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2017

MIDDLE SCHOOL RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY REPORT

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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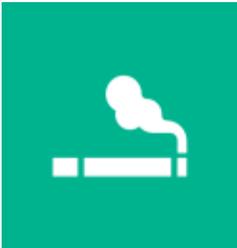
Districtwide Middle School Summary of Trends

Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) has conducted a risk behavior survey every two years since 2011. The following are notable data trends resulting across the four administrations of this survey.

What's Better
for BPS Middle Schoolers since 2011?

Smoking, Alcohol, and Marijuana Use have Fallen
The number of BPS middle schoolers who smoked cigarettes, drank alcohol, or used marijuana are down since 2011. Inhalant use has also declined over the past 6 years.

Fewer Students are Having Sex
The percent of middle schoolers who have had sex, who had sex before age 11, and who have had sex with 3 or more people have been cut in half since 2011.

There is Less Fighting
Though there was a slight increase this year, students are less likely to have ever had a physical fight, including fights serious enough to cause injury, than they were in 2011.

Students are Wearing Helmets More Often
More students wear helmets while biking, skateboarding, and rollerblading. Still, almost 70% reported rarely or never using them.

What's Worse

for BPS Middle Schoolers since 2011?

There is More Bullying

Bullying online and at school have both increased since 2011. More than twice as many students report being bullied at school as have been bullied online.

Suicide Ideation is a Growing Problem

In 2017, BPS Middle Schoolers are more likely to have seriously thought about killing themselves, made a plan to kill themselves, and made an attempt to kill themselves than in 2011.

Some Drug Use Has Risen

Though limited to a small number of middle schoolers, the percent who have used steroids, prescription drugs (without a doctor's prescription), and cocaine has jumped since 2011.

Condom Use Continues to Drop

Though fewer students are engaging in sexual activity, those who do are less likely to use condoms. In fact, the percent of sexually active students who did not use condoms jumped by almost 70% from 2011 to 2017.

Computers Consume More Time

Middle Schoolers watch less TV, but spend far more time on computers (for non-school purposes). The percent who spend 3 or more hours per day on computers increased by almost 50% since 2011.

Introduction

Every two years since 2011, Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) has conducted a risk behavior survey that includes questions from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS) survey, as well as other questions[1]. This survey, administered in the fall semester to all 6th through 8th grade students (referred to in this report as middle schoolers) districtwide, helps the district understand areas in which their students may be at risk for negative health outcomes. The YRBS portion of the survey asks students questions about their experience with:

- unintentional injuries and violence
- tobacco use
- alcohol, and drug use
- sexual activity, and
- other general health-related topics, such as eating breakfast and engaging in physical activity.

BPS also uses this opportunity to survey its students about other areas of interest to the district, including dental health, risk perception, and community safety.

This report presents the results of the district's 2017 administration of the BPS Middle School risk survey. For each item, the percent of students who reported risk behaviors in 2015 and 2017 is presented. The intention of this report is to provide BPS and the community with a general overview of the survey results, including changes since the 2015 BPS administration[2]. An additional summary report showing BPS Middle School YRBS indicator data and trends from for 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017 is included as Appendix A.

Report Structure

The structure of this report is intended to facilitate comparability and use of these data. Where possible, the YRBS indicators are presented in the format used by the CDC, with minor editing to assist in comprehension and brevity. In the cases of newly-added YRBS questions, indicator language is presumed, based on the approach used by the CDC for similar questions and indicators during past years.

Indicator tables containing the 2017 BPS Middle School results, along with the 2015 BPS Middle School results, are presented for each of the YRBS and BPS-added health topics. Each health topic (e.g., tobacco use, sexual activity) is presented in its own section of the report. Brief summaries are included at the beginning of each topic section to help direct readers' attention toward key data points and notable trends.

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[1] The comprehensive survey is commonly referred to as the "BPS YRBS Survey," even though it includes non-YRBS questions (i.e., BPS-added questions).
[2] The CDC does not make national or state-level results of the middle school survey available. Therefore, this report cannot include comparisons to non-BPS middle school students.

Indicator Table Explanation

To maintain comparability to the CDC's approach for national and state data reporting (only available for high school data), most data were analyzed and presented to indicate risk. That is, higher percentages of students responding indicate more risk, while lower percents indicate lower risk, except where otherwise noted on BPS-added questions (noted as "positively framed," where higher percentages indicate lower risk and are desirable).

To aid in comprehension and usability of data, this report utilizes arrows to indicate substantial change (i.e., 10% or more change) within BPS Middle Schools between the 2015 survey and the 2017 survey. Percent change between BPS Middle Schools 2015 and BPS Middle Schools 2017 was calculated by subtracting BPS Middle Schools 2017 percent from BPS Middle Schools 2015 percent, then dividing by BPS Middle Schools 2015 and multiplying the result by 100%.

In this report, arrows are included between the 2015 and 2017 BPS Middle School data. These arrows appear only when there was a percent change of 10% or more from 2015 to 2017. This threshold was chosen to highlight areas of substantial change. The table below summarizes these criteria.

Key to Arrows

Percent Change from 2015 to 2017	Meaning	Symbol
Increase of 10% or more	Increased Risk	⬆
Percent Change of -9.9% to 9.9%	Little or No Change	(no symbol)
Decrease of 10% or more	Decreased Risk	⬇

Absence of Data

In the tables, the "-" symbol indicates data that are unavailable, missing, or could not be reported because the indicator questions were newly added in 2017, or because of substantial differences between question wording or answer options in the 2015 and 2017 surveys. True zero percentages (i.e., where no students indicated risk) are represented by 0.0%.

Survey Methodology

BPS administered its version of the Middle School risk survey district-wide to students in applicable grade levels (6th through 8th grades) via Survey Monkey in late October 2017. The surveys and responses were anonymous (i.e., no one could identify how any one student answered the questions).

