

## Health and Safety of Transgender Youth in California Public Schools

<i>Data are drawn from responses from students in 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades taking the California Health Kids Survey (CHKS)</i>	2013-2015 California		2015-2017 California		2017-2019 California		2019-2021 California	
	Trans	Non-Trans	Trans	Non-Trans	Trans	Non-Trans	Trans	Non-Trans
	0.8%	99.2%	1.5%	98.5%	1.1%	98.9%	1.1%	98.9%
<b>Attendance</b>								
How many times did you skip school or cut class in the past 12 months? (more than once a week)	14.8%	2.8%	19.6%	2.7%	12.7%	2.2%	14.4%	2.2%
Missed school because you felt very, sad, hopeless, anxious, stressed, angry? (past 30 days)	18.2%	12.0%	27.1%	9.5%	22.8%	7.2%	13.6%	4.0%
Missed school because you didn't feel safe at school? (past 30 days)	3.6%	1.4%	15.1%	1.9%	10.3%	1.5%	5.7%	0.7%
<b>Safety</b>								
How safe do you feel when you are at school? (unsafe or very unsafe)	27.3%	5.1%	34.5%	6.6%	33.4%	8.2%	25.2%	7.2%
Have you been in a physical fight? (past 12 months)	23.5%	10.1%	38.9%	11.3%	37.0%	11.2%	25.7%	10.7%
Have you carried a gun at school? (past 12 months)	18.5%	1.6%	30.3%	2.1%	25.1%	1.6%	11.3%	1.6%
Did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?(past 12 months)	31.8%	18.5%	48.7%	15.6%	52.7%	16.1%	53.8%	14.6%
Did you ever feel sad or hopeless almost everyday for two weeks or more that you stopped doing some usual activities? (past 12 months)	49.5%	29.8%	55.3%	28.3%	62.7%	31.9%	72.1%	36.3%
<b>Bullying and harassment</b>								
<b>In the past 12 months on school property have you...</b>								
• Been pushed, shoved, slapped, hit, kicked by someone 1 or more times	32.7%	21.2%	45.9%	21.3%	44.2%	20.7%	36.0%	18.6%
• Been afraid of being beaten up?	21.8%	13.0%	40.7%	13.4%	43.2%	14.1%	42.2%	14.3%
• Had rumors/lies spread about you?	32.7%	38.4%	53.4%	34.0%	54.1%	33.8%	47.0%	30.6%
• Had sexual jokes, comments, or gestures made to you?	36.4%	37.2%	58.0%	29.8%	54.5%	27.9%	49.6%	24.8%
• Been made fun of because of your looks or way you talked?	36.4%	32.4%	54.5%	30.6%	55.9%	29.9%	52.8%	27.9%
• Been threatened with harm or injury?	29.1%	18.5%	38.4%	8.9%	35.9%	8.4%	27.7%	7.7%
• Been made fun of, insulted, or called names?	43.6%	40.0%	55.9%	34.2%	55.7%	31.2%	53.7%	28.6%

• Were harassed or bullied for your race, ethnicity, or national origin?	32.7%	12.8%	38.2%	14.5%	34.1%	13.9%	25.1%	12.3%
• Were harassed or bullied for your religion?	16.7%	9.0%	33.4%	7.2%	30.5%	6.2%	19.9%	5.5%
• Were harassed or bullied for your gender?	32.7%	7.2%	45.2%	7.8%	51.0%	7.0%	49.8%	5.9%
• Were harassed or bullied because you are gay or lesbian or somebody thought you were?	32.7%	7.3%	48.2%	7.9%	54.6%	8.5%	52.3%	7.8%
• Were harassed or bullied because physical or mental disability?	16.4%	4.3%	35.7%	4.2%	36.1%	4.4%	29.5%	4.5%
• Were harassed or bullied for any other reason?	30.2%	21.2%	45.8%	17.7%	46.1%	17.7%	39.6%	15.5%

	2013-2015 California		2015-2017 California		2017-2019 California		2019-2021 California	
	Trans	Non-Trans	Trans	Non-Trans	Trans	Non-Trans	Trans	Non-Trans
<b>Protective Factors</b> % responding “disagree” or “strongly disagree”								
I feel close to people in this school.	23.4%	12.7%	34.4%	13.5%	34.7%	13.8%	37.0%	14.5%
I am happy to be at this school.	28.5%	13.1%	38.1%	14.0%	39.0%	15.2%	36.0%	14.9%
I feel like I am part of this school.	32.5%	16.5%	40.8%	16.2%	41.3%	17.1%	40.2%	16.8%
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	32.1%	17.3%	39.5%	16.9%	35.2%	16.1%	27.4%	14.6%
I feel safe at my school.	25.4%	10.5%	36.3%	11.5%	36.6%	12.8%	33.3%	11.8%
I do interesting activities at my school.	25.2%	16.6%	35.3%	17.6%	32.0%	18.5%	29.5%	18.2%
I do things that make a difference at school.	39.4%	29.0%	46.1%	29.1%	44.4%	31.7%	46.7%	32.9%
<b>Caring relationship</b> % responding “not at all true” to: At my school there is a teacher or some other adult								
...who really cares about me.	21.2%	10.8%	32.5%	11.3%	28.4%	11.3%	22.7%	11.8%
...who tells me when I do a good job.	18.5%	7.9%	29.7%	8.8%	26.5%	9.2%	20.5%	8.8%
...who notices when I am not there.	24.9%	13.5%	34.1%	14.1%	31.3%	14.6%	27.4%	14.8%
...who always wants me to do my best.	15.3%	5.3%	26.8%	5.8%	22.0%	5.5%	14.9%	5.3%
...who listens when I have something to say.	21.6%	9.6%	31.1%	9.8%	27.0%	9.7%	22.4%	9.5%
...who believes that I will be a success.	20.6%	8.3%	31.4%	8.7%	27.1%	8.9%	22.3%	9.1%

