

# 2023 VERMONT YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

Washington County

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The Vermont Department of Health would like to acknowledge the work and effort of all the schools, teachers and students who participate in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey each year.

Copies of the questionnaires, state-wide reports, data briefs, and additional sub-state reports are available online.

Visit the Vermont Department of Health YRBS website at:  
<https://www.HealthVermont.gov/yrbs>

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### About the YRBS

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a national school-based survey that monitors the health-risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death and disability among youth and young adults. These include:

- Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries
- Violence
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Tobacco use
- Unhealthy dietary behaviors
- Inadequate physical activity
- Sexual health behaviors related to pregnancy and STDs

The YRBS also measures other high priority health-related behaviors and protective factors. These include:

- Prevalence of obesity
- Attitudes and perceptions related to substance use
- Food and housing insecurity
- Youth assets
- Academic achievement

### About the YRBS

In Vermont, the Department of Health works with the Agency of Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to administer the YRBS. It is typically conducted every two years during the spring semester. The YRBS was first administered in 1993 among students in grades 8 through 12. Since 2011, Vermont has conducted two separate surveys: a high school survey of students in grades 9 through 12, and a middle school survey of students in grades 6 through 8.

The middle school and high school surveys differ. The middle school survey is shorter and focuses more on lifetime behaviors and includes questions on fighting, bullying, suicidality, substance use, attitudes and perceptions about substance use, sexual activity, nutrition, physical activity, youth assets, and other factors related to health equity. The high school survey includes questions on these topics as well as more in-depth questions on current behaviors such as driving behaviors and self-reported height and weight.

Copies of the Vermont high school and middle school surveys as well as previous surveys can be found online at: <https://www.HealthVermont.gov/yrbs>

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## Methodology

The YRBS is a biennial school-based survey. In Vermont, students in all public schools and select independent schools across the state are invited to participate in the YRBS. Historically, this has always taken place in the Spring semester. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and remote learning, the 2021 survey was delayed and administered during the fall of 2021.

Survey procedures were designed to protect the privacy of students. The YRBS is confidential, anonymous, and optional for students. All students are read a standard set of directions and asked to complete the self-administered survey. Completion of the survey depends on a student's ability to read and complete the questionnaire independently or with the use of computer assisted technology (e.g., screen readers). Thus, students with very limited reading skills or significant intellectual or learning disabilities, may not be adequately represented in this data. Students can decline participation at any time or skip any questions they do not wish to answer. In addition, to protect students' anonymity, data is suppressed when less than 50 students respond to a question or less than 5 students answer a question in a particular way.

In 2019, Vermont began administering a web-based version of the YRBS. Students complete the YRBS online using a unique, random login code to access the survey online. No survey logic or skip patterns are used to ensure that all students complete the survey in approximately the same time frame, regardless of how they answer a question.

## Using the YRBS

### Engaging students, schools, and communities

The YRBS can detect changes in risk behaviors over time and identify differences among ages, grades, and genders. With these data, school and community organizations can focus prevention efforts and determine whether school policies and community programs are having the intended effect on student behaviors.

Think of the YRBS as a tool for starting discussions, for educating the community, for planning and evaluating programs, and for comparing Vermont students with other students nationwide.

**Start the Conversation:** Use the YRBS to begin a conversation with teens about the personal choices they make or about the health of their community. Ask them if the results accurately reflect what they see happening around them. How do they explain the results? From their perspective, what is or is not working? How would they promote healthy behaviors?

**Increase Awareness:** The YRBS provides an opportunity to break through “denial” and make community members aware of the risks that their young people face. It can also dispel myths and correct misinformation about the “average teenager.” The YRBS can accentuate the positive and celebrate the fact that many students are abstaining from behaviors that endanger their health and their ability to succeed.

**Plan and Evaluate Programs:** The YRBS can serve as the basis of a community needs assessment. It can help identify strengths and weaknesses in communities and can inform strategies to address those weaknesses.

**Remember to Look at the Positive Side:** In most cases, the majority of adolescents are NOT engaging in risky behaviors. Although most of the charts examine the prevalence of risk behaviors, please do not forget about the percentage of adolescents who are NOT engaging in these behaviors.

**Participate in Getting to 'Y':** Getting to Y provides an opportunity for students to take a lead in bringing meaning to their own Youth Risk Behavior Survey data and taking steps to strengthen their school and community based on their findings. Schools and districts across the state form teams to analyze local level data, identify areas of strength and concern, and create a preliminary action plan. Through the Getting to 'Y' program, students attend a training day where they learn tools and strategies to examine data, explore root causes, and create next action steps. In addition, teams plan and host a community dialogue event to share their executive summary with the school and community.

