



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA

Office of Evaluation, Research, and Accountability

**Research Roundup Webinar Series #14**  
**Youth Risk Behavior Survey - Philadelphia**

February 21, 2024

# Agenda

- About ERA and the Research Roundup webinar series
- **Part I:** About the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
- **Part II:** Philadelphia-specific results
- **Part III:** How we use YRBS data in SDP and beyond
- Resources
- Q & A

**This webinar is being recorded.** The recording and a PDF of the slide deck will be available at: [philasd.org/research/roundup](https://philasd.org/research/roundup)

# Evaluation, Research, and Accountability

[philasd.org/era](http://philasd.org/era)

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links for Schools, Academics, Services, Our District, Careers, Contact Us, and Login. The main heading is "Evaluation, Research, and Accountability" with a breadcrumb trail: YOU ARE HERE > Evaluation, Research, and Accountability > Evaluation, Research, and Accountability. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for News, About, Offices, Goals and Guardrails, Check & Reflect Series, Tools, Data, Reports, and Contact. The main content area features a grid of article cards with titles and dates, such as "Listening and Learning: Teacher Attendance and Retention" (January 9, 2024) and "2022-23 PSSA Results for District Students Show Improvements in Math and Science, Stability for ELA, Keystone Results Show Declines in Algebra and Biology but Improvement in Literature" (December 4, 2023). Below the grid is a section titled "What can we help you find?" with four buttons: ASSESSMENT INFORMATION, QLIBAM, GOALS AND GUARDRAILS, and REPORT LIBRARY. At the bottom, there are six image-based categories: STUDENT LEARNING, PERFORMANCE DATA, SCHOOL SUPPORTS, ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY, SURVEYS, and RESEARCH REVIEW COMMITTEE (RRC).

Office of Research and Evaluation

District Performance Office

Planning and Evidence-Based Supports Office

Office of Assessments

Office of Data Governance

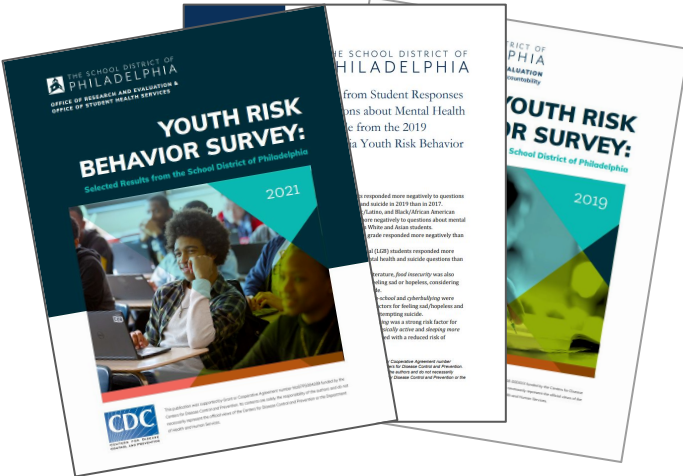
# Evaluation, Research, and Accountability

[philasd.org/era/assessment/](https://philasd.org/era/assessment/)

## Office of Assessment

The Office of Assessment maintains the Assessment Calendar and coordinates the administration of a number of assessments including Star, Keystone, PSSA, PASA, and ACCESS.

- 2023-24 Assessment Calendar
- 2023-24 Assessment Overview



[philasd.org/research](https://philasd.org/research)

[schoolprofiles.philasd.org](https://schoolprofiles.philasd.org)

**SCHOOL PROFILES**  
Find out how a school or group of schools is performing.

**PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
DATA FOR DISTRICT, CHARTER, ALTERNATIVE, AND OTHER/CYBER STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS  
Enrollment: 2023-2024 (most update: November 2024)  
Performance and Climate data: 2021-2022 (most update: Spring 2024)  
Survey data: 2022-2023 (most update: Late Fall 2024)

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
197,115

**TOTAL SCHOOLS**  
331

**2021-22 PSSA & KEYSTONE - ELA PERFORMANCE (ALL GRADES)**  
34% 4 POINT DECREASE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR  
The percentage of students who scored Proficient or Advanced on the state standardized English Language Arts exam.

**2021-22 PSSA & KEYSTONE - MATH PERFORMANCE (ALL GRADES)**

**2021-22 FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION**

Search for a school: [Find a School] [All Schools] [School Groupings]

Search by: [Search] [Files]

ACADEMY AT PALUMBO  
ACADEMY FOR THE MIDDLE YEARS (AMY) AT NORTHWEST  
ACHIEVE ACADEMY  
ACHIEVE ACADEMY EAST  
AD PRIMA CHARTER SCHOOL  
ADAIRE, ALEXANDER SCHOOL  
ALLEN, DR. ETHEL SCHOOL  
ALLEN, ETHAN SCHOOL  
ALLEN, RICHARD PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL  
ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS CHARTER SCHOOL

[philasd.org/opendata](https://philasd.org/opendata)

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA**  
Board of Education | Progress Monitoring

Overview | Goals & Guardrails | Guardrails 1-4

**GUARDRAIL 1.1: CLIMATE & INSTRUCTION**

**Overall and by School Group**

Indicator 1.1: The percentage of schools with both a high Overall District Wide Survey Climate rating and a high Overall District Wide Survey Instruction Rating are greater than 12.7% (the school's 8 August 2020 to 8 April 2021 12th percentile) by August 2024.

Annual Targets: 12.7%, 13.2%, 13.7%, 14.2%, 14.7%, 15.2%, 15.7%, 16.2%, 16.7%, 17.2%, 17.7%, 18.2%, 18.7%, 19.2%, 19.7%, 20.2%

Off-Track

Year	Climate	Instruction	Score
2017-18	12.1%	8.6%	17.7%
2018-19	12.1%	8.6%	17.7%
2019-20	12.1%	8.6%	17.7%
2020-21	12.1%	8.6%	17.7%
2021-22	12.1%	8.6%	17.7%
2022-23	12.1%	8.6%	17.7%
2023-24	12.1%	8.6%	17.7%

GUARDRAIL 1.2: MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

[philasd.org/era/goals-and-guardrails](https://philasd.org/era/goals-and-guardrails)

## Open Data

The School District of Philadelphia (SDP), in partnership with Open Data Philly, publishes longitudinal data sets spanning various operational school and student performance areas. The public release of this data supports our goals to promote greater transparency and community engagement. Before accessing this data, please review the Terms and Conditions.

