

Student
Hhealth
And
Rrisk
Prevention

2010 Fact Book

A student health survey project sponsored by :

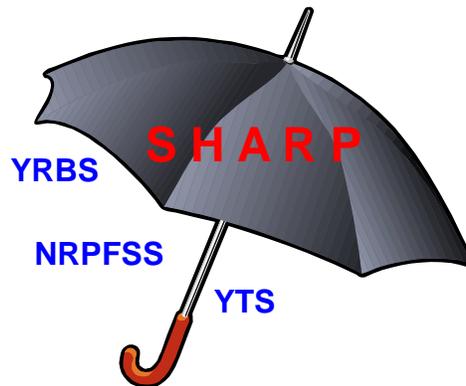
Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)
Nebraska Department of Health and Human
Services (NDHHS)

<http://bosr.unl.edu/sharp>



The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS), and the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFSS) have a new look. They are **SHARP!**

SHARP is the umbrella uniting the **ONLY three student health surveys endorsed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS).**



New Look

This new coordinated approach to the administration of these surveys was created to address the concerns of school administrators and NDE and NDHHS officials about the number of interruptions in school schedules, the preference shown by school administrators for fall data collection, a need to decrease confusion and competition among the surveys, and to improve participation in all three surveys.

Each survey under the umbrella of **SHARP** is unique.

YRBS

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a state-wide survey created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to identify and monitor priority health risk behaviors that are established during youth and result in sickness, disability, death, and social problems among youth and adults. The YRBS is designed to monitor trends in health risk behaviors. The data are used to plan, evaluate, and improve school and community programs. The YRBS is administered in public high schools. Schools and classrooms are randomly selected by the CDC.

YTS

The Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) is a state-wide survey that was created by CDC to improve the ability of agencies and community organizations to design, implement, and evaluate tobacco prevention and control programs. The YTS is conducted in public middle and high schools. Schools and classrooms are randomly selected by the CDC.

NRPFSS

The Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFSS) is designed to measure adolescent substance abuse, delinquent behaviors, and the risk and protective factors that predict adolescent problem behaviors. One of the goals of this survey is to provide schools and communities with local level data to help in planning prevention programs based on the needs of their communities. Every public and non-public school with a 6th, 8th, 10th, and/or 12th grade is eligible to participate in the NRPFSS.



Data collected from **SHARP** are indispensable, as can be seen from the strong support of school and community members.



"We have benefited from participating in the student health surveys by being able to use that information to communicate back with stakeholders about the behavioral choices of our students. It has been a great means of providing clear, accurate information that addresses key risk factors and also resilient behaviors we want to instill in all kids. We have also used this information as an important curriculum planning and program evaluation tool. It connects with curricular areas such as Health and Family Consumer Sciences and allows us to identify gaps in student learning or areas of critical need."

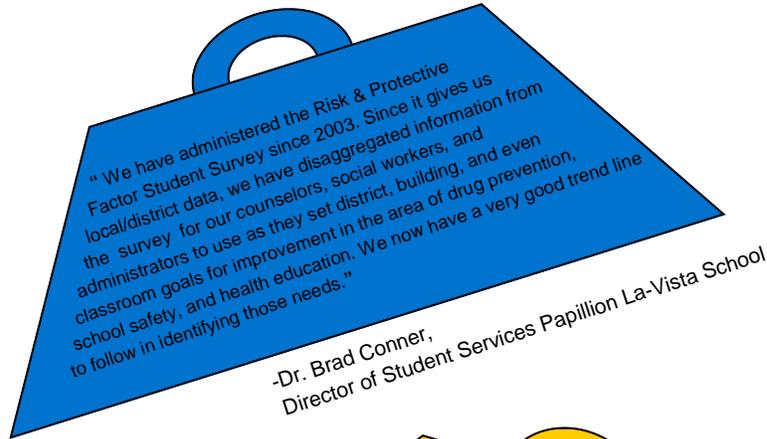
-John Skretta, Ed. D.
Assistant Superintendent Norris School District

"The data has been used for various grant applications. In the past 3 years we applied and awarded grants for Cheyenne County from Governors Safe and Drug Free Schools, County Aide Enhancement and Juvenile Justice. In Garden County last year it was used for the Governors Safe and Drug Free grant which they were awarded."

-Jann Lawler
Region I Grant Manager Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority

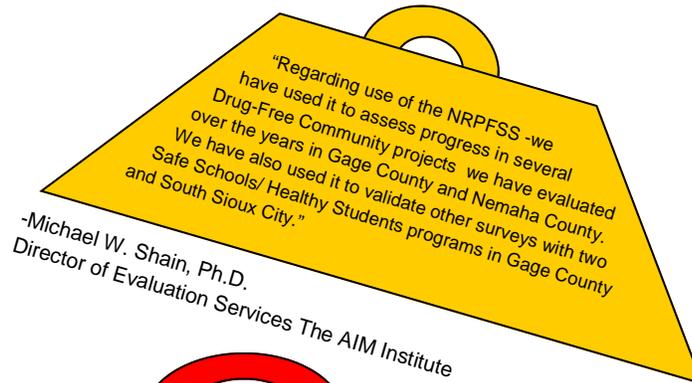
"YRBS data is critical when applying for grants, such as the Carol M. White Physical Education Program grant that the Lincoln Public Schools recently received from the U.S. Department of Education. As we conduct regular reviews of our health education and physical education curricula, the YRBS data helps us to focus on the needs of our students. Data from these student health surveys is invaluable as I advocate for the importance of health education and physical education in the school curriculum."

