

Global School-based Student Health Survey

Liberia 2017 Fact Sheet



The 2017 Liberia GSHS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7-12, which are typically attended by students aged 13-17. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce data representative of all students in grades 7-12 in Liberia. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate.

The Liberia GSHS measured alcohol use; dietary behaviors; drug use; hygiene; mental health; physical activity; protective factors; sexual behaviors; tobacco use; and violence and unintentional injury. Students self-reported their responses to each question on a computer scanable answer sheet.

The school response rate was 98%, the student response rate was 73%, and the overall response rate was 71%. A total of 2,744 students participated in the Liberia GSHS. Prevalence estimates (percentages) and 95% confidence intervals are presented below.

	Students Aged 13-15 Years			Students Aged 16-17 Years			Students Aged 13-17 Years		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Alcohol Use									
Percentage of students who currently drank alcohol (at least one drink of alcohol on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	14.5 (11.1-18.7)	16.4 (11.1-23.6)	11.7 (7.8-17.2)	23.7 (21.1-26.5)	26.1 (21.6-31.1)	19.9 (15.4-25.4)	19.8 (17.6-22.3)	22.1 (18.1-26.7)	16.3 (13.0-20.3)
Percentage of students who ever drank so much alcohol that they were really drunk one or more times during their life	12.3 (10.0-15.0)	14.2 (10.8-18.4)	10.4 (7.3-14.5)	19.4 (15.9-23.4)	20.4 (15.7-25.9)	17.8 (13.4-23.3)	16.4 (14.2-18.8)	17.9 (14.6-21.6)	14.5 (11.4-18.1)
Percentage of students who drank alcohol before age 14 years for the first time, among students who ever had a drink of alcohol other than a few sips	69.0 (59.0-77.5)	*	*	47.9 (40.8-55.2)	50.6 (42.2-58.9)	43.7 (32.5-55.5)	54.5 (48.6-60.4)	54.6 (48.3-60.8)	54.0 (44.9-62.9)
Dietary Behaviors									
Percentage of students who usually drank carbonated soft drinks one or more times per day during the 30 days before the survey	48.2 (40.6-55.8)	49.3 (39.1-59.5)	47.0 (38.6-55.5)	46.8 (41.3-52.5)	42.8 (35.0-51.0)	51.8 (45.8-57.8)	47.4 (42.3-52.6)	45.5 (38.6-52.5)	49.7 (44.2-55.2)

*Indicates data were not available.

Global School-based Student Health Survey

Liberia 2017 Fact Sheet



	Students Aged 13-15 Years			Students Aged 16-17 Years			Students Aged 13-17 Years		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Drug Use									
Percentage of students who ever used marijuana one or more times during their life	3.6 (2.0-6.4)	3.5 (1.6-7.6)	3.8 (1.6-8.8)	7.4 (5.2-10.6)	6.9 (4.3-11.0)	6.8 (3.6-12.3)	5.8 (4.0-8.2)	5.5 (3.4-8.8)	5.4 (3.2-9.1)
Percentage of students who used drugs before age 14 years for the first time, among students who ever used drugs	*	*	*	*	*	*	81.7 (70.9-89.0)	*	*
Hygiene									
Percentage of students who usually cleaned or brushed their teeth one or more times per day during the 30 days before the survey	86.1 (81.7-89.6)	86.4 (79.4-91.3)	86.2 (80.9-90.2)	89.3 (85.3-92.4)	88.6 (81.3-93.3)	90.6 (86.6-93.6)	88.0 (84.5-90.7)	87.7 (82.6-91.4)	88.7 (85.7-91.2)
Percentage of students who never or rarely washed their hands after using the toilet or latrine during the 30 days before the survey	6.3 (3.9-10.0)	6.5 (3.5-11.7)	5.2 (2.9-9.0)	6.8 (4.7-9.6)	6.5 (3.8-10.8)	6.4 (4.2-9.5)	6.6 (5.1-8.4)	6.5 (4.4-9.5)	5.9 (4.3-8.0)
Mental Health									
Percentage of students who seriously considered attempting suicide during the 12 months before the survey	18.2 (14.0-23.3)	15.0 (9.8-22.3)	20.9 (16.0-26.9)	23.1 (18.1-29.0)	22.8 (18.0-28.4)	22.5 (15.9-30.9)	21.0 (17.1-25.6)	19.5 (15.3-24.7)	21.8 (17.0-27.6)
Percentage of students who attempted suicide one or more times during the 12 months before the survey	23.7 (18.7-29.5)	24.8 (17.6-33.9)	22.6 (17.4-28.8)	32.8 (28.3-37.7)	33.6 (28.3-39.4)	32.0 (26.6-37.8)	29.0 (25.3-33.0)	30.0 (25.0-35.5)	27.8 (24.4-31.5)

