

The YRBS gives your child an opportunity to share their voice anonymously and voluntarily.

Participation brings students' experiences to light so that parents, districts, and schools can provide the most appropriate resources for any challenges students may face.

Q&A

► Are sensitive questions asked?

YES. Some questions may be considered sensitive. The questionnaire asks about attempted suicide, tobacco, alcohol and other drug use, and behaviors related to violence. Topics also include sexual intercourse and injection drug use, as these are among the behaviors known to increase the risk of HIV and other STDs. Questions are presented in a straightforward manner and the survey is anonymous, thus reducing any uneasiness about answering questions considered sensitive. If students are not comfortable answering a question, they may leave it blank.

Will student names be used or linked to the surveys?

► **NO.** The survey is anonymous. Students are not asked to provide their names or student ID when completing the survey. No one is able to see how your student answered a question. Students who take part one year cannot be tracked because their names are not recorded.

Why was my child selected to be in the survey?

Since 1993, Vermont has administered the YRBS every other spring. Students in public middle and high schools and select independent schools are invited to participate. Each year, more than 13,000 middle school and 18,000 high school students in Vermont complete the YRBS. Participation is voluntary.

Can I see the questions my student will be asked?

► **YES.** A copy of the questionnaire is available on the Vermont Department of Health's YRBS webpage at: www.healthvermont.gov/YRBS under "Questionnaires".

“YRBS results are critical to understand the health status and needs of our youth. The results of this comprehensive survey add great insight into the world of our youth and the environment in which our young people spend the majority of their time.”

Nathan R. Monell, CAE,
Executive Director, National PTA



“CDC’s dedication to maintaining the YRBS system at all levels (local, state and national) is important in raising awareness of the kinds of risky behaviors in which adolescents engage, and the role of pediatricians and other health care providers in reducing these unhealthy and risky behaviors. The issues identified in the YRBS impact many facets of adolescents’ lives that can result in long-term consequences, ranging for example from unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, poorer school performance, and unhealthy lifestyle choices.”

Debra B. Waldron, MD, MPH, FAAP,
American Academy of Pediatrics

