



# Uses of YRBS Data

# Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBSS)



- 1991 - Survey developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Collection of health related data organized by the CDC in conjunction with state, tribal and local education/health agencies
- Options to collect Random sample with CDC and State-wide sample with DHHS

# National and Local Use of the YRBS Data



- ✓ **Assess** trends in priority health risk behaviors among middle and high school aged youth
- ✓ Enable schools and communities to **understand risks and health behaviors** of area youth
- ✓ **Evaluate** the impact of broad school and community interventions at national, state, and local levels
- ✓ **Develop programs or policies** to reduce risk and promote health
- ✓ **Monitor** whether health outcomes among youth are **improving or deteriorating**

# What the YRBS Is and Is Not



- It is **valid and reliable**. It has been tested multiple times. Findings are consistent with other survey findings.
- It is a **tool** and can be used for **positive changes**, rather than adding negativity to the community's reputation.
- Data reflects the **community perceptions** and behaviors; the school is simply a place where it is administered.
- It is **not** a “report card” of the school.
- It does **not encourage use** of substances or other unhealthy behaviors.

# Opportunities to Use the Data



- **Proposals for funding** (Justify your need for resources)
- **Raise awareness or get people involved** (Show the different statistics for health behaviors and perceptions in the community)
- **Discover the factors related to a particular issue** (Look at a how a behavior can be different based on factors such as grade level or gender.)
- **Prioritize the issue(s) to address and figure out a strategy to get started**
- **Program evaluation** (Show that a behavior has changed during the time that a program has been in place.)

# A Sample of Programs in NH that Rely on YRBS Data



- **Partnership for Success II**
- **Drug Free Communities**
- **DOE Safe Schools and Healthy Students**
- **DPHS monitoring of use of electronic cigarettes**
- **Life of an Athlete**
- **Check the Stats Campaign**
- **Regional Public Health Networks**
- **New Hampshire Driving Towards Zero**
- **New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence**
- **New Hampshire Suicide Prevention Council**
- **NH Injury Prevention Program**