



The Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is conducting a national survey of school health policies and practices.

SHPPS will describe school policies and practices at the district level nationwide related to health education, physical education and activity, health services, mental health and social services, nutrition services, faculty and staff health promotion, healthy and safe school environment, and family and community involvement.

This document answers important questions about the study. For additional information about SHPPS, please visit the study web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/shpps/>.

Q. Why is the study being conducted?

A. The health problems of adolescents, many of which are caused by their own behavior, have attracted national attention. Little is known, however, about the current status of school health policies and practices that promote healthy behaviors and address the health needs of children and youth. Study participants will provide information that will be used at the national, state, and local levels to assess and shape the future of school health programs.

Q. From whom will the data be collected and how?

A. Data will be collected from district personnel who are responsible for school health policies and practices. District staff will be asked to complete web-based surveys.

Q. Will any data be collected from students?

A. No. Only district personnel will be involved.

Q. Do districts have to participate?

A. Participation in SHPPS is voluntary; however, the participation of each selected district is important to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the results. Districts are randomly selected cannot be replaced, and a high response rate is necessary to achieve valid national estimates of school health policies and practices.

Q. Will the responses of participants be treated in a confidential manner?

A. District information will be reported only in aggregate form. No districts or district staff will be named in any study reports.

Q. Who completes the state and district interviews?

A. The seven district questionnaires should be completed by whomever the district superintendent selects as most knowledgeable about each area.

Q. How is SHPPS coordinated at the district level?

A. It is preferable to have one contact person/liaison at a district. The contact person (designated by the district superintendent) will identify the most appropriate person to complete each online questionnaire.

Q. How long will it take to complete the online questionnaires?

A. The questionnaires vary in length depending on the topic area and range from 5 - 50 minutes.

Q. When will data for the study be collected?

A. District data collection will begin in October 2015 and will conclude before the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

Q. When will the results be available?

A. Results will be released by the fall of 2017 and will be available on the CDC's website (<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/SHPPS>).

Q. How many states, districts, and schools will be involved?

A. Nationwide, about 850 school districts will be invited to participate. However, school districts will not be selected in every state.

Q. Does the study have national support?

A. Yes. The survey is supported by many major national organizations interested in the health of youth, including: American Association for Health Education; American Association of School Administrators; American Medical Association; American Nurses Association; American School Health Association; Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; Council of Chief State School Officers; National Assembly on School-Based Health Care; National Association of School Nurses; National Association of School Nurses; National Association of State Boards of Education; National Association of State School Nurse Consultants; National Education Association; National Education Goals Panel; National Parent Teacher Association; National School Boards Association; National Middle School Association; President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sport; School Nutrition Association; Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.

[NOTE: THIS LIST WILL BE REVISED TO REFLECT ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSING THE STUDY IN 2016]

Q. Who is collecting the SHPPS data?

A. ICF International, Inc., a nationally recognized survey research firm in Calverton, Maryland, has received a contract from CDC to work with districts to conduct the study. ICF is working with CDC to select a sample of districts, develop the SHPPS questionnaires, develop a web-based system to collect district data, and process data.

Q. Where can additional information be obtained?

A. To obtain additional information about SHPP, contact CDC or ICF.

Inquiries to CDC should be directed to:
Nancy D. Brener, PhD
Division of Adolescent and School Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Mailstop K-33
4770 Buford Hwy NE
Atlanta, GA 30341
Phone: 770-488-6184
Fax: 770-488-6156
E-mail: nad1@cdc.gov

Inquiries to ICF should be directed to:
Alice Roberts
ICF International
11785 Beltsville Drive
Suite 300
Calverton, MD 20705
1-800-287-1815
Email: Alice.Roberts@icfi.com