5/24/18
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED	<i>Paula Delano</i>	5/24/18
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED	<i>John</i>	5/24/18
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED	<i>John</i>	5/25/18
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED	<i>Tracy Evans</i>	5/25/18
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED	<i>Judith D. Bowley</i>	5/29/18
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED	<i>Allen Francis</i>	5/29/18
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED	<i>Sandra Reed</i>	6/4/18
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED	<i>Marni Lynch-Evanson</i>	6/15/18
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED		
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED		
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED		
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	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED		
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED		
	Principal/Director	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED	<i>Insular Superintendent</i>	5/29/18
	Insular Superintendent	Date
RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED	<i>JP</i>	5/31/18
	Director/Planning, Research, & Evaluation	Date
APPROVED/DISAPPROVED	<i>Sharon Ann McCollum</i>	6/1/18
	Commissioner of Education	Date

## Appendix IV: IRB Approval Letter



**University Virgin Islands**  
of the

*Historically American. Uniquely Caribbean. Globally Interactive.*

*Institutional Review Board*

DATE: May 11, 2018

TO: Janis Valmond, MS, DrPH  
FROM: University of the Virgin Islands IRB

PROJECT TITLE: [1223594-1] 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)  
REFERENCE #:  
SUBMISSION TYPE: New Project

ACTION: APPROVED  
APPROVAL DATE: May 9, 2018  
EXPIRATION DATE: May 9, 2019  
REVIEW TYPE: Full Committee Review

**REVIEW CATEGORY:**

Thank you for your submission of New Project materials for this project. The University of the Virgin Islands IRB has APPROVED your submission. This approval is based on an appropriate risk/benefit ratio and a project design wherein the risks have been minimized. All research must be conducted in accordance with this approved submission.

This submission has received Full Committee Review based on the applicable federal regulation.

Please remember that informed consent is a process beginning with a description of the project and insurance of participant understanding followed by a signed consent form. Informed consent must continue throughout the project via a dialogue between the researcher and research participant. Federal regulations require each participant receive a copy of the signed consent document.

Please note that any revision to previously approved materials must be approved by this office prior to initiation. Please use the appropriate revision forms for this procedure.

All UNANTICIPATED PROBLEMS involving risks to subjects or others (UPIRSOs) and SERIOUS and UNEXPECTED adverse events must be reported promptly to this committee. Please use the appropriate reporting forms for this procedure. All FDA and sponsor reporting requirements should also be followed.

All NON-COMPLIANCE issues or COMPLAINTS regarding this project must be reported promptly to this committee.

This project has been determined to be a ☐ project. Based on the risks, this project requires continuing review by this committee on an annual basis. Please use the appropriate forms for this procedure. Your documentation for continuing review must be received with sufficient time for review and continued approval before the expiration date of May 9, 2019.

Please note that all research records must be retained for a minimum of three years after the completion of the project.

If you have any questions, please contact Diahann Ryan at 340-693-1202 or [dryan@live.uvi.edu](mailto:dryan@live.uvi.edu). Please include your project title and reference number in all correspondence with this committee.

This letter has been electronically signed in accordance with all applicable regulations, and a copy is retained within University of the Virgin Islands IRB's records.