



## **Youth Risk Behavior Survey Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q. Why is the survey being conducted?**

**A.** San Diego Unified School District will use the survey results to help measure the percentage of youth who practice health risk behaviors. The information will be used to create school health programs to help reduce these behaviors.

### **Q. Are sensitive questions asked?**

**A.** Yes. Some questions are sensitive. HIV infection and other sexually transmitted i (STDs) are major health problems. Sexual intercourse and injected drug use are behaviors that increase the risk of transmission of HIV. The only way to learn if youth are at risk of transmitting HIV is to ask questions about these behaviors. Attempted suicide, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, and weapon-carrying also may be sensitive topics. Questions are written in a direct but sensitive way.

### **Q. Will students' names be used or linked to the surveys?**

**A.** No. The survey has been designed to protect student privacy. Students do not put their name on the survey or the names of their schools.

### **Q. Do students take the survey more than once to see how their behaviors change?**

**A.** No. Each year a new sample of schools and students is picked. Students who take part in the survey cannot be tracked because their names are not on the survey.

### **Q. How was my class picked to be in the survey?**

**A.** Classes are randomly selected to participate, and all students in that class are being asked to participate. Approximately 100 classes in 25 SDUSD high schools were randomly selected to participate.

### **Q. How long does it take to fill out the survey? Does the survey include a physical test?**

**A.** One class period is needed to fill out the survey, which has 99 questions. The survey does not include a physical test or exam.

### **Q. Do students answer questions truthfully?**

**A.** Research indicates data of this nature may be gathered as reliably from adolescents as from adults. Internal reliability checks help to identify the small percentage of students who falsify their answers. To obtain truthful answers, students must perceive the survey as important and know procedures have been developed to protect their privacy and allow for anonymous participation.

### **Q. Who supports this survey?**

**A.** This Board-approved survey is supported by many state and national organizations interested in the health of youth. People from more than 100 state and local health and education agencies and 19 federal agencies helped develop the survey.

### **Q. Can I see the questions my student will be asked?**

**A.** Yes, a copy of the questionnaire (in English and Spanish) is at the school's administrative office and posted on our program's website ([www.sandiegounified.org/YRBS](http://www.sandiegounified.org/YRBS)). Parents may also view this survey.

### **Q. Where can I find more information about the YRBS?**

**A.** Go to the Sexual Health Education Program's YRBS website: [www.sandiegounified.org/YRBS](http://www.sandiegounified.org/YRBS). You will find the questionnaires, past SDUSD YRBS data and reports, and the CDC's Youth Online website with state and national data.