**Comparing the Montana Prevention Needs Assessment Survey and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey**

There have been many questions regarding two Montana adolescent health surveys. These surveys are the Montana Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) survey conducted by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) conducted by the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI). Each department’s goal is to combine the information from these surveys to increase the knowledge and data available for comprehensive planning on issues that affect Montana’s youth. Youth Connections has created this comparison sheet to clarify the differences and similarities between these surveys.

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| **Prevention Needs Assessment Survey (PNA)** | **Youth Risk Behavior**  **Survey (YRBS)** |
| **What is the Focus of the Surveys?** | |
| PNA focus:   * Risky behaviors associated with the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, such as violence and delinquency, and violence - that can result in injury and/or impede positive development among our youth. * Risk and Protective Factors, which are attitudes and opinions research has shown to be highly correlated with these risky behaviors. * Student attitudes, beliefs and perceptions that are related to substance use and problem behaviors. * Suicidal behaviors, depressive symptoms. | YRBS focus:   * The use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. * Safety behaviors, including seatbelt use and bicycle helmet use. * Violent behaviors. * Suicidal behaviors. * Sexual risk-taking behaviors. * Nutrition and physical activity related behaviors. |
| **Who are the Participants in the Surveys?** | |
| **ALL** 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students in each Montana school district will be asked to participate in the PNA survey. The PNA attempts to have 100% student participation of the grades identified. (and offers inclusion for 7th, 9th and 11th graders as well) | A random **SAMPLE** of approximately 10% of 7th through 12th graders participate in the statewide survey.  High school and middle school principals can also elect to survey **all** students in their school if they want to receive high school level data. OPI attempts to have 100% participation of all students in grades 7-12 in all Montana high schools and middle schools for the local level YRBS option. |

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| **Are the Participants Anonymous?** | |
| Yes, completely. Students are not asked any identifying information. Before survey administration, teachers are asked to arrange students in the classroom so that their responses cannot be seen by the teacher administering the survey or by any other students. At the end of the class period survey booklets are immediately gathered and placed in a sealed envelope or box. If the survey is administered on-line, once a student enters their responses, the survey is then submitted and the administrator does not have access to the survey. | Yes, completely. Individual survey responses are completely anonymous. Students will not be asked to write their name or any identifying information on their survey booklet. Before survey administration, teachers are asked to arrange students in the classroom so that their responses cannot be seen by the teacher administering the survey or by any peer of the student. At the end of the class period, survey booklets will be immediately gathered and placed in a sealed envelope or box. |
| **What type of District level participation is desired for the surveys?** | |
| The goal of Montana DPHHS is to obtain 100% participation of schools and school districts that serve 8th, 10th and 12th grade students. | Montana OPI encourages all school districts to support the survey, and encourages 100% participation from all schools chosen for the statewide high school & middle school samples. |
| **What is the Cost of the Surveys?** | |
| There is no cost to the community or school districts for the PNA survey. DPHHS funds the survey and reports. School districts, where feasible, will be given a data report that describes the survey responses for the district. Schools may also request a report with data specific to their school for no cost. County level reports are available to Prevention Specialists. School specific data is only accessible through the individual schools and/or administration. | There is no cost to the community or the school districts for the YRBS. OPI funds this survey through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Adolescent and School Health. Data reports are created and made available at no additional cost. |
| **What is the Reliability of the Surveys?** | |
| The PNA survey is based upon a standardized questionnaire developed by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP). Based on several studies, the PNA questions have been determined to produce valid and reliable measures of problem behaviors, risk, and protective factors. | The YRBS was created by people from over 100 state and local health and education agencies and 19 federal agencies.  The CDC has conducted several research studies assessing the reliability and validity of the YRBS. These studies demonstrate that the majority of YRBS items have substantial reliability and validity. YRBS results also tend to closely match reported behaviors from other school-based surveys of students. |
| **How Long are the Surveys?** | |
| The PNA survey takes approximately 45 minutes to administer (as a paper survey and an electronic version becomes available in 2020 which should be faster). | The YRBS takes approximately 45 minutes to administer. |
| **What is the Yearly Timeframe of the Surveys?** | |
| The PNA survey is administered every even-numbered year. The next survey will be conducted in the spring semester of 2020. | The YRBS is administered every odd-numbered year. The last survey was conducted in spring 2019 and the next survey will be conducted in 2021. |