

# 2011 FAIRFAX COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY OF 6th GRADE STUDENTS

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study. These questions ask your opinion about a number of things concerning you, your friends, your family, your neighborhood, and your community.

All of your answers will be kept strictly confidential. This means your answers are secret. This survey is completely voluntary. You can skip any questions that you do not want to answer.

Be sure to read the instructions below before you begin.

Thank you very much.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. This is not a test, so there are no right or wrong answers.
2. All of the questions should be answered by marking one of the answer spaces. If you do not find an answer that fits exactly, use the one that comes closest. If any question does not apply to you, or you are not sure what it means, just leave it blank.
3. For questions that have the following answers: NO!! no yes YES!!

Mark the big **YES!!** if you think the statement is DEFINITELY TRUE for you.

Mark the little **yes** if you think the statement is MOSTLY TRUE for you.

Mark the little **no** if you think the statement is MOSTLY NOT TRUE for you.

Mark the big **NO!!** if you think the statement is DEFINITELY NOT TRUE for you.

**Example:** Chocolate is the best ice cream flavor.

NO!!    no    yes    YES!!

4. Your answers will be read automatically by a scanner and computer. Please follow these instructions carefully.

## MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Use a No. 2 pencil or a blue or black pen only.
- b. Do not use pens with ink that soaks through the paper.
- c. Make solid marks that fill the response completely.
- d. Make no stray marks on this form.

This kind of mark will work:

Correct Mark



These kinds of marks will NOT work:

Incorrect Marks



PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

These questions ask for some general information about the people completing the survey.

Please mark the response that best describes you.

1. How old are you?

- 10 or younger
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14 or older

2. What grade are you in?

- 5th
- 6th
- 7th

3. Are you:

- Female
- Male

4. What do you consider yourself to be?

Select **ONE** only.

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic nor Latino

5. What do you consider yourself to be?

Select **ONE OR MORE**.

- American Indian or Alaskan native
- Asian
- Black or African-American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White

6. Think of where you live most of the time. Which of the following people live there with you? Choose **ALL** that apply.

- |                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Mother         | <input type="radio"/> Other adults   |
| <input type="radio"/> Father         | <input type="radio"/> Sister(s)      |
| <input type="radio"/> Stepmother     | <input type="radio"/> Brother(s)     |
| <input type="radio"/> Stepfather     | <input type="radio"/> Stepsister(s)  |
| <input type="radio"/> Grandmother(s) | <input type="radio"/> Stepbrother(s) |
| <input type="radio"/> Grandfather(s) | <input type="radio"/> Other children |
| <input type="radio"/> Foster parent  |                                      |

7. What language do you use most often at home?

- English
- Spanish
- Another Language

The next section asks about your experiences at school.

8. Putting them all together, what were your grades like last year?

- Mostly Fs
- Mostly Ds
- Mostly Cs
- Mostly Bs
- Mostly As

9. I think sometimes it is okay to cheat at school.

- NO!!
- no
- yes
- YES!!

10. How often do you come to classes without your homework finished?

- Usually
- Sometimes
- Never

How much do you agree or disagree with the following?

11. I know how to use a computer to do things like schoolwork, finding information, or typing papers.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

12. I can do well in school if I want to.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

13. I feel safe at my school.

- NO!!
- no
- yes
- YES!!

The next section asks about your feelings and experiences in other parts of your life.

Remember, your answers are confidential.

14. During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?

- Yes
- No

15. I ignore rules that get in my way.

- Very false
- Somewhat false
- Somewhat true
- Very true

16. There are lots of adults in my neighborhood I could talk to about something important.

- NO!!
- no
- yes
- YES!!

17. It is important to be honest with your parents even if they become upset or you get punished.

- NO!!
- no
- yes
- YES!!

18. I think it is okay to take something without asking if you can get away with it.

- NO!!
- no
- yes
- YES!!

**How many times have you:**

19. ...done something dangerous because someone dared you to do it?

