



Bullying Data from the Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey

February 12, 2024 SEAC Meeting

Data Sources:

Hawaii Health Data Warehouse - <https://hhdw.org/data-sources/youth-risk-behavior-survey/>

Hawaii Health Matters – <http://hawaiihealthmatters.org>
Conversations with Dr. Tonya Lowry St. John, UH Office of Public Health Studies



HYRBS Partners

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- The Hawai'i State Department of Education
- The Hawai'i State Department of Health
- University of Hawai'i Curriculum Research & Development Group
- The Hawaii School Health Survey Committee

How & When the Survey is Administered

February – May of odd-numbered years

Whole classrooms that are randomly selected (usually 2nd period)

Kauai, Maui and Hawaii are oversampled to provide adequate #s

Surveys are completed within a single class period

On-line or in paper/pencil format

Number of Students Who Take the HYRBS

Survey Year	HS Students	MS Students
2021	5,637	5,458
2019	5,879	6,591
2017	6,031	6,418

Data from the 2023 HYRBS is not yet available. It must be weighted by the CDC before it is released sometime this year.

Bullying Data from 2019 and 2021 HYRBS

Item: Were bullied on school property in the past 12 months

YEAR	HIGH SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL
2021	10.5% (5,200)	33% (9,800)
2019	17% (7,900)	37% (12,100)

Item: Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on the way to or from school or in the past 30 days*

YEAR	HIGH SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL
2021	9.6%	7.9%
2019	12.4 %	10.3%

***Note: for middle schoolers the question read “in the past 12 months.**

Bullying Data from 2019 and 2021 HYRBS (cont.)

Item: Were electronically bullied in the past 12 months

YEAR	HIGH SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL
2021	11.8% (5,800)	27.7% (8,100)
2019	13.1% (6,900)	22.7% (7,300)

Item: Strongly agreed or agreed that harassment and bullying by other students is a problem at their school

YEAR	HIGH SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL
2021	40.5%	52.4%
2019	40.4 %	56.9%

***Note: for middle schoolers the question read “in the past 12 months”.**



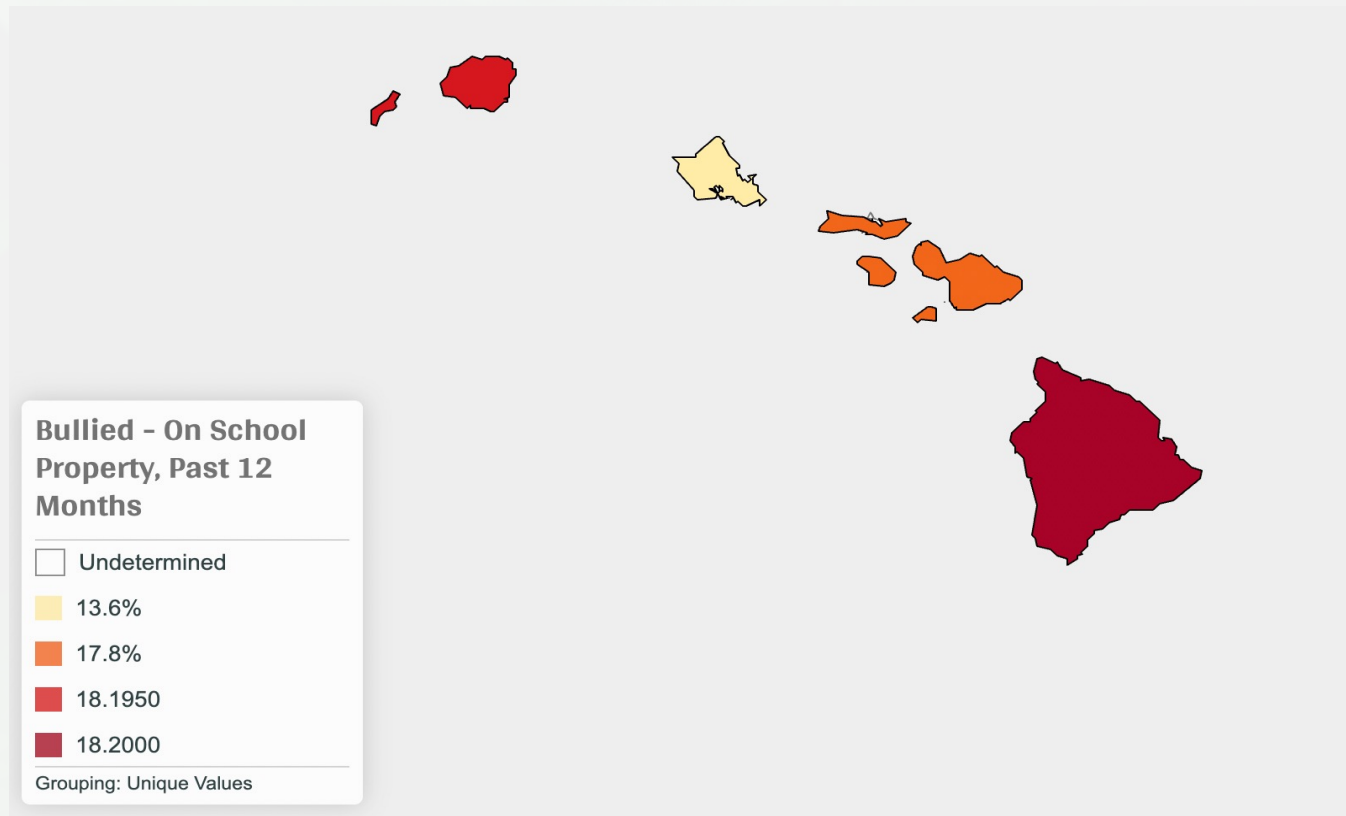
Differences in the 2021 HYRBS Data

1st assessment since the pandemic

Administered in the Fall instead of the Spring, so students were younger and earlier into the school year

The previous 12 months involved full or partial online learning for the majority of students.

Bully is Most Prevalent on Kauai & Hawaii



Representation of Students with Disabilities

There is no current question re: disability status, so it is impossible to know how many students with IEPs take the survey or how they rank on the survey items.

To protect student privacy and keep their responses confidential, students who would need assistance from another person to complete the survey are not included in the sample. So many students with disabilities would be eligible, but some may not be.

It is likely that students who are in resource rooms or FSC classrooms during second period are excluded.

Option Open to SEAC

Approach the Hawaii School Health Survey Committee to include a question re: disability on the 2025 survey.

Per Dr. St. John, having a validated question to recommend to the Committee will greatly increase the chances of inclusion.