For more information on upcoming Getting to Y trainings, newsletters, and resources visit Getting to Y at

<http://www.upforlearning.org/initiatives/getting-to-y>

### How Accurate are the Results?

Research indicates data of this nature may be gathered as credibly from adolescents as from adults. The anonymous survey design and survey environment encourages students to be honest and forthright.

Numerous precautions are taken to ensure the reliability and validity of the results. The CDC runs over 100 consistency checks on the data to exclude careless, invalid, or logically inconsistent answers. These internal reliability checks help identify the small percentage of students who falsify their answers.

The CDC also weights data, a mathematical procedure that makes data representative of the population from which it was drawn.

The results in this report are weighted by sex, grade, and race/ethnicity in order to compensate for absenteeism and incomplete surveys. The weighting allows the results to be fully representative of middle school students in grades 6 through 8 (middle school survey) and high school students grades 9 through 12 (high school survey). Weighting permits us to draw inferences about the school-based student population in Vermont.

More information on survey reliability including "Do students tell the truth" is available on the Vermont Department of Health YRBS webpage at:

<https://www.HealthVermont.gov/yrbs>

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## Understanding and Interpreting the Results

### Statistical Differences

Throughout this report, statistically significant differences are noted. Statistical significance is calculated by comparing the 95% confidence intervals of two or more values. If the confidence intervals overlap, the percentages are not different. In other words, the two groups are not statistically different from one another. If the confidence intervals do not overlap, there is a statistical difference between the two groups.

A 95% confidence interval is a range of values and can vary due to the size of a particular population or how consistently students responded to an item. Sometimes, when comparing the responses of two or more groups, the overall percent may look very different, but the two numbers are not statistically different. Other times, the two values may be very close but differ statistically.

While this report notes statistical differences, we encourage you to consider meaningful differences: does the disparity merit a targeted intervention, show a real change in health, or otherwise mean something important to the community (statistics aside).

### Data Suppression

For some questions, not enough students respond to be able to report an estimate. In those instances, a dot (.) indicating “too few students” is noted in the table. Reportable estimates include a numerator of at least 5 students and denominator of 50 or more students.

### Subgroup Comparisons

Some subgroups have a higher prevalence of many health-risk behaviors that might place them at risk for unnecessary or premature mortality, morbidity and social problems.

To draw as many statistically meaningful comparisons among groups as possible, some populations have been grouped together. When included, all American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, or Hispanic /Latino students were grouped into a "BIPOC" category to compare to white, non-Hispanic students. Similarly, all lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other non-heterosexual sexual orientation and transgender students were grouped into a "LGBTQ+" category to compare to heterosexual/cisgender students.

### Key Terms and Statistical Differences

Each table includes the overall statewide and county prevalence rates (%). Prevalence rates by subpopulations are included at the local level. Overall statistical comparisons between the statewide and county rates as well as statistical differences within a county by subpopulations are indicated within each table. These are noted using the following key terms and statistical differences:

**VT** All students in Vermont

**County** All students in Washington County

**M** Male students

**F** Female students

**WnH** White, non-Hispanic students

**BIPOC** American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, or Hispanic /Latino students

**Het/Cis** Heterosexual and cisgender students

**LGBTQ+** Transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, other sexual orientation, and questioning or unsure if they are transgender students

**IEP** Currently have an IEP or 504 Plan

**noIEP** Do not have an IEP or 504 Plan

- . Too few students to report
- \* Significant difference between groups
- # Significantly increases/decreases with each grade level
- + Older (11th/12th grade) students are significantly different from younger (9th/10th grade) students

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# 2023 VERMONT YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY REPORT

## HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

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## Demographics

Washington County	N
Overall	1309

Sex	N	%
Male	629	49
Female	668	51

Year in School	N	%
9th grade	414	26
10th grade	416	27
11th grade	294	24
12th grade	173	23

Note: Students are not required to answer questions on the YRBS. Therefore, totals by specific demographics may not equal the overall total.  
N = Unweighted number of students; % = Weighted percent

## Demographics

Sexual Orientation / Gender Identity	N	%
LGBTQ+	425	33
Heterosexual/Cisgender	853	67

Race / Ethnicity	N	%
BIPOC	160	12
White, non-Hispanic	1137	88

IEP Status	N	%
Currently have an IEP or 504 Plan	211	17
No IEP or 504 Plan	968	83