*Indicates data were not available.

Global School-based Student Health Survey

Liberia 2017 Fact Sheet



	Students Aged 13-15 Years			Students Aged 16-17 Years			Students Aged 13-17 Years		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Mental Health									
Percentage of students who did not have any close friends	10.9 (7.8-15.1)	8.7 (5.6-13.1)	12.9 (7.3-21.9)	12.1 (8.8-16.4)	11.1 (7.5-16.2)	12.1 (8.6-16.8)	11.6 (9.0-14.9)	10.1 (7.4-13.8)	12.5 (8.7-17.5)
Physical Activity									
Percentage of students were physically active at least 60 minutes per day on all 7 days during the 7 days before the survey	9.2 (6.0-13.8)	9.9 (6.0-16.0)	8.3 (5.0-13.6)	11.9 (9.1-15.4)	15.0 (10.5-21.0)	8.6 (5.8-12.8)	10.7 (8.3-13.8)	12.9 (9.3-17.5)	8.5 (6.1-11.7)
Percentage of students who attended physical education classes on three or more days each week during this school year	29.5 (23.5-36.4)	32.0 (26.1-38.6)	26.8 (19.0-36.5)	27.4 (22.5-32.9)	28.9 (23.0-35.6)	26.8 (20.3-34.5)	28.3 (24.0-33.1)	30.2 (25.8-35.1)	26.8 (20.9-33.7)
Percentage of students who spent three or more hours per day sitting and watching television, playing computer games, or talking with friends, when not in school or doing homework during a typical or usual day	21.8 (16.9-27.5)	25.1 (17.7-34.2)	19.1 (14.6-24.7)	19.8 (16.2-23.9)	17.0 (12.9-22.1)	23.0 (18.2-28.6)	20.6 (17.6-24.0)	20.4 (16.3-25.2)	21.2 (17.8-25.1)
Protective Factors									
Percentage of students who missed classes or school without permission on one or more days during the 30 days before the survey	40.4 (34.7-46.3)	39.8 (32.8-47.2)	40.0 (31.1-49.6)	47.4 (42.7-52.2)	47.3 (42.3-52.3)	48.1 (39.5-56.9)	44.4 (40.2-48.7)	44.2 (40.1-48.3)	44.5 (37.3-51.8)