Survey Instrument

As with prior administrations of this survey, BPS convened a YRBS Advisory Committee, consisting of internal staff and community and higher education partners, to help determine the questions asked on the district's High School and Middle School risk surveys. This committee determined which of the CDC's 2017 Middle School YRBS questions to include (identified in this report as YRBS questions and indicators), and reviewed and added questions to gather information pertinent to the district and community partners, such as items about dental health and risk perception (identified in this report as BPS-added questions and indicators). Through this process, the committee also removed several 2017 YRBS questions to ensure the survey was of an appropriate length to be completed during the administration timeframe (i.e., a single class period).

The final BPS Middle School risk survey tool was translated into Spanish, and both the English and Spanish versions were entered into BPS's Survey Monkey account. The survey tool is available online at https://www.buffaloschools.org/Page/1977.

Survey Administration

For the 2017 survey administration, BPS asked each school to designate a point-person who would be responsible for managing survey administration within the school. This person was asked to complete a short questionnaire detailing the process for survey administration, including dates and periods during which the survey would be given, as well as the process for informing parents and honoring student opt-outs. This process was managed by BPS's Health Related Services.

Survey Validity and Analyses

Once the survey administration was completed by BPS, Via Evaluation (VIA) was selected through a competitive bid process to analyze and report survey results. VIA obtained all individual survey results from BPS's Survey Monkey account in SPSS (IBM Corp. Released 2013. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 24.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.) format.

To determine each individual survey's validity, VIA applied the CDC's recommended validity checks to YRBS questions. VIA also applied additional internally-created checks to BPS-added questions. This process invalidates individual responses that do not have logical consistency (e.g., a student answers that he has never had a drink of alcohol on one question, but then answers that he has had alcohol in the past 30 days).

The CDC validation process instructs users to invalidate surveys that are missing more than 20 valid answers (i.e., the survey has too many blank responses, or has too many invalid items) if the survey contains 50 or more YRBS questions. The 2017 BPS Middle School YRBS survey did not include 50 or more YRBS questions; therefore, no middle school surveys were entirely invalidated due to missing answers.

VIA applied the CDC's approach to analyzing standard YRBS data, where the percent of students indicating risk on individual items is reported. To this end, analyses aggregate responses that indicate risk in accordance with CDC reporting standards. For example, the answer options for the question "How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than a few sips?" are: 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 older. The CDC reports results from this question as the percent of students who drank alcohol for the first time before age 11; thus, the analysis aggregates students who select answer options b and c into the percent of students who indicate risk on this indicator.

In cases where the indicator includes the clause "among those who [engaged in the risk behavior]," the percent of students indicating risk for that indicator is based only on those students who indicated that risk, typically based on their answer choice within a question or their answer to a prior question. For example, the indicator "rarely or never wore a bicycle helmet" is reported for only those students who did not answer that they had never ridden a bicycle (i.e., those who never rode a bicycle were removed from the denominator).

Additional analyses (e.g., results disaggregated by gender or grade level) and more comprehensive statistical analyses (e.g., confidence intervals) are beyond the scope of this report. Entities that wish to conduct advanced analyses may apply for a copy of the cleaned dataset from BPS's Office of Shared Accountability. This dataset includes all surveys with individual valid responses (i.e., individual items that were determined to be invalid appear blank in this dataset).

Data Sources

Data presented in this report are from the following sources:

- **District and School Enrollment:** The overall district and school-level response rates were determined by dividing the number of valid surveys by the number of enrolled students. For the purposes of the middle school report, district and school enrollment was determined by BPS's collection of Basic Educational Data System (BEDS) attendance, conducted on October 4, 2017. This count of students enrolled in grades 6 through 8 at each school on that day was provided to the BPS Health Related Services by BPS's Office of Shared Accountability, and shared with VIA.
- **BPS Middle Schools 2015:** Reported percentages are the unweighted frequencies of risk indication from the Buffalo Public Schools' district-wide administration of BPS Middle School YRBS in October 2015.

- **BPS Middle Schools 2017:** Reported percentages are the unweighted frequencies of risk indication from the Buffalo Public Schools' district-wide administration of BPS Middle School YRBS in October 2017.

Survey Participation Information

School Eligibility

All BPS schools serving students in grades 6, 7, and 8 were invited to participate in the Middle School risk survey. Several special program schools did not participate. Those schools/programs, and their 6th through 8th grade 2017 BEDS enrollment, were PS 84 Erie County Health Center for Children (25 students) and PS 131 Academy Programs (14 students). These students were removed from BPS's total 6th through 8th grade enrollment used to calculate the district's high school response rate. These results are not representative of students in these programs.

Respondents' School Identification

Middle school survey respondents are asked to select the school that they attend from a drop-down list of all BPS schools that serve 6th through 8th graders. They could also choose not to answer this question. These responses are not verifiable; the school selected by the student is reported as the student's school.

A total of 682 students did not provide a school, and 4 students selected a school that did not participate or is no longer an active BPS school. These students' schools were classified as "Other/Missing." Their data are included in the BPS Middle School district data, but their responses are not included in school-level reports.

Response Rates

BPS administers its risk behavior survey as an overall population survey, as opposed to through a random sampling approach. A high response rate does not guarantee that results are representative of the school population, but does increase the likelihood that the results are representative. Therefore, calculating and understanding district and school-level response rates is essential to interpreting survey results.

CDC guidelines suggest that response rates of 60% or higher can be considered representative of the population. The table below presents the approximate level of generalizability of results based on response rates.

Response Rate Representation

Response Rate	Generalizability
80% or higher	Results are highly representative of population.
70% - 79%	Results are representative of population.
60% - 69%	Results are somewhat representative of population.
50% - 59%	Results may not be representative of population.
Below 50%	Results are not representative of population; no school-level report provided.