- Never
- I've done it, but not in the past year
- Less than once a month
- About once a month
- Two or three times a month
- Once a week or more

20. ...done crazy things even if they are a little dangerous?

- Never
- I've done it, but not in the past year
- Less than once a month
- About once a month
- Two or three times a month
- Once a week or more

**How many times in the past year have you:**

21. ...carried a weapon other than a handgun (such as a knife or club)? Don't count the times you've carried a weapon for hunting, camping, scouting, or similar activities.

- Never
- 1 to 2 times
- 3 to 5 times
- 6 to 9 times
- 10 to 19 times
- 20 to 29 times
- 30 to 39 times
- 40 or more times

**How important is each of the following to you in your life?**

22. ...Accepting responsibility for my actions when I make a mistake or get in trouble.

- Extremely Important
- Quite Important
- Not Sure
- Somewhat Important
- Not Important

23. ...Doing my best even when I have to do a job I don't like.

- Extremely Important
- Quite Important
- Not Sure
- Somewhat Important
- Not Important

**How much do you agree or disagree with the following?**

24. ...I am able to save my money for something I really want.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

25. ...When things don't go well for me, I am good at finding a way to make things better.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

26. ...I feel as if I can solve most problems in my life.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Not Sure
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**How much do you do the following when you have a problem of any kind?**

27. ...I try to find different solutions to the problem.

- A lot
- Sometimes
- A little
- Never



PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

**How many times have you:**

28. ...participated in school or non-school extracurricular activities (e.g., sports, student government, student newspaper, scouting, etc.)?

- Never
- I've done it, but not in the past year
- Less than once a month
- About once a month
- Two or three times a month
- Once a week or more

29. ...volunteered to do community service?

- Never
- I've done it, but not in the past year
- Less than once a month
- About once a month
- Two or three times a month
- Once a week or more

**On an average school day, how many hours do you:**

30. ...watch TV?

- Not at all
- Less than 1 hour per day
- 1 hour per day
- 2 hours per day
- 3 hours per day
- 4 hours per day
- 5 or more hours per day

31. ...play video or computer games or use a computer for something that is not school work? (Include activities such as Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo DS, iPod touch, Facebook, and the Internet.)

- Not at all
- Less than 1 hour per day
- 1 hour per day
- 2 hours per day
- 3 hours per day
- 4 hours per day
- 5 or more hours per day

32. During the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day? *Add up all the time you spend in any kind of physical activity that increases your heart rate and makes you breathe hard some of the time.*

- 0 days
- 1 day
- 2 days
- 3 days
- 4 days
- 5 days
- 6 days
- 7 days

The next section asks about things you might have done, or that might have happened to you. Some of the questions are about bullying. **Bullying is when 1 or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove, or hurt another student over and over again. It is not bullying when 2 students of about the same strength or power argue or fight or tease each other in a friendly way.**

**Remember, your answers are confidential.**

**During the past year, how many times have you:**

33. ...bullied, taunted, ridiculed, or teased someone?

- Never
- It's happened, but not in the past year
- A few times in the past year
- About once a month
- Two or three times a month
- Once a week or more
- Every day

34. ...said something bad about someone's race or culture?

- Never
- It's happened, but not in the past year
- A few times in the past year
- About once a month
- Two or three times a month
- Once a week or more
- Every day

**How many times in the past year has anyone done any of the following TO YOU:**

35. ...bullied, taunted, ridiculed, or teased you?

- Never
- It's happened, but not in the past year
- A few times in the past year
- About once a month
- Two or three times a month
- Once a week or more
- Every day

36. ...said something bad about your race or culture?

