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

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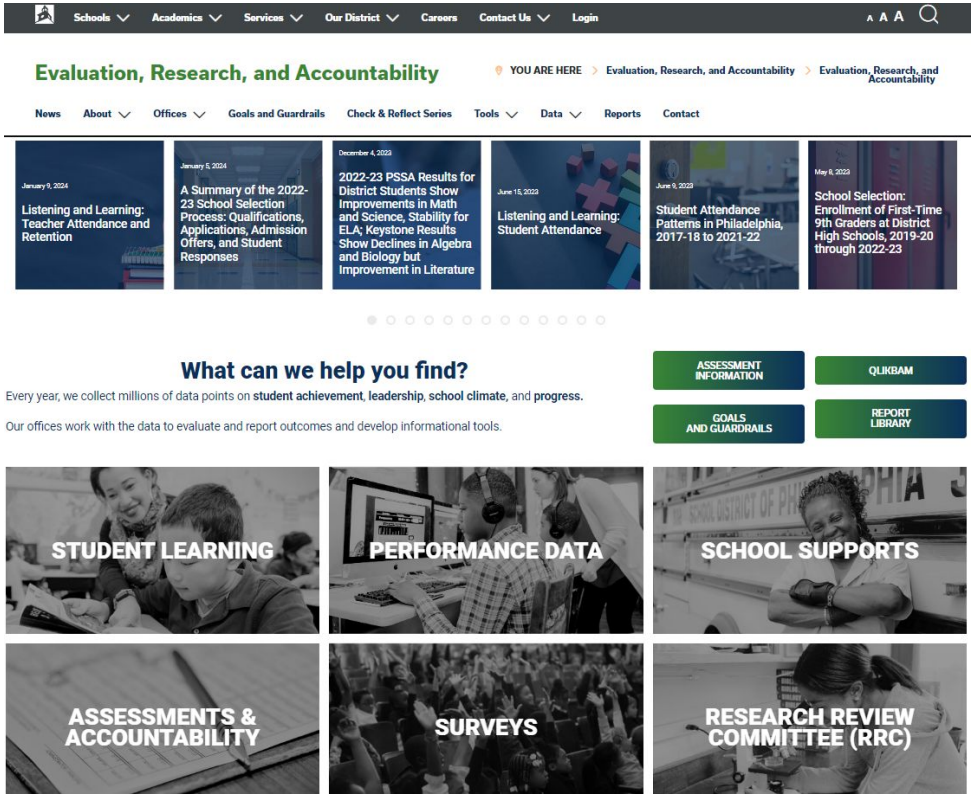
Evaluation, Research, and Accountability

philasd.org/era



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

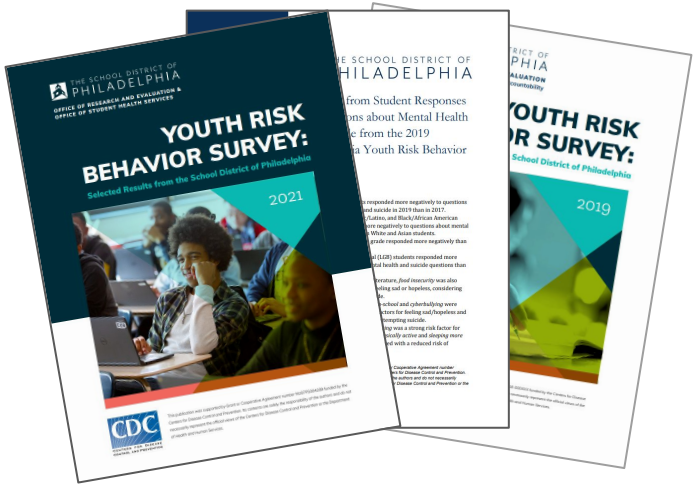
philasd.org/era/assessment/

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.

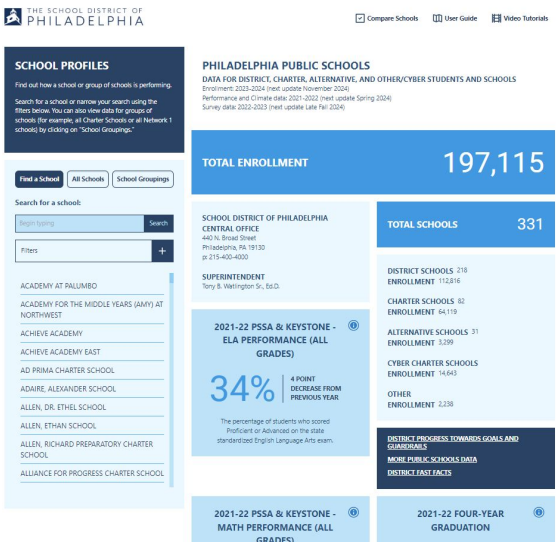
2023-24 Assessment Calendar

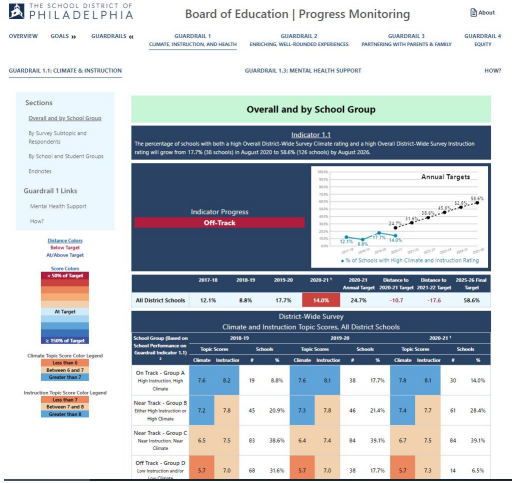
2023-24 Assessment Overview



philasd.org/research

schoolprofiles.philasd.org





philasd.org/era/goals-and-guardrails

philasd.org/research

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 these 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 95% 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 Employees (FTE)

