

# California Healthy Kids Survey

Ventura County  
Elementary  
2008-2010  
Main Report

This report was prepared for the county by WestEd, a research, development, and service agency, in collaboration with Duerr Evaluation Resources, under contract from the California Department of Education, Safe and Healthy Kids Program Office. For contract information, contact:

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# PREFACE

This report provides the detailed results for each question from the 2008-09 and/or 2009-10 administration of the *California Healthy Kids Survey* (CHKS) as done by the districts in this county, presented in tables organized by topic. To help in understanding and interpreting these results, review these findings along with the *Survey Content Guidebook*, ([chks.wested.org/reports](http://chks.wested.org/reports)) which discusses the significance of each question. Several other tools to help in data use are also available, as described below.

The results of this student survey should be compared to those obtained from school staff from the companion *California School Climate Survey* (CSCS), which was administered at the same time. It is important to determine whether staff perceptions accurately reflect student behaviors and experiences. The Survey Content Guidebook provides a cross-walk between the two surveys' questions to facilitate this comparison. Combined, the CHKS and CSCS provide a comprehensive assessment of the school climate and the needs of students and staff to guide school improvement efforts. For additional information and resources, visit the survey websites: [chks.wested.org](http://chks.wested.org) and [cscs.wested.org](http://cscs.wested.org).

## **SURVEY PURPOSE**

The CHKS and CSCS form the largest, most comprehensive effort in the nation to assess *local* students and staff on a regular basis to provide key data on learning barriers, engagement, and supports. The California Department of Education (CDE) funded the CHKS in 1997 to provide data that would assist schools in: (1) preventing youth health-risk behaviors and other barriers to academic achievement; (2) promoting positive youth development, resilience, and well-being; and (3) fostering positive school climates and engagement in learning. A thorough understanding of the scope and nature of youth behaviors and attitudes is essential to guide school improvement efforts and develop effective prevention, health, and youth development programs. Since fall 2003, biennial administration of the survey (along with the California School Climate Survey of staff), and the public posting of the results, have been required by CDE in compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act. These surveys grew out of CDE's commitment to helping schools promote the successful cognitive, social, and emotional development of all students and create more positive, engaging school environments for both students and staff.

## **SURVEY CONTENT OVERVIEW**

The CHKS consists of a required general set of questions. Districts may also add their own questions of local interest. The survey consists of a broad range of key questions identified by an expert advisory committee considered most important for schools to administer to guide improvement of academic, health, and prevention programs and the promotion of student achievement, positive development, and well-being.<sup>1</sup> The primary focus of the survey is assessing student perceptions and experiences related to school climate and engagement, learning supports, and health-related, non-academic learning barriers (e.g., substance use, bullying and violence, and poor physical and mental health).

### **School Related Content**

To support school improvement efforts, the majority of questions on the survey assess school performance, engagement, climate, performance, and experiences. The survey provides self-report data on:

- school connectedness;

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<sup>1</sup> The CHKS Guidebook to Survey Administration contains detailed information about the content of the survey.

- the level of which students experience caring adult relationships, high expectations, and opportunities for meaningful participation at school, three fundamental developmental supports (protective factors) that promote positive academic outcomes; and
- perceived safety and frequency of, and reasons for, harassment and bullying at school.

These questions can be compared to staff perceptions on the California School Climate Survey.

## ***SURVEY ADMINISTRATION AND SAMPLING***

School staff administered the survey following detailed instructions provided by CDE designed to assure the protection of all student and parental rights to privacy and maintain confidentiality. Students were surveyed only with the *consent of parents or guardians*. Each student's participation was voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. Table 1.1 gives the target sample of students, and the final number and percent that completed the survey (the participation response rate).

## ***THE REPORT***

The tables in this Main CHKS Report provide the percentages responding to each question response option, organized by topic. Because it is just as important to identify the positive behaviors of youth as it is to identify the risks they face, the tables include the percentages of youth who do not engage in each risk behavior. Percentages are rounded off to the nearest whole number.

## ***AIDS TO UNDERSTANDING AND USING THE DATA***

Several guides, workshops, and other aids are available to help you understand and use survey results. These are described and made available on the survey website. Three are particularly important.