- Never
- It's happened, but not in the past year
- A few times in the past year
- About once a month
- Two or three times a month
- Once a week or more
- Every day

37. How many times in the past year has a parent or adult in your household bullied, taunted, ridiculed, or teased you?

- Never
- It's happened, but not in the past year
- A few times in the past year
- About once a month
- Two or three times a month
- Once a week or more
- Every day

**Cyberbullying is electronic bullying, such as through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites, or text messaging.**

38. How many times in the past year have you been cyberbullied by a student who attends your school?

- Never
- 1 to 2 times
- 3 to 5 times
- 6 to 9 times
- 10 to 19 times
- 20 to 29 times
- 30 to 39 times
- 40 or more times

39. How many times in the past year have you cyberbullied a student attending your school?

- Never
- 1 to 2 times
- 3 to 5 times
- 6 to 9 times
- 10 to 19 times
- 20 to 29 times
- 30 to 39 times
- 40 or more times

**The next section asks about your experiences with tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.**

**How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they:**

40. ...smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?

- No risk
- Slight risk
- Moderate risk
- Great risk

41. ...try marijuana once or twice?

- No risk
- Slight risk
- Moderate risk
- Great risk

42. ...smoke marijuana regularly?

- No risk
- Slight risk
- Moderate risk
- Great risk

43. ...take one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) nearly every day?

- No risk
- Slight risk
- Moderate risk
- Great risk

44. Have you ever smoked cigarettes?

- Never
- Once or twice
- Once in a while but not regularly
- Regularly in the past
- Regularly now

45. How often have you smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days?

- Not at all
- Less than one cigarette per day
- One to five cigarettes per day
- About one-half pack per day
- About one pack per day
- More than one pack per day

46. Have you ever, even once in your lifetime, had more than a sip or two of beer, wine, or hard liquor?

- Yes
- No

47. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you drink beer, wine, or hard liquor?

- None
- 1-2 days
- 3-5 days
- 6-9 days
- 10 or more days

48. Have you ever, even once in your lifetime, smoked marijuana?

- Yes
- No

49. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use marijuana?

- None
- 1-2 days
- 3-5 days
- 6-9 days
- 10 or more days

50. Have you ever, even once in your lifetime, sniffed glue, breathed (huffed) the contents of an aerosol spray can, or inhaled other gases or sprays in order to get high?

- Yes
- No

51. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you sniff glue, breathe (huff) the contents of an aerosol spray can, or inhale other gases or sprays in order to get high?

- None
- 1-2 days
- 3-5 days
- 6-9 days
- 10 or more days

52. Have you ever, even once in your lifetime, used vivoxiline (vivo)?

- Yes
- No

53. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use vivoxiline (vivo)?

- None
- 1-2 days
- 3-5 days
- 6-9 days
- 10 or more days

54. Have you ever, even once in your lifetime, used other illegal drugs (not counting alcohol, tobacco, or marijuana)?

- Yes
- No

55. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use other illegal drugs (not counting alcohol, tobacco, or marijuana)?

- None
- 1-2 days
- 3-5 days
- 6-9 days
- 10 or more days

**How easy or hard would it be for you to get:**

56. ...beer, wine, or hard liquor (for example, vodka, whiskey, or gin)?

- Very hard
- Sort of hard
- Sort of easy
- Very easy

57. ...some cigarettes?

- Very hard
- Sort of hard
- Sort of easy
- Very easy

**The next section asks about food you ate or drank during the past 7 days. Think about all the meals and snacks you had from the time you got up until you went to bed. Be sure to include food you ate at home, at school, at restaurants, or anywhere else.**

**During the past 7 days, how many times did you:**

58. ...eat fruit? Do not count fruit juice.

- I did not eat fruit during the past 7 days
- 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days
- 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days
- 1 time per day
- 2 times per day
- 3 times per day
- 4 or more times per day

59. ...eat vegetables?

- I did not eat vegetables during the past 7 days
- 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days
- 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days
- 1 time per day
- 2 times per day
- 3 times per day
- 4 or more times per day

60. ...drink a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop (such as Coke, Pepsi, or Sprite)? Do not include diet soda or diet pop.

