

10 WAYS



Rhode Island YRBS Data Are Used To Support Our Youth's Well-Being

Student Voice

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The YRBS provides valuable information for administrators, parents, schools, and communities to support healthy behaviors based on what teens are telling us about their well-being. Using YRBS data, we can look at a range of risk behaviors as reported by Rhode Island youth.

Academics And Health Are Connected

Research supports the positive association between youth well-being and academic achievement. By administering the YRBS, your school contributes to the assessment of Rhode Island's health needs, which in turn strengthens the capacity of programs that improve the emotional health and physical well-being of Rhode Island students. It also enhances our understanding of social and emotional learning competencies. Social and Emotional Learning skills are not only important for academic achievement and helping students avoid risky behaviors. YRBS data can be utilized to complement Surveyworks data to in strengthen students' skills to better manage their feelings, build healthy relationships, and navigate social environments.

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Connects To The Rhode Island Department Of Education's Strategic Plan Values

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In Rhode Island's education system, Rhode Islanders value safe, healthy, and nurturing learning environments. Rhode Island schools can use YRBS data to expand and strengthen engaged, collaborative, respectful, and inclusive school spaces that support student needs.

Highlights Positive Norms

Most RI students are making good choices and not engaging in risky behaviors. YRBS results can help promote positive efforts, put to rest unwarranted fears, and help educators with normative health education efforts.

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Shapes School Health Policies And Curricula

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RI YRBS results are shared with School Health and Wellness Advisory Committees at the state and local level to help develop and implement health policies and health curricula across the state that meet the needs of our students.

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Improves Community Involvement/Advocacy

Data from YRBS can inform policy changes in local communities. Central Falls used state YRBS e-cigarette data to pass the first local ordinance in Rhode Island restricting tobacco retailer proximity to schools and raising the tobacco sales age from 18 to 21. By participating, your students' responses can contribute to positive changes in your community.

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Prioritizes Statewide Prevention And Promotion Program Initiatives

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Since risk behaviors can vary over time, YRBS data help identify the issues that are most problematic. Results assist local and state officials working to identify needs and focus youth prevention activities on tobacco, marijuana, opioids, alcohol, or other drugs.

Sparks Conversations With Families

YRBS data can be shared with parents and families through fact sheets, infographics, and posters. Access to the data from YRBS presents an opportunity for families to start a conversation about healthy choices with their children.

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Identifies Trends

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What percent of Rhode Island middle school students ever used an e-cigarette? How often are Rhode Island high school students experiencing hunger because there is not enough food at home? Which Rhode Island students are most likely to report feelings of sadness or hopelessness? Having students participate in the YRBS helps answer these questions and understand if trends are increasing or decreasing statewide. It also allows us to compare state trends to national results.

YRBS Provides Statewide Data

Schools are scientifically selected to participate so that data collected are representative of all Rhode Island students. High statewide participation ensures that Rhode Island continues to receive national and regional opportunities to apply for funds and make investments in our youth. Students contribute to data that reflect the entire Rhode Island high school or middle school population. District-specific participation or results are not made public.

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