

ADAMS COUNTY YOUTH INITIATIVE



February 28, 2017

Adams County Youth Initiative Partners –

The Adams County Youth Initiative (ACYI) is honored to continue our partnership to support you by providing the results of the 2016 Adams County Student Survey (ACSS).

The Adams County Student Survey has been administered each of the past nine school years (2008- 2016) to students in grades 6 through 12. Beginning last year, 2015, the ACSS expanded its reach and launched its elementary version, surveying students in grades 3-5 across our five partner school districts. This unique, annual, census-level survey is one of the most comprehensive in the country – with approximately 27,000 students completing it annually, and an average response rate of 75 percent.

Originally, ACYI began providing this service to schools and districts with the aim of filling a significant data void in our region. While we are pleased to have done this and still look forward to meeting this need, we have also taken time to reflect on ACYI's role in the annual survey process, carefully considering how to add further value to our partnership. ACYI's overall role within the partnership is to guide a shared vision and goals, to support continuous improvement across our partnership and to advance policy and mobilize funding to improve student outcomes across the six cradle to career outcomes (kindergarten readiness, 3rd grade reading, 8th grade math, high school graduation, post-secondary enrollment and post-secondary completion). We know that healthy communities closely monitor these key outcome areas and ACYI is proud to support improvement toward these ends.

In this vein, ACYI is currently working through how to more closely align the ACSS with the work of moving the needle on cradle to career outcomes while still ensuring it fulfills the unique needs of each of our partner school districts. As we consider the best next steps to take the ACSS to the next level we welcome your input and feedback on the survey content, implementation process, reports, and/or how to most effectively utilize the results. We look forward to your thoughts on how to improve and add value to your work, and ultimately student success in the future.

Sincerely,

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Adams County Student Survey



County-Level Results

2016-2017

Prepared by Improvement Assurance
Group, LLC on behalf of ACYI

ADAMS COUNTY

YOUTH INITIATIVE

cradle+career



Disclaimer

The 2016 Adams County Student Survey was customized by school district. Customization offered each district the opportunity to glean important information related to grants, specific programs, outcomes or factors that they believed would be beneficial to understand from the student perspective. The focus of this county-level report is to highlight the outcomes of the ACSS that apply to the entire ACYI partnership. As such, only the survey items included in all five district instruments are reported here.

Additionally, please note that after thoughtful reflection, ACYI has calculated the county response rate differently this year than in years past. As students have always been permitted to skip items they did not want to answer, past practice has been to remove those “non-response” or blank items when analyzing the response rates for each question. This year, ACYI carefully considered this practice and decided to align its survey analysis with its core values around student voice. ACYI is firmly committed to administering and reporting the Adams County Student Survey as a means of elevating the voices of our most important stakeholders; our students. In this vein, ACYI determined its best practice to leave all student responses in the sample. In so doing, the overall sample size for each question is truly representative of the students who took the survey and the response rate is reflective of the percentage of students who took the survey that answered in the reported categories (The reported categories are notes for each question.).

To ensure this shift did not have any inadvertent or adverse effects, a secondary analysis of the sample was also run that is congruent with past practice. Though that data is not included in this report, it did confirm that questions showing a significant change in student response from 2015 to 2016 demonstrated the same trend when analyzed both ways. The idea of trend is what is most important and should be the focus of analysis when accounting for 2015 to 2016 changes in data.

When consuming this information please bear the following in mind:

1. The ACSS, in its present form relies on students reporting behaviors, attitudes and incidences. While high school students are often more likely to self-report than their middle school aged peers, the self-reported accounts contained in the information presented in this report may not be fully accurate.
2. Evidence of survey fatigue is present in the data set, indicating that students may have become disengaged during the survey session. As a result, the following data, although valuable, should be consumed with caution.
3. The Spanish and English survey versions were not congruent with one another. Questions were asked in the Spanish language version that were not included in the English language version and vice versa. Additionally, the question sequence between the two instruments was different. As a result, only the questions to which the majority of respondents answered have been included in this report. The adjustment to question sequence in the Spanish language version may have impacted student responses and the data should be consumed with appropriate caution.
4. Additionally, bear in mind that customization to the 2016 ACSS instruments led to significant variation in each districts’ survey tools. While the information included in this report is limited to survey items contained in each of the five participating district instruments, variability is likely to still exist. As each instrument asked questions in a different order and each were of varying overall length, survey fatigue, framing, and priming may have impacted the reliability of the results.
5. In the year to year comparison, percent changes (2015 to 2016) will be larger than they have been in years past due to all students being included in the sample. The trend (overall increase or decrease in student responses) is what is most important here, not the specific percentage change.

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Methods/Sample

Response Rates:

Across all five partner school districts, **35,586** students completed the Adams County Student Survey. Students who participated ranged in grade from **3rd through 12th**. As of the 2016 "October Count", enrollment of participating grades/schools was **42,487**. Given this year's enrollment and the number of students who participated, the **overall response rate** for the 2016 ACSS was **83.75%**.

In survey work, utilizing a census-based administration, a high response rate is required. High response rates achieve adequate power to demonstrate changes from one year to the next and to ensure that the sample who took part in the survey is representative of the larger population (i.e., all students). Whether differences exist between those students who responded to the survey compared to those who did not is not known. Therefore, care must be taken in generalizing the results to the entire school population.

Table 1 represents the number of students who completed the survey and the response rate in each grade level.

Table 1: Response Rate by Grade Level

Grade	# of	# Enrolled	Response %
3	1,518	1,570	96.68%
4	1,549	1,559	99.36%
5	1,557	1,607	96.89%
6	5,154	5,442	94.70%
7	4,907	5,516	88.96%
8	5,040	5,447	92.53%
9	4,731	5,773	81.95%
10	4,296	5,396	79.61%
11	3,797	5,139	73.88%
12	3,037	5,038	60.28%

Survey Sample Characteristics:

The gender distribution of the students surveyed was **48.9% female, 49.1% male and 0.9% transgender**. The following tables present, in more detail, the demographic makeup of the students who responded to the survey.

Table 2 shows the racial/ethnic background of the students who completed the survey for the school. Students could choose more than one category. Students were asked separately if they were Hispanic or Latino.

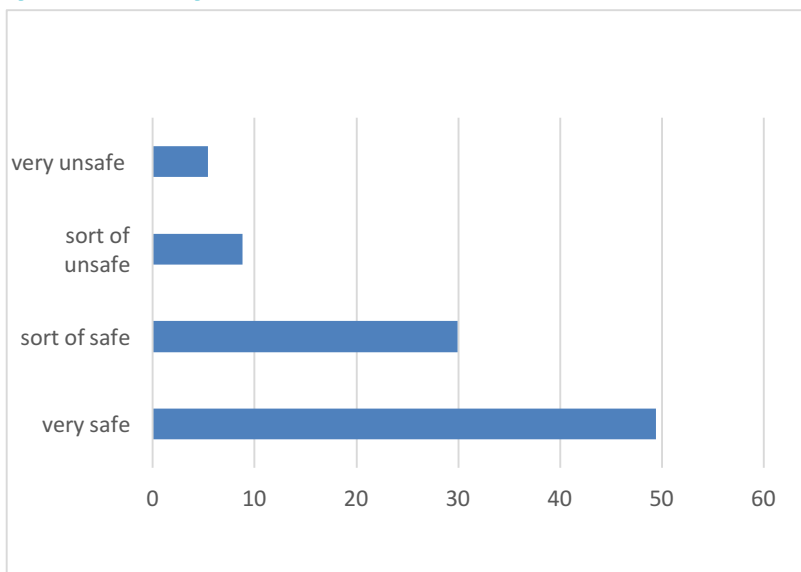
Table 2: Respondent Self-reported Race/Ethnicity

