

2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): AAPOR Transparency Initiative Immediate Disclosure Items

1. Describe the data collection strategies employed (e.g. surveys, focus groups, content analyses).

The 2023 YRBS data were collected using a paper and web-based survey.

2. Name the sponsor of the research and the party(ies) who conducted it. If the original source of funding is different than the sponsor, this source will also be disclosed.

The YRBS is part of the Student Health and Risk Prevention Surveillance System that is sponsored and administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Department of Education through a contract with the Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

3. The exact wording and presentation of any measurement tool from which results are reported as well as any preceding contextual information that might reasonably be expected to influence responses to the reported results and instructions to respondents or interviewers should be included.

<https://bosr.unl.edu/projects/sharp/yrbs/yrbs-questionnaires/>

4. A definition of the population under study, including location, age, other social or demographic characteristics (e.g., persons who access the internet), time (e.g., immigrants entering the US between 2015 and 2019).

The YRBS targets public high school students in grades 9-12 in Nebraska.

5. Dates of data collection.

The 2023 YRBS was administered between September and December 2023.

6. Explicitly state whether the sample comes from a frame selected using a probability-based methodology (meaning selecting potential participants with a known non-zero probability from a known frame) or if the sample was selected using non-probability methods (potential participants from opt-in, volunteer, or other sources).

The YRBS uses a two-stage, cluster sampling design. The data file used to create the sampling frame is obtained through the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) website. All school districts have to register with NDE, so the list has complete coverage of all public high schools in Nebraska. First, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) selects a random sample of public high schools using a probability proportionate to size (i.e., school enrollment) method. Schools are then recruited to participate. Each participating school provides BOSR with a list of classrooms for a required period or subject (e.g., second period or English) that includes all students in grades 9-12 at their school. Classrooms are then randomly sampled using this list and all students in these sampled classrooms are targeted for participation. The CDC provides BOSR with this random classroom selection procedure.

7. Probability-based sample specification should include a description of the sampling frame(s), list(s), or method(s). If a frame, list, or panel is used, the description should include the name of the supplier of the sample or list and nature of the list (e.g., registered voters in the state of Texas in 2018, pre-recruited panel or pool). If a frame, list, or panel is used, the description should include the coverage of the population, including describing any segment of the target population that is not covered by the design.

The YRBS uses a two-stage, cluster sampling design. The data file used to create the sampling frame is obtained through the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) website. All school districts have to register with NDE, so the list has complete coverage of all public high schools in Nebraska. First, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) selects a random sample of public high schools using a probability proportionate to size (i.e., school enrollment) method. Schools are then recruited to participate. Each participating school provides BOSR with a list of classrooms for a required period or subject (e.g., second period or English) that includes all students in grades 9-12 at their school. Classrooms are then randomly sampled using this list and all students in these sampled classrooms are targeted for participation. The CDC provides BOSR with this random classroom selection procedure.

8. Provide a clear indication of the method(s) by which participants were contacted, selected, recruited, intercepted, or otherwise contacted or encountered, along with any eligibility requirements and/or oversampling. Describe any use of quotas.

Schools were first informed of their eligibility via emailed letter in April 2023. This letter informed them of the opportunity to participate in one or more of the three surveys (i.e., YRBS, Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS), and/or Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFS)) under the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) surveillance system during fall 2023. Packets including additional information about all three SHARP surveys were mailed to eligible schools in May 2023. BOSR continued recruitment efforts in August 2023 with schools that had not yet responded. This stage of recruitment was conducted by phone and email and continued throughout the remainder of the fall 2023 semester with non-responding schools until an answer was received from the school. Participating schools were also contacted during this timeframe to gather any remaining information BOSR needed (e.g., classroom lists, student enrollment numbers, administration dates, etc.) and to provide all materials schools needed for survey administration. Students eligible for participation and their parents were notified by each school using their district's approved processes. BOSR provided schools with parental consent form templates upon request. These templates can be found at <https://bosr.unl.edu/projects/sharp/yrbs/parent-consent-forms/>. For school districts with formal research request procedures, all communication and information related to the SHARP surveys was sent to the appropriate person at that district using the procedures provided by the district.

