Background

- The Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) is a self-report survey administered in Illinois schools with 8th, 10th, and 12th grades, funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services.
- It is designed to gather information about a variety of health and social indicators, including drug use and perceptions, violence, bullying, depression, 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 is offered to all schools in Illinois every two years. In a typical administration year, more than 900 schools from 400+ districts take advantage of the opportunity to gather local data.

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 (such as Drug Free Communities grants, IDHS Substance Use Prevention grants, etc.).
- A report is sent to schools 4-6 weeks after survey completion. 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.
- 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 schools to survey during statewide survey administration (spring semester of even-numbered years).
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. Teachers in the selected grades administer the survey to the students either in paper/pencil or online format.
- Survey administration takes approximately one full class period (about 40-45 minutes).
- The English version of the survey is available in paper or online format. The Spanish version of the survey is available online only.
- 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 or online logins sent to schools approximately 1 month before their survey date.

Timeline

September 2021
Registration opens
Register anytime between September 7 – April 30
Register a minimum of 30 days before your school’s survey date

January 2022
Surveying starts
IYS opens January 4, 2022
Chose a survey date any time during the survey period

May 2022
Surveying ends
Survey remains open as long as school is in session in Illinois – end of May / early June