



The Value of SHARP

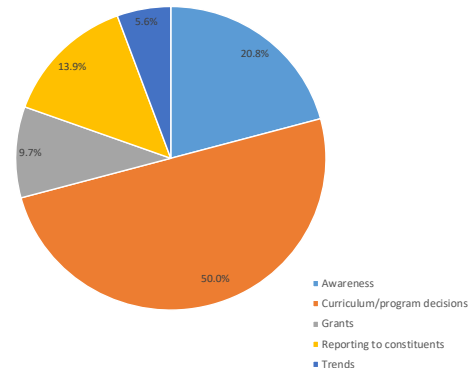
The administrations of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS), and Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFS) were combined in 2010 to make up the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System. SHARP is the umbrella encompassing the ONLY three student health surveys endorsed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS).

The Power of Data

Your school can receive school and local level results from the NRPFS, along with state wide results from the YRBS and YTS. The comparison of local and state data is what makes the SHARP surveys so significant. The results of these surveys will not only affect your school and your students, but your community as a whole. 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. This information also helps schools and communities design and/or select effective and locally-appropriate prevention strategies that can reduce substance abuse, delinquency, and other problems while supporting improvements in health and learning. As a result, Nebraska has seen significant improvements in a variety of areas.

How the SHARP Data are Used by Stakeholders

Comparing your school's data to statewide trends in recent years can allow you to determine issues that are prevalent in your school. Once you know what issues exist, you can develop your curriculum and health plans to address them. Your school can also use the SHARP data in grant proposals to acquire additional funding needed to overcome these barriers.



Why Should Schools Participate?

To collect usable data from these surveys, a state-wide effort is required. By participating in every survey that they are eligible for, schools are:

- » Strengthening school, community, and state grant applications
- » Aiding in important decision-making across the state
- » Helping to fulfill state and federal reporting requirements

To date, the surveys under SHARP have helped bring millions of dollars to Nebraska communities.