

2024 Indiana Youth Survey Q&A

Survey Design

Is there any way to measure the margin of error considering this is a self-reported survey?

Please add the slide (Statewide Random Sample). For reference, the random sample section in the state report includes confidence intervals or margins of error for various measures. You can also find these details on pages 72 through 103 of the 2024 INYS statewide report.

Can you explain the data collection process for your reports?

We invite all public and private schools serving 6th through 12th grade students in Indiana to participate in the INYS. Invitation letters are sent to superintendents, principals, and guidance counselors in May of the year prior to data collection. For the statewide probability sample, we follow up with phone calls, reminder letters, and postcards to encourage participation. Schools register for the survey on our website in the fall of the preceding year. In the spring of the survey year, we provide registered schools with parental notification materials. Approximately two weeks before the schools' selected survey dates, we distribute survey codes and links. Final results are shared with schools in August of the same year.

Where are youth recruited from?

We do not recruit youth directly for the INYS. As a school-based survey, we communicate exclusively with schools to coordinate participation.

Participation

I would like to know if some of our county schools participated and when/how/if we can see those findings. Thank you!

Please reach out to our center, and we will gladly provide the information you need.

How many schools participated this year compared to last?

In 2020, 323 schools participated in the survey. In 2024, 223 schools participated.

Why are schools resistant to participating in the survey?

Schools are resistant to participating in the survey for a variety of reasons. Based on a survey we conducted among non-participating schools, we found the following responses:

- Conflict with class schedule and state standardized tests
- Lack of personnel available to administer the survey
- Little support from higher administrators or school boards
- Lack of awareness of the benefits of survey participation

- Challenges with obtaining active parental consent, especially with the uncertainty surrounding the impact of House Enrolled Act 1447 this year.

How can we influence the state to make this a mandatory survey?

That is a great question. Unfortunately, we do not have an answer to that at this time.

Is there policy work taking place to change the parent notification requirement?

We are only aware of House Enrolled Act 1447 at this time.

Results

Have you seen any benefit from the State of Indiana implementing Catch My Breath Prevention Education?

We are not the evaluator of this program and are not involved in the state's initiative. You may contact the program organizer directly to inquire about the program's results.

The INYS is designed to monitor statewide trends, not to evaluate specific programs. However, individual communities may choose to use INYS data as a proxy to assess the impact of programs like Catch My Breath within their local context.

(Interested in) mental health and suicide variables by race/ethnicity and region/county

They are available in the INYS Data Explorer.

(Interested in) dating violence and sexual assault data

The Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction funds the INYS, which primarily focuses on substance use, mental health, and related risk or protective factors.

Information on dating violence and sexual assaults is included in the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS) administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In Indiana, the YRBS is overseen by the Indiana Department of Health.

(Interested in) changes in mental health - increase anxiety, increase depression.

The information is included in the results presentation.

Has alcohol usage increased or decreased? And how has the perception of the dangers of alcohol use and marijuana use changed?

The alcohol trend is included in the presentation.

Please reference the presentation slide on trends of CTC perception of risk scale (higher risk score indicates kids perceive drug use as less risky).

Why do kids perceive using drugs as less risky compared to 10 years ago?

There are several factors that may contribute to the perception of lower risk among youth:

- Shifting legislation: Legalization and decriminalization of substances like marijuana in many states may lead youth to perceive these substances as less harmful.
- Changing trends in substances: Newer substances, such as e-cigarettes or edibles, are often marketed as "safer alternatives," reducing the perceived risk associated with their use.
- Decrease in awareness campaigns: In some areas, fewer large-scale public awareness campaigns on the risks of substance use might reduce exposure to information about potential harms.
- Focus on mental health: Growing awareness of mental health issues has led some youth to view certain substances, such as marijuana, as tools for self-medication rather than risky behaviors.

I am interested in information gathered about LGBTQ+ youth.

In 2024, the INYS included two optional modules: one focused on mental health and another on sexual identification. Of the 223 participating schools, 68 schools (30.5%) opted to include the sex/gender identification module. The majority of these schools (48 out of 68, 70.6%) are located in urban counties.

The results from this module are only available to the schools that chose to include it in their survey.

Specific Data requests

We do not provide county-level data publicly for several reasons:

- Incomplete coverage: Data are not collected from all 92 counties in Indiana.
- Variability in school participation: Participation by schools within a county varies significantly from year to year, making the data non-representative and unstable for tracking trends.

If you are interested in data for a specific county, you will need to obtain permission from the participating schools in that county for us to aggregate and share the data. Please note that there is a cost associated with this service. For more information, feel free to contact us.

We recommend contacting the school directly. We do not share individual schools' data with third parties without their permission.

Interested specifically on data on youth vaping/marijuana use, particularly in northeast Indiana.

The regional data are available in the INYS Data Explorer.

Proxy Data, Other Data Sources

Our counties schools will not take part in the INYS until the law is changed. How can we find county data regarding these issues?

Some possible proxy data sources were covered in the presentation.

Is it possible to get data by McKinney-Vento eligibility or current housing?

We do not collect the information.

How do you quickly gain the most important insights from the survey?

The information is included in the presentation.

How can we substitute our school not participating?

If your school did not participate in the INYS, you may consider using statewide, regional, or rural/urban data as a proxy. While this data will not be specific to your school, it can provide valuable insights into broader trends. Additionally, if you are interested in your specific area, you could collaborate with neighboring schools that participated in the survey to gain access to aggregated local data.

Utilization

What is the best way to present the data to key stakeholders? What are action steps we can take to ensure the data is utilized?

Some suggestions were included in the presentation. Please reach out if you would like further guidance in reviewing and utilizing your local data.

Will we be able to look at data specific to our County so that we can develop action plans with SMART goals based on the data?

Please reach out to your locally participating schools or consider accessing proxy data sources if local INYS data is not available.

Prevention Strategies

Ideas for prevention efforts

Prevention Insights specializes in training and technical assistance in support of evidence-based school and community prevention efforts. Reach out to our technical assistance team at tahelp@iu.edu if you'd like to schedule a free brainstorm or consult.

How can we as Public Health nurses or School Health Liaisons help decrease the prevalence of vaping in schools?

PH nurses and SHL are in a unique position to serve schools with evidence-based prevention! Reach out to our technical assistance team at tahelp@iu.edu if you'd like to schedule a free brainstorm or consult.