Race	
American Indian or Alaska Native	8.3%
Asian	6.2%
Black or African American	5.7%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2.0%
White	49.9%
Other	39.8%
Ethnicity	
Hispanic or Latino	47.8%

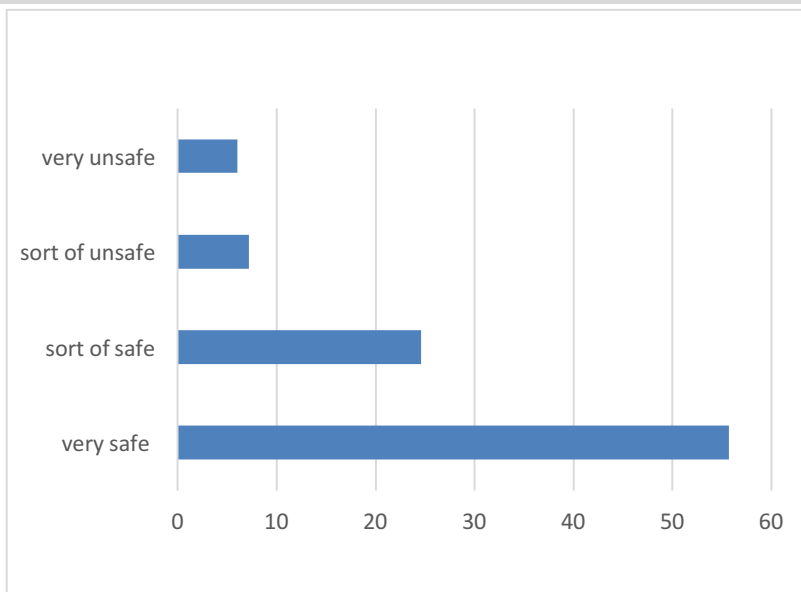
**Because students could choose more than one race, the percentages may not total 100%.*

Elementary School Key Items

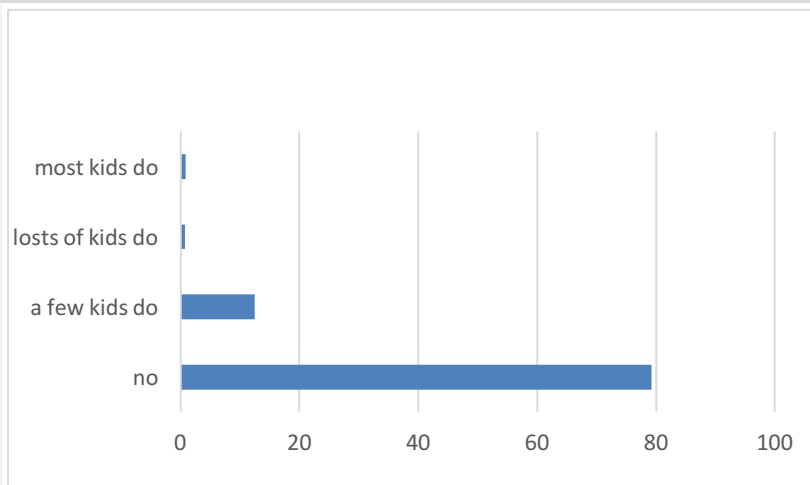
Do you feel safe at school? (Percent response by category.)



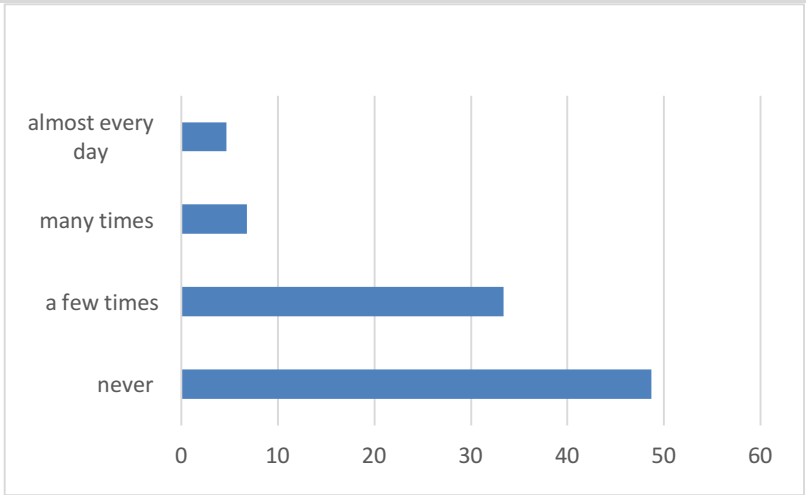
Do you feel safe on your way to and from school? (Percent response by category.)



Do you think there are kids in your class who use drugs or alcohol? (Percent response by category.)



Have you been bullied at school? (Percent response by category.)

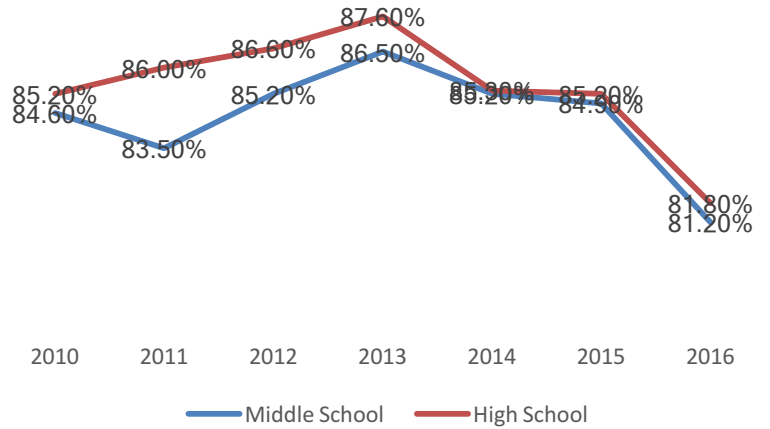


Middle and High School Key Items – Yearly Trends

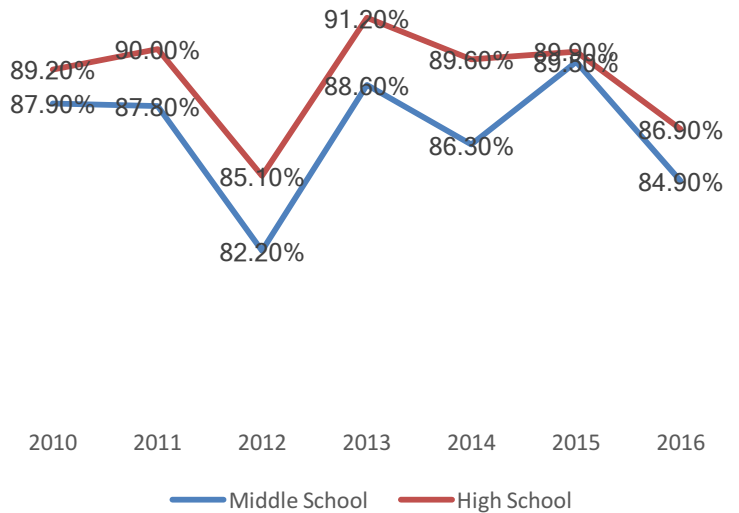
Survey Item

Yearly Changes

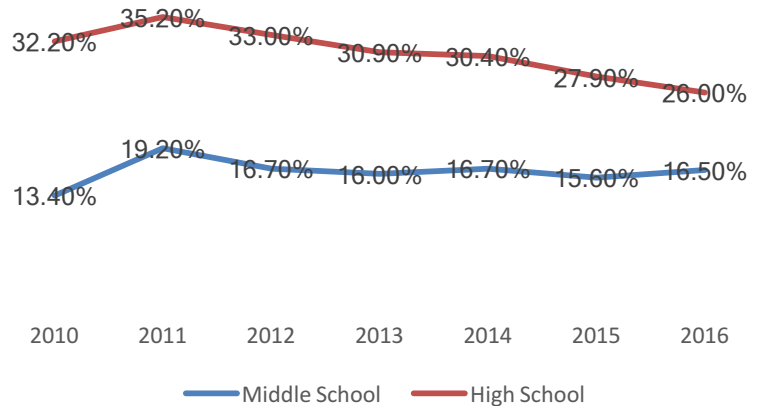
I feel safe at my school. (Percent that “agree” or “strongly agree”)



