

National Youth Survey—Original format

Elliot, D. S., Huizinga, D., & Ageton, S. S. (1985). *Explaining delinquency and drug use*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage.

This questionnaire contains a number of questions about your behavior in the last year. Please answer all of the questions as accurately as you can. Do not try to look good or bad. All the information you provide is totally confidential and will not be shown to your parents or anyone else.

For each question, indicate how often you did the described behavior in the last year by writing the number of times on the blank in front of the question.

How many times in the last year have you:

- ___ 1. purposely damaged or destroyed property belonging to your parents or other family members?
- ___ 2. purposely damaged or destroyed property belonging to a school?
- ___ 3. purposely damaged or destroyed other property that did not belong to you (not counting family or school property)?
- ___ 4. stolen (or tried to steal) a motor vehicle, such as a car or motorcycle?
- ___ 5. stolen (or tried to steal) something worth more than \$50?
- ___ 6. knowingly bought, sold or held stolen goods (or tried to do any of these things)?
- ___ 7. thrown objects (such as rocks, snowballs, or bottles) at cars or people?
- ___ 8. run away from home?
- ___ 9. lied about your age to gain entrance or to purchase something; for example, lying about your age to buy liquor or get into a movie?
- ___ 10. carried a hidden weapon other than a plain pocket knife?
- ___ 11. stolen (or tried to steal) things worth \$5 or less?
- ___ 12. attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting or killing him/her?
- ___ 13. been paid for having sexual relations with someone?
- ___ 14. been involved in gang fights?
- ___ 15. sold marijuana or hashish ("pot," "grass," "hash")?
- ___ 16. cheated on school tests?
- ___ 17. hitchhiked where it was illegal to do so?
- ___ 18. stolen money or other things from your parents or other members of your family?
- ___ 19. hit (or threatened to hit) a teacher or other adult at school?
- ___ 20. hit (or threatened to hit) one of your parents?
- ___ 21. hit (or threatened to hit) other students?
- ___ 22. been loud, rowdy, or unruly in a public place (disorderly conduct)?
- ___ 23. sold hard drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, and LSD?
- ___ 24. taken a vehicle for a ride (drive) without the owner's permission?
- ___ 25. had (or tried to have) sexual relations with someone against their will?
- ___ 26. used force (strong-arm methods) to get money or things from other students?
- ___ 27. used force (strong-arm methods) to get money or things from a teacher or other adult at school?
- ___ 28. used force (strong-arm methods) to get money or things from other people (not students or teachers)?
- ___ 29. avoided paying for such things as movies, bus or subway rides, and food?
- ___ 30. been drunk in a public place?
- ___ 31. stolen (or tried to steal) things worth between \$5 and \$50?

- 32. stolen (or tried to steal) something at school, such as someone's coat from a classroom, locker, or cafeteria, or a book from the library?
- 33. broken into a building or vehicle (or tried to break in) to steal something or just to look around?
- 34. begged for money or things from strangers?
- 35. skipped classes without an excuse?
- 36. failed to return extra change that a cashier gave you by mistake?
- 37. been suspended from school?
- 38. made obscene telephone calls, such as calling someone and saying dirty things.

used:

- 39. alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, and hard liquor)?
- 40. marijuana--hashish ("grass," "pot," "hash")?
- 41. hallucinogens ("LSD," "Mescaline," "Peyote," "Acid")?
- 42. amphetamines ("Uppers," "Speed," "Whites")?
- 43. barbiturates\ ("Downers," "Reds")?
- 44. herion ("Horse," "Smack")?
- 45. cocaine ("Coke").

National Youth Survey—Computerized response format, all items.

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For each question, indicate how often you did the described behavior in the last year by typing the letter corresponding to your best estimate, using the following scale.

When you are ready to proceed, press the space bar.

0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	More
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K

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5. stolen (or tried to steal) something worth more than \$50.
6. knowingly bought, sold or held stolen goods (or tried to do any of these things).
7. thrown objects (such as rocks, snowballs, or bottles) at cars or people.
8. run away from home.
9. lied about your age to gain entrance or to purchase something; for example, lying about your age to buy liquor or get into a movie.
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13. been paid for having sexual relations with someone.
14. been involved in gang fights.
15. sold marijuana or hashish ("pot," "grass," "hash").
16. cheated on school tests.
17. hitchhiked where it was illegal to do so.
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27. used force (strong-arm methods) to get money or things from a teacher or other adult at school.
28. used force (strong-arm methods) to get money or things from other people (not students or teachers).
29. avoided paying for such things as movies, bus or subway rides, and food.
30. been drunk in a public place.

31. stolen (or tried to steal) things worth between \$5 and \$50.
32. stolen (or tried to steal) something at school, such as someone's coat from a classroom, locker, or cafeteria, or a book from the library.
33. broken into a building or vehicle (or tried to break in) to steal something or just to look around.
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National Youth Survey Violence subscale—Questionnaire response format, 10 aggression items.

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- _____ 7. hit (or threatened to hit) other students.
- _____ 8. used force (strong-arm methods) to get money or things from other students.
- _____ 9. used force (strong-arm methods) to get money or things from a teacher or other adult at school.
- _____ 10. used force (strong-arm methods) to get money or things from other people (not students or teachers).

Notes:

1. The original format asked respondents to indicate exactly “How many times in the last year...” they did each of the listed behaviors.
2. Various versions have been used by different research teams, using different response formats, such as the rating format listed in this document.
3. One important change used in many studies has been to delete “snowballs” from the “thrown objects” item. There are at least two reasons for this. First, throwing snowballs is not a possible behavior for respondents who live in certain climates. Second, throwing snowballs is not necessarily a violent behavior.

Revised National Youth Survey Violence subscale—Questionnaire response format, 10 aggression items. Revised item 1 (dropped “snowballs”)

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References:

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