



# Hong Kong Student Health Survey (2012-2016)

## Fact Sheet No.4: Inappropriate Social Behaviours and Substance Abuse

- The Hong Kong Student Health Survey (2012-2016) measured students' health behaviours such as oral health, dietary behaviours and overweight, physical activity, sedentary behaviours, tobacco use, life satisfaction, mental distress, intentional and unintentional injuries, and inappropriate social behaviours.
- Local primary schools and secondary schools in Hong Kong were invited to take part in a healthy school project on an annual basis. Among participating schools, students who were studying in Primary 4 (P4) and Secondary 3 (S3) were eligible to participate in the survey.
- This fact sheet presents selected survey results of consecutive five years from 2012/13 to 2016/17. It aims at reflecting students' experience of being hit physically, intimidated or socially, rumoured, or teased on school property, and some inappropriate behaviours that could cause cyber bullying on the Internet. There were questions asking whether the students had bullied others and about substance abuse in adolescents. The percentages were weighted based on the figures provided by the Education Bureau regarding student enrolment by district, grade, gender and age in each corresponding school year. The tables below also show when there is a marked gender difference in the prevalence.

Results	Respondents	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Average
1. Number of respondents	P4 students	3,231	3,814	3,794	4,176	2,222	3,447
	S3 students	2,963	3,896	4,036	3,852	2,642	3,478
2. Mean age of respondents (years)	P4 students	9.8	9.7	9.8	9.8	10.0	9.8
	S3 students	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.1	15.3	15.1
3. Weighted percentage of students by gender	P4 boys	51.8%	51.6%	51.9%	51.7%	51.9%	51.8%
	P4 girls	48.2%	48.4%	48.1%	48.3%	48.1%	48.2%
<b>Inappropriate Social Behaviours in School</b>							
4. Weighted percentage of students who had <b>been hit physically</b> by someone*	P4 (both sexes)	18.2%	16.6%	16.6%	14.5%	17.6%	16.7%
	S3 (both sexes)	9.5%	9.6%	9.0%	8.6%	7.3%	8.8%
	P4 boys	22.5%	20.8%	21.0%	18.8%	22.3%	21.1%
	P4 girls	13.6%	12.0%	11.9%	10.0%	12.6%	12.0%
	S3 male adolescents	14.4%	14.0%	14.0%	12.6%	10.5%	13.1%
	S3 female adolescents	4.3%	4.7%	3.7%	4.1%	3.9%	4.1%
5. Weighted percentage of students who had <b>been intimidated</b> by someone in the school*	P4 (both sexes)	19.1%	21.9%	21.1%	21.4%	21.4%	21.0%
	S3 (both sexes)	12.1%	13.5%	13.2%	11.7%	11.0%	12.3%
	P4 boys	22.0%	23.8%	22.9%	24.1%	23.1%	23.2%
	P4 girls	18.4%	19.9%	19.3%	18.4%	19.5%	19.1%
	S3 male adolescents	15.9%	16.6%	17.0%	15.4%	14.4%	15.9%
	S3 female adolescents	8.1%	10.2%	9.2%	7.7%	7.4%	8.5%
6. Weighted percentage of students who had <b>been socially isolated, rumoured, or teased</b> by others in the school*	P4 (both sexes)	46.6%	44.4%	44.0%	43.2%	42.0%	44.0%
	S3 (both sexes)	33.3%	29.4%	32.1%	30.6%	27.9%	30.7%
	P4 boys	47.0%	46.3%	46.1%	45.6%	44.8%	46.0%
	P4 girls	46.2%	42.4%	41.8%	40.6%	39.0%	42.0%
	S3 male adolescents	37.3%	31.8%	37.4%	34.7%	33.8%	35.0%
	S3 female adolescents	29.1%	26.8%	26.3%	26.2%	21.6%	26.0%
7. Weighted percentage of students who had <b>physically hit</b> a schoolmate(s) on purpose*	P4 (both sexes)	4.5%	4.1%	4.4%	4.3%	5.4%	4.5%
	S3 (both sexes)	7.4%	6.0%	5.9%	5.6%	4.7%	5.9%
	P4 boys	6.3%	6.4%	6.1%	6.8%	8.3%	6.8%
	P4 girls	2.5%	1.6%	2.7%	1.7%	2.3%	2.2%
	S3 male adolescents	10.6%	8.8%	8.6%	8.4%	7.5%	8.8%
	S3 female adolescents	4.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.5%	1.7%	2.8%