I feel safe on my way to and from school. (Percent that “agree” or “strongly agree”)



How many whole days of school have you missed because you skipped or “cut” (not because you were sick or had an excused absence)? (Percent responding one or more days in the past 30 days)

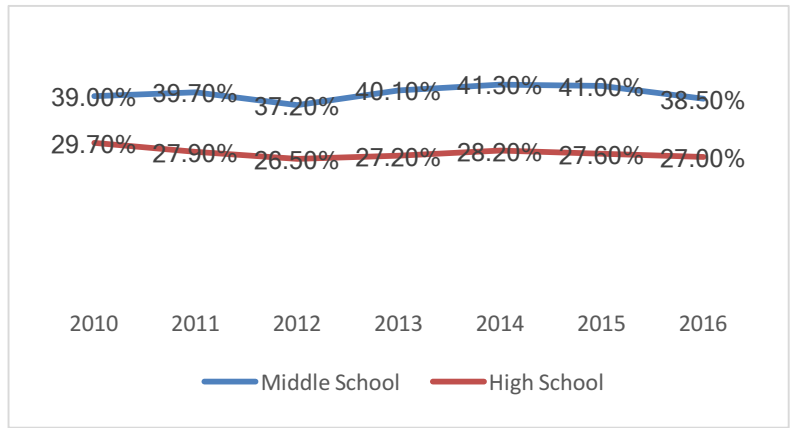


Survey Item

Yearly Changes

Have you been harassed or bullied on school property?

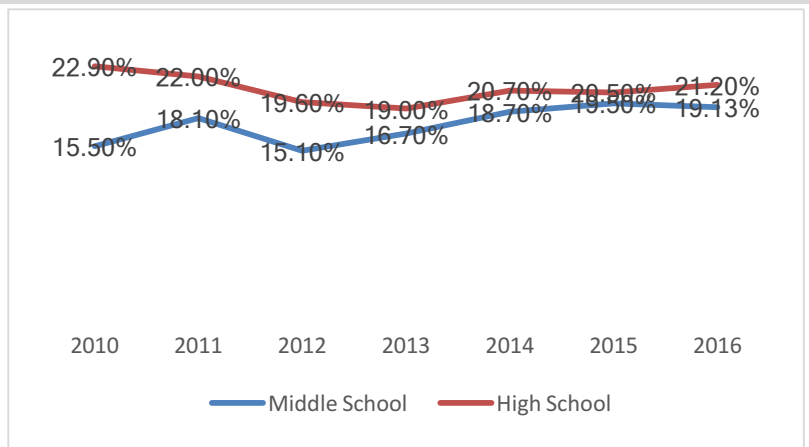
(Percent responding **one or more times** in the past 12 months)



"Electronic Bullying":

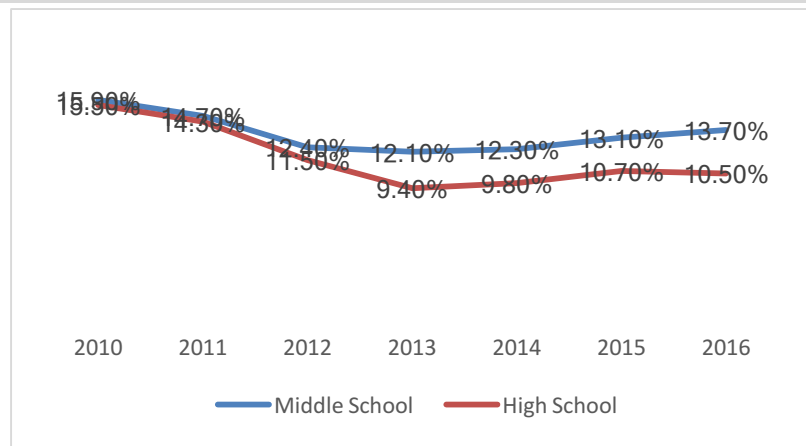
Have you been insulted or threatened by others using the internet or a cell phone?

(Percent responding **one or more times** in the past 12 months)



Were you in a physical fight on school property?

(Percent responding **one or more times** in the past 12 months)



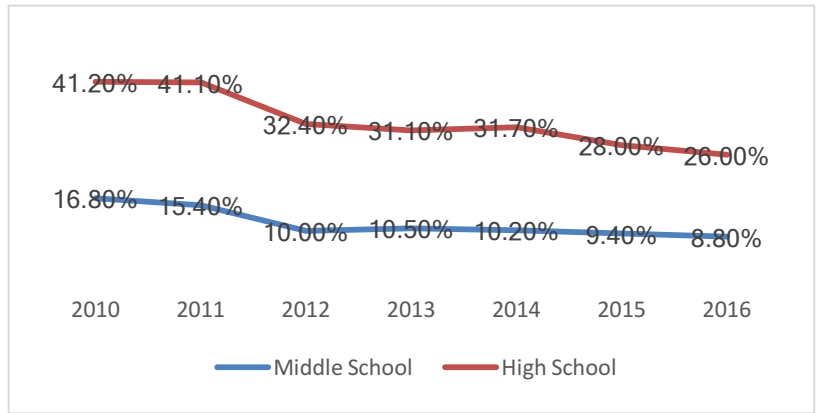
Survey Item

Yearly Changes

Alcohol Use:

How many days in the past 30 did you use alcohol?

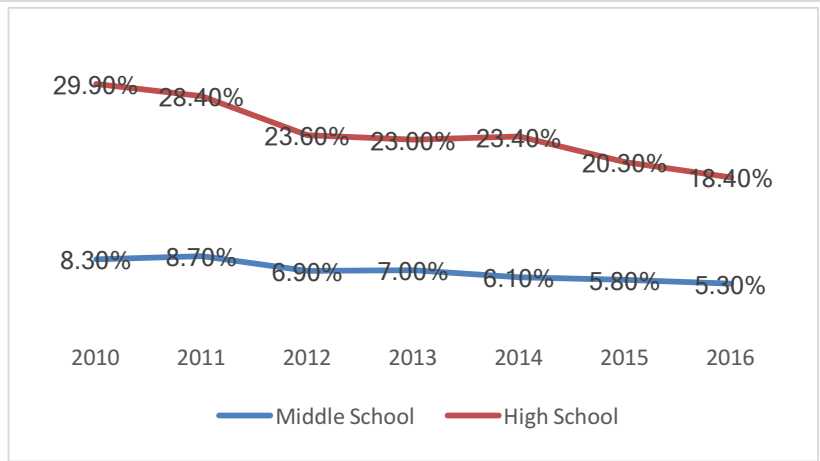
(Percent responding one or more days)



Marijuana Use:

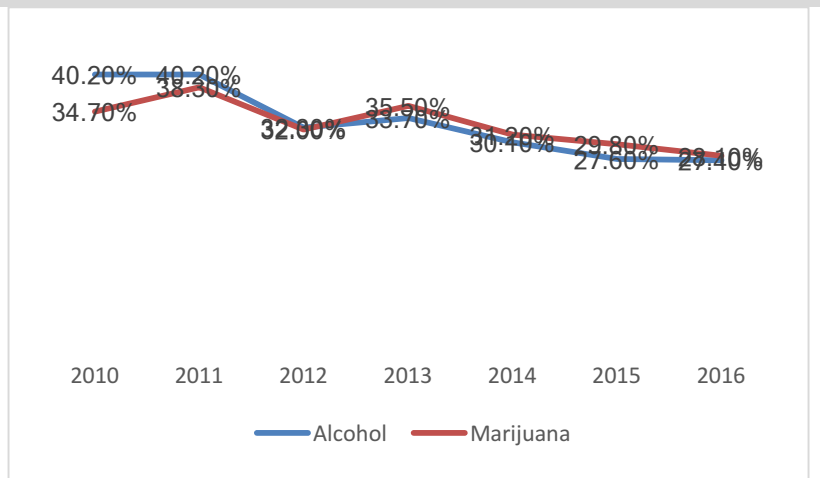
How many days in the last 30 did you use marijuana?

(Percent responding one or more days)



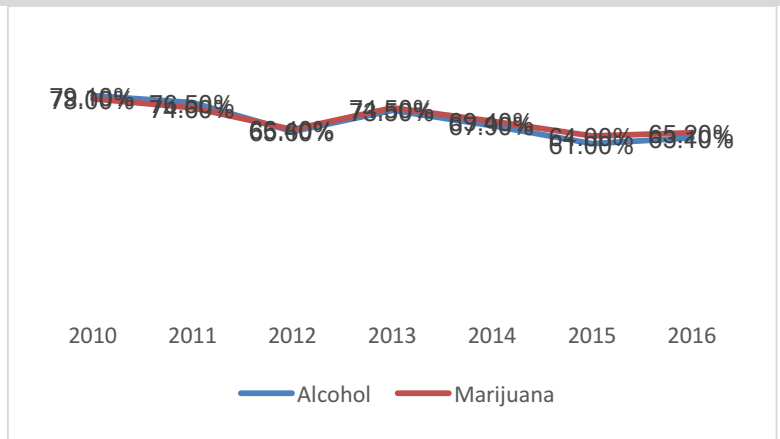
"Social Norms" - Middle School:
How many days in the past 30 do you think a typical student at your school used alcohol?
 (Percent responding one or more days)

How many days in the past 30 do you think a typical student at your school used marijuana?
 (Percent responding one or more days)



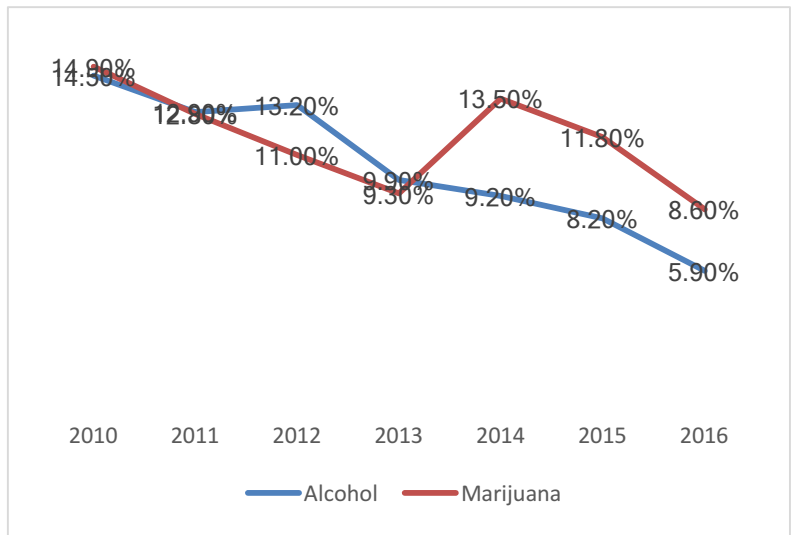
"Social Norms" - High School:
How many days in the past 30 do you think a *typical* student at your school used alcohol? (Percent responding one or more days)

How many days in the past 30 do you think a *typical* student at your school used marijuana?
 (Percent responding one or more days)



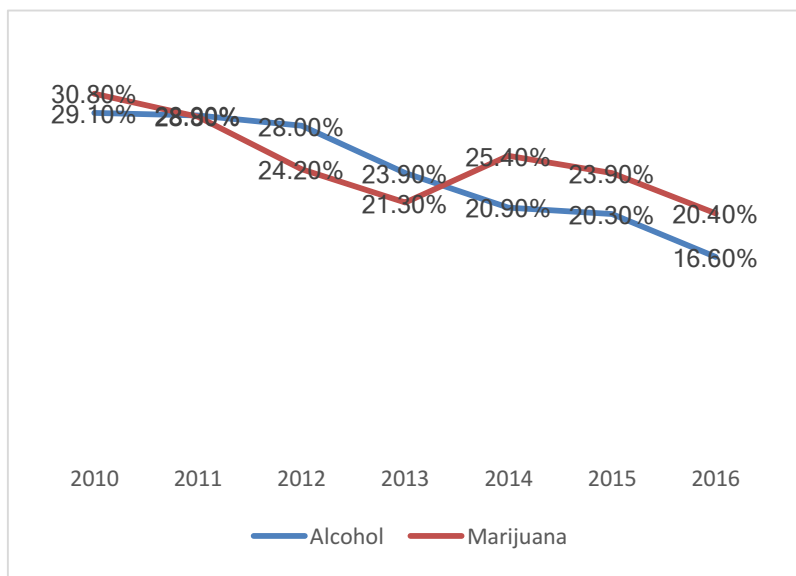
(High School Only)
How many times did you drive a car or other vehicle when you had been drinking alcohol?
 (Percent responding one or more days in the past 30 days)

How many times did you drive a car or other vehicle when you had been using marijuana?
 (Percent responding one or more days in the past 30 days)



(High School Only)
How many times did you ride in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?
 (Percent responding one or more days in the past 30 days)

How many times did you ride in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been using marijuana?
 (Percent responding one or more days in the past 30 days)



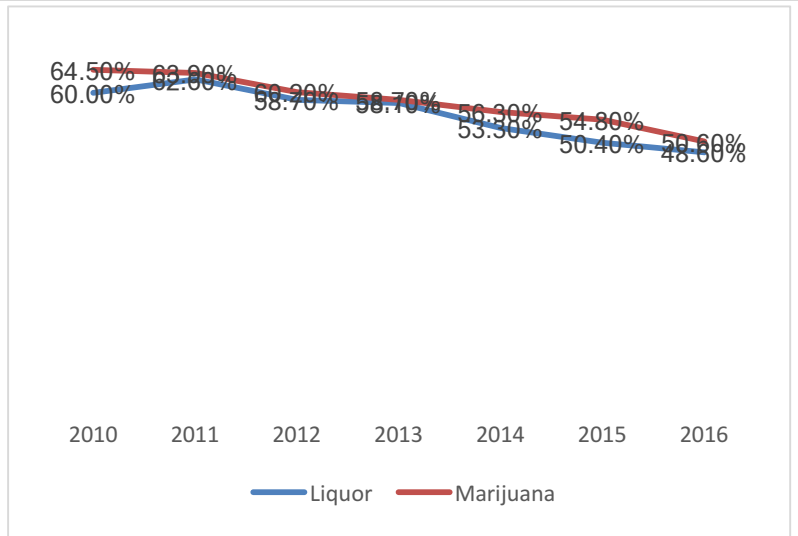
(High School Only)

If you wanted to get some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or gin) how easy would it be for you to get some?