To calculate the response rate, VIA divided the number of valid surveys by the number of enrolled students in the district and at each participating school. The table on the next page presents the school and district response rates for both 2017 and 2015. Schools with response rates below 60% are italicized in the table. These schools will not receive school-level reports, though these data are included in districtwide analyses.

Middle School Response Rates (from 2017 highest response rate to lowest)

School	Number of Enrolled Students	Number of Valid Surveys	2017 Valid Survey Response Rate	2015 Valid Survey Response Rate
PS 79 Pfc. William J. Grabiarz School of Excellence	164	163	**99%**	80%
PS 91 B.U.I.L.D. Academy	128	125	**98%**	70%
PS 195 City Honors School	372	360	**97%**	85%
PS 67 Discovery School	184	177	**96%**	83%
PS 89 Dr. Lydia T. Wright School of Excellence	179	165	**92%**	63%
PS 27 Hillery Park Elementary	184	167	**91%**	80%
PS 53 Community School	117	105	**90%**	73%
PS 97 Harvey Austin School	198	176	**89%**	77%
PS 6 Buffalo Elementary School of Technology	194	168	**87%**	80%
PS 95 Waterfront Elementary School	256	221	**86%**	81%
PS 94 West Hertel Academy	278	238	**86%**	86%
PS 156 Frederick Law Olmsted	300	254	**85%**	85%
PS 93 Southside Elementary School	365	308	**84%**	77%
PS 19 Native American Magnet	172	144	**84%**	71%

School	Number of Enrolled Students	Number of Valid Surveys	2017 Valid Survey Response Rate	2015 Valid Survey Response Rate
PS 80 Highgate Heights	129	102	**79%**	77%
PS 81 School	248	192	**77%**	65%
PS 30 Frank Sedita Academy	196	149	**76%**	74%
PS 43 Lovejoy Discovery School	167	126	**75%**	76%
PS 32 Bennett Park Montessori	188	140	**74%**	74%
PS 33 Bilingual Center	164	122	**74%**	93%
PS 76 Herman Badillo Bilingual Academy	228	167	**73%**	73%
PS 72 Lorraine Elementary School	256	187	**73%**	62%
PS 45 International School	364	265	**73%**	81%
PS 59 Charles R. Drew Science	188	136	**72%**	69%
PS 66 North Park Academy	187	133	**71%**	62%
PS 37 Marva J. Daniel Futures Preparatory School	143	92	**64%**	80%
PS 74 Hamlin Park Claude & Ouida Clapp Academy	135	84	**62%**	71%
PS 198 International Preparatory School	161	99	**61%**	77%
PS 31 Harriet Ross Tubman School	126	76	**60%**	85%

School	Number of Enrolled Students	Number of Valid Surveys	2017 Valid Survey Response Rate	2015 Valid Survey Response Rate
PS 18 Dr. Antonia Pantoja School of Academic Excellence	*166*	*95*	*57%*	*65%*
PS 192 Buffalo Academy for Visual & Performing Arts	*214*	*121*	*57%*	*65%*
PS 3 D'Youville Porter Campus	*208*	*86*	*41%*	*80%*
PS 69 Houghton Academy	*148*	*37*	*25%*	*70%*
PS 197 MST Prep	*124*	*2*	*<1%*	*47%*
Other/Missing	-	686	-	-
Total	**6831**	**5868**	**86%**	*85%*

Schools in italics have 2017 responses rates too low to receive school-level reports.

This year's overall middle school district response rate (86%) is slightly higher than 2015's (85%). This is a very high response rate, indicating that the results are highly representative of the overall BPS Middle School population.

The Middle School YRBS had a very high response rate, meaning it is highly representative of the general BPS Middle School population.

This year, five middle schools have response rates below 60%, compared to just one school in 2015. Additionally, several schools that had modest response rates in 2015 now have very low response rates (for example, D'Youville Porter, Harriet Ross Tubman, and Houghton Academy). Similarly, other schools with modest response rates in 2015 now have very high response rates (for example, Grabiarz, Lydia T. Wright, and BUILD Academy). District results may be more representative of some schools than others, but the overall high response rate still provides a confidence of generalizability to middle schoolers districtwide.

Grade Levels of Respondents

Valid surveys were evenly distributed among grades, with approximately 1/3 of responses coming from each of the 3 grades (6th, 7th, and 8th). This indicates that results are representative of all middle school students.

Survey Duration

The BPS Middle School risk behavior survey included 100 questions. The median survey completion time was 17.5 minutes. This is a relatively short amount of time to answer 100 questions, allowing less than 11 seconds per question. Most schools administered the survey during a particular class period (e.g., during social studies class), and most BPS class periods are at least 30 minutes.

Missing Responses

The number of missing responses to individual items increases consistently across the survey. On the first 5 items, an average of 5% of respondents did not answer the question, compared with an average of 22% who did not answer the final 5 items (not including zip code). See Appendix B for the percent of unanswered questions by survey item.

This variation in individual item response rate reduces the generalizability of results toward the end of the survey, particularly among the BPS-added questions.

Districtwide Middle School YRBS Survey Results

The results tables in this section are organized by health topic. A summary of results is provided before each health topic and table. The tables show each risk indicator, the percent of BPS middle school students indicating risk in 2015, and the percent of BPS middle school students indicating risk in 2017. In this section, **higher percentages indicate more risk**.

Indicator Notations

YRBS survey question and indicator language is identical to that used by the CDC's 2017 YRBS Middle School survey tool. In some instances, the CDC has changed YRBS question or indicator language since the 2015 administration. These changes, as well as other important question or indicator information, are noted as superscripts following the applicable indicators in the results tables. The following notations are used:

YRBS Indicator Table Notations

Superscript	Meaning
1	Slight change to question wording; 2017 data may not be comparable to 2015 data
2	Significant change to question wording; no comparison data available
3	BPS-added question (not a YBRS Middle School question)
4	Newly-added question in 2017

Appendix C (the final page of this document) contains the YRBS Indicator Table Notations and the key to the arrows used in the indicator tables on pages 14 through 27.

