# Buffalo Public Schools 

High School Youth Risk Behavior
Surveillance Survey Report, 2013
Prepared by:
Via Evaluation


## District-wide High School Summary

## District Strengths

Compared to New York State high school students, Buffalo Public Schools high school students are at comparatively low risk in the areas of:

- use of illegal drugs other than marijuana;
- tobacco use, including smoking, chewing tobacco, and cigar products;
- alcohol use, including consumption and binge drinking behaviors;
- being bullied, both electronically and on school property; and
- carrying weapons.


## District Needs

Buffalo Public Schools high school students are at comparatively high risk in the areas of:

- early initiation of sexual activity;
- engaging in sedentary behaviors;
- suicide attempts, including those serious enough to require medical treatment;
- engaging in physical fights, including those that resulted in medical treatment;
- marijuana use, including early initiation of use;
- feeling unsafe at or on their way to school;
- having a number of sexual partners; and
- feeling sad or hopeless.


## Notable Areas of Change from 2011 to 2013

Since 2011, Buffalo Public School students report decreased:

- habitual (e.g., daily) cigarette smoking;
- sexual activity, including number of partners and early initiation;
- carrying weapons, including on school property;
- alcohol use, including age of first drink and binge drinking behaviors;
- engaging in physical fights; and
- using ecstasy, steroids, or prescription drugs.

Since 2011, Buffalo Public School students report increased:

- heavy smoking (10 or more cigarettes per day) among those who smoke;
- suicide attempts that needed to be treated by a doctor or nurse;
- heroin use;
- extended computer use (3 hours or more per day) outside of school;
- having sexual intercourse without a condom (among those who had sex); and
- being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.


## Methods and Reporting Notes

The high school Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance survey (YRBS), developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), was administered by Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) district-wide to applicable grade levels via Survey Monkey in December 2013. BPS added 14 questions to the high school YRBS to gather district-wide information on additional areas of concern.

The overall response rate of $61 \%$ was relatively high for a district-wide administration of the survey using this method, and a slight increase from the 2011 response rate of $60 \%$. Valid high school response rates varied, by school, from $86 \%$ to $24 \%$, indicating that, while the district-level results are generally representative, some schools are underrepresented. Academically higher-performing schools tended to have higher valid response rates than lower-performing schools.

Data presented in each table are from the following sources:

- New York 2011: United States CDC, state-level data from YRBS administered in 2011. When New York state data are not available, the national-level data 2011 YRBS are presented (as noted by an asterisk).
- Buffalo Public Schools 2011: Buffalo Public Schools, district-wide administration of YRBS in October 2011.
- Buffalo Public Schools 2013: Buffalo Public Schools, district-wide administration of YRBS in December 2013.


## Percent Difference between Buffalo Public Schools and New York State

Percent difference between BPS 2013 and NY 2011 (or national) was calculated by subtracting NY 2011 percent from BPS 2013 percent, then dividing by the average of the two and multiplying by $100 \%$. In this report, negative percent difference indicates that the BPS percent is lower than the NY percent; positive percent difference indicates that the BPS percent is higher than the NY percent.

Color shading indicates the degree to which BPS differs from the state (or national) data. Statements for which BPS had a lower risk are shaded green; statements for which BPS had a higher risk are shaded in red. The table below shows the meaning of each shade of green and red.

| LOWER RISK | HIGHER RISK |
| :--- | :--- |
| $0 \%$ to $10 \%$ Difference | $0 \%$ to -10\% Difference |
| 11\% to 40\% Difference | $-11 \%$ to $-40 \%$ Difference |
| $41 \%$ to $70 \%$ Difference | $-41 \%$ to $-70 \%$ Difference |
| $71 \%$ or Larger Difference | $-71 \%$ or Larger Difference |

While the degree of difference from New York state is a guide for areas of focus, it is also important to consider whether the percent of Buffalo Public Schools students engaging in each of these behaviors is acceptable to the community.

