

**Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
Facts about the YRBS**

**Q. Who conducts the YRBS and School Health Profiles surveys?**

**A.** The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducts the surveys at the national level. More than 100 state and district health and education agencies and 19 federal agencies helped develop the survey.

**Q. Why is the YRBS being done?**

**A.** The survey results are used to measure the percentage of youth who practice health risk behaviors. The New York State Center for School Health (NYSCSH) will use the information to assist schools in creating school health programs/policies to help reduce these behaviors

**Q. Are sensitive questions asked?**

**A.** Yes. Some questions are sensitive. AIDS, HIV infection and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are major health problems. Sexual intercourse and injected drug use are behaviors that increase the risk of HIV infection. The only way to learn if youth are at risk of becoming infected with HIV or other STIs is to ask questions about these behaviors. Attempted suicide, tobacco use, alcohol, other drug use, and weapon carrying may also be considered sensitive topics. Questions are written by the CDC in a direct but *sensitive manner***.**

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

**A**. No. The survey has been designed to protect your child’s privacy. Students do not put their names on the survey or any identifying information.

**Q. Do students take the survey more than once to see how their behaviors change?**

**A.** No. Each survey administration year a new sample of schools and students are picked to participate. Students’ information cannot be tracked because no identifying student infomation is put on the survey answer form.

**Q. How are students picked to be in the survey?**

**A**. The CDC randomly selects schools in New York State, classes from those schools are then randomly selected to participate.

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

**A**. One class period is needed to fill out the survey, which has approximately 90 multiple choice questions.

**Q. Can I see the questions students will be asked on the survey?**

**A.** Yes, a copy of the survey questions is located at [www.schoolhealthny.com](http://www.schoolhealthny.com) for review.



**School Health Profiles Survey
Facts about the Profiles**

### **Q. What are the School Health Profiles?**

**A.** The School Health Profiles is a survey assessing school health policies and practices in states, large urban school districts, and territories. These surveys are conducted biennially among middle and high school Principals and Lead Health Education Teachers. The Profiles monitors the current status of

* School health education requirements and content,
* Physical education and physical activity,
* Practices related to bullying and sexual harassment,
* School health policies related to tobacco-use prevention and nutrition,
* School-based health services,
* Family engagement and community involvement, and
* School health coordination.

### **Q. What kind of data does the School Health Profiles provide?**

**A**. Data is provided on the following areas:

* Sexual health education,
* Safe and supportive school environments,
* Sexual health services,
* Health services for students with chronic conditions,
* Supportive school nutrition environments, and
* Comprehensive school physical activity programs.

This data shows the progress in the implementation of school policies and practices to help improve the health of school-aged youth.
 **Q. Why is the School Health Profiles data important and how can it be used?**

1. Profiles data is meant to be used by leaders and decision makers, especially in schools, school districts, and state education agencies to understand the gaps in policies and practices that can impact student health and academic performance. Identifying gaps in school health policies and practices supports local discussions and decisions about needed changes and monitors those changes over time. Used with CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS) data, Profiles data can provide a powerful approach for decision makers to monitor the impact of their decisions over time.

**Q.** **Who Administers the School Health Profiles and YRBS?**

1. The New York State Center for School Health (NYSCSH) administers the surveys on behalf of the New York State Education Department (NYSED). For more information contact NYSCSH (585) 617-2380 or nyscsh@monroe2boces.org.