Unintentional Injuries and Violence Summary

The indicator table on page 14 presents the percent of BPS middle school students who are at-risk on Unintentional Injuries and Violence indicators. The following are highlights from these indicators:

Suicidal thoughts and attempts are up. The percent of middle schoolers who made a plan to kill themselves rose by 22%, as did the percent who tried to kill themselves. The percent who seriously thought about killing themselves also increased (by 15%). These indicators have increased again after leveling off between 2013 and 2015.

Fights are serious. Even though the percent of students who have been in a physical fight has remained about the same over the past few years, students are more likely to report being injured during fights.

Online bullying is rising, but bullying at school is still more common. About 1 in 5 students (18%) has been bullied online, an increase of 20% from 2015. However, more than twice as many students reported being bullied at school (38%) than online. Reported levels of bullying at school have remained consistent since 2011.

Unintentional Injury and Violence Indicators	BPS MS 2015	BPS Change	BPS MS 2017
Rarely or never wore a bicycle helmet among students who had ridden a bicycle	68.6%		**67.9%**
Rarely or never wore a helmet when rollerblading or skateboarding among students who used rollerblades or rode a skateboard	69.4%		**68.9%**
Rarely or never wore a seat belt when riding in a car	8.5%		**9.3%**
Ever rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol	10.2%		**10.9%**
Ever carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club	16.2%		**17.6%**
Ever in a physical fight	56.7%		**58.5%**
Ever injured in a physical fight injuries had to be treated by a doctor or nurse	6.3%	↑	**7.2%**
Ever bullied electronically[1] including through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media	15.1%	↑	**18.3%**
Ever bullied on school property	38.6%		**38.3%**
Ever seriously thought about killing themselves	15.8%	↑	**18.1%**
Ever made a plan about how they would kill themselves	10.0%	↑	**12.2%**
Ever tried to kill themselves	7.6%	↑	**9.3%**

Tobacco Use Summary

The indicator table on page 16 presents the percent of BPS middle school students who are at-risk on Tobacco Use indicators. The following are highlights from these indicators:

Tobacco use is very low among BPS middle schoolers. The percent of students who have tried smoking continues to fall. Though there have been increases in the percent of students who reported smoking cigarettes or cigar-like products, or using smokeless tobacco since 2015, the number of middle schoolers who engage in these behaviors is low – a total of less than 240 students out of nearly 6,000 who completed a survey reported using any form of tobacco during the month before the survey.

The few students who do smoke engage in frequent and heavy smoking. About one-quarter of the middle school smokers reported heavy smoking (i.e., 10 or more cigarettes a day), which is up by 68% from 2015. However, this applies to fewer than 30 students.

E-vapor products are more prevalent: About twice as many middle schoolers reported having tried e-vaping products, compared with cigarettes, and about 6% reported using these products during the past month, compared with 4.5% who used any form of tobacco.

Tobacco Indicators	BPS MS 2015	BPS Change	BPS MS 2017
Ever tried cigarette smoking even one or two puffs	8.3%	↓	**7.4%**
Ever tried smoking before age 11 years[2] even one or two puffs	-		**3.1%**
Recently smoked cigarettes smoked on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey	1.5%	↑	**2.0%**
Recently smoked cigarettes frequently smoked on 20 or more days during the 30 days before the survey	0.4%	↑	**0.5%**
Engaged in heavy smoking smoked more than 10 cigarettes per day on the days they smoked, among students who recently smoked cigarettes; during the 30 days before the survey	15.2%	↑	**25.5%**
Recently used smokeless tobacco[1] used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip, snus or dissolvable products, but not including electronic vapor products, during the 30 days before the survey	1.6%	↑	**2.4%**
Recently smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the 30 days before the survey	2.5%	↑	**2.9%**
Recently used any tobacco used cigarette, smokeless tobacco, or cigars during the 30 days before the survey	3.7%	↑	**4.5%**
Ever used an electronic vapor product such as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens	11.1%		**11.5%**
Recently used an electronic vapor product used an electronic vapor product during the 30 days before the survey	5.8%		**6.1%**

Alcohol and Drug Use Summary

The indicator table on pages 18 and 19 presents the percent of BPS middle school students who are at-risk on Tobacco Use indicators. The following are highlights from these indicators:

Alcohol and drug use is low, but increasing. About 5% of middle schoolers recently drank alcohol, which is an increase of 20% from 2015. Though fewer than 5% of middle schoolers used drugs other than marijuana, these percentages rose from 2015, after falling from 2013.

Students experiment with alcohol more than marijuana. Although equal portions of middle schoolers reported drinking alcohol or using marijuana during the month before the survey (5%), they were more likely to report both ever trying alcohol (16.5%) and trying it young (7%), compared to ever trying marijuana (7.4%) or trying marijuana young (less than 2%).

Alcohol and Drug Use Indicators	BPS MS 2015	BPS Change	BPS MS 2017
Ever drank alcohol other than a few sips	14.5%	⬆	**16.5%**
Drank alcohol for the first time before age 11 other than a few sips	5.3%	⬆	**6.9%**
Recently drank alcohol[3] during the 30 days before the survey	4.1%	⬆	**4.9%**
Recently engaged in binge drinking[3] had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey	2.3%		**2.4%**
Recently had 10 or more drinks in a row[3] within a couple of hours (during the 30 days before the survey)	0.2%	⬆	**0.4%**
Usually obtained the alcohol they drank by someone giving it to them[3] among students who drank alcohol during the 30 days before the survey	34.2%	⬇	**25.4%**
Ever used marijuana	7.7%		**7.4%**
Tried marijuana for the first time before age 11 years	1.7%		**1.7%**
Recently used marijuana[3] during the 30 days before the survey	4.4%		**4.7%**
Ever used cocaine including any form of cocaine, such as powder, crack, or freebase	1.0%	⬆	**1.7%**
Ever used inhalants sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high	3.8%	⬆	**4.4%**
Ever took steroids without a doctor's prescription	1.8%	⬆	**2.3%**

Alcohol and Drug Use Indicators	BPS MS 2015	BPS Change	BPS MS 2017
Ever took prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told you to use it[1] such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet	2.2%	↑	**3.5%**
Recently took prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription[3] during the 30 days before the survey	0.9%	↑	**1.3%**

Sexual Behavior Summary

The indicator table below presents the percent of BPS middle school students who are at-risk on Sexual Behavior indicators. The following are highlights from these indicators:

Sexual behaviors remained steady. The percent of middle schoolers who have had sex, had sex at a young age, or had multiple partners remained about the same since 2015, after falling from 2013.