philasd.org/opendata

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

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

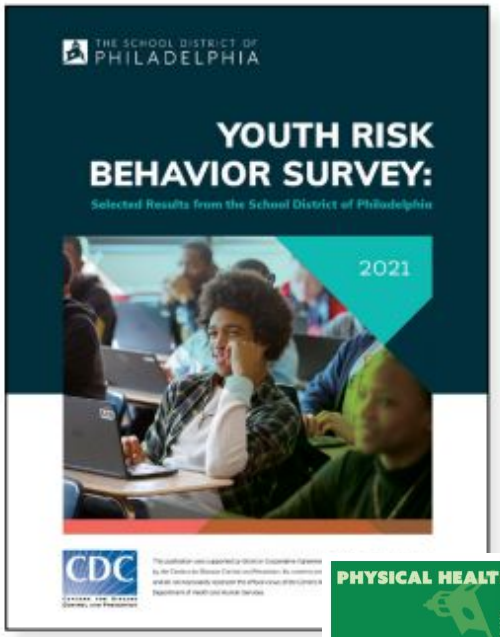
Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

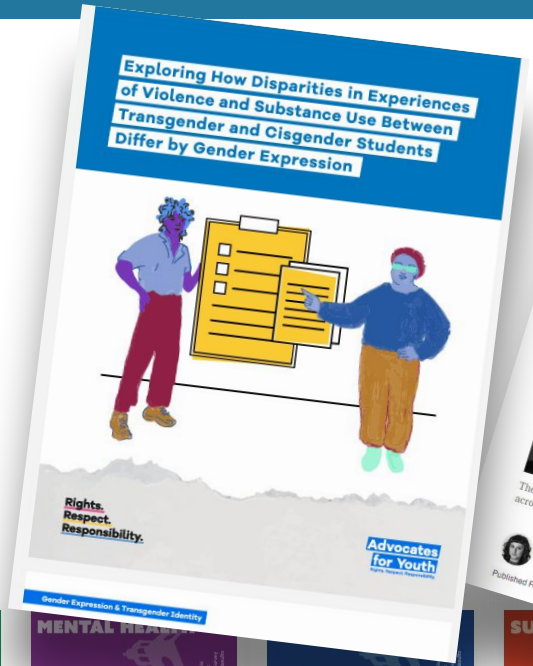
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Monitors health-related behaviors
- Only survey of its kind—very important data source
- Conducted in cities and states across the U.S.
  - Every two years (odd years)
  - Anonymous and voluntary
  - Up to 99 questions

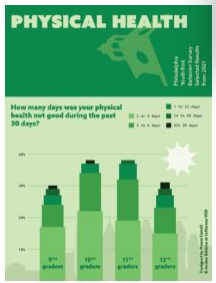
Why does the School District of Philadelphia participate?

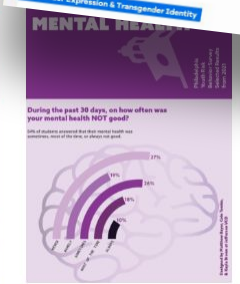
1. To contribute to important research
2. To compare Philadelphia's results over time and to similar cities, Pennsylvania, and national results
3. To inform SDP's policies and programming
4. To justify funding requests and apply for grants to better address student needs

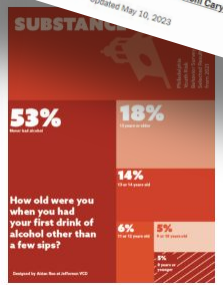
Examples of YRBS Data Use

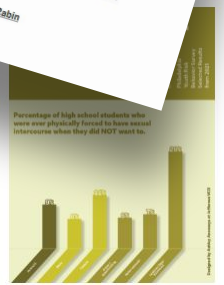


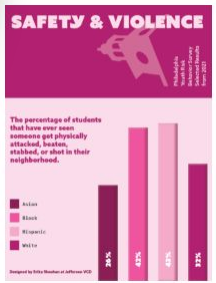












Common Concerns with the YRBS

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

Strategic Actions that relate to YRBS:

1.5 Expand the Safe Path Program in partnership with foundations and city and state funders.

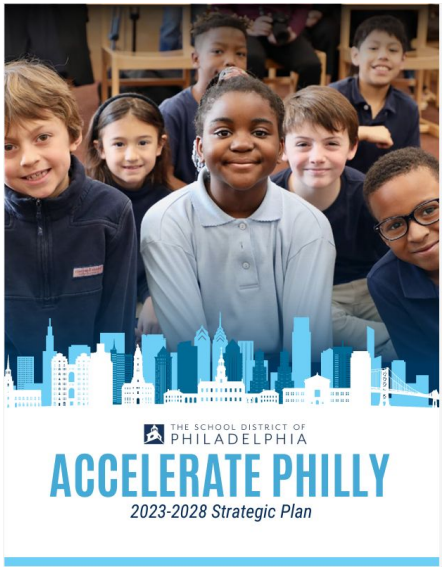
1.7 Identify, audit, and improve school climate programs.

