

Idaho Healthy Youth Survey FAQ

When will the IHYS be conducted?

The survey will be administered from September 30, 2019 to November 15, 2019 at a time chosen by each local school district and/or school. Within a given school, the survey should be administered to all participating classes during the same class period when possible. This will help avoid students discussing the questions with classmates who have not yet completed the survey and biasing the results.

Why should my school or district participate?

IHYS is the only survey offered in Idaho that collects local-level, health-related data. Reports providing information regarding health-related behaviors; alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; and mental health issues will be generated at the state, county (if available) and school district level.

How can my school district and community benefit from this survey?

Information gained from participating in the Idaho Healthy Youth Survey (IHYS) allows schools, districts, and communities to receive detailed reports (as described above) and would also provide the community with a wealth of data to be used for grant writing, program and school safety planning, as well as targeting interventions to meet a school's and community's specialized needs. The survey provides information that can be used to identify the incidence of various problem and health-related behaviors. Additionally, by tracking data over multiple IHYS administrations, prevention planners can assess the impact of programs and services over time. Results of the survey can be used to provide evidence of the need for prevention services as well as the areas where students would benefit from those services to support their work toward achieving academic and personal goals

What schools are eligible to participate?

The IHYS is offered to all schools including public, private, parochial and charter schools in Idaho at no charge. School district superintendents (or charter/private schools senior administrators) are invited to register for the 2019 IHYS at [2019/2020 IHYS Registration](#).

Is student participation anonymous?

Yes, participation is completely anonymous and confidential. Students are given a survey booklet that contains the question items and a place for them to record responses. The survey booklet will not contain the student's name, or any other identifying information. Before they begin, students are to be reminded that they should not write their name or other identifying information on the booklet.

Are sensitive questions asked?

The survey includes questions related to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; mental health issues; and other health risk behaviors. The survey questions have been designed to measure

perceptions, knowledge and behaviors. Unless questions in these topic areas are asked directly, prevention planners cannot know the degree to which the youth in Idaho engage in these health risk behaviors. It is important to remember the survey is anonymous and confidential, so no student's responses will ever be able to be connected with that student. Students are informed that they may also skip any questions that they do not feel comfortable answering or that they do not understand.

What if a parent does not wish their child to participate?

District IHYS Coordinators will be working with schools to distribute parental consent forms, both active and passive, per your school's policy. If a school district or school chooses to gather active parental consent, District IHYS Coordinators will work with each school to ensure that parental consent forms are properly gathered and that only students with parental consent are given the survey.

Can I see the IHYS survey instrument?

A copy of the 2017 survey instrument can be found at <https://prevention.odp.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2017/08/Idaho-Healthy-Youth-Survey-Final-Questionnaire.pdf>. The 2019 IHYS questionnaire is still being finalized but will be similar to the 2017 questionnaire.

What will students be asked to do?

The students will be asked to complete a self-administered survey questionnaire during one class period at school, either via paper and pencil or online, depending on which method the school selects. The student will be asked to read each question and select the answer in the survey booklet that most closely matches the way he/she feels. All questions are self-reported, and no physical tests or exams are involved. No individual student information can be identified from the completed surveys. Students requesting help in understanding a question may raise their hand and ask to have a question re-read by the proctor to the whole group, but the proctor will not read from the student's survey copy.

How long does it take to complete the IHYS?

The survey will take approximately 40 minutes to complete and is designed to be administered during a single class period. Although it is expected that the students will have enough time to complete the entire survey, they will be informed they should answer as many questions as possible during the class but not be concerned if they are not able to finish all of them. Students who finish before the end of class will be asked to work quietly at their desks while their classmates finish.

What will schools be asked to do?

The survey will be administered in the school classroom setting by the class teacher or a community prevention partner. Administration protocol will be decided by each individual school district. Bach Harrison will provide each school with the necessary materials for completing the survey, including proctoring instructions for administering the survey and a written script that will be read to the students at the beginning of the class that explains the

purpose and voluntary nature of the survey. The District IHYS Coordinator, who is selected by each district's superintendent, will be assisting schools through the process.

How does the District IHYS Coordinator help with the survey?

The District IHYS Coordinator at the school district level will work with Bach Harrison to plan for, and coordinate, the survey. The District IHYS Coordinator, who is selected by each district's superintendent, will work with school principals to set an appropriate and convenient survey date, develop a passive parental consent process, and distribute and gather survey materials. The Coordinator can be a school official or a community prevention partner. Districts who have worked with a community partner to facilitate IHYS in past administrations are strongly encouraged to do so again.

How will the results be made available?

Summary Reports containing local data will be generated at the state, county, and school district levels and will be provided by the Idaho Office of Drug Policy. All statewide and county-level reports will contain only aggregate information; individual district results will not be listed separately in these reports.

Do all schools in the district need to administer the survey?

No, if you have some schools within the district that would like to participate they can contact Alex Curd, alex.curd@odp.idaho.gov, directly.

Does my school district need to survey 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grade students?

No, you may opt to not survey youth of one or more of those grades.

Do you offer online survey administration?

Surveys can be administered either online or on paper, whichever the school prefers.

Questions and Registration

If you have further questions about IHYS, please contact **Alex Curd**, Senior Research Analyst, Idaho Office of Drug Policy, at **208-854-3048** or by e-mail at alex.curd@odp.idaho.gov. If you would like to register for the survey, please visit [2019/2020 IHYS Registration](#).