

ONLINE YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

Parent and Student Information

Q: Why is the survey being done?

A: Ithaca School District will use the survey results to help measure how many youth engage in health-related behaviors. The survey results will be used to create school health programs to help reduce these risk behaviors and promote health enhancing behaviors.

Q: What does the Southwest Wisconsin OYRBS measure and why are these things important?

A: The OYRBS focuses on health-related behaviors that result in the most significant mortality, morbidity, and social problems during both adolescences and adulthood. These include: 1) behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injuries; 2) tobacco use; 3) alcohol and other drug use; 4) dietary behaviors; and 5) physical activity. The OYRBS measures student attitude and perceptions related to health-related behaviors. In addition, the OYRBS measures assets and these assets have the power to protect youth from engaging in risk behaviors and at the same time promote healthy behaviors.

Q: Will student participation be anonymous?

A: Yes. Survey administration procedures have been designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. There are no names or other identifying information on the surveys.

Q: Doesn't a survey like this actually encourage students to engage in these behaviors?

A: The causes and determinants of health-related behaviors are complex. Students are exposed frequently to information about tobacco, alcohol, other drug use, violence, and sexuality through the media, parents, friends, and the broader community. Exposure to a small number of questions on any one topic is not likely to cause a change in behavior – either good or bad. If it were that easy, we could simply ask students about all the things we want them to do!

Q: Do students answer the question truthfully?

A: Research indicates data of this nature may be gathered as reliably from adolescents as from adults. To obtain truthful answers, students must perceive the survey as important and know that procedures have been developed to protect their privacy and allow for anonymous participation.

Q: Can I review a copy of the survey?

A: Yes, a copy of the survey will be kept in the Ithaca School Office.

Q: What will be done with the results?

A: A report summarizing the student data will be developed and used to improve school health, safety and wellness programs. Newsletters with survey information will also be available. Remember—no child and no class will ever be mentioned by name.