

LA CROSSE COUNTY YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

SUMMARY OF RESULTS 2013-2023

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. 2021 and 2023 results have been weighted and cleaned according to CDC methodology. The last column indicates the 2-year trend for each indicator. The trend directions were calculated using confidence intervals provided by DPI.

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 2023 YRBS SURVEY?

- **Participating schools:** West Salem, La Crosse, Onalaska, Holmen, and Bangor
- **3,410 Student responses:** 49% Female, 51% Male, 15% identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and/or Transgender
- **Race breakdown of respondents:** 76% White, 9% Asian/Pacific Islander, 6% Hispanic/Latino, 3% Black/African American, <1% American Indian/Native American, 6% selected two or more races

| La Crosse County High School Students who reported... | 2013 | 2015 | 2017 | 2019 | 2021 | 2023 | 2-Year Trend |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|
| TRAFFIC SAFETY | | | | | | | |
| Rarely or never wore a seatbelt | 6% | 5% | 4% | 3% | 4% | 4% | ■ |
| Texted or emailed while driving in past 30 days | 49% | 29% | 25% | 40% | 40% | 46% | ■ |
| Drove after drinking alcohol in past 30 days | 7% | 5% | 4% | 3% | 3% | 6% | ■ |
| Rode with driver who had been drinking | 20% | 18% | 15% | 11% | 13% | 15% | ■ |
| SCHOOL SAFETY | | | | | | | |
| Most of the time or always felt safe at school | | | | 81% | 83% | 78% | ■ |
| Did not go to school because they felt unsafe in the past 30 days | 9% | 7% | 6% | 7% | 9% | 7% | ■ |
| BULLYING & MISTREATMENT | | | | | | | |
| Bullied on school property in past 12 months | 30% | 27% | 26% | 21% | 17% | 21% | ■ |
| Electronically bullied during the past 12 months | | 22% | 21% | 17% | 17% | 17% | ■ |
| SEXUAL HEALTH & DATING VIOLENCE | | | | | | | |
| Have ever had sex | 38% | 32% | 27% | 29% | 24% | 28% | ■ |
| Sexually active in past 3 months | | | | 21% | 18% | 21% | ■ |
| Used a condom at last sexual intercourse | | | | 61% | 59% | 63% | ■ |
| Sent, received, or shared a sexually explicit photo or image in past 30 days | | 19% | 19% | 18% | 15% | 18% | ■ |
| Ever forced to do anything sexual (kissing, touching, or sexual intercourse) | | | | 17% | 11% | 10% | ■ |
| Ever been raped | | | | 6% | 7% | 7% | ■ |
| MENTAL HEALTH & HELP SEEKING | | | | | | | |
| Felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in past 12 months | 29% | 31% | 28% | 29% | 31% | 29% | ■ |
| Significant problems with anxiety in past 12 months | | | | 48% | 49% | 48% | ■ |
| Purposefully hurt themselves in last 12 months (self-harm) | | | 17% | 18% | 20% | 20% | ■ |
| Most of the time or always get emotional help when needed | | 20% | 20% | 24% | 22% | 24% | ■ |
| List an adult as most likely source of emotional support | | | | 33% | 29% | 32% | ■ |
| SUICIDE & SUICIDAL THOUGHTS | | | | | | | |
| Seriously considered suicide in last 12 months | 17% | 19% | 15% | 15% | 17% | 16% | ■ |
| Made a suicide plan in last 12 months | 16% | 13% | 10% | 12% | 13% | 12% | ■ |
| Attempted suicide in last 12 months | 7% | 8% | 5% | 7% | 7% | 6% | ■ |