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/

Connections to the Board's Goals and Guardrails

GOALS

01 Grade 3-8 Reading

02 Grade K-3 Reading

03 Grade 3-8 Math

04 High School Keystones

05 High School CTE

GUARDRAILS

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

philasd.org/era/goals-and-guardrails/

Part II: Selected Philadelphia Results

The 2021 Philadelphia YRBS

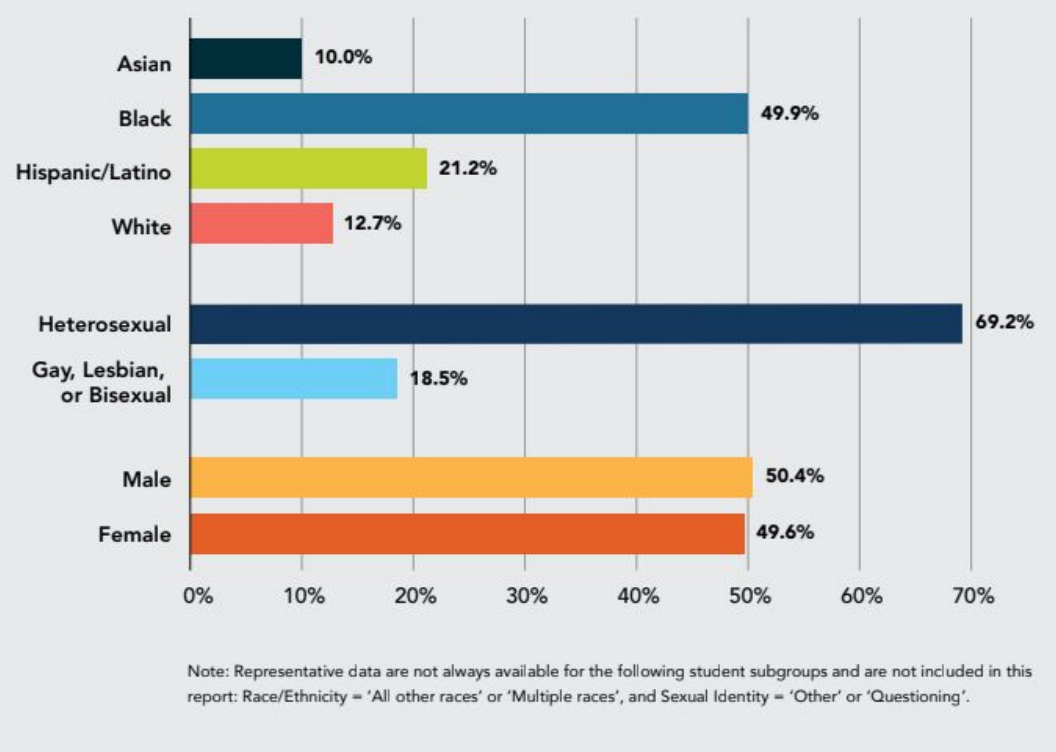
1,351 participants from **30** randomly-selected School District of Philadelphia public high schools

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



Note: Representative data are not always available for the following student subgroups and are not included in this report: Race/Ethnicity = 'All other races' or 'Multiple races', and Sexual Identity = 'Other' or 'Questioning'.

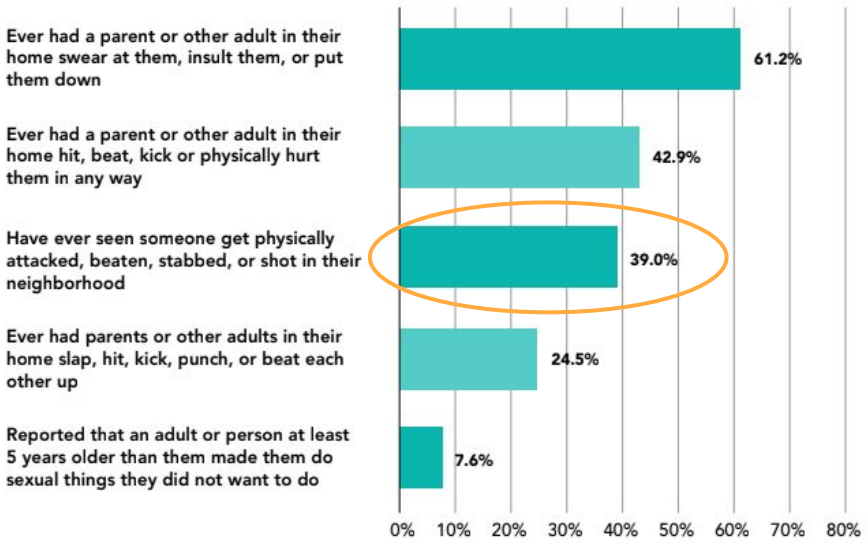
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