- To help in understanding and interpreting these results, a ***Survey Content Guidebook*** provides a detailed explanation of each question and its significance (why it was asked) and the potential implications for programs of the results.
- The CHKS ***Data Use and Dissemination Guidebook*** describes a step-by-step process for reviewing, analyzing, and disseminating your results as part of a data-driven decision making process for program improvement. Free call-in data use workshops are offered as well.
- A ***Workbook on Improving School Climate and Closing the Achievement Gap*** provides a practical guide to using the data in the framework of improving academic achievement and well-being among all students and closing the achievement gap. It provides examples of how to use the data to improve practice and policy. A workshop accompanying this Workbook will be available in 2010.

## ***ASSESSING THE DATA***

Care must be taken to fully understand the survey, the context within which the data were collected, and the factors that can impact the quality, validity, and generalizability of the results, the changes obtained between administrations, or differences between your results and those from other counties or state norms. The following are a few of the key issues that should be kept in mind. A more detailed discussion of these topics can be found in the ***CHKS Data Use and Dissemination Guidebook***.

### **Representativeness**

Among the most important factors affecting the quality of survey results is the level of student participation. The validity and representativeness of the results will be adversely affected if the student response rate is lower than 60%. One indication of the survey's representativeness is how accurately the sample reflects the gender and ethnic composition of the district's student enrollment. Even if the

response rate is low, the results provide an indication of what those students who did respond felt about the school and their experiences and behavior.

### **Changes Between Surveys**

Many factors may account for changes in results from administration to administration besides real changes in behavior, attitudes, or experiences among students. The change could be due to differences over time in the characteristics or size of the sample of students who completed the survey, or changes in the questions themselves, or differences in the time period in which the survey was administered (e.g., some risk behaviors tend to increase with age, and be higher after holidays or even a social event).

### ***NEXT STEPS***

Receiving this report is just a beginning step in a data-driven, decision-making process. The following describes actions you can take to analyze and use the results and provide additional information to support school- and program- improvement efforts.

#### **Request School Reports**

Individual school-level reports may be of interest for many reasons. Primary among these is the interest of staff and parents about their own local school results, especially if the schools vary significantly in demographics, programs, or other characteristics. A comparison among schools may also prove useful in identifying sites which might benefit from special work or interventions. A small fee applies. (For large districts that sample schools and students, the sample may not support school reports.)

#### **Compare with Other Data Sources**

CHKS results will be enriched if analyzed in the context of data from the California School Climate Survey and other sources, particularly in identifying consistent patterns. Other data typically collected in effectiveness studies of school climate include number and kinds of discipline referrals, school demographic information, school vandalism costs, and behavioral observations in classrooms.

#### **Discuss with Students and Staff**

Discuss the results with both students and staff to explore their meaning in more depth and obtain their input into how the school might better meet the needs identified. This is especially important because it communicates to students that you value their input into how to improve the school and gives them an opportunity for meaningful participation. As such, it helps improve their perceptions of the developmental supports and opportunities that the school offers and their school connectedness. Survey staff can provide information on conducting structured group “listening” discussions of the data with youth focused on obtaining their input on how to address the needs identified by the survey.

#### **Conduct Additional Analyses of The Dataset**

The complete dataset is available electronically for analysis (there is a small fee for preparation). The dataset enables analyses of patterns in the results, how they are interrelated, and how they vary by different subgroups of students and across schools. Particularly valuable in understanding factors that may affect student achievement is examining how other variables relate to student reports of attendance, grades, and school connectedness.

#### **Add Questions to your Next CHKS**

Determine what additional information is needed from staff to guide school improvement efforts and add questions to your next CSCS or CHKS. Both surveys were designed so that schools can add additional questions to help them conduct a more individualized and comprehensive assessment.

## ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

The CHKS was developed, and this report prepared for the county, by WestEd in collaboration with Duerr Evaluation Resources, under contract from the California Department of Education (CDE) Safe and Healthy Kids Program Office. For more information, call the toll-free helpline at 888.841.7536, or visit the website at <http://www.wested.org/chks>.

