

2011-2012 HEALTHY KIDS COLORADO SURVEY RESULTS

UNINTENTIONAL INJURY & VIOLENCE

High School Students

In the fall of 2011, a total of **1,523 students in 33 public high schools** throughout Colorado completed the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS), which includes components of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The high school version of the HKCS consists of questions related to health and risk behaviors in the following domains: physical activity and nutrition; unintentional injury and violence; mental health; alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; school and family; and sexual health. Results from this survey provide a snapshot of these issues among Colorado's youth. **Colorado achieved sufficient participation in 2011 from selected schools and students that data was able to be weighted and can be considered representative of students in Colorado in grades 9-12.** Weighted data was also achieved in Colorado in 2009 and 2005. This document provides an overview of the prevalence and trends related to Unintentional Injury and Violence.



Colorado's Coordinated
School Health initiative

Physical Fighting & Violence

- A total of **25%** of Colorado high school students reported having been in a physical fight in the past 12 months. Physical fighting decreased from 2005 and 2009 (both **32%**). Males (**30%**) were more likely to report fighting than females (**18%**), and Hispanic/Latino students (**33%**) were more likely than non-Hispanic White students (**19%**).
- **8%** of students reported that they had been hit or slapped by a boyfriend/girlfriend past 12 months. Hispanic/Latino students (**13%**) were more likely to report experiencing this type of violence compared to non-Hispanic White students (**6%**).



Weapons

- **15.5%** of high school students reported carrying a weapon in the past 30 days. Males (**23%**) were more likely to report carrying a weapon than females (**7%**).
- A total of **7%** of Colorado high school students had been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property past 12 months. Male students (**9%**) were more likely to experience being threatened than females (**4%**), and Hispanic/Latino students (**12%**) were more likely to experience being threatened than non-Hispanic White students (**5%**).

Bullying

- **19%** of Colorado high school students reported that they had been bullied on school property in the past 12 months. The prevalence of bullying has not changed from 2009.
- A total of **14%** of students reported that they had been electronically bullied in the past 12 months. Females (**18%**) were more likely to experience electronic bullying than males (**11%**).

Vehicular Safety

- **22%** of Colorado high school students reported that they rode in a car during the past 30 days driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol. The prevalence of riding with a drinking driver has decreased from 2005 (**27%**). Hispanic/Latino students (**27%**) were more likely to report riding with a drinking driver than non-Hispanic White students (**20%**).
- **6%** of students reported that they drove in the past 30 days after drinking alcohol. The prevalence of drinking and driving has decreased from 2005 (**11%**).

APPLICATIONS OF HKCS DATA

A full report will be available in August 2012.

These data are intended to create awareness about priority health-risk behaviors of youth in Colorado, as well as to provide a tool to assess how risk behaviors change over time. Data can be used by key stakeholders including legislators, boards of education, school administrators, students, parents, community members and school staff to better understand risk behaviors, to set program goals, to develop programs and policies, to support health-related policies and to seek funding.

In 2011, numerous schools and communities choose to participate in a local administration of the survey, to be able to compare their results to state data as well as national data to better understand what priorities may exist in their community and to monitor health behavior trends. In 2011, over 220 schools chose to participate in local HKCS administration, representing close to 70,000 additional students.

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Middle School Students

The HKCS was also administered to a middle school sample in the fall of 2011. A total of **1,614 students in 33 public middle schools** throughout Colorado participated in this effort. The middle school HKCS consists of questions related to health and risk behaviors in the following domains: physical activity; unintentional injury and violence; mental health; alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; as well as other health topics such as asthma and HIV education. Colorado achieved sufficient participation in 2011 from selected schools and students that data was able to be weighted and can be considered representative of students in Colorado in grades 6-8. **This is the first year for which weighted data on middle school students is available.** It is important to note that while many of the same questions were asked of high school and middle school students, middle school students were more often asked about lifetime behaviors as opposed to behaviors in the past 30 days or past year.

Physical Fighting & Weapons

- A total of **44%** of Colorado middle school students reported that they had ever been in a physical fight (at least once in their life). Males (**55%**) were more likely to report lifetime physical fighting than females (**32%**).
- **28%** of middle school students reported that they had ever carried a weapon (at least once in their life). Males (**38%**) were more likely to report ever carrying a weapon than females (**18%**).

Bullying

- **44%** of Colorado middle school students reported that they had been bullied on school property at least one time in their life. Non-Hispanic White students (**47%**) were more likely to report ever being bullied than Hispanic/Latino students (**38%**).
- A total of **20%** of students had ever been electronically bullied (at least once in their life). Females (**27%**) were more likely to experience electronic bullying than males (**13%**).

Unintentional Injury & Vehicular Safety

- **64%** of Colorado middle school students reported that they never or rarely wear a helmet when riding a bike. Hispanic/Latino students (**82%**) were more likely to report never/rarely wearing a helmet than non-Hispanic White students (**57%**).



- **71%** of students reported that they never or rarely wear a helmet when rollerblading or skateboarding. Hispanic/Latino students (**83%**) were more likely to report never/rarely wearing a helmet than non-Hispanic White students (**65.5%**).
- A total of **20%** of middle school students reported that they rode in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol at least once in their life. Hispanic/Latino students (**26%**) were more likely than non-Hispanic White (**17%**) students to report ever riding with a drinking driver.

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