Note: Students are not required to answer questions on the YRBS. Therefore, totals by specific demographics may not equal the overall total.  
N = Unweighted number of students; % = Weighted percent

Unintentional Injuries and Prevention

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Rarely or never wore a helmet when they rode a bicycle or skateboard or rollerbladed, among those who rode a bicycle or skateboard or rollerbladed, past year	42	31 *	29	33	33	32	36	23	29	32	43	30 *	36	30
Had a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active, past year	18	19	19	20	22	19	20	18	17	21	15	20	23	18

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Had at least one sunburn, past year	72	76 *	82	70 *	77	76	78	74	78	76	43	81 *	68	78 *
Most of the time or always wear sunscreen when outside for at least one hour	32	35 *	46	25 *	34	32	39	38	40	33	25	37 *	31	37

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Unintentional Injuries and Prevention

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Were asked by a doctor, dentist, or nurse if they smoked, among those who saw a provider in the past year	49	48	51	45	38	44	53	61	+	49	49	52	48	47	48

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle, among students who drive, past 30 days	38	37	39	34	8	19	49	54	+	40	36	45	36	33	37
Drove a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol, among students who drive, past 30 days	7	5	6	5	.	4	8	7	+	6	5	8	5	.	5
Drove a car or other vehicle when they had been using marijuana, among students who drive, past 30 days	12	11	10	12	8	6	15	12	+	12	10	18	10	.	10

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Unintentional Injuries and Prevention

	VT	County	F	M		9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis		BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol, past 30 days	19	20	24	16	*	20	20	22	20		24	19		25	20	20	20
Rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been using marijuana, past 30 days	22	23	26	20		21	19	25	28		29	21	*	26	23	27	22

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Violence and Bullying

	VT	County	F	M		9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP	
Were in a physical fight, past year	16	15	12	19	*	18	15	15	12		15	15	18	15	21	13	*
Were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property, past year	9	8	8	7		10	8	8	4		9	7	11	7	.	6	
Carried a weapon on school property, past 30 days	5	6	5	8		6	4	9	6		7	6	7	6	.	5	

	VT	County	F	M		9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP	
Were bullied, past 30 days	21	20	24	16	*	24	22	17	16	+	27	17	22	20	27	18	*
Bullied someone else, past 30 days	13	13	11	16		14	15	12	11		10	15	17	13	.	13	
Were electronically bullied, past year	18	16	20	12	*	18	18	14	13		22	13	21	15	23	13	*

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Violence and Bullying

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school, past 30 days	10	11	16	5 *	10	11	10	11	17	7 *	13	10	18	9 *
Ever saw someone get physically attacked, beaten, stabbed, or shot in their neighborhood	17	16	15	18	17	15	16	19	18	16	24	16	24	15 *

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Violence and Bullying

	VT	County	F	M		9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis		BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP	
Report someone has ever done sexual things to them that they did not want	23	22	35	9	*	20	24	22	25		39	14	*	26	22	31	21	*
Reported someone they were dating or going out with did sexual things that they did not want, among students who dated or went out with someone, past year	14	12	19	5	*	12	12	11	14		22	8	*	19	12	.	12	
Experienced physical dating violence, among students who dated or went out with someone, past year	9	9	9	9		11	7	11	8		11	8		14	9	.	6	

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Mental Health

	VT	County	F	M		9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis		BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP	
Reported that their mental health was most of the time or always not good, past 30 days	34	34	48	19	*	27	37	37	36		50	26	*	39	33	44	32	*
Most of the time or always bothered by feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge, past year	36	36	53	18	*	28	36	42	39	+	56	26	*	37	36	46	34	*
Felt sad or hopeless, past year	29	29	38	18	*	25	31	31	28		44	21	*	37	28	38	27	*

	VT	County	F	M		9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis		BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP		
Purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die, past year	23	23	34	12	*	21	27	21	23		42	15	*	30	23	32	22	*	
Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide, past year	14	12	17	7	*	14	15	11	10		23	7	*	23	11	*	19	12	*
Attempted suicide, past year	7	7	10	5	*	10	8	7	4		13	5	*	15	6	*	.	6	

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Mental Health

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Most of the time or always get the kind of help they need, among those who felt sad, angry, hopeless, or anxious	31	30	30	29	33	26	33	26	29	30	33	29	30	29
Would most likely talk to a teacher, counselor or other adult in their school or an adult outside of school who is not a family member about their feelings, among students who felt sad, angry, or anxious	7	8	10	5	9	10	8	6	13	6 *	9	8	.	8

