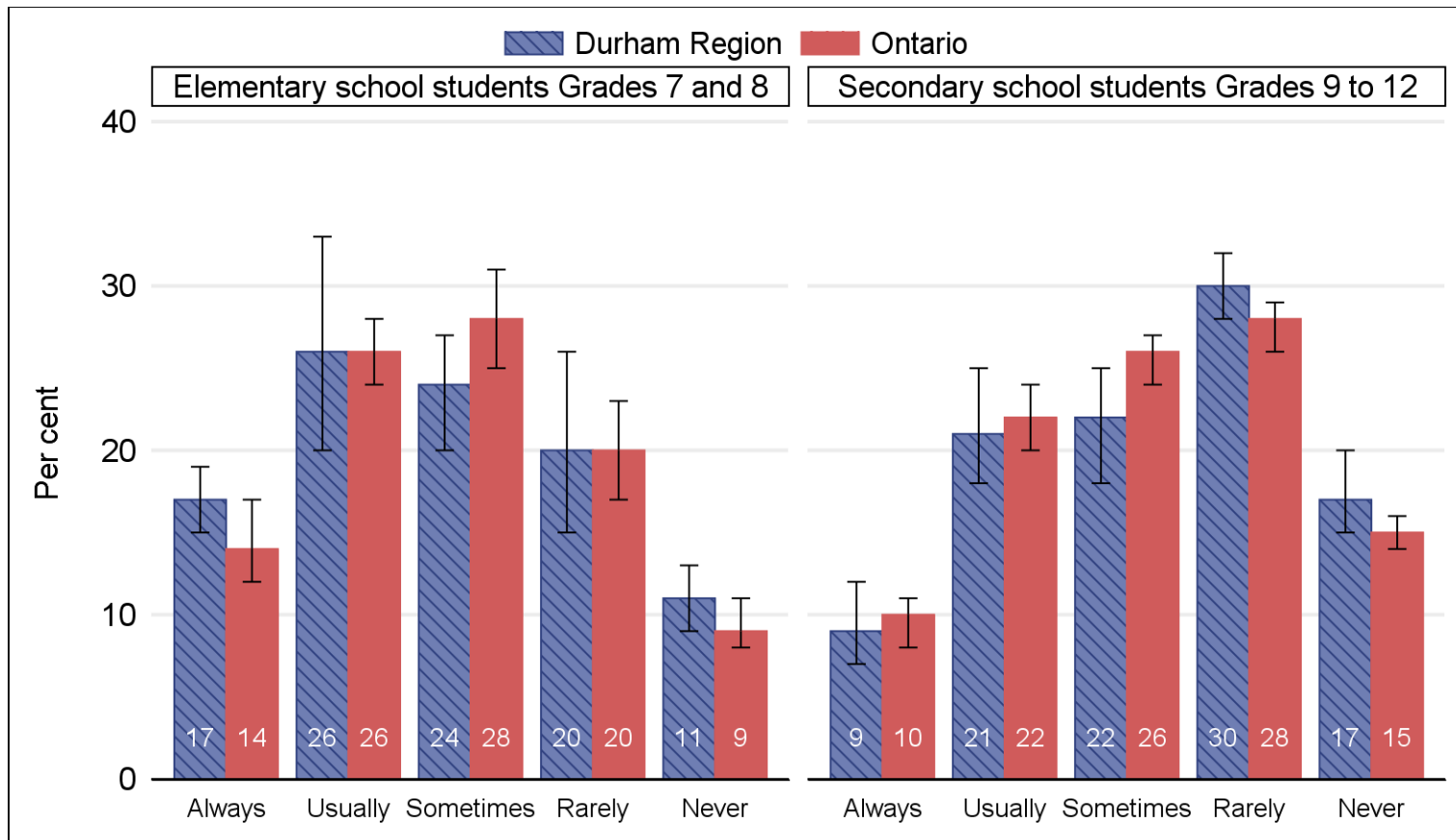


Quick facts:

Home life: Students' frequency of talking to a parent, 2016-2017



Release date: December 2018



Notes

Results were weighted and sex-by-grade adjusted to the Ontario 2014-2015 student enrollment.

Error bars represent the 95 per cent confidence intervals around the percentage. The true or actual percentage falls within the range of values, 95 out of 100 times. Categories may not sum to 100 per cent as item non-response is not presented in the results above.

Source: Public Health Monitoring of Risk Factors in Ontario – Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Study (OSDUHS), 2016-2017.

Summary

One-third (31%) of Durham Region elementary school students and 47% of secondary school students reported that they rarely or never talk to a parent about their problems. This was similar across Ontario.

Related analysis (not shown in figure) on family living arrangements and perceived family socioeconomic status of Durham Region students in grades 7 to 12 showed that:

- 82% lived in two parent households and 18% lived with a single parent or no birth/step/adoptive parent(s).
- 16% ranked their family's subjective social status (SSS), that is, where they would place their family with respect to money, education and occupation as low. Two-thirds (67%) ranked their family SSS as average and 15% as high.

Questions

How often do you talk about your problems or feelings with at least one parent?

- Always; Usually; Sometimes; Rarely; Never

Who lives with you in your main home? Check all the apply.

- Birth/step/adoptive mother and/or father; grandparents(s); other adult relatives(s); foster parents(s); birth/step brother(s) and/or sister(s); others; I live alone

The MacArthur Scale of Subjective Social Status measures perceived family socioeconomic status. The questionnaire showed a 10-rung ladder to represent the social hierarchy of Canadian society. Students were asked to choose the rung that best represents their family's place in Canadian society with respect to money, education, and occupation. The higher the rung, the higher the family subjective social status (SSS); low family SSS= rungs 1– 5 on the ladder, average SSS= rungs 6–8 and high SSS= rungs 9–10.

Survey methods

The Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS) targets students, Grades 7 to 12, enrolled in the public and catholic regular school system. The OSDUHS uses a two-stage (school, class) stratified (region and school type) cluster sample design, and oversampling in PMO-participating public health units. The survey is self-administered in the classroom, taking, on average, 35 minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary and anonymous. Students 17 years old and younger absent or without signed consent forms on the day of the survey do not participate.

This survey excluded groups, such as street youth and dropouts, in which health behaviours such as healthy eating, physical activity, drug use, etc. may be underestimated. In addition, self-reporting may result in under-reporting whether from social desirability or recall bias.

For a detailed description of the OSDUHS, visit the [CAMH website](#).

Data analysis

Data were analyzed using SAS 9.4. For 2016-2017, the analysis was based on a design of 17 strata (7 geographical strata for elementary schools and 10 for secondary schools), 214 schools, 764 classes and 11,435 students. Variables accounting for the probability of selection, stratification and clustering were used when analyzing the data. The final sampling weight was based on each regional stratum's sex-by-grade structure according to the provincial population structure.

Differences in two percentages may be clinically important. However, when error bars overlap, the difference cannot necessarily be interpreted as real or statistically significant.

Acknowledgement

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For more information, contact Durham Region Health Department at 1-800-841-2729, by fax at 905-666-6241 or by visiting the [Durham Region website](#).