## Percent Change in Buffalo Public Schools, 2011 to 2013

Percent change between BPS 2011 and BPS 2013 was calculated by subtracting BPS 2013 percent from BPS 2011 percent, then dividing by BPS 2011 and multiplying the result by $100 \%$. In this report, arrows are included to the right of the 2013 BPS YRBS data only when there is a percent change of $\mathbf{1 0 \%}$ or more from 2011 to 2013. This threshold was chosen to highlight areas of substantial change. The table below shows the meaning of the arrows.

| Increased Risk | Increase of 10\% or more | $\uparrow$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Little or No Change | Percent Change of -9.9\% to 9.9\% |  |
| Decreased Risk | Decrease of 10\% or more | $\downarrow$ |

## Absence of Data

In the tables, the "-" symbol indicates data that are missing or could not be reported due to substantial differences between question wording or answer options in the 2011 and 2013 surveys.

## Administration Notes

- District-wide, $61 \%$ of all 9th through 12th grade students completed a valid survey.
- Approximately $91 \%$ of completed surveys were valid.
- Valid response rates varied widely from school to school, from $86 \%$ to $24 \%$.
- Eight high schools had response rates below $50 \%$ in 2013, compared with four high schools in 2011 (Academy School @ 44 was not included in 2011). This may impact the validity of the district-level report.
- Two schools (Bennett High School and South Park High School) that had response rates below 50\% on the 2011 survey increased their response rates to above $50 \%$ on the 2013 survey.
- Academically higher-performing schools tend to have higher response rates than lower-performing schools. This may also impact results.

Table 1: High School Survey Administration Data, by Response Rate

| School <br> Number | School Name | BEDS <br> Student <br> Count <br> Grades 9-12 | Number of <br> Completed <br> Surveys | Number of <br> Valid Surveys | Valid <br> Response <br> Rate |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 195 | City Honors School | 517 | 453 | 445 | $\mathbf{8 6 \%}$ |
| 304 | Hutchinson Central Technical High School | 1097 | 868 | 845 | $\mathbf{7 7 \%}$ |
| 415 | Middle Early College High School | 296 | 219 | 209 | $\mathbf{7 1 \%}$ |
| 302 | Emerson School of Hospitality | 455 | 332 | 321 | $\mathbf{7 1 \%}$ |
| 212 | Leonardo DaVinci High School | 389 | 273 | 263 | $\mathbf{6 8 \%}$ |
| 192 | Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts | 560 | 340 | 327 | $\mathbf{5 8 \%}$ |
| 156 | Frederick Law Olmsted | 264 | 159 | 149 | $\mathbf{5 6 \%}$ |
| 200 | Bennett High School | 599 | 369 | 320 | $\mathbf{5 3 \%}$ |
| 206 | South Park High School | 895 | 507 | 468 | $\mathbf{5 2 \%}$ |
| 301 | Burgard High School | 546 | 298 | 253 | $\mathbf{4 6 \%}$ |
| 305 | McKinley High School | 976 | 465 | 438 | $\mathbf{4 5 \%}$ |
| 197 | Math Science Technology Preparatory School | 255 | 138 | 114 | $\mathbf{4 5 \%}$ |
| 307 | East High School | 394 | 200 | 172 | $\mathbf{4 4 \%}$ |
| $\mathbf{1 9 8}$ | The International Preparatory School at Grover | 242 | 117 | 104 | $\mathbf{4 3 \%}$ |
| 204 | Lafayette High School | 500 | 197 | 181 | $\mathbf{3 6 \%}$ |
| 205 | Riverside Institute of Technology | 779 | 344 | 257 | $\mathbf{3 3 \%}$ |
| 131 | Academy School at\#44 | 164 | 45 | 40 | $\mathbf{2 4 \%}$ |
| -- | No School Listed/Inactive School |  | 664 | 556 |  |
|  |  |  | 5988 | $\mathbf{5 4 6 2}$ | $\mathbf{6 4 \%}$ |

Schools listed in italics had response rates below 50\%. These schools are underrepresented in district-level data.

## Unintentional Injuries and Violence

- BPS students are more likely to have attempted suicide in the past year than students statewide.
- The percent of BPS students with a suicide attempt that needed to be treated by a doctor or nurse was higher than students statewide, and has increased $31 \%$ since the 2011 survey.
- Though the percent of BPS students who reported engaging in a physical fight has declined, BPS students are still more likely to engage in physical fighting and more likely to need medical treatment for fights than students in New York state.
- The percent of students who report that they have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse has increased $11 \%$ since 2011.
- As in 2011, few BPS students reported carrying weapons. However, BPS students are more likely to have been threatened with a weapon on school property and more likely to feel unsafe while at or on their way to school than students statewide.
- Once again, Buffalo Public School students had higher levels of sad or hopeless feelings than NY students, with 28\% experiencing those feelings for at least 2 weeks sometime during the year prior to the survey.
- As in 2011, fewer BPS students report experiencing bullying on school property or electronically, compared with students statewide.

