

2011 YRBS UPDATE

The Departments of Health and Education are planning for the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The next YRBS will take place in Winter 2011.

Two major changes will be implemented in this survey cycle. Previously, students completed the Youth Health Survey (Youth Tobacco Survey) in even years opposite the YRBS. In 2011, the YRBS and the YHS will be combined. By doing so, the number of school-based surveys will be reduced while improving data quality.

Additionally, the departments will field **two surveys**: one to students in grades 6-8 and one to students in grades 9-12. Gathering data on students in grades 6 and 7 will help to inform local and statewide planning efforts.

The survey for grades 9-12 will be approximately 106 questions, the same length as previous years. The survey for grades 6-8 will be approximately 70 questions. As in previous years, school districts will be asked to provide administrators for the surveys.

Statewide representative samples for both surveys will be chosen soon. Any school that includes grades 9-12 will be included in the statewide representative high school sample. Any school that includes grades 6-8 **except K-6 schools** will be included in the statewide middle school sample. We will continue to welcome all non-sampled schools to participate. Schools with students in K-6 schools that want to survey the 6th grade students are welcome to do so.

Our departments also want to make an effort to increase the number of technical centers participating in the survey. We will identify technical centers students by their center and sending school. Technical centers will receive reports of their students separate from the sending schools. We believe this will increase response rates among juniors and seniors.

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