

*Oregon Health Authority is conducting the Student Wellness Survey in
 February 1st – April 8, 2016.*

There are two state-wide adolescent health surveys conducted in Oregon—the Student Wellness Survey and the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey. The surveys are administered in alternate years. The Oregon Health Authority is conducting the Student Wellness Survey in February 1st – April 8th, 2016. The next Oregon Healthy Teens Survey will take place in Spring 2017. Both surveys provide important data to fully understand and help the youth of Oregon. The surveys have some over-lapping questions, to better track behavior patterns over time, but a large portion of each survey is unique. That is why both surveys are important and schools and youth should, if able, participate in both surveys whenever possible.

What is the focus of the Student Wellness Survey?

The Student Wellness Survey was introduced in 2010 to assess school climate and the behavioral health of Oregon youth in grades six, eight and eleven. School climate shows the degree to which students feel they belong, are valued and are physically and emotionally safe at school. The behavioral health focus assesses risk and protective factors that influence student success. There are two versions of the survey, one for middle schools and a slightly longer survey for high schools.

Grade 6 & 8	Grade 11	Topics on the Student Wellness Survey
✓	✓	Student mobility--how often youth move or change schools
✓	✓	Commitment to school including school performance, school attendance, and how important they think school is for their future
✓	✓	Opportunities for participation in class and other school activities
✓	✓	Meaningful relationships with teachers, school staff and other students
✓	✓	Witnessing or perpetrating harassment, bullying or fighting in the school environment
✓	✓	Antisocial behavior such as carrying weapons, selling drugs, or being drunk at school
✓	✓	Positive youth development
✓	✓	Psychological stress, depression and suicide ideation
	✓	Problem gambling and substance use (primarily patterns of alcohol, tobacco and Marijuana, synthetic drug use, accessibility, perceived risk of harm and parent attitudes about use)
	✓	How youth get alcohol, tobacco and marijuana and lifetime use of illicit drugs
	✓	Height, weight, body image and unhealthy eating behaviors

Why should a district participate in the Student Wellness Survey?

- In 2010 most school districts participated (82%) providing a robust statistical comparison for schools, districts and counties. In 2012 the participation rate increased by 10% and in 2014 the participation rate increased by 6%.
- Results from this survey provide the backbone for data driven decisions. Many schools and communities use the results for planning purposes, to track student behavior changes, report outcomes for grants and to apply for funding for future prevention efforts.

Who can participate?

- *All* Oregon public, alternative, charter and private schools with students in grades 6, 8 and 11 are invited to participate at no charge to schools. Schools are encouraged to survey all eligible students, but large schools may opt to survey a sample of their youth.

What will the participating district and school receive?

- Participating districts and schools that survey 10 or more students in a grade will receive an electronic Student Wellness Survey report. Each report is organized into chapters that highlight specific topics. Chapters provide: background information about the topic, summary data tables and graphs. Reports will also compare results in multiple years and illustrate trends in substance use and behavioral health of students. The appendices at the end of the report include data tables for each survey item, and copies of the 2016 surveys.

When will the survey results be available?

- Confidential district- and school-level reports will be issued to School Superintendents in June 2016. The preliminary report provides all of the standard tables and graphs that are in the final report but will not yet contain the state-level comparisons.
- Final reports will be ready in Fall 2016. Data tables in the final reports include state and local results for all three grades. This makes it easy to compare local results to those of the state and to see the differences among 6th, 8th, and 11th grade students.

What is the cost of the surveys?

- *All* 6th, 8th, and 11th grade students can be surveyed at no charge to schools. Public, private, charter and alternative schools are encouraged to participate.

How long are the surveys and how are they administered?

- It takes students 45 minutes or less to complete the Student Wellness Survey. School districts can choose to use the on-line survey or paper-and-pencil.

Are the participants anonymous?

- The survey is voluntary and individual survey responses are completely anonymous. Students are not asked to write their name or any identifying information on their survey.

What is new?

- New to the 2016 SWS school report will be prior years comparison data. For those schools/districts and counties that participated in 2012 and 2014, the report will illustrate comparisons of past three year data such as 30 day use for alcohol, marijuana, and smoking, as well as perceived risk of use, ease of ATOD access, depression, school safety and truancy.
- In 2014 there was a 6% increase in participation from 2012 and we encourage all schools to participate in 2016 to continue gathering trend data for the purposes of school improvement.

How can I get more information?

- Contact: **Rusha Grinstead, MS, MPH**, Office of Health Analytics, OHA at 503-602-9214 or rusha.grinstead@state.or.us. Additional information can be found on the Student Wellness Survey web site at: <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/amh/pages/student-wellness/index.aspx>