

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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April 21, 2016

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH  
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75  
Atlanta, GA 30329

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Dear Dr. Zaza:

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is once again pleased to support the CDC's efforts in conducting the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS). The AAP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of 62,000 pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical subspecialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. The data that the YRBS collects are critical to the adolescent health care work of the AAP, particularly as it relates to policy development and advocacy. Identification of risk behaviors among youth is critical in helping guide our efforts to reduce these behaviors and improve health outcomes of the nation's adolescents and young adults.

CDC's dedication to maintaining the YRBS system at all levels (local, state and national) is important in raising awareness of the kinds of risky behaviors in which adolescents engage, and the role pediatricians and other health care providers play in reducing these unhealthy and risky behaviors. The major areas of concern that youth today face range from drug and alcohol use/abuse and sexual activity to nutrition, physical activity and inadequate sleep. These issues impact many facets of adolescents' lives that can result in long-term consequences, ranging from unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, poorer school performance, and unhealthy lifestyle choices.

We hope that health care providers and schools across the country see the importance of implementing these surveys, the results of which will provide many opportunities for implementing so many important programs at all levels. The data also support and validate the recommendations made by the AAP that are key to ensuring the highest quality of care for their adolescent and young adult patients.

We look forward to the release of the 2015 data this June and we appreciate your efforts in conducting these surveys.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benard Dreyer".

Benard Dreyer, MD, FAAP  
President

JDK/kf

cc: Roger F. Suchyta, MD  
Fan Tait, MD  
Jonathan Klein, MD, MPH  
Darcy Steinberg-Hastings, MPH  
Karen S. Smith

May 1, 2016

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH  
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75  
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Dr. Zaza:

The American Association of School Administrations (AASA) is pleased to provide its continued support for the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). It is vitally important for the health and well-being of our nation's youth that YRBS data is not only tracked, but remains the primary source of information on the most important health risk behaviors.

In addition, the YRBS data are an invaluable resource used by public and private organizations to set and monitor program goals, develop health education programs, support health-related legislation, and seek funding for programs that focus on reducing health risk behavior among youth.

The American Association of School Administrators supports the continuation of the YRBS at the national, state, and local levels to ensure a healthier future for youth nationwide. We strongly encourage states, districts, and schools to participate in the 2017 national survey.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Domenech  
Executive Director

cc: Sharon Adams-Taylor  
Associate Executive Director  
Children's Initiatives and Program Development



Association Of State And Territorial Health Officials  
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May 5, 2016

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH  
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Zaza,

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is pleased to learn about the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health's (CDC/DASH) continued efforts to collect vital data from high school students through the 2017 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

The YRBS is an integral tool for collecting information about the health behaviors of high school youth, including risk taking and risk avoidance. This information is essential for program planning and policy development at the state level, as well as locally and nationally. State health officials and their staff also use these data to monitor the adolescent health objectives for Healthy People 2020 and the Leading Health Indicators.

CDC/DASH has demonstrated a strong commitment to the development of a survey that yields useful information for both health and education officials and that promotes a collaborative relationship between these two sectors. ASTHO's members and the state health agencies they lead have benefited from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System and their partnerships with state education agencies. It is important that CDC/DASH work with state education agencies and school boards to increase YRBS participation and support the work of data collection at the schools. Enhancing collaboration among schools and state agencies will continue to advance adolescent health nationwide.

We offer our support to CDC/DASH and look forward to partnering with you in the future on this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon Moffatt".

Sharon Moffatt, BSN, MS  
Interim Executive Director  
ASTHO



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April 14, 2016

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH  
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Zaza:

The purpose of this letter is to express the continuing support of the Council of Chief State School Officers for the national, state and local Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System to measure a comprehensive set of priority health risk behaviors, including behaviors that result in transmission of HIV.

The information gathered a) helps determine the health status of youth throughout the country; and b) assists educators in planning and implementing effective coordinated school health programs including prevention of HIV infection and AIDS.

Since it is our understanding that the rights and anonymity of students are protected, we encourage and recommend that states, districts, and schools participate in this important activity to gather information needed to develop sound school health policies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Minnich".

Chris Minnich  
Executive Director

March 28, 2016

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Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH  
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health  
National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Zaza,

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) enthusiastically supports the implementation of the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) – nationally, in every state, and in as many localities as possible. Over the years YRBSS has proven to be a valuable and unique source of crucial state and national level information about the behaviors affecting the healthy growth and full development of our nation's children and youth. The information provided by YRBS has proven essential to the development of effective prevention and intervention strategies.

NASBE has relied heavily on YRBS data to inform and assist education policy makers and practitioners in their efforts to develop policies and programs that foster health-promoting schools. The continuation of YRBS will help ensure that state boards of education and other education decision makers will have access to important, credible research needed to develop sound policies and programs.

We wish you success in this endeavor. Please do not hesitate to contact NASBE if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Kristen J. Amundson  
Executive Director



April 21, 2016

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH  
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Zaza:

On behalf of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2017 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2017 YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2017 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which States may compare their own local YRBS results.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes (one or two per grade) will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

NASSP is involved in the efforts of the Healthy Schools Campaign through a partnership with Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), as well as the Let's Move in Schools Campaign. In the past, NASSP has supported the efforts of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Action for Healthy Kids, and the American School Health Association. We look forward to the survey results that will provide States with a helpful tool in developing tobacco prevention and control programs for youth. In addition, NASSP was instrumental in the launch of President Obama's national dialogue to increase understanding about mental health and its impact on youth.

I understand that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that States, school districts, and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JoAnn Bartoletti". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

JoAnn Bartoletti  
Executive Director  
National Association of Secondary School Principals



April 13, 2016

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH  
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road NE, MS-E75  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Zaza:

The National Catholic Educational Association is pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2017 National Youth Risk Behaviors Study (2017 YRBS), sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors.

Since the important information generated from YRBS 2017 is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs nationwide, including the private schools, the Association welcomes the opportunity for Catholic schools to contribute to this comprehensive assessment.

NCEA understands that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of students will be selected randomly from among classes in the required course subjects. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

Therefore, NCEA encourages and recommends that our Catholic schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas W. Burnford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "T".

Thomas Burnford  
Interim President

April 18, 2016

Stephanie Zaza, MD, MPH  
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Visual Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE, MS-E75  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Zaza:

On behalf of National PTA, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2017 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2017 YRBS), which will gather nationally representative data for students in grades 9 through 12 on priority health risk behaviors. The information generated from the 2017 YRBS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which states may compare their own local YRBS results.

To reduce the burden in any one school, only a small number of classes will be selected randomly within each selected school from required courses. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

These surveys are critical to understand the health status and needs of our youth. The results of this comprehensive survey add great insight into the world of our youth and the environment in which our young people spend the majority of their time. National PTA continues to be a relevant voice for all children by supporting and advocating for key education and health issues that have a significant impact on students and families.

National PTA understands that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district, or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data on the nation as a whole. Therefore, National PTA encourages and recommends that schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,



Laura Bay  
President  
National PTA