

July 20, 2009

Passive Parental Permission Form

Your child's school is taking part in the 2009 Youth Tobacco Survey. This survey is sponsored by the Department of Health. The survey will ask about the tobacco behaviors of 6th through 12th grade students. The survey will ask about questions related to tobacco on: prevalence (cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, and pipes); knowledge and attitudes; cessation; environmental tobacco smoke; media and advertising; minors' access; and school curriculum.

Students will be asked to fill out a survey in their 2nd period class. The survey takes about 35 minutes to complete.

Doing this paper and pencil survey will cause little or no risk to your child. The only potential risk is that some students might find certain questions to be sensitive. The survey has been designed to protect your child's privacy. Students will not put their names on the survey. Also, no school or student will ever be mentioned by name in a report of the results. The information from each child's survey will be pooled together with other children's responses. This combined information will be used to set policy priorities and direct funding locally and nationally. Nationally, the combined information will be used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This survey is supported by more than 100 state and local health and education agencies. While your child will have no immediate benefit as an outcome of taking part in the survey, the results of the survey will help your child and other children in the future, by helping DOH and others determine the most effective way to direct resources

Please read the section below and check the box **only if you do not want** your child to take part in the survey. If you check the box "no" below, sign this form and return it to the school within 7 days. Please see the other side of this form for more facts about the survey. If your child's teacher or principal cannot answer your questions about the survey, call the Department of Health's Tobacco Control Program at (202) 442-5433. Thank you.

Child's name: _____

Grade: _____

I have read this form and know what the survey is about.

[] My child may **not** take part in this survey.

Parent's Signature: _____

Youth Tobacco Survey Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Why is the survey being done?

The Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) is designed to enhance our states capacity to design, implement, and evaluate the youth component of our Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The YTS will provide data for students in grades 6-12 with respect to: prevalence of tobacco use (cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, and pipes), exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), minors' access and enforcement, knowledge and attitudes, media and advertising, school curriculum, and tobacco use cessation.

We already have the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data on smoking. Why do we also need the kind of data provided by the YTS? Is this necessary?

There are a number of distinctions between the YTS and the YRBS: 1) YRBS covers grades 9-12. The YTS covers grades 6-12. The data collected from the nine states that previously conducted the YTS show high levels of tobacco use for students in grades 6-8. 2) The YTS includes 85 tobacco related questions; the YRBS has only 12. The additional questions in the YTS cover prevalence, media and advertising, cessation, knowledge and attitudes, environmental tobacco use, school curriculum, enforcement and minors' access. All of this information is needed for surveillance and evaluation of a Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.

What is the sample size?

Approximately 3,000 students will be selected to participate in the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS).

How are participating schools and classes selected?

Schools are selected by a sampling approach associated with the enrollment size. Classes are selected to participate from each selected school

What grades are included?

The YTS will be administered to students in grades 6 through 12.

How long does it take to fill out the questionnaire? Is there some sort of physical test?

One class period is needed for administration of the self-administered questionnaire. It takes approximately 10 minutes for the survey administrator to distribute survey materials and read directions to the students. It then takes approximately 35 minutes for students to record their responses. No physical test or exam is involved.

Is student participation anonymous? How is student privacy protected?

Survey administration procedures are designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. Students submit an optically scannable answer sheet, containing no personal identifiers, which are then placed in a large box or large envelope. Published reports do not include names of participating counties, cities, school districts, schools, or students.

Is this survey voluntary? What if school districts, schools, or students do not choose to participate?

Participation in the YTS is voluntary. However, to develop accurate baseline national estimates of tobacco use and intent to use tobacco among adolescents, participation rates must be high. Selected schools and students cannot be replaced. The goal is to achieve 90 to 95 percent participation by selected schools and students.

Where can additional information be obtained?

To obtain additional information about the YTS, contact Cheryl Eason, Public Health Advisor, Tobacco Control Program on (202) 442-5433.