KEY: ■ No statistically significant change ■ Moving in the wrong direction ■ Moving in the right direction

| La Crosse County High School Students who reported... | 2013 | 2015 | 2017 | 2019 | 2021 | 2023 | 2-Year Trend |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|
| PROTECTIVE FACTORS | | | | | | | |
| Agree or strongly agree they belong at school | 68% | 61% | 61% | 64% | 63% | 62% | ■ |
| Have at least one teacher or other adult at school to talk to | 71% | 68% | 71% | 73% | 68% | 73% | ■ |
| Have at least one supportive adult besides a parent(s) | | | | 85% | 84% | 84% | ■ |
| Participated in school activities, teams, or clubs | | | | 71% | 67% | 68% | ■ |
| ADVERSITY | | | | | | | |
| Witnessed an attack in their neighborhood | | | | | 13% | 14% | ■ |
| Experienced hunger due to lack of food at home in past 30 days | | | | 24% | 21% | 22% | ■ |
| Lived in 4 more more residences | | | | 33% | 33% | 33% | ■ |
| Do not have an adult who provides for their basic needs | | | | | 7% | 7% | ■ |
| Ever lived with someone with a mental illness | | | | | 40% | 41% | ■ |
| TOBACCO & VAPING | | | | | | | |
| Smoked cigarettes in past 30 days | 14% | 9% | 6% | 3% | 2% | 3% | ■ |
| Used chewing tobacco at least once in past 30 days | 7% | 6% | 4% | 3% | 1% | 3% | ■ |
| Ever tried vaping or e-cigarette | | | | 36% | 26% | 26% | ■ |
| Used a vape or e-cigarette in the past 30 days | | 14% | 9% | 14% | 12% | 13% | ■ |
| Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars in past 30 days | 12% | 9% | 6% | 4% | 2% | 5% | ■ |
| Among students who vaped or used tobacco products in past 12 months, percentage who tried to quit | | | | 38% | 47% | 52% | ■ |
| ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS | | | | | | | |
| Drank alcohol in past 30 days | 28% | 24% | 19% | 21% | 19% | 25% | ■ |
| Binge drank in past 30 days | 16% | 15% | 11% | 8% | 7% | 11% | ■ |
| Used marijuana in lifetime | 33% | 31% | 23% | 23% | 18% | 22% | ■ |
| Used marijuana in past 30 days | 18% | 13% | 14% | 13% | 11% | 14% | ■ |
| Used heroin in past 12 months | | | | 1%* | 1% | 1% | ■ |
| Used methamphetamines in past 12 months | | | | 1%** | 1% | 1% | ■ |
| Ever used prescription pain drug without a doctor's permission | 16% | 14% | 10% | 8% | 8% | 9% | ■ |
| Were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property in the past 12 months | 16% | 13% | 8% | 11% | 8% | 11% | ■ |
| Attended school under the influence of alcohol or drugs | | | | 8% | 6% | 8% | ■ |
| PHYSICAL HEALTH, SLEEP & SCREEN TIME | | | | | | | |
| Describe their physical health as excellent or very good | | | | 50% | 48% | 48% | ■ |
| Physically active 60 or more mins/day on 4 or more days/week | 49% | 48% | 45% | 55%^ | 65% | 64% | ■ |
| Sleep 8 or more hours a night | | | | 26% | 27% | 28% | ■ |
| Sleep 5 or less hours per night | | | | 19% | 16% | 15% | ■ |
| Late night screen use (after midnight on a school night) | | | | 49% | 50% | 50% | ■ |
| Spent 3+hrs/day engaged in TV, smart phone, video games or other device (non-school work) | 35% | 38% | 42% | 42% | 75% | 78% | ■ |
| Saw a dentist in past 12 months | | | | 78% | 77% | 78% | ■ |
| STUDENT EMPLOYMENT | | | | | | | |
| Worked at least 1 hour per week at a job outside the home | | | | | 47% | 55% | *** |
| Work 10-19 hours per week at a job outside the home | | | | | 17% | 20% | *** |
| Work 20+ hours per week at a job outside the home | | | | | 8% | 9% | *** |

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^ In 2019 the time frame changed from 5 days to 4 days a week. * 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. *** Cannot be assessed.