Table 2: Percent Responses to Unintentional Injuries and Violence Statements, by Survey

| Indicator | $\begin{gathered} \text { New York } \\ \text { 2011* } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Buffalo Public Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public Schools 2013 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rarely or never wore a bicycle helmet (among students who had ridden a bicycle during the 12 months before the survey) | 83.6\% | 90.2\% | 86.3\% |
| Rarely or never wore a seat belt (when riding in a car driven by someone else) | 7.7\%* | 11.9\% | 11.5\% |
| Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol one or more times (in a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey) | 24.1\%* | 20.1\% | 17.6\% $\downarrow$ |
| Drove when drinking alcohol one or more times (in a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey) | 5.4\% | 4.1\% | - |
| Texted or e-mailed one or more times while driving (in a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey) | - | - | 22.0\% |
| Carried a weapon on at least 1 day (for example, a gun, knife, or club during the 30 days before the survey) | 12.6\% | 12.5\% | 10.3\% $\downarrow$ |
| Carried a gun on at least 1 day (during the 30 days before the survey) | 4.5\% | 3.8\% | 3.2\% $\downarrow$ |
| Carried a weapon on school property on at least 1 day (for example, a gun, a knife, or club during the 30 days before the survey) | 4.2\% | 4.6\% | 4.2\% |


| Indicator | $\begin{gathered} \text { New York } \\ \text { 2011* } \end{gathered}$ | Buffalo Public Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public <br> Schools 2013 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school on at least 1 day (during the 30 days before the survey) | 6.4\% | 8.2\% | 8.1\% |
| Threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times (for example, a gun, knife, or club during the 12 months before the survey) | 7.3\% | 9.0\% | 8.4\% |
| In a physical fight one or more times (during the 12 months before the survey) | 27.0\% | 37.7\% | 32.4\% $\downarrow$ |
| Injured in a physical fight one or more times (injuries had to be treated by a doctor or nurse, during the 12 months before the survey) | 3.9\%* | 5.4\% | 5.2\% |
| In a physical fight on school property one or more times (during the 12 months before the survey) | 12.0\%* | 13.2\% | 12.5\% |
| Physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with (among those who were dating or going out with someone during the 12 months before the survey) | - | - | 12.6\% |
| Ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse (when they did not want to) | 7.4\% | 7.4\% | 8.2\% $\uparrow$ |
| Bullied on school property (during the 12 months before the survey) | 17.7\% | 13.6\% | 13.4\% |
| Bullied electronically (through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites, or texting, during the 12 months before the survey) | 16.2\% | 11.1\% | 10.8\% |


| Indicator | New York <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 1 *}$ | Buffalo <br> Public <br> Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public <br> Schools 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Felt sad or hopeless (almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row so that they <br> stopped doing some usual activities during the 12 months before the survey) | $24.9 \%$ | $27.8 \%$ | $\mathbf{2 8 . 5 \%}$ |
| Seriously considered attempting suicide (during the 12 months before the <br> survey) | $12.9 \%$ | $13.7 \%$ | $\mathbf{1 3 . 8 \%}$ |
| Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide (during the 12 months <br> before the survey) | $12.8 \%^{*}$ | $10.2 \%$ | $\mathbf{1 1 . 2 \%}$ |
| Attempted suicide one or more times (during the 12 months before the survey) | $7.1 \%$ | $9.6 \%$ | $\mathbf{1 0 . 2 \%}$ |
| Suicide attempt resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be <br> treated by a doctor or nurse (during the 12 months before the survey) | $2.6 \%$ | $2.7 \%$ | $\mathbf{3 . 6 \%} \boldsymbol{\uparrow}$ |

* United States data are presented because New York state data are not available.


## Tobacco Use

- As in 2011, tobacco use among Buffalo Public Schools high school students is low. Cigarette and cigar use declined further. BPS high schoolers are lower than other students statewide on all tobacco use measures.
- Among students who do smoke cigarettes, the percent who report heavy daily smoking (more than 10 cigarettes a day) increased.
- Though still substantially lower than statewide percentages, the number of BPS high school students who used chewing tobacco products increased from 2011.

