



Massachusetts

Selected Topics Fact Sheet, Profiles 2008

The School Health Profiles (Profiles) is a system of surveys assessing school health policies and programs in states, territories, and large urban school districts. Profiles surveys are conducted biennially among representative samples of middle and high school principals and lead health education teachers.

Health Education	Among States*		Massachusetts	
	Median	Range	%	CI †
Percentage of schools that required students to take two or more health education courses	50.6	(11.9 – 86.1)	58.6	(54.4 – 62.6)
Among schools that required a health education course, percentage that required students who fail the course to repeat it	59.8	(16.3 – 81.2)	39.6	(36.1 – 43.1)
Percentage of schools with a health education curriculum that addresses all 8 national standards for health education	66.1	(38.0 – 86.8)	63.7	(59.3 – 67.8)
Percentage of schools in which the lead health education teacher had professional preparation in health education or in health and physical education combined	58.3	(18.9 – 91.5)	66.3	(61.5 – 70.8)
Percentage of schools in which all staff who teach health education were certified, licensed, or endorsed by the state in health education	85.3	(30.3 – 96.4)	79.5	(75.6 – 82.9)
Percentage of schools in which those who teach health education were provided with key materials for teaching health education	50.3	(31.0 – 71.9)	54.3	(49.5 – 59.0)
Percentage of schools that provided parents and families with health information to increase parent and family knowledge of tobacco-use prevention, physical activity, or nutrition and healthy eating	54.3	(39.6 – 67.0)	47.7	(43.3 – 52.1)
HIV, STD, and Pregnancy Prevention				
Percentage of schools that taught 11 key HIV, STD, or pregnancy prevention topics in a required course during grades 6, 7, or 8	51.8	(27.7 – 71.9)	44.2	(38.0 – 50.6)
Percentage of schools that taught 8 key HIV, STD, or pregnancy prevention topics in a required course during grades 9, 10, 11 or 12	79.6	(45.7 – 95.8)	73.7	(66.9 – 79.5)
Percentage of schools that taught 3 key topics related to condom use in a required course during grades 9, 10, 11, or 12	58.8	(10.4 – 93.6)	72.9	(66.6 – 78.4)
Percentage of schools that taught how to access valid and reliable health information, products, or services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy in a required course	80.1	(48.8 – 90.9)	73.7	(69.5 – 77.6)
Percentage of schools in which the lead health education teacher received professional development during the two years before the survey on HIV prevention	40.9	(11.4 – 71.6)	29.7	(26.0 – 33.8)
Percentage of schools with a gay/straight alliance or similar club	20.9	(12.3 – 48.7)	48.7	(45.5 – 51.8)
Percentage of schools with a policy on students or staff who have HIV infection or AIDS that addresses attendance of students with HIV infection, procedures to protect HIV-infected students and staff from discrimination, and maintaining confidentiality of HIV-infected students and staff	56.5	(19.4 – 85.7)	63.9	(59.6 – 68.1)

* Among the 47 participating states with weighted survey results.

† 95% confidence interval.



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School Health Coordination	Among States*		Massachusetts	
	Median	Range	%	CI †
Percentage of schools that had a school health council, committee, or team that offers guidance on the development of policies or coordinates activities on health topics	61.9	(33.5 – 82.5)	62.2	(57.6 – 66.6)
Percentage of schools that used the School Health Index or a similar self-assessment tool to assess their policies, activities, and programs in physical activity, nutrition, or tobacco-use prevention	50.6	(30.0 – 79.6)	50.0	(45.2 – 54.7)
Percentage of schools that had a copy of their district's wellness policy	88.8	(71.0 – 99.0)	93.8	(91.2 – 95.7)
Asthma				
Percentage of schools with a full-time registered nurse who provides health services to students at school	40.2	(3.8 – 99.1)	96.2	(94.0 – 97.6)
Percentage of schools that implemented a policy permitting students to carry and self-administer asthma medications by communicating the policy to students, parents, and families, and by designating an individual responsible for implementing the policy	53.4	(25.6 – 70.7)	50.6	(45.8 – 55.3)
Percentage of schools that had an asthma action plan on file for all students with known asthma	46.1	(27.0 – 77.3)	47.8	(43.3 – 52.3)
Percentage of schools that identified students with poorly controlled asthma by keeping track of them in at least three different ways	65.4	(40.4 – 81.7)	78.1	(73.8 – 81.9)
Percentage of schools that provided intensive case management for students with poorly controlled asthma at school	19.5	(5.1 – 41.6)	41.4	(36.9 – 46.2)
Percentage of schools that required all school staff members to receive annual training on recognizing and responding to severe asthma symptoms	37.4	(11.6 – 74.5)	37.1	(32.6 – 41.8)
Percentage of schools that provided parents and families with health information to increase parent and family knowledge of asthma	17.8	(4.7 – 35.3)	14.6	(11.6 – 18.2)

Where can I get more information?

Visit www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/profiles or call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

