



Office of the



State Superintendent of Education

2010 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Fact Sheet

Q. Why is the survey being done?

A. The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) will use the survey results to help measure how many youth practice health risk behaviors. The survey results also will be used to direct funding and develop policy and programming for youth.

Q. When is the survey being conducted?

A. The YRBS will be conducted in the fall of 2010 from mid October through November.

Q. What will be required of schools that participate?

A. School leaders will designate a school liaison that will work with the OSSE contractor. The school liaison will determine the date and time of the survey, provide the master schedule to the contractor, distribute and collect permission slips, inform teachers if their classes were selected, and support the OSSE contractor on the day of the survey administration. **Teachers will not be required to proctor the survey.**

Q. Is parental permission required?

A. DC allows for passive parental permission. Each student in selected classrooms must receive a parent permission slip and FAQ sheet. Schools may choose to mail home or distribute in class. Only students who return a slip indicating that the parent have opted them out will not participate in the survey.

Q. Are sensitive questions asked?

A. Yes. Some questions are sensitive. Obesity, HIV infection, and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are major health problems. Sexual intercourse and intravenous drug use are behaviors that increase the risk of contracting HIV. Attempted suicide, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, and weapon-carrying also may be sensitive topics. Questions are written in a direct but sensitive way.

Q. Will students' names be used or linked to the surveys?

A. No. The survey has been designed to protect student's identity. Students do not put their name on the survey.

Q. Can students refuse to participate?

A. Yes, at any point during the survey administration students may choose to not participate.

Q. How many students will participate in the survey?

A. Overall roughly 3000 DC students will be selected to participate in grades 6-12. The number of students selected to participate in each school varies, but generally schools can expect to have 5-10 classrooms randomly selected.

Q. How long does it take to fill out the survey?

A. One class period is needed to fill out the survey, which has 99 questions for high school students and 70 questions for middle school students.

Q. Who supports this survey?

- A. This survey is supported by many national and local organizations including the American Association of School Administrators, National Association of Secondary Principals, American Pediatric Association, DC Assembly on School Health Care, Metro Teen AIDS, and others interested in the health of youth. People from more than 100 state and local health and education agencies and 19 federal agencies helped develop the survey.