-Marybell Avery, Ph. D.,
Curriculum Specialist Health,
Physical Education, Character Education
Lincoln Public Schools



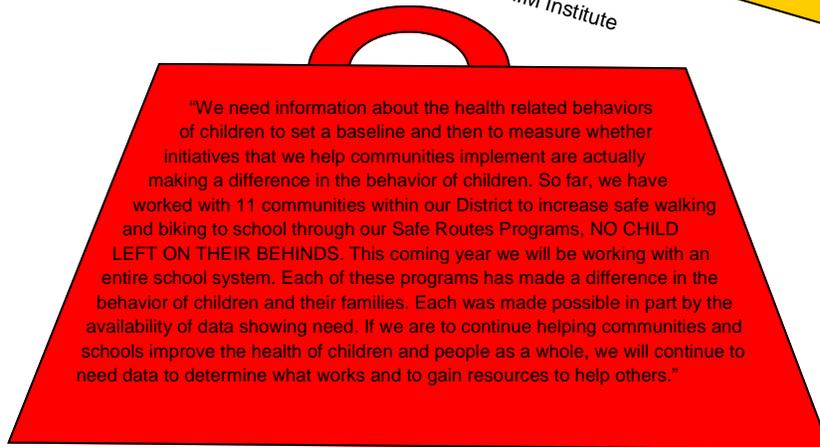
"We have administered the Risk & Protective Factor Student Survey since 2003. Since it gives us local/district data, we have disaggregated information from the survey for our counselors, social workers, and administrators to use as they set district, building, and even classroom goals for improvement in the area of drug prevention, school safety, and health education. We now have a very good trend line to follow in identifying those needs."

-Dr. Brad Conner,
Director of Student Services Papillion La-Vista School



"Regarding use of the NRPFSS -we have used it to assess progress in several Drug-Free Community projects we have evaluated over the years in Gage County and Nemaha County. We have also used it to validate other surveys with two Safe Schools/ Healthy Students programs in Gage County and South Sioux City."

-Michael W. Shain, Ph.D.
Director of Evaluation Services The AIM Institute



"We need information about the health related behaviors of children to set a baseline and then to measure whether initiatives that we help communities implement are actually making a difference in the behavior of children. So far, we have worked with 11 communities within our District to increase safe walking and biking to school through our Safe Routes Programs, NO CHILD LEFT ON THEIR BEHINDS. This coming year we will be working with an entire school system. Each of these programs has made a difference in the behavior of children and their families. Each was made possible in part by the availability of data showing need. If we are to continue helping communities and schools improve the health of children and people as a whole, we will continue to need data to determine what works and to gain resources to help others."

-Jane Ford Witthoff,
Director District Health Department Protecting the Health of Fillmore,
Gage, Jefferson, Saline and Thayer Counties Nebraska

The **SHARP** data provide insight into the health behaviors of our youth. A few examples of how this information has been utilized are listed below.

YRBS

- * New school curriculum objectives have been established by guidance counselors, teachers, school nurses, Peer Mediation Teams, and health departments
- * Data relevant to the “No Child Left Behind” Act collection requirements are provided
- * Funds for many grants have been accessed; a few of which are listed below:
 - * Carol M. White Physical Education grants
 - * Community Learning Center grants
 - * Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grants
 - * HIV Prevention Education grants
 - * Maternal and Child Health Care grants
 - * Nebraska Dairy Council grants
 - * Nebraska Action For Healthy Kids grants
 - * Nutrition grants
 - * Safe Routes to Schools grants
 - * Tobacco Free School/Community grants

YTS

- * Information not previously available for students in grades 6-12 is provided with respect to: prevalence of tobacco use, exposure to second hand smoke, knowledge and attitudes, advertising, and school curriculum.
- * Local and state grant applications are strengthened and a standardized long-term mechanism to chart progress in reducing youth tobacco use in Nebraska is provided

NRPFSS

- * Local and regional estimates are generated for health planning and evaluation
- * Factors are identified which may affect student academic achievement and career planning goals
- * Behavior problems related to substance abuse and/or antisocial behavior are targeted
- * Schools and community coalitions are provided the information that is necessary for accessing federal substance abuse prevention funds
- * Local and state grant applications (including SPF SIG and Drug Free Communities) are strengthened
- * Information is provided to meet the federal requirements under the “No Child Left Behind” Act

SHARP will be administered during September and October of 2010.

New Coordinated Approach

Previously, each survey was administered independently, causing school schedules to be interrupted three out of every four semesters. Now, **all three surveys will be conducted at the same time.** The integrity of the YRBS, YTS, and NRPFSS will be kept in tact and each survey will be given to the same grades/levels as previous administrations.

Survey Eligibility

The CDC will randomly select schools from across the state for the YRBS and the YTS. Eighty public high schools will be selected for the YRBS, and sixty public middle schools and sixty public high schools will be selected for the YTS. The CDC will also randomly select classrooms within each of these schools. All schools with grades 6, 8, 10, and/or 12 are eligible to participate in the NRPFSS.

Management by BOSR

The Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be coordinating the administration of SHARP for NDE and NDHHS.

Contacts

All Nebraska schools will be contacted by a BOSR staff member and local community stakeholders to ask permission to survey students this fall. As always, survey participation is voluntary and confidentiality is guaranteed.

More Information

You can visit <http://bosr.unl.edu/sharp> to learn more information about the surveys, to view copies of the survey questionnaires, and to read discussion related to commonly asked questions regarding the surveys. To contact a SHARP project staff member, e-mail us at sharp@bosr.unl.edu and we will be happy to get back to you.



S H A R P
Student Health And Risk Prevention

Sponsored by:

Nebraska Department of Education

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Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
(NDHHS)

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