Condom use is still low and not improving. More than one-third of sexually-active middle schoolers did not use a condom the last time they had sex. This represents only a small number of students (less than 150), but the percent of students at-risk on this indicator has increased since 2011.

Sexual Activity Indicators	BPS MS 2015	BPS Change	BPS MS 2017
Ever had sexual intercourse	8.4%		**8.0%**
Had sexual intercourse before age 11 years	2.3%		**2.5%**
Had sexual intercourse with three or more partners during their life	2.7%		**2.8%**
Did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse, among those who have had sexual intercourse	30.7%	↑	**36.5%**
Were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection	40.9%		**39.7%**

Other YRBS Health Indicators Summary

The indicator table below presents the percent of BPS middle school students who are at-risk on Other YRBS Health indicators. The following are highlights from these indicators:

Computers are replacing TVs as a mode of entertainment. Almost half of middle schoolers used a computer (for non-school purposes) for 3 or more hours a day, up from 2015, while about 40% watched TV for 3 or more hours a day, down from 2015.

Other YRBS Health Indicators	BPS MS 2015	BPS Change	BPS MS 2017
Ever told by a doctor or nurse that they had asthma	21.5%		**21.6%**
Did not get 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night	38.0%		**41.2%**
Reported that their overall health is poor[3]	0.7%	↑	**1.0%**
Skipped breakfast one or more times during the 7 days before the survey	43.4%		**43.3%**
Skipped breakfast every day during the 7 days before the survey	7.0%	↑	**8.2%**
Not physically active for at least 60 minutes during 7 days before the survey (doing physical activity that increased heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time)	17.1%		**17.7%**
Not physically active for at least 60 minutes on 5 or more days during the 7 days before the survey (i.e., engaged in physical activity on fewer than 5 days)	52.1%		**49.8%**
Played video or computer games or used a computer for 3 or more hours per day[1] for something that was not school work, on an average school day	46.1%		**49.2%**
Watched television 3 or more hours per day on an average school day	41.3%		**39.9%**
Did not play on a sports team run by their school/community groups, during 12 months before the survey	39.5%		**41.4%**
Received a concussion[4] from playing a sport or being physically active (during 12 months before survey)	-		**25.4%**

Districtwide Middle School BPS-Added Questions

The following indicator tables are based on questions added to the YRBS survey by BPS. Some of these questions have been significantly changed or are newly added to the BPS survey tool in 2017; therefore, there is no 2015 BPS data available.

Dental Health Indicators

BPS, in partnership with the University at Buffalo School of Dentistry, added several questions about dental health to the survey beginning in 2013.

Dental Care Indicators	BPS MS 2015	BPS MS 2017
Did not brush their teeth <u>every</u> day during the 7 days before the survey	33.6%	**34.8%**
Has not recently seen a dentist during 12 months before the survey (for any reason)	45.5%	**44.9%**
Has never seen a dentist	3.3%	**3.5%**
Has had pain in mouth during the 12 months before the survey	39.9%	**40.2%**
Has missed school because of pain in mouth	17.6%	**17.1%**

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Use Risk Perception Indicators

These questions were added to the BPS risk survey to help understand students' perceptions of risk and harm associated with tobacco, alcohol, and drug use. The questions were developed for the national evaluation of the federally-funded Drug Free Community (DFC) program, and are reported on by Buffalo State College for the purposes of the local DFC program evaluation.

Similar to the Community Safety Indicators, these indicators are positively-framed. That is, **higher percentages are more desirable**.

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Use Risk Perception Indicators (positively framed)	BPS MS 2015	BPS MS 2017
Think there is moderate or great risk of people harming themselves physically or in other ways if they smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	65.5%	**70.3%**
Think their <u>parents</u> feel that it would be wrong or very wrong for them to smoke tobacco	90.5%	**91.7%**
Think their <u>friends</u> feel it would be wrong or very wrong for them to smoke tobacco	77.8%	**78.9%**
Think there is moderate or great risk of people harming themselves physically or in other ways if they take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day	62.3%	**66.4%**
Think there is moderate or great risk of people harming themselves physically or in other ways when they have five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week	66.3%	**70.0%**
Think their <u>parents</u> would feel that it would be wrong or very wrong for them to have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day	87.5%	**89.3%**
Think their <u>friends</u> would feel that it would be wrong or very wrong for them to have one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day	78.7%	**81.3%**
Somewhat or strongly disapprove of someone their age having one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day	60.6%	**61.5%**
Think there is moderate or great risk of people harming themselves physically or in other ways if they smoke marijuana once or twice a week	59.7%	**62.5%**
Think their <u>parents</u> would feel that it would be wrong or very wrong for them to smoke marijuana	87.4%	**88.8%**

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Use Risk Perception Indicators (positively framed)	BPS MS 2015	BPS MS 2017
Think their <u>friends</u> would feel that it would be wrong or very wrong for them to smoke marijuana	76.3%	**77.8%**
Think there is moderate or great risk of people harming themselves physically or in other ways if they use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them	69.6%	**75.3%**
Think their <u>parents</u> would feel that it would be wrong or very wrong for them to use prescription drugs not prescribed to them	88.1%	**90.1%**
Think their <u>friends</u> would feel that it would be wrong or very wrong for them to use prescription drugs not prescribed to them	83.2%	**84.5%**
Have talked with at least one parent (or primary caregiver) about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use during the past 12 months	44.8%	**42.2%**

Community Safety Indicators

BPS added two new questions to further probe students' perceptions of safety on their way to and from school. These items were newly added in 2017; therefore, there is no 2015 comparison data.

