

# Welcome to the NJ Middle School Survey Data Explorer!



The New Jersey Middle School Risk and Protective Factors Survey is a student health survey that is conducted by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The results presented in this dashboard were prepared by the Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services at Montclair State University.

## What can I do with the dashboard?



Export summary data spreadsheet using the "Download CSV" button above each table on the Trend View and County View to generate your own figures or analyses.



Download images of graphs that focus on trends of interest (e.g., early onset use of alcohol) for use in your own presentations.



Easily reference the survey questions that inform each variable by clicking the "How was it measured?" button.



Download data needed for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program by selecting the topic "DFC Core Measures."



Use margins of error to help contextualize differences between categories. Smaller margins of error indicate more precise results.



Use the Breakout View to disaggregate responses by students' demographics, living situations, and supportive environments.

## How can I navigate the dashboard?

Use the navigation tabs on the top of the screen to select the view you want:



Trend View for trends in results over time. Please note that the y-axis is dynamic and changes based on the rates of use or behavior.



Breakout View for comparisons across key categories.



County View for county-specific results.

## Breakout Example



Select Topic: Energy Drinks -> Time Period: Past month -> Breakout Category: Supportive Environments.

From there, you will see that 25.2% of students whose parents often tell them that they are proud of them report having consumed energy drinks in the past month, as compared to 27.1% of students whose parents have not told them the same. The state average rate of energy drink use, presented on top, is 25.6%.

## The results of the survey can help...



Identify the needs for school and community health programs



Assist professionals in planning prevention programs at both the local and State levels



Provide outcome measures for State investments in prevention efforts that aim to reduce adolescent substance use and increase protective factors

# Middle School Survey 2023 Administration

By the numbers



**2,792 students participated**

## Grade

7th - 1,357 (49.3%)

8th - 1,435 (50.7%)

## Gender

Male - 1,269 (48.0%)

Female - 1,390 (48.4%)

Nonbinary or Trans - 100 (3.6%)

## Race/Ethnicity

Hispanic - 903 (30.6%)

White - 1,147 (39.0%)

Black - 222 (13.6%)

Asian - 151 (10.3%)

Other race - 92 (3.3%)

Two or more races - 238 (3.0%)

American Indian & Alaska Native - 18 (0.2%)

## Administrations

February -  
June 2023



59 middle  
schools



19 counties  
participated



## Methodology

Margins of error are presented alongside each presented value to illustrate the variability inherent in these estimates, influenced by the sample size, data variability, and the confidence level chosen. The margins of error correspond to a 95% confidence interval and are expressed as +/- to reflect the possible range within the true value is likely to fall. All values presented on the dashboard are estimates of the true population of New Jersey middle school students.

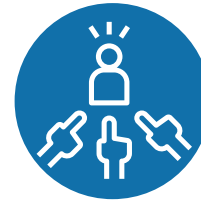
For risk and protective factors, the values are presented as averages (on a standardized scale of 0 to 1); for substance use, antisocial behaviors, and other outcomes, the values are prevalence rates (on a scale of 0% to 100%). Margins of error less than 0.015 appear as 0.00 due to rounding.

To improve the estimation, survey responses were weighted. Weighting is a statistical adjustment that compensates for differences in grade, gender, and race/ethnicity between the sample of students who responded to the survey and the population of enrolled students. It also accounts for unequal probabilities of selection.

Due to the limited participation of schools, both within individual counties and across the state, statistical tests for significance were not conducted.

Two special topics included in the 2023 survey:  
bullying and social media use.

Half of participants received each topic module.



## Suppression of results

County-level summary statistics are not shown for the counties in which only one school participated. Those counties' schools did contribute to state-level summary statistics, however. Item-level results were suppressed when there were fewer than 15 valid responses for a given question. This applied to two variables: the American Indian & Alaska Native breakout category and the "family does not have enough money" breakout category.

Please contact CREEHS at [RPF@montclair.edu](mailto:RPF@montclair.edu) with any questions.

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