Table 3: Percent Responses to Tobacco Use Statements, by Survey

| Indicator | $\begin{gathered} \text { New York } \\ 2011^{*} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Buffalo Public Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public Schools 2013 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ever tried cigarette smoking (even one or two puffs) | 33.5\% | 30.9\% | 26.7\% $\downarrow$ |
| Smoked a whole cigarette for the first time before age 13 years | 10.3\%* | 7.4\% | 6.7\% |
| Smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day (during the 30 days before the survey) | 12.5\% | 10.1\% | 7.7\% $\downarrow$ |
| Smoked cigarettes on 20 or more days (during the 30 days before the survey) | 5.5\% | 4.2\% | 2.9\% $\downarrow$ |
| Smoked more than 10 cigarettes per day (among students who currently smoked cigarettes, on the days they smoked during the 30 days before the survey) | 16.3\% | 9.6\% | 13.4\% $\uparrow$ |
| Usually obtained their own cigarettes by buying them in a store or gas station (among the students who were aged $<18$ years and who currently smoked cigarettes, during the 30 days before the survey) | 14.0\%* | 25.1\% | 25.0\% |
| Smoked cigarettes on school property on at least 1 day (during the 30 days before the survey) | 4.9\%* | 4.2\% | 3.0\% $\downarrow$ |
| Ever smoked at least one cigarette every day for 30 days | 10.2\%* | 6.0\% | 4.6\% 】 |


| Indicator | New York <br> 2011* | Buffalo <br> Public <br> Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public <br> Schools 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Did not try to quit smoking cigarettes (among students who currently smoked <br> cigarettes, during the 12 months before the survey) | $54.9 \%$ | $51.6 \%$ | $\mathbf{5 6 . 6 \%}$ |
| Used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least 1 day (during the 30 days before <br> the survey) | $7.3 \%$ | $2.7 \%$ |  |
| Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least 1 day (during the 30 days <br> before the survey) | $13.1 \%^{*}$ | $7.0 \%$ | $\mathbf{3 . 1 \%} \uparrow$ |

* United States data are presented because New York state data are not available.


## Alcohol and Drug Use

- Alcohol use among BPS high school students is lower than state and national levels, and has declined since 2011.
- Though lifetime marijuana use is similar among BPS and other New York state students, the percent of BPS students who first tried marijuana before age 13 and the percent who reported use in the past 30 days is higher than state levels.
- Use of illegal drugs (other than marijuana) is substantially lower than use among other New York state students.
- Though still lower than state levels, heroin use has increased among BPS students. This was the only illegal drug for which BPS students reported an increase in use from 2011.
- BPS students are less likely to be offered, sold, or given illegal drugs on school property than other NY students.

Table 4: Percent Responses to Alcohol and Drug Use Statements, by Survey

| Indicator | New York <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | Buffalo <br> Public <br> Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public <br> Schools 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ever had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day (during their life) | $70.8 \%^{*}$ | $57.7 \%$ | $\mathbf{5 0 . 9 \%} \downarrow$ |
| Drank alcohol for the first time before age 13 years (other than a few sips) | $19.0 \%$ | $17.6 \%$ | $\mathbf{1 4 . 9 \%} \downarrow$ |
| Had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day (during the 30 days before the <br> survey) | $38.4 \%$ | $29.5 \%$ | $\mathbf{2 5 . 7 \%} \boldsymbol{\downarrow}$ |
| Had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least 1 <br> day (during the 30 days before the survey) | $22.0 \%$ | $15.3 \%$ | $\mathbf{1 2 . 7 \%} \downarrow$ |
| Usually obtained the alcohol they drank by someone giving it to them (among <br> students who currently drank alcohol during the 30 days before the survey) | $31.2 \%$ | $35.8 \%$ | $\mathbf{3 8 . 3 \%}$ |
| Ever used marijuana one or more times (during their life) | $39.9 \%^{*}$ | $38.1 \%$ | $\mathbf{3 7 . 1 \%}$ |
| Tried marijuana for the first time before age 13 years | $7.6 \%$ | $10.0 \%$ | $\mathbf{9 . 7 \%}$ |
| Used marijuana one or more times (during the 30 days before the survey) | $20.5 \%$ | $24.8 \%$ | $\mathbf{2 2 . 8 \%}$ |


