



Wyoming Department of Education

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Dear Youth Advocates:

Wyoming's young people are engaging in risky behaviors that demand a coordinated response from families, schools and communities. How do we know that our young people are engaging in behaviors that put them at risk for serious health and social problems? We asked by administering the 2007 Wyoming Youth Risk Behavior Survey, and that is what they told us.

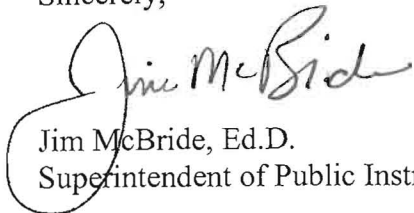
The Youth Risk Behavior Survey provides data on priority health risk behaviors in six categories. These behaviors contribute to unintentional injury and violence; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; teen pregnancy; unhealthy dietary behaviors; and physical inactivity.

It is important to note that the health risk behaviors reported in this document are preventable. These risk behaviors carry a significant cost to the youth themselves and to our society. These include both social costs such as the impact of violence and drug use, and a financial burden on our families and communities in the form of higher taxes, increased health care costs and diminished productivity.

It is evident that if students are to master Wyoming academic standards and reach their full potential as productive citizens, we must work to reduce risk behaviors and help students make positive life choices. Schools and government agencies cannot resolve these problems alone. To bring about a meaningful and lasting change, parents, communities, schools and local/state governments must form partnerships and work together for our youth.

It is my hope that the information contained in this report will be useful in planning a healthy future for Wyoming.

Sincerely,



Jim McBride, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction

THANK YOU FOR CALLING!

Highlights of the 2007 YRBS

MOST STUDENTS ARE ENGAGING IN POSITIVE HEALTH BEHAVIORS:

Intentional and Unintentional Injuries

- 76.8% of middle school students have never seriously thought about killing themselves
- 82.2% of high school students did not seriously consider attempting suicide during the past 12 months
- 84.4% of high school students did not drink and drive during the past 30 days
- 73.2% of high school students did not carry a weapon during the past 30 days
- 72.1% of high school students were not in a physical fight during the past 12 months

Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drugs

- 92.2% of middle school students did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days
- 89.3% of middle school students have never used marijuana
- 86.2% of middle school students have never used inhalants, such as paints or sprays to get high
- 94% of high school students have never used methamphetamines
- 92.3% of high school students have never used ecstasy

Sexual Behaviors

- 85.7% of middle school students have never had sexual intercourse
- 57.8% of middle school students were taught about AIDS/HIV in school
- 85.7% of high school students were taught about AIDS/HIV in school

Nutrition, Weight, and Physical Activity

- 75% of middle school students played on one or more sports teams
- Only 9.3% of high school students are overweight (at or above the 95th percentile for the Body Mass Index, by age and sex)
- 62.3% of middle school students were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on five more of the past seven days
- 79.9% of high school students drank 100% fruit juice one or more times during the past seven days

Highlights of the 2007 YRBS

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD:

Intentional and Unintentional Injuries

- Only 46.3% of middle school students always wore a seatbelt when riding in a car
- Only 39.4% of high school students always wore a seatbelt when riding in a car driven by someone else
- Only 8.7% of middle school students always wore a helmet when riding a bicycle (of students who rode a bicycle)
- Only 4.6% of high school students always wore a helmet when riding a bicycle (of students who rode a bicycle during the past 12 months)
- 35.7% of middle school students had ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol
- 57.7% of middle school students had ever been in a physical fight
- 29.4% of high school students rode one or more times during the past 30 days in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol

Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drugs

- 28.3% of middle school students have tried cigarette smoking
- 54.4% of high school students have tried cigarette smoking
- 38.4% of middle school students have ever had a drink of alcohol
- 42.4% of high school students have had a drink of alcohol during the past 30 days
- 34.5% of high school students have ever used marijuana

Sexual Behaviors

- 14.3% of middle school students ever had sexual intercourse
- 47.2% of high school students ever had sexual intercourse
- 63.1% of high school students used a condom at last sexual intercourse (of those who had had sexual intercourse during the past three months)
- 25% of high school students drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse (of those who had had sexual intercourse during the past three months)

Nutrition, Weight, and Physical Activity

- 40.2% of high school students are trying to lose weight, although only 9.3% are overweight based on the Body Mass Index
- Only 17.3% of high school students ate five or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day during the last seven days
- Only 17.4% of high school students drank three or more glasses of milk per day during the last seven days
- 26.3% of middle school students watched three or more hours of TV per day on an average school day
- 20.8% of high school students watched three or more hours of TV per day on an average school day