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Lifetime Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M		9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Ever drank alcohol	49	51	57	45	*	38	50	53	66	+	52	51	51	51	51	51
Ever smoked a cigarette	18	19	20	17		15	18	21	20		23	17	25	18	21	17
Ever tried an electronic vapor product	32	30	33	27		26	29	29	38		32	29	34	30	35	28
Ever tried marijuana	35	34	36	32		27	32	34	47	+	39	33	38	34	37	33

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Lifetime Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP	
Had their first drink of alcohol before age 13 years	14	11	11	12	14	14	9	7	+	12	11	14	11	20	9	*
Smoked a cigarette before age 13 years	7	6	6	6	7	5	6	4		6	5	7	5	.	5	
First tried an electronic vapor product before age 13	7	6	6	5	8	6	4	4		6	6	9	5	.	5	
Tried marijuana for the first time before age 13 years	6	5	4	5	7	6	4	3		6	4	9	4	.	4	

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Lifetime Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Ever misused a prescription pain medicine	9	8	9	6	7	7	8	7	8	7	10	7	.	7
Ever used cocaine	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	.	2	2	5	2	.	.
Ever used inhalants	7	8	9	7	9	8	8	6	10	7	10	8	.	8
Ever used heroin	2	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	1	1	4	1	*	.
Ever used methamphetamines	2	1	1	2	1	1	.	.	1	1	3	1	.	.

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Current Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Currently smoked cigarettes or cigars or used smokeless tobacco or electronic vapor products	18	16	17	15	13	15	19	19	18	15	23	15	20	14
Currently smoked cigarettes	6	6	6	7	5	6	11	4	7	6	8	6	.	5
Currently used an electronic vapor product	16	15	16	14	12	13	18	17	16	14	20	14	17	13
Currently used smokeless tobacco	3	3	2	4	2	3	5	.	2	3	6	2	.	.
Currently smoked cigars	4	3	2	5	3	3	5	3	3	4	7	3	*	.

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Current Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M		9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Currently drank alcohol	27	28	33	23	*	17	23	32	44	+	28	28	26	28	28	28
Binge drank, past 30 days	13	13	14	12		7	9	17	21	+	15	13	13	13	.	13
Currently used marijuana	22	22	23	21		19	19	25	28	+	25	21	20	23	23	21
Misused any prescription medication, past 30 days	5	5	6	4		5	5	4	5		6	4	7	5	.	4

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Current Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Usually got electronic vapor products by buying them themselves in a convenience store, supermarket, discount store, or gas station, among students who used EVP, past 30 days	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Primarily used EVP because they were curious about them, among students who used EVP, past 30 days	25	26	26	25	23	28	26	27	33	22	.	27	.	26
Primarily used EVP because friends or family used them, among students who used EVP, past 30 days	19	21	20	22	18	18	22	25	21	21	.	20	.	22

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Current Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Used an electronic vapor product to vape marijuana, among students who used marijuana, past 30 days	65	63	67	59	62	75	61	.	62	63	.	61	.	61
Usually used marijuana by smoking it in a joint, bong, pipe, or blunt, among students who used marijuana, past 30 days	67	76 *	77	75	90	73	73	.	82	73	.	79	73	76
Usually obtained marijuana they used by buying it from a store or dispensary, among students who used marijuana, past 30 days	3	5	4	6	.	.	6	.	.	5	.	4	.	.
Usually used marijuana by vaping it, among students who used marijuana, past 30 days	15	10	8	13	8	15	.	.	5	13	.	10	.	.

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Other Substance Use Behaviors and Experiences

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP			
Attended school under the influence of alcohol or other illegal drugs, past year	12	12	14	10	11	13	12	12	14	11	13	12	16	11			
Tried to quit using all tobacco products, past year	12	10	11	9	10	10	12	8	11	9	12	10	.	9			
Ever lived with a parent or guardian who was having a problem with alcohol or drug use	27	29	34	23	*	27	34	25	28		40	24	*	29	29	35	27

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Perceptions Around Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Say if they wanted to get electronic vapor products, it would be sort of easy or very easy for them to get some	60	62	64	60	50	62	64	72	+	59	63	61	62	57	62
Say if they wanted to get alcohol, it would be sort of easy or very easy for them to get some	66	69	70	68	61	69	70	79	+	70	69	66	70	60	71 *
Say if they wanted to get marijuana, it would be sort of easy or very easy for them to get some	58	58	61	56	48	57	63	69	+	61	58	59	59	57	58

