

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)

New Survey in 2021

In 2021, the Oklahoma YRBS added 13 questions on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and three questions on Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs). Eight core ACEs questions were used to create a composite score from 0 to 8. Core ACE questions included: experiencing verbal abuse in the home; experiencing or witnessing physical violence in the home; living with someone who had a problem with alcohol or drug use, living with someone who was depressed or mentally ill, or having been separated from a parent or guardian because the ever went to jail or prison; and not having their basic needs met.

- 20.8% of students experienced 0 ACEs.
- 40.3% experienced 1-2 ACEs.
- 16.0% experienced 3 ACEs.
- 22.9% experienced 4 or more ACEs.

Three PCEs questions were used to create a composite score of 0-3. PCEs questions included: having an adult in their life they could talk to about their feelings; having a friend they could talk to about their feelings; and feeling close to people in their school.

- 44.9% reported 3 PCEs.
- 52.0% reported 1-2 PCEs.
- 3.1 % reported 0 PCEs.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- 19.5- Percentage of students who ever saw someone get physically attacked, beaten, stabbed, or shot in their neighborhood
- 8.2- Percentage of students who reported that an adult or person at least 5 years older than them made them do sexual things they did not want to do (counting such things as kissing, touching, or being made to have sexual intercourse)
- 67.6 Percentage of students who reported that a parent or other adult in their home ever swore at them, insulted them, or put them down (during their life)¹
- 52.4- Percentage of students who reported that a parent or other adult in their home swore at them, insulted them, or put them down one or more times (during the 12 months before the survey)²
- 29.2- Percentage of students who reported that a parent or other adult in their home ever hit, beat, kicked or physically hurt them in any way (during their life)¹
- 11.6- Percentage of students who reported that a parent or other adult in their home hit, beat, kicked, or physically hurt them in any way one or more times (during the 12 months before the survey)²
- 3.1- Percentage of students who reported that their parents or other adults in their home most of the time or always slapped, hit, kicked, punched, or beat each other up (during their life)¹
- 4.6- Percentage of students who most of the time or always felt that they were treated badly or unfairly because of their race or ethnicity (during their life)¹
- 4.2- Percentage of students who most of the times or always felt that they were treated badly or unfairly because of their sexual orientation (during their life)¹

ACEs continued

- 13.0- Percentage of students who reported that an adult in their household sometimes, rarely, or never tried hard to make sure their basic needs were met (such as looking after their safety and making sure they had clean clothes and enough to eat, during their life)¹
- 36.0- Percentage of students who ever lived with someone who was having a problem with alcohol or drug use
- 40.2- Percentage of students who ever lived with someone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal
- 17.9- Percentage of students who ever been separated from a parent or guardian because they went to jail, prison, or a detention center

Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)

- 42.4- Percentage of students who most of the time or always feel that they are able to talk to an adult in their family or another caring adult about their feelings (during their life)¹
 - 49.0- Percentage of students who most of the time or always feel that they are able to talk to a friend about their feelings (during their life)¹
 - 53.8- Percentage of students who strongly agreed or agreed that they feel close to people at their school³
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1 Answer options were Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Most of the Time, and Always.

2 Answer options were 0 times, 1 time, 2 or 3 times, 4 or 5 times, 6 or more times.

3 Answer options were Strongly Agree, Agree, Not sure, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree.

Data from the 2021 YRBS were weighted and are representative of all 9th-12th grade public school students in Oklahoma. The YRBS is a descriptive, cross-sectional study; therefore, the measured associations reflect one point in time and do not imply a causal relationship. Students interpret the questions and form their answers without any external assistance; students may have different interpretations of the YRBS questions. Students who attended school online, attend private institutions, were home-schooled, or did not attend any school were not represented in this study. For more information on the YRBS, please visit oklahoma.gov/health/yrbs or call 405.426.8092.