School- and Network-level enrollment data and performance on key indicators are also available on our interactive, user-friendly School Profiles website. In addition to district-provided data, please visit the state report card, Future Ready Index, for additional metrics.

To date, SDP has released data sets for:

- School Information**
  - Master School List, Longitudinal Master School List, School and District Enrollment & Demographics, Pre-School Information, School Catchment Areas, School Catchment Retention Details and Counts, District Wide Surveys, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, School Reopening Information, School Selection, and Household Food Insecurity.
- School Performance**
  - School Progress Reports on Education and Equity, District Scorecard, Alternative Education Progress Reports, PSSA & Keystone Exam Data, School and District Graduation Rates, School and District 90% Attendance, Average Daily Attendance, School and District Out-of-School Suspensions, Serious Incidents Counts and Details, and NSC Student Tracker Reports
- District Employees and Finance**
  - Expenditure Information, Employee Information, Teacher Attendance, Teacher Demographics, District and School Budgets, and Full-Time Employment (FTE)

## Data Sets

- School Information**  
Information on school attributes
- School Performance**  
Quality performance and climate through the school year
- District Employees and Finance**  
Expenditures, Employees, Budget, and FTE Data
- Advancing Education Safety**  
Information on hybrid learning and COVID-19 testing
- Terms and Conditions**  
Please read!

## Quick Data

















# What is a Research Roundup?

- Regular webinar series with a focus on topics aligned to the [Goals & Guardrails](#) and [Accelerate Philly](#)
- Videos and slide decks available from previous sessions
- Sign up to be notified when webinars are scheduled and when recordings are available:

[philasd.org/research/roundup](https://philasd.org/research/roundup)

## Research Roundup Topics

Mar 2022 	Literacy Performance in Grades K-3	Feb 2023 	Philadelphia Police School Diversion Program
April 2022 	Math Performance in Grades 3-8	April 2023 	Student Attendance
May 2022 	9th Grade “On Track” Rates and High School Graduation	May 2023 	Impact of Facility Investments in LA
June 2022 	Food Insecurity in the School District of Philadelphia	July 2023 	SPREE
July 2022 	English Learners and Students in Special Education	Sept 2023 	Trends, Transitions, and Supports for English Learners
Oct 2022 	PERC: Keystone Graduation Pathways	Dec 2023 	The 9th Grade On-Track Metric
Dec 2022 	District-Wide Surveys	Feb 2024 	The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS)

# Part I: About the YRBS



# Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)



- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Monitors health-related behaviors
- Only survey of its kind—very important data source
- Conducted in cities and states across the U.S.
  - Every two years (odd years)
  - Anonymous and voluntary
  - Up to 99 questions

# Why does the School District of Philadelphia participate?



1. To contribute to important research
2. To compare Philadelphia's results over time and to similar cities, Pennsylvania, and national results
3. To inform SDP's policies and programming
4. To justify funding requests and apply for grants to better address student needs



# Examples of YRBS Data Use

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

## YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY:

Selected Results from the School District of Philadelphia

2021

CDC

This publication was supported by Cooperative Agreement #5U49CE000846 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### Exploring How Disparities in Experiences of Violence and Substance Use Between Transgender and Cisgender Students Differ by Gender Expression

Rights. Respect. Responsibility.

Advocates for Youth

Gender Expression & Transgender Identity

The New York Times

### Teen Girls Report Record Levels of Sadness, C.D.C. Finds

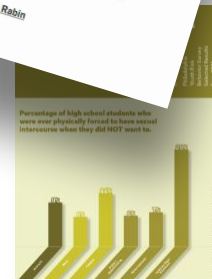
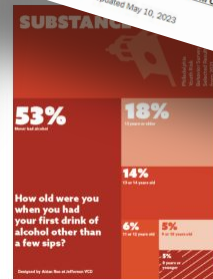
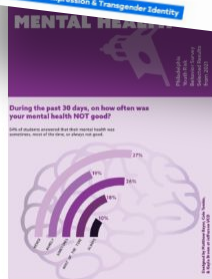
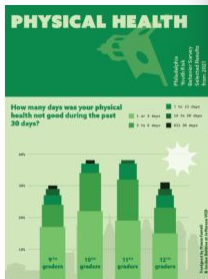
Adolescent girls reported high rates of sadness, suicidal thoughts and sexual violence, as did teenagers who identified as gay or bisexual.

Share full article

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey was given to 17,000 adolescents at high schools across the United States in the fall of 2021. *Annie Frazzetta for The New York Times*

By Azeen Ghoshani and Roni Caryn Rabin

Published Feb. 13, 2023 Updated May 10, 2023



# Common Concerns with the YRBS

## Won't asking about behaviors encourage students to engage in them?

- No, CDC has conducted numerous studies and found no evidence of this.

## How can we trust the results? Won't some students lie?

- Research shows that students tell the truth on the YRBS.

## Will some of these questions upset or trigger students?

- Potentially, which is why we visit classrooms in person ahead of time to make students aware of what kinds of questions the survey will ask, and work to provide supports should students need them (e.g., counselors, resource sheets).

## Why was there a delay with the release of the data?

- The Covid-19 pandemic delayed 2021 data collection. Typically, we conduct the YRBS in the spring semester. However, due to Covid-related school closures, we could not collect data until the fall semester in 2021.
- Additionally, there were significant Covid-related delays in data processing at CDC in 2022, so we did not receive our processed data in the typical time frame. However, we still believe these results are important to share.