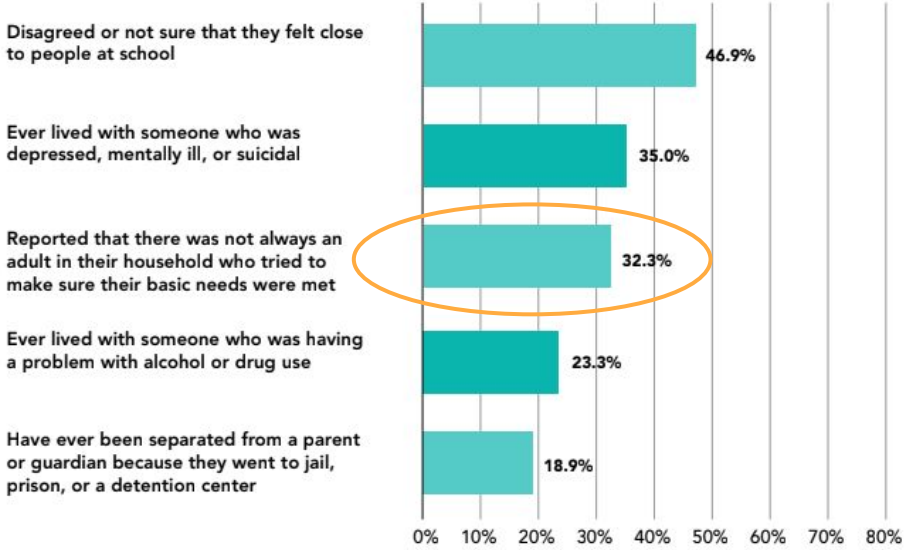
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years), as well as aspects of the child's environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding.
- According to the CDC, ACEs:
  - Are common
  - Are preventable
  - Have lasting,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

More information on ACEs is available here: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html

High rates of ACEs in SDP students

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

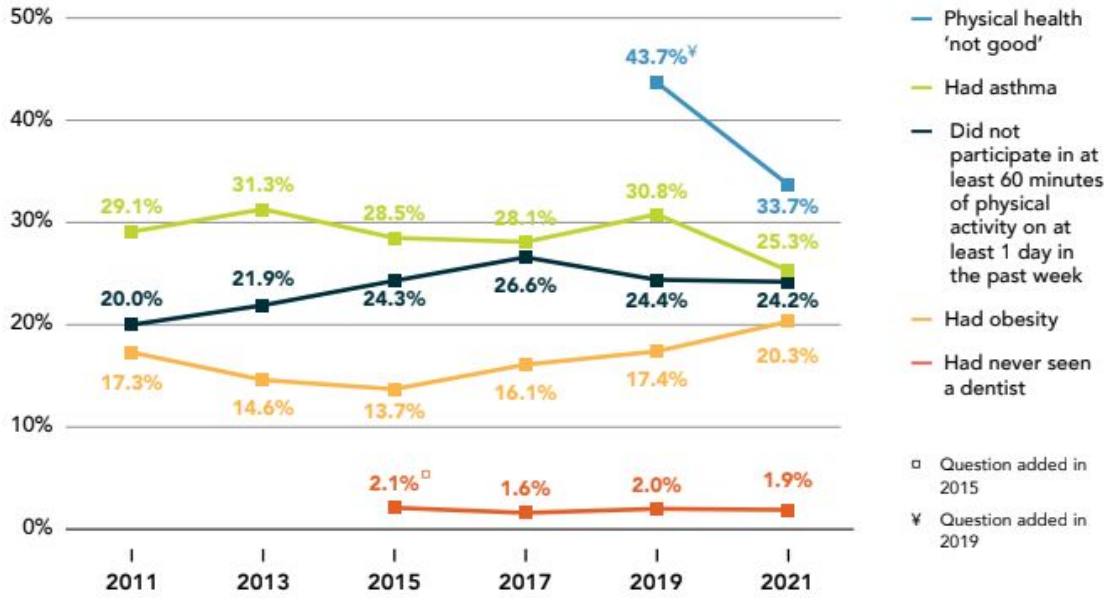




Physical Health:

Decrease in asthma, but increase in obesity

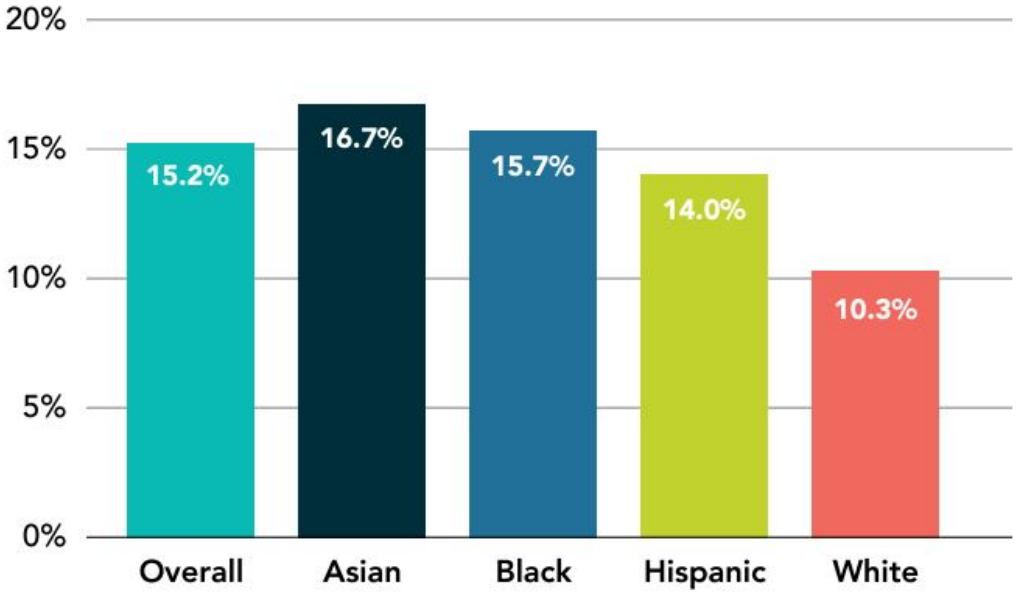
The YRBS asks students about their physical health, including questions about weight, dental health, asthma, and sleep, among others.



