

## Introduction

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) is an epidemiologic surveillance system that was established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor the prevalence of youth behaviors that most influence health. The 1991 national school-based Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is one component of the YRBSS.

The YRBS focuses on priority health-risk behaviors established during youth that result in the most significant mortality, morbidity, disability, and social problems during both youth and adulthood. These include: behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injuries; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behaviors that result in HIV infection, other sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs), and unintended pregnancies; dietary behaviors; and physical activity.

Results from the YRBS will be used by CDC to: (1) monitor how priority health-risk behaviors among high school students (grades 9-12) increase, decrease, or remain the same over time; (2) evaluate the impact of broad national, state, and local efforts to prevent priority health-risk behaviors; and (3) monitor progress in achieving relevant national health objectives for the year 2000. Results also will be used to help focus programs and policies for comprehensive school health education on the behaviors that contribute most to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity.

To make the data more widely available, a standardized diskette has been prepared for distribution. This Data Documentation Manual contains a detailed description of the diskette.

### Data Characteristics

Record Length: 100

Number of Records: 12,272

### User Services

Questions and comments concerning the 1991 national school-based YRBS may be addressed to:

1991 YRBS  
Division of Adolescent and School Health  
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Mailstop K-33  
4770 Buford Highway, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-3724

or call Laura Kann at (404) 488-5330.

The Division of Adolescent and School Health will assist users as much as possible within the constraints of time and staff availability.

## Methodology

The 1991 national school-based Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) used a three-stage cluster sample design to produce a nationally representative sample of 9th through 12th grade students in the United States. The target population consisted of all public and private school students in grades 9 through 12 in the fifty states and the District of Columbia. The first-stage sampling frame included 2,094 primary sampling units (PSUs) consisting of large counties or groups of smaller, adjacent counties. Fifty PSUs were selected from sixteen strata formed on the basis of urbanization and the relative percentage of black and Hispanic students in the PSU. The PSUs were selected with probabilities proportional to school enrollment size. At the second stage of selection, 182 schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. Schools with substantial numbers of black and Hispanic students were sampled at relatively higher rates than all other schools. The final stage of sampling consisted of randomly selecting within each chosen school at each grade 9 through 12, one or two intact classes of a required subject such as English or social studies. All students in selected classes were eligible to participate.

## Survey Procedures

Survey procedures were designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. The 75-item questionnaire was administered in the classroom by trained data collectors. Students recorded responses on computer scannable answer sheets. Parental consent was obtained prior to survey administration.

### Response Rate

The school response rate was 75 percent and the student response rate was 90 percent. All totaled, 12,272 questionnaires were completed in 137 schools. The overall response rate was 68 percent.

### Weighting

A weighting factor was applied to each student record to adjust for nonresponse and the oversampling of black and Hispanic students in the sample. The final, overall weights were scaled so that the weighted count of students per grade was equal to the number of students for that grade in the sample.

1991 NATIONAL SCHOOL-BASED YRBS CODEBOOK

Data Location	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
1-1	Q1	How old are you?	
		1 12 years old or younger	18
		2 13 years old	12
		3 14 years old	1063
		4 15 years old	2667
		5 16 years old	3137
		6 17 years old	2990
		7 18 years old or older	2380
		Missing	5
2-2	Q2	What is your sex?	
		1 Female	6283
		2 Male	5984
		Missing	5
3-3	Q3	In what grade are you?	
		1 9th grade	3055
		2 10th grade	3120
		3 11th grade	2867
		4 12th grade	3209
		5 Ungraded or other	12
		Missing	9
4-4	Q4	How do you describe yourself?	
		1 White - not Hispanic	5385
		2 Black - not Hispanic	2822
		3 Hispanic	3185
		4 Asian or Pacific Islander	408
		5 Native American or Alaskan Native	93
		6 Other	356
		Missing	23
5-5	Q5	Compared to other students in your class, what kind of student would you say you are?	
		1 One of the best	2404
		2 Far above the middle	2451
		3 A little above the middle	2955
		4 In the middle	3513
		5 A little below the middle	667
		6 Far below the middle	109
		7 Near the bottom	149
		Missing	24

