

2025 and 2027 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Attachment Q1

Letter of Invitation to States for the national YRBS



[DATE]

[AGENCY HEAD SAL FIRST NAME LAST NAME]
[STATE AGENCY NAME]
[ADDRESS]
[CITY, ST ZIP]

Dear [TITLE] [LAST NAME]:

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will be conducting the [YEAR] national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) during spring 2025. The YRBS is an ongoing survey of students in grades 9 through 12 that assesses priority health-risk behaviors, including: (1) behaviors that result in unintentional injuries and violence, including suicidality (2) tobacco use, (3) alcohol and other drug use, (4) sexual behaviors that contribute to HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancies, (5) unhealthy dietary behaviors, and (6) physical inactivity. Developed in partnership with federal agencies, as well as numerous state and local departments of health and education, the YRBS is administered biennially during odd-numbered years. This schedule ensures the timely collection of data from students across the nation.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that [NUMBER] school(s) in [STATE] is/are among the approximately [#] schools randomly selected across the United States to participate in the [YEAR] national YRBS. Your support for this year's survey will help encourage the voluntary participation of the schools selected in your state. ***This packet is for informational purposes and no action is required on your part.***

Participation in the YRBS is easy and important, providing students in your state with an opportunity to be represented and share their voices anonymously and voluntarily. Monitoring the behaviors that put our youth at greatest risk for harm can provide essential information used to improve outcomes for students. YRBS data will provide valuable insight into the current and emerging trends of youth engagement in risk behaviors.

The CDC respects the educational mission of schools; for that reason, only a small number of classes in each school are asked to participate in the tablet-based survey. Depending on class configuration, typically one or two classes equating to about 25 to 50 students in each selected grade level, are chosen randomly.

Data collection will occur during January through May [YEAR]. Questionnaires will be administered via tablets by specially trained field staff during one normal class period. Survey administration procedures are designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. States, counties, cities, districts, schools, and students will not be identified in any published reports.

The YRBS has become the primary source of information on the most important health-risk behaviors of high school students in this country and is increasingly used by leading educators,

public health officials, lawmakers, doctors, community organizations, and other youth advocates to inform school and community programs, communications campaigns, and other efforts.

The YRBS questionnaire is used independently by many state and local departments of education and health to conduct their own surveys, which adds to the available data that can be used for this important work. Results from the national survey effectively serve as an index against which state- and local-level data can be compared.

In appreciation for their time and support, CDC will provide each participating school with a monetary award. There are no restrictions on how schools can use these funds, providing flexibility for initiative such as developing or implementing prevention curricula, acquiring educational materials, or enhancing overall resources to better serve students.

For your convenience, we have enclosed the list of schools selected in your state, the national YRBS questionnaire, a study fact sheet, and letters of support from national health and education organizations. Within one week, a representative from ICF, a nationally recognized survey research firm contracted by CDC to conduct the national YRBS, will contact you to confirm your receipt of this information and answer any questions you may have. If you have any immediate questions, please call Ms. Alice Roberts of ICF at (800) 675-9727. We are grateful for your support of the YRBS. We are grateful for your support of the YRBS, which helps schools and communities improve the health and wellbeing of our youth in your state and across the nation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen A. Ethier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" and the last name "Ethier" clearly distinguishable.

Kathleen A. Ethier, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Enclosures

cc: Nancy Brener, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Alice Roberts, ICF
Jill Trott, ICF
[STATE PRECONTACT, AGENCY NAME]
[RECRUITER], ICF