\* The time frame of the question was set for during the 30 days before the survey.

Results	Respondents	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Average
8. Weighted percentage of students who <b>had isolated or teased a schoolmate(s), or spread rumours</b> about a schoolmate(s) on purpose*	P4 (both sexes)	16.8%	15.6%	16.8%	15.4%	17.5%	16.4%
	S3 (both sexes)	23.1%	21.2%	24.8%	22.4%	21.4%	22.6%
	P4 boys	20.4%	18.1%	21.3%	20.0%	21.3%	20.2%
	P4 girls	13.0%	13.0%	12.0%	10.5%	13.5%	12.4%
	S3 male adolescents	27.6%	24.4%	29.4%	27.6%	27.7%	27.3%
	S3 female adolescents	18.4%	17.8%	19.9%	16.7%	14.7%	17.5%
9. Weighted percentage of students who <b>had intimidated</b> a schoolmate(s) on purpose*	P4 (both sexes)	6.0%	6.4%	6.9%	6.6%	7.2%	6.6%
	S3 (both sexes)	7.8%	8.5%	9.1%	8.2%	6.8%	8.1%
	P4 boys	8.0%	8.3%	8.9%	9.3%	9.4%	8.8%
	P4 girls	3.8%	4.4%	4.8%	3.8%	4.8%	4.3%
	S3 male adolescents	10.0%	11.5%	12.4%	11.4%	10.5%	11.2%
	S3 female adolescents	5.5%	5.2%	5.6%	4.7%	2.8%	4.8%
<b>Inappropriate Behaviours That Could Cause Cyber-Bullying On The Internet</b>							
10. Weighted percentage of students who had found their personal <b>information being disclosed</b> on the Internet without their permission*	P4 (both sexes)	4.7%	5.3%	6.3%	5.7%	3.4%	5.1%
	S3 (both sexes)	6.1%	7.4%	8.4%	7.2%	4.7%	6.8%
	S3 male adolescents	6.2%	8.6%	8.7%	7.6%	6.0%	7.4%
	S3 female adolescents	4.6%	6.0%	8.1%	6.8%	3.3%	5.8%
11. Weighted percentage of students who had found <b>someone(s) on the Internet spreading rumours</b> about the students*	P4 (both sexes)	5.3%	5.7%	7.1%	6.6%	6.5%	6.2%
	S3 (both sexes)	9.3%	10.6%	11.9%	10.9%	9.4%	10.4%
	S3 male adolescents	9.8%	10.3%	11.5%	10.8%	10.5%	10.6%
	S3 female adolescents	8.9%	10.9%	12.3%	11.0%	8.2%	10.3%
12. Weighted percentage of students who <b>had received offensive or insulting comments</b> on the Internet*	P4 (both sexes)	4.7%	5.6%	5.4%	5.9%	6.1%	5.5%
	S3 (both sexes)	6.1%	8.8%	10.3%	9.6%	9.4%	8.8%
	P4 boys	5.3%	6.3%	7.1%	7.2%	6.8%	6.5%
	P4 girls	4.0%	4.8%	3.6%	4.6%	5.3%	4.5%
	S3 male adolescents	7.2%	8.8%	12.7%	11.4%	12.1%	10.4%
13. Weighted percentage of adolescents who <b>had disclosed others' personal information</b> on the Internet without others' permission	S3 (both sexes)	2.4%	1.9%	2.2%	2.2%	6.3%	3.0%
14. Weighted percentage of adolescents who <b>had spread rumours</b> about someone else on the Internet*	S3 (both sexes)	3.8%	3.0%	3.4%	3.1%	7.6%	4.2%
15. Weighted percentage of adolescents who <b>had left offensive or insulting comments</b> to others on the Internet*	S3 (both sexes)	4.2%	4.9%	6.1%	5.4%	10.1%	6.1%
	S3 male adolescents	4.8%	6.0%	8.4%	7.1%	8.6%	7.0%
	S3 female adolescents	3.6%	3.8%	3.7%	3.4%	11.7%	5.2%
<b>Substance Use and Abuse</b>							
16. Weighted percentage of students who had ever tried cigarette smoking (even one or two puffs)	P4 (both sexes)	3.0%	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%
	S3 (both sexes)	20.5%	14.5%	13.3%	14.3%	9.5%	14.4%
	P4 boys	3.7%	3.8%	3.4%	3.8%	3.7%	3.7%
	P4 girls	2.3%	1.4%	2.2%	1.6%	1.6%	1.8%
	S3 male adolescents	19.9%	15.9%	14.2%	16.0%	10.7%	15.3%
	S3 female adolescents	21.1%	13.0%	12.4%	12.4%	8.3%	13.4%
17. Weighted percentage of students who had smoked during the 30 days before the survey	P4 (both sexes)	0.4%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%
	S3 (both sexes)	6.5%	4.6%	3.5%	3.6%	2.1%	4.1%

