

Otsego County Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

What is the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)?

The YRBS was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1990 to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute markedly to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. These behaviors, often established during childhood and early adolescence, include:

- Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence
- Unhealthy dietary behaviors
- Inadequate physical activity
- Sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV
- Alcohol and other drug use
- E-cigarette and Tobacco use

In addition, the YRBS monitors the prevalence of obesity and asthma.

What are the purposes of the YRBS?

The YRBS was designed to:

- Determine the prevalence of health risk behaviors
- Assess whether health risk behaviors increase, decrease, or stay the same over time
- Examine the co-occurrence of health risk behaviors
- Provide comparable national, state, and local data
- Provide comparable data among subpopulations of youth
- Monitor progress toward achieving the Healthy People objectives and other program indicators

Otsego County Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS) – is being administered through the combined efforts of the LEAF, Inc and the Otsego County System of Care. The goal is to collect data from nearly all Otsego County students in grades 9-12 by administering a 35 minute questionnaire. The data collected are entirely anonymous. Students will never enter their names or other identifiers on the survey. Their anonymous responses will be analyzed at the Bassett Research Institute and will be shared with Otsego County System of Care and LEAF, Inc. County-wide anonymous findings will be shared with all interested parties. Findings relating to specific school districts will be shared only with the respective school superintendents, who will not have access to any other schools' results. Any findings that have five or less individuals will not be reported to the district to protect students' anonymity. In summary, we will have one county report with all significance tests for grade and gender and individual district reports that present data without significance tests on questions with 6 or more students reporting.

Any questions that were asked at the state and national level can be compared to local results and YRBS questions asked on prior YRBS surveys will have trend data. The findings can be used by the county, LEAF, Inc., Otsego County System of Care, and the school districts. This information will aid in determining the highest priorities to be addressed in working to keep Otsego County youth safe and healthy. These findings can further assist in measuring the performance of programs aimed at reducing some of the identified risks.