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

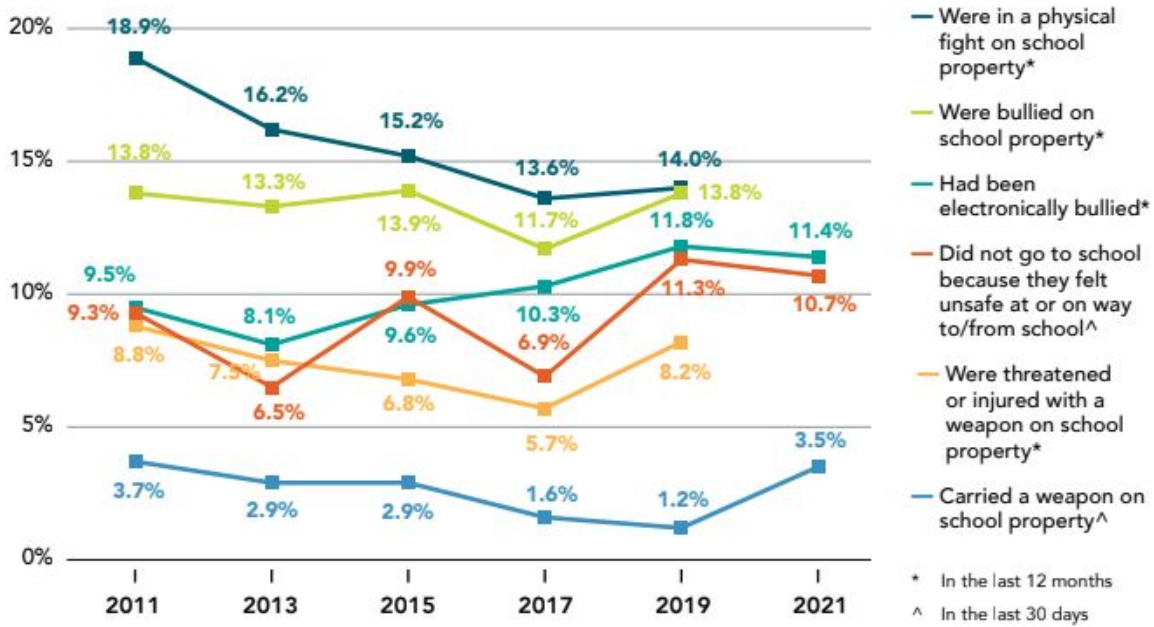
The YRBS asks students about healthy behaviors, including hunger, consumption of breakfast, soda, fruits, and vegetables.

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



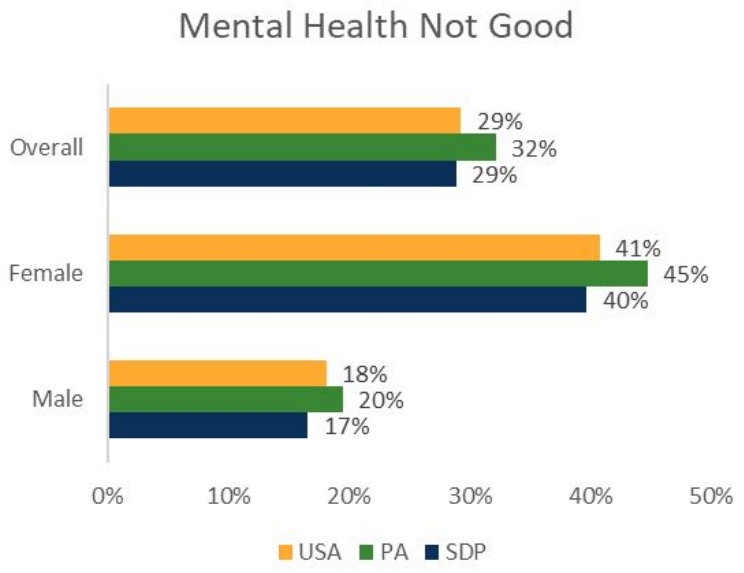
Safety & Violence: Increase in self-report of carrying weapons on school property

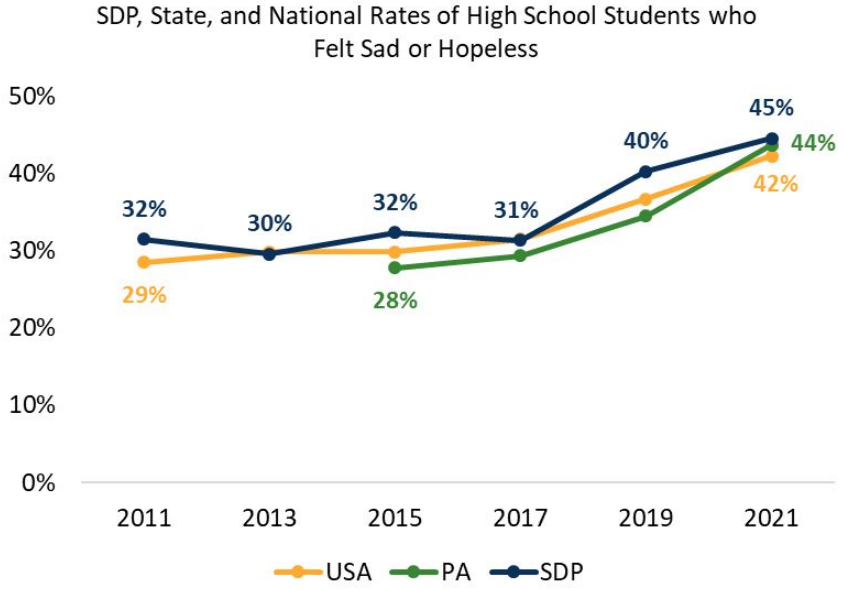
The YRBS asks students about their experiences with bullying and physical violence.



