



Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System Fact Sheet

Q. Why is the survey being administered?

A. The YRBSS is a tool designed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to monitor health-risk behaviors that contribute to leading causes of mortality, morbidity, and social problems among youth in the US. The questionnaire focuses on six priority areas including unintentional injuries and violence, sexual behaviors, alcohol and other drug use, tobacco use, unhealthy dietary behavior, and inadequate physical activity. The data collected from the survey is valuable to helping us determine the prevalence of health behaviors and assist in our ability to develop and maintain health and safety programs tailored to the needs of students.

Q. Has this survey been administered before?

A. Yes. The YRBSS survey was initiated by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in 1990. From 1991-2019, the YRBSS has collected data from 4.9 million high school students. The survey has been widely administered in 47 states and across 21 of the largest urban districts in the United States. The YRBSS has been endorsed by several national organizations interested in the health of youth including The American Cancer Society, The American Academy of Pediatrics, The National School Boards of Education, and many others.

Q. Will students' names be linked to this survey?

A. No. The survey is **anonymous**. Students will not be asked to provide their name or any other identifying information. Also, no school will ever be mentioned by name in any report of results.

Q. Are students required to take the survey?

A. No. Although we encourage participation from all selected students, this survey is voluntary and those that do not complete it will not be penalized. Students can answer questions to the best of their ability and are able to skip questions or stop the survey at any time.

Q. Can I view the survey?

A. Yes. The survey is available to view online at:
www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/yrbs/questionnaires.htm.

Q. Is the survey available in other languages?

A. YRBSS questionnaires in English and Spanish are in the public domain. Questionnaires may be translated to any language. No specific permission is required.

Q. Are sensitive questions asked?

A. Yes. There are questions asked that could be considered sensitive. To prevent and solve problems among our youth, we must first understand them. Obesity, mental health, nutrition, substance use, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases are major health concerns. The only way to know if our youth are at risk is to ask questions about these behaviors. Recognizing that the YRBSS includes questions surrounding sensitive topics, questions are asked in a direct but delicate manner.

Q. Will asking questions about these topics encourage certain behaviors?

A. No. There is no evidence to suggest that asking students about health behaviors will encourage those behaviors.

Q. Are students' behaviors tracked over time to monitor their behavior changes?

A. No. Individual student behavior cannot be tracked because the survey is anonymous and there is no identifying information being shared.

Q. How are students selected to participate in the survey?

A. Students in grades 6-12 that are participating in in-person learning were randomly selected to participate in the survey. Selection of students is based on school enrollment and demographics that best represent the PWCS secondary student population.

Q. Why are students participating in virtual learning not included in student sampling?

A. This is a pilot survey. To enhance participation, students enrolled in in-person learning were selected to participate in the survey. We also understand that this survey covers sensitive topics. We want to ensure a safe environment that promotes confidentiality and support, as needed.

Q. How long does the survey take to complete?

A. The survey takes approximately 35 minutes to complete.

Q. Where can I find more information about this survey?

A. More information about this survey can be found at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>

Q. How can my student or I learn about resources surrounding the topics covered in this survey?

A. All students that participate in the survey will receive a resource sheet that lists school personnel, community agencies, and organizations that can support students and their families.