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Perceptions Around Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP	
Think it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to use electronic vapor products	70	71	69	74	75	72	66	71		72	71	63	72	65	72	
Think it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to drink alcohol	53	51	48	54	67	51	43	40	+	53	49	52	50	57	50	
Think it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to use marijuana	55	52	48	57	*	67	56	44	40	+	49	54	49	53	53	52

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Perceptions Around Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP	
Responded that their parents or guardians feel it would be wrong or very wrong for them to use electronic vapor products	89	87	87	88	87	92	87	84		88	88	86	88	84	89	
Responded that their parents or guardians feel it would be wrong or very wrong for them to drink alcohol	67	64	*	62	66	76	69	58	48	+	63	63	68	63	66	63
Responded that their parents or guardians feel it would be wrong or very wrong for them to use marijuana	75	72		72	73	80	77	65	65	+	68	74	71	72	66	73

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Perceptions Around Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Think people greatly risk harming themselves, physically or in other ways, if they use electronic vapor product regularly	42	44	47	41	38	42	47	49	47	42	45	44	35	46 *
Think people greatly risk harming themselves, physically or in other ways, if they have five or more drinks of alcohol once or twice each weekend	35	35	40	30 *	31	36	36	36	41	31 *	39	34	31	36
Think people greatly risk harming themselves, physically or in other ways, if they use marijuana regularly	24	21 *	22	21	23	22	19	19	19	22	24	21	19	21

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Sexual Health

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Were ever tested for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	8	5 *	5	5	3	5	6	7	5	5	9	5	.	5
Were tested for a sexually transmitted disease (STD), past year	8	7	10	5 *	4	6	10	10 +	8	6	10	7	.	7

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Ever had sexual intercourse	37	34	34	34	19	30	37	52 +	34	34	37	34	38	33
Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons during their life	8	7	7	7	4	3	9	13 +	7	7	12	7	.	6

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## Sexual Health

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Were currently sexually active, past 3 month	28	26	27	24	13	23	28	40	+	25	26	24	26	28	25

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse, among students who were currently sexually active	20	18	20	16	.	13	29	11		23	16	.	18	.	15
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse, among students who were currently sexually active	49	50	44	57	.	53	39	51		50	50	.	48	.	50

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Sexual Health

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP	
Used an IUD (such as Mirena or ParaGard) or implant (such as Implanon or Nexplanon) before last sexual intercourse with an opposite-sex partner, among students who were currently sexually active	18	26 *	26	27	.	20	34	30	+	22	28	.	26	.	30
Used birth control pills; an IUD or implant; or a shot, patch, or birth control ring before last sexual intercourse with an opposite-sex partner, among students who were currently sexually active	52	54	60	48	.	51	47	65	50	56	.	54	.	55	
Did not use any method to prevent pregnancy during last sexual intercourse with an opposite-sex partner, among students who were currently sexually active	7	4 *	4	3	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	3	.	.	

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Weight

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Are overweight	14	14	15	12	15	16	12	12	16	12	10	14	.	14
Are obese	14	12	11	14	12	11	13	13	17	11 *	18	12	20	10 *

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Described themselves as slightly or very overweight	29	26	30	23 *	24	27	27	27	36	22 *	33	26	30	26
Were trying to lose weight	39	37	48	26 *	39	38	35	35	48	31 *	39	37	45	35 *
Tried to lose weight or keep from gaining weight by going without eating for 24 hours or more, taking any diet pills, powders, or liquids, vomiting or taking laxatives, smoking cigarettes, or skipping meals	22	23	32	13 *	23	25	23	22	36	17 *	31	22	30	21 *

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Physical Activity

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Did not participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on at least 1 day, past week	13	10 *	11	10	9	11	12	10	15	7 *	20	9 *	.	10
Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more days, past week	52	54	48	60 *	56	52	51	55	39	62 *	48	55	49	55
Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on all 7 days, past week	28	27	18	36 *	33	26	27	20	15	33 *	27	27	31	26

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Nutrition

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Did not eat breakfast, past week	14	10 *	10	11	9	10	12	9	12	10	13	10	15	9
Ate breakfast on 5 or more days, past week	49	51	46	56 *	52	52	48	52	42	55 *	40	52 *	41	53 *
Ate breakfast on all 7 days, past week	32	34	27	41 *	36	33	32	33	24	38 *	28	34	29	34

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2023 VERMONT YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY  
Washington County High School Results