Additionally, these questions are positively-framed, meaning that higher percentages are desirable (as opposed to other portions of the survey, on which higher percentages indicate greater risk, and are therefore less desirable).

Community Safety Indicators (positively framed)	BPS MS 2017
Feel safe traveling to school	**87.5%**
Feel safe traveling from school	**87.4%**

Positive Self-Perception Indicators

BPS added several questions to assess students' positive self-perceptions. These items are positively-framed, with **higher percentages more desirable** than lower percentages.

Self-Perception Indicators (positively framed)	BPS MS 2015	BPS MS 2017
Feel in control of their life and future	70.2%	**67.4%**
Feel good about themselves	73.7%	**72.9%**
Care about school	72.0%	**70.9%**
Plan ahead and make good choices	76.2%	**75.8%**
Feel valued and appreciated by others	63.7%	**64.0%**
Accept people who are different from them	82.2%	**85.7%**
Take responsibility for what they do	75.9%	**76.5%**
Enjoy learning	67.2%	**64.2%**
Feel good about their future	82.4%	**80.7%**
Resist bad influences	65.6%	**65.8%**
Resolve conflicts without anyone getting hurt	62.3%	**62.1%**

Living Situation Indicators

In 2017, BPS developed and added questions asking students about whether they were a parent (and if so, if their child lived with them), where they slept the night before taking the survey[3], and whether their parent also slept in that same location with them. These questions were asked for the first time in 2017; therefore, there are no comparison data.

Parenting and Living Situation Indicators	BPS MS 2017
Is a parent	2.3%
If yes, has their own child(ren) living with them	18.3%
Has a parent/guardian sleeping in same location as them[4]	94.8%

Where did you sleep last night?[4]	BPS MS 2017
In a house/apartment with parents/guardians	69.2%
In my own house/apartment not with parents/guardians	6.2%
With friends, relatives, or other people "couch-surfing"	1.2%
At a shelter	0.8%
In transitional housing or an independent living program	0.4%
At a motel	0.5%
In a car, tent, park, bus or train station, abandoned building, or other public place	0.7%
Missing/Did not answer	21.1%

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[3] Students were instructed to "check all that apply" when answering this question, but the survey was formatted to only allow one answer selection.

Reasons for Absence from School

Since the 2011 administration, BPS has asked students to identify the top three reasons that they were absent from school during the prior year. The table below shows the percent of students indicating the reason for absences from school (students were instructed to select the top three reasons that they were absent from school, but they were able to select as many as they wanted; therefore, the total does not equal 100%).

This year, BPS added more reasons for absence; therefore, these results should not be compared to results from prior years. In addition, many students who selected "I was not absent from school" also identified reasons for having been absent from school. For these reasons, these results should be interpreted with caution. Additionally, the Spanish survey was not configured to allow more than one response; therefore, this item was invalid on Spanish surveys (n=142).

Percent of Respondents Indicating Reasons for Absences from School	BPS MS 2015	BPS MS 2017
Appointment (doctor, dentist, therapist, etc.)	-	47.7%
Illness	55.2%	40.7%
Overslept or alarm did not go off	-	24.6%
Transportation Issue	24.2%	15.6%
Funeral or family/close relative's death	-	15.0%
Caring for family member(s)	25.4%	12.8%
Tooth Pain or Dental Problem	23.4%	12.8%
Suspension	14.8%	11.2%
School work is not interesting	6.1%	4.9%
School feels too unsafe	4.5%	3.1%
Embarrassed about school performance	3.7%	2.4%
Worried about what teachers or other adults may say or do to me because of my school performance	3.6%	2.2%
Pregnant or parenting	1.3%	1.2%
I was not absent last year	12.1%	8.1%

Appendix A: YRBS Indicator Data and Trends from 2011 through 2017

The following table shows the percent of BPS middle schoolers who indicated risk on each 2017 YRBS indicator at the 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017 administration of the survey. Following these data, a symbol indicating the overarching trend is presented, followed by the percent change between 2011 and 2017 (or 2013 and 2017, where 2011 data are not available). Explanations of the trend symbols used are presented in the table below.

Key to Trend Symbols

Symbol	Meaning
⬇	Percent of students indicating risk declined each year for all years.
↘	Percent is lower in 2017 than in 2011, and is on a downward trend (i.e., declined most years).
⤷	Percent was increasing, but declined in 2017, and is now lower than in 2011.
~	There has been little change between 2011 and 2017, with fluctuations in interceding years.
↪	Percent was declining, but increased in 2017, and is now higher than in 2011.
↗	Percent is higher in 2017 than in 2011, and is on an upward trend (i.e., increased most years).
⬆	Percent of students indicating risk increased each year for all years.

