



Office of the



State Superintendent of Education

---

### **CDC Information Page**

OSSE is funded by the Center for Disease Control's *Improving the Health and Educational Opportunities for Young People* cooperative agreement. Under this agreement, the Healthy Youth Development Team (HYDT) coordinates school health programs and activities in the priority areas of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and HIV Prevention.

#### **Youth Risk Behavior Study**

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) monitors six types of health-risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death and disability among youth and adults, including—

- Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence
- Tobacco use
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Sexual risk behaviors
- Unhealthy dietary behaviors
- Physical inactivity

YRBSS also measures the prevalence of obesity and asthma among youth and young adults. YRBSS includes a national school-based survey conducted by CDC and state, territorial, tribal, and local surveys conducted by state, territorial, and local education and health agencies and tribal governments.

For more information on the YRBS and to obtain data, please visit the **HYDT Data Page**

#### **HIV Prevention**

The Healthy Youth Development Team helps students avoid, prevent, and reduce sexual risk behaviors that contribute to HIV infection by providing HIV prevention education that is consistent with evidence of effectiveness. The specific School Level Impact Measures adopted by the HYDT include:

- The percentage of schools that deliver HIV, STD, or pregnancy prevention programs (including after school or supplemental programs) that meet the needs of ethnic/racial minority youth at high risk (e.g., black, Hispanic, or American Indian youth);

- The percentage of schools in which students' family and community members have helped develop or implement HIV prevention, STD prevention, or teen pregnancy prevention policies and programs and;
- The percentage of schools that implement HIV, other STD, and pregnancy prevention strategies that meet the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth.

The HYDT implements the following programs/initiatives to accomplish these measures:

### **The Youth Advisory Committee of the District of Columbia (YAC)**

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is comprised of 21 middle and high school students from across the District of Columbia. The mission of the YAC is to develop a cadre of young leaders with critical-thinking skills who will share their knowledge and expertise around adolescent health issues. The YAC meets every week to develop youth led projects and ensure the activities implemented are meeting the needs of young people in the District of Columbia. The YAC is sponsored by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education. To learn more information about the YAC please visit <https://sites.google.com/site/theyacdc/> or contact:

Ms. Kafui Y. Doe, MPH, CHES  
 Health Education Specialist  
[Kafui.doe@dc.gov](mailto:Kafui.doe@dc.gov)

### **Project SCOPE – Schools Collaborating On Prevention Education**

This project is a partnership between the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the US (SIECUS) to provide needs assessments, technical assistance and resources to schools to increase their capacity to deliver comprehensive HIV/STD/Teen Pregnancy education. Through this unique partnership, school teams of teachers, parents and administrators are recruited to participate in the SIECUS assessment which will identify needs in areas of resources, curricula, professional development, school environment and parent and community involvement. Action plans are then tailored to the specific strengths and interests of each school. Information is also gathered on an on-going basis to assist with evaluating the effect of the action plan on student knowledge and behavior change. To learn more information about Project SCOPE please contact:

Ms. Sombo Pujeh, MPH  
Sexual health Education Specialist  
[Sombo.pujeh@dc.gov](mailto:Sombo.pujeh@dc.gov)

### **Gay-Straight Alliances (GSA)**

Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) are student clubs that work to improve school climate for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. The purpose of GSAs are to:

- Create safe environments in schools for students to support each other and learn about homophobia and other oppressions,
- Educate the school community about homophobia, gender identity, and sexual orientation issues, and
- Fight discrimination, harassment, and violence in schools.

GSA clubs provide a safety net for students during the coming out process. With a GSA club, youth break through the isolation to find support from peers and school staff. GSA clubs unite LGBTQ students, straight allies, and members of the school community who are committed to making schools safer and more accepting for LGBT students. Support of GSAs assists the Healthy Youth Development Team in implementing HIV/STD programming amongst LGBTQ youth and reducing high risk behavior. To learn more information about GSAs in Washington, DC please contact

Ms. Sombo Pujeh, MPH  
Sexual health Education Specialist  
[Sombo.pujeh@dc.gov](mailto:Sombo.pujeh@dc.gov)