



Q. Does the study have national support?

A. Yes. The following organizations have endorsed the study:

- American Association for Health Education*
- American Association of School Administrators*
- American Medical Association*
- American Nurses Association*
- American School Food Service 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 State Boards of Education*
- National Association of State School Nurse Consultants*
- National Education Association*
- National Education Goals Panel*
- National Middle School Association*
- National Parent Teacher Association*
- National School Boards Association*
- President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sport*
- Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation*

Q. Who is collecting the SHPPS 2000 data?

A. Research Triangle Institute (RTI), a non-profit research company in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, has received a contract from CDC to work with states, districts, and schools to conduct the study. RTI is working with CDC to select a sample of districts and schools; develop the SHPPS questionnaires; arrange and conduct visits to schools; and analyze data.

Q. Where can additional information be obtained?

A. To obtain additional information about SHPPS 2000, contact CDC or RTI. Inquiries to CDC should be directed to:

Laura Kann, Ph.D., Chief
Surveillance Research Section
Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention
and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Highway, NE, MS-K33
Atlanta, GA 30341-3724
770/488-3202
LKK1@cdc.gov

Inquiries to RTI should be directed to:

Judy Thorne, Ph.D., Project Director
Center for Research in Education
Research Triangle Institute
3040 Cornwallis Road
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
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The Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is conducting a national survey of school health policies and programs.

SHPPS 2000 will describe school policies and programs at the state, district, school, and classroom levels nationwide related to health education, physical education and activity, health services, mental health and social services, food service, faculty and staff health promotion, school policy and environment, and family and community involvement.

This brochure answers important questions about the study. Another source of information about the study is the SHPPS 2000 site on the world wide web: www.rti.org/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. However, little is known about the current status of school health programs designed to 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 state, district, school, and classroom personnel who are responsible for school health policies and programs. State and district staff will be asked to complete paper-and-pencil questionnaires by mail or, if they prefer, by telephone. School staff will be interviewed at their schools by specially trained interviewers.
- Q. Will any data be collected from students?**
 A. No. Interviews will be conducted only with school faculty and staff.
- Q. Do states, school districts, schools, or school staff have to participate?**
 A. Participation in SHPPS 2000 is entirely voluntary, but the participation of every state and every sampled district and school is important to ensure the completeness and accuracy of results. Development of valid national estimates of school health policies and programs requires a high response rate. No one selected to participate can be replaced.
- Q. Will the responses of participants be kept confidential?**
 A. District, school, and classroom information will be reported only in aggregate form. No districts, schools, or school staff will be named in any study reports. However, differences in state-level school health policies and programs will be described state by state.
- Q. Who completes the state and district questionnaires?**
 A. The seven state questionnaires should be completed by whomever the Chief State School Officer designates as most knowledgeable about each of the topic areas. Similarly, the seven district questionnaires should be completed by whomever the district superintendent selects as most knowledgeable about each area.
- Q. Who will be interviewed at the school level?**
 A. The principal will be asked to identify the most knowledgeable person to report on each of the study components. In addition, several teachers of health education and physical education will be asked to take part in interviews on classroom practices.
- Q. How is SHPPS 2000 coordinated at the state, district, and school levels?**
 A. It is preferable to have one contact person at each level. At the state and district levels, the contact person (designated by the Chief State School Officer or district superintendent) will identify the most appropriate person to complete each questionnaire. Questionnaires will be sent to these people through the contact person. At the school level, the principal or a contact person will identify the appropriate staff to be interviewed.
- Q. How long will it take to complete the questionnaires?**
 A. All questionnaires will take 45 minutes to one hour to complete.
- Q. When will data for the study be collected?**
 A. State and district questionnaires will be mailed in January 2000. Data collection in the schools will occur from January through June 2000. A suitable time for school interviews will be identified by each school's principal.
- Q. When will the results be available?**
 A. Results will be released by the fall of 2001. All study participants can receive a copy of the results.
- Q. Is the study limited to certain grade levels or schools?**
 A. No. Information will be collected on elementary, middle/junior high, and senior high school policies and programs in both public and private schools.
- Q. How many states, districts, and schools will be involved?**
 A. All 50 state education agencies and the District of Columbia will be invited to participate. However, districts and schools will not be selected in every state. Nationwide, about 750 districts and 1400 schools will be invited to participate.