Mental Health:
Similar Trends for SDP, PA, US

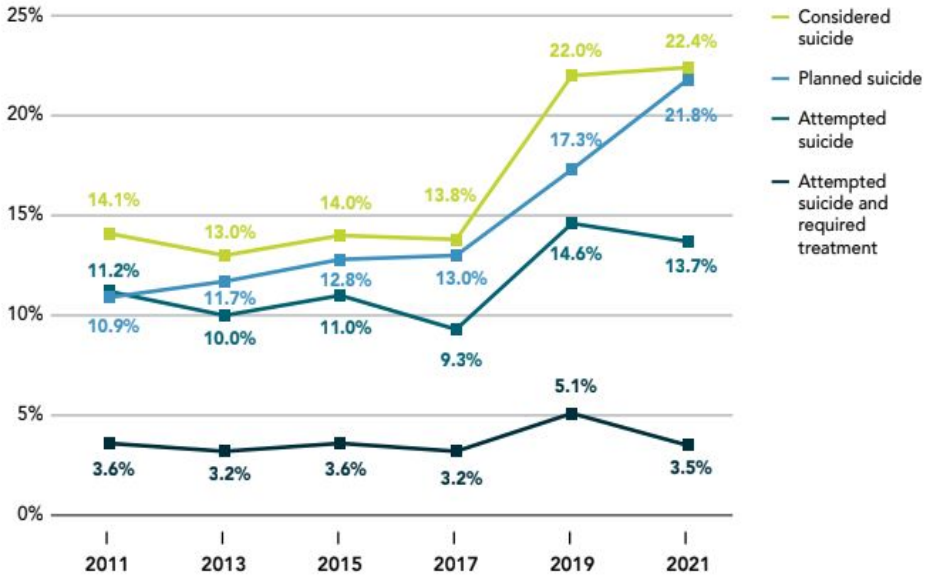
The YRBS asks students about their mental health. The CDC describes mental health as "...an important part of overall health and well-being" that "affects how we think, feel, and act."





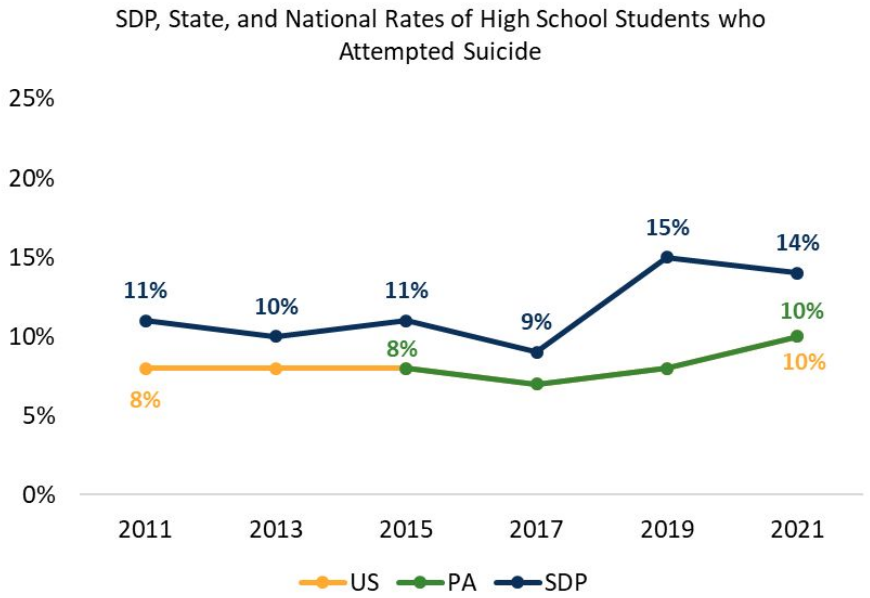
Mental Health:
Suicidal ideation continues to increase in SDP

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."



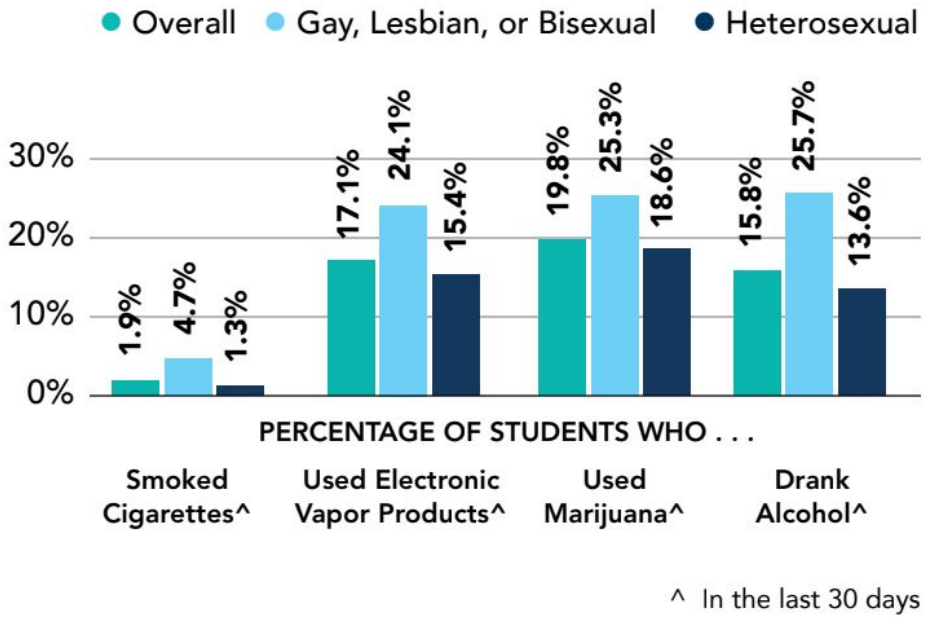
Mental Health: Higher rates of suicide attempts in SDP versus state and national

