

YRBS Q & A

What Parents Want to Know...

Q. Why is the survey being done?

A. LEAF, Inc. and the Otsego County System of Care will use the survey results to help measure how many youth practice health risk behaviors. The survey results will also be used to create school health programs to help reduce these behaviors. Results from these surveys can be used to (1) monitor how priority health-risk behaviors among high school students increase, decrease, or remain the same over time; (2) evaluate the impact of broad national, state, and local efforts to prevent health risk behaviors; and (3) monitor progress in achieving relevant national and state health objectives. Results also can be used to help focus programs and policies for prevention education and comprehensive school health education on the behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity.

Q. Are sensitive questions asked?

A. Yes. Some questions are sensitive. Sexual intercourse and intravenous drug use are behaviors that increase the risk of getting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The only way to learn if youth are at risk of STDs is to ask questions about these behaviors. Attempted suicide, tobacco and e-cigarette 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 your child's privacy. Students do not put their name on the survey.

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

A. No. Students who take part one year cannot be tracked because their names are not on the survey.

Q. How was my child picked to be in the survey?

A. All Otsego County students in grades 9-12 are being asked 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. The survey does not include a physical test or exam.

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

A. Yes, please request a copy of the survey from Melissa Scribani, Bassett Research Institute, melissa.scribani@bassett.org or 607-547-7635.

Q. Who supports this survey?

A. This survey is supported by many states, local 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.