\* The time frame of the question was set for during the 30 days before the survey.

Results	Respondents	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Average
18. Weighted percentage of students who had <b>ever drunk</b> alcohol (other than a few sips)	P4 (both sexes)	19.0%	14.4%	14.9%	17.2%	15.1%	16.1%
	S3 (both sexes)	49.8%	45.3%	43.5%	47.4%	41.8%	45.6%
	P4 boys	22.7%	17.7%	18.7%	21.8%	18.8%	19.9%
	P4 girls	15.1%	10.7%	10.8%	12.2%	11.0%	12.0%
	S3 male adolescents	48.3%	45.9%	45.2%	49.3%	42.6%	46.3%
	S3 female adolescents	51.3%	44.6%	41.8%	45.4%	41.0%	44.8%
19. Weighted percentage of students who had at least one drink of alcohol (e.g. a can of beer) during the 30 days before the survey	P4 (both sexes)	6.0%	5.8%	5.2%	6.3%	4.7%	5.6%
	S3 (both sexes)	23.4%	20.9%	20.1%	22.5%	15.8%	20.5%
	P4 boys	7.8%	7.6%	7.4%	8.7%	5.9%	7.5%
	P4 girls	4.1%	4.0%	2.7%	3.8%	3.4%	3.6%
	S3 male adolescents	23.3%	21.6%	21.1%	23.6%	17.2%	21.4%
	S3 female adolescents	23.4%	20.1%	18.9%	21.1%	14.2%	19.5%
20. Weighted percentage of adolescents who admitted that they had ever used ketamine	S3	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
21. Weighted percentage of adolescents who admitted that they had ever used ecstasy	S3	0.2%	0.1%	<0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
22. Weighted percentage of adolescents who admitted that they had ever sniffed organic solvents (e.g. thinner)	S3	0.5%	0.1%	<0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
23. Weighted percentage of adolescents who admitted that they had ever used cough suppressants not for remedial purposes	S3	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%

From 2012/13 to 2015/16, one multiply choice question was used to explore the reasons why some students could have bullied others in any ways. The weighted percentages presented in the following table reflects some of the mentality of the bullies.