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

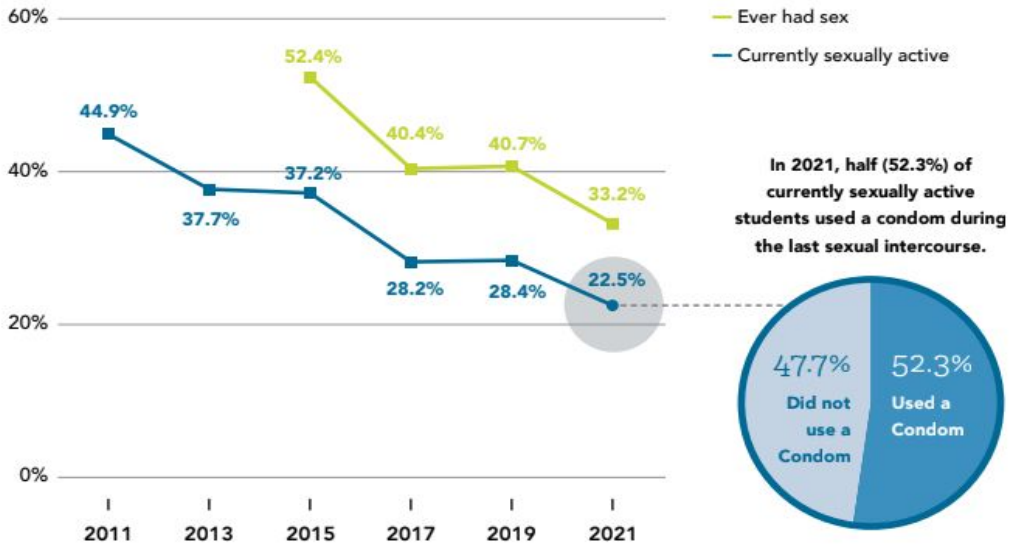
The YRBS asks students about their experiences with substance use. Cigarette and alcohol use have decreased over the last decade. Use of electronic vapor products more than doubled from 2019 to 2021.



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
or by emailing pash@philasd.org

PASH
Promoting Adolescent Student Health

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

PASH
Promoting Adolescent Student Health

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

PASH
Promoting Adolescent Student Health

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**

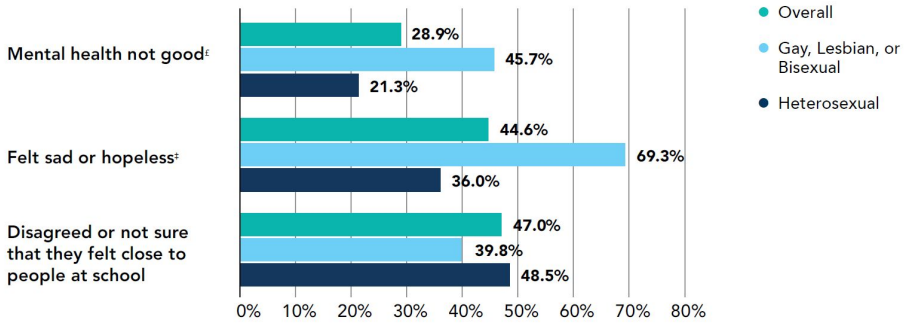
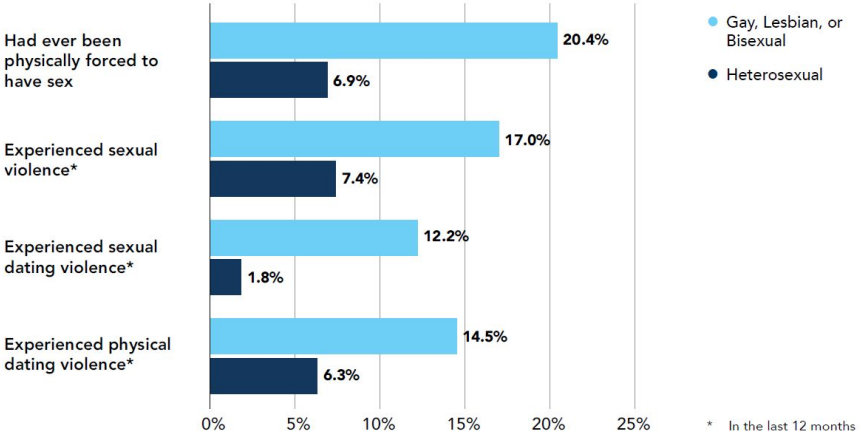