# Connections to Accelerate Philly



## PRIORITY AREA 1

Improve safety and well-being  
(physical, social-emotional, and environmental)

### Strategic Actions that relate to YRBS:

- 1.5 Expand the Safe Path Program in partnership with foundations and city and state funders.
- 1.7 Identify, audit, and improve school climate programs.
- 1.8 Identify, audit, and improve mental and behavioral health services in partnership with the City of Philadelphia.
- 1.9 Recruit and retain certified school nurses for all schools to provide in-person or telehealth services depending on student need.
- 1.10 Implement Breakfast After the Bell at all schools and offer sufficient, healthy, and appetizing food during appropriate meal times to all students.
- 1.11 Implement recess supervised by trained staff and aligned to national best practices for all K-8 students.



[philasd.org/strategicplan/](https://philasd.org/strategicplan/)

# Connections to the Board's Goals and Guardrails

## GOALS

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- 01 Grade 3-8 Reading
- 02 Grade K-3 Reading
- 03 Grade 3-8 Math
- 04 High School Keystones
- 05 High School CTE

## GUARDRAILS

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- 01 Welcoming and Supportive Schools
- 02 Enriching and Well-Rounded School Experiences
- 03 Partnering with Parents and Families
- 04 Addressing Racist Practices



[philasd.org/goalsandguardrails](https://philasd.org/goalsandguardrails)

[philasd.org/era/goals-and-guardrails/](https://philasd.org/era/goals-and-guardrails/)



# Part II: Selected Philadelphia Results





# The 2021 Philadelphia YRBS



**1,351** participants from **30** randomly-selected School District of Philadelphia public high schools

99 questions on six topics:

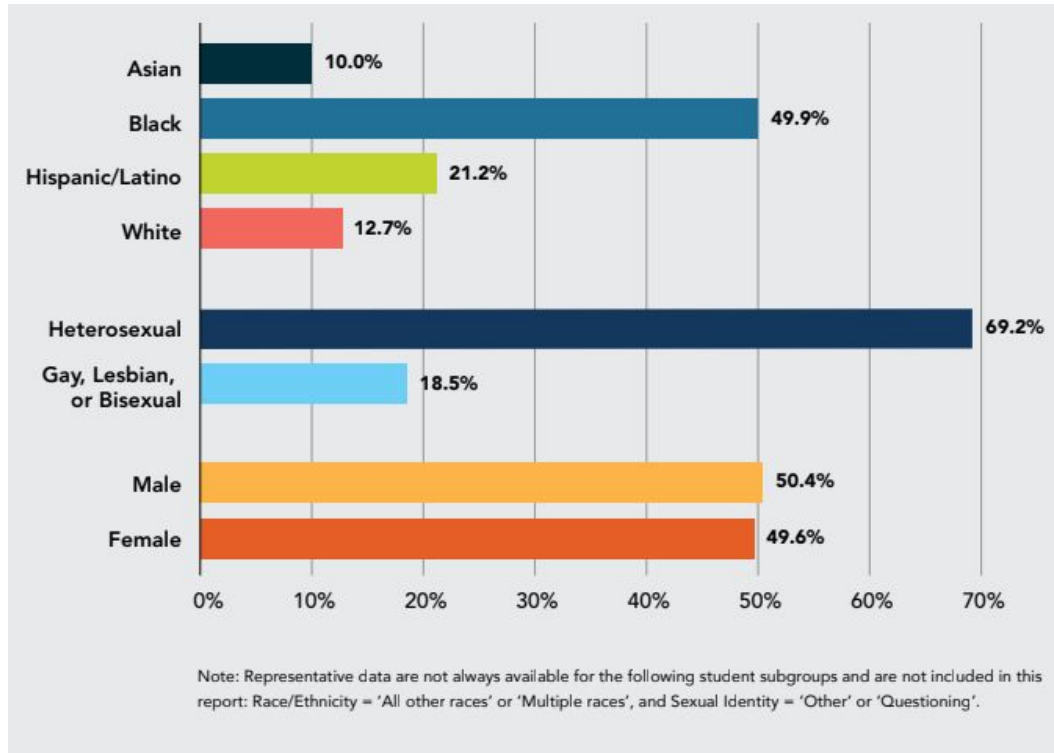
- Unintentional Injuries & Violence
- Tobacco
- Alcohol and Drug Use
- Sexual Behaviors leading to HIV, STDs, or pregnancy
- Physical Activity & Dietary Behaviors
- Mental Health

For more information on the YRBS see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>

For more information on the YRBS in SDP see: <https://www.philasd.org/research/yrbs/>