## Nutrition

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP	
Ate 5+ fruits/vegetables every day, past week	19	21	19	22	23	18	23	19	17	22	24	20	.	21	
Did not eat vegetables, past week	6	5	3	6	6	4	3	6	6	4	7	4	.	4	
Ate vegetables one or more times per day, past week	69	75	*	76	75	79	71	79	73	77	75	76	67	77	*
Ate vegetables two or more times per day, past week	34	39	*	38	40	38	34	45	41	40	42	39	35	40	
Ate vegetables three or more times per day, past week	17	20	*	19	22	22	17	23	20	22	24	20	16	21	
Did not eat fruit or drink 100% fruit juices, past week	7	5	*	3	6	5	4	6	4	5	5	5	.	4	
Ate fruit or drank 100% fruit juices one or more times per day, past week	58	64	*	64	64	65	66	66	59	67	64	64	49	67	*
Ate fruit or drank 100% fruit juices two or more times per day, past week	27	29		28	30	32	29	31	22	30	29	29	22	30	

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Social Determinants of Health

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Most of the time or always went hungry because there was not enough food in their home, past 30 days	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	.	2	2	.	2	.	.
Experienced unstable housing, past 30 days	4	3	2	3	3	2	.	.	2	3	5	2	.	.
Think their family subjective social status is worse than other families	3	2	2	2	.	2	.	.	2	2	.	2	.	.

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Have a disability or long-term health problem that keeps them from doing everyday activities	7	6	6	5	5	8	4	5	8	4	9	5	.	4
Currently receive Special Education services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan	18	17	18	15	16	22	16	12	22	14	*	21	16	100

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Protective Factors

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Ate dinner at home with at least one parent or other adult family member on four or more days during the previous week	72	76 *	74	78	79	78	78	69	71	78	67	77 *	67	78 *

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Protective Factors

	VT	County	F	M		9th	10th	11th	12th		LGBTQ	HetCis		BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP	
Strongly agree or agree that their school has clear rules and consequences for behavior	48	45	39	52	*	45	46	45	44		37	49	*	52	44	43	46	
Felt that they were ever treated badly or unfairly in school because of their race or ethnicity	21	18	*	15	21	17	18	18	19		17	18		59	12	*	24	17
Reported there is at least one teacher or other adult in their school that they can talk to if they have a problem	69	72	75	69		65	71	74	78	+	74	72		63	73	75	71	
During an average school week, spend 10 or more hours participating in afterschool activities	24	24	23	25		21	21	25	30		17	28	*	26	24	19	25	
Report they are most likely to attend a 4-year college or university, a community college, or technical school after high school	69	73	*	81	65	*	66	74	73	82	75	73		68	74	58	76	*

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Protective Factors

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Used social media several times a day	80	80	85	74 *	77	82	78	85	79	81	84	80	78	81

	VT	County	F	M	9th	10th	11th	12th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	IEP	noIEP
Strongly agree or agree that in their community they feel like they matter to people	54	58 *	54	63 *	54	55	55	69	46	65 *	54	59	54	59

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# 2023 VERMONT YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY REPORT

## MIDDLE SCHOOL RESULTS

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## Demographics

	N
Overall	1163

Sex	N	%
Male	572	50
Female	560	50

Year in School	N	%
6th grade	296	26
7th grade	435	37
8th grade	427	37

Note: Students are not required to answer questions on the YRBS. Therefore, totals by specific demographics may not equal the overall total.  
N = Unweighted number of students; % = Weighted percent

## Demographics

Sexual Orientation / Gender Identity	N	%
LGBTQ+	354	33
Heterosexual/Cisgender	725	67

Race / Ethnicity	N	%
BIPOC	158	15
White, non-Hispanic	939	85

Note: Students are not required to answer questions on the YRBS. Therefore, totals by specific demographics may not equal the overall total.  
N = Unweighted number of students; % = Weighted percent

2023 VERMONT YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY  
Washington County Middle School Results

Unintentional Injuries and Prevention

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Rarely or never wore a bicycle helmet, among students who had ridden a bicycle	27	21 *	21	23	20	19	26	19	22	29	20
Rarely or never wore a helmet when rollerblading or skateboarding, among students who used rollerblades or rode a skateboard	30	29	30	29	28	26	33	31	29	36	28
Had a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active, past year	17	16	13	19	12	18	17	12	18 *	16	15

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Had a sunburn, past year	62	64	67	62	61	64	66	66	64	42	69 *
Most of the time or always wear sunscreen	42	45	52	37 *	52	45	39	48	43	28	48 *

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## Unintentional Injuries and Prevention

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Were asked by a doctor, dentist, or nurse if they used a tobacco product among those who saw a provider during the past year	26	24	21	27	19	25	26	25	24	25	25

