

Healthy Youth Survey

What is it?

A survey administered every two (2) years to Washington students in grades 6 to 12. The survey is voluntary, anonymous, and free for schools to participate in.

Who takes it?

Students in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade take the survey. In smaller districts where there are 150 students or fewer in a grade, the survey can be administered to students in 7th, 9th, and 11th grade.

Who sponsors HYS?

The survey is a joint effort between OSPI, the Department of Health (DOH), Health Care Authority (HCA), and the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB).

What does it ask?

The survey asks students their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors pertaining to a variety of health and safety topics, including school climate and community safety, anxiety and depression, substance use and abuse, and healthy eating habits and physical activity.

**8th grade students
who stated they
have people at
school who will
help them if they
need it
72%¹**

*¹ Results from the 2018
Healthy Youth Survey*

How can I access the results of the survey?

All results can be found on www.askhys.net.

Click on the "Survey Results" menu to access:

- Fact Sheets
- Frequency Reports
- QxQ Analysis
- Survey Questionnaires
- Training & Tools

Who comes up with the questions on the survey?

Questions on the survey come from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which is conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as other surveys and resources.

Quick Facts

- It is the only "student voice" survey administered throughout the whole state.
- In 2018, over 235,000 students participated in the survey from 228 school districts in all 39 counties.
- The next survey will be administered in the fall of 2020.
- ESD, county, and state results are available to everyone on www.askhys.net
- Results can help inform schools, parents, and communities of students, thoughts, feelings and behaviors as well as current health trends and concerns. Data from the survey can be used to apply for grants and inform program planning and development.



2018 Survey Results from the State Sample

	Grade 6	Grade 8	Grade 10	Grade 12
Number of students surveyed	9,845	9,141	8,429	5,913
Number of valid responses	9,604	8,895	8,096	5,676
Number of enrolled students*	12,644	11,675	12,353	12,461
Your survey participation rate**	76%	76%	66%	46%

* The estimate of enrolled students is based on figures from the 2018–2019 school year, provided by OSPI.

** The survey participation rate is the number of valid responses divided by the number of enrolled students.

Caution about Participation Rates and Bias

Use the following guidance when reviewing the results:

- 70% or greater participation — Results are probably representative of students in this grade.
- 40–69% participation — Results may be representative of students in this grade.
- Less than 40% participation — Results are likely not representative of students in this grade but do reflect students who completed the survey.

Topics of Questions Asked

Abuse	Marijuana
Attendance	Mental health (depression, anxiety, suicide)
Activities and clubs	Nutrition
Alcohol	Physical activity
Asthma	Safety-related behaviors/Violence
Bullying/Harassment	School climate
Children’s Hope Scale	School support
Community connectedness	Screen time (including video games)
Demographics (age, gender, ethnicity)	Sexual health
Drug use and abuse	Sexual orientation
Gambling	Support from friends, family, and adults
Gangs	Texting and driving
Honesty	Vaping/Electronic cigarettes

Survey Form A, B, and C

In an effort to collect as much information as possible without asking the students too many questions, there are three versions of the survey administered.

- Form A and B are given to students in grades 8 to 12.
- Form C is given to students in grades 6 and 7.
- There are some “core” questions asked on both Form A and B.
- There are also optional questions about sexual behavior and abuse that schools can include as well. Not all schools ask the optional questions.