



**QUESTION and ANSWER
FACT SHEET**
Healthy Youth E-Survey 2019 Pilot

Q: What is the focus of the Healthy Youth Survey (HYS)?

A: The HYS focuses on health risk behaviors, such as violence and alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use that can result in injury and impact positive development among youth. The survey also includes questions about risk and protective factors, which are attitudes and opinions that research has shown to be correlated with these health risk behaviors. For a description of the survey questions, see the Rationale and Description of Survey Content document.

Q: Why is the E-Survey 2019 Pilot being conducted?

A: The HYS has only been administered as a paper and pencil survey. Schools have requested that the HYS also be offered as an online version. The E-Survey 2019 Pilot is an opportunity to work closely with a few schools to figure out how best offer an online HYS.

Q: Which schools are allowed to participate?

A: Schools in 18 school districts were selected to participate in the E-Survey. Sampled schools represent the different types of schools that normally participate in the HYS statewide. Students in Grades 6, 8, 10, or 12 in these schools are eligible to participate. Students in Grades 7, 9, and 11 from small school districts with fewer than 150 students enrolled in Grades 6, 8, 10 and 12 can also participate.

Q: Does my school have to participate?

A: School participation in the E-Survey is voluntary.

Q: Why should my school participate?

A: Participation in the E-Survey will provide crucial information so that the HYS can be offered to all schools in 2020. Schools that participate have the opportunity to receive HYS results from 2019. Each school will receive a summary of its results (provided that student anonymity is protected by having at least 15 valid surveys completed per given grade level). The reports will include their 2018 HYS results for comparison. The results can be used to support students and school programs.

Q: Are sensitive questions asked?

A: The survey includes questions related to unintentional and intentional injuries; physical activity and dietary behaviors; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; and related risk and protective factors. Unless questions in these topic areas are asked honestly and straightforwardly, we cannot know the degree to which Washington’s youth engage in these health risk behaviors.

Survey for grades 8, 10 and 12 include four questions about sexual behavior, one question about sexual orientation, one question about gender identity, and two questions about sexual abuse. Schools, however, can remove these questions from their surveys. The survey administered to Grade 6 students does not include the sex-related questions. See **“How does the HYS 2019 compare to surveys that have been administered in the past?”** below for more detail.

Q: Is student participation voluntary? Are answers anonymous?

A: Student participation is completely voluntary and anonymous. The administration procedures are designed to protect student privacy and anonymity. Students are not asked for their names or identification numbers. Student survey responses are sent directly to a secured data base. Schools must plan an alternative activity for students who choose not to take the survey.

Q: How is the survey coordinated at each school?

A: Each participating school has a designated survey coordinator and IT staff to oversee the survey. Coordinators and IT staff have additional information about the survey, including administration instructions.

Q: Can I review the survey?

A: Yes, a copy of the survey questions will be sent with the survey administration materials and should be made available to school staff and parents in the office of each school.

Q: How long does it take to complete the survey?

A: One class period is needed to complete the survey (about 50 minutes). All questions are self-report and no physical tests or examinations are involved.

Q: Do students answer the questions truthfully?

A: Both national research and experience in Washington indicate that the data collected are accurate when students are informed of the importance of survey and their responses are completely anonymous. Internal reliability checks are also used to help identify surveys that obviously have been answered carelessly and these surveys are not included in the results. In addition, students always have the option of not answering questions to which they do not feel comfortable responding.

Q: When is the survey conducted? When are results available?

A: The survey will be administered during the Fall of 2019. Results will be available in mid-March 2020.

Q: How does the HYS 2019 E-Survey compare to surveys that have been administered in the past?

A. The 2019 E-Survey questions are identical to the 2018 HYS. The HYS combines two surveys used before 2002, the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior (WSSAHB) and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). To accommodate the large number of items, there are two versions of the questionnaire for Grades 8, 10 and 12, called Form A and Form B. Forms A and B are interleaved before being sent to the schools, so that approximately every other student receives a different survey form.

All of the questionnaires for Grades 8, 10 and 12 contain a core set of about 36 identical items. Potentially sensitive items are on the last page of Form A and B on a perforated or “tear-off” page (the second to last page). For the E-Survey:

- Form A includes a question on sexual orientation and a question on gender identity.
- Form B includes one question on sexual orientation, one question on gender identity, four questions on sexual behavior, and two questions on sexual abuse.

All students in Grade 6 receive a shorter questionnaire, Form C. It does not contain any sensitive questions.

Q: How will the survey results be used?

A: Information from the Washington State HYS can be used to meet a variety of needs at the school and community levels. The survey provides information that can be used to identify the importance of various health risk behaviors. This information can inform resource and policy decisions, such as how to target interventions. Those who receive the survey results may choose to share them with other community organizations.

The items that were asked in previous years can be used to identify trends or changes in the patterns of behavior over time. The state-level data can be used to compare Washington results to the results from other states that conduct similar surveys and to national results.

Q: Who sponsors the survey?

A: The Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI); the Department of Health (DOH); the Health Care Authority’s Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR); and the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB).

Q: Where can I get more information about the survey?

A: The following is a list of contact persons who will be happy to answer questions and the web site where you can find out more about the survey:

- Kevin Beck (DOH): healthy.youth@doh.wa.gov (877) HYS-7111
- Gwen Grams (DBHR): gwen.grams@hca.wa.gov (360)-725-5259
- Emily Maughan (OSPI): Emily.Maughan@k12.wa.us (360) 725-6030
- Sara Cooley Broschart (LCB): sara.broschart@lcb.wa.gov (360) 664-1771
- Susan Richardson (contractor) surveyadmin@askHYS.net (877) HYS-7111
- AskHYS.net Web site: www.AskHYS.net