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Do not always wear a seat belt	25	27	27	27	24	25	30	26	28	33	26
Ever rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol	19	20	26	15 *	13	20	26	22	21	21	21
Ever rode with a driver who had been using marijuana	13	15	19	12 *	8	15	20	19	14	19	15

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2023 VERMONT YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY  
Washington County Middle School Results

Violence and Bullying

	VT	County	F	M		6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis		BIPOC	WnH
Were ever bullied on school property	47	49	54	42	*	54	47	48	63	42	*	50	49
Were ever electronically bullied	30	29	34	23	*	30	31	26	38	26	*	30	29
Were bullied, past 30 days	27	28	33	21	*	32	27	24	36	23	*	30	27
Bullied someone else, past 30 days	12	13	15	12		12	12	15	12	14		18	13

	VT	County	F	M		6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis		BIPOC	WnH
Were ever in a physical fight	40	41	31	50	*	43	41	39	39	42		52	39
Ever saw someone get physically attacked, beaten, stabbed, or shot in their neighborhood	15	14	13	14		14	12	15	17	13		21	13

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Violence and Bullying

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Report someone has ever done sexual things to them that they did not want	13	13	18	8 *	11	14	13	22	8 *	17	12

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school, past 30 days	12	11	13	9	14	13	8	16	9 *	13	11

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Mental Health

	VT	County	F	M		6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis		BIPOC	WnH
Reported that their mental health was most of the time or always not good during the past 30 days	25	26	37	14	*	25	23	29	44	19	*	25	26
Have ever done something to purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die, such as cutting or burning themselves on purpose	21	24	32	16	*	22	23	27	46	15	*	26	24
Felt sad or hopeless, past year	24	25	35	15	*	26	24	27	44	18	*	27	25

	VT	County	F	M		6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis		BIPOC	WnH
Ever seriously thought about killing themselves	20	21	26	15	*	18	21	22	38	14	*	21	21
Ever made a plan about how they would kill themselves	15	15	20	9	*	11	16	18	31	9	*	17	15
Ever tried to kill themselves	7	7	10	4	*	5	8	7	15	4	*	10	7

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Mental Health

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis		BIPOC	WnH
Most of the time or always get the kind of help they need, among those who felt sad, angry, hopeless, or anxious	41	38	36	43	46	41	31	27	44	*	33	39
Would most likely to talk to a teacher, counselor or other adult in their school or an adult outside of school who is not a family member about their feelings, among those who felt sad, angry, hopeless, or anxious	5	6	6	5	5	5	7	8	4	.	.	6

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## Lifetime Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Ever drank alcohol	19	16	18	15	11	15	21	16	17	20	16
Ever smoked a cigarette	7	6	6	6	5	5	8	7	6	9	6
Ever tried an electronic vapor product	12	11	13	10	7	10	16	13	11	14	11
Ever tried a flavored tobacco product	6	5	7	4	6	5	6	7	5	9	5
Ever tried marijuana	8	9	8	10	6	6	13	8	10	12	9

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2023 VERMONT YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY  
Washington County Middle School Results

## Lifetime Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Had their first drink of alcohol before age 11 years	9	8	10	6	9	10	6	8	8	9	8
Smoked a cigarette before age 11 years	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	6	3
Tried an electronic vapor product for the first time before age 11 years	3	3	3	3	3	4	2	3	3	5	3
First tried a flavored tobacco product before age 11	3	3	4	2	3	3	3	4	3	7	2 *
Tried marijuana for the first time before age 11 years	2	3	3	3	4	2	2	3	3	5	2

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Ever misused a prescription pain medicine	7	7	8	5	9	6	5	8	6	10	6
Ever used inhalants	6	6	6	5	7	5	6	10	4 *	8	6

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Current Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Currently smoked cigarettes or cigars or used smokeless tobacco or electronic vapor products	7	6	7	6	3	5	10	6	7	9	6
Currently smoked cigarettes	2	1	1	1	.	2	1	2	1	4	1
Currently used an electronic vapor product	6	6	7	5	2	5	9	5	6	8	5
Currently used smokeless tobacco	1	1	.	2	.	.	2	.	1	3	1
Currently smoked cigars	1	1	1	1	.	.	2	.	1	3	1

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Currently drank alcohol	5	4	5	3	3	3	6	4	4	8	4
Currently used marijuana	4	5	5	4	2	4	7	5	4	6	4

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Current Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Usually used JUUL or other rechargeable device that uses pods, past 30 days, among students who used EVP	14	15	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13
Primary used EVP because they were curious about them, past 30 days, among students who used EVP	29	29	24	34	.	.	29	.	29	.	26

