

What is the Youth Risk Behavior Survey?

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was developed in 1990 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to measure the prevalence of behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disease and injury.

The YRBS is a multiple-choice survey conducted every two years and is designed to produce data representative of students in grades nine through 12. This information enables us to:

- Monitor trends in health and risk behavior.
- Compare Ohio students with a national sample of students.
- Plan, evaluate and improve community and school programs that prevent health problems and promote healthy behaviors.

Ohio first conducted the YRBS in 1993 with subsequent surveys in 1995 (unweighted data), 1997, 1999, 2003 and 2005. Through 1999, the survey was administered by the Ohio Department of Education. In 2001, Ohio did not participate in the YRBS and at that time a decision was made to move the administration of the survey to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). As of 2003, staff in the bureaus of Community Health Services and Systems Development and Health Services Information and Operational Support in the Division of Family and Community Health Services at ODH collaborate to conduct the YRBS in Ohio.