

2005 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY RESULTS

New Jersey Middle School Survey Survey Summary

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS-M) was completed by 1,408 students in 30 regular public schools containing grades 7 or 8 in New Jersey during the spring of 2005. The school response rate was 83%, the student response rate was 65%, and the overall response rate was 54%. The results are representative of only those students who completed the questionnaire. The demographic characteristics of the sample are as follows:

Females	53.4%	7th grade	57.3%	Black	20.3%
Males	46.6%	8th grade	42.2%	Hispanic/ Latino	22.0%
		Other	0.5%	White	47.2%
				All other races	3.6%
				Multiple races	6.9%

Students completed a self-administered, anonymous, 52-item questionnaire. Survey procedures were designed to protect the privacy of students by allowing for anonymous and voluntary participation. Local parental permission procedures were followed before survey administration.

The YRBS is one component of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in collaboration with representatives from state and local departments of education and health, other federal agencies, and national education and health organizations. The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System was designed to focus the nation on behaviors among youth related to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among both youth and adults and to assess how these risk behaviors change over time. The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System measures behaviors that fall into six categories:

1. Behaviors that result in unintentional injuries and violence;
2. Tobacco use;
3. Alcohol and other drug use;
4. Sexual behaviors that result in HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancies;
5. Dietary behaviors; and
6. Physical activity.

The YRBS also measures self-reported height and weight to allow calculation of body mass index. More information about the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System can be obtained from <http://www.cdc.gov/yrbss>.