# Demographics: Philly YRBS sample, 2021



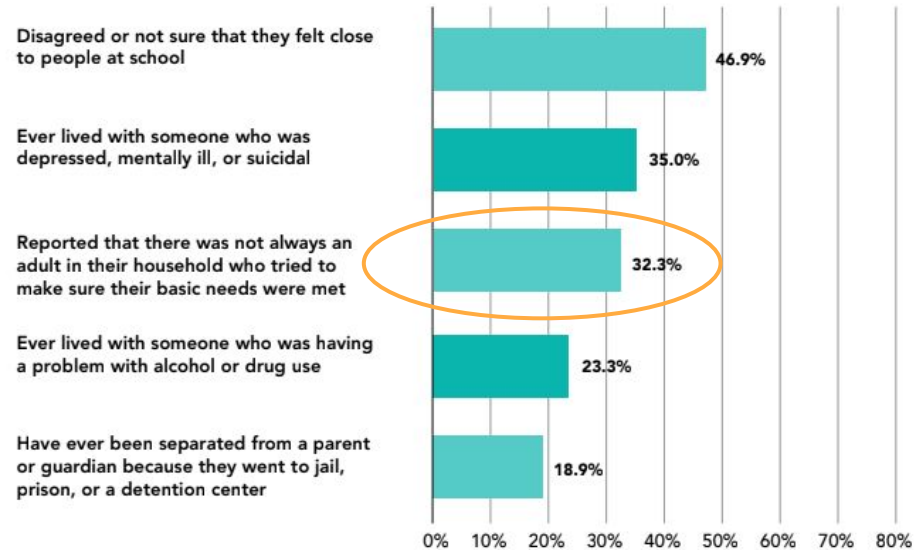
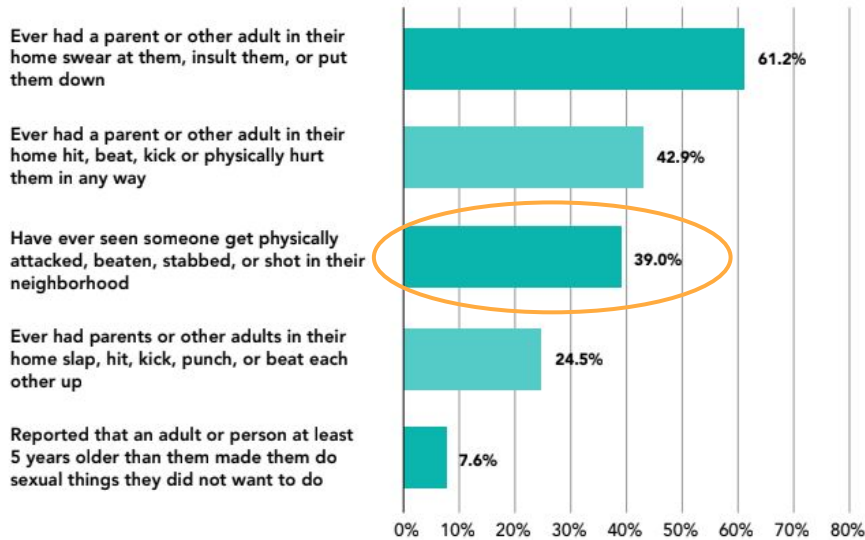
# Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years), as well as aspects of the child's environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding.
- According to the CDC, ACEs:
  - Are common
  - Are preventable
  - Have lasting, negative effects on health and well-being

More information on ACEs is available here: [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html)

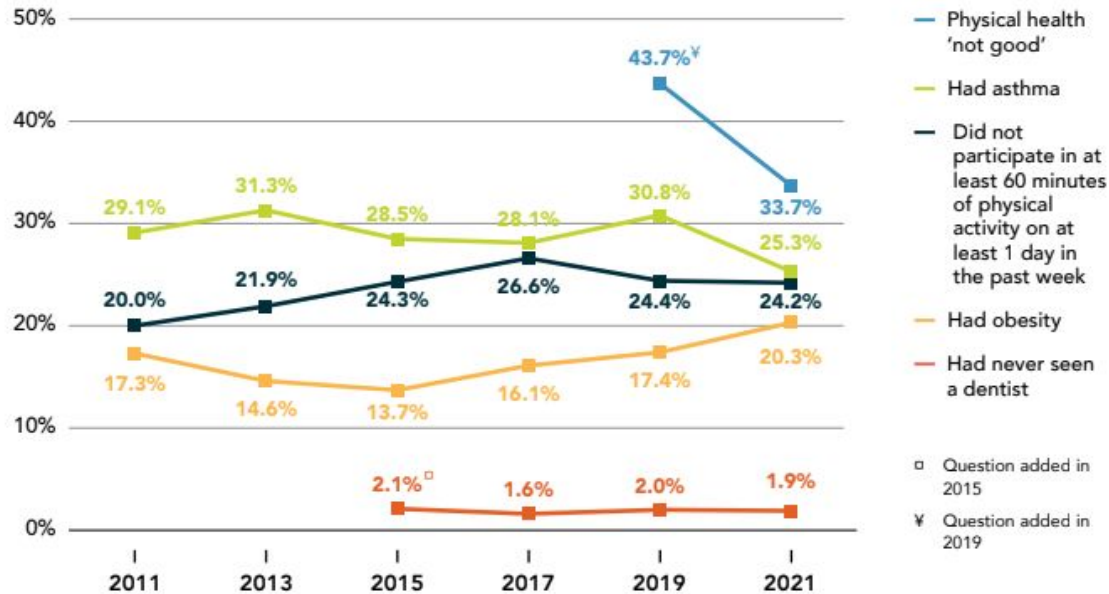
# High rates of ACEs in SDP students

According to the 2021 [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) (YRBS), the percentage of high school students who:



# Physical Health: Decrease in asthma, but increase in obesity

The YRBS asks students about their physical health, including questions about weight, dental health, asthma, and sleep, among others.