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
6-6	Q6	How often do you wear a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else?	
		1 Never	1332
		2 Rarely	2269
		3 Sometimes	2702
		4 Most of the time	3019
		5 Always	2935
		Missing	15
7-7	Q7	During the past 12 months, how many times did you ride a motorcycle?	
		1 0 times	8877
		2 1 to 10 times	2256
		3 11 to 20 times	351
		4 21 to 39 times	154
		5 40 or more times	436
		Missing	198
8-8	Q8	When you rode a motorcycle during the past 12 months, how often did you wear a helmet?	
		1 I did not ride a motorcycle during the past 12 months	8872
		2 Never wore a helmet	1281
		3 Rarely wore a helmet	297
		4 Sometimes wore a helmet	238
		5 Most of the time wore helmet	332
		6 Always wore a helmet	1052
		Missing	200
9-9	Q9	During the past 12 months, how many times did you ride a bicycle?	
		1 0 times	3214
		2 1 to 10 times	4549
		3 11 to 20 times	1356
		4 21 to 39 times	786
		5 40 or more times	1979
		Missing	388
10-10	Q10	When you rode a bicycle during the past 12 months, how often did you wear a helmet?	
		1 I did not ride a bicycle during the past 12 months	3210
		2 Never wore a helmet	8217
		3 Rarely wore a helmet	187
		4 Sometimes wore a helmet	114
		5 Most of the time wore a helmet	71

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
		6 Always wore a helmet	81
		Missing	392
11-11	Q11	During the past 30 days, how many times did you ride in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?	
		1 0 times	7141
		2 1 time	1470
		3 2 or 3 times	1852
		4 4 or 5 times	545
		5 6 or more times	1252
		Missing	12
12-12	Q12	During the past 30 days, how many times did you drive a car or other vehicle when you had been drinking alcohol?	
		1 0 times	10217
		2 1 time	733
		3 2 or 3 times	649
		4 4 or 5 times	192
		5 6 or more times	327
		Missing	154
13-13	Q13	During the past 12 months, when you went swimming in places such as a pool, lake, or ocean, how often was an adult or a lifeguard watching you?	
		1 I did not go swimming during the past 12 months	2569
		2 Never	1827
		3 Rarely	2177
		4 Sometimes	1776
		5 Most of the time	2074
		6 Always	1837
		Missing	12
14-14	Q14	During the past 30 days, on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club?	
		1 0 days	8776
		2 1 day	574
		3 2 or 3 days	813
		4 4 or 5 days	333
		5 6 or more days	1507
		Missing	269

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
15-15	Q15	During the past 30 days, what one kind of weapon did you carry most often?	
		1 I did not carry a weapon during the past 30 days	8780
		2 A handgun	476
		3 Other guns, such as a rifle or shotgun	279
		4 A knife or razor	1714
		5 A club, stick, bat, or pipe	490
		6 Some other weapon	233
		Missing	300
16-16	Q16	During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight?	
		1 0 times	6932
		2 1 time	2004
		3 2 or 3 times	1871
		4 4 or 5 times	540
		5 6 or 7 times	206
		6 8 or 9 times	117
		7 10 or 11 times	70
		8 12 or more times	408
		Missing	124
17-17	Q17	The last time you were in a physical fight, with whom did you fight?	
		1 I have never been in a physical fight	4483
		2 A total stranger	1096
		3 A friend or someone I know	3051
		4 A boyfriend, girlfriend, or date	394
		5 A parent, brother, sister, or other family member	1687
		6 Someone not listed above	756
		7 More than one of the persons listed above	730
		Missing	75
18-18	Q18	During the past 12 months, how many times were you in a physical fight in which you were injured and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?	
		1 0 times	11617
		2 1 time	431
		3 2 or 3 times	86



Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
		4 4 or 5 times	16
		5 6 or more times	32
		Missing	90
19-19	Q19	During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?	
		1 Yes	3117
		2 No	8032
		Missing	1123
20-20	Q20	During the past 12 months, did you make a plan about how you would attempt suicide?	
		1 Yes	1938
		2 No	8880
		Missing	1454
21-21	Q21	During the past 12 months, how many times did you actually attempt suicide?	
		1 0 times	10147
		2 1 time	420
		3 2 or 3 times	284
		4 4 or 5 times	50
		5 6 or more times	79
		Missing	1292
22-22	Q22	If you attempted suicide during the past 12 months, did any attempt result in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse?	
		1 I did not attempt suicide during the past 12 months	10157
		2 Yes	196
		3 No	638
		Missing	1281
23-23	Q23	Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?	
		1 Yes	8613
		2 No	3502
		Missing	157
24-24	Q24	Do you think you will try cigarette smoking during the next 12 months?	
		1 I have already tried cigarette smoking	4099
		2 Yes, I think I will try cigarette	1129