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## Sample Characteristics

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*Note: Tables 3.1 through 5.3 include results by gender.*

**Table 1.1**

***Student Sample Characteristics***

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	Grade 5
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<b>Student Sample Size</b>	
<b>Final Sample (Number of Respondents)</b>	<b>6863</b>

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**Table 2.1**  
*Age of Sample*

	Grade 5 Total %
7 years old, or younger than 7	0
8 years old	0
9 years old	1
10 years old	54
11 years old	42
12 years old	3
13 years old or older than 13	0

*Question ES 2, 4: How old are you? What grade are you in?*

**Table 2.2**  
*Gender of Sample*

	Grade 5 Total %
Female	50
Male	50

*Question ES 3: Are you female or male?*

**Table 2.3*****Number of Times Moved, Past Year***

	Grade 5 Total %
0 times	61
1 time	21
2 times or more times	18

*Question ES 5: During the past year, how many times have you moved (changed where you live)?*

**Table 2.4*****Perceived Ability With School Work***

	Grade 5 Total %
One of the best students	22
Better than most students	26
About the same as others	41
Don't do as well as most others	10

*Question ES 16: How well do you do in your school work?*

## Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Use

**Table 3.1**

***Ever Used Alcohol or Other Drugs, Lifetime***

	Grade 5		
	Female %	Male %	Total %
Alcohol, one or two sips	22	29	25
Alcohol, a full glass	2	3	3
Inhalants (to get high)	3	5	4
Marijuana	1	2	2
<i>None of the above</i>	75	67	71
<i>Any of the above</i>	25	33	29

*Questions ES 33-35: Have you ever drunk beer, wine, or other alcohol? Have you ever sniffed something through your nose to get "high?" Have you ever smoked any marijuana (pot, grass, weed)?*

**Table 3.2**

***Any Alcohol Use, Past Month***

	Grade 5		
	Female %	Male %	Total %
No	92	89	90
Yes, I drank one or two sips	7	9	8
Yes, I drank a full glass	1	2	2

*Question ES 40: In the past month, did you drink any beer, wine or other alcohol?*

**Table 3.3*****Any AOD Use Before/During School, Lifetime***

	Grade 5		
	Female %	Male %	Total %
No	99	99	99
Yes	1	1	1

*Question ES 36: Have you ever used alcohol or an illegal drug like marijuana before school or at school?*

**Table 3.4*****Perception of Health Risk of Alcohol and Marijuana Use***

	Grade 5		
	Female %	Male %	Total %
<b>Alcohol</b>			
No, not bad	3	6	5
Yes, a little bad	30	36	33
Yes, very bad	66	58	62
<b>Marijuana</b>			
No, not bad	4	5	4
Yes, a little bad	3	7	5
Yes, very bad	73	73	73
I don't know what marijuana is	20	15	18

*Question ES 38-39: Do you think drinking alcohol (beer, wine, liquor) is bad for a person's health?  
Do you think using marijuana (pot, grass, weed) is bad for a person's health?*

# Tobacco Use

**Table 4.1**

***Lifetime and Current Use of Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco***

	Grade 5		
	Female %	Male %	Total %
<b>Ever smoked a cigarette</b>	2	5	3
Part of a cigarette, like one or two puffs	2	4	3
A whole cigarette	1	1	1
Smoked a cigarette in the past month	1	3	2
Ever chewed tobacco or snuff	1	2	2

*Questions ES 31, 41, 32. Have you ever... In the past month, did you...*

**Table 4.2**

***Perception of Health Risk of Cigarette Smoking***

	Grade 5		
	Female %	Male %	Total %
No, not bad	1	2	2
Yes, a little bad	4	7	6
Yes, very bad	95	90	92

*Question ES 37: Do you think smoking cigarettes is bad for a person's health?*

## Violence and Safety

**Table 5.1**

***Perceived Feeling Safe At or Outside of School***

	Grade 5		
	Female %	Male %	Total %
<b>Do you feel safe at school?</b>			
No, never	4	6	5
Yes, some of the time	13	13	13
Yes, most of the time	26	27	27
Yes, all of the time	57	53	55
<b>Do you feel safe outside of school?</b>			
No, never	10	10	10
Yes, some of the time	21	18	19
Yes, most of the time	37	37	37
Yes, all of the time	33	35	34

*Question ES 29, 30: Do you feel safe at school? Do you feel safe outside of school?*