- I did not drink soda or pop during the past 7 days
- 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days
- 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days
- 1 time per day
- 2 times per day
- 3 times per day
- 4 or more times per day



PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

The next few questions ask about your family. When answering these questions, please think about the people you consider to be your family; for example, parents, stepparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.

61. How many times have you changed homes since kindergarten?
- None
  - 1-2 times
  - 3-4 times
  - 5-6 times
  - 7 or more times
62. If I had a personal problem, I could ask my mom or dad for help.
- NO!!     no     yes     YES!!
63. People in my family often insult or yell at each other.
- NO!!     no     yes     YES!!
64. We argue about the same things in my family over and over.
- NO!!     no     yes     YES!!
65. People in my family have serious arguments.
- NO!!     no     yes     YES!!
66. During the past 30 days, how often did you go hungry because there was not enough food in your home?
- Never
  - Rarely
  - Sometimes
  - Most of the time
  - Always

The next section asks about the environment.

How often do you perform the following activity:

67. ...recycle things such as newspapers, cans, and glass?
- Frequently
  - Sometimes
  - Never
68. ...turn off lights and electrical appliances (such as TVs and computers) when not in use?
- Frequently
  - Sometimes
  - Never

69. ...try to cut down on the amount of trash and garbage you create?

- Frequently
- Sometimes
- Never

70. ...conserve water in your home or yard (such as shutting off the faucet when brushing your teeth)?

- Frequently
- Sometimes
- Never

71. I believe that my actions can improve the quality of the environment.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

The next section asks about your experiences related to civic engagement.

72. During an average week, how many hours do you spend helping friends or neighbors, or helping other people without getting paid (such as helping out at a hospital, daycare center, food shelf, youth program, community service agency, or doing other things) to make your city a better place for people to live?

- 0 hours
- 1 hour
- 2 hours
- 3-5 hours
- 6-10 hours
- 11 or more hours

73. During the last 12 months, how many times have you been a leader in a group or organization?

- Never
- Once
- Twice
- 3-4 times
- 5 or more times

Please continue to next page



74. During the last 12 months, how many times have you helped make sure that all people are treated fairly?

- Never
- Once
- Twice
- 3-4 times
- 5 or more times

75. In the past 30 days, how often have you read about issues affecting the public, politics, and/or political campaigns from newspapers, magazines, or the Internet in your free time?

- Frequently
- Sometimes
- Never

76. During the last 12 months, have you used your political voice (signed a petition, contacted a government official for a reason other than a school assignment, wrote to a publication to express your opinion, refused to use or buy a product made by a company that has a policy you disagree with, etc.) as a result of reading about politics, political campaigns, and/or issues affecting the public from newspapers, magazines, or the Internet in your free time?

- Yes
- No

77. How important is participating in a democratic process (such as by voting, working on a political campaign, running for elected office) to you?

- Very Important
- Quite Important
- Fairly Important
- Slightly Important
- Not at all Important

**Think about the people who know you well. How do you think they would rate you on each of these?**

**People who know me would say this:**

78. Being good at planning ahead is ...

- Not at all like me
- A little like me
- Somewhat like me
- Quite like me
- Very much like me

79. Giving up when things get hard for me is ...

- Not at all like me
- A little like me
- Somewhat like me
- Quite like me
- Very much like me

80. Knowing how to say "no" when someone wants me to do things I know are wrong or dangerous is ...

- Not at all like me
- A little like me
- Somewhat like me
- Quite like me
- Very much like me

81. Thinking through the possible good and bad results of different choices before I make decisions is ...

- Not at all like me
- A little like me
- Somewhat like me
- Quite like me
- Very much like me

**The next section asks about cyberbullying.**

82. I know of someone who has been really hurt by cyberbullying.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

83. I would report cyberbullying incidents, if I could do so without anyone knowing it was me.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

84. How honest were you in filling out this survey?

- I was very honest
- I was honest pretty much of the time
- I was honest some of the time
- I was honest once in a while
- I was not honest at all

**This is the end of the survey.  
Thank you for participating.**