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Perceptions Around Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Say if they wanted to get electronic vapor products, it would be sort of easy or very easy for them to get some	24	25	24	25	16	22	32	26	25	25	25
Say if they wanted to get alcohol, it would be sort of easy or very easy for them to get some	38	39	42	36	29	36	49	43	38	37	40
Say if they wanted to get marijuana, it would be sort of easy or very easy for them to get some	20	22	23	22	13	20	30	25	22	24	22

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Think it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to use electronic vapor products	89	88	86	91	93	90	83	87	89	87	88

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Perceptions Around Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Believe that their parents or guardians feel it would be wrong or very wrong for them to use electronic vapor products	94	94	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Believe that their parents or guardians feel it would be wrong or very wrong for them to drink alcohol	86	86	86	87	88	87	84	84	88	87	86
Believe that their parents or guardians feel it would be wrong or very wrong for them to use marijuana	92	90	90	90	91	90	88	87	91	86	90

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Perceptions Around Substance Use

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	
Think people greatly risk harming themselves, physically or in other ways, if they use electronic vapor products regularly	51	49	47	50	53	50	44	47	49	43	49	
Think people greatly risk harming themselves, physically or in other ways, if they have five or more drinks of alcohol once or twice each weekend	39	40	40	41	41	42	38	41	40	41	40	
Think people greatly risk harming themselves, physically or in other ways, if they use marijuana regularly	45	41	*	42	38	47	42	35	37	41	38	40

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Sexual Health

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	
Ever had sexual intercourse	5	5	4	5	2	5	6	4	5	12	4	*
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse, among students who have ever had intercourse	51	56	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

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Physical Activity

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Did not participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on at least 1 day, past week	10	10	11	9	13	9	10	13	9	12	10
Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more days, past week	59	61	54	67 *	53	62	64	47	67 *	56	61
Were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on all 7 days, past week	34	34	25	45 *	32	35	35	22	40 *	33	34

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Played on at least one sports team, past year	69	70	72	70	65	72	71	58	76 *	69	71

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## Physical Activity

	VT	County	F	M		6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Walk or ride their bike to school at least once a week when weather permits	23	22	17	27	*	24	20	23	20	23	26	21
Walk or ride their bike to school five days a week when weather permits	11	12	9	15	*	14	9	13	10	12	13	12

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\* = Statistical differences between groups;

# = Significantly increases/decreases with each grade level

## Nutrition

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH	
Did not eat breakfast, past week	12	13	16	10	12	15	11	16	12	20	12	*
Ate breakfast on 5 or more days, past week	60	59	51	67	62	60	57	49	63	55	60	*
Ate breakfast on all 7 days, past week	42	41	32	49	46	38	40	30	44	35	41	*

. = Too few students to report; \* = Statistical differences between groups; # = Significantly increases/decreases with each grade level

## Social Determinants of Health

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Most of the time or always went hungry because there was not enough food in their home, past 30 days	2	2	1	2	2	3	.	3	2	.	2
Experienced unstable housing, past 30 days	2	1	.	2	2	.	.	.	1	.	1
People in their home most of the time or always speak a language other than English	7	4	*	4	5	4	3	5	4	8	4

. = Too few students to report; \* = Statistical differences between groups; # = Significantly increases/decreases with each grade level

## Protective Factors

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis	BIPOC	WnH
Ate dinner at home with at least one of their parents or other adult family member on four or more days, past week	87	89	88	89	90	89	87	85	90	90	88
Ever felt that they were treated badly or unfairly in school because of their race or ethnicity	25	21 *	20	22	27	19	20	25	20	45	18 *
Have at least one teacher or other adult in their school that they can talk to if they have a problem	65	63	64	64	62	60	68	60	65	58	65
Strongly agree or agree that their school has clear rules and consequences for behavior	56	50 *	46	55 *	55	57	40	46	53	52	50
Spend 10 or more hours participating in afterschool activities during a typical school week	13	14	15	13	8	16	18	10	17 *	12	15

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Protective Factors

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis		BIPOC	WnH
Do not use social media such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and Twitter	21	22	19	23	28	26	14	26	18	*	14	22
Use social media such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and Twitter several times a day	60	58	62	55	47	54	69	55	61		58	59

	VT	County	F	M	6th	7th	8th	LGBTQ	HetCis		BIPOC	WnH	
Strongly agree or agree that in their community they feel like they matter to people	56	55	50	61	*	53	57	54	41	61	*	55	54

. = Too few students to report; \* = Statistical differences between groups; # = Significantly increases/decreases with each grade level