FIG. 17 **Responses to questions about sexual and dating violence by sexual orientation**



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)

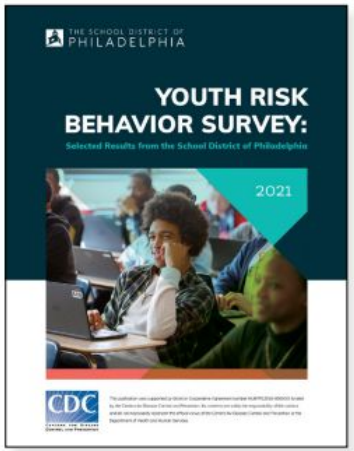
The Nutrition Team (a.k.a. Eat Right Philly)

Scan QR code for resources from 2021 YRBS Booklet:

WSCC

Resources

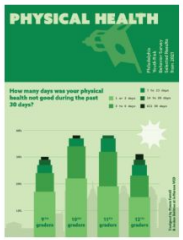
YRBS Reports: philasd.org/research/yrbs/

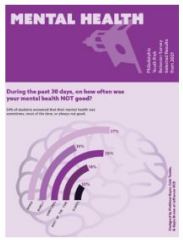


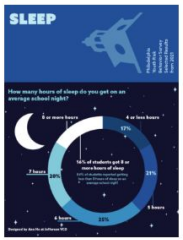
Scan the QR code to access:

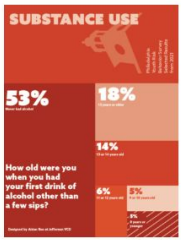
- The YRBS 2021 Highlighted Data Booklet
- 2-sided Resource Guide for Students and Families
- Student Brochures created in collaboration with Jefferson University on the following topics:
  - Physical Health
  - Sexual Violence
  - Safety and Violence
  - Sleep
  - Mental Health
  - Substance Abuse

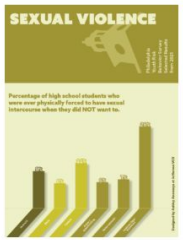
SCAN ME

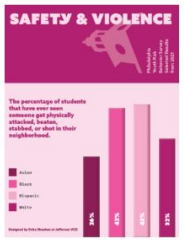






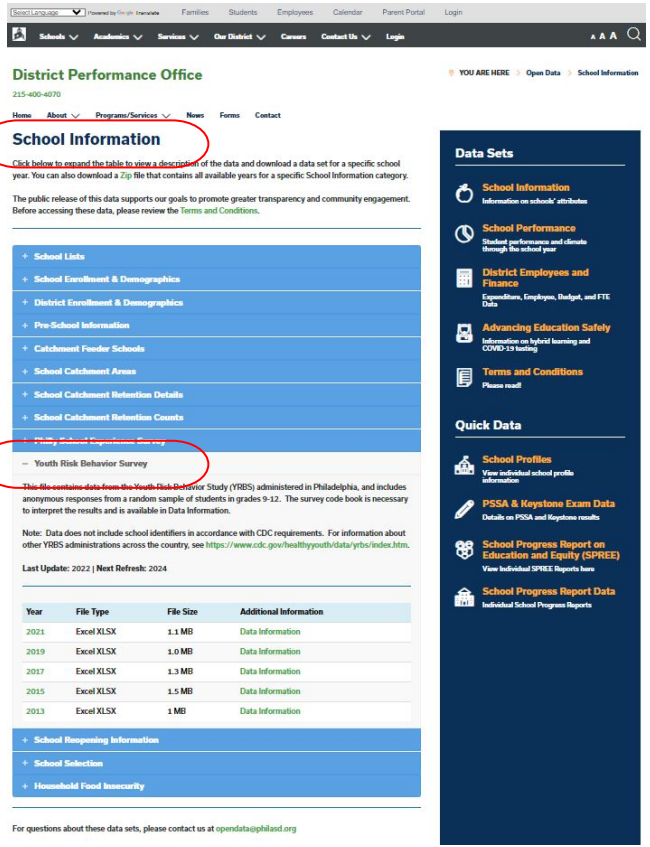






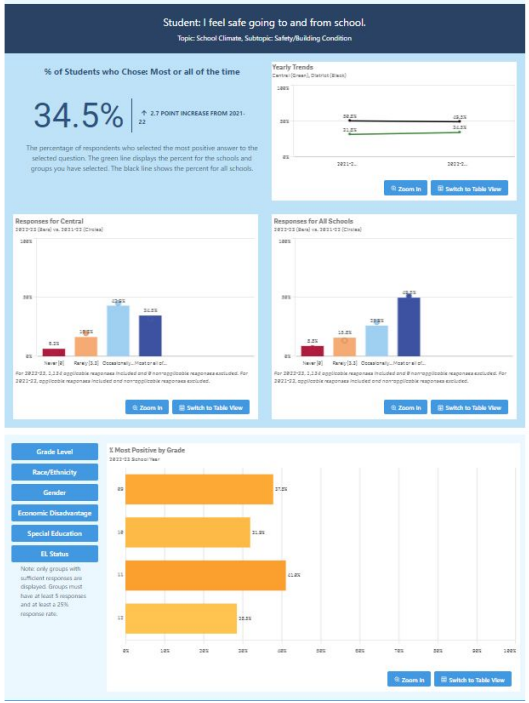
Where to find YRBS data for SDP?

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



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

PHILLY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE SURVEY
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Questions?

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