(Percent responding "very easy" or "sort of easy")

If you wanted to get some marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some?

(Percent responding "very easy" or "sort of easy")



Elementary School - All Results

The elementary version of the ACSS is still in its pilot phase. The results below demonstrate the County aggregate based on the available data however only four of the five Partner Districts participated in the elementary survey and of those, only one included all elementary schools. Year over year data is not presented for this pilot instrument due to significant changes in sample size from the inaugural pilot in 2015-16 to the expanded pilot in 2016-17. Additionally, response rates may not total 100% as students were permitted to skip questions.

During the past year, how many times...

Answer Options	County Response Percent			
	Never	A few times	Many Times	Almost Every Day
have you been bullied while at school?	48.7%	33.4%	6.8%	4.7%
has anyone hit, kicked, or punched you while at school?	58.2%	28.2%	4.8%	1.7%
has a classmate said bad things about you that hurt your feelings?	37.1%	37.7%	12.3%	4.5%
have you hit, punched, or kicked someone while at school?	78.3%	11.3%	1.2%	.6%
have you said bad or mean things about other kids to hurt their feelings?	76.1%	14.0%	1.2%	.6%

If another kids hits you or kicks you, do you think it is okay to hit or kick them back?

Answer Options	County Response Count	County Response Percent
Yes	295	6.2%
No	3222	68.2%
Sometimes	892	18.9%

Do kids at your school tell teachers when other kids are being bullied?

Answer Options	County Response Count	County Response Percent
Always	1073	22.7%
Usually	1367	28.9%
Sometimes	1560	33.0%
Never	359	7.6%

When kids are being bullied at school, how often do teachers or other adults try to stop it?

Answer Options	County Response Count	County Response Percent
Always	2051	43.4%
Usually	1057	22.4%
Sometimes	943	20.0%
Never	329	7.0%

If another student was doing something bad or dangerous, would you tell an adult?

Answer Options	County Response Count	County Response Percent
Always	3022	64.0%
Usually	648	13.7%
Sometimes	490	10.4%
Never	285	6.0%

Do you feel safe at your school?

Answer Options	County Response Count	County Response Percent
Very Safe	2333	49.4%
Sort of Safe	1414	29.9%
Sort of Unsafe	417	8.8%
Very Unsafe	253	5.4%

Do you feel safe on your way to and from school?

Answer Options	County Response Count	County Response Percent
Very Safe	2632	55.7%
Sort of Safe	1160	24.6%
Sort of Unsafe	338	7.2%
Very Unsafe	284	6.0%

Are you ever afraid to go to school because of a bully?

Answer Options	County Response Count	County Response Percent
Never	2887	61.1%
Sometimes	1204	25.5%
A lot of times	180	3.8%
Always	162	3.4%

How much do you like school?

Answer Options	County Response Count	County Response Percent
A lot	2384	50.5%
A little bit	1243	26.3%
Not very much	446	9.4%
Not at all	380	8.0%

Do you have trouble with your schoolwork or homework?

Answer Options	County Response Count	County Response Percent
A lot	477	10.1%
A little bit	1776	37.6%
Not very much	1287	27.3%
Not at all	894	18.9%

Do you think there are kids in your class who use drugs or alcohol?

Answer Options

County Response Count

County Response Percent

No	3741	79.2%
A few kids do	588	12.5%
Lots of kids do	31	.7%
Most kids do	36	.8%

Do you think it is bad for a kid your age to use drugs or alcohol?

Answer Options

County Response Count

County Response Percent

No	1066	22.6%
Yes	3261	69.1%
Sort of	108	2.3%

During the past school year has anyone tried to offer you drugs at school?

Answer Options

County Response Count

County Response Percent

Yes	182	3.9%
No	4215	89.3%

During the past month, did you ever bring a weapon to school?

Answer Options

County Response Count

County Response Percent

Yes	111	2.4%
No	4298	91.0%

Are there any gangs at your school?

Answer Options

County Response Count

County Response Percent

Yes	531	11.2%
No	1537	32.5%
Do not know	2367	50.1%

At home is there a parent or other adult who makes sure you do your homework?

Answer Options

County Response Count

County Response Percent

Always	3125	66.2%
Usually	663	14.0%
Sometimes	376	8.0%
Never	276	5.8%

Can you calm yourself down when you are getting mad or sad?

Answer Options

County Response Count

County Response Percent

Always

1191

25.2%

Usually

1424

30.2%

Sometimes

1416

30.0%

Never

410

8.7%

Can you tell when other people are feeling mad or sad?

Answer Options

County Response Count

County Response Percent

Always

1553

32.9%

Usually

1572

33.3%

Sometimes

1092

23.1%

Never

240

5.1%

Is it easy for you to make friends?

Answer Options

County Response Count

County Response Percent

Always

1590

33.7%

Usually

1275

27.0%

Sometimes

1217

25.8%

Never

370

7.8%

Middle School - All Results by Year

County level averages are displayed for each ACSS item in the tables below. In 2016, the response percent for items that have changed in a desirable direction (up or down depending on the item and it's wording) are noted in **purple**. Items for which the response percent has changed in an undesirable direction (up or down depending on the item and it's wording) are shown in **orange**. **Only items with a change in response rate greater than 1.0% have been coded as desirable or undesirable.** Please use caution when interpreting the changes in results as the sample size from one year to another is variable.

Bullying and Fighting

Percent responding 1 or more times (in the past 12 months)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Have you been harassed or bullied on school property?	39.00%	39.70%	37.20%	40.10%	41.30%	41.00%	38.50%
Has someone tried to hurt you by hitting, punching, or kicking you while on school property?	29.90%	29.00%	26.80%	28.50%	29.10%	31.50%	31.30%
Has a classmate said bad things about you to hurt your reputation or friendships with others?	48.60%	47.40%	44.70%	46.40%	48.60%	50.70%	49.30%
Have you been insulted or threatened by others using the internet or a cell phone?	15.50%	18.10%	15.10%	16.70%	18.70%	19.50%	19.13%
Has someone said something bad about you because of your weight, size, gender or physical appearance?	42.40%	42.60%	41.80%	40.90%	40.80%	37.90%	34.40%
Have you hit, punched, or kicked someone while on school property?	28.00%	27.10%	22.40%	20.60%	20.50%	22.20%	22.50%
Have you said bad things about others to hurt their reputation or friendships?	22.40%	22.70%	18.80%	17.50%	20.00%	20.20%	19.90%
Have you insulted or threatened others using the internet or a cell phone?	6.80%	7.40%	5.70%	5.70%	6.70%	6.30%	6.20%
Were you in a physical fight on school property?	15.90%	14.70%	12.40%	12.10%	12.30%	13.10%	13.70%

School Safety

Percent agreeing with the statement.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
I feel safe at my school.	84.60%	83.50%	85.20%	86.50%	85.20%	84.90%	81.20%
I feel safe on my way to and from school.	87.90%	87.80%	82.20%	88.60%	86.30%	89.50%	84.90%

Percent responding 1 or more days (in the past 30 days)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
How many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?	11.50%	13.20%	11.80%	12.50%	12.50%	12.70%	13.90%

Gang Involvement and Weapons

Percent responding "yes"

