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**S H A R P**  
Student Health And Risk Prevention  
Surveillance System

Sponsored by:



Nebraska Department of Education

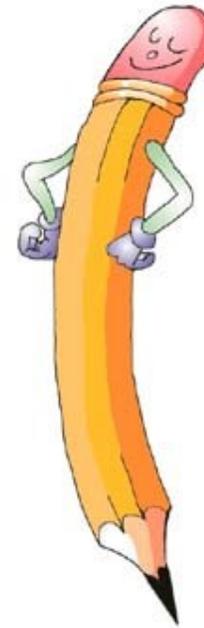


Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Data management by:



Bureau of Sociological Research  
PO Box 880325  
Lincoln NE 68588-0325  
<http://bosr.unl.edu/sharp>



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**S**tudent  
**H**Health  
**A**And  
**R**Risk  
**P**Prevention  
Surveillance System

## 2016 Fact Book

A student health survey project sponsored by:

Nebraska Department of Education  
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

<http://bosr.unl.edu/sharp>

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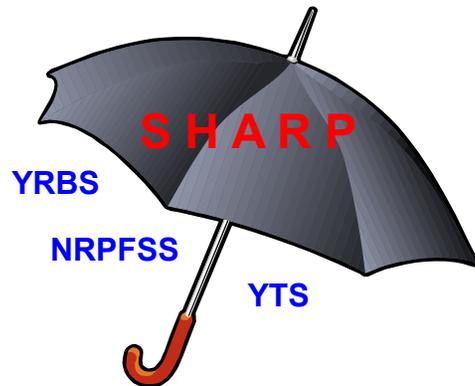
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The administrations of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS), and the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFS) were combined in 2010 to make up the Student Health and Risk Prevention (**SHARP**) Surveillance System.

**SHARP** is the umbrella encompassing the **ONLY three student health surveys endorsed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS).**



### SHARP

This coordinated approach of **SHARP** was created in 2009 to address the concerns of school administrators and NDE and NDHHS officials about the number of interruptions in school schedules, the preference shown by school administrators for fall data collection, a need to decrease confusion and competition among the surveys, and a need to improve participation in all three surveys. The 2010 administration was the first under the umbrella of **SHARP**. This approach allows schools the opportunity to administer multiple surveys in one day.

**SHARP** will be administered during September and October of 2016.

### SHARP Administration Approach

The survey administration process for 2016 will be similar to the process used in 2014. The YRBS and YTS state samples will be drawn so that no school is selected for both. Survey administration will be scheduled in the way that is most convenient for each school recognizing that most schools will prefer to limit administration to one day. The YRBS and the YTS will be given to grades 9-12, and the NRPFS will be available to students in 8th, 10th, and 12th grade.

### Survey Eligibility

The CDC will randomly select schools from across the state for the YRBS and the YTS. Eighty-two public high schools will be selected for the YRBS, and sixty public high schools will be selected for the YTS. Subsequently, the CDC will randomly select classrooms within each of these schools. All schools with grades 8, 10, and/or 12 are eligible to participate in the NRPFS.

### Management by BOSR

The Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be coordinating the administration of SHARP for NDE and NDHHS.

### Contacts

All eligible Nebraska schools will be contacted by a BOSR staff member to ask permission to survey students this fall. As always, survey participation is voluntary and confidentiality is guaranteed.

### More Information

You can visit <http://bosr.unl.edu/sharp> to learn more about the surveys, view the survey questionnaires, and read documentation related to commonly asked questions regarding the surveys. For additional information, please contact Kim Meiergerd, SHARP Project Manager, at 402-472-3692 or e-mail Kim Meiergerd at [kmeiergerd2@unl.edu](mailto:kmeiergerd2@unl.edu), and she will be happy to assist you.

All three surveys continue to see improvements with the **SHARP** approach!

### YRBS

The YRBS response rate has increased from **49%** in **2009** to **62%** in **2014**. Prior to 2010, only four of the ten YRBS administrations in Nebraska had a response rate of 60% or higher.

### YTS

The **2014** YTS had a **64%** response rate for high school students. The YTS had a response rate of **49%** in **2010** and **38%** in **2008** showing an increase in participation among high school students with the **SHARP** administration process.

### NRPFSS

Participation in the **2014** NRPFSS was still higher than in **2007**! In **2014**, **222** school districts participated, including over **25,000** students and **311** schools. This is a large increase since the administration in **2007** when **165** districts participated.

School administrators have also been very pleased with the **SHARP** approach!

“SHARP was a seamless process. I didn’t have to rely on organizing it myself or involving teachers. We were able to administer the surveys without disrupting class time and the organization on the part of BOSR made the process very efficient.”