	2013-2015 California		2015-2017 California		2017-2019 California		2019-2021 California	
	Trans	Non-Trans	Trans	Non-Trans	Trans	Non-Trans		
<b>Lifetime Substance Use</b>								
Cigarettes	21.5%	9.3%	37.3%	7.9%	32.7%	5.2%	17.7%	3.4%
3.2%	11.8%	3.7%	32.3%	4.2%	28.5%	3.2%	13.4%	2.4%
Alcohol	42.0%	30.2%	54.2%	26.3%	49.5%	22.2%	33.7%	18.2%
Marijuana	33.1%	20.7%	48.3%	18.5%	46.4%	17.4%	28.3%	13.5%
Inhalants	14.8%	5.3%	35.1%	5.0%	32.1%	4.1%	19.1%	3.6%
Cocaine/Methamphetamine	13.1%	3.3%	35.1%	4.1%	31.7%	2.9%	16.1%	2.2%
Ecstasy	14.5%	4.9%	36.4%	5.2%	33.6%	4.2%	18.4%	4.0%
Prescription Painkillers	23.2%	12.3%	41.1%	11.1%	37.2%	7.5%	20.6%	5.2%
Diet Pills	13.3%	5.3%	35.1%	5.9%	32.7%	4.3%	17.2%	3.7%
Ritalin or Adderall	12.9%	4.3%	35.9%	5.4%	33.5%	4.1%	17.9%	3.8%
Cold Medicine	40.0%	39.0%	50.2%	30.8%	36.4%	8.0%	21.4%	7.5%
Other Drug	18.6%	7.9%	42.6%	14.1%	32.1%	4.1%	17.8%	3.4%
<b>Past 30 Day Substance Use</b>								
Cigarettes	14.0%	3.8%	31.3%	3.6%	29.3%	3.2%	12.7%	1.6%
Tobacco	8.9%	1.5%	28.6%	2.0%	25.1%	1.4%	11.2%	1.1%
Alcohol (One Drink)	27.0%	16.2%	41.9%	14.3%	35.5%	10.4%	19.4%	8.1%
Alcohol (Five or More Drinks)	18.9%	8.4%	35.5%	7.2%	30.2%	5.3%	15.0%	4.2%
Marijuana	22.6%	10.8%	39.7%	10.3%	36.4%	10.2%	19.1%	7.2%
Inhalant	10.7%	1.8%	30.8%	2.4%	27.5%	1.9%	13.2%	1.6%
Prescription Painkillers	14.6%	3.7%	34.4%	4.6%	30.5%	2.7%	14.2%	1.7%
Other Drugs	11.9%	2.5%	32.3%	3.1%	28.2%	2.3%	13.5%	1.7%
Two or More Drugs	16.6%	5.8%	35.1%	5.6%	32.2%	4.6%	16.0%	3.9%

## California Participant Demographics 2013 - 2015, 2015 - 2017, and 2017 -- 2019

### 2013 - 2015

**N = 630,6780**

M = 48.1%

F = 51.9%

7<sup>th</sup> grade = 32.9%

9<sup>th</sup> grade = 35.2%

11<sup>th</sup> grade = 31.9%

Asian/Pacific Islander	8.2%
American Indian	1.0%
Black	3.0%
White	27.3%
Multiracial	11.1%
Hispanic/Latino	50.3%

### 2015 - 2017

**N= 1,043,714**

M = 50.6%

F = 49.4%

7<sup>th</sup> grade = 33.8%

9<sup>th</sup> grade = 33.7%

11<sup>th</sup> grade = 31.4%

Asian/Pacific Islander	14.0%
American Indian	4.3%
Black	5.6%
White	32.5%
Multiracial	43.6%
Hispanic/Latino	51.1%

### 2017 - 2019

**N= 1,089,343**

M = 50.5%

F = 49.5%

7<sup>th</sup> grade = 35.5%

9<sup>th</sup> grade = 33.5%

11<sup>th</sup> grade = 27.8%

Asian/	12.3%
American Indian	4.1%
Black	4.9%
White	31.0%
Multiracial	45.9%
Hispanic/Latino	52.1%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	01.7%

### 2019 - 2021

**N= 911,449**

M = 49.4%

F = 49.0%

Non-binary = 2.1%

Something else = 1.3%

7<sup>th</sup> grade = 35.7%

9<sup>th</sup> grade = 28.6%

11<sup>th</sup> grade = 26.2%

Missing = 9.5%

Asian	14.3%
American Indian	4.1%
Black	5.1%
White	30.4%
Multiracial	44.4%
Hispanic/Latino	49.9%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	01.7%

Race/Ethnicity data are only for the 2019-2020 school year.  
Nonbinary data are for 2020-2021 only.

Administration of the 2019-2021 CHKS took place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of this on survey responses has yet to be determined.

**Methods:** The data presented in this fact sheet were collected as part of the California Healthy Kids Survey in the 2013-2015, 2015-2017, 2017-2019, 2019-2021 academic years at middle and high schools throughout California. The data were collected using a paper and pencil survey, or online survey, administered by school sites and reported to and compiled by WestEd. The data were analyzed running Chi-Square tests using SPSS statistical software.

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