**Table 5.2**  
***Frequency of Being Harassed on School Property***

	Grade 5		
	Female %	Male %	Total %
<b>Been hit or pushed</b>			
No, never	63	51	57
Yes, some of the time	28	37	32
Yes, most of the time	5	8	6
Yes, all of the time	3	5	4
<b>Mean rumors spread about you</b>			
No, never	53	60	56
Yes, some of the time	34	30	32
Yes, most of the time	8	6	7
Yes, all of the time	5	4	5

*Question ES 23, 24: Do other kids hit or push you at school when they are not just playing around?  
Do other kids at school spread mean rumors or lies about you?*

**Table 5.3**  
***Frequency of Harassing on School Property, Past Year***

	Grade 5		
	Female %	Male %	Total %
<b>Have hit or pushed other kids</b>			
0 times	73	52	63
1 time	14	21	17
2 times	6	11	9
3 or more times	7	16	11
<b>Have spread mean rumors about other kids</b>			
0 times	72	74	73
1 time	17	15	16
2 times	6	5	6
3 or more times	5	5	5

*Question ES 21, 22: During the past year, how many times have you...hit or pushed other kids at school when you were not playing around? ...spread mean rumors or lies about other kids at school?*

**Table 5.4*****Cyber Bullying***

	Grade 5 Total %
No, never	92
Yes, some of the time	6
Yes, most of the time	1
Yes, all of the time	1

*Question ES 25: Do other kids at school spread mean rumors or lies about you on the internet (i.e. Facebook™, MySpace™, email, instant message)?*

**Table 5.5*****Weapons (Gun or Knife) on School Property, Past Year***

	Grade 5 Total %
<b>Brought weapon to school</b>	
No	97
Yes	3
<b>Saw another kid with a weapon at school</b>	
No	79
Yes	21

*Question ES 26-27: During the past year... did you ever bring a gun or knife to school? ...have you ever seen another kid with a gun or knife at school?*

**Table 5.6*****Frequency of Being Home Without Adult Supervision***

	Grade 5 Total %
No, never	60
Yes, some of the time	30
Yes, most of the time	6
Yes, all of the time	4

*Question ES 28: Are you home alone after school?*

**Table 5.7*****Frequency of Seat Belt and Helmet Use***

	Grade 5 Total %
<b>When you ride in a car do you wear a seat belt?</b>	
No, never	1
Yes, some of the time	6
Yes, most of the time	15
Yes, all of the time	78
<b>When you ride a bicycle do you wear a helmet?</b>	
I do not ride a bicycle	14
No, never	17
Yes, some of the time	15
Yes, most of the time	17
Yes, all of the time	36

*Question ES 7, 8: When you ride in a car do you wear a seat belt? When you ride a bicycle do you wear a helmet?*

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## Physical Health

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**Table 6.1**

***Breakfast Consumption***

	Grade 5 Total %
No	17
Yes	83

*Question ES 6: Did you eat breakfast this morning?*

**Table 6.2**

***Exercise During Week***

	Grade 5 Total %
0 days	4
1 day	3
2 days	8
3 days	13
4 days	14
5 days	17
6 or 7 days	40

*Question ES 51: How many days each week do you exercise, dance, or play sports?*

**Table 6.3*****Frequency of Daily Television Watching and Video Game Playing***

	Grade 5 Total %
None, I didn't watch TV yesterday	18
Less than 1 hour	29
About 1 hour	22
About 2 hours	17
3 or more hours	14

*Question ES 54: Yesterday, how much time did you spend watching TV or playing video games?*

**Table 6.4*****Body Image***

	Grade 5 Total %
<b>Do you think you are...</b>	
Too skinny	10
About right	73
Too fat	16
<b>Are you doing anything to try to lose weight?</b>	
No	53
Yes	47
<b>Ever been teased about your body at school?</b>	
No	67
Yes	33

*Question ES 48-50: Do you think you are too skinny, about right, or too fat? Are you doing anything to try to lose weight? Have other kids at school ever teased you about what your body looks like?*

**Table 6.5**

*Students with Asthma*

	Grade 5 Total %
No	83
Yes	17

*Question ES 53: Has a parent or some other adult ever told you that you have asthma?*

