

Washington State Healthy Youth Survey

Overview

Washington State has been administering the school-based Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) survey since 1988. The survey measures health behaviors and risk/protective factors that contribute to the health and safety of youth in Washington State. In 2021, approximately 208,000 students from all 39 counties participated in this biennial survey.

Survey data are used to measure progress toward statewide prevention and health promotion initiative goals. Multiple state agencies use survey data for strategic planning and surveillance of youth health risk behaviors and related factors. The survey is also a source of data for multiple Results Washington measures.

HCA's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) uses the survey data for almost every aspect of the statewide Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI), including:

- Risk assessments and rankings to identify the highest risk communities in each county.
- Data for CPWI community-level assessments, planning, and tracking progress on outcomes in their strategic plans.
- Evaluating CPWI's progress in reducing substance use, mental health problems, and the risk factors that predict those problems.

DBHR also uses the survey data for:

- Reporting on Results Washington measures.
- Implementing the rules of Initiative 1183, which privatized liquor sales, and Initiative 502, which legalized the recreational use of marijuana for adults 21 and older. These initiatives may impact alcohol and marijuana use among adolescents as our state's environment changes.
- Assessing the co-occurrence of substance use and mental health problems to guide strategic planning.

- Understanding the impacts of health disparities on health behaviors and risk/protective factors.
- Reporting requirements for federally funded prevention-oriented projects.
- Guiding strategic planning of prevention and intervention programs.

Data is disseminated through www.AskHYS.net.

Eligibility requirements

The HYS is administered to students in grades 6-12. Prior to 2014, it was administered only in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. In 2014, eligibility was extended to grades 7, 9, and 11 in small school districts, where the low number of students limits the quality of the data. All schools with these grades are eligible to participate in the survey, including tribal schools. The costs to schools are limited to producing information materials for parents and staff time.

Authority

Prior to Initiative 502, the survey was a voluntary collaboration of the agencies listed in the "Key partners" section of this fact sheet. However, Initiative 502, Section 28, authorizes the use of marijuana tax revenue to fund the survey and requires HCA to manage the survey.

2021-23 budget

Approximately \$600,000 over the biennium from the Dedicated Cannabis Account.

Key partners

Administration of the survey is a collaborative effort among HCA/DBHR, the Department of Health (DOH); the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI); the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB); and the current contractor, Looking Glass Analytics, Inc.

Representatives of these organizations serve as members of the Healthy Youth Survey Planning Committee and the Healthy Youth Survey Leadership Committee, which guide every aspect of the survey development and implementation.

2023 administration

The next HYS administration is planned for Fall 2023. This will be the first fully electronic survey administration, with no paper-and-pencil option available. After a completely remote survey administration in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2023 survey will return to in person; schools that are unable to administer the survey in person (e.g., virtual, online, and other alternative learning experiences) will be allowed to administer the survey remotely.

For more information

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