



# Methods

Profiles is a survey of secondary school (middle and high schools) principals and lead health teachers to assess health-related policies, procedures, instruction, and environments. It was developed by the CDC Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH). All states are offered the opportunity to participate in Profiles, which is administered in the spring of even years. In Washington State the survey is jointly coordinated by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the state Department of Health (DOH). CDC updates their questionnaire for each administration and provides the self-administered questionnaires in a printed booklet for participating states, scans the results, and provides the state with a data-set of results. Additional analyses are completed by DOH.

## **Sampling**

A random sampling strategy was used to select schools for the survey. All regular and alternative secondary public schools in Washington State with at least one Grade, 6 through 12, were included in the sampling frame, except elementary schools that terminate at Grade 6 (for example, Kindergarten–6). A total of 369 schools were originally selected for the sample in 2004. Thirty-six selected schools were found to be ineligible (buildings closed, or institutional schools — such as juvenile detention facilities — that were defined as ineligible by the CDC because of their distinctly different settings), leaving a total of 333 schools in the final sample.

## **Recruitment and Participation**

In late February 2004, school principals received a recruitment packet from OSPI and DOH containing survey information, instructions, and questionnaires. Principals were asked to identify their lead health teacher and pass along the appropriate teacher materials to that person. Recruitment status monitoring and participant follow-up were conducted by DOH. Surveys were returned between March and June 2004.

The final response rate for the 2004 Profiles was 80 percent for principals (265 completed surveys from 333 sampled and eligible schools) and 73 percent for lead health teachers (243 completed surveys). This is considered to be a very good response rate, and the results are therefore generalizable to public secondary (non-institutional) schools in the state of Washington.

## **Weighting**

CDC created weighted data sets for states that had greater than 70 percent response rates. The weighting is based on the probability of a school being sampled, an adjustment for non-response based on school size and grade level, and a poststratification adjustment according to school location and grade level.

### **Other data**

Unless indicated, all data presented in these results are from the 2004 Washington State School Health Profiles survey. To compare student perceptions or behaviors with principal or teacher reports we have interspersed information from the 2004 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey.

Students Say...



A picture of a youth next to data indicates that data referenced are from the 2004 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey. For more information about the Healthy Youth Survey please visit <http://www3.doh.wa.gov/HYS>.

References are provided in the appropriate section when other data have been utilized to provide context.

### **Future Reports**

The purpose of these fact sheets is to present state-level findings in a simple format. Additional analyses of the Profiles data are being conducted, including direct linkage with student data from the Healthy Youth Survey. Future reports will be posted as “resources” on the OSPI Coordinated School Health Web site as they become available: <http://www.k12.wa.us/CoordinatedSchoolHealth>.

### **Feedback/Technical Support**

Please consider providing feedback on these fact sheets and suggest ways that the data might be utilized in future reports. To provide comment or get more information on various survey items and responses, contact Susan Richardson at the Department of Health: [sue.richardson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:sue.richardson@doh.wa.gov).

For more information about school health programs, contact Pam Tollefsen at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: [pam.tollefsen@k12.wa.us](mailto:pam.tollefsen@k12.wa.us), or Lori Stern at the Department of Health: [lori.stern@doh.wa.gov](mailto:lori.stern@doh.wa.gov).