Results	Respondents	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Average
<b>Mentality of Bullies</b>						
24. Weighted percentage of students who admitted that they had ever bullied others and they did that because they <b>felt bored</b> <sup>@</sup>	P4 (both sexes)	5.4%	5.5%	5.2%	4.7%	5.2%
	S3 (both sexes)	15.8%	13.8%	15.4%	12.8%	14.5%
	P4 boys	7.4%	7.0%	6.9%	6.8%	7.0%
	P4 girls	3.3%	3.8%	3.4%	2.5%	3.3%
	S3 male adolescents	18.4%	18.2%	19.3%	16.2%	18.0%
	S3 female adolescents	13.0%	9.0%	11.2%	9.0%	10.6%
25. Weighted percentage of students who admitted that they had ever bullied others and did that because they <b>couldn't control their temper</b> <sup>@</sup>	P4 (both sexes)	6.7%	6.5%	6.7%	7.2%	6.8%
	S3 (both sexes)	6.9%	6.6%	7.2%	6.7%	6.9%
	P4 boys	8.8%	7.8%	8.9%	8.6%	8.5%
	P4 girls	4.5%	5.1%	4.3%	5.6%	4.9%
26. Weighted percentage of students who admitted that they had ever bullied others and did that because they <b>just said about the fact</b> <sup>@</sup>	P4 (both sexes)	2.2%	2.1%	2.3%	1.9%	2.1%
	S3 (both sexes)	6.1%	5.2%	6.6%	5.8%	5.9%
	S3 male adolescents	5.6%	4.1%	5.5%	4.6%	5.0%
	S3 female adolescents	6.7%	6.4%	7.9%	7.1%	7.0%
27. Weighted percentage of students who admitted that they had ever bullied others and did that because they wanted to <b>protect themselves and make the first move</b> <sup>@</sup>	P4 (both sexes)	3.3%	3.1%	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%
	S3 (both sexes)	4.0%	3.2%	3.4%	3.1%	3.4%
	P4 boys	4.8%	4.4%	4.1%	4.3%	4.4%
	P4 girls	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%

Results	Respondents	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Average
28. Weighted percentage of students who admitted that they had ever bullied others and did that because they <b>wanted to stand up for somebody else</b> <sup>@</sup>	P4 (both sexes)	2.9%	3.3%	3.4%	2.3%	3.0%
	S3 (both sexes)	3.7%	3.1%	3.7%	3.6%	3.5%
	P4 boys	4.0%	4.1%	4.4%	2.9%	3.9%
	P4 girls	1.8%	2.4%	2.4%	1.6%	2.1%
29. Weighted percentage of students who admitted that they had ever bullied others and <b>revenged</b> themselves on others for what others had done to them <sup>@</sup>	P4 (both sexes)	4.4%	4.2%	4.0%	3.7%	4.1%
	S3 (both sexes)	5.4%	5.6%	6.2%	5.8%	5.8%
	P4 boys	5.9%	5.3%	5.2%	4.4%	5.2%
	P4 girls	2.9%	3.1%	2.8%	3.0%	3.0%

<sup>@</sup> When answering the question, respondents could choose that they had never bullied anybody. If they have ever bullied somebody, they could choose one or more choices from a list of 10 excuses commonly used by bullies.

We hope that public health practitioners and school teachers will find useful information from the results of this survey. We also aim to inspire you and assist you in your important work in delivering quality health education and health promotion for young people. Other fact sheets of the Hong Kong Student Health Survey (2012-2016) include:

- Background of the Hong Kong Student Health Survey (2012-2016)
- Fact Sheet No.1: Dietary Behaviours and Oral Health
- Fact Sheet No.2: Physical Activity, Sedentary Behaviours, Sleeping Habits, and Weight Control
- Fact Sheet No.3: Mental Health, Safety, Intentional Injuries, and Sexual Behaviours

This fact sheet is prepared by Centre for Health Education and Health Promotion, Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care, Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong in August, 2018. For additional information, please visit the Centre's website (<https://www.chep.cuhk.edu.hk>) or send an email to chep@cuhk.edu.hk. Centre's address: 4/F, Lek Yuen Health Centre, 9 Lek Yuen Street, Sha Tin, New Territories, Hong Kong.