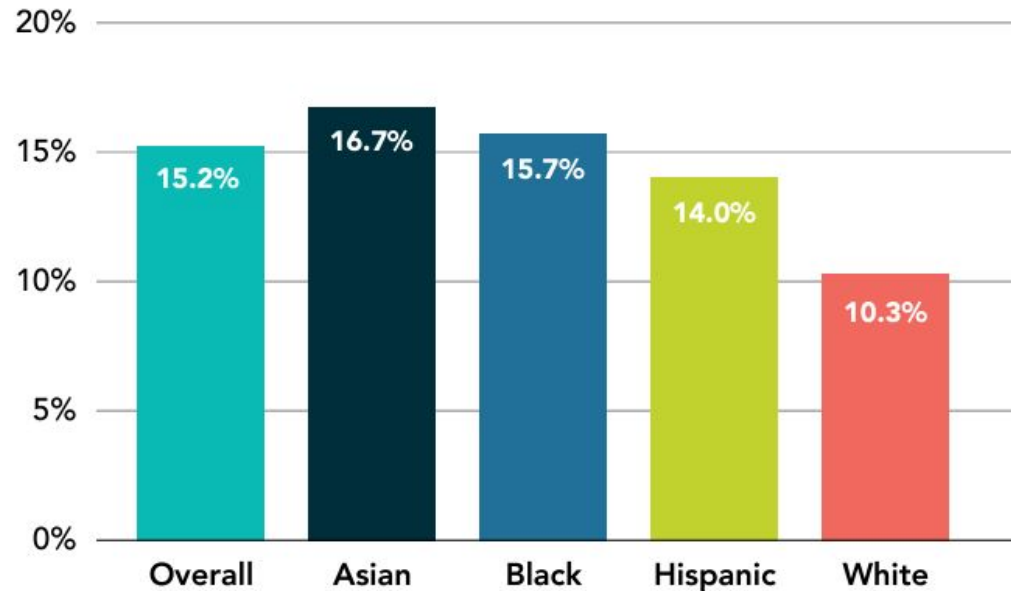




# Nutrition: Higher self-reported rates of hunger for Asian, Black, and Hispanic students

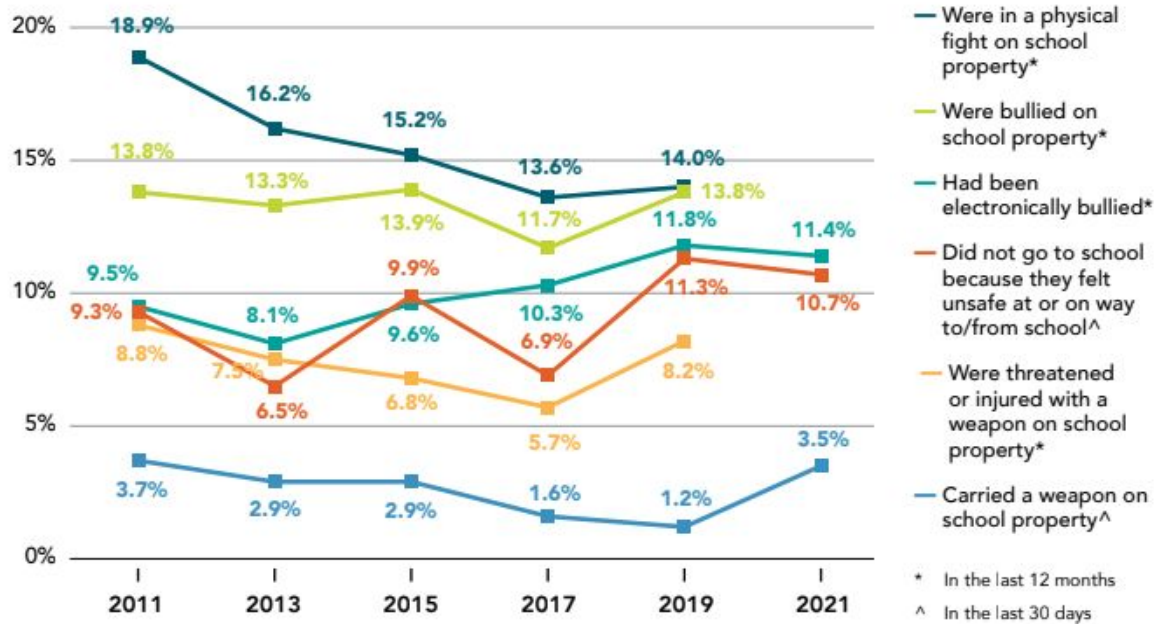
*The YRBS asks students about healthy behaviors, including hunger, consumption of breakfast, soda, fruits, and vegetables.*

**Percentage of students who were hungry**  
sometimes, most of the time, or always because there was not enough food in their home, by race/ethnicity



# Safety & Violence: Increase in self-report of carrying weapons on school property

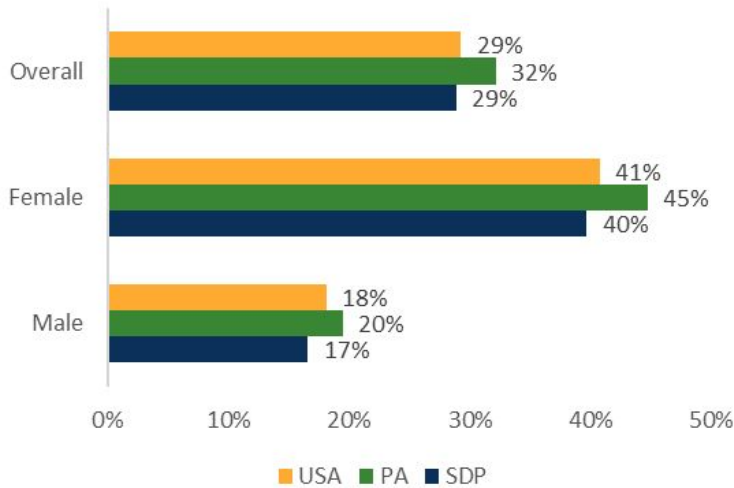
The YRBS asks students about their experiences with bullying and physical violence.



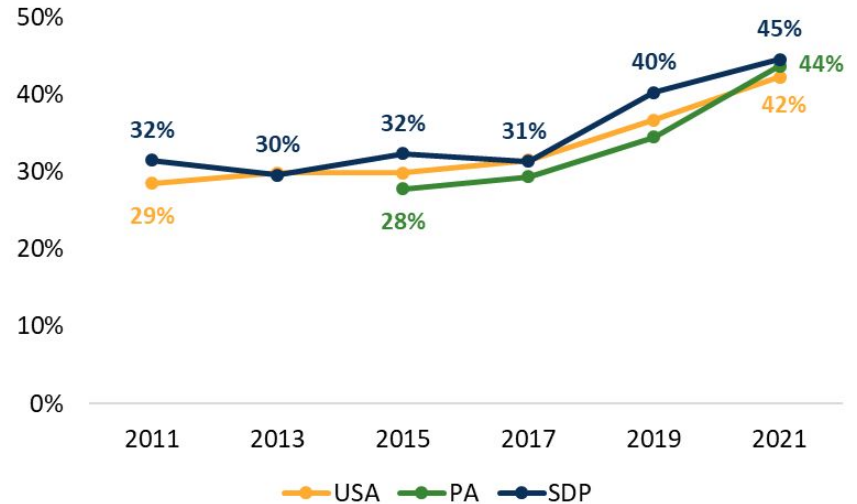
# Mental Health: Similar Trends for SDP, PA, US

The YRBS asks students about their mental health. The CDC describes mental health as “...an important part of overall health and well-being” that “affects how we think, feel, and act.”

