

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) was developed in 1989 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor priority health-risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of mortality, morbidity, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. The YRBSS monitors six categories of behaviors: (1) behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence; (2) tobacco use; (3) alcohol and other drug use; (4) sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, including HIV infection; (5) dietary behaviors; and (6) physical activity.

The YRBSS consists of national, state, and local school-based surveys of representative samples of 9th through 12th grade students, a national household-based survey of 12- through 21-year-olds, a national mail survey of college students, and other surveys of special populations of young people. The state and local surveys are conducted by state and local education and health agencies as part of cooperative agreement activities with the Division of Adolescent and School Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, CDC. The national surveys are conducted by CDC.

Data from the YRBSS are being used to (1) monitor progress in achieving 16 National Health Objectives for the year 2010 and three Leading Health Indicators, (2) monitor progress in achieving measures of success for the American Cancer Society's school health initiative, (3) focus school health education teacher training and instructional programs, and (4) support school health programs nationwide.

For more information about the YRBSS, visit the YRBSS Web site at <http://www.cdc.nccdphp/dash/yrbss>