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Are there any gangs at your school?	21.80%	22.00%	17.00%	14.70%	13.90%	14.00%	10.60%
I currently belong to a gang.	4.30%	5.40%	3.70%	3.00%	3.50%	3.30%	2.60%
I have been pressured to join a gang at my school.	7.20%	7.50%	6.40%	5.30%	5.60%	4.80%	3.20%

Percent responding 1 or more days (in the past 30 days)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
How many days did you carry a weapon on school property?	3.80%	5.10%	4.10%	3.30%	3.10%	2.60%	1.8%

Substance Use

Percent responding 1 or more days (in the past 30 days)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
How many days did you smoke cigarettes?	6.20%	6.20%	4.20%	3.00%	2.40%	2.40%	2.10%
How many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?	16.80%	15.40%	10.00%	10.50%	10.20%	9.40%	8.80%
How many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol on school property?	2.70%	2.50%	1.20%	1.20%	0.70%	1.50%	1.50%
How many days did you have 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours?	5.90%	5.80%	3.00%	3.40%	2.40%	2.80%	2.80%
How many days did you use marijuana?	8.30%	8.70%	6.90%	7.00%	6.10%	5.80%	5.30%
How many days did you use marijuana on school property?	2.80%	2.60%	1.70%	1.80%	1.10%	1.60%	1.60%
How many days did you consume an edible product (food, candy, etc.) that contained marijuana?							3.4%
How many days did you use gelosin (also known as "glo", or "gels")?							1.2%
How many days did you take a prescription stimulant without a doctor's prescription, such as ritalin or adderall.?						1.60%	2.50%
How many days did you take another prescription drug without a doctor's prescription, such as painkillers (like oxycontin, codeine, or percocet) or depressants (like valium or xanax)?	5.70%	5.00%	3.40%	1.90%	3.70%	4.10%	3.80%
How many days did you use methamphetamines (also known as crank, crystal meth, and ice)?	2.50%	1.90%	1.20%	1.40%	0.70%	1.60%	1.60%

Perceptions of Peer Substance Use: "Social Norms"

Percent responding 1 or more days (in the past 30 days)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
How many days do you think a typical student at your school smoked cigarettes?	40.30%	41.00%	41.00%	33.20%	27.50%	25.20%	24.30%
How many days do you think a typical student at your school used alcohol?	40.20%	40.20%	32.30%	33.70%	30.10%	27.60%	27.40%
How many days do you think a typical student at your school used marijuana?	34.70%	38.30%	32.00%	35.50%	31.20%	29.80%	28.10%
How many days do you think a typical student at your school had 5 or more drinks in a row?	24.00%	26.50%	19.40%	19.60%	17.50%	16.40%	16.00%
How many days do you think a typical student at your school took a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription?					22.70%	21.70%	23.40%

Percent responding "yes."

Has anyone offered, sold or given you an illegal drug on school property?	14.40%	14.40%	12.20%	12.70%	11.40%	8.70%	6.90%
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Percent responding, "very easy or sort of easy"

If you wanted to get alcohol, how easy would it be for you to get some					24.90%	23.50%	22.20%
If you wanted to get marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some					23.40%	19.90%	17.60%

Teacher Support

Percent agreeing with the statement.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
There is at least one teacher or adult at this school whom I can talk to if I have a problem.	71.30%	71.40%	72.50%	73.30%	73.70%	77.90%	76.50%
Students tell teachers when other students are being bullied.	51.30%	51.40%	54.40%	53.90%	54.50%	57.10%	56.50%
If another student brought a gun to school, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	81.70%	80.50%	82.40%	83.70%	84.90%	89.30%	85.10%
If another student was involved in unsafe or dangerous behavior, I would report it anonymously (without anyone knowing it was me).	85.00%	83.10%	84.90%	77.90%	78.50%	82.80%	78.10%

Support at Home – Substance Use Discussion, Caring Relationships Scale

Percent responding “yes” (in the past 12 months)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Have you talked with at least one of your parents about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use?				52.90%	54.50%	55.00%	<u>48.80%</u>

Percent responding “pretty much true” or “very much true”

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
In my home there is a parent or some other adult who is interested in my school work.	80.40%	77.60%	78.30%	80.80%	81.80%	81.40%	<u>74.10%</u>
In my home there is a parent or some other adult who talks with me about my problems.	71.70%	71.00%	73.40%	73.30%	73.40%	73.20%	<u>65.70%</u>
In my home there is a parent or some other adult who listens to me when I have something to say.	77.70%	77.50%	78.40%	79.80%	79.10%	79.40%	<u>72.40%</u>
In my home there is a parent or other adult who expects me to follow the rules.	90.80%	91.90%	92.30%	92.00%	92.10%	92.40%	<u>85.20%</u>
In my home there is a parent or some other adult who believes that I will be a success.	89.90%	90.80%	91.70%	90.80%	90.90%	90.40%	<u>82.70%</u>

Percent responding “pretty much true” or “very much true”

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Outside of my home or school there is an adult who really cares about me.		85.20%	86.90%	89.40%	87.90%	87.20%	<u>80.80%</u>
Outside of my home or school there is an adult who I trust.		82.00%	84.20%	86.20%	84.50%	84.60%	<u>78.00%</u>
Outside of my home or school there is an adult who tells me when I do a good job.		81.50%	83.60%	85.20%	84.10%	82.60%	<u>76.70%</u>
Outside of my home or school there is an adult who believes that I will be a success.		85.40%	87.20%	89.00%	88.20%	86.80%	<u>80.10%</u>

Social Support; Community Engagement

Percent agreeing with the statement.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
At my school there is at least one other student who accepts me just the way I am.				87.40%	87.20%	88.30%	<u>83.50%</u>
At my school there is at least one other student who helps me make good decisions for my future.				76.30%	75.20%	77.40%	<u>73.60%</u>
At my school there is at least one other student who helps me avoid drugs and alcohol.				77.50%	76.30%	77.90%	<u>71.90%</u>

Percent responding “yes” (in the past year)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Do you participate in after school activities such as clubs or sports on the school campus?				25.10%	37.10%	37.40%	<u>33.80%</u>
Do you participate in off-campus activities such as clubs or sports (for example, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, community center, or with a faith-based group)?				30.90%	46.30%	46.20%	<u>42.50%</u>
During the summer break, do you participate in organized activities such as a summer camp or sports?				44.10%	54.60%	54.00%	<u>50.00%</u>

Truancy; Graduation and College Goals

Percent responding 1 or more days (in the past 30 days)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
How many whole days of school have you missed because you skipped or "cut" (not because you were sick or had an excused absence)?	13.40%	19.20%	16.70%	16.00%	16.70%	15.60%	16.50%

Percent responding "important" or "very important"

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
How important is it to you to finish high school?	96.30%	95.50%	96.60%	96.40%	97.50%	97.20%	<u>90.00%</u>
How important is it for you to go to college?	94.30%	92.80%	94.20%	93.80%	94.70%	94.20%	<u>87.90%</u>

Social Emotional Well-Being (Personal Strengths Inventory)

Percent agreeing with the statement.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
I calm myself down when I get angry.	76.30%	77.50%	80.40%	79.90%	78.60%	<u>71.00%</u>
I know how to handle problems when they happen.	80.80%	81.50%	83.30%	82.90%	82.60%	<u>74.70%</u>
I find it easy to make friends.	81.90%	82.50%	78.60%	77.60%	76.30%	<u>68.30%</u>
I keep on trying when solving problems.	84.80%	87.00%	86.20%	86.10%	86.50%	<u>77.40%</u>
I can tell what other people are feeling.	77.40%	79.70%	79.60%	80.20%	80.50%	<u>70.70%</u>
I believe I will succeed in everything I do.	80.40%	83.10%	80.20%	76.90%	77.40%	<u>67.50%</u>

Percent responding, "yes"

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Have you ever seriously considered attempting suicide?			16.8%	18.3%	15.4%	<u>14.2%</u>

High School - All Results by Year

County level averages are displayed for each ACSS item in the tables below. In 2016, the response percent for items that have changed in a desirable direction (up or down depending on the item and it's wording) are noted in **purple**. Items for which the response percent has changed in an undesirable direction (up or down depending on the item and it's wording) are shown in **orange**. **Only items with a change in response rate greater than 1.0% have been coded as desirable or undesirable.** Please use caution when interpreting the changes in results as the sample size from one year to another is variable.

