

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH FACT SHEET

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Statistics

The YRBS is a national school survey targeted towards adolescents ages 13 to 18. This study is conducted every two years by the Centers for Disease Control Prevention and the Ohio Department of Health. Questions in the survey are based on collaboration between ODH, ODE, ODADAS, and ODMH. The sample included 539,142 Ohio students from 927 public and private high schools. The statistics were done using SPSS and STATA at ODMH and ODADAS. The following statistics were derived from the 2011 survey:

- 1) Association between school safety and suicide:
 - 6.2% of an estimated 35,900 adolescents reported that they did not go to school because they thought they would be unsafe at school or on their way to school. In the same survey 9.1% of an estimated 45,800 Ohio adolescents reported one or more suicide attempts in the past year.
 - Youth who do not go to school because they felt unsafe were 4.8 times more likely to make a suicide plan compared to youth who did go to school.
- 2) Association between depression symptoms and bullying:
 - 27.1% of an estimated 155,600 Ohio adolescents felt sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks. 22.7% of an estimated 130,000 Ohio adolescents had been bullied on school property in the last 12 months.
 - Youth who were bullied were 3.2 times more likely to feel sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks compared to youth who were not bullied.
- 3) Association between depression symptoms and relationship violence:
 - 27.1% of an estimated 155,600 Ohio adolescents felt sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks. 13.9% of who reported being in a relationship or an estimated 60,400 Ohio adolescents said their boyfriend/girlfriend hit, slap, or physically hurt them on purpose during the past 12 months.
 - Youth who have been victim to interpersonal violence were 2.0 times more likely to feel sad or hopeless almost every day for the last two weeks.

Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH)

Definition: ECMH ensures the well-being of children from birth to six by developing strong relationships, expressing emotion, and exploring their environment.

Problem: Young children are three times more likely to be expelled from their setting compared to children kindergarten and twelfth graders (Walter, Gilliam, & Yale).

Response: ECMH Consultation Services train parents and child care providers with the goal to increase the competency skills of young children at-risk for mental health issues.

Outcome: 75% of children were able to remain in the center. Over 96 percent of parents and child care staff were satisfied with ECMH consultation services.

<http://mentalhealth.ohio.gov/what-we-do/provide/children-youth-and-families/early-childhood/>

Youth Mental Health and Academic Achievement

Problem: Two-thirds of adolescents affected by mental health issues do not seek services. These issues affect not only their emotional well-being, but also academic goals and social interactions. (Merikangas et al. 2010, DeSocio & Hootman, 2004).

Effects of Treatment: A study by Gail et al. 2000 found that high school students who use school-based health centers for mental health services had a 50 percent decrease in absenteeism and 25 decrease in tardiness 2 months after receiving services.