**Table 6.6**

*Asthma Symptoms While Not Exercising*

	Grade 5 Total %
No	82
Yes	18

*Question ES 52: When not exercising, do you ever have trouble breathing (for example, shortness-of-breath, wheezing, or a sense of tightness in your chest)?*

**Table 7.1**

***Summary of Resilience-promoting Protective Factors, School Connectedness, and Internal Strengths (High, Moderate, and Low Scale Scores)***

Percent of students scoring High, Moderate, and Low (%)	Grade 5		
	H	M	L
<b>Protective Factors (Developmental Supports)</b>			
<b><i>School Environment</i></b>	50	46	4
Caring Relationships: Adults in School	58	38	4
High Expectations: Adults in School	61	37	2
Meaningful Participation	15	67	18
<b><i>Home Environment</i></b>	78	21	1
Caring Relationships: Adults in Home	74	25	2
High Expectations: Adults in Home	90	9	1
Meaningful Participation	15	75	9
<b><i>Peer Environment</i></b>			
High Expectations: Pro-social peers	47	50	3
<b>School Connectedness</b>	60	36	3
<b>Internal Strengths</b>			
Empathy	37	56	7
Problem Solving	30	60	10
Goals and Aspirations	82	17	1

**Table A7.2*****School Connectedness Scale Questions***

	Grade 5 Total %
<b>I feel close to people in this school</b>	
No, never	7
Yes, some of the time	28
Yes, most of the time	35
Yes, all of the time	29
<b>I am happy to be at this school</b>	
No, never	4
Yes, some of the time	17
Yes, most of the time	32
Yes, all of the time	46
<b>I feel like I am part of this school</b>	
No, never	6
Yes, some of the time	17
Yes, most of the time	25
Yes, all of the time	52
<b>The teachers at this school treat students fairly</b>	
No, never	4
Yes, some of the time	14
Yes, most of the time	33
Yes, all of the time	49
<b>I feel safe in my school</b>	
No, never	5
Yes, some of the time	13
Yes, most of the time	27
Yes, all of the time	55

*Questions E9-12,29: Do you feel close to people at school?, Are you happy to be at this school?, Do you feel like you are part of this school?, Do teachers treat students fairly at school?, Do you feel safe at school?*

**Table A7.3*****School Protective Factors (Developmental Supports)***

<b>At my school, there is a teacher or some other adult...</b>	<b>Grade 5 Total %</b>
<b>who really cares about me (Caring Relationships)</b>	
No, never	3
Yes, some of the time	16
Yes, most of the time	25
Yes, all of the time	56
<b>who listens when I have something to say (Caring Relationships)</b>	
No, never	3
Yes, some of the time	19
Yes, most of the time	32
Yes, all of the time	45
<b>who tells me when I do a good job (High Expectations)</b>	
No, never	5
Yes, some of the time	22
Yes, most of the time	35
Yes, all of the time	38
<b>who believes that I can do a good job (High Expectations)</b>	
No, never	2
Yes, some of the time	9
Yes, most of the time	21
Yes, all of the time	69

*Questions E14-15, 17-18; Do the teacher and other grown-ups at school care about you?, Do the teachers and other grown-ups at school tell you when you do a good job?, Do the teachers and other grown-ups at school listen when you have something to say?, Do the teachers and other grown-ups at school believe that you can do a good job?*

**Table A7.3 - Continued**

***School Protective Factors (Developmental Supports)***

	Grade 5 Total %
<b>I help make class rules or choose things to do (Opportunities for Meaningful Participation)</b>	
No, never	30
Yes, some of the time	38
Yes, most of the time	20
Yes, all of the time	12
<b>I do things to be helpful at school (Opportunities for Meaningful Participation)</b>	
No, never	5
Yes, some of the time	35
Yes, most of the time	37
Yes, all of the time	23

*Question E13, 19: Do you help make class rules or choose things to do at school?, Do you do things to be helpful at school?*

**Table A7.4*****Internal Strengths***

	Grade 5 Total %
<b>I try to understand how other people feel (Empathy)</b>	
No, never	8
Yes, some of the time	32
Yes, most of the time	35
Yes, all of the time	26
<b>I feel bad when someone gets their feelings hurt (Empathy)</b>	
No, never	5
Yes, some of the time	23
Yes, most of the time	31
Yes, all of the time	40
<b>I know where to go for help with a problem (Problem Solving)</b>	
No, never	5
Yes, some of the time	13
Yes, most of the time	27
Yes, all of the time	55
<b>I try to work out problems by talking or writing (Problem Solving)</b>	
No, never	29
Yes, some of the time	30
Yes, most of the time	24
Yes, all of the time	18

