

LA CROSSE COUNTY YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

SUMMARY OF RESULTS 2010-2021

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has administered the YRBS in La Crosse County every two years since 1999 to monitor health risk behaviors among high school students. The YRBS is part of a national effort conducted by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The YRBS is self-administered and anonymous. 2019 and 2021 results have been weighted and cleaned according to CDC methodology.

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 2021 YRBS SURVEY?

- **Participating schools:** West Salem High, Onalaska High, Logan High, Holmen High, Central High, Bangor Middle/High
- **3,645 Student responses:** 48% Female 52% Male 15% identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and/or Transgender
- **Race breakdown of respondents:** 77% White, 9% Asian/Pacific Islander, 6% Hispanic/Latino, 3% Black/African American, 1% American Indian/Native American, 5% selected two or more races.

La Crosse County High School Students who reported...	2010	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
PROTECTIVE FACTORS						
Feel like they belong at school	73%	68%	61%	61%	64%	63%
Have at least one adult at school they could talk to with a problem	69%	71%	68%	71%	73%	68%
Have at least one supportive adult besides a parent/caregiver					85%	84%
List an adult as most likely source of emotional support					33%	29%
Participated in school activities, teams, or clubs					71%	67%
MENTAL HEALTH AND HELP SEEKING						
Felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in past 12 months	23%	29%	31%	28%	29%	31%
Significant problems with anxiety in past 12 months					48%	49%
Purposefully hurt themselves in last 12 months (self-harm)				17%	18%	20%
Most of the time or always get emotional help when needed			20%	20%	24%	22%
SUICIDAL THOUGHTS						
Seriously considered suicide in last 12 months	14%	17%	19%	15%	15%	17%
Made a suicide plan in last 12 months	10%	16%	13%	10%	12%	13%
Attempted suicide in last 12 months	8%	7%	8%	5%	7%	7%
PHYSICAL HEALTH						
Describe their physical health as excellent or very good					50%	48%
Sleep 8 or more hours a night					26%	27%
Slept 5 or less hours per night					19%	16%
Late night screen use (after midnight on a school night)					49%	50%
Spent 3+hrs/day engaged in TV, smart phone, video games or other device (non-school work)	24%	35%	38%	42%	42%	75%
Physically active 60 or more mins/day on four or more days/week	47%	49%	48%	45%	55%^	65%

La Crosse County High School Students who reported...	2010	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
BULLYING						
Bullied on school property in past 12 months	24%	30%	27%	26%	21%	17%
Electronically bullied during the past 12 months	19%	NA	22%	21%	17%	17%
SCHOOL SAFETY						
Most of the time or always felt safe at school					81%	83%
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe in the past 30 days	5%	9%	7%	6%	7%	9%
SEX AND DATING VIOLENCE						
Have ever had sex	35%	38%	32%	27%	29%	24%
Sent, received, or shared a sexually explicit photo or image in past 30 days			19%	19%	18%	15%
Ever forced to do anything sexual (kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse)					17%	11%
Ever raped					6%	7%
ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS						
Drank alcohol in past 30 days	32%	28%	24%	19%	21%	19%
Binge drank in past 30 days	20%	16%	15%	11%	8%	7%
Used marijuana in lifetime	30%	33%	31%	23%	23%	18%
Used marijuana in past 30 days	18%	18%	13%	14%	13%	11%
Ever used prescription pain drug without a doctor's permission	15%	16%	14%	10%	10%	8%
Used heroin in past 12 months	3%	3%	3%	1%	1%*	1%
Used methamphetamines in past 12 months				2%	1%**	1%
Were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property in the past 12 months	20%	16%	13%	8%	11%	8%
Attended school under the influence of alcohol or drugs					8%	6%
TOBACCO						
Smoked cigarettes in past 30 days	14%	14%	9%	6%	3%	2%
Used chewing tobacco at least once in past 30 days	5%	7%	6%	4%	3%	1%
Ever tried vaping or e-cigarette					36%	26%
Used a vape or e-cigarette in the past 30 days			14%	9%	14%	12%
Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars in past 30 days	13%	12%	9%	6%	4%	2%
Among students who vaped or used tobacco products in past 12 months, percentage who tried to quit					38%	47%
TRAFFIC SAFETY						
Rarely or never wore a seatbelt	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	4%
Texted or emailed while driving in past 30 days		49%	29%	25%	40%	40%
Drove after drinking alcohol in past 30 days	8%	7%	5%	4%	3%	3%
Rode with driver who had been drinking	23%	20%	18%	15%	11%	13%
ADVERSITY						
Experienced hunger due to lack of food at home					24%	21%
Were physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating (past 12 months)	12%	12%	6%	5%	7%	6%
Experienced hunger due to lack of food at home					24%	21%
Ever lived with a family member with mental illness						40%

* In 2019 the time frame of the question changed from lifetime .

**In 2019 the time frame of the question changed from in the past 30 days to in the past 12 months.

^ In 2019 the time frame changed from 5 days to 4 days a week.