Global School-based Student Health Survey

Liberia 2017 Fact Sheet



	Students Aged 13-15 Years			Students Aged 16-17 Years			Students Aged 13-17 Years		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Protective Factors									
Percentage of students who reported that their parents or guardians most of the time or always understood their problems and worries during the 30 days before the survey	41.7 (36.2-47.5)	42.3 (32.8-52.4)	40.6 (34.5-46.9)	39.8 (36.4-43.4)	41.8 (37.1-46.6)	37.8 (31.9-44.1)	40.7 (37.3-44.1)	42.0 (37.0-47.2)	39.1 (35.2-43.1)
Percentage of students who reported that their parents or guardians most of the time or always really knew what they were doing with their free time during the 30 days before the survey	39.0 (34.4-43.9)	37.2 (31.7-43.1)	41.2 (35.2-47.5)	35.6 (31.1-40.5)	32.6 (27.3-38.4)	38.9 (33.2-44.9)	37.1 (34.1-40.2)	34.5 (30.6-38.6)	40.0 (36.5-43.5)
Sexual Behaviors									
Percentage of students who ever had sexual intercourse	35.3 (27.4-44.0)	40.2 (30.4-50.8)	29.5 (21.2-39.5)	51.2 (46.1-56.2)	55.7 (47.1-64.0)	45.8 (39.7-52.0)	44.2 (39.1-49.4)	49.1 (42.3-56.0)	38.3 (32.6-44.3)
Percentage of students who had sexual intercourse before age 14 years for the first time, among students who ever had sexual intercourse	*	*	*	25.6 (19.3-33.3)	24.1 (16.2-34.4)	*	34.8 (29.1-41.1)	36.6 (29.2-44.7)	29.5 (20.1-41.0)
Percentage of students who used a condom during last sexual intercourse, among students who ever had sexual intercourse	*	*	*	60.2 (52.7-67.2)	61.6 (53.0-69.6)	*	57.3 (48.6-65.5)	56.6 (46.1-66.5)	57.8 (46.0-68.8)
Tobacco Use									
Percentage of students who currently used any tobacco products (used any tobacco products on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	10.9 (7.1-16.2)	9.3 (5.3-16.0)	10.9 (7.0-16.5)	15.2 (11.9-19.2)	14.1 (10.2-19.3)	15.1 (10.5-21.1)	13.4 (10.2-17.3)	12.2 (8.7-16.8)	13.2 (9.9-17.5)

*Indicates data were not available.

Global School-based Student Health Survey

Liberia 2017 Fact Sheet



	Students Aged 13-15 Years			Students Aged 16-17 Years			Students Aged 13-17 Years		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Tobacco Use									
Percentage of students who currently smoked cigarettes (smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)	5.8 (4.1-8.3)	4.6 (2.5-8.3)	6.4 (4.2-9.6)	10.1 (7.1-14.1)	10.1 (6.7-15.0)	9.6 (5.9-15.2)	8.3 (6.2-11.0)	7.8 (5.5-11.1)	8.1 (5.9-11.2)
Percentage of students who reported that people smoked in their presence on one or more days during the 7 days before the survey	56.5 (48.8-63.9)	54.8 (46.1-63.2)	57.3 (48.0-66.1)	62.8 (57.1-68.1)	61.7 (54.4-68.5)	63.2 (56.5-69.4)	60.1 (54.7-65.3)	58.8 (52.4-65.0)	60.6 (54.9-66.0)
Violence and Unintentional Injury									
Percentage of students who were in a physical fight one or more times during the 12 months before the survey	42.7 (36.4-49.2)	45.0 (35.7-54.7)	39.9 (32.7-47.5)	39.4 (34.1-44.9)	38.4 (32.8-44.2)	40.1 (32.2-48.6)	40.8 (35.8-46.0)	41.1 (35.8-46.6)	40.0 (33.8-46.5)
Percentage of students who were seriously injured one or more times during the 12 months before the survey	71.9 (62.4-79.8)	70.7 (60.5-79.2)	72.9 (62.6-81.3)	70.9 (65.5-75.7)	70.5 (64.8-75.6)	71.4 (64.0-77.8)	71.3 (65.1-76.8)	70.6 (64.5-76.0)	72.1 (64.9-78.3)
Percentage of students who were bullied on one or more days during the 30 days before the survey	47.2 (39.1-55.3)	43.1 (32.4-54.4)	50.8 (44.0-57.6)	50.7 (44.3-57.0)	46.2 (39.3-53.2)	55.5 (48.5-62.3)	49.2 (42.5-56.0)	44.9 (37.6-52.5)	53.5 (47.2-59.7)

For additional information, please contact:
Hinne Johnson Tekay, Director School Health
Ministry of Education, Liberia, jtekayhinneh@gmail.com

For general information about the GSHS, please visit:
<http://www.who.int/chp/gshs/en/>
or
<http://www.cdc.gov/gshs>