

## Youth Violence in Massachusetts 2009-2017

The Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey is a school based survey initiative funded by the CDC that monitors health-risk behaviors among youth grades 9 through 12. The MYHS is the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (MDPH) surveillance project to assess the health of youth and young adults in grades 6-12. MYRBS and MYHS are conducted concurrently on a biennially basis and include a representative sample of Massachusetts students in grades 9 – 12 and 6-12, respectively.

Numbers reported below are from both surveys, they report the percentage of students who responded “yes” to each item. The arrows indicate if change over time was statistically significant. See bottom of table for additional information.

### Demographic Characteristics of 2017 Respondents to the YHS and YBRS in Massachusetts

	Middle School (YHS) (N=3,074)	High School (YHS) (N=2,524)	High School (YRBS) (3,286)
<b>Sex</b>			
Female	1,498 (49.2%)	1,159 (49.4%)	1,632 (49.5%)
Male	1,470 (50.8%)	1,328 (50.6%)	1,642 (50.5%)
Missing	106	37	12
<b>Grade</b>			
6 <sup>th</sup> grade	931 (33.0%)		
7 <sup>th</sup> grade	1,092 (33.4%)		
8 <sup>th</sup> grade	1,024 (33.5%)		
9 <sup>th</sup> grade		784 (26.2%)	808 (26.2%)
10 <sup>th</sup> grade		586 (25.0%)	846 (25.3%)
11 <sup>th</sup> grade		586 (24.7%)	847 (24.5%)
12 <sup>th</sup> grade		546 (23.7%)	755 (23.9%)
Ungraded or Other	6 (0.1%)	10 (0.4%)	2 (0.1%)
Missing	21	12	28
<b>Race/Ethnicity *</b>			
White, non-Hispanic	1,618 (62.2%)	1,536 (64.1%)	1,500 (64.2%)
Black, non-Hispanic	202 (8.7%)	216 (9.1%)	477 (9.1%)
Hispanic or Latino	649 (19.2%)	424 (17.7%)	759 (17.6%)
Asian, non-Hispanic	222 (5.3%)	157 (5.1%)	261 (6.1%)
Other or Multiple Ethnicity, non-Hispanic	187 (4.6%)	134 (4.0%)	211 (3.0%)
Missing	196	57	78

\*Students were allowed to indicate multiple racial/ethnic categories. If Hispanic/Latino was indicated as an ethnic identification, whether alone or in combination with other ethnic categories, the student was categorized as Hispanic/Latino. The Other or Multiple Ethnicity category includes American Indian, Alaskan Natives or Pacific Islander and youth who indicated several ethnicities that did not include Hispanic/Latino.

## Violence-Related Behaviors and Experiences:

Percentage of Massachusetts Youth who reported:	Grade Level	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	Trend 2009-2017
<b>Violence-Related Behaviors</b>							
<sup>§</sup> Being in a physical fight in the past year	HS	29.2%	25.4%	20.3%	19.2%	17.8%	↓
<sup>§</sup> Carrying a weapon in the past 30 days	HS	12.8%	12.3%	11.6%	12.6%	11.1%	↔
<sup>§</sup> Being a member of a gang in the past 12 months	HS	6.8%	6.2%	6.8%	8.0%	6.9%	↔
<b>School Violence</b>							
<sup>§</sup> Being in a physical fight at school in the past 12 months	HS	8.7%	7.1%	4.6%	5.6%	5.8%	↔
<sup>§</sup> Being threatened or injured with a weapon such as gun, knife or club at school in the past 12 months	HS	7.0%	6.8%	4.3%	4.1%	4.8%	↔
<sup>§</sup> Skipping school because they felt unsafe in the past 30 days	HS	4.0%	4.8%	3.6%	4.8%	4.5%	↔
<sup>§</sup> Carrying a weapon at school in the past 30 days	HS	4.4%	3.7%	3.1%	3.2%	2.7%	↓
<b>Family Violence</b>							
<sup>^</sup> Physically hurt by someone in your family in the past 12 months	MS	10.3%	11.4%	10.4%	8.0%	8.8%	↔
<sup>^</sup> Witnessing violence in your family in the past 12 months	MS	11.1%	9.8%	9.6%	8.6%	8.2%	↓

<sup>^</sup> = MYHS    <sup>§</sup> = YRBSS    **HS** = High School, grades 9-12    **MS** = Middle School, grades 6-8  
<sup>NA</sup> = Not Available    ↔ = Change not statistically significant    ↓ = Decrease, statistically significant

## Dating and Sexual Violence:

Percentage of Massachusetts Youth who reported:	Grade Level	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	Trend 2009-2017
<b>Sexual Violence</b>							
§Ever being physically forced to have sexual intercourse	HS	--	--	--	5.5%	6.8%	NA
^Forcing sexual contact with someone who objected (i.e. initiating sexual assault) in the past 12 months	HS	--	1.4%	0.5%	0.7%	1.2%	NA
^Having sexual contact with someone who was incapacitated (passed out, asleep, too drunk or high to stop you).	HS	--	--	--	2.0%	1.0%	NA
<b>Dating Violence</b>							
§Being physically hurt by someone they were dating or going out with in the past 12 months	HS	--	--	--	6.7%	5.6%	NA
§Being forced to do sexual things by someone they were dating or going out with in the past 12 months (e.g. kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse)	HS	--	--	--	7.5%	5.8%	NA
^Ever being hurt physically by someone they were dating or going out with (among those who've ever been on a date)	MS	--	--	--	3.6%	2.5%	NA
^Ever having their activity monitored by someone they were dating or going out with (among those who've ever been on a date).	MS	--	--	--	15.5%	11.0%	NA
	HS	--	--	--	24.3%	20.5%	NA
^Initiating violence against someone they were dating or going out in the past 12 months	MS	--	2.1%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	NA
	HS	--	2.7%	1.2%	2.0%	1.8%	NA

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For additional information see: ““Health and Risk Behaviors of Massachusetts Youth, 2017 Report” at: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/01/09/health-and-risk-behaviors-mass-youth-2017.pdf>  
 MDESE and MDPH authored: “Health and Risk Behaviors of Massachusetts Youth, 2017 Report” (pending)

## Bullying:

Percentage of Massachusetts Youth who reported:	Grade Level	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	Trend 2009-2017
<b>Bullying</b>							
§Being bullied at school in the past 12 months	MS	36.4%	36.1%	36.3%	32.9%	34.0%	↔
	HS	19.4%	18.4%	16.6%	15.6%	14.6%	↓
§Being cyber-bullied in the past 12 months	MS	--	13.7%	13.6%	15.2%	14.1%	NA
	HS	--	--	13.8%	13.0%	13.6%	NA
^Initiating bullying in the past 12 months	MS	17.2%	9.9%	8.1%	5.1%	4.7%	↓
	HS	15.0%	13.1%	9.3%	6.6%	6.4%	↓
^Initiating cyber-bullying in the past 12 months	MS	--	5.6%	4.0%	3.8%	4.1%	NA
	HS	--	10.2%	5.9%	4.7%	6.4%	NA
^Thinking most people their age bully or push people around	MS	67.9%	61.4%	59.1%	54.9%	52.0%	↓
	HS	55.2%	54.0%	51.0%	47.1%	43.7%	↓

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