



Ohio Youth Survey Information Booklet

The Ohio Youth Survey

Survey Pilot

The Ohio Youth Survey (OYS) 10 County Pilot is a Family and Children First Cabinet-Approved, collaborative effort of the Interagency Prevention Partnership (IPP) and Ohio's Expert Prevention Panel (EPP) to be administered with the support of county boards, councils and schools.

Purpose of the Survey

The purpose of the Ohio Youth Survey is to:

1. Provide a method to collect data and information that can only be captured through surveying youth
2. Meet the shared state and federal data and information needs of the Interagency Prevention Partnership
3. Support county statutory needs assessment requirements
4. Provide county level youth data and information to support needs assessment activities to facilitate planning and investment in prevention programming and services
5. Provide baseline data and information for ongoing needs assessment and performance management
6. To educate community, county and state stakeholders of the potential prevention needs of youth in grades 6-12

History of Survey Development

Ohio is committed to the well-being of its children and families. This commitment is demonstrated through the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council that have articulated Ohio's effort to achieve the following outcomes:

- Expectant Parents and Newborns Thrive
- Infants and Toddlers thrive
- Children are Ready for School
- Children and Youth Succeed in School
- Children and Youth Engage in Healthy Behaviors
- Youth Successfully Transition into Adulthood

The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services established a State Incentive Grant Steering Committee convening representatives from the Governor's Office of Family and Children First and the Cabinet Departments of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Education, Health, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and Youth Services as well as the Department of Public Safety, the Office of the Attorney General and the Drug Enforcement Agency. The steering committee became the Interagency Prevention Partnership (IPP) to reflect the commitment of the member agencies to continue the work of building infrastructure and capacity in Ohio's prevention system. The partnership was charged to provide recommendations to the Governor for a "*Shared State Prevention Framework*" that would establish constants for prevention that would provide for greater consistency and coordination of state resources in meeting community prevention and early intervention needs.

Through the IPP, the state developed a "*Shared State Agency Prevention Framework*" that sets forth a shared: 1) vision, 2) mission, 3) definition, and 4) theoretical framework for prevention services across State agencies. Contained in this document are 17 strategies identified by the IPP as guidelines for an effective and efficient prevention system that meets community prevention and early intervention needs to ensure the well being of all Ohioans. Three of these strategies **directly** focused on data collection and evaluation of prevention services. In response to the strategies, the IPP elicited the expertise of the Expert Prevention Panel (EPP). Made up of experts and epidemiologists from seven Ohio universities, the Ohio Department of Health and staff from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) Central Center for Application of Prevention Technologies (CCAPT) the Expert Prevention Panel (EPP) serves as Ohio's State Epidemiological Outcome Workgroup (SEOW) and its mission is to ensure the data collected are utilized to make data-driven decisions regarding prevention services in Ohio through the development of state and county profiles. The Center for Learning Excellence at The Ohio State University serves as administrative staff for the IPP and the Expert Panel. The EPP provides technical oversight and expertise regarding assessment, research and evaluation. These seven universities (University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, University of Cincinnati, Miami University,

The Ohio State University, Ohio University, and Wright State University) serve a diverse population of students from every race and ethnicity represented in Ohio's population.

Administration of Survey

The OYS will be implemented through a partnership between the Local ADAMH/ADAS Boards, the Family and Children First Councils and the Schools. The survey is web based and conducted through SmartTrack™, an Internet-based data collection, needs assessment, and evaluation tool.

The web based Ohio Youth Survey is being offered through SmartTrack™ as a more efficient and accurate alternative to the current slate of pencil and paper assessments on student substance abuse and other risk and protective factors. Students in grades 6-12 in ten Ohio Counties will have the opportunity to answer questions about safety and violence, physical activity and diet, alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, and related risk and protective factors.

The OYS is approximately 100 questions in length and most students will be able to take the survey in an average of 25-30 minutes. A student cannot easily explore the internet while taking the survey because the survey tool has been programmed with security features that limit browsing during the survey.

All administration sites are provided with marketing tools, a Proctor User Guide, and staff trained in how to administer the web based survey. After the data is compiled from the survey questionnaires each administration site is also trained on how to access their own data and provided with an on-site demonstration and presentation of the data.

County level participation documents were developed for state, local and school partnerships that include: a matrix of survey implementation roles and responsibilities (*See Attachment 1*), OYS County Survey Plan (*See Attachment 2*); and an Intent to Participate in OYS Survey (*See Attachment 3*).

As a last resort, Surveys can be taken by pencil/paper format. Once

the surveys are gathered and scanned, the data is then downloaded and reporting capabilities are immediately available. Advance notice of county schools to use pencil/paper is necessary as well as a distribution/administration plan between the county partners and schools.

Computer Equipment & Support

SmartTrack™ provides technical support through a toll-free hotline, and the server is maintained by on-site support staff. SmartTrack™ requires an active Internet connection and most issues can be resolved online so a tremendous need for on-site technical support is not anticipated. At a minimum, an Internet connection via a LAN (T1, etc.) is required or with an individual modem (56kbs) connected to an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

For PC users: A PC configured to run Windows 95 or greater is needed. Microsoft Internet Explorer™ is available free from Microsoft with version 5.2 or greater. The memory requirements are the same as with most Windows applications: 16MB RAM will work; 32-64 MB is excellent if few tasks are running; and 72-144 MB is best for a user who multitasks heavily.

For Macintosh users: A Macintosh configured to run Mac OS 9 or greater with Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.01 (available free from Microsoft) or greater is required.

Confidentiality/Parental Consent

Please refer to the consent policy in place for your school. However, it is important to know that the Ohio Youth Survey is a voluntary participation survey that maintains the anonymity of its participants. Therefore, most schools would only require passive parental consent. Passive parental consent requires the school to keep a copy of the survey available for parental inspection. Further, schools must also make a reasonable attempt (mail outs or information sent home w/students, etc.) to inform parents of a forthcoming survey and give those parents time to respond in the negative if they do not wish their

child to participate. Passive consent implies that, if no response is received from a parent, their approval can be assumed.

All student responses are anonymous. On all surveys there are no identification codes other than school, county, and state. Further, only the race, gender, and grade level of the student is captured. Once a student submits her answers, they are automatically tabulated with other students. An anomaly would be a situation in which a school had only one student (or very few) of a certain gender/race/grade taking the assessment. In this instance, SmartTrack™ restricts such student's survey responses from the database. Ohio has also selected a demographic filter interval rate of 5 so that surveys cannot be detected by students of a specific demographic with less than 5 participants.

Utilization of Results

The OYS results provide important information about young people in Ohio. Schools and county partners will be able to use this information for planning, reporting and guiding policy and programs that serve youth.

Results will be immediately available to schools, and research has shown that computer surveys, by increasing students' feeling of anonymity, render higher, more accurate self-reporting than pencil/paper surveys. Survey data are tabulated instantly. Immediately following the survey, administrators can access data in raw data format, snapshot reports, or customized reports.

SmartTrack™ was designed to generate reports that are easily understood and usable. It is not necessary to know a lot about statistics to administer the survey or review the results. The program utilizing appropriate statistical analysis can generate detailed reports.

Data can be cross-tabulated in literally hundreds of ways. You can look at data and determine if there is a need to implement universal, selective or indicated programs to address school/student problems. The Custom Report Wizard, allows any survey item to be used as either a population filter or query with unlimited multiples of each.

The formatting for report output pages can be copied directly into Excel. The individual fields in the report will drop into individual cells in Excel. This allows users to format their totals (numeric or percentage) to meet their needs, including using the charting capabilities of Excel.