

What's New with Kids–July 2004

NEVADA KIDS COUNT NEWSLETTER

Site of the Month

U.S. Teens in Our World: Understanding the Health of U.S. Youth in Comparison to Youth in Other Countries is a publication available at no charge from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or online at <http://www.hrsa.gov>.

The data on teens come from the Health Behavior in School-Aged Children study conducted in 1997-98. Teens, ages 1, 13, and 15, from 29 countries or regions were interviewed to better understand adolescent health and health-related behaviors. The data are graphed to provide easy comparison of U.S. teens age 15 to teens in the other countries or regions. Comparisons by gender are also available.

How does the U.S. fare?

Health and Well-Being

U.S. teens ranked first among the countries or regions on the percentage reporting a backache or stomachache at least once a week.

Fitness

U.S. teens ranked first on the percentage dieting to lose weight or feeling that they should diet or lose weight. Females were twice as likely to report being on a diet than were males (62 versus 29 percent).

U.S. teens ranked third on the percentage drinking soft drinks daily.

Family and Peer Relationships

U.S. teens ranked third on the percentage finding it difficult or very difficult to talk to their mother about things that really bother them.

School Environment

U.S. teens ranked second on feeling pressured by school work.

Smoking and Alcohol Use

U.S. teens ranked 25th on the percentage who smoke tobacco daily.

Violence

U.S. teens ranked eighth on the percentage who never or rarely feel safe at school.

If you are interested in how teens from the 29 countries or regions rank on all the indicators, you may want to order the publication. It not only provides colorful graphs, but also text, references, and a section titled What Was Left Out?

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Rennae Daneshvary, PhD
Interim Nevada KIDS COUNT Project Coordinator