



# ILLINOIS YOUTH SURVEY

## BACKGROUND

- The Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) is a self-reported adolescent survey administered in Illinois schools and funded entirely by the Illinois Department of Human Services.
- It is designed to gather information about a variety of health and social indicators including the use of gateway substances and other drugs, violence, bullying, depression, perceptions of school climate, nutrition and fitness. It provides aggregate data for local schools, communities, counties, and state agencies.
- The IYS has been shown to be valid when conducted according to survey directions. Studies of surveys similar to the IYS that check substance use responses against actual drug tests have shown substantial validity. In addition, patterns of use revealed by the IYS are consistent with other measures such as differential treatment rates for different substances.
- The IYS has been conducted since 1993 and offered to all public and private schools every two years since 2000. On average, 750-1000 schools across Illinois take advantage of the opportunity to gather local data each statewide administration.

## BENEFITS

- The IYS measures the key risk and protective factors that strongly contribute to community-wide substance use rates and provides essential data to secure and maintain state and national prevention funding (i.e., Drug Free Communities grants, IDHS Substance Abuse Prevention grants, etc.).
- A report is sent to schools within 6 weeks of returning completed surveys. Training and technical assistance is available to help schools interpret and use their own school specific data.
- Schools and communities can compare local data with county, statewide and national results.
- Reports can be used to compare school results over time.
- The IYS provides data to assess needs, track progress toward youth physical, social and mental health goals, and evaluate student support services.
- **There is no cost to the school** to survey their 8th, 10th and/or 12th grade students during statewide survey administration (spring semester during even-numbered years).
- The IYS gives schools the **option of adding questions** to get data on local issues, whether participating by paper/pencil or online format.

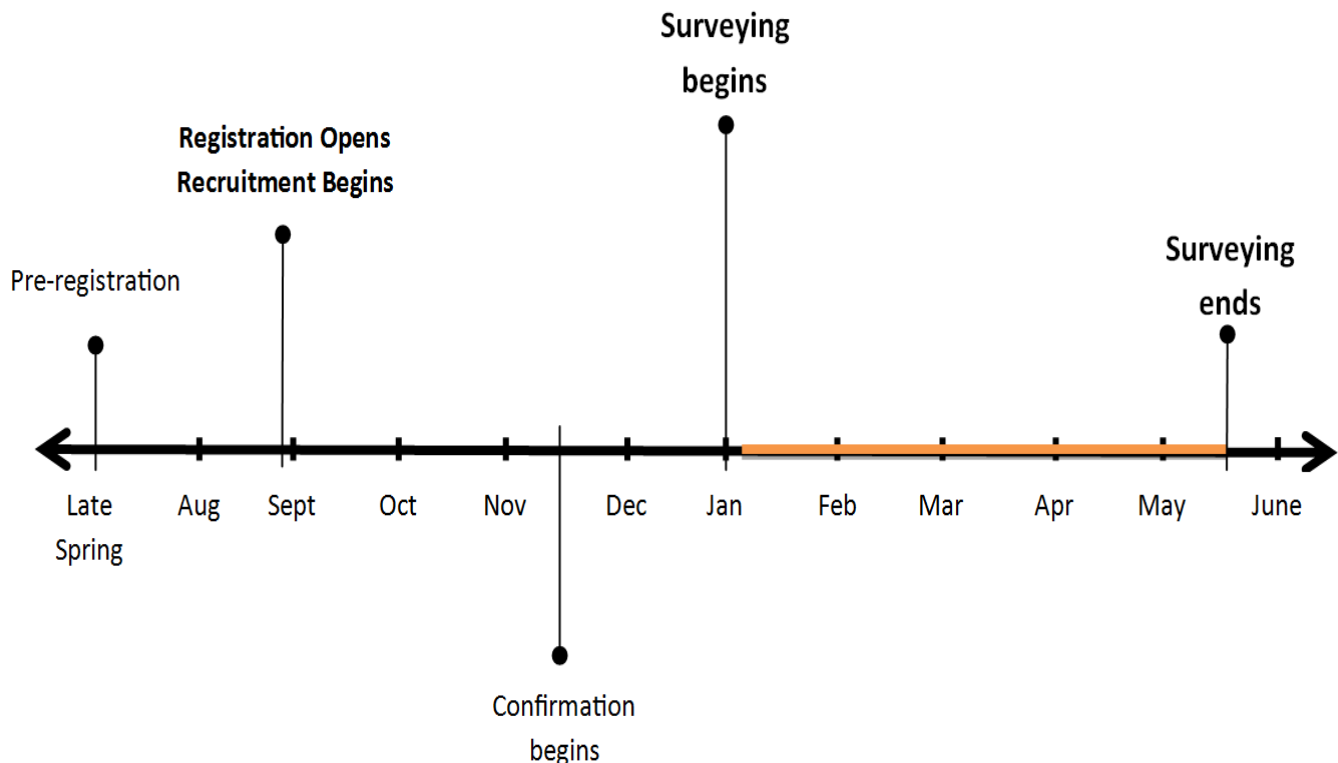


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## IMPLEMENTATION

- Register each school online at <https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/register>.
- CPRD provides the school with everything needed including survey booklets, pencils, detailed instructions and even shipping costs.
- Each school identifies an IYS site coordinator who registers the school, schedules the survey dates and class periods, distributes notifications to parents, and collects all completed surveys to return for analysis. The teachers in the selected grades (8th, 10th, and/or 12th) administer the survey to the students either in paper/pencil or online format.
- Administration of the survey takes approximately 1 full class period (about 35-45 minutes).
- The English version of the survey is available in paper or online format. The Spanish version of the survey is limited to completion online.
- Participating schools will notify parents that the survey is being offered to give them the option to opt-out their child from survey participation.
- Paper materials are shipped and online logins sent to schools approximately 1 month prior to their survey date.

## TIMELINE



**C P R D**  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

510 Devonshire Drive, Champaign, IL 61820-7306

Local: 217.333.3231 \* Toll-Free: 888.333.5612

Email: [cprd-iys@mx.uillinois.edu](mailto:cprd-iys@mx.uillinois.edu) \* Website: <http://iys.cprd.illinois.edu>