Bullying and Fighting

	Percent responding 1 or more times (in the past 12 months)						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Have you been harassed or bullied on school property?	29.7%	27.9%	26.5%	27.2%	28.2%	27.6%	27.0%
Has someone tried to hurt you by hitting, punching, or kicking you while on school property?	21.9%	20.3%	17.6%	16.1%	16.7%	18.1%	17.8%
Has a classmate said bad things about you to hurt your reputation or friendships with others?	46.0%	43.9%	40.5%	37.2%	37.9%	38.6%	39.6%
Has someone said something bad about you because of your weight, size, gender or physical appearance?	32.8%	37.7%	38.3%	36.7%	37.5%	33.3%	34.6%
Have you been insulted or threatened by others using the internet or a cell phone?	22.9%	22.0%	19.6%	19.0%	20.7%	20.5%	21.2%
Have you hit, punched, or kicked someone while on school property?	26.4%	24.2%	19.4%	15.1%	15.3%	16.0%	15.5%
Have you said bad things about others to hurt their reputation or friendships?	27.1%	24.6%	21.3%	17.2%	18.7%	18.5%	19.5%
Have you insulted or threatened others using the internet or a cell phone?	12.4%	11.5%	10.0%	8.4%	9.7%	9.1%	9.4%
Were you in a physical fight on school property?	15.5%	14.3%	11.5%	9.4%	9.8%	10.7%	10.5%

Gang Involvement and Weapons

	Percent responding "yes"						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Are there any gangs at your school?	38.1%	33.5%	29.3%	21.0%	19.9%	19.7%	12.9%
I currently belong to a gang.	7.8%	7.2%	7.7%	4.5%	5.6%	5.2%	11.9%
I have been pressured to join a gang at my school.	9.1%	8.4%	8.5%	6.0%	6.7%	5.2%	11.7%
	Percent responding 1 or more days (in the past 30 days)						
How many days did you carry a weapon on school property?	10.5%	9.6%	10.7%	7.1%	8.0%	6.1%	3.1%

School Safety

	Percent agreeing with the statement.						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
I feel safe at my school.	85.2%	86.0%	86.6%	87.6%	85.3%	85.2%	81.8%
I feel safe on my way to and from school.	89.2%	90.0%	85.1%	91.2%	89.6%	89.9%	86.9%
	Percent responding 1 or more days (in the past 30 days)						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
How many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school?	10.1%	10.0%	10.3%	8.6%	10.6%	10.6%	11.1%

Substance Use

	Percent responding 1 or more days (in the past 30 days)						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
How many days did you smoke cigarettes?	21.6%	19.2%	15.5%	12.4%	10.4%	8.8%	<u>7.7%</u>
How many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?	41.2%	41.1%	32.4%	31.1%	31.7%	28.0%	<u>26.0%</u>
How many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol on school property?	10.7%	9.5%	7.6%	5.0%	5.8%	5.3%	<u>4.8%</u>
How many days did you have 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours?	26.0%	25.2%	19.2%	17.6%	16.7%	14.6%	14.1%
How many days did you use marijuana?	29.9%	28.4%	23.6%	23.0%	23.4%	20.3%	<u>18.4%</u>
How many days did you use marijuana on school property?	12.5%	11.1%	8.9%	7.1%	7.9%	7.2%	<u>5.4%</u>
How many days did you take a prescription stimulant without a doctor's prescription, such as ritalin or adderall.	16.4%	14.9%	11.6%	5.9%	6.3%	6.2%	<u>5.1%</u>
How many days did you take another prescription drug without a doctor's prescription, such as painkillers (like oxycontin, codeine, or percocet) or depressants (like valium or xanax)?				8.8%	8.4%	8.6%	<u>6.8%</u>
How many days did you consume an edible product (food, candy, etc.) that contained marijuana?					11.5%	10.6%	<u>9.4%</u>
How many days did you use gelosin (also known as "glo", or "gels")?							2.9%
How many days did you use methamphetamines (also known as crank, crystal meth, and ice)?	7.3%	5.5%	5.4%	3.3%	4.1%	3.8%	3.1%

Perceptions of Peer Substance Use: "Social Norms"

	Percent responding 1 or more times in the past 30 days						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
How many days do you think a typical student at your school smoked cigarettes?	75.5%	70.6%	62.3%	68.3%	60.3%	55.3%	<u>57.2%</u>
How many days do you think a typical student at your school used alcohol?	79.1%	76.5%	65.6%	73.5%	67.9%	61.0%	<u>63.1%</u>
How many days do you think a typical student at your school used marijuana?	78.0%	74.6%	66.4%	74.5%	69.4%	64.0%	<u>65.2%</u>
How many days do you think a typical student at your school had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours?	69.9%	66.8%	55.4%	64.1%	57.1%	51.4%	<u>53.4%</u>
How many days do you think a typical student at your school has used prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription?				54.9%	49.1%	45.3%	<u>43.5%</u>

Substance Use – Access and Driving

Percent responding “yes” (in the past 12 months)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Has anyone offered, sold, or given you an illegal drug on school property?	31.8%	30.5%	26.2%	25.8%	26.4%	21.1%	<u>25.0%</u>

Percent responding 1 or more times in the past 30 days

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
How many times did you ride in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?	29.1%	28.9%	28.0%	23.9%	20.9%	20.3%	<u>16.6%</u>
How many times did you drive a car or other vehicle when you had been drinking alcohol?	14.5%	12.9%	13.2%	9.9%	9.2%	8.2%	<u>5.9%</u>
How many days did you ride in a car or other vehicle driven by someone else who had been smoking marijuana?	30.8%	28.8%	24.2%	21.3%	25.4%	23.9%	<u>20.4%</u>
How many days did you drive after smoking marijuana?	14.9%	12.8%	11.0%	9.3%	13.5%	11.8%	<u>8.6%</u>

Percent responding “very easy” or “sort of easy”

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
If you wanted to get some beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or gin) how easy would it be for you to get some?	60.0%	62.6%	58.7%	58.1%	53.3%	50.4%	<u>48.6%</u>
If you wanted to get some marijuana, how easy would it be for you to get some?	64.5%	63.9%	60.2%	58.7%	56.3%	54.8%	<u>50.6%</u>

Teacher Support

Percent Responding “Agree” or “Strongly Agree”

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
There is at least one teacher or adult at this school with whom I can talk to if I have a problem.	67.8%	69.6%	68.3%	69.8%	70.5%	74.3%	<u>69.0%</u>
Students tell teachers when other students are being bullied.	35.2%	35.4%	39.4%	40.5%	40.9%	42.8%	<u>40.3%</u>
If another student brought a gun to school, I would tell one of the teachers or staff at school.	76.6%	74.9%	77.9%	80.2%	80.2%	83.6%	<u>75.4%</u>
If another student was involved in unsafe or dangerous behavior, I would report it anonymously.	65.2%	64.6%	68.3%	71.1%	71.9%	75.6%	<u>66.0%</u>

