

### Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) was developed 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; sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection; alcohol and other drug use; tobacco use; unhealthy dietary behaviors; and inadequate physical activity. In addition, the YRBSS monitors the prevalence of obesity and asthma.

#### Methodology:

From 1991 through 2013, the YRBSS has collected data from more than 2.6 million high school students in more than 1,100 separate surveys. The YRBSS 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, territorial, tribal, and local data.
- Provide comparable data among subpopulations of youth.
- Monitor progress toward achieving the Healthy People objectives and other program indicators

The YRBSS includes national, state, territorial, tribal government, and local school-based surveys of representative samples of 9th through 12th grade students. These surveys are conducted every two years, usually during the spring semester. The national survey, conducted by CDC, provides data representative of 9th through 12th grade students in public and private schools in the United States. The state, territorial, tribal government, and local surveys, conducted by departments of health and education, provide data representative of mostly public high school students in each jurisdiction. See [Methodology of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System—2013](#) for details about how the YRBS is conducted.

#### References:

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/yrbs/overview.htm>