9. Provide details of any strategies used to help gain cooperation (e.g., advance contact, letters and scripts, compensation or incentives, refusal conversion contacts) whether for participation in a survey, group, panel, or for participation in a particular research project. Describe any compensation/incentives provided to research subjects and the method of delivery (debit card, gift card, cash).

Schools were first informed of their eligibility via emailed letter in April 2023. This letter informed them of the opportunity to participate in one or more of the three surveys (i.e., YRBS, Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS), and/or Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFS)) under the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP)

surveillance system during fall 2023. Packets including additional information about all three SHARP surveys were mailed to eligible schools in May 2023. BOSR continued recruitment efforts in August 2023 with schools that had not yet responded. This stage of recruitment was conducted by phone and email and continued throughout the remainder of the fall 2023 semester with non-responding schools until an answer was received from the school. Participating schools were also contacted during this timeframe to gather any remaining information BOSR needed (e.g., classroom lists, student enrollment numbers, administration dates, etc.) and to provide all materials schools needed for survey administration. Students eligible for participation and their parents were notified by each school using their district's approved processes. BOSR provided schools with parental consent form templates upon request. These templates can be found at <https://bosr.unl.edu/projects/sharp/yrbs/parent-consent-forms/>. For school districts with formal research request procedures, all communication and information related to the SHARP surveys was sent to the appropriate person at that district using the procedures provided by the district. Schools participating in the 2023 YRBS were offered \$750 for their participation. Classrooms participating in the 2023 YRBS were offered \$50 for their participation.

10. A description of all mode(s) used to contact participants or collect data or information (e.g., CATI, CAPI, ACASI, IVR, mail survey, web survey) and the language(s) offered or included.
The YRBS is a self-administered survey that was available as a paper and web-based Qualtrics survey. This is a school-based survey that is administered with students in classrooms. It was administered in English only.
11. Sample sizes (by sampling frame if more than one was used) and (if applicable) a discussion of the precision of the results. Provide sample sizes for each mode of data collection (for surveys include sample sizes for each frame, list, or panel used). For probability samples, report estimates of sampling error (often described as “the margin of error”), and discuss whether or not the reported sampling error or statistical analyses have been adjusted for the design effect due to weighting, clustering, or other factors. Reports of non-probability sample surveys will only provide measures of precision if they are defined and accompanied by a detailed description of how the underlying model was specified, its assumptions validated and the measure(s) calculated.
Because the CDC develops the sampling plan, draws the sample, and weights the data, this information is best found at <https://www.cdc.gov/yrbs/index.html>.
12. A description of how the weights were calculated, including the variables used and the sources of weighting parameters, if weighted estimates are reported.
Because the CDC develops the sampling plan, draws the sample, and weights the data, this information is best found at <https://www.cdc.gov/yrbs/index.html>.
13. Describe validity checks, where applicable, including but not limited to whether the researcher added attention checks, logic checks, or excluded respondents who straight-lined or completed the survey under a certain time constraint, any screening of content for evidence that it originated from bots or fabricated profiles, re-contacts to confirm that the interview occurred or to verify respondent's identity or both, and measures to prevent respondents from completing

the survey more than once. Any data imputation or other data exclusions or replacement will also be discussed.

Any duplicate or blank responses were removed from the dataset. Any further data imputation, exclusions or replacements, or validity checks are completed by the CDC and can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/yrbs/index.html>.

14. Contact for obtaining more information about the study.

Any questions regarding the 2023 YRBS administration can be directed to BOSR by calling (402) 472-3672 or by sending an email to bosr@unl.edu.

15. A general statement acknowledging the limitations of the design and data collection.

All surveys contain errors that cannot be directly measured. These errors may arise when response rates are less than 100%, when weights do not fully account for potential differences in the representation of the respondents to the target population, or when respondents do not understand or cannot answer all of the questions that are asked in the survey. This survey was only offered in English and excludes those who do not understand English. The YRBS is only administered in public high schools, and therefore data collection is limited only to students in public high schools. Students that are in private schools or that are homeschooled are not included in the design.