



Tobacco Free SWPA

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Executive Coalition Members:

Armstrong/Indiana Drug and Alcohol Commission, Beaver County Behavioral Health, Butler County MH/MR/D&A Programs, Alternative Community Resource Program, Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Greene County Human Services, Somerset Health Services, Washington County Health Partners, Inc., Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission

Fact Sheet

Pennsylvania Youth Tobacco Survey

The Pennsylvania Youth Tobacco Survey is a valuable surveillance and evaluation tool. The biennial survey provides information on tobacco use behaviors and attitudes among middle and high school students throughout the United States. The first Youth Tobacco Survey was conducted approximately eight years ago to establish baseline information for grades 6 through 12.

The Youth Tobacco Survey is designed to evaluate prevalence of tobacco use; knowledge and attitudes; media and advertising receptivity; access to tobacco products; curriculum; exposure to secondhand smoke; and attitudes toward cessation and readiness to quit.

In addition to providing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health with valuable information, there are many benefits to school districts that are selected to participate. By agreeing to participate (whether or not your school is selected), your school will qualify to receive free tobacco prevention and cessation education programs in your schools, as well as assistance with tobacco-free policy development.

Survey Benefits

- If selected, your school will receive the survey results from the classes that were sampled. (Please know that this survey is not designed to estimate tobacco use in any particular school. The numbers are simply the results from the classes sampled, reflecting the tobacco experiences of the students participating. It is not representative of your school at large.)
- If selected, your school will play an important role in gathering data that can be weighted to make inferences for PA students in all public and private middle and high schools. This data helps decision-makers know if tobacco control programs are working and provides evidence to continue funding tobacco control prevention and cessation school programs.

Survey Details

- Schools are selected randomly by the CDC to participate.
- Representative classes from each grade are surveyed.
- Only one scheduled block of class time is needed.
- We bring all the necessary staff to administer the survey.
- There is no equipment needed. We bring all necessary supplies!
- The survey responses are confidential. At no time will anyone know your school's responses.
- No names are written on the surveys. The students' answers are anonymous.

For more information on school programs, visit www.tobaccofreeswpa.org, which has links and contact information for your county.