



## OHYES! FAQ for Community-Level Surveys

Our district/community has been participating in “XYZ Survey” for the past number of years. We have trend data over time for indicators that are of interest to our district/community. Is there value in asking our students to engage in both surveys?

Many Ohio districts/communities have been engaging in youth survey efforts over the years. The OHYES! is not intended to supplant any survey your district/community is currently utilizing. **The OHYES! is designed to support these efforts by providing a uniform, collective statewide data collection effort every four years.** By participating in this standardized survey every four years, districts/communities are helping Ohio examine state- and county-level data to:

- Deliver crucial information about the prevalence of major adolescent health risk behaviors to parents, the public, school officials, public health professionals, human service agencies and policymakers.
- Identify trends and patterns in adolescent health status and risky behaviors, supporting the examination and evaluation of many different prevention, safety and health promotion initiatives.
- Guide policy formation and improve program needs assessments of state agencies, local health jurisdictions, county prevention coordinators, community coalitions, and community public health and safety networks that serve youth.
- Produce an analytic dataset for use by behavioral and public health researchers, and provides data to various community stakeholders for use in federal, state, local or private agency grant applications.

**Your local youth survey efforts also serve these purposes and will continue to play a vital role in understanding community-level health issues.** The OHYES! questionnaire contains a broad array of items about demographics; alcohol, marijuana, tobacco and other drug use; health concerns (nutrition and fitness, health conditions and health care, behaviors related to intentional/unintentional injuries, mental health); school climate; quality of life; and risk and protective factors (community, school, peer and individual, and family), as many of your local student surveys collect. However, it is important to note that OHYES! items were carefully chosen to keep the average completion time to 15 minutes.

### How can the OHYES! support our local data collection efforts?

The OHYES! will provide comparable data at the county- and state-level. Further, many of the OHYES! items are also asked on national surveys, providing the opportunity to compare data at the national-level. However, you should carefully compare your student survey questions for comparability with OHYES! items. It is often helpful to utilize comparison data to see how adolescent health varies across communities to get a perspective of how larger-scale, multi-community efforts can impact the health of Ohio’s young people.

### How can our local data collection efforts support the OHYES!?

The OHYES! is designed to examine outcomes related to adolescent health status. Many local surveys contain very specific items related to contributing factors (also known as intervening variables) that help establish the “levers” that a district/community can address through programs, policies and practices. It is important for districts/communities to track these indicators. Local surveys often provide measurement of short-term and intermediate outcomes which will then impact long-term adolescent health outcomes measured by the OHYES!.