| Indicator | $\begin{gathered} \text { New York } \\ \text { 2011* } \end{gathered}$ | Buffalo Public Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public Schools 2013 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ever used any form of cocaine one or more times (for example, powder, crack, or freebase, during their life) | 6.2\% | 3.0\% | 3.1\% |
| Ever sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high one or more times (during their life) | 9.9\% | 6.6\% | 5.8\% $\downarrow$ |
| Ever used heroin one or more times (during their life) | 4.0\% | 1.9\% | 2.3\% $\uparrow$ |
| Ever used methamphetamines one or more times (during their life) | 4.6\% | 2.1\% | 2.1\% |
| Ever used ecstasy one or more times (during their life) | 7.0\% | 4.4\% | 3.8\% $\downarrow$ |
| Ever took steroids pills or shots without a doctor's prescription one or more times (during their life) | 3.6\%* | 2.7\% | 2.3\% $\downarrow$ |
| Ever taken a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription (such as Oxycontin, Percocet, Vicodin, codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax, during their life) | 20.7\%* | 7.4\% | 6.6\% $\downarrow$ |
| Ever used a needle to inject any illegal drug into their body one or more times (during their life) | 3.5\% | 1.8\% | 1.8\% |
| Offered, sold, or given an illegal drug by someone on school property (during the 12 months before the survey) | 25.6\%* | 16.4\% | 13.9\% $\downarrow$ |

* United States data are presented because New York state data are not available.


## Sexual Behavior

- The percent of BPS high school students who report ever having had sex dropped 13\% from 2011.
- Nearly 1 out of every 3 BPS students report being currently sexually active (33\% reported having had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the 3 months prior to the survey). This is a decline of $12 \%$ from 2011.
- Though both early initiation of sexual activity and having a high number of sexual partners have declined since 2011, BPS students are still at higher risk in these areas than NY students.
- BPS students are more likely to drink alcohol or use drugs before sexual intercourse than NY students.
- The percent of sexually active BPS students who did not use a condom during their last sexual encounter increased 15\% since 2011.

Table 5: Percent Responses to Sexual Behavior Statements, by Survey

| Indicator | New York <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | Buffalo <br> Public <br> Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public <br> Schools 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ever had sexual intercourse | $42.0 \%$ | $51.1 \%$ | $\mathbf{4 4 . 6 \%} \downarrow$ |
| Had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13 years | $5.7 \%$ | $11.8 \%$ | $\mathbf{1 0 . 2 \%} \downarrow$ |
| Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons (during their life) | $13.3 \%$ | $20.3 \%$ | $\mathbf{1 6 . 5 \%} \boldsymbol{\downarrow}$ |
| Had sexual intercourse with at least one person (during the 3 months before the <br> survey) | $31.0 \%$ | $37.9 \%$ | $\mathbf{3 3 . 3 \%} \downarrow$ |
| Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse (among students <br> who were currently sexually active) | $21.9 \%$ | $23.4 \%$ | $\mathbf{2 4 . 5 \%}$ |
| Did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse (among students who were <br> currently sexually active) | $37.4 \%$ | $30.8 \%$ | $\mathbf{3 5 . 5 \%} \boldsymbol{\uparrow}$ |
| Did not use birth control pills before last sexual intercourse (to prevent <br> pregnancy, among students who were currently sexually active) | $81.9 \%$ | $89.3 \%$ | $\mathbf{8 7 . 1 \%}$ |
| Were never taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection | $16.0 \%$ | $16.2 \%$ | $\mathbf{1 7 . 2 \%}$ |


| Indicator | New York <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | Buffalo <br> Public <br> Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public <br> Schools 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Did not use Depo-Provera before last sexual intercourse (to prevent pregnancy, <br> among students who were currently sexually active) | $97.5 \%$ | $93.9 \%$ | $\mathbf{9 3 . 3 \%}$ |
| Did not use birth control pills or Depo-Provera before last sexual intercourse <br> (to prevent pregnancy, among students who were currently sexually active) | $79.5 \%$ | $83.3 \%$ | $\mathbf{8 0 . 4 \%}$ |
| Did not use both a condom during last sexual intercourse and birth control pills <br> or Depo-Provera before last sexual intercourse (to prevent pregnancy, among <br> students who were currently sexually active) | $92.8 \%$ | $82.2 \%$ | $\mathbf{9 1 . 5 \%} \boldsymbol{\uparrow}$ |

## Dietary Behaviors

- As in 2011, BPS students are more likely to eat fruits and vegetables than students statewide or nationally. However, fruit and vegetable consumption estimates have low recall validity, so it is difficult to determine the accuracy of this information.
- BPS students' consumption of regular soda declined from 2011.
- More BPS high school students report avoiding "other" vegetables.
- As in 2011, there was almost no change in the percent of BPS students who report Body Mass Indexes (BMI) in the overweight or obese range, based on self-reported height and weight estimates.
- As in 2011, BPS students are less likely to take diet products or vomit in order to lose weight, but they are more likely to engage in fasting behaviors than other students.

Table 6: Percent Responses to Dietary Behaviors Statements, by Survey

| Indicator | New York <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 1 *}$ | Buffalo <br> Public <br> Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public <br> Schools 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ate fruits and vegetables less than five times per day (100\% fruit juices, fruit, <br> green salad, potatoes [excluding French fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips], <br> carrots, or other vegetables, during the 7 days before the survey) | - | $69.5 \%$ | $\mathbf{6 9 . 7 \%}$ |
| Did not drink 100\% fruit juices (during the 7 days before the survey) | $20.9 \%$ | $17.3 \%$ | $\mathbf{2 1 . 1 \%} \mathbf{\uparrow}$ |
| Did not eat fruit (during the 7 days before the survey) | $13.7 \%$ | $11.8 \%$ | $\mathbf{1 1 . 0 \%}$ |
| Did not eat green salad (during the 7 days before the survey) | $38.0 \%^{*}$ | $37.7 \%$ | $\mathbf{3 9 . 5 \%}$ |
| Did not eat potatoes (excluding French fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips, <br> during the 7 days before the survey) | $31.2 \%$ | $28.2 \%$ | $\mathbf{2 6 . 4 \%}$ |
| Did not eat carrots (during the 7 days before the survey) | $52.0 \%^{*}$ | $57.6 \%$ | $\mathbf{5 2 . 8 \%}$ |
| Did not eat other vegetables (excluding green salad, potatoes, or carrots, during <br> the 7 days before the survey) | $17.0 \%^{*}$ | $19.2 \%$ | $\mathbf{2 1 . 3 \%} \boldsymbol{\uparrow}$ |
| Drank a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop at least one time per day (not <br> including diet soda or diet pop, during the 7 days before the survey) | $21.4 \%$ | $34.6 \%$ | $\mathbf{3 1 . 0 \%} \boldsymbol{\psi}$ |


| Indicator | $\begin{gathered} \text { New York } \\ \text { 2011* } \end{gathered}$ | Buffalo Public Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public <br> Schools 2013 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ate fruit or drank $100 \%$ fruit juices less than two times per day (during the 7 days before the survey) | 63.2\% | 59.2\% | 61.7\% |
| Ate vegetables less than three times per day (green salad, potatoes [excluding French fries, fried potatoes, or potato chips], carrots, or other vegetables, during the 7 days before the survey) | 84.7\%* | 79.3\% | 79.4\% |
| Did not eat breakfast (during the 7 days before the survey) | - | - | 17.5\% |
| Overweight (students who were >=85th percentile but <95th percentile for body mass index, by age and sex, based on reference data) | 14.7\% | 19.2\% | 18.6\% |
| Obese (students who were >=95th percentile for body mass index, by age and sex, based on reference data) | 11.0\% | 12.7\% | 12.2\% |
| Described themselves as slightly or very overweight | 27.8\% | 27.2\% | 27.5\% |
| Went without eating for 24 hours or more to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight (during the 30 days before the survey) | 12.2\%* | 14.3\% | 13.8\% |
| Took diet pills, powders or liquids to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight (without a doctor's advice, during the 30 days before the survey) | 5.1\%* | 4.1\% | 4.6\% $\uparrow$ |
| Vomited or took laxatives to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight (during the 30 days before the survey) | 4.9\% | 4.0\% | 4.1\% |

* United States data are presented because New York state data are not available.


## Physical Activity

- As in 2011, BPS students who reported that they did not engage in any vigorous physical activity in the 7 days prior to taking the survey was higher than among NY students, and increased $16 \%$ from 2011.
- As in 2011, Buffalo Public School high school students are less likely to attend Physical Education classes during a school week than peers statewide.
- As in 2011, BPS students are more likely to watch 3 or more hours of television daily than students statewide.
- Non-school-related use of computers for 3 or more hours a day has increased from 2011, and is higher than the statewide average.

Table 7: Percent Responses to Physical Activity Statements, by Survey

| Indicator | New York <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | Buffalo <br> Public <br> Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public <br> Schools 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Physically active at least 60 minutes per day on less than 5 days (doing any kind <br> of physical activity that increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard <br> some of the time during the 7 days before the survey) | $54.5 \%$ | $59.5 \%$ | $\mathbf{6 3 . 1 \%}$ |
| Did not attend physical education classes in an average week (when they were <br> in school) | $8.7 \%$ | $10.9 \%$ | $\mathbf{1 1 . 2 \%}$ |
| Did not attend physical education classes daily (when they were in school) | $81.5 \%$ | $90.0 \%$ | $\mathbf{8 9 . 1 \%}$ |
| Did not play on sports teams (run by their school or community groups during <br> the 12 months before the survey) | $42.3 \%$ | $42.0 \%$ | $\mathbf{4 1 . 8 \%}$ |
| Watched television 3 or more hours per day (on an average school day) | $30.6 \%$ | $43.4 \%$ | $\mathbf{4 2 . 1 \%}$ |
| Used computers 3 or more hours per day (played video or computer games or <br> used a computer for something that was not school work on an average school <br> day) | $33.5 \%$ | $33.4 \%$ | $\mathbf{3 9 . 2 \%} \boldsymbol{T}$ |
| Physically active at least 60 minutes per day on less than 7 days (doing any kind <br> of physical activity that increased their heart rate and made them breathe hard <br> some of the time during the 7 days before the survey) | $74.9 \%$ | $75.2 \%$ | $\mathbf{7 8 . 1 \%}$ |
| Did not participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on any day (doing <br> any kind of physical activity that increased their heart rate and made them <br> breathe hard some of the time during the 7 days before the survey) | $13.3 \%$ | $17.3 \%$ | $\mathbf{2 0 . 0 \%} \% \boldsymbol{T}$ |

## Asthma

- Asthma rates among BPS high school students have declined slightly from 2011, but remain higher than state levels.

Table 8: Percent Responses to Asthma Statements, by Survey

| Indicator | New York <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | Buffalo <br> Public <br> Schools 2011 | Buffalo Public <br> Schools 2013 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ever told by a doctor or nurse that they had asthma | $21.3 \%$ | $27.2 \%$ | $\mathbf{2 5 . 2 \%}$ |

## Site-Added Questions

Buffalo Public Schools added 14 questions to the High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, asking students about sexual identity, school attendance, transportation to school, UV exposure, and dental health.

Because these questions are BPS-specific, no state or national comparison data are available. As a result, these questions were not analyzed like the standard YRBS questions (as presented above), nor were the questions subject to validity checks. Frequencies of each response to 10 of the site-added questions are presented following the highlights below.

- Nine percent of students identify as gay/lesbian or bisexual, while $6 \%$ report that they are unsure of their sexual identity.
- Illness is the leading reason for student absence.
- Transportation issues and caring for family member(s) are leading reasons for being absent, after illness. Both reasons increased from approximately $25 \%$ of students selecting them in 2011 to $31 \%$ in 2013.
- Suspension as a reason for absence is down slightly, from $16 \%$ of students selecting it in 2011 to 14\% in 2013.
- The majority of high school students take public transportation to get to school ( $61 \%$ ). One out of four walk or bike to school at least one time a week.
- Almost a quarter (23\%) of BPS high schoolers have been tested for HIV.
- $70 \%$ of students report going to the same dentist every year.
- $36 \%$ of students have experienced dental pain in the past year; about $12 \%$ (653 students) missed school because of pain in their mouths.


## Sexual Identity

## Table 9: Sexual Identity

| Which of the following best describes you? | Percent of <br> Total <br> Number of <br> Responses | Number of <br> Responses |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Heterosexual (straight) | 4585 | $84 \%$ |
| Gay or Lesbian | 91 | $2 \%$ |
| Bisexual | 390 | $7 \%$ |
| Not Sure | 334 | $6 \%$ |
| No Response or Missing | $\mathbf{6 2}$ | $1 \%$ |
|  | Total | $\mathbf{5 4 6 2}$ |

## School Attendance

Table 10: Primary Reasons Selected for School Absence

| During the previous school year, choose the top three <br> reasons you were absent from school. | Number of <br> Times <br> Selected | Percent of <br> Respondents <br> who Selected <br> Reason |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Illness | 4149 | $76 \%$ |
| Transportation Issue | 1703 | $31 \%$ |
| Caring for family member(s) | 1664 | $31 \%$ |
| School work is not interesting | 1081 | $20 \%$ |
| Suspension | 763 | $14 \%$ |
| Worried about what teachers or other adults may say or do to <br> me because of my school performance | 269 | $5 \%$ |
| School feels too unsafe | 217 | $4 \%$ |
| Embarrassed about school performance | 156 | $3 \%$ |
| Pregnant or parenting | 153 | $2 \%$ |

Table 11: Average Hours of Sleep

$\left.$| On an average school night, how many hours of sleep do |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| you get? |$\quad$| Number of |
| :---: |
| Responses |$\quad$| Percent of |
| :---: |
| Total Number |
| of Responses | \right\rvert\,

## Transportation

Table 12: Usual Mode of Transportation to School

| How do you get to school most days? | Number of <br> Responses | Percent of <br> Total Number <br> of Responses |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Walk | 657 | $12 \%$ |
| Bicycle | 22 | $<1 \%$ |
| Public Transportation (bus/metro) | 3329 | $61 \%$ |
| School Bus | 213 | $4 \%$ |
| Car Ride | 1162 | $21 \%$ |
| Other | 64 | $1 \%$ |
| No response or missing | 15 | $<1 \%$ |
|  | Total | $\mathbf{5 4 6 2}$ |

Table 13: Frequency of Walking or Biking to School

| During a typical week how often do you walk or bike to school? | Number of Responses | Percent of Total Number of Responses |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 days | 4070 | 75\% |
| 1 day | 180 | 3\% |
| 2 days | 170 | 3\% |
| 3 days | 127 | 2\% |
| 4 days | 60 | 1\% |
| 5 days | 840 | 15\% |
| No response or missing | 15 | <1\% |
| Total | 5462 | 100\% |

## HIV Testing

Table 14: History of HIV Testing

| Have you ever been tested for HIV, the virus that causes <br> AIDS? (Do not count tests done if you donated blood.) | Number of <br> Responses | Percent of <br> Total Number <br> of Responses |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Yes | 1230 | $23 \%$ |
| No | 3559 | $65 \%$ |
| Not Sure | 549 | $10 \%$ |
| No response or missing | 124 | $2 \%$ |
|  | Total | $\mathbf{5 4 6 2}$ |

## Dental Health

Table 15: Frequency of Teeth Brushing

$\left.$| In the last week, how many days did you miss brushing |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| your teeth? |$\quad$| Number of |
| :---: |
| Responses | | Percent of |
| :---: |
| Total Number |
| of Responses | \right\rvert\,

## Table 16: Consistency of Dental Provider

| Do you go to the same dentist every year? | Number of <br> Responses | Percent of <br> Total Number <br> of Responses |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Yes | 3846 | $70 \%$ |
| No | 1458 | $27 \%$ |
| No response or missing | 158 | $3 \%$ |
|  | Total | $\mathbf{5 4 6 2}$ |

Table 17: Presence of Dental Pain

| Have you had pain in your mouth in the last year? | Number of <br> Responses | Percent of <br> Total Number <br> of Responses |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Yes | 1953 | $36 \%$ |
| No | 3358 | $62 \%$ |
| No response or missing | 151 | $3 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{5 4 6 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 \%}$ |

Table 18: Absence from School due to Dental Pain

$\left.$| Have you missed any days of school because of pain in |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| your mouth? |$\quad$| Number of |
| :---: |
| Responses | | Percent of |
| :---: |
| Total Number |
| of Responses | \right\rvert\,