**Ryan Ricenbaw, Waverly High School**

“SHARP has helped our district to focus on a common data collection to inform us regarding students’ self-reported risky behaviors. We can use this data for planning awareness activities and interventions in the school and in the community. The data connects several community agencies who are all working on the same social improvements. This makes us stronger in our common efforts. SHARP data also can provide a look at the severity of our students’ health risks in comparison to other national and state results. We also use the data for grant opportunities. It has been a great improvement for Nebraska to combine the survey efforts of different groups into one process.”

**Dr. Carol Renner, Kearney Public Schools**

Each survey under the umbrella of **SHARP** is unique.

### YRBS

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is part of the National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System created and managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This statewide survey identifies and monitors priority health risk behaviors that are established during youth and result in sickness, disability, death, and social problems among youth and adults. The YRBS is designed to monitor trends in the following health risk behaviors: unintentional injuries and violence, mental health and suicide, tobacco, alcohol, and drug use, sexual risk behaviors, unhealthy dietary behaviors and physical inactivity. The YRBS also measures the prevalence of obesity and asthma among youth and young adults. The data are used to plan, evaluate, and improve school and community prevention and intervention programs. The YRBS is administered in public high schools. Schools and classrooms are randomly selected by the CDC.

### YTS

The Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) is a statewide survey that was created and is managed by the CDC to improve the ability of agencies and community organizations to design, implement, and evaluate tobacco prevention and control programs. The YTS is conducted in public high schools. Schools and classrooms are randomly selected by the CDC.

### NRPFSS

The Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFSS) is designed to assess adolescent substance abuse, delinquent behaviors, and the risk and protective measures that predict adolescent problem behaviors. One of the goals of this survey is to provide schools and communities with local level data to help in planning prevention programs based on the needs of their communities. Every public and non-public school with an 8th, 10th, and/or 12th grade is eligible to participate in the NRPFSS.

The **SHARP** data provide insight into the health behaviors of Nebraska youth. A few examples of how this information has been utilized are listed below.

## YRBS

- \* New school curriculum objectives have been established by guidance counselors, teachers, school nurses, Peer Mediation Teams, and health departments.
- \* Data relevant to federal collection requirements are provided.
- \* Schools, along with state and community coalitions/agencies, are provided with necessary data for accessing federal, state, and local grant funds, a few of which are listed below:
  - \* Carol M. White Physical Education grants
  - \* Community Learning Center grants
  - \* Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grants
  - \* HIV Prevention Education grants
  - \* Maternal and Child Health Care grants
  - \* Nebraska Dairy Council grants
  - \* Nebraska Action For Healthy Kids grants
  - \* Nutrition grants

## YTS

- \* Information not previously available for students in grades 9-12 is provided with respect to prevalence of tobacco use, exposure to second hand smoke, knowledge and attitudes, advertising, and school curriculum.
- \* It provides Tobacco Free Nebraska a standardized long-term mechanism to chart the reduction of youth tobacco use in Nebraska.

## NRPFSS

- \* Local and regional estimates are generated for health planning and evaluation.
- \* Measures are identified which may affect student academic achievement and career planning goals.
- \* Behavior problems related to substance abuse and/or delinquent behavior are targeted.
- \* Schools and community coalitions are provided the information that is necessary for accessing federal substance abuse prevention funds.
- \* Local and state funded substance abuse prevention programs are strengthened.

The data collected are used by community, regional, and state level groups, including the NDE and NDHHS, to identify areas needing improvement and to track the effectiveness of their efforts. As a result, Nebraska has seen significant improvements in a variety of areas.

## YRBS

Since the first administration of the YRBS, Nebraska has made significant improvements in a variety of areas affecting our state's high school students.

- \* In **1991, 53%** of students drank alcohol during the past 30 days compared to **23%** in **2014**.
- \* In **1991, 46%** of students reported riding with a drinking driver during the past 30 days compared to **22%** in **2014**.
- \* The percentage of students who considered suicide during the past 12 months was reduced from **28%** in **1991** to **15%** in **2014**.
- \* More students are wearing their seat belt. In **1991, 52%** of students said they never or rarely wore their seat belt compared to only **11%** in **2014**.

## YTS

The YTS has shown decreases in tobacco use since 2000 when the survey was first administered.

- \* The percentage of high school students who said they had ever tried cigarette smoking decreased from **62%** in **2000** to **29%** in **2014**.
- \* The percentage of high school students who reported smoking during the past 30 days was reduced from **28%** in **2000** to **9%** in **2014**.
- \* The percentage of high school students who said they had ever tried an e-cigarette was **19%** in **2014**.

## NRPFSS

When comparing the overall scores from all participating schools over time, we see improvements with NRPFSS measures.

- \* More students in 2003 reported drinking and driving than in 2014. For instance, **16%** of 10th graders reported driving under the influence in the past 12 months in **2003** compared to only **2%** in **2014**.
- \* Fewer students approve of someone their age drinking regularly. In **2007, 54%** of 12th graders disapproved with other 12th graders drinking compared to **62%** in **2014**.