*Question E42--45: Do you try to understand how other people feel?, Do you feel bad when someone gets their feelings hurt?, Do you know where to go for help?, Do you try to work out your problems by talking or writing about them?*

**Table A7.4 - Continued**

**Internal Assets**

	Grade 5 Total %
<b>I try to do my best (Goals and Aspirations)</b>	
No, never	1
Yes, some of the time	8
Yes, most of the time	21
Yes, all of the time	70
<b>I have goals and plans for the future (Goals and Aspirations)</b>	
No	8
Yes	92
<b>I plan to go to college or some other school after high school? (Goals and Aspirations)</b>	
No	6
Yes	94

*Question E46-47, 20: Do you try to do your best?, Do you have goals and plans for the future?, Do you plan to go to college or some other school after high school?*

**Table A7.5*****Home Protective Factors (Developmental Supports)***

<b>At home, there is a parent or some other adult...</b>	<b>Grade 5 Total %</b>
<b>who cares about my schoolwork (Caring Relationships)</b>	
No, never	2
Yes, some of the time	6
Yes, most of the time	12
Yes, all of the time	80
<b>who listens when I have something to say (Caring Relationships)</b>	
No, never	3
Yes, some of the time	12
Yes, most of the time	33
Yes, all of the time	52
<b>who believes that I can do a good job (High Expectations)</b>	
No, never	1
Yes, some of the time	3
Yes, most of the time	10
Yes, all of the time	85
<b>who wants me to do my best (High Expectations)</b>	
No, never	1
Yes, some of the time	3
Yes, most of the time	6
Yes, all of the time	90

*Questions E57-60: Does a parent or some other grown up at home care about your schoolwork? Does a parent or some other grown-up at home want you to do your best?, Does a parent or some other grown-up at home listen when you have something to say?*

**Table A7.5 - Continued**

***Home Protective Factors (Developmental Supports)***

	Grade 5 Total %
<b>I help at home (Opportunities for Meaningful Participation)</b>	
No, never	3
Yes, some of the time	22
Yes, most of the time	44
Yes, all of the time	32
<b>I get to make rules or choose things to do at home (Opportunities for Meaningful Participation)</b>	
No, never	25
Yes, some of the time	43
Yes, most of the time	22
Yes, all of the time	10

*Question E61- 62: Do you help at home?, Do you get to make rules or choose things to do at home?*

**Table A7.6**

***Peer Protective Factors (Developmental Supports)***

	Grade 5 Total %
<b>My best friends get into trouble (High Expectations)</b>	
No, never	34
Yes, some of the time	52
Yes, most of the time	9
Yes, all of the time	5
<b>My best friends try to do the right thing (High Expectations)</b>	
No, never	4
Yes, some of the time	19
Yes, most of the time	33
Yes, all of the time	43

*Questions E55-56: Do your best friends get into trouble?, Do your best friends try to do the right thing?*

**Table 8.1**  
**Key Indicators Recommended by CDE**

Key Indicator	5th Grade %
<b>Tobacco Use</b>	
The Percentage of students that have ever used cigarettes*	3%
<b>Drug Use</b>	
The percentage of students that have ever used marijuana**	2%
<b>Safe Schools and Violence</b>	
The percentage of students that feel very safe at school***	55%
<b>School Protective Factors</b>	
The percentage of students that report high levels of caring relationships with a teacher or other adult at their school	58%
The percentage of students that report high levels of high expectations from a teacher or other adult at their school	61%
The percentage of students that report high levels of opportunities for meaningful participation at their school	15%
The percentage of students that report high levels of personal school connectedness	60%

*\*Includes students who smoked part of a cigarette and those who smoked a whole cigarette.*

*\*\*Excludes students who answered "I don't know what marijuana is"*

*\*\*\*Elementary students are asked how often they feel safe at school rather than how safe they felt, as in the secondary survey. This table reports those students who responded, "Yes, all of the time."*