

2003 Colorado Youth Risk Behavior Survey Background

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was completed by 757 students in 23 public high schools in Colorado during the fall of 2003. The school response rate was 38%, the student response rate was 83%, and the overall response rate was 32%. The results are representative of only those students who completed the questionnaire. The demographic characteristics of the sample are as follows:

Gender		Grade		Race/Ethnicity	
Female	50.0%	9th grade	28.9%	African American	5.7%
Male	50.0%	10th grade	31.8%	Hispanic/Latino	24.4%
		11th grade	22.2%	White	58.0%
		12th grade	16.8%	All other races	7.4%
				Multiple races	4.4%

Students completed a self-administered, anonymous, 99-item questionnaire. This questionnaire consisted of 59 YRBS questions and 40 questions from the Colorado Youth Survey. This was a first attempt at integrating surveys to reduce burden on the schools. Survey procedures were designed to protect the privacy of students by allowing for anonymous and voluntary participation. Local parental permission procedures were followed before survey administration.

The YRBS is one component of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in collaboration with representatives from 71 state and local departments of education and health, 19 other federal agencies, and national education and health organizations. The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System was designed to focus the nation on behaviors among youth related to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among both youth and adults and to assess how these risk behaviors change over time. The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System measures behaviors that fall into six categories:

1. Behaviors that result in unintentional injuries and violence;
2. Tobacco use;
3. Alcohol and other drug use;
4. Sexual behaviors that result in HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancies;
5. Dietary behaviors; and

6. Physical activity.