**Illinois Youth Survey Additional Questions Announcement**

**January 3, 2019**

To date, CPRD has offered the option for schools to administer 30 additional questions of their choosing at the end of the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS). We have happily provided this resource to assist schools with decisions on local issues, when our budget and time permitted it, relying on schools to obtain parental consent if questions were more sensitive than those on the IYS. As the IYS has become more popular, the number of schools and providers using additional questions has grown, while questions have become increasingly sensitive. Because the additional questions are answered and submitted as part of the IYS, which is approved for parent notification rather than signed consent, the IRB has determined that they must approve all additional questions. Creating a separate IRB review process for additional questions falls outside of our purview. Questions about sensitive topics without proper signed consent have the potential to put the survey’s IRB approval in jeopardy. **Therefore, starting in 2020, CPRD will no longer be able to support the option of adding additional questions to the survey.**

We do not make this decision lightly and understand that it significantly impacts those who have used additional questions to investigate topics not included on the IYS. CPRD is announcing this decision a year in advance to allow time for schools and providers to find alternative options to satisfy their local needs. The IYS team at CPRD is open to discussing options and facilitating the transition for schools and providers impacted by this decision. We will be hosting a webinar in late January/early February to address your questions or concerns regarding this change. For a more productive session and to ensure we address as many of your questions as possible, email them to Viviana Deltas at [cprd-iys@mx.uillinois.edu](mailto:cprd-iys@mx.uillinois.edu) by January 21, 2019. This webinar will be recorded.

Moving forward, you can expect the IYS team to continue to focus on the two major goals of the IYS:

1. **To supply local data at no cost to schools and school districts throughout Illinois by creating IYS Frequency Reports and sharing them with the schools/districts that participate**. Local data is also generated at county and community area levels if there at least two school districts that participated at any grade level. All frequency reports include responses to all questions on the survey, presented by grade.
2. **To provide a scientific estimate of health and social indicators for the state of Illinois that can be used as a benchmark.** The scientific estimate is based on drawing a random sample to represent the state population of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in Illinois public schools. Frequency reports, including each of the IYS variables, are created for statewide data and for four strata/community types (Chicago, suburban Chicago counties, urban/suburban counties, and rural counties).

In addition, the IYS team will continue to review IYS questionnaire content to keep pace with current trends in research, practice, and prevention in various content areas, including:

1. Substance use behaviors, attitudes, and perceptions
2. Family support and rules about alcohol use
3. Feelings about school
4. Violence
5. Bullying
6. Depression
7. Health, fitness, and nutrition

Each administration year new questions are added and others removed, following current issues, while maintaining survey length and grade level appropriateness.

The IYS team will continue to provide technical assistance to schools and providers regarding their data.

This decision has been reviewed and approved by the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery, which provides financial support for the Illinois Youth Survey.