When data are not available (because the indicator was not included on the survey, or the 2017 wording has changed significantly so the data are no longer comparable to prior versions), a "-" appears.
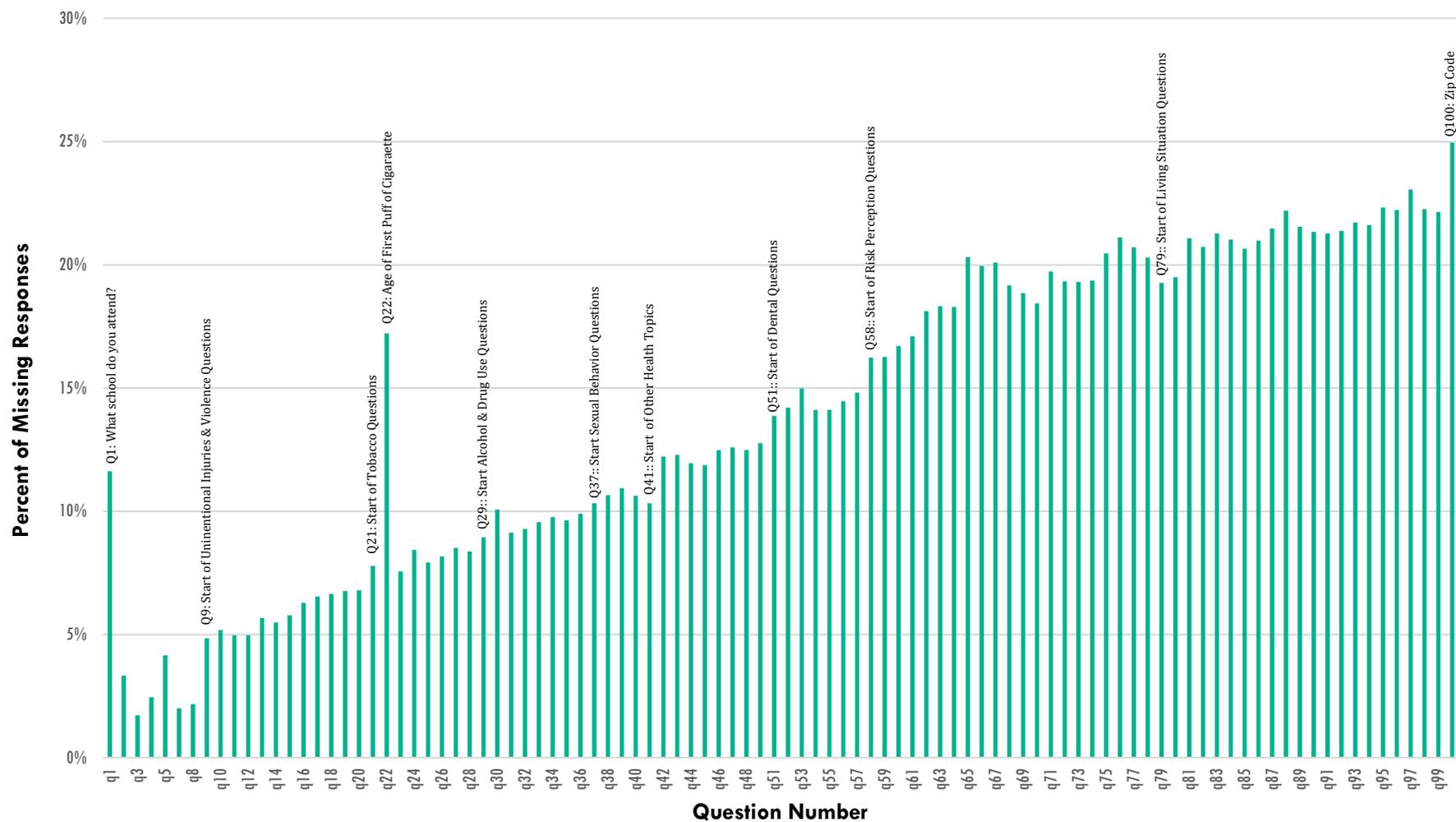
Unintentional Injury and Violence Indicators	BPS 2011	BPS 2013	BPS 2015	BPS 2017	Trends	% Change
Rarely or never wore a bicycle helmet among students who had ridden a bicycle	75.0%	71.1%	68.6%	67.9%	↓	-9.5%
Rarely or never wore a helmet when rollerblading or skateboarding among students who used rollerblades or rode a skateboard	76.5%	72.9%	69.4%	68.9%	↓	-9.9%
Rarely or never wore a seat belt when riding in a car	8.8%	8.8%	8.5%	9.3%	~	5.7%
Ever rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol	11.9%	11.5%	10.2%	10.9%	↘	-8.4%
Ever carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club	15.3%	13.8%	16.2%	17.6%	↗	15.0%
Ever in a physical fight	63.4%	60.8%	56.7%	58.5%	↘	-7.7%
Ever injured in a physical fight injuries had to be treated by a doctor or nurse	7.7%	7.6%	6.3%	7.2%	~	-6.5%
Ever bullied electronically including through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media	14.5%	14.3%	15.1%	18.3%	↗	26.2%
Ever bullied on school property	33.5%	38.2%	38.6%	38.3%	↗	14.3%
Ever seriously thought about killing themselves	15.0%	16.0%	15.8%	18.1%	↗	20.7%
Ever made a plan about how they would kill themselves	9.7%	10.0%	10.0%	12.2%	↗	25.8%
Ever tried to kill themselves	7.2%	7.5%	7.6%	9.3%	↑	29.2%

Tobacco Indicators	BPS 2011	BPS 2013	BPS 2015	BPS 2017	Trends	% Change
Ever tried cigarette smoking even one or two puffs	12.4%	12.1%	8.3%	7.4%	↓	-40.3%
Ever tried smoking before age 11 years even one or two puffs	-	-	-	3.1%		
Recently smoked cigarettes smoked on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey	3.2%	2.6%	1.5%	2.0%	↘	-37.5%
Recently smoked cigarettes frequently smoked on 20 or more days during the 30 days before the survey	0.8%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%	↘	-37.5%
Smoked cigarettes on all 30 days during the 30 days before the survey	1.5%	1.5%	0.8%	0.3%	↓	-80.0%
Engaged in heavy smoking smoked more than 10 cigarettes per day on the days they smoked, among students who recently smoked cigarettes; during the 30 days before the survey	11.3%	14.4%	15.2%	25.5%	↑	125.7%
Recently used smokeless tobacco used chewing tobacco, snuff, or di, snus or dissolvable products, but not including electronic vapor products, during the 30 days before the survey	1.4%	1.8%	1.6%	2.4%	↗	71.4%
Recently smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the 30 days before the survey	2.9%	3.2%	2.5%	2.9%	~	0.0%
Recently used <u>any</u> tobacco used cigarette, smokeless tobacco, or cigars during the 30 days before the survey	-	4.7%	3.7%	4.5%	~	-4.3%
Ever used an electronic vapor product such as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens	-	-	11.1%	11.5%		
Recently used an electronic vapor product used an electronic vapor product during the 30 days before the survey	-	-	5.8%	6.1%		

