

School Based Public Health Surveys in Nebraska

Youth Risk Behavior Survey & Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey

What are they, why are they important, and how are they different?

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

What is the YRBS

The YRBS is a health-related survey of Nebraska high school students. It is part of the National Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System, created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Why support it

At this time, the YRBS is the only representative statewide survey of Nebraska youth that covers a variety of important health topics in one survey

What topics does it cover

The YRBS was designed to cover priority health-risk behaviors that are established during youth and result in significant death, disease, disability, and social problems during both youth and adulthood. Survey topics include: tobacco use; unhealthy diet; inadequate physical activity; alcohol and drug use; sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection; and behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence.

Who is eligible to participate

Public high school students in grades 9-12

When is it conducted

During the spring of every odd calendar year. It was first conducted in 1991.

How is it conducted

Nebraska schools are randomly selected to participate, and within selected schools, specific classrooms are selected

Who conducts the survey

The survey is done in partnership between the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, through the services of an outside contractor

How is the information used

Nebraska data are used to monitor changes over time in risky behavior, to apply for state and local grant applications, and to plan more effective public health prevention programs. In addition, the Nebraska data are included in the national database, which is used for generating national estimates.

Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFS)

What is the NRPFS

The NRPFS is a substance abuse-related survey of Nebraska students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. The Nebraska survey was adopted from a nationally validated survey.

Why support it

At this time, the NRPFS is the only school based public health survey that generates local and regional estimates for health planning and evaluation. In addition, it provides state estimates for substance abuse and gambling not available through other surveys.

What topics does it cover

The NRPFS covers alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use; gambling; anti-social behavior; and risk and protective factors that predict adolescent problem behaviors.

Who is eligible to participate

Public and non-public students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12

When is it conducted

During the fall of every odd calendar year. It was first conducted in 2003.

How is it conducted

All Nebraska schools with grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 can choose to participate, and can specify how they would like to aggregate their school specific data (i.e., individual school level, district, community, region).

Who conducts the survey

The survey is done in partnership between the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, through the services of an outside contractor

How is the information used

Local level data have been used for planning and evaluating community based risk –reduction programs. In addition, local data can be used for grant applications as well as justifying the need for local resources to address local concerns. Nebraska data can be used to improve state level planning for substance abuse prevention.

How are the surveys different

The surveys are conducted during different academic school years.

The YRBS represents a sample of Nebraska public high school students for reporting state level estimates across a variety of important health-related topics.

The NRPFS is available to public and non-public schools statewide with grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. The NRPFS is used primarily for generating local and regional estimates for substance abuse and risk and protective factors related to substance abuse. In addition, the NRPFS generates state level estimates for substance abuse measures not captured in the YRBS.