

# 2014 SCHOOL HEALTH PROFILES REPORT

## Principal Tables Documentation

**Purpose** The Principal Tables describe results for every variable on the principal questionnaire for the overall sample.

### Example

MEGATROPOLIS												
2014 School Health Profiles Report												
Weighted Principal Survey Results												
1. Percentage of schools that ever used the School Health Index or other self-assessment tool to assess school policies, activities, and programs in the following areas.												
	High Schools			Middle Schools			Junior/Senior High Schools			All Schools		
	Percent	95% Confidence Interval	N	Percent	95% Confidence Interval	N	Percent	95% Confidence Interval	N	Percent	95% Confidence Interval	N
a. Physical activity	36.7	29.1 - 45.1	96	35.5	29.6 - 41.9	174	-	-	10	35.4	30.7 - 40.3	280
b. Nutrition	33.9	25.6 - 43.3	95	35.6	29.7 - 41.9	174	-	-	10	34.5	29.8 - 39.6	279
c. Tobacco-use prevention	37.0	28.8 - 46.1	95	29.0	23.4 - 35.2	172	-	-	10	30.9	26.3 - 35.9	277
d. Asthma	27.3	20.5 - 35.3	96	28.8	23.4 - 34.8	174	-	-	10	27.7	23.4 - 32.3	280
e. Injury and violence prevention	33.6	25.6 - 42.7	96	32.2	26.5 - 38.5	174	-	-	10	32.3	27.6 - 37.3	280
f. HIV, STD, and teen pregnancy prevention	2.0	0.6 - 6.5	97	1.6	0.6 - 4.1	187	-	-	10	2.0	1.0 - 3.9	294

- Results are suppressed due to insufficient number of respondents in subgroup.  
N = Unweighted number of observations

Page 1 of 60

**Content** The title of each table indicates that the results come from the principal survey and whether the data are weighted or unweighted. The question number and a summary of the question appear under the title. Response options for the question or subparts of the question are listed on the far left of the table. In some tables, question numbers are followed by the letter N (e.g., 21N). The data contained in these tables were derived from combining two or more response options to a single question or two or more questions or question subparts. Where this occurs, the response options, questions, or question subparts used in creating the combined variable are listed in a footnote.

The results are provided for **all schools** regardless of weight status. If your data are weighted, each table also lists responses for three categories of schools:

- **High schools**, defined as those with a low grade of 9 or higher and a high grade of 10 or higher;
- **Middle schools**, defined as secondary schools with a high grade of 9 or lower; and
- **Junior/senior high schools**, defined as secondary schools with a low grade of 8 or lower and a high grade of 10 or higher.

Each category of schools will have three columns:

<b>Column</b>	<b>Content</b>
Percent	Shows the percentage of schools in the category that responded as described in the question summary at the top of each table. If the data are weighted, it is a weighted percentage; if the data are unweighted, it is an unweighted percentage.
95% Confidence Interval	Provides the 95% confidence interval for the percentage, if the data are weighted.
N	Shows the total unweighted number of observations for each category of school (high school, middle school, and junior/senior high schools) and all schools. Stated another way, N is the number of schools in each category or overall that provided any response to the question or subparts of the question.

### **How to Use Confidence Intervals**

A confidence interval provides the range of values within which the “true” percentage lies. A 95% confidence interval means that if the survey were repeated many times, the “true” value would fall within the interval 95% of the time.

Confidence intervals can be used to determine the precision of your results. When the confidence interval is relatively narrow, you have a more precise indication of the percentage of schools with a particular policy or practice in place. Wider confidence intervals diminish the ability to report results with precision. In the example table above, the confidence interval for question 1a for all schools is 30.7% to 40.3%. This means you can be 95% confident that the “true” percentage of schools could be as low as 30.7% or as high as 40.3%.

**How to Determine Differences Between Groups**

Confidence intervals can be used to conduct a conservative statistical test of difference between prevalence estimates for two groups.

- If the confidence intervals overlap, then the estimates are not considered significantly different.
- If the confidence intervals do not overlap, then the estimates are considered significantly different.

Using the results from the example above, we can compare the percentage of high schools (36.7%) to the percentage of middle schools (35.5%) that ever used the School Health Index or other self-assessment tool to assess school policies, activities, and programs in physical activity. The confidence interval for high schools is 29.1 to 45.1 and the confidence interval for middle schools is 29.6 to 41.9. The two confidence intervals do overlap—therefore, the percentage of high schools that ever used the School Health Index to assess school policies, activities, and programs in physical activity is NOT significantly different from the percentage of middle schools that did so.

Statistical testing can also be used to determine significant differences between two percentages for both sample and census surveys. The report CD-ROM contains copies of the data sets that can be used for this purpose. Please refer to statistical software documentation for further guidance.

**How to Interpret Weighted vs. Unweighted Data**

If your data are weighted, the percentages refer to all schools in that category within your jurisdiction. For example, if the data are weighted and 30% of the schools in your high school category report they had a particular practice in place, then you can report that 30% of high schools in your jurisdiction had this practice in place.

If your data are unweighted, the data refer only to those schools whose principals or teachers actually participated in the survey. For example, if you have unweighted data and 30% of the schools in the sample report they had a particular practice in place, then you can report that 30% of the schools that participated had this practice in place.

**Notes**

Refer to the **Principal Charts** for a visual representation of the results in the **Principal Tables**.