Alcohol and Drug Use Indicators	BPS 2011	BPS 2013	BPS 2015	BPS 2017	Trends	% Change
Ever drank alcohol other than a few sips	24.4%	21.9%	14.5%	**16.5%**	↘	**-32.4%**
Drank alcohol for the first time before age 11 other than a few sips	9.2%	7.4%	5.3%	**6.9%**	↘	**-25.0%**
Recently drank alcohol during the 30 days before the survey	-	8.4%	4.1%	**4.9%**	↘	**-41.7%**
Recently engaged in binge drinking had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey	-	4.2%	2.3%	**2.4%**	↘	**-42.9%**
Recently had 10 or more drinks in a row within a couple of hours (during the 30 days before the survey)	-	0.8%	0.2%	**0.4%**	↘	**-50.0%**
Usually obtained the alcohol they drank by someone giving it to them among students who drank alcohol during the 30 days before the survey	-	33.9%	34.2%	**25.4%**	↘	**-25.1%**
Ever used marijuana	9.5%	10.7%	7.7%	**7.4%**	↓	**-22.1%**
Tried marijuana for the first time before age 11 years	1.9%	1.9%	1.7%	**1.7%**	↘	**-10.5%**
Recently used marijuana during the 30 days before the survey	-	7.5%	4.4%	**4.7%**	↘	**-37.3%**
Ever used cocaine including any form of cocaine, such as powder, crack, or freebase	1.3%	1.4%	1.0%	**1.7%**	↗	**30.8%**
Ever used inhalants sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high	6.4%	5.9%	3.8%	**4.4%**	↘	**-31.3%**
Ever took steroids without a doctor's prescription	1.4%	1.5%	1.8%	**2.3%**	↑	**64.3%**
Ever took prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription or differently than how a doctor told you to use it such as codeine, Vicodin, OxyContin, Hydrocodone, and Percocet	2.2%	2.4%	2.2%	**3.5%**	↗	**59.1%**
Recently took prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription during the 30 days before the survey	-	1.1%	0.9%	**1.3%**	↗	**18.2%**

Sexual Activity Indicators	BPS 2011	BPS 2013	BPS 2015	BPS 2017	Trends	% Change
Ever had sexual intercourse	15.8%	13.3%	8.4%	**8.0%**	↓	**-49.4%**
Had sexual intercourse before age 11 years	4.4%	4.0%	2.3%	**2.5%**	↘	**-43.2%**
Had sexual intercourse with three or more partners during their life	6.6%	5.6%	2.7%	**2.8%**	↘	**-57.6%**
Did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse, among those who have had sexual intercourse	21.6%	28.1%	30.7%	**36.5%**	↑	**69.0%**
Were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection	42.4%	37.3%	40.9%	**39.7%**	~	**-6.4%**

Other YRBS Health Indicators	BPS 2011	BPS 2013	BPS 2015	BPS 2017	Trends	% Change
Ever told by a doctor or nurse that they had asthma	24.4%	22.0%	21.5%	21.6%	↘	-11.5%
Did not get 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night	-	-	38.0%	41.2%		
Reported that their overall health is poor	-	-	0.7%	1.0%		
Skipped breakfast one or more times during the 7 days before the survey	-	42.0%	43.4%	43.3%	~	3.1%
Skipped breakfast every day during the 7 days before the survey	-	5.1%	7.0%	8.2%	↑	60.8%
day during 7 days before the survey (doing physical activity that increased heart rate and made them breathe hard some of the time)	21.0%	13.8%	17.1%	17.7%	↳	-15.7%
Not physically active for at least 60 minutes on 5 or more days during the 7 days before the survey (i.e., engaged in physical activity on fewer than 5 days)	51.8%	54.0%	52.1%	49.8%	~	-3.9%
Played video or computer games or used a computer for 3 or more hours per day for something that was not school work, on an average school day	33.9%	44.3%	46.1%	49.2%	↑	45.1%
Watched television 3 or more hours per day on an average school day	49.0%	50.7%	41.3%	39.9%	↘	-18.6%
Did not play on a sports team run by their school or community groups, during the 12 months before the	36.8%	38.7%	39.5%	41.4%	↑	12.5%
Received a concussion from playing a sport or being physically active (during 12 months before survey)	-	-	-	25.4%		

Appendix B: Missing Responses

This chart shows the percent of missing responses to each survey item[4], prior to individual item validation.

[4] Questions with multiple response options (i.e., "What is your race?" and Reasons for Absence) are not included in this chart.

Appendix C: Key to Indicator Tables

This page is intended to be used by report readers while reviewing the indicator tables on pages 14 through 27. Detailed explanations of the keys are included elsewhere in the report.

Key to Arrows (shows change in BPS results from 2015 to 2017)

Percent Change from 2015 to 2017	Meaning	Symbol
Increase of 10% or more	**Increased Risk**	⬆
Percent Change of -9.9% to 9.9%	**Little or No Change**	(no symbol)
Decrease of 10% or more	**Decreased Risk**	⬇

YRBS Indicator Table Notations (information related to questions/indicators)

Superscript	Meaning
1	Slight change to question wording; 2017 data may not be comparable to 2015 data
2	Significant change to question wording; no comparison data available
3	BPS-added question (not a YBRS Middle School question)
4	Newly-added question in 2017