

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Risk Behaviors that Contribute to Morbidity, Mortality and Social Problems in Ohio's Children the Focus of New State-wide Survey

Columbus, Ohio- 04/09/2015- In an effort to more accurately monitor the health status of adolescents around the state, beginning this October, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services is launching the Ohio Healthy Youth Environment Survey (OHYES).

OHYES is primarily a web based survey, to be offered yearly to every school in Ohio, grades 7 through 12. The survey will gather information on health, social and behavior problems as well as factors that protect young people from these problems. The primary goal of the survey is to provide needs-assessment data that can be used to guide policies and programs charged with improving the lives of young people.

“There’s a real need for this kind of information.” Says Tammy Collins, Deputy Director of Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. “For years, educators and parents have asked me for an effective way to monitor student progress. This survey provides a powerful tool that can help schools, community leaders, and parents identify important areas of need. They can track changes over time in the health and risk behaviors affecting our young people” Collins says. “The survey also offers Ohio's youth an opportunity to have a voice regarding which things are impacting their lives.”

State, county and district level data is available to the public. School level data is disseminated at the discretion of the District Superintendent. To protect their anonymity, students aren’t asked any personally identifiable information.

The Ohio Healthy Youth Environment Survey (OHYES) is scheduled to be administered in all registered schools October 1st through November 20th, 2015. Participation in the OHYES survey is completely voluntary.

OHYES is a collaborative effort of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Ohio Department of Health. Additional contributions and insights provided by the Ohio State University’s Center for Human Resource Research, the Universities of Toledo and Cincinnati, and various other community organizations throughout the state.

For further information or to register your school for the Ohio Healthy Youth Environment Survey (OHYES) {[Contact Info Here](#)}

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