## Mental Health Not Good



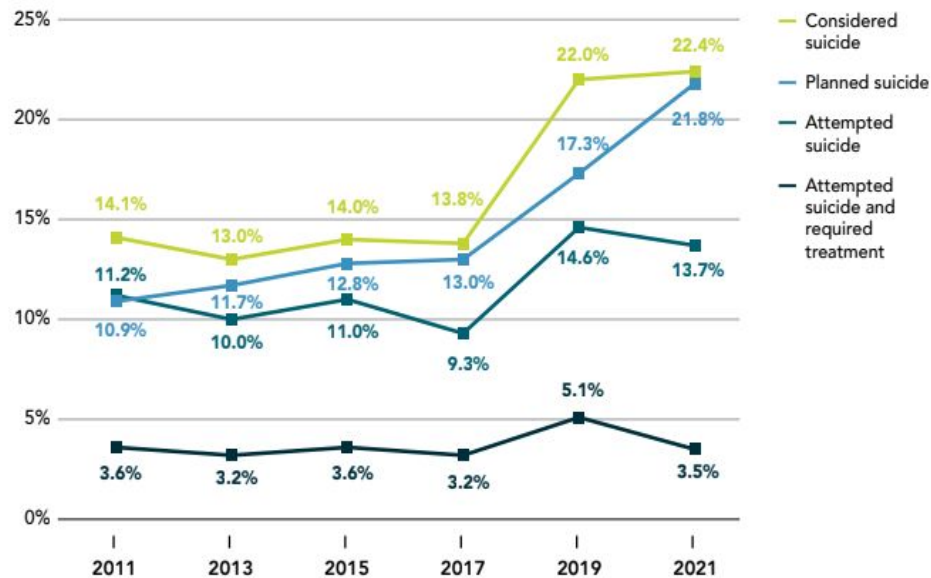
## SDP, State, and National Rates of High School Students who Felt Sad or Hopeless



# Mental Health:

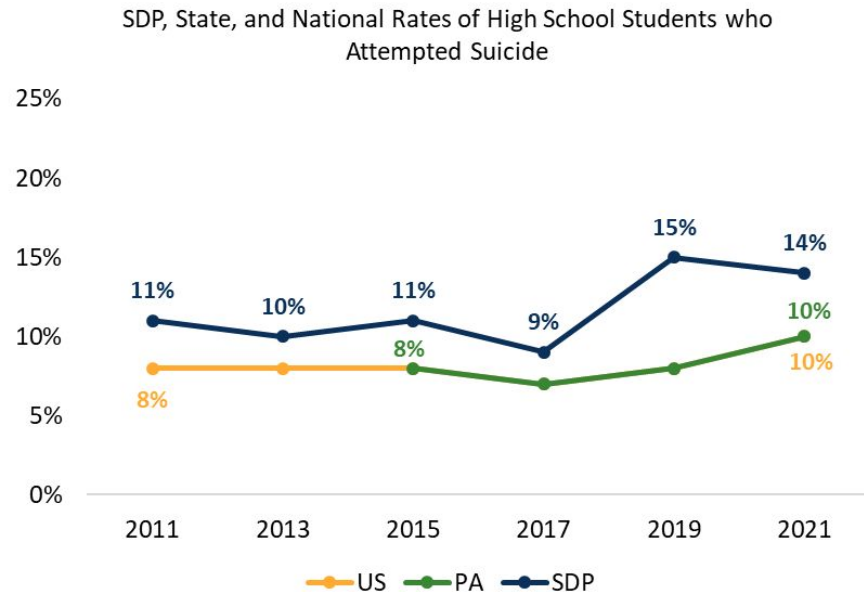
## Suicidal ideation continues to increase in SDP

The YRBS asks students about their mental health. The CDC describes mental health as “...an important part of overall health and well-being” that “affects how we think, feel, and act.”



# Mental Health: Higher rates of suicide attempts in SDP versus state and national

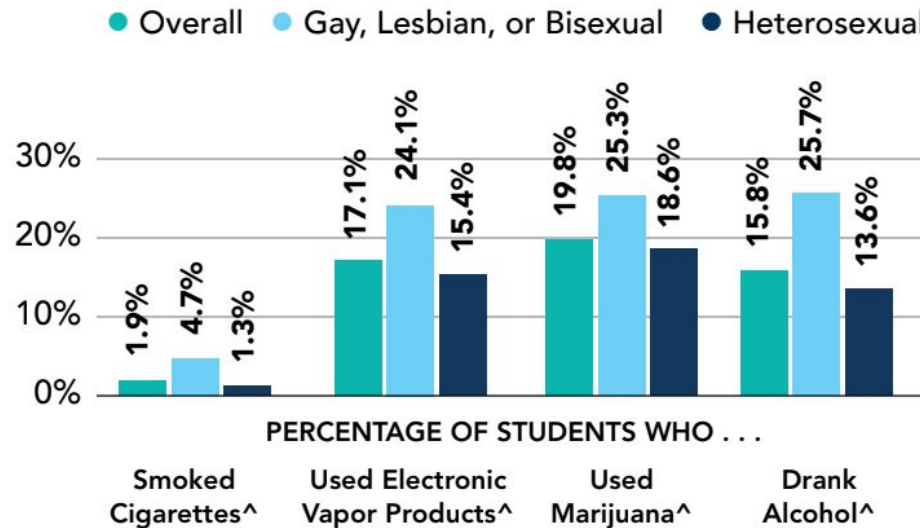
The YRBS asks students about their mental health. The CDC describes mental health as "...an important part of overall health and well-being" that "affects how we think, feel, and act."





# Substance Use: Higher rates for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual students

The YRBS asks students about their experiences with substance use. Cigarette and alcohol use have decreased over the last decade. Use of electronic vapor products more than doubled from 2019 to 2021.