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
		smoking during the next 12 months	
		3 No, I think I will not try cigarette smoking during the next 12 months	7032
		Missing	12
25-25	Q25	How old were you when you smoked a whole cigarette for the first time?	
		1 I have never smoked a whole cigarette	5511
		2 Less than 9 years old	541
		3 9 or 10 years old	735
		4 11 or 12 years old	1368
		5 13 or 14 years old	2138
		6 15 or 16 years old	1300
		7 17 or more years old	346
		Missing	333
26-26	Q26	Have you ever smoked cigarettes regularly, that is, at least one cigarette every day for 30 days?	
		1 Yes	1990
		2 No	9829
		Missing	453
27-27	Q27	How old were you when you first started smoking cigarettes regularly? (at least one cigarette every day for 30 days)	
		1 I have never have smoked cigarettes regularly	9816
		2 Less than 9 years old	65
		3 9 or 10 years old	127
		4 11 or 12 years old	307
		5 13 or 14 years old	693
		6 15 or 16 years old	605
		7 17 or more years old	166
		Missing	493
28-28	Q28	During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?	
		1 0 days	8841
		2 1 or 2 days	756
		3 3 to 5 days	452
		4 6 to 9 days	273
		5 10 to 19 days	326
		6 20 to 29 days	295
		7 All 30 days	803
		Missing	526

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
29-29	Q29	During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?	
		1 I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days	8842
		2 Less than 1 cigarette per day	587
		3 1 cigarette per day	517
		4 2 to 5 cigarettes per day	1105
		5 6 to 10 cigarettes per day	392
		6 11 to 20 cigarettes per day	271
		7 More than 20 cigarettes per day	96
		Missing	462
30-30	Q30	During the past 6 months, did you try to quit smoking cigarettes?	
		1 I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 6 months	9082
		2 Yes	1776
		3 No	1397
		Missing	17
31-31	Q31	During the past 30 days, did you use chewing tobacco, such as Redman, Levi Garrett, or Beechnut, or snuff, such as Skoal, Skoal Bandits, or Copenhagen?	
		1 No, I did not use chewing tobacco or snuff during the past 30 days	11265
		2 Yes, chewing tobacco only	304
		3 Yes, snuff only	342
		4 Yes, both chewing tobacco and snuff	348
		Missing	13
32-32	Q32	How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol other than a few sips?	
		1 I have never had a drink of alcohol other than a few sips	2239
		2 Less than 9 years old	1154
		3 9 or 10 years old	839
		4 11 or 12 years old	1511
		5 13 or 14 years old	3068
		6 15 or 16 years old	2160
		7 17 or more years old	368
		Missing	933

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
33-33	Q33	During your life, on how many days have you had a least one drink of alcohol?	
		1 0 days	2246
		2 1 or 2 days	1621
		3 3 to 9 days	1909
		4 10 to 19 days	1427
		5 20 to 39 days	1296
		6 40 to 99 days	1159
		7 100 or more days	1542
		Missing	1072
34-34	Q34	During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?	
		1 0 days	5914
		2 1 or 2 days	2532
		3 3 to 5 days	1353
		4 6 to 9 days	905
		5 10 to 19 days	707
		6 20 to 29 days	169
		7 All 30 days	85
		Missing	607
35-35	Q35	During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours?	
		1 0 days	8500
		2 1 day	1114
		3 2 days	760
		4 3 to 5 days	780
		5 6 to 9 days	502
		6 10 to 19 days	256
		7 20 or more days	101
		Missing	259
36-36	Q36	How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?	
		1 I have never tried marijuana	8408
		2 Less than 9 years old	191
		3 9 or 10 years old	234
		4 11 or 12 years old	517
		5 13 or 14 years old	1310
		6 15 or 16 years old	1166
		7 17 or more years old	283
		Missing	163

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
37-37	Q37	During your life, how many times have you used marijuana?	
		1 0 times	8408
		2 1 or 2 times	1092
		3 3 to 9 times	895
		4 10 to 19 times	486
		5 20 to 39 times	360
		6 40 to 99 times	296
		7 100 or more times	543
		Missing	192
38-38	Q38	During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana?	
		1 0 times	10552
		2 1 or 2 times	654
		3 3 to 9 times	474
		4 10 to 19 times	229
		5 20 to 39 times	121
		6 40 or more times	161
		Missing	81
39-39	Q39	How old were you when you tried any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase, for the first time?	
		1 I have never tried cocaine	11376
		2 Less than 9 years old	42
		3 9 or 10 years old	26
		4 11 or 12 years old	66
		5 13 or 14 years old	206
		6 15 or 16 years old	302
		7 17 or more years old	131
		Missing	123
40-40	Q40	During your life, how many times have you used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase?	
		1 0 times	11375
		2 1 or 2 times	344
		3 3 to 9 times	166
		4 10 to 19 times	71
		5 20 to 39 times	66
		6 40 or more times	102
		Missing	148

