



Facts for School Administrators and Staff

The Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) collects important data that helps schools, communities, and policymakers support youth. Your school's participation is vital because it helps us understand youth experiences:

NO RISK OF INFLUENCE: Research shows taking a survey does not encourage risky behavior.

SENSITIVE TOPICS REDUCE STIGMA: HYS helps normalize conversations about drug use and self-harm.

STUDENT WELL-BEING FIRST: A list of resources is available for students with concerns.

PARTICIPATION IS ALWAYS VOLUNTARY: Students can skip any question.

Why Participate?

Completely Anonymous: There is no way to connect survey responses to individual students. No one can see their answers during the survey, no matter what device they use.

Supports Funding: Helps secure funding for youth prevention programs, including Student Assistance Professionals and the Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative (CPWI).

Informs Decision-Making: School staff use the data to identify student needs and guide prevention work.

Tracks Trends Over Time: Since 2002, the survey has helped track health behaviors and substance use in Washington youth.

Youth Voice Matters: The HYS gives students a safe, anonymous, and confidential way to share their experiences and perspectives.

Why It Matters for Small and Rural Schools

Small school data is combined to show meaningful trends across rural communities.

Even if school-specific data is suppressed, responses still support county and state insights.

Schools can survey multiple grade bands (6–8 or 9–12) to receive more localized data.

How Anonymity Is Protected

Student emails are only used to prevent duplicate submissions—not identify responses.

School-issued devices are not tracked.

In small communities, data is hidden to protect individual privacy. Only county and state-level trends are reported.

Do Students Answer Honestly?

Research shows students answer truthfully when:

- ✓ The survey is optional
- ✓ Their privacy is protected
- ✓ They believe the survey matters

The HYS prioritizes these principles and is committed to maintaining them in every survey cycle.

Data aligns with other national and statewide surveys, confirming its accuracy and reliability.

Why Identity Questions Matter

Questions about race, gender, and disability help identify groups of students who may need more support.

These questions are optional— students can skip them if they prefer.

The information helps schools make more inclusive and informed decisions.



What Schools Can Do

Encourage Participation: The more students who participate, the more useful the data. Schedule on days with high attendance.

Train Proctors: Make sure survey proctors understand the importance of following instructions.

Ensure Access: Provide working devices and chargers so students can complete the survey.

Ask for Help: Coalition coordinators, Regional ESD HYS Coordinators, and Student Assistant Professionals (SAPs) can assist.

What Youth & Families Can Do

Be Ready: Get a good night's sleep and eat breakfast before the survey.

Be Honest: Honest answers lead to more accurate results.

Be Focused: Follow instructions and complete the survey carefully.



**TO LEARN
MORE:**

www.askhys.net/contactus



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Check out Prevent's online toolkit at
www.preventcoalition.org/rural/toolkit/