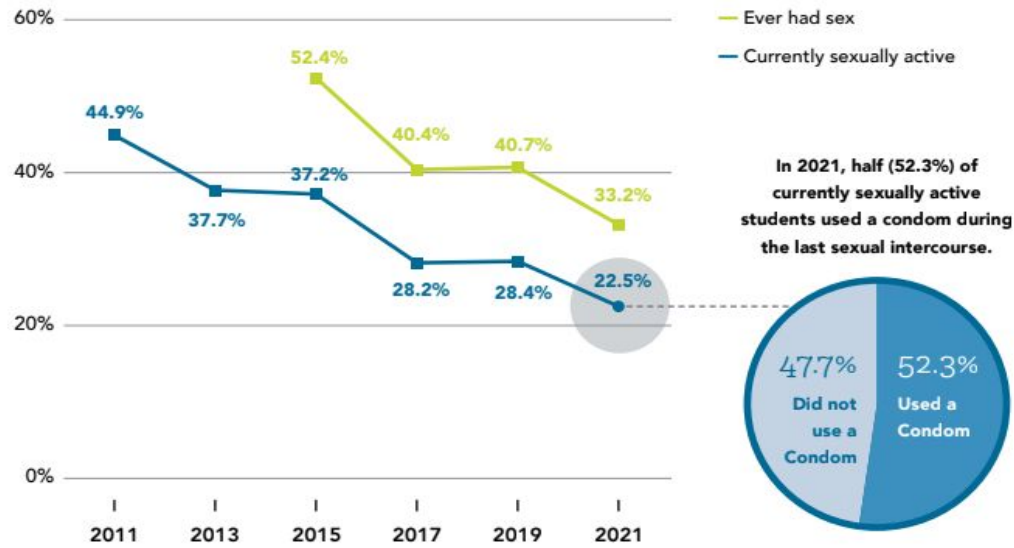


<sup>^</sup> In the last 30 days

# Sexual Health:

## Only half of sexually active students used a condom

The YRBS asks students about current and past sexual behaviors, including having sexual intercourse, learning about contraception and HIV/STI testing, and using contraceptives and other preventive measures to practice safer sex.



# Part III: How SDP Programs Use YRBS Data



# Promoting Adolescent Student Health (PASH)

PASH is the HIV, STIs, and unintended pregnancy prevention program at the School District of Philadelphia.

- PASH efforts fall under three main components: 1) sexual health education, 2) sexual health services, and 3) safe and supportive environments.
- PASH provides access to evidence-based curriculum, technical assistance, workshops, and professional development to students, teachers, staff, and parents.
- Topics include HIV/AIDS prevention, safer sex, LGBTQ+ support, healthy relationships, parent/child communication, and peer mediation.

Learn more about PASH here: [philasd.org/studenthealth/#pash](https://philasd.org/studenthealth/#pash)  
or by emailing [pash@philasd.org](mailto:pash@philasd.org)



# How does PASH use YRBS data?

- Creating dissemination materials for internal departments and various stakeholders
- Informing holistic approaches to promote healthy behaviors in schools across the city
- Guiding allocation of funds to areas of identified need
- Justifying grant funding requests
- Guiding programmatic planning both for PASH and at the school level



# Efforts to support student health

- Providing professional development to targeted staff (counselors, nurses, teachers, athletic directors) to build capacity around sexual health curriculum, general health and inclusivity topics
- Health Resource Center (HRC) collaboration and expansion
- Social and emotional well-being initiatives, such as collaboration on the annual Gender and Sexual Health Summit and the development of the [All the Feels Journal](#) series
- Extensive collaboration with external community partner agencies





# Efforts to support student health

- The Recess Working Group is focused on implementing recess for all students in grades K-8.
- [Eat Right Philly](#) helps students and families make healthy food choices.
- A [School District of Philadelphia](#) and [BenePhilly](#) partnership provides free, one-to-one benefits navigation and connects families to health insurance and food assistance.



# Disparities in GLB student data

FIG. 07 Responses to questions about mental health by sexual orientation

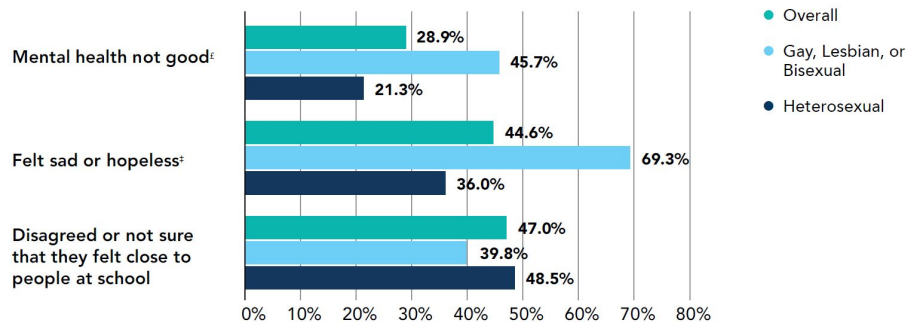
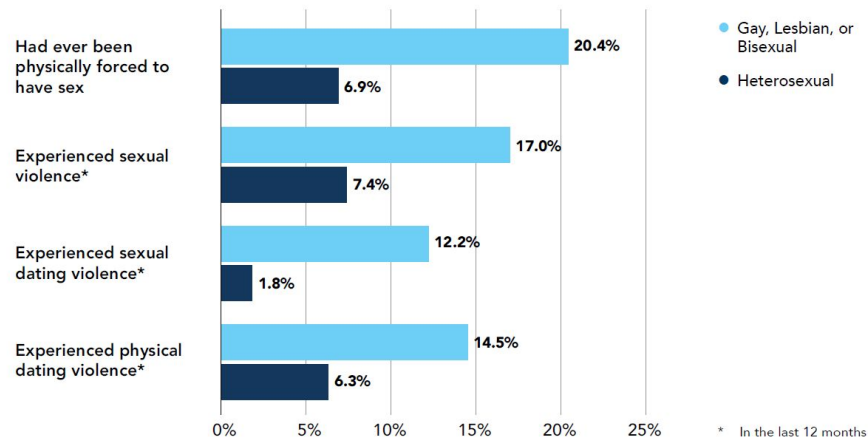


FIG. 17 Responses to questions about sexual and dating violence by sexual orientation



# Resources

Program Offices:

[Office of Research & Evaluation](#)

[Office of Student Health Services](#)

[Office of Prevention & Intervention](#)

[Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)

[Office of School Safety](#)