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
41-41	Q41	During the past 30 days, how many times did you use any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase?	
		1 0 times	11921
		2 1 or 2 times	137
		3 3 to 9 times	69
		4 10 to 19 times	27
		5 20 to 39 times	20
		6 40 or more times	37
		Missing	61
42-42	Q42	During your life, how many times have you used the crack or freebase forms of cocaine?	
		1 0 times	11818
		2 1 or 2 times	213
		3 3 to 9 times	75
		4 10 to 19 times	19
		5 20 to 39 times	20
		6 40 or more times	47
		Missing	80
43-43	Q43	During your life, how many times have you used any other type of illegal drug, such as LSD, PCP, ecstasy, mushrooms, speed, ice, heroin, or pills without a doctor's prescription?	
		1 0 times	10750
		2 1 or 2 times	603
		3 3 to 9 times	414
		4 10 to 19 times	164
		5 20 to 39 times	133
		6 40 or more times	187
		Missing	21
44-44	Q44	During your life, how many times have you taken steroid pills or shots without a doctor's prescription?	
		1 0 times	11871
		2 1 or 2 times	177
		3 3 to 9 times	80
		4 10 to 19 times	36
		5 20 to 39 times	35
		6 40 or more times	54
		Missing	19

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
45-45	Q45	During your life, have you ever injected (shot up) any illegal drug?	
		1 Yes	173
		2 No	12082
		Missing	17
46-46	Q46	Have you ever been taught about AIDS/HIV infection in school?	
		1 Yes	9892
		2 No	1508
		3 Not sure	851
		Missing	21
47-47	Q47	Have you ever talked about AIDS/HIV infection with your parents or other adults in your family?	
		1 Yes	7610
		2 No	3854
		3 Not sure	786
		Missing	22
48-48	Q48	Have you ever had sexual intercourse?	
		1 Yes	6569
		2 No	5057
		Missing	646
49-49	Q49	How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?	
		1 I have never had sexual intercourse	5057
		2 Less than 12 years old	814
		3 12 years old	615
		4 13 years old	876
		5 14 years old	1241
		6 15 years old	1371
		7 16 years old	1057
		8 17 or more years old	590
		Missing	651
50-50	Q50	During your life, with how many people have you had sexual intercourse?	
		1 I have never had sexual intercourse	5058
		2 1 person	2080
		3 2 people	1156
		4 3 people	842
		5 4 people	515
		6 5 people	382

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
		7 6 or more people	1577
		Missing	662
51-51	Q51	During the past 3 months, with how many people did you have sexual intercourse?	
		1 I have never had sexual intercourse	5058
		2 I have had sexual intercourse, but not in the past 3 months	1850
		3 1 person	3273
		4 2 people	653
		5 3 people	324
		6 4 people	174
		7 5 people	55
		8 6 or more people	219
		Missing	666
52-52	Q52	Did you drink alcohol or use drugs before you had sexual intercourse the last time?	
		1 I have never had sexual intercourse	5056
		2 Yes	1321
		3 No	5250
		Missing	645
53-53	Q53	The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?	
		1 I have never had sexual intercourse	5058
		2 Yes	3062
		3 No	3428
		Missing	724
54-54	Q54	The last time you had sexual intercourse, what one method did you or your partner use to prevent pregnancy?	
		1 I have never had sexual intercourse	5057
		2 No method was used to prevent pregnancy	1479
		3 Birth control pills	1001
		4 Condoms	2663
		5 Withdrawal	1026
		6 Some other method	138
		7 Not sure	171
		Missing	737
55-55	Q55	How many times have you been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant?	
		1 0 times	11020
		2 1 time	722
		3 2 or more times	210



Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
		4 Not sure	168
		Missing	152
56-56	Q56	Have you ever been told by a doctor or nurse that you had a sexually transmitted disease such as genital herpes, genital warts, chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhea, AIDS, or HIV infection?	
		1 Yes	604
		2 No	11636
		Missing	32
57-57	Q57	How do you think of yourself?	
		1 Very underweight	402
		2 Slightly underweight	2067
		3 About the right weight	6034
		4 Slightly overweight	3227
		5 Very overweight	501
		Missing	41
58-58	Q58	Which of the following are you trying to do?	
		1 Lose weight	4970
		2 Gain weight	2791
		3 Stay the same weight	2171
		4 I am not trying to do anything about my weight	2307
		Missing	33
59-59	Q59	During the past 7 days, which one of the following did you do to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?	
		1 I did not try to lose weight or keep from gaining weight	5936
		2 I dieted	830
		3 I exercised	2840
		4 I exercised and dieted	1969
		5 I used some other method, but I did not exercise or diet	651
		Missing	46
60-60	Q60	During the past 7 days, which one of the following did you do to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight?	
		1 I did not try to lose weight or keep from gaining weight	7030
		2 I made myself vomit	187
		3 I took diet pills	184
		4 I made myself vomit and took diet pills	70