Support at Home – Substance Use Discussion, Caring Relationships Scale

Percent Responding “Agree” or “Strongly Agree”

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
During the past year (12 months), have you talked with at least one of your parents about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use?	49.3%	49.8%	50.2%	49.2%	51.8%	50.7%	48.3%

Percent responding “pretty much true” or “very much true”

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
In my home there is a parent or some other adult who is interested in my school work.	75.4%	76.5%	75.2%	78.3%	78.9%	80.0%	<u>76.4%</u>
In my home there is a parent or some other adult who talks with me about my problems.	66.4%	67.4%	67.6%	69.6%	69.0%	68.5%	<u>64.7%</u>
In my home there is a parent or some other adult who listens to me when I have something to say.	71.7%	72.8%	71.9%	73.8%	73.7%	73.2%	<u>68.1%</u>
In my home there is a parent or other adult who expects me to follow the rules.	84.9%	86.9%	85.9%	89.0%	88.0%	88.5%	<u>82.8%</u>
In my home there is a parent or some other adult who believes that I will be a success.	83.2%	84.0%	83.2%	85.2%	84.2%	83.6%	<u>78.1%</u>

Percent responding “pretty much true” or “very much true”

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Outside of my home or school there is an adult who really cares about me.		78.9%	76.1%	83.8%	80.1%	79.4%	<u>74.8%</u>
Outside of my home or school there is an adult who I trust.		74.4%	73.5%	80.6%	77.3%	76.1%	<u>71.6%</u>
Outside of my home or school there is an adult who tells me when I do a good job.		74.1%	73.5%	78.6%	76.4%	75.6%	<u>70.5%</u>
Outside of my home or school there is an adult who believes that I will be a success.		79.6%	78.6%	83.9%	81.0%	79.8%	<u>74.3%</u>

Social Support, Community Engagement

Percent responding “pretty much true” or “very much true”

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
At my school there is at least one other student who accepts me just the way I am.				88.0%	87.6%	87.4%	<u>69.5%</u>
At my school there is at least one other student who helps me make good decisions for my future.				78.5%	78.4%	79.7%	<u>70.1%</u>
At my school there is at least one other student who helps me avoid drugs and alcohol.				68.3%	67.7%	70.0%	<u>62.7%</u>
Do you participate in after school activities such as clubs or sports on the school campus?					51.2%	47.7%	<u>52.2%</u>
Do you participate in off-campus activities such as clubs or sports (for example, at a Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, community center, or with a faith-based group)?					37.5%	33.8%	<u>41.7%</u>
During the summer break, do you participate in organized activities such as a summer camp or sports?					47.4%	37.8%	<u>48.9%</u>

Truancy; Graduation and College Goals

Percent responding 1 or more days (in the past 30 days)							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
How many whole days of school have you missed because you skipped or "cut" (not because you were sick or had an excused absence)?	32.2%	35.2%	33.0%	30.9%	30.4%	27.9%	<u>26.0%</u>
Percent responding "important" or "very important"							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
How important is it to you to finish high school?	92.2%	93.6%	92.6%	95.1%	93.7%	94.9%	<u>89.0%</u>
How important is it for you to go to college?	88.0%	87.9%	87.5%	89.3%	86.5%	87.0%	<u>80.5%</u>

Social Emotional Well-Being (Personal Strengths Inventory)

Percent agreeing with the statement.							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
I calm myself down when I get angry.		73.7%	73.9%	78.5%	77.4%	77.4%	<u>72.2%</u>
I know how to handle problems when they happen.		79.7%	79.5%	83.1%	80.8%	81.6%	<u>75.6%</u>
I have high expectations and standards for success.		85.5%	84.9%	88.3%	87.0%	88.6%	<u>65.1%</u>
I keep on trying when solving problems.		81.5%	81.8%	83.6%	82.0%	83.5%	<u>77.1%</u>
I can tell what other people are feeling.		77.9%	77.1%	81.2%	80.7%	80.7%	<u>73.5%</u>
Percent responding, "Yes"							
Have you ever seriously considered attempting suicide?				23.0%	25.3%	23.0%	23.4%

Observations, Findings and Recommendations

After thorough review of the 2016 Adams County Student Survey instrument, administration process and data, the following observations and findings were identified. In response to these observations and findings, the recommendations contained in the final portion of this section have been presented as way to strengthen the Adams County Student Survey.

Observations

1. Response rates were fairly consistent and over 75% in grades 3-10. Response rates in grades 11 and 12 were significantly lower than the rest of the participating grade levels. Given these grade levels had response rates below 75%, it is important to have adjusted the administration protocol from a census-level administration to a random sample. It is unclear if the administration protocol was adjusted at these sites.
2. There is consistency in the constructs (AKA themes or topics. IE: substance use, safety, etc) measured between the elementary, middle and high school instruments.
3. Notably higher non-response rates for questions pertaining to questions with clear social expectations (IE those related to weapons and methamphetamines).
4. Notably higher non-response rates for substance use questions targeting students' perceptions of their friends' behavior compared to the non-response rates for the same items asking about their own behavior.

Findings

1. **Evidence of survey fatigue.** While evidence of survey fatigue varied across each district, data from districts who opted for longer instruments showed distinct evidence of survey fatigue.
2. **Variation in sample size.** In 2015, two of the largest schools who typically participate in the ACSS did not participate. In 2016, they returned to the sample, significantly changing the sample size. Additionally, analysis in previous years removed incomplete surveys from the sample by question while analysis this year included all respondents.
3. **Qualified statements.** In some items, qualifying language or language that expresses abstract limitations was included. For example, in the question, "Outside of my home or school there is an adult who really cares about me" the term "really" is a qualifier. The term "really" is subjective and likely to be interpreted differently by each respondent.

Recommendations

1. Standardize the length of all ACSS instruments. For elementary students, keep the survey administration time to 35 minutes or less. For middle school and high school students, survey administration time should not exceed 60 minutes and the instrument should be limited to 75 items or less. Bear in mind that each question/sub-question are considered an item. For example, an item that reads, "To what extent to you agree/disagree with the following statements?" and provides six statements for students to react to should be considered six items.
2. Maintain consistent item presentation. Establish a core set of ACSS items that are presented to all students, in all districts consistently. Presentation consistency should include language, administration platform (online v paper), order of the items and structure of the questions.
3. Limit and explain qualifying or ambiguous language. In the 2016 item, "Have you talked with at least one of your parents about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, or drug use" the term "parents" was explained as inclusive of biological and non-biological parents. This is a good example of providing clarification to increase the consistency of respondent interpretation.
4. Consider monitoring data by cohort. Given the consistency between the elementary, middle and high school instruments, monitoring student responses by cohort could yield more actionable information than monitoring at the school, district and county aggregate levels alone.
5. Engage focus groups to learn more. All information contained in the ACSS is focused on quantifying instances and levels of agreement. This data, while powerful in its own right, can be an insightful beginning to collecting more advanced data. Consider engaging focus groups to better understand some of what the students have reported and their perceptions on why this is the case.
6. Utilize the data to practice continuous improvement. Consider extracting specific themes from the ACSS to use as a point of data collection for interventions being launched at the school/district level. Data collected from students participating in the intervention could be compared to the aggregate and/or a subset of the ACSS could be administered to a specific group of students pre and post intervention as one data point to understand the intervention's impact.

Contact ACYI for support in how to utilize the ACSS to practice continuous improvement.