

KidsHealth® KidsPoll—Alcohol Poll: Summary of Findings

KidsHealth KidsPoll is a collaboration among the Nemours Foundation/KidsHealth, the Department of Health Education and Recreation at Southern Illinois University--Carbondale, the National Association of Health Education Centers, and participating health education centers. The purpose is to gather information (opinions, attitudes, and feelings etc.) about current health issues from children. The information is gathered using handheld data collection devices from children ages 9 to 13 as they attend classes in the health education centers. The information is shared with educators, caregivers, healthcare organizations, the media and other interested parties at the national and local levels. The goal is to provide insightful information that will enable them to develop programs to help children to make healthy life decisions, prevent disease and injury, and understand their bodies. This poll focused on issues related to alcohol.

Individual Demographics

Individual-level information was collected anonymously from each child who participated.

- 690 children
- 52% girls, 48% boys
- ages 9-13 (average age 10.5)
- 6 centers participated in this poll:
 - Children's Health Education Center—Milwaukee, WI
 - Health World Children's Museum—Barrington, IL
 - HealthWorks! Kids Museum—South Bend, IN
 - Lilly Health Education Center—Indianapolis, IN
 - Poe Center for Health Education—Raleigh, NC
 - Weller Health Education Center—Eaton, PA

School demographics

School-level information was not collected from each child, but is based on statistics for the schools that the children were from. Seven non-school groups also participated (e.g., girl scout troop); school-level data for these non-school groups were not available and therefore were not included in the school-level

- 15 schools (11 public, 4 private)
- 65% White, 23% Black, 9% Hispanic, 2% Asian/Pacific, 1% Native American
 - 61% of the schools had student bodies that were 0-33% Black/Hispanic/ Asian/Native American combined
 - 27% of the schools had student bodies that were 33-67% of these groups
 - 12% of the schools had student bodies that were 67-100% of these groups
- schools participating had an average of 39% of their students receiving free or reduced lunch
 - 57% of the schools had 0-33% of their student body qualifying for free or reduced lunch
 - 33% of the schools had 33-67% of their student body qualifying for free or reduced lunch
 - 10% of the schools had 67-100% of their student body qualifying for free or reduced lunch

The U.S. Census Bureau and Dept of Education use a measure of city size and location called a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The categories for

- *Large city center = center of a MSA city with population >250,000*
 - *Midsized city center = center of a MSA city with a population <250,000*
 - *Large city fringe = urban fringe of a large MSA city*
 - *Midsized city fringe = urban fringe of a midsized MSA city*
 - *Large town = not within a MSA with a population >25,000*
 - *Small town = not within an MSA with a population 2,500-25,000*
 - *Rural outside = not within an MSA with a population <2,500*
 - *Rural inside = population <2,500, coded rural, within a census MSA*
- Of the participating schools: 28% large city center, 13% mid-size city center, 17% large city fringe, 33% mid-size city fringe, 8% rural inside MSA
 - Average school size--635
 - 47% of students from schools with enrollments of 250-500
 - 27% of the schools had enrollment of 500-750
 - 7% of the schools had enrollment of 750-1000

- 19% of the schools had enrollment of 1000+