[Office of Curriculum & Instruction \(H/PE\)](#)

[The Nutrition Team \(a.k.a. Eat Right Philly\)](#)

Scan QR code for resources  
from 2021 YRBS Booklet:

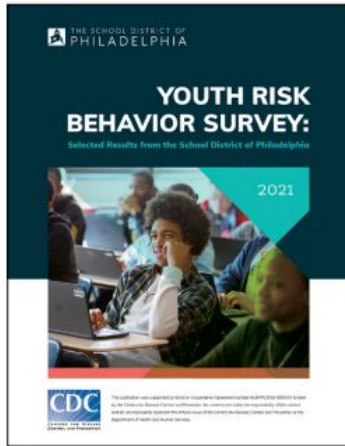


## WSSC



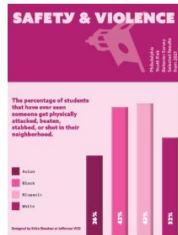
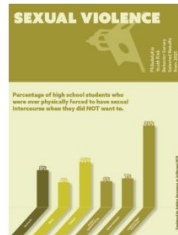
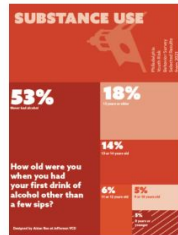
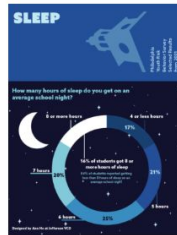
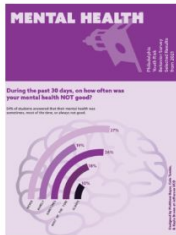
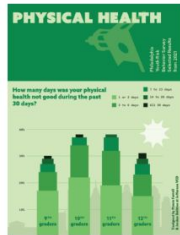
# Resources

YRBS Reports: [philasd.org/research/yrbs/](https://philasd.org/research/yrbs/)



Scan the QR code to access:

- The YRBS 2021 Highlighted Data Booklet
- 2-sided Resource Guide for Students and Families
- Student Brochures created in collaboration with Jefferson University on the following topics:
  - Physical Health
  - Sexual Violence
  - Safety and Violence
  - Sleep
  - Mental Health
  - Substance Abuse



# Where to find YRBS data for SDP?

1. District Performance Office Open Data website:  
[philasd.org/performance/programs-services/open-data/](https://philasd.org/performance/programs-services/open-data/)
2. Click on “School Information”
3. Select “Youth Risk Behavior Survey”
4. Select the year to download the file

**District Performance Office**  
215-400-4970

**School Information**

Click below to expand the table to view a description of the data and download a data set for a specific school year. You can also download a Zip file that contains all available years for a specific School Information category. The public release of this data supports our goals to promote greater transparency and community engagement. Before accessing these data, please review the [Terms and Conditions](#).

- + School Lists
- + School Enrollment & Demographics
- + District Enrollment & Demographics
- + Pre-School Information
- + Catchment Feeder Schools
- + School Catchment Areas
- + School Catchment Retention Details
- + School Catchment Retention Counts
- + **Youth Risk Behavior Survey**

This file contains data from the Youth Risk Behavior Study (YRBS) administered in Philadelphia, and includes anonymous responses from a random sample of students in grades 9-12. The survey code book is necessary to interpret the results and is available in Data Information.

Note: Data does not include school identifiers in accordance with CDC requirements. For information about other YRBS administrations across the country, see <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy youth/data/yrebs/index.htm>.

Last Update: 2022 | Next Refresh: 2024

Year	File Type	File Size	Additional Information
2021	Excel XLSX	1.1 MB	<a href="#">Data Information</a>
2019	Excel XLSX	1.0 MB	<a href="#">Data Information</a>
2017	Excel XLSX	1.3 MB	<a href="#">Data Information</a>
2015	Excel XLSX	1.5 MB	<a href="#">Data Information</a>
2013	Excel XLSX	1 MB	<a href="#">Data Information</a>

+ School Responder Information

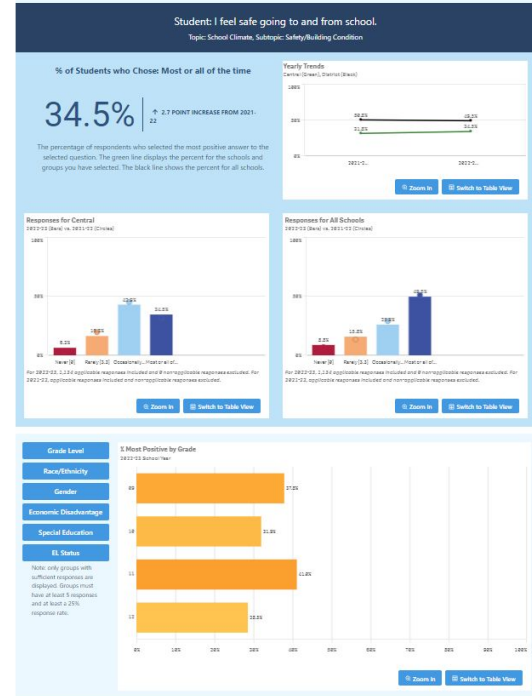
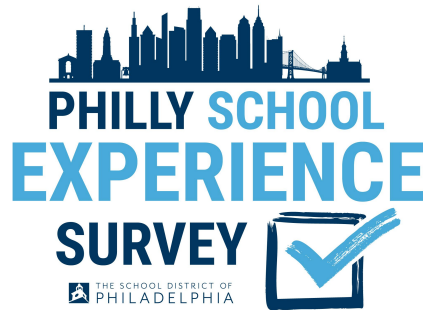
- + School Selection
- + Household Food Insecurity

For questions about these data sets, please contact us at [opendata@philasd.org](mailto:opendata@philasd.org)

# What about school-level data?

- Because our sample is a representative sample of the District (not necessarily representative of each school), we cannot analyze results at the school level.
- However, the annual Philly School Experience Survey (PSES) asks students some of the same or similar questions, and data can complement each other.

[philasd.org/pses](https://philasd.org/pses)





# Questions?

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