

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
2011 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY RESULTS  
Executive Summary**

In the spring of 2011, the Nevada Department of Education conducted its tenth statewide administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) as part of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. The CDC uses this epidemiological surveillance system to measure the prevalence of the following six priority health and safety behaviors that put youth at risk for significant health and social problems and to assess how these risk behaviors change over time:

- behaviors that result in unintentional or intentional injuries
- tobacco use
- alcohol and other drug use
- sexual behaviors that result in HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and unintended pregnancies
- dietary behaviors
- physical inactivity

The 2011 administration was the sixth in which the Nevada survey document included selected questions from the Nevada Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Student Survey along with core YRBS questions and also the sixth time that middle school students were surveyed using an age-appropriate document similar to the high school questionnaire. Survey administration procedures were designed to help protect the privacy and confidentiality of all participating students. Student participation was voluntary, and parent permission was obtained.

**Sample Description**

All regular public schools containing grades 6, 7, or 8 were included in the middle school sample, and schools containing grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 were included in the high school sample. Systematic equal probability sampling with a random start was used to select classes from each school that participated in the survey. The sampling frame for each school included all second period classes.

Response rates for each level of the survey were as follows:

	<u>Middle School Level</u>	<u>High School Level</u>
Schools:	43 of the 114 sampled schools participated = 38%	58 of the 95 sample schools participated = 61%
Students:	837 of the sampled students submitted usable surveys = 76%	2,318 of the 3,573 sampled students submitted usable surveys = 65%
Overall:	38% x 76% = 29%*	61% x 65% = 40%*

In probability sampling, overall response rates of 60 percent or more are necessary to associate a weight with each questionnaire to reflect the likelihood of sampling each student and to reduce bias by compensating for differing patterns of nonresponse.

The low overall response rates at both the middle school (28%) and high school (40%) levels precluded the weighting of the data at either the middle school or high school level this year. Therefore, the unweighted results provide a description only of the priority health-risk behaviors of the survey participants and cannot be generalized to other students.

## Implications for Classroom Teachers

While it is not appropriate to use the unweighted data obtained from the 2011 administration of the Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey to extend the trend analyses from previous years, the data do provide a snapshot of the health-risk behaviors of selected youth from the following 10 Nevada school districts:

Carson	Clark	Douglas	Elko	Humboldt
Lincoln	Lyon	Mineral	Pershing	Washoe

Local school districts are able to prioritize their classroom messages and dispel myths, misconceptions, and perceived norms by comparing their district-specific data with that from the state sample.

Surveys in the state sample are processed and analyzed by Westat Research Corporation, in Rockville, Maryland, under a contract from the CDC. Local district results are processed and analyzed by Penelope Soule, Nevada Statistical Contractor.

The 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey report includes the following sections that have been a part of the report in past years:

- Introduction (including demographic characteristics of participants)
- Positive and negative highlights of the 2011 survey findings
- Graphs showing the response by various demographic subgroups to the individual survey items in the six priority risk areas listed above
- A detailed table showing the number and percentage of students who selected each response to each survey item

Trend analyses and information regarding the co-occurrence patterns of at-risk behaviors and the protective nature of resiliency factors are no longer included, since they rely on weighted data.