

Youth Health Behaviors in Clallam County

Combined HYS and CTC Survey Data – 2004

Background:

The Washington State Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) has been administered in school districts across the state of Washington since the mid-1990's and collects information on health behaviors, substance use and related risk and protective factors. The 2004 HYS survey was conducted in the Fall 2004 semester among students in Grades 6, 8, 10, 12. The following school districts in Clallam County participated in the HYS 2004 survey: Cape Flattery, Crescent, Quillayute Valley, and Sequim School Districts.

The Communities that Care (CTC) survey has been conducted in the Port Angeles School District as part of a research project sponsored by the University of Washington for the past several years. The CTC survey collects information on youth health behaviors, substance use and related risk and protective factors. The 2004 CTC survey was conducted in the Spring 2004 semester among students in Grades 6, 8, 10, 12 in the Port Angeles School District.

The 2004 survey process marks the first time every school district in Clallam County participated in a youth health behavior survey. The comprehensive participation by Clallam County school districts allowed Clallam County Health and Human Services to conduct a county-wide analysis of youth health behaviors, substance use patterns and associated risk and protective factors using the combined results of the HYS and CTC 2004 surveys.

Format for Collecting Data:

The Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) was administered in the fall 2004 semester and had three different versions. Two versions of the survey are administered to students in Grades 8, 10, 12. Form A contains core items common to both versions and risk and protective factor items, Form B contains the core items and health behavior items. An elementary version of the survey is administered to students Grade 6 (Form C) and contains a subset of the core items and a subset of the non-core items from forms A and B. The HYS survey also contained optional items that school districts could remove prior to administration.

The Communities that Care survey was administered in the spring 2004 semester and only one survey was administered in Grades 6, 8, 10, 12. Some questions on the HYS survey related to substance use and risk and protective factors were derived from the Communities that Care survey.

Limitations:

Both the Healthy Youth Survey and the Communities that Care survey are administered in classroom settings. Both surveys rely on information reported directly by the respondent. As such, this self-reported data may be subject to errors. The manner in which questions are worded and the ability of individuals to recall details may result in inaccuracies. Additionally, the surveys are only conducted on students enrolled in school.

The combined analysis of the HYS and CTC results may also be limited the different timing of the two surveys – spring semester 2004 for the CTC survey and fall semester 2004 for the HYS survey. Additionally, although Clallam County Health and Human Services only combined questions with very similar wording, there may be some limitations in slight variations between how the questions were worded on the different surveys.