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
		5 I used some other method, but I did not vomit or take diet pills	4744
		Missing	57
61-61	Q61	Yesterday, did you eat fruit?	
		1 No	6044
		2 Yes, once only	3797
		3 Yes, twice or more	2388
		Missing	43
62-62	Q62	Yesterday, did you drink fruit juice?	
		1 No	5348
		2 Yes, once only	3569
		3 Yes, twice or more	3296
		Missing	59
63-63	Q63	Yesterday, did you eat green salad?	
		1 No	8667
		2 Yes, once only	2934
		3 Yes, twice or more	602
		Missing	69
64-64	Q64	Yesterday, did you eat cooked vegetables?	
		1 No	7209
		2 Yes, once only	3894
		3 Yes, twice or more	1121
		Missing	48
65-65	Q65	Yesterday, did you eat hamburger, hot dogs, or sausage?	
		1 No	6877
		2 Yes, once only	4181
		3 Yes, twice or more	1165
		Missing	49
66-66	Q66	Yesterday, did you eat french fries or potato chips?	
		1 No	5183
		2 Yes, once only	5341
		3 Yes, twice or more	1700
		Missing	48
67-67	Q67	Yesterday, did you eat cookies, doughnuts, pie, or cake?	

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
		1 No	5209
		2 Yes, once only	4665
		3 Yes, twice or more	2319
		Missing	79
68-68	Q68	On how many of the past 7 days did you exercise or participate in sports activities that made you sweat and breathe hard, such as basketball, jogging, fast dancing, swimming laps, tennis, fast bicycling, or similar aerobic activities?	
		1 0 days	1956
		2 1 day	1062
		3 2 days	1332
		4 3 days	1443
		5 4 days	1208
		6 5 days	1726
		7 6 days	905
		8 7 days	2590
		Missing	50
69-69	Q69	On how many of the past 7 days did you do stretching exercises, such as toe touching, knee bending, or leg stretching	
		1 0 days	3541
		2 1 day	1205
		3 2 days	1309
		4 3 days	1212
		5 4 days	896
		6 5 days	1531
		7 6 days	623
		8 7 days	1909
		Missing	46
70-70	Q70	On how many of the past 7 days did you do exercises to strengthen or tone your muscles, such as push-ups, sit-ups, or weight lifting?	
		1 0 days	4236
		2 1 day	1111
		3 2 days	1288
		4 3 days	1337
		5 4 days	1016
		6 5 days	1296
		7 6 days	454
		8 7 days	1484
		Missing	50
71-71	Q71	Yesterday, did you walk or bicycle for at least 30 minutes at a time? (Include walking or bicycling to or from school.)	

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
		1 Yes	5580
		2 No	6621
		Missing	71
72-72	Q72	In an average week when you are in school, on how many days do you go to physical education (PE) classes?	
		1 0 days	5709
		2 1 day	159
		3 2 days	286
		4 3 days	231
		5 4 days	299
		6 5 days	4935
		Missing	653
73-73	Q73	During an average physical education (PE) class, how many minutes do you spend actually exercising or playing sports?	
		1 I do not take PE	5705
		2 Less than 10 minutes	406
		3 10 to 20 minutes	893
		4 21 to 30 minutes	1593
		5 More than 30 minutes	3017
		Missing	658
74-74	Q74	During the past 12 months, on how many sports teams run by your school, did you play? (Do not include PE classes.)	
		1 None	7102
		2 1 team	2549
		3 2 teams	1480
		4 3 or more teams	1038
		Missing	103
75-75	Q75	During the past 12 months, on how many sports teams run by organizations outside of your school, did you play?	
		1 None	8314
		2 1 team	2322
		3 2 teams	864
		4 3 or more teams	671
		Missing	101

Data Locations	Item Number	Label and Code	Frequency
76-83	*Weight		
84-85	PSU		
86-88	Stratum		
89-89	Geographic Region		
		1 Northeast	1715
		2 Midwest	2116
